

Chapter 129: I Want to Protect You

"You believe in the principle that the innocent will ultimately prove their innocence, but you can't overlook the possibility that Suzy has been portraying herself as the victim all this time! Don't you realize the harmful effects of gossip and rumors?"

Sophia chuckled at his exaggerated expression and waved her hand dismissively.

"That's perfect. Since Mrs. Park is back, I can use this time while they're conducting the investigation to take a break. Please don't disrupt my plans."

Clive looked at her for a while, sighing deeply.

"You spoil Liam too much! At this rate, when will he ever appreciate you?"

"I'm not doing this for his sake. I genuinely care about Mrs. Park; she's like a mother to me."

Clive nodded, then suddenly asked, "By the way, why don't you talk about your father much?"

He and your mother must have had a loving marriage, right? Only then could they have raised such a gentle and considerate daughter like you."

"...Yes, they are very loving."

However, they weren't married.

...

Liam parked the car in front of a restaurant.

He had already pre-ordered the dishes on their way to the restaurant, so they were immediately escorted to a private room upon arrival.

Initially, Suzy didn't feel hungry, but seeing the delicious spread on the table made her stomach growl a bit.

Liam personally arranged the utensils on the table for her.

After a few bites, Suzy suddenly remembered. "You returned so abruptly. What about New Valley?"

Their original business trip plan was supposed to take several more days.

"Alec will handle it."

"But can Mr. Lincoln manage such a crucial project in your absence?" Suzy wasn't naive. She knew that if Alec could handle the project in Liam's absence, Liam wouldn't have needed to rush back to New Valley as soon as he returned from Ashington.

Liam added a piece of beef to her plate. "I'll go over after I've settled everything here."

Suzy paused as she held onto her fork. "Don't let my

situation delay the project's progress. Go back to New Valley. I can handle it myself."

"Suzy, I want to protect you."

Even if the road ahead was tough, Liam wanted to stand in front of Suzy, shielding her from harm as much as possible.

As soon as he said that, Suzy immediately lowered her head, pretending not to hear.

But she was deeply unsettled.

What did he mean by "wanting to protect her"?

"Have some more. Your health is more important than anything else." Liam didn't expect her to respond.

After all, Suzy had always used avoidance as her strategy, and he didn't want to push her into acceptance too quickly.

"Alright..."

"Let's head back to Easter Bay tonight. I'm concerned about your safety at Miss Wendy's place."

Suzy paused, realizing he must have already returned to Easter Bay, and noticed her belongings were missing.

"No, thanks. I'm not comfortable there. If... you need me, just give me a call, and I'll come over."

She thought about the strawberries in the fridge and everything Liam had done for Sophia there, feeling a sense

of aversion towards Easter Bay.

How could she go back to live there?

"Miss Wendy's neighborhood isn't safe enough. If someone were to abduct you there, you wouldn't have anyone to help."

"How do you know where Wendy lives?!"

He had even looked into that!

"I also know that Mr. Palmer has been frequently visiting Miss Wendy's place since you moved there."

Suzy was speechless.

Chapter 130: Paternity Test

Throughout the meal, Suzy wanted to ask Liam about the meaning behind his earlier words several times, but she ultimately decided to keep her thoughts to herself.

Top of Form

Now, she needed to focus on finding evidence instead of letting these random thoughts affect her.

After dinner, Liam received an urgent phone call and had to leave.

However, he made sure to drop Suzy off at Wendy's place first and reiterated that she must move back to Easter Bay by tomorrow at the latest.

Upon returning to her room, Suzy found her thoughts scattered and disorganized, unable to grasp any sense of clarity.

Suddenly, her phone rang.

It was a call from Melissa.

"Have you returned from your business trip?"

"Yes, but things are hectic at the office. I haven't had the chance to come see you yet."

Melissa chuckled. "You focus on your work. If you're busy,

you don't have to come see me. I'll be fine!"

Suzy didn't tell her mother about what had happened. It was unnecessary to burden her with more worries.

"I'll come over once I've finished dealing with everything."

"In that case, bring Jeffrey along too. I have something to discuss with him! He should be more understanding of your busy schedule."

Suzy paused, remaining silent.

Originally, Suzy had planned to tell her mother everything after her surgery was over! But now... she lacked the energy to deal with her mother, she just wanted to quickly find evidence.

"He's busy too, so you shouldn't bother him."

"You shouldn't have such thoughts! With men, you have to get them moving, keep them busy, only then can you see if they truly care about you through their actions."

Suzy could only sigh at her mother's lecturing.

"I understand."

"Why do I feel like you're very tired today, Suzy? Is something bothering you?" Melissa Chase finally noticed something was amiss.

Suzy had intended to say it was nothing, but as the words were about to leave her lips, she changed her mind.

"Mom... have you ever seen that woman?"

There was suddenly silence on the other end of the phone.

"Mom, hello?"

"Why are you asking about her?" Melissa asked abruptly.

"I just wanted to see what she looks like. I've never seen her before."

"What else could she possibly look like? Like a slut! Her daughter too!"

Melissa's anger surged as she spoke of it. "Don't make me think about what she looks like, it disgusts me!"

Suzy bit her lip. "Mom, do you think... do I resemble her illegitimate daughter in any way?"

After all, they both came from the same father, so there should be some resemblance, right?

"Is she even worthy? Haha!"

Suzy realized it was pointless to continue probing her mother; further discussion would only arouse suspicion, so she decided to drop the subject.

"Mom, take care and get some rest. I've got things to attend to here."

"Alright, remember to take care of yourself and eat properly!"

Suzy hummed in agreement several times before ending the call. She then stared at the new number, belonging to Sophia, on her phone for a while.

She felt that Sophia's motive for framing her might not only be because of Liam. There could be other grudges involved.

After sitting in a daze for a while, Suzy finally called Wendy.

"Wendy, do you know where we can get a paternity test done?"

"I do. I have a client who specializes in that. Their accuracy is very high," Wendy replied frankly, sounding puzzled. "Why do you need it?"

"I want to do a paternity test."

She had a question in her mind and wanted to know the answer.

Chapter 131: Don't Blame Mr. Park

Suzy naturally wouldn't tell Wendy who she wanted to have the paternity test for. She wouldn't say anything until everything was settled.

In the evening, when Wendy returned home from work, she saw Suzy packing her luggage again and quickly asked, "What's going on now? You brought up the paternity test earlier, and now you're packing up to leave. I just can't figure you out!"

Suzy put down what she was doing and smiled.

"The hospital needed the paternity test. I'm moving out because... the company wants to investigate me thoroughly, so I need to move to a designated location."

"They are going too far! Once you've proven your innocence, I'll accompany you to the company to demand an explanation. And if they refuse to compensate you for the stress they've caused, we'll take legal action!"

Wendy had always been a naive and straightforward person, her determination to protect Suzy evident in her expression.

"I will find evidence to prove it."

Suzy pursed her lips, hiding her true feelings in her eyes.

If there really was a blood relationship between herself and

Sophia, then many things would make sense!

Such as why Sophia was so eager to kick Suzy out of the Park Group, and why Sophia was so worried about Suzy being around Liam...

...

The next morning, Suzy arrived at the Park Group building as usual during office hours.

As soon as she entered, she felt several curious gazes directed her way.

Especially after the internal notice was sent out to investigate Sophia, everyone became intrigued by the situation.

After all, nobody would suspect Sophia Burns, the General Counsel! Handling this situation could be either challenging or straightforward; terminating Suzy's employment would solve it!

Since Suzy was insignificant, even if evidence eventually proved her innocence, it wouldn't affect the company much.

On the other hand, suspending part of Sophia's duties could indeed affect the progress of some projects and result in losses for the company.

"I noticed she was close to Mr. Lincoln. Maybe he plays a part in this too..."

"Isn't it obvious? Otherwise, how could she have gotten close to Mr. Park? Mr. Lincoln has been by Mr. Park's side for so long; most likely, he said something to Mr. Park, and that's why he's giving her this chance."

Once in the elevator, Suzy stood at the back, listening quietly to the hushed conversation between the two women in front of her.

She furrowed her brow, wanting to reprimand them for spreading rumors, but in the end, she didn't. Instead, she took out her phone and recorded their conversation.

For the time being, she refrained from speaking up or defending herself, simply waiting for the truth to emerge!

Arriving at the office, she found herself alone since Alec was still on a business trip in New Valley.

Upon booting up her computer, she noticed some unusual activity on the company's backend, indicating a need for cooperation with an investigation.

Shortly after logging in, she received a message from Alec, stating, "You'll need to temporarily remove your signature from the SNS project too. Don't blame Mr. Park; he's doing his best."

Suzy truly held no resentment towards Liam at this point.

Initially, she had thought the situation arose because of him, feeling somewhat uneasy about being targeted seemingly

without reason.

But later on, she began to wonder why Sophia was so eager to come after her, even resorting to extreme measures. There must be some other reason beyond personal vendetta.

If she truly was that woman's daughter, then the whole ordeal had nothing to do with Liam.

In contrast, as the CEO of a conglomerate, his willingness to suspend Sophia's work fairly and justly made her genuinely appreciate him.

Regardless of whether he believed in her innocence, at least he was able to view the situation from a neutral standpoint!

Chapter 132: What's Is a Mistress

"I won't blame him."

"Mr. Park rushed back to Northorn City overnight because of your situation. Things are in a state of emergency here in New Valley. He mentioned he'll be back in a few days, which proves he's also keen on getting to the bottom of this."

Suzy smiled, looking at the computer screen, feeling somewhat puzzled.

Was Liam's swift action aimed at clearing her name? Or was he worried about the potential impact on Sophia's reputation once the truth came out?

And what did he mean by "I want to protect you"?

She pondered for a moment but didn't dwell too much on it.

Feeling prepared, Suzy got up from her desk and headed straight to the Legal Department.

"Hello, is Miss Burns in the office today?" she asked a legal department staff member as she stepped out of the elevator.

It was obvious the staff member knew about Suzy and Sophia's situation, her eyes lighting up with a mix of curiosity and excitement, tinged with a hint of caution.

"What do you need her for?"

"I'd like to have a private chat with her regarding the company's investigation," Suzy replied confidently, without any hint of guilt.

The staff member hesitated for a moment, then said, "Let me check with Miss Burns. She's here, but she might not have time to see you."

"Alright, thank you," Suzy replied, standing patiently in place. Before long, the staff member returned.

"Miss Burns said you can go straight in."

"Thank you."

Suzy walked briskly to Sophia's office door, knocked, and upon hearing a response, pushed the door open and stepped inside.

Sophia lifted her head and smiled gracefully when she saw Suzy.

"I didn't expect you to come find me."

"To be honest, neither did I," Suzy replied, gazing at the face that bore some resemblance to her own.

"Looking back, it's quite naive of me. The first time we met, I didn't sense anything unusual."

Sophia's hand holding the pen paused. After a few seconds,

she moved again.

"Do you consider that day our first meeting?"

Suzy looked quietly at her.

Sophia rose from behind her desk, walking toward Suzy in high heels, lips slightly curved.

"Strictly speaking, that was our second meeting."

Suzy kept quiet.

"I remember you were still in high school at the time, working at a fast-food restaurant after school. When I found out about it on my father's phone, I deliberately came to see you."

Sophia gently brushed Suzy's shoulder with her fingers, her tone calm as if recounting someone else's story.

"Seeing you so thin and frail, malnourished even, do you know how relieved I felt?"

Suzy clenched her fist, meeting her gaze.

"Only you and your mother would dare to play the role of the mistress so boldly."

"The mistress? What do you mean? Have you ever received any love from Dad all these years? Has he ever cared about your well-being?" Sophia scoffed mockingly.

"It's just that in this day and age, Dad can't unilaterally

divorce! How many times has he mentioned divorce, even to the point of going to court, but your mother refuses to agree!

"Speaking of which, I pity her, having to endure being married on paper only."

"I pity your mother too, having to endure being labeled as the mistress her whole life!"

That sentence hit Sophia's sore spot directly.

Sophia raised her hand to hit Suzy, but this time, Suzy was prepared in advance.

She directly grabbed her wrist and forcefully pushed her, causing her to fall heavily to the ground.

Coupled with the unhealed wound from Sophia's surgery, the intense pain caused her to cry out involuntarily—

Suddenly, Sophia's office door was pushed open directly.

Liam strode in, looking rather upset.

"Suzy, what are you doing here?"

Chapter 133: Quit Playing This Game

Without waiting for Suzy to react, Sophia immediately reached out in pain as soon as she saw Liam.

"Liam, help me... I'm... bleeding..."

All eyes turned towards them simultaneously. True to Sophia's words, her body was covered in large patches of blood, which was quite alarming to witness.

Liam immediately called for an ambulance and then went over to scoop Sophia up and leave the office.

He did all these without exchanging a word with Suzy, not even making eye contact.

After they left, Sophia's assistant hurried in, glanced at the bloodstains on the floor, then at Suzy, looking bewildered.

What was going on here? Did she just step into a crime scene?

Suzy hadn't expected that her act of self-defense would lead to such serious consequences!

It was Sophia who had initiated the violence...

As more and more people from the Legal Department gathered, John came over. "Everyone, get back to work. Mr. Park has made it clear that this matter is off-limits for

discussion! No taking photos or spreading rumors! Let's focus on our work!"

After everyone had left, he approached Suzy and whispered, "Mr. Park just called me and told me to ask you to go back to Easter Bay after work and wait for him."

"...Okay." Suzy nodded, but instead of leaving immediately, she grabbed a tissue from the table to wipe away Sophia's bloodstains on the carpet, then carefully stored it away.

Even though Sophia had admitted the relationship earlier, if Suzy wanted it as evidence, it needed to be in black and white.

She hadn't forgotten her purpose for coming here.

...

Sophia was hurried into the emergency room at the hospital. Her surgical wound had reopened, resulting in a considerable loss of blood, causing her to faint while still in the ambulance.

Clive rushed over from the hotel, clearly having just come out of the shower, his hair still damp and his shirt buttons mismatched.

"What happened? How did she suddenly lose so much blood?" Clive asked, his temper flaring.

"I'm not entirely sure. She had some disagreement with Suzy."
"

Liam had arrived at the office early for a meeting and upon hearing that Suzy was at work today, he immediately tried calling Alec's office.

With no answer, he guessed Suzy might have gone to see Sophia.

As soon as he entered, he witnessed the scene.

"What?! Suzy again! Does she want to kill Sophia?" Clive's anger surged upon hearing this.

"Liam, don't you think you're being too lenient? With your General Counsel involved in such an incident, you can't afford to be ambiguous!"

"Suzy didn't do it intentionally."

"Then what? Was it accidental?"

Liam furrowed his brows. "We haven't fully grasped the situation yet. I just need to get Sophia to the hospital first."

Clive shook his head in disbelief. "Fine, if you haven't figured it out, let the police do it! Since you claim Suzy didn't do it on purpose, then call the police and let them investigate!"

He reached for his phone, but Liam swiftly took it away from him.

"Clive, this is a matter concerning the company, and you have no authority to intervene."

This was the first time Liam spoke to Clive in such a tone. Despite their longstanding friendship, Liam had never used such an oppressive tone before, even with his high position and authority.

For Suzy's sake, he had truly broken many records.

Upon hearing Liam's stern warning, Clive also calmed down instantly and refrained from further argument.

After a while, he sighed heavily. "Liam, can't you just quit playing this game? Have you considered the consequences if you continue down this path?"

Chapter 134: It's Absurd to Say Out Loud

"I'm not playing around."

"But you shouldn't take Suzy seriously! Mrs. Park has already decided that you will marry Sophia. Aren't you afraid of upsetting her again? Even if Sophia doesn't have a place in your heart, what about Mrs. Park? She's your biological mother."

Liam didn't respond, just pursed his lips tightly.

He stood tall, partially obscured by the darkness.

The light outside the emergency room suddenly went out, and a doctor emerged, removing the mask from his face.

"Who's the family member of Sophia Burns?"

Clive immediately walked over. "I am! How is she?"

"The patient had excessive bleeding due to the surgical wound tearing. It has been re-sutured, and she will be out soon."

"So, she's not in any life-threatening condition?"

"Well, she still needs to be closely monitored. After all, it's an abdominal surgery. If it leads to an infection, it could be problematic." After saying this, the doctor left.

Clive breathed a sigh of relief upon hearing that she was

okay.

Turning around, he saw Liam about to leave!

Clive hurriedly caught up, grabbing Liam's arm.

"Are you leaving already? Aren't you being a bit heartless? Sophia will be out soon. At least help me get her into the ward. She doesn't have many friends here, just you and me."

"I have to go back. Suzy was frightened by the sight of blood."
"

Although he was in a rush, he still caught a glimpse of Suzy standing nearby, looking lost.

"Aren't you worried that Sophia might get angry and report Suzy for intentionally harming her?"

Liam was taken aback by Clive's words.

If he wasn't worried about that, why would he have personally brought Sophia to the hospital?

He worried that any delay in Sophia's medical care and any potential mishap would mean Suzy, as the involved party, couldn't avoid responsibility.

...

Sophia was naturally delighted to see Liam. Her eyes seemed to want to stay fixed on him forever.

"I'm fine, don't worry," she weakly reassured him. "And don't

blame Suzy... She didn't know about my surgical wound. It was just a moment of panic that led to her pushing me..."

Liam remained silent, but Clive frowned.

"What are you thinking about at a time like this? Besides, you shouldn't have met Suzy. She's been insisting to everyone that you framed her."

"Don't speak ill of her... Liam is still here. No matter what, she's Liam's... girlfriend," Sophia hesitated to admit their marriage registration.

"But--"

Before Clive could continue, Sophia shot him a look, signaling him to stop.

Liam's handsome face already showed signs of impatience.

"Liam, there's still a lot of work to do at the company, right? You should go back first. Clive will stay here with me," Sophia said reluctantly, maintaining her understanding demeanor.

"Okay." Liam nodded slightly and then turned and left without hesitation!

Clive rolled his eyes when he saw Liam's departure.

"Why are you acting so generous? It wasn't easy to persuade him to stay."

"What could he do here? His mind is already with Suzy,"

Sophia said with a bitter smile.

"You see, even though Suzy got me into the hospital, Liam didn't blame her. Is the truth about the Far East project still important? Liam only believes in her. In the end, I might end up being the scapegoat for Suzy."

"No way! How many people would believe you framed Suzy? It's absurd!"

Chapter 135: A Deep Kiss

If those she cared about didn't believe her, it was pointless even if others were to believe her.

"At times, I truly admire Suzy. She manages to keep Liam's heart tightly locked towards her, whereas I seem oblivious and solely focused on assisting him with his career."

"He will appreciate your kindness sooner or later. Besides, with Mrs. Park supporting you, what's there to fear? With Suzy's status, she'll never step foot into the Park family and will never be recognized by the Parks!"

Sophia didn't say anything, but she understood better than Clive that the only way to restrict Liam at this point was to please his mother!

Liam couldn't possibly ignore his mother in the end and insist on being with Suzy!

...

After leaving Sophia's office, Suzy went directly to the paternity testing center that Wendy had recommended to her.

Normally, such a violation of protocol wouldn't be allowed, but luckily Wendy had helped her plead her case.

After arranging everything, Suzy received a call from Liam

on her way back to the company.

She thought Liam would stay with Sophia at the hospital.

"Where are you?"

"I'm at the office."

"Suzy, I'm in your office."

Suzy cleared her throat. "Ah, I felt hungry just now, so I wanted to grab something to eat. I'll be back soon."

The call ended abruptly, and it seemed Liam was quite displeased.

Well, she couldn't blame him.

Earlier in Sophia's office, Sophia's appearance would undoubtedly have stirred Liam's emotions! After all, Sophia was his unrequited love.

With an expectation of being reprimanded, Suzy returned to her office. Upon pushing open the door, she saw Liam sitting on the sofa, waiting for her.

He leaned back, his sharp features softened, his dark eyes fixed on Suzy.

"Why did you go to see Sophia without permission?"

"Because I had some things I wanted to ask her." Suzy wasn't particularly guilty; at most, she truly didn't intend to knock over Sophia! But if Sophia hadn't acted first, Suzy

wouldn't have pushed her.

Liam frowned. "At a time like this, you should think twice about your actions."

If Sophia had insisted on involving the police just now, Suzy would have definitely been taken to the station for questioning!

There were no cameras in Sophia's office. Given the amount of blood on her, wouldn't Sophia's testimony be considered highly reliable? Suzy might end up facing some time in jail for a minor assault charge!

"I forgot she had just undergone surgery, and besides, she was the one who wanted to hit me first."

"You shouldn't have gone to see her."

"Mr. Park, if everything I do is considered inappropriate, and then I fail to provide evidence in the end, who will believe me?"

At first, Suzy was hesitant to talk about this issue privately with Liam because she wanted to avoid any accusations of bribery or seduction involving the CEO. However, she felt the need to defend herself as Liam continued to side with Sophia.

Liam looked at her, his tall figure rising from the chair, approaching Suzy step by step.

After a moment, his lips moved.

"Suzy, you and I are married."

Suzy was speechless.

"Between Sophia and me, there's only a superior-subordinate relationship."

Perhaps overwhelmed by his authority or stunned by his words, Suzy found herself at a loss for words, her mind blank.

"I promised you this matter would be handled fairly. Give me some time, okay?"

Blinking and still trying to process the conversation, Suzy was startled when Liam's lips suddenly pressed heavily against hers, almost as if he were intentionally punishing her.

Chapter 136: Suzy Met Grace

Liam finally released Suzy's lips, leaving her breathless.

Her lipstick was smudged from their kiss, giving her flushed lips a heated appearance.

"Suzy, back in junior high, I thought you were quite clever."

Suzy kept quiet at his comment.

Liam lifted his hand to tousle her hair. "I have a meeting. We'll talk more at home tonight."

He was prepared to leave.

Suzy hurriedly asked, "Um, how is Sophia doing now?"

Despite being the one who pushed her, Suzy still couldn't stop thinking about the matter due to all the blood she witnessed.

"Don't worry, she's fine."

"Alright."

Watching him disappear into the office, Suzy couldn't help but wonder what Liam meant by his earlier words.

He said they were married, and his relationship with Sophia was merely superior-subordinate.

It seemed like he was stating his stance regarding Sophia to

her.

However...

He still had the 0825 tattooed on him, and he still used Sophia's initials for the entrance password.

Could it be that Liam suddenly realized he no longer loved Sophia?

Would his next move be to remove the tattoo?

Strangely, just thinking about this possibility made Suzy's heart beat strangely.

She couldn't quite pinpoint why.

...

After work, as Suzy stepped out of the company, she saw John waiting for her. Seeing no one around paying attention to them, she quickly opened the car door and got in.

"I can go to Easter Bay by myself."

"Mr. Park asked me to pick you up." John was the only subordinate who knew about their relationship, but being Liam's employee, he kept quiet about what he knew.

"I'll tell him I won't need you to pick me up tomorrow."

Suzy preferred to keep her interactions with Liam private and away from prying eyes.

Numerous rumors were already circulating, and including

Liam would undoubtedly turn it into a major spectacle.

After they arrived at Easter Bay, John watched her go in before driving away.

Coming back to this place, Suzy couldn't shake off a strange feeling. When she left last time, she thought things were over between her and Liam.

Perhaps due to Liam being away on business recently and having no housekeeper around, Suzy found a layer of dust on the floor as she hung up her clothes.

Since she didn't have any work at the moment, she decided to tidy up the place.

After finishing cleaning, Suzy was sweating profusely and exhausted.

Suddenly, there was a sound of the door opening.

Thinking it was Liam, Suzy grabbed the bucket of floor-cleaning water and walked over.

However, the visitor turned out to be an elegantly dressed lady.

"You are..." Grace was as surprised to see Suzy as Suzy was to see her.

After all, it was widely known in the Park family that outsiders weren't allowed in Liam's house.

Suzy stood still, unsure of what to say, but fortunately, Grace

spoke first, "Are you the maid my son hired?"

Since Suzy was holding a bucket of water and a rag, it was easy to assume she was a maid.

Upon hearing Grace's words, Suzy nodded immediately. "Yes, I'm here to clean Mr. Park's house."

Suzy could guess the identity of this lady from how she addressed Liam earlier.

Furthermore, Grace bore a remarkable resemblance to Liam; both had finely chiseled features, thick eyebrows, and deep eyes. Despite being over fifty, Grace still radiated charm.