

Chapter 69: Push Clive Aside

While Suzy didn't look down on people of lesser means, she couldn't comprehend her mother's perspective.

She felt that if she married a dishonest man, regardless of his wealth or poverty, he would still cheat. If she ended up with someone both poor and unfaithful, it would only make her angrier.

Moreover, with Melissa's current attitude, Suzy wouldn't want to introduce whoever she was dating, fearing Melissa might confront him as soon as he walked through the door.

"So, I need to see for myself. Your relationship must pass my scrutiny before I acknowledge it!"

"I understand. I'll take him there."

Suzy's tone was filled with resignation.

The pressure at work was already substantial, and her mother added another burden to her shoulders. Finding a fake boyfriend was even more challenging than staying up late to write a few more project proposals!

Setting aside her phone, Suzy leaned against the wall and let out a long sigh.

She didn't have much time to contemplate these matters because the assessment for the SNS project was about to

begin, and the project's fate depended on this step.

After collecting her thoughts, Suzy quickly returned to her office to organize the necessary documents.

One busy day led to another. The good news was that the SNS project passed the assessment and was approved for investment. The bad news was... Liam asked her to visit Sophia at the hospital.

Suzy really wanted to ask Liam how many more times he planned to stage these deliberate jealousy-inducing scenes in front of Sophia.

Couldn't this man be a bit more considerate? It made her want to spill the truth to Sophia right away.

But it was just a passing thought. After all, with her contract ending soon, it would be disastrous for her.

As the end of the workday approached, Suzy started praying that Alec would ask her to work overtime tonight, preferably an all-nighter.

Unfortunately, her prayers seemed to fall on deaf ears. As soon as it was time, Liam's call came in.

"Come to the underground parking lot."

"Alright."

Suzy left her office at a leisurely pace, took the elevator, descended another elevator, and made her way to the

CEO's designated parking spot.

Liam saw her and got out of the car. "What's wrong?"

"Nothing, just a bit tired."

Heaven knew how much she wished she could feign illness and say she couldn't make it.

However, Liam had paid her so much, rarely making demands. If she started making excuses for this, it wouldn't be long before she'd be let go.

It all came down to money troubles.

"I'll take you back to rest," he said naturally, without a hint of hesitation.

His response surprised Suzy a bit. "Is that okay?"


Could she really not go?

Liam smiled wryly. "Of course, but... I'm afraid I have to make a detour."

Even Clive had accused him of lacking compassion, so Liam reflected on himself and realized he might indeed have some shortcomings.

He had always been used to keeping a distance from women, so when faced with situations where he could be misunderstood, he instinctively kept his distance.

"You go ahead. Don't worry about me; it's not a big problem.

 +20 BONUS

I just need to rest for a while when I get back," Suzy said, feeling relieved as if she had been granted a reprieve.

Her mood improved along the way.

Liam glanced at her through the rearview mirror.

He had a feeling she didn't look tired at all.

After dropping Suzy off at Easter Bay, Liam drove to the hospital.

As soon as he entered the hospital room, he saw Clive helping Sophia sit up.

Upon spotting Liam's figure, Sophia instinctively pushed Clive away.

"Liam, you... you're here!"

"Yeah." He placed the newly bought fruits and supplements on the table.

Seeing this, Clive furrowed his brows. "You guys talk. I'll go get her medication first."

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Chapter 70: The Secret Behind 0825

Once Clive left, Sophia, despite her weakness, forced a graceful smile and said, "I'm sorry, Liam. It seems like I'll have to delay working on those contracts I have in hand. But don't worry, I'll get back to work soon. Clive promised to bring my laptop to the hospital!"

Liam appreciated her dedication to work, but as the CEO, he had to discourage such reckless behavior.

"You need to focus on recovering. Legal affairs are not solely your responsibility. I'll have Alec and Suzy handle the contracts for now."

"No!"

When Sophia heard Suzy's name, she suddenly raised her voice, realizing it sounded wrong after she spoke.

"I'm sorry... I don't like others meddling with my work. It's nothing personal. Besides, I have spare time in the hospital, and working might make things more interesting for me here."

"Your health is the top priority."

"I really don't mind! By the way, Liam, due to the sudden surgery, I won't be able to fly to see Mrs. Park this week. She just called me and learned about my condition. And then..."

she said she's coming back to the country."

His mother was returning to the country?!

Liam furrowed his brows deeply. "Her health isn't suitable for long-distance flights."

"I told her the same, but she insists on coming to take care of me after the surgery."

"I'll get a few more caregivers for you. Even if she comes, she won't be able to look after you properly."

"Yeah, that's what I told her too."

He felt a growing headache and spoke in a low voice, "I'll talk to her about this."

"Liam," Sophia suddenly spoke, "Is it because of her health or because of Suzy that you don't want Mrs. Park to return to the country?"

Liam, caught off guard by her direct question, only gave her a cold, indifferent glance and remained silent.

"You know Mrs. Park won't like Suzy. I suggest you don't tell her about this yet."

Sophia switched back to speaking to Liam like how a friend would. It was a tone she had perfected and continued with sincerity.

"Otherwise, all her previous treatments would be in vain, and it might even make things worse."

"I will consider it carefully."

...

Back at Easter Bay, Suzy's relieved mood from earlier didn't last long. When she saw the vast empty house, she couldn't help but fantasize about Liam and Sophia at the hospital.

Were they embracing tightly?

Or was Liam tenderly touching Sophia's face, applying medicine like he did for her?

She slapped her forehead in frustration, determined to banish these unwanted thoughts.

Maybe she should do some housework!

Getting busy would keep her from overthinking.


However, as she held the cloth and went from the bedroom to the living room, Suzy noticed Liam's obsession with cleanliness. How could a grown man keep the house so spotless? Inside and out, there was absolutely no dust.

She wondered how early he woke up in the morning to clean up the house.

Suzy was about to head back when she passed by his study and noticed the door was slightly ajar.

Would he mind if she went in and picked up a book to read?

Sneaking in like a thief, she cautiously pushed the door

 +20 BONUS

open, turned on the light, and began scanning the walls lined with books.

Suddenly, Suzy noticed several neatly arranged textbooks from junior high! These were rare items; she had no idea where her own had ended up...

With keen interest, she pulled out one of them, but before she could even flip through its pages, she discovered a letter that had also been pulled out at the same time.

Suzy picked it up from the floor, and on the envelope, bold and forceful handwriting spelled out a few words.

"Do you know the secret of 0825?"

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Chapter 71: Hired Substitute

It was 0825 again.

How deeply did Liam love Sophia?

She couldn't imagine that someone as serious, old-fashioned, and unsociable as Liam would be willing to go to such an extent for love.

Setting a password, getting a tattoo, writing love letters.

Any of these alone wouldn't seem like something Liam would do, but he did them all for Sophia.

Suzy didn't read the letter; she simply placed it back where it belonged, along with the books, and left the study room in slow steps.

She felt she had crossed a line; this was Liam's business, and she shouldn't read, think, or develop any emotions about it.

As a hired substitute, she didn't have that privilege.

...

Liam left the hospital when Clive returned. He got into his car and didn't start the engine. Instead, he called his mother, Grace Park.

"Liam, are you done with your work?" Due to the time

difference, it was already late on Grace's side.

"Yes. Liam leaned back in his seat and rubbed his temples. " I heard from Sophia that you're coming back to the country?"

"Yes! It happens to be her birthday, and with the surgery, I want to visit her." Grace's voice was gentle as if she wasn't upset at all.

From both her tone and words, it was clear she considered Sophia as part of the family.

However, Liam knew that Grace wasn't exactly what she appeared to be to others.

She had a strong need for control.

"It's not a major surgery, I just left after visiting Sophia in the hospital. Your health isn't great, and the doctors advised you to rest more and avoid long journeys."

"I haven't been back to the country for a long time. This time, I plan to stay for a while. Resting in the homeland is the same, and this way, I can see you and Sophia more often."

"Mom, you should focus on recovering from your illness first before delving into these matters."

At first, Liam had intended to slowly introduce Suzy to his mother, beginning with their initial meeting and then allowing them to become more familiar with each other over time.

However, if she suddenly returned to the country at this moment, the news of their marriage would surely be difficult to conceal for long.

"It seems like you don't want me to go back?" Grace detected a hint of his thoughts and inquired, "Have you and Sophia had a disagreement? You two—"

"We are just friends outside of work, and within the company, we have a professional relationship as employer and employee. There's no disagreement between us," he interrupted Grace, not wanting her to speculate further.

"Once I've finished up my work here, I'll come visit you."

Originally, he planned to bring Suzy with him as well, but Sophia had disrupted those plans.


"You've been working hard, and I've already bought the plane ticket. I told Sophia not to inform you about this; I wanted to surprise you, but she couldn't keep it a secret." Grace chuckled.

"Once you two are married, she'll definitely listen to you well."
"

Liam kept quiet at Grace's comment.

"I won't keep you any longer; it's almost dawn here. I need to rest. Goodnight, my son."


After saying this, she hung up the phone.

 +20 BONUS

Liam felt his headache intensify!

It seemed like his mother's plan to return to her home country was set in stone. He would have to do his best to avoid anything that might upset her and then find an opportunity to send her off.

He placed his phone on the passenger seat and started the car, heading back to Easter Bay as quickly as possible.

Upon entering the house, he saw Suzy lying on the living room table, seemingly asleep and motionless. 

Liam approached quietly and covered her with a blanket from the sofa.

This gesture actually woke her up.
"You're back so early?!"