

## Chapter 61: Involved With a Man

Liam had already entered the bathroom, and Suzy was still pondering the behind his words.

It seemed like Liam didn't want her to join the middle school group chat channel, and he didn't like Kenneth.

...

During her business trip to West City these past few days, she had learned a lot from Alec. Not only did her investigative skills improve, but she also refined her communication skills.

Upon coming back to Northorn City, Suzy had a two-day off, but she dedicated all her time to discussing Jeffrey's project with Alec.

After finally clearing up the project and submitting it, she was just about to tidy up and go to the hospital to visit Melissa when a call from Melissa came in.

"Mom."

"You're back in Northorn City, right?"

Listening to her mother's voice, Suzy sensed something was off, and her tone was slightly stiff.

"Yeah, I finished up some company matters, and I'm

planning to go to the hospital to see you now."

"Then, we'll talk when you get here."

With that, Melissa hung up abruptly.

Staring at her phone's darkened screen, Suzy was worried that her father might be bothering her mother again.

After all, she had just returned, and there was nothing that could have upset Melissa.

As she got up to leave Easter Bay, she saw Liam's car pulling up right in front.

"Are you heading to the hospital?"

Once he stepped out of the car with his long legs, Liam could tell from Suzy's expression what was going on.

"Yeah, I've been away on a business trip these days. I'll go check with the doctor about her condition."

"I'll come with you."

"No need!" Suzy instinctively refused, then she realized her tone was a bit harsh and quickly added, "My mom... she's not very fond of meeting guests. It's not about you."

Liam didn't press her further and simply nodded. "Then I'll give you a ride."

Suzy didn't decline the offer; after all, it was difficult to find a taxi in Easter Bay.

At the hospital.

She waved her hand and watched Liam's car drive away before turning and heading inside.

Outside the V1 ward, two large bodyguards were still standing, attracting curious glances from passersby.

Suzy, holding the fruits she had just bought near the hospital, pushed open the door and saw her mother, Melissa, on the hospital bed.

Melissa looked serious, glanced at her daughter, and said, "Come here."

Suzy had no time to react. She closed the door and walked to the bedside. Before she could say anything, her mother's hand came down hard and slapped her face.

Unable to dodge it in time, the sharp sound echoed through the hospital room.

That slap was so forceful that it left a red handprint on her fair face.

It was a shocking sight.

"Mom..."

"Do you know why I slapped you?"

Melissa was so furious that she clenched her fists tightly, and her breathing became rapid. This was the first time she

had ever laid hands on her daughter!

Suzy immediately thought of the message from that woman...

"You're acting so inappropriately at such a young age. How could you willingly get into such a questionable relationship with a man? Don't call me 'mom' in the future; I don't have a shameless daughter like you!"

Suzy was speechless.

Faced with her mother's accusations, Suzy simply covered her cheeks and listened, but didn't argue.

"Hurry up and arrange for my discharge. I won't wait here for any surgery. I'd rather die than use this dirty money to prolong my life!"


Melissa's voice was booming, making Suzy's ears ring, and she couldn't discern whether it was due to the recent slap or some other reason.

"The doctors have already scheduled the surgery, it can't be canceled."

"Then let me die now!"

Melissa's emotions started to escalate again. Suzy, ignoring the pain on her cheek, hurriedly went over and held her mother's hand.

"Mom, it was they who told you, right? You know their

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intentions very well!"

"I don't care who told me, is it true that you are receiving money from a sugar daddy?"

Her mother's barrage of questions caught Suzy off guard.

She hadn't expected her relationship with Liam to be discovered so quickly...

However, when it came to keeping her mother alive, had she ever really had a choice?

"Mom, it's not true."

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## Chapter 62: He Isn't My Sugar Daddy

"It's not true? Fine! Then tell me, where did the money for the surgery come from, and how did your so-called boyfriend agree to lend you so much money?"

Suzy moistened her parched lips and lowered her gaze for a while. "He really isn't my sugar daddy. I... I got married to him."

This was something she hadn't wanted to tell her mother, but at this point, she had no other choice.

Suzy knew Melissa's personality too well; she was capable of refusing to accept financial help from a man even at the cost of her own life.

Bringing up the marriage might offer a glimmer of hope in convincing her mother.

Perhaps, it hadn't crossed Melissa's mind that her typically obedient daughter had secretly gotten married. She gazed at her in silence, her mouth moving but unable to form words for quite some time.

Suzy was afraid her mother might faint again, so she quickly rushed out to find a doctor. Thankfully, they administered antihypertensive medication in time, but it still kept the doctor busy.

The hospital room only regained its tranquility after the sun had set, and darkness had enveloped the surroundings.

Melissa lay on the hospital bed, not speaking and not closing her eyes, just staring at the ceiling.

Suzy stood there like a disobedient child getting punished.

"Is the marriage real?" Suddenly, Melissa spoke up.

"Yeah."

"Bring him here; I want to ask him face to face."

Suzy clenched her lips tightly, refusing to yield. "It's not that he doesn't want to come; he's just extremely busy with work."  
"

"You married him because you wanted to gather the surgery fees for me, didn't you?" Melissa, unable to move her legs, wasn't foolish.

She knew very well that everything her daughter was doing was for her sake.

However, she had only one daughter, and she dreaded the idea that Suzy might follow in her footsteps...

"No," Suzy replied firmly, "we genuinely like each other, Mom. He's really good to me."

He truly was.

"Good? Then why doesn't he dare to come and see me?"

Suzy couldn't utter a reply.

"You're the one who mentioned I got swayed by others' opinions. Fine, you say he's busy, then I'll give him time! Before my surgery, I must meet this man. Otherwise, regardless of whether a time has been set or not, I absolutely won't go through with the surgery!"

After leaving the hospital, Suzy didn't head straight back to Easter Bay but walked to the seaside instead.

Since it was late at night, devoid of the bustling daytime crowd, all that could be heard was the sound of the waves rhythmically crashing onto the shore.

The wind was a bit strong, howling as it swept across her slightly swollen cheeks, causing a faint stinging sensation.

Suzy rubbed her chilled arms and her gaze had no particular focus.

When she used to live in West City, she also enjoyed coming to the seaside at night, especially when faced with something troubling that she couldn't resolve.

She always felt that the vast expanse of the ocean had the power to give her the strength to confront her problems head-on.

Was she feeling tired?

Well, she had been tired for a long time now.



However, the issue still needed to be resolved, the root cause still existed, and her mother... she had to undergo surgery.

She lost track of time while sitting on the sandy shore, and she only stood up when Liam called her.

"Where are you?"

"I'm at the hospital!"

"Suzy." Liam's voice grew a bit somber. "I have my men stationed at the hospital entrance."

She had forgotten!

"I'll come pick you up. Send me your location."

He never asked too many questions. His first instinct was always to see her.

Suzy glanced at the nearby road where taxis were still passing by. "No need, I'll take a taxi back! It's already late, you should get some rest."

She wasn't ready to confront Liam yet because she hadn't come up with a way to request his assistance in meeting her mother.

### Chapter 63: She Wished She Could

She quickly ended the call and flagged down a taxi on the road.

Now, she regarded Liam in a similar way to how she approached her job – always prepared to comply and respond to his needs.

Reflecting on her mother's reprimands about her lack of self-respect, she wished she could have a bit more dignity, if possible.

...

When Suzy arrived at Easter Bay, she saw that Liam hadn't changed out of his suit. He still had that professional and elite demeanor, sitting behind the table in the living room, conducting a video conference.

Being a CEO wasn't an easy job, especially for Liam. The success of Park Group was all thanks to his meticulous work ethic.

Upon hearing a noise, he glanced towards the entrance and gestured for her to wait.

Suzy didn't dare to disturb his work and went into the bedroom to make a call.

She called Wendy and told her about her mother's request

to meet her boyfriend. Of course, she didn't mention the marriage or Liam.

"So, you need a guy right now to put on a show in front of your mom?" Wendy astutely identified the source of Suzy's distress.

"Yes."

"Then why are you still hesitating? I'll call my cousin right now!"

Wendy was about to hang up, but Suzy quickly said, "Wait! I know my mom's personality the best; she definitely won't say anything nice."

She was most likely going to make things difficult for him from start to finish. Jeffrey was unrelated to her, and Suzy didn't want to subject him to such a miserable experience.

Suzy hesitated to discuss this matter with Liam because she feared that her mother's harsh scolding might result in the cancellation of their contract.

"No worries, my cousin won't mind."

"But I would be ashamed to meet your cousin again in the future. I stayed up all night to complete his project. I don't want my personal matters to interfere with our work."

"Then I'll ask some other male friends if they can help. Let's first get your mom through the surgery, and we can deal with the rest later."

Wendy understood Suzy's stubbornness when it came to principles, so she added the last sentence.

Suzy sighed. "Okay, I'll leave it to you! Just make sure to explain it to them clearly. My mom will definitely give them a hard time, and there's even a chance she might get physical."

The strength behind Melissa's slap on Suzy earlier today was a clear sign of her anger.

"Don't worry! By the way, you should apply some ointment on your face, okay? You should take care of yourself."

"Yeah."

After ending the call, Suzy let out a sigh of relief. She knew she couldn't truly relax until her mother's surgery was over.


Suddenly, the bedroom door swung open. Liam walked in and immediately noticed the unusual mark on her cheek.

"Did your mom do this?"

As clever as he was, he had already guessed.

Suzy instinctively covered the affected area and awkwardly pursed her lips. "No, I accidentally bumped into something."

She didn't want to expose her pain to anyone, whether it was Liam or anyone else. She didn't think it was fair to burden others with her negativity.

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"If you need anything, you can always tell me."

He strode over, his long legs closing the distance step by step, causing Suzy's heart to race.

Fortunately, Liam only opened the bedside drawer and searched for some anti-inflammatory and pain relief cream.

"I'll be fine; it'll be better by tomorrow."

"Suzy, if you keep covering up a wound, it won't heal; it will only make it worse," he said, referring to both her injury and herself.

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## Chapter 64: I Allow You to Be Delicate

After taking out the ointment, Liam deliberately washed his hands in the bathroom before coming to apply it for her.

Suzy leaned back slightly, even though they had been intimate before, his sudden proximity made her uncomfortable.

"I can do it myself! It's not like I can't reach my wound," she said, reaching for the ointment.

Liam didn't give in to her and his eyes showed a hint of displeasure. "Lean your face over here."

"You really don't need to!"

He didn't say anything more, just looked at her.

Feeling helpless, Suzy had to obediently move closer like a child.

Because they were so close, she could even see the fine hairs on Liam's face. Since his skin was fair, she wouldn't have noticed those fine hairs without being so close to him.

Liam carefully applied the ointment evenly on her face, and it felt pleasantly cool.

Suzy unconsciously looked at him, his serious and focused expression, as if he was treating something he cherished

very much. He had a handsome appearance, not the kind of feminine beauty, but an innate charisma.

His facial features were deep and well-defined, with a strong and stylish jawline. His eyes were deep and captivating, and even his eyelashes looked like they had been grafted.

"If the swelling hasn't gone down by tomorrow, I'll take you to the hospital after work."

His words brought Suzy back to reality, and she lowered her head. "I really am not that fragile."

It could be said that recently, it was the only time in her life when someone genuinely cared about her, so she occasionally displayed some unwarranted vulnerabilities.

"I allow you to be delicate by my side."

His words were gentle, but his tone was firm and unequivocal.

Suzy looked up and their eyes met...

Neither of them looked away until he spoke.

"Do you need something from me?"

Suzy did not reply to his question.

"Tell me, whatever it is, I'll help you resolve it together."

Countless images flashed through Suzy's mind, imagining

how her mother would react to meeting Liam—she might scold him, insult him, or even resort to violence.

But...

His words were too tender, his tone too affectionate, almost drowning her.

He said he would help her resolve anything.

"Liam, I—"

Before Suzy could finish her sentence, his phone suddenly rang!

Liam furrowed his brow, and both of them turned their gaze toward the source of the sound.

It was a call from Sophia.

"Just you alone?... The driver can't be reached?... Alright, wait at home, I'm coming over now."

After hanging up, Liam walked over.

"You were about to say something. Continue with it."

But Suzy had already snapped out of it.


She bit her lip and returned to her usual nonchalant self.

"Ah, it's nothing! I just wanted to say thank you."

It was clear that Liam didn't buy that explanation.

"Is there something wrong with Miss Burns? You should go



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check on her!"

With the topic shifted, he hesitated for a moment, then nodded. He picked up his suit jacket.

"You go ahead and rest. Don't wait up for me. I don't know when I'll be back. I'll find you tomorrow."

"Okay."

Suzy watched Liam hurriedly leave, then she sighed with bitterness.

What was she thinking just now?

She was just a substitute, yet she considered bringing him to meet her mother!

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