

# Chapter 96: We Are Not Compatible

That feeling was just terrible!

Worse than working overtime for a whole week.

Melissa suddenly sighed too. "Suzy, I realize I shouldn't constantly plant these negative thoughts about marriage in your mind. Eventually, you'll have to settle down and build a stable home. But I just can't help it! I can't shake the feeling that all men have ulterior motives."

Thinking back, Suzy's father had also been kind and perfect, drawing Melissa in so deeply that she couldn't break free from his hold.

"Mom, don't dwell on those thoughts. You're going to have your surgery tomorrow, so get some rest."

She tucked her mother in and smiled. "Finally, you're getting your surgery, and for me, nothing else matters."

Suzy had endured so much for this day!

After putting her mother to sleep, she found herself strangely unable to sleep.

She got up and logged into the internal server of Park Group on her computer, intending to organize some documents, but her eyes always wandered to Liam's account.

He was still online.

Liam was definitely a diligent CEO.

Suzy stared at the screen for a while before realizing she was doing something that only infatuated girls would do.

She quickly averted her gaze, but Liam's face lingered in her mind, making her unable to focus on her work.

She decided to shut down the computer and forced herself to close her eyes and sleep.

It was unclear how long it took, but she fell asleep reluctantly. In a daze, she felt someone calling her name.

She suddenly opened her eyes and saw her mother, who had already changed clothes, sitting on the bed.

Next to her were Jeffrey and his parents.

"You're finally awake. Did you work late again last night? My daughter is so dedicated to her career."

Her mother's words snapped her back to reality, and she quickly got up, asking, "I... Why are all of you here?"

Jeffrey smiled and gave her a reassuring look, urging her not to panic.

Melissa chimed in, "I asked them to come. I was worried you might be overwhelmed waiting alone outside the operating room. With Jeff here, I can feel more at ease."

"Yeah, Suzy, we came to accompany you!" Jeff's mother, Macy Palmer, seemed warm and friendly.

Even though Macy had only met Suzy twice, she really liked Suzy.

She warmly reached out and held Suzy's hand.

Seeing this scene, Melissa's purpose was accomplished.

Melissa wanted to repeatedly emphasize her daughter's position in the family!

She wanted to let the Palmer family know that if they mistreated her daughter, as a mother, she would not he sitate to take action.

Soon, a nurse came to escort the patient to the operating room.

Outside, the red light illuminated, and the words "surgery in progress" made Suzy's heart race.

Suddenly, she felt a piece of clothing draped over her and a faint hint of minty scent wafting into her nose.

Instinctively, she turned around to see Jeffrey.

"You're not dressed warmly enough; you might catch a cold."

"I'm okay." Suzy politely declined his offer. "And I'm really sorry! I didn't know my mom would come to bother you."

"I've said it before, I don't mind as long as it puts your mom



at ease! Wendy told me earlier that you've been working tirelessly and saving money for this surgery.

"Now that it's finally happening, the most crucial thing is to avoid any complications."

Suzy lowered her gaze, thought for a while, and then said softly, "Mr. Palmer, you've seen the situation in my family.

"The doctor said my mother's surgery may not be a one-time fix, and it could recur anytime in the future, so... we're not suitable for each other."

## Chapter 97: Rejecting Jeffrey

Suzy didn't care if she had overthought about his intention to help her or if it was just her self-imposed assumptions, she chose to be upfront and clear about everything.

Her bluntness had left Jeffrey somewhat stunned.

"I don't care about these things."

His response was resolute.

In fact, since the very first moment he laid eyes on Suzy, Jeffrey had a strong impression of her.

Coupled with Wendy's continuous praises, he became increasingly interested in this girl.

However, because he previously had a stable girlfriend, he didn't entertain any other thoughts.

After his breakup and Wendy's suggestion of setting him up with Suzy, he couldn't deny he was genuinely interested in her.

It wasn't just because Suzy was beautiful; it was more about her determination and strength that made a man want to protect her.

"But I do care," she stated calmly. "I want a marriage based on equality, but in this situation, I would only become a

burden to a family."

"How could that be? Even if Mrs. Chase has to undergo a few more surgeries, it would only cost a few hundred thousand. My family can easily afford it."

Jeffrey's tone grew urgent. "If it's just because of this, and you're rejecting me so firmly, that's unnecessary!"

Suzy shook her head. "You didn't understand what I meant."

"I understand!" Jeffrey had an unusual sense of urgency on his face.

"My parents don't discriminate against anyone for being poor. As for the surgery cost, my family can consider it as a dowry and pay you all at once! Besides, it's customary to give a dowry when getting married."

\*Mr. Palmer, can you tolerate my mother calling and summoning you anytime, even during your classes, meetings, or when you're working late and haven't slept for days?

"You'll have to rush over immediately, even if it means being scolded harshly if you're even a minute late."

"I can!"

"That's because you haven't experienced it."

Suzy knew her mother too well.

She wouldn't easily let go of her daughter's marriage.

For all the torment she had endured over the years, she would subject her son-in-law to the same in the future.

"Suzy, I haven't experienced it, but I want to try. Give me a chance."

Jeffrey let out a sigh.

"Although I know it's not the best time to bring this up, I'm really serious about it, and my parents are very supportive."

"Don't step into my family's mess."

Having said that, Suzy gave a slight bow. "Mr. Palmer, thank you for everything you've done. Please leave with your parents."

Jeffrey was speechless.

"With our relationship with Wendy, you wouldn't want us to feel awkward if we were to meet again in the future, would you?"

After a while, Jeffrey had to smile and nodded. "Alright, we'll head back. As I said before, feel free to reach out if you need anything."

Suzy watched them leave, and suddenly her nose tingled, tears almost welled up.

She had to be realistic.

If she couldn't even consider Jeffrey a suitable match for

her, how could Liam be one?

It was wishful thinking.

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Her mother's surgery was very successful.

It was indeed a doctor personally arranged by Liam, which laid a solid foundation even for the second surgery.

"The patient needs to rest well, and when you get back, remember not to agitate her. It could complicate things and affect her heart condition."

"Alright, I understand. Thank you, doctor!"

Suzy followed her mother's mobile bed back to Ward V1 and suddenly noticed the table was filled with fresh fruits and expensive supplements!

She didn't see Jeffrey bringing these in earlier.

Approaching the fruit basket, she inspected it and discovered a note from the store accompanying it. Along with the ward's location, there was a contact person mentioned: Mr. Park.

## Chapter 98: Found a Leftover Condom

Did Liam send it?

Suzy immediately went to the door to ask the two bodyguards, but they claimed not to know.

She took out her phone, thinking of calling Liam to inquire, but her fingertip hovered over the number and, in the end, didn't press it.

Even if it was a gift from him, what could it change?

At most, it was just a gesture of care from a boss to a subordinate.

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Ashington, in a hotel suite.

This was the fifth time Liam had checked his phone, and there were still no messages.

Could it be that the instructions weren't delivered to the ward?

Or perhaps, she simply didn't want to contact him at all.

Suzy was always so cautious and polite to everyone, but when it came to receiving something from him, she didn't even acknowledge it! Finally-

The phone rang.

Liam answered it directly, but it was the voice of Clive on the other end.

"You picked up fast. Who are you expecting a call from?"

"Just happened to be using my phone."

Clive sounded exasperated. "Don't think I don't know, you're reaching out to that associate again! Didn't we agree to test how long it would take for her to contact you on her own this time?"

"I just sent some condolences to her mother."

"And now you're waiting for her to contact you?"

Liam furrowed his brow. "Do you have something important to discuss? If not, I'm busy."

"I mean, looking at the things she had done, she's obviously not interested in you. Aren't you thinking of letting go?"

"We're married."

Despite his frustration, Liam didn't believe that someone like Jeffrey would lead to him getting a divorce from Suzy.

He was just annoyed that she seemed to have forgotten their commitment!

"You're the only one taking this marriage so seriously."

"She openly introduced another man as her boyfriend back in our home country, and you forgave her. Sophia flew to negotiate a contract for you shortly after surgery, and you didn't seem to care at all. What's the deal with that?"

Jeffrey couldn't help defending his friend.

"I told her not to come along."

"Don't play dumb! Don't tell me you're unaware of Sophia's feelings for you!"

"As a married man, I can't acknowledge that."

With that, Clive was left speechless.

After ending the call, Liam rubbed his temples and instructed John to move his return flight back home up by a day.

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Her mother's surgery went smoothly, and Suzy stayed at the hospital to take care of her for two days before rushing back to Wendy's house on Sunday evening to pack for her business trip.

"You look so tired. Why don't you tell your boss and skip this trip?"

Wendy couldn't help but feel sorry for her friend when she

saw her in this state.

"How can I do that? This is a crucial project. If I go, not only will I broaden my horizons, but I'll also learn a lot."

She couldn't afford to decline this opportunity, considering that many others would kill for it.

"But your health..."

"I'll take care of myself when I've earned enough," Suzy said as she finished packing her suitcase and placed it aside.

"Wendy, during the days I'm away on this business trip, if anything happens to my mom, I'll have to rely on you to take care of her."

Wendy nodded. "That's not a problem. I'm just worried about your health."

Suzy was already thin, and this trip might make her lose even more weight.

"I can handle it. It's not a big deal."

Suzy patted Wendy's shoulder and then turned to organize her own bag when suddenly she found a condom inside it.

It was the remaining one from her previous business trip with Liam.

## Chapter 99: There's a Girl He Likes

"How on earth do you have this?!"

Wendy, who was paying close attention, was almost shocked when she saw it!

In Wendy's eyes, her friend hadn't even been in a relationship, let alone had any male companions around.

She couldn't have dreamt of the day when she'd come across something like this in her friend's possession.

Suzy felt equally embarrassed.

She hadn't intended to play a role as an innocent, purehearted individual, but she did find this matter quite private and felt awkward about someone discovering it.

"It's just... left over."

Wendy blinked her eyes, struggling to process this statement.

"You don't even have a boyfriend, so who did you use it with?

"It's just someone whom I share mutual benefits with."

Knowing Wendy couldn't be easily fooled, Suzy could only evade the topic. Furthermore, this description she provided seemed to accurately fit Liam.

Wendy, upon hearing this, immediately slapped her on the shoulder and her gossip-loving spirit ignited.

"Wow, you! You went from being a prude to not letting me know about it! Come on, spill the beans. How's this guy? Is he in good shape?"

Suzy felt like her face was on fire and quickly stuffed the condom back into her bag.

"Let's not talk about this."

"What are you afraid of? We're all experienced in this now." Wendy raised an eyebrow, grinning mischievously.

"That man must be quite handsome to capture your heart. Do you have his photo? Is he from our company? Have I met him?"

He was quite handsome.

She had his photo.

He was from the company.

Wendy had met him.

And Wendy should take most of the credit for all this to happen.

But Suzy couldn't answer any of these questions and could only respond vaguely, "I had a few drinks that day, so I don't remember." "Ah? A one-night stand? You didn't contact him afterward?"

Wendy was like a detective uncovering a new mystery, her curiosity overwhelming her, and she was not willing to let Suzy off the hook.

"He has a girl he likes," Suzy replied, cutting off all the upcoming questions.

This left Wendy nearly choking on her own saliva. "And he still did it with you?"

"I told you, he was drunk."

She attributed their first time to Liam being intoxicated.

Regarding what occurred later, it was likely that he noticed her resemblance to Sophia, which prompted him to propose a marriage agreement.

"Well, this guy has no class. He has someone he loves and still fools around! You better forget about him quickly.

"Let me tell you, men may be scoundrels, but what's worse is when they have someone they secretly love!" Wendy advised, throwing away the condom from Suzy's bag as if it represented that man.

Suzy raised an eyebrow, puzzled. "Why? Isn't it worse to deal with a scoundrel?"

\*There will always come a day when scoundrels decide to settle down, and who knows, they might become even more affectionate and devoted later because they've seen it all!

"But a man who has someone he secretly loves, he'll never give his heart completely to you! No matter how outstanding you are or how much you love him, it won't stand against that original crush."

"Oh, I see."

"You wouldn't want to be a substitute for another woman, would you?" Wendy asked directly.

Suzy shook her head. "No, I don't."

"That's the spirit! Let me tell you, relationships can be quite delicate. The more you care and prioritize someone, the less they'll care about you.

"Since it seems like you're quite satisfied with him in bed, just go with the flow! Consider it a one-time adventure."

Suzy couldn't help but think back to the day she had mustered the courage to sleep with Liam, all thanks to Wendy's influence.



## Chapter 100: Going to the Airport to Fetch Liam

As if afraid that Suzy might fall in love, Wendy repeated several times, emphasizing that she should just sleep with him and not get emotionally involved.

Eventually, the conversation shifted to Jeffrey.

"My cousin really likes you. If you're not considering it now, when you eventually want a boyfriend, you should definitely think about him."

Suzy sighed. "I'm in this situation now. Don't you think I'm not good enough for your cousin?"

"Come on, don't kid yourself. He would be one lucky guy if he were to marry you.

"Besides, there's nothing wrong with what you did. It's just something adults do, it's only natural! My cousin is definitely not the type to care about such things."

Suzy couldn't help but laugh at her friend's straightforwardness.

Sometimes, she envied Wendy for being seemingly carefree, yet so clear-minded and comfortable with herself.

"Wendy, I know you're looking out for me, and your cousin is indeed a good person, but I'm just not in the right place for romance right now."

"Well, then let's make him wait! You're going to get married sooner or later," Wendy said, playfully pulling Suzy's arm and humming.

"I just want you to become part of my family, so we can be closer!"

Suzy looked at her friend and spoke earnestly, "No matter what happens in the future, I'll always consider you as my family."

She was currently facing difficulties, with many problems to solve, but Suzy had no intention of giving up. She knew that there would be a brighter day ahead for her.

After a sleepless night, Suzy was relieved that she could catch up on sleep during the flight the next day.

Early in the morning, Alec personally came to pick her up, making Suzy feel somewhat embarrassed.

"I could have gone to the airport by myself. It's troublesome for you to make the trip."

"It's on the way; why bother going separately?" Alec replied as he helped Suzy load her luggage into the car.

He also explained the itinerary for this business trip, "After we arrive, you don't need to attend the negotiations on the first day. Mr. Turner and I can handle it."

Suzy, seated in the passenger seat with her seatbelt

fastened, asked with some curiosity, "Then, what's my role in going on this trip?"

Alec hesitated for a moment before answering, "Well, not much, really."

Mainly, it was because Liam personally requested her presence, and Alec couldn't defy that order.

"Oh, by the way, you'll need to pick up Mr. Park from the airport on Tuesday. He's scheduled to land at 10 PM."

It was then that Suzy suddenly remembered she had to pick up Liam from the airport. "Um, can I not do this? I'm not familiar with the roads in New Valley..."

"Don't you want to be associated with this project?"

She did.

But...

"I'm actually quite concerned about this, so let's forget it! I don't want people to assume that my connection with Mr. Park, who was my classmate, influenced this decision. Gossip can circulate within the company, and it might tarnish Mr. Park's reputation."

Alec chuckled.

"You see, in our company, how many people have the time to gossip about such matters?"

He wasn't exaggerating at all. Those who loved gossip and

discussing rumors were usually employees from the subsidiary companies, like FortuneWave!

While headquarters employees might be in the same group chat, there were very few who actively engaged in discussing scandals.

"Getting into Park Group is a milestone! Many people would do anything to get in, but the company is constantly changing personnel.

"Every employee in each position is afraid of not meeting their targets and getting replaced. There's no room for idleness."

Speaking of Suzy, during her time at FortuneWave, she had some free time on weekends.

However, since joining Park Group, when was the last time she didn't have to work overtime?

# Chapter 101: Confidence Casts No Shadow

No one could afford to relax because they were afraid of being overthrown by others.

"Just relax and go. Since you have done nothing wrong, there's nothing to worry about. Besides, Mr. Park doesn't mind."

Suzy was speechless.

That was the whole point – she was nervous because she had done him wrong!

Suzy already felt suffocated, and the thought of being alone with Liam in a car, in such close quarters, was sure to be incredibly awkward, even sending shivers down her spine!

"Mr. Park has cars in New Valley. I'll give you the keys when we arrive."

"Well... actually, I'm not that great at driving. I hope I won't cause any damage to Mr. Park's car."

Alec smirked mysteriously and raised an eyebrow.

"Don't worry! Mr. Park has over a dozen cars parked in his garage in New Valley alone. Even if you happen to damage one, no one will find out! And if it weren't for registration problems, you could even sell a couple."

Suzy bit her lip, unsure whether to marvel at Liam's wealth or lament the rejection of her excuse.

On the plane, Alec and a few colleagues traveling together held a brief meeting.

Suzy listened in but didn't understand much, silently marveling at her formidable mentor.

After the flight attendants finished serving meals, Alec returned to his seat.

Suzy glanced at the contract in his hand, which was a riskhedging report.

"Does this GrowthTech research project have such a big impact on the Park Group?"

"Yeah, there's a lot at stake, plenty of tough nuts to crack."

Alec shuffled through a stack of research materials. "I'm

afraid I'll have to dedicate the next few months to this."

Suzy took a closer look at Alec and noticed that he looked tired.

"Don't your family members object to you working so hard?" She observed that Alec practically spent every waking hour at Park Group.

Alec took a sip of his coffee. "My parents are abroad."

"What about your wife?"

"I'm single," Alec stated, purposefully displaying his bare ring finger. "I'm currently at my prime, so I need to channel all my energy into my career."

"With your unwavering dedication, no wonder you've achieved such a high position at Park Group."

Alec waved it off, laughing. "You're flattering me. How many of us can married early in our line of work?

"I'm so busy I wish I could split each day into forty-eight hours. If I were to get a girlfriend, get married, and have a child now, it would be unfair to her. I simply don't have the time to spend with her, let alone juggle family responsibilities."

Suzy nodded, agreeing with his perspective.

These days, many marriages end in divorce, and in the end, it's the children who suffer the most.

"You see, Mr. Park hasn't settled down either, right? Miss Burns has been by his side for so long, yet they haven't taken the next step. It's because they're prioritizing their careers."

## Top of Form

Suzy was taken aback and laughed nervously.

"Did Mr. Park have a lot of female admirers back in his school days?" Alec suddenly shifted to a more casual topic.

It was the first time he had ever asked Suzy about

something unrelated to work.

Suzy pondered for a moment. "He didn't just have a lot, he had... almost every female student in the school admiring him."

She still remembered how Liam couldn't even fit all the love letters he received into his bag, and many ended up on her desk! It got to the point where she even considered asking the teacher to change her seat because it was too distracting from her studies.



## Chapter 102: Meeting Liam

She didn't request to get her seat changed in the end because she was afraid of troubling the teacher.

Since Suzy was young, she had always been afraid of inconveniencing others. Since her teachers had taken good care of her in school, Suzy felt she shouldn't be demanding.

"Does this include you?" Alec asked, shifting his gaze to her face.

Suzy shook her head repeatedly.

"Not me. In junior high, besides attending classes, I had to work part-time in the morning and do night shifts at an internet café after evening study sessions. My schedule was even tighter than it is now!"

Thinking back, maybe that's why her homeroom teacher felt comfortable assigning her to sit next to Liam!

Otherwise, any other girl would probably have been too distracted to focus on studying.

"What? How old were you back in junior high?"

"I gotta earn a living, no matter how old I am." Suzy shrugged.

When it came to the hardships of the past, she was just

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grateful that she had persevered through them, rather than being trapped in childhood shadows.

After all, dwelling on them wouldn't bring any positivity; it would only make things worse.

Alec looked at her and couldn't help but feel a sense of admiration for this girl.

"Do your best, and you'll definitely make an impact in the investment banking industry."

"Yeah," Suzy agreed, feeling the same way.

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The plane landed at New Valley Airport, where someone was already waiting to pick them up and take them directly to the hotel.

Alec didn't even have time to rest; he immediately dove into work.

After Suzy put down her luggage and tidied up, she didn't have much work to do, so she went to the window to admire the view below.

It was truly beautiful!

Everywhere she looked were towering skyscrapers that she couldn't afford.

She glanced at her phone and saw a message from Wendy.

"Hey sweetie, I couldn't help but notice something off in your eyes when we talked about that guy. I must remind you again, don't let yourself fall for a guy like that. In the end, you'll be the one who gets hurt!"

Fall for him?

Suzy sighed and replied, "Don't worry, there's nothing between him and me. I'm well aware of our differences, so there won't be any romantic involvement. Trust me"

After sending this message, Suzy got up to pour herself a glass of water. When she returned, Wendy's reply almost made her drop her phone.

"Don't tell me this guy is Mr. Park."

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Suzy realized she was truly bad at lying and keeping secrets.

Afraid of slipping up, she decided not to reply.

As evening approached, Alec knocked on her door and handed her a set of car keys. "You should drive to the airport now. There's still time, so drive slowly."

"Now?!"

Wasn't it supposed to be on Tuesday?

\*There were some complications with work here, so Mr. Park arrived a day early! Hurry up, don't waste any more time. There might be some delay on the road." Alec threw out this statement and hastily left, not giving Suzy a chance to negotiate.

There was no choice; she had to grit her teeth and accept the task.

On the way, Suzy tried to reassure herself that Liam shouldn't be traveling alone to New Valley.

His assistant always accompanied him on business trips, and if not, Sophia had to be there with him. Sophia traveled with Liam to Washington, so she should be returning with him, right?

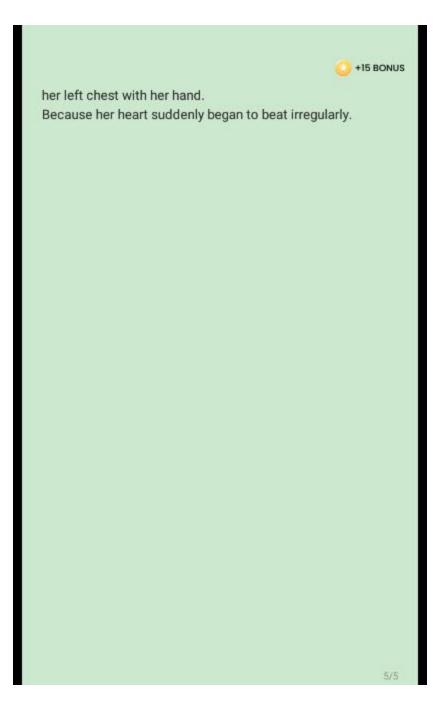
However, how could she possibly strike up a conversation with Liam in front of Sophia, who was his original love interest?

Despite her mental preparation, Suzy parked the car and entered the arrivals hall. She spotted Liam very easily among the crowd.

He was as conspicuous as ever, his tall and elegant figure exuding a strong presence just by standing there.

Dressed in a dark suit, with his shirt and tie impeccably pressed, every detail was flawless, his casual gesture of rolling up his sleeves exuding an innate sense of nobility and composure.

As she looked at him, almost subconsciously, Suzy covered



# Chapter 103: The Forceful Kiss

Soon, Liam also spotted Suzy and began striding towards her with long strides.

As he drew closer, Suzy felt an urge to turn and run away.

No one accompanied him to back to the country, leaving him all alone.

When Liam reached Suzy, he stood still, his presence overwhelming her almost to the point of suffocation.

Suzy noticed him tightly pressing his thin lips together, his thick eyebrows slightly furrowed.

The white bandage on his handsome face still stood out, while he appeared somewhat displeased as if pondering how to scold her.

Suzy instinctively took his luggage, her face stiff, unsure of what to say first.

In the end, it was Liam who sighed lightly and spoke up.

"Why won't you take the initiative to call me when I didn't contact you?"

Suzy hadn't expected him to say this. She was stunned, unable to utter a word.

"Forget it, give me the car keys." Liam reached out his hand

towards her, his tall figure completely blocking the light that should have fallen on her.

"Huh?"

"Do you plan to talk things over at the airport?"

Suzy quickly shook her head and handed over the car keys.

In the end, she found herself sitting in the passenger seat while Liam drove.

Wasn't she supposed to pick him up...?

During the journey back, Suzy felt the urge to speak up several times, but ultimately, she couldn't find the right words and stayed silent.

She hadn't expected the scene of their reunion to be like this. Why did it feel like Liam was more resigned than angry?

"Your mother's surgery was successful," Liam spoke up first.

"Yeah, and I have to thank you for finding the doctor. The previous specialists all said the success rate was low after learning about her condition."

"You should thank me, and your mother should thank Mr. Palmer for that."

"Uh..."

Liam glanced at her through the rearview mirror. "Isn't that right?"

Suzy suddenly realized that he seemed to care a lot about this matter! And now, this situation seemed more like he intended to settle scores with her.

Regardless, she had decided to make things clear.

"It's like this, my mother... found out about the agreement I signed with you for money. She thinks I'm selling my body, so she refused surgery. I had to resort to asking Wendy's cousin to play along."

"Okay, the reason is valid."

Liam's voice was low and icy, lacking any detectable emotion, leaving Suzy's heart suspended in uncertainty.

"This is true, I didn't lie to you."

"I know you didn't lie to me."

"But from the start, you never considered telling your mom the truth, did you? Rather than revealing our marriage, you'd rather pretend to be married to someone else."

Suzy's statement sounded reasonable.

"Of course."

Liam slammed the brakes, causing both of them to lean forward for a few seconds before the car stopped at the side of the road.

Suzy looked at him in confusion, not understanding.



In the next instant, Liam punished her with an intense kiss!

He didn't know why he was so fond of this dense woman, even making himself speechless with anger.

It all happened so suddenly that Suzy didn't realize she was almost passing out from lack of oxygen until she pushed the man off her with all her strength.

"What... what are you doing!"

At that moment, Liam's lips still bore traces of her lipstick, and his shirt, disheveled by her, added a laid-back aura to his demeanor.

The atmosphere in the car suddenly quieted down.

After a while, he replied softly, "Suzy, what more do I have to do for you to understand?"