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Chapter 517 Tina's Suicide

"You're being so mysterious." Rose took a sip of her tea before she continued speaking. "Well, I won't probe any further if that's the case. However, there's something else I'd like to know. Sonia isn't aware of the fact that she has fallen for you, and I wanted to point it out earlier, but you stopped me before I could do it. Why did you do that?"

"Because now isn't the right time." Toby leaned against his seat. "Sonia hasn't realized her feelings for me, so she might not accept it if we were to point it out to her now. I'm afraid she might feel disgusted and resistant toward such a statement. My plan is for her to realize it on her own so that she can naturally accept the fact that she has fallen for me."

There was no point in getting others to tell Sonia about her feelings—she wouldn't accept it, and she might avoid or hide from Toby if that happened. The best solution was for Sonia to think things through, as this would make it more likely for her to accept Toby.

Rose gave him a thoughtful nod. "You're right. Well, since you've already decided on this, you should just go along with your plan. However, I really hope that you can get married to Sonia soon. You don't have to worry about Jean; I'll keep an eye on her to make sure she doesn't pull any tricks." Rose's face darkened at the mention of Jean.

If it weren't for the fact that Jean had taken care of Toby and was Tyler's biological mother, Rose would have kicked her out of the house a long time ago. Jean didn't know how to do anything except give the family more issues.

"I got it, Grandma. I hope it's not too much trouble for you to deal with Mom." Toby stood up to give Rose a bow. Rose hastily gestured for him to sit, and she was about to tell him something when she saw Tom walking over with Sonia. "Sonia's here." Rose let out a large grin. Toby immediately turned to see Sonia walking toward them.

Sonia hadn't expected to bump into Toby there, and a look of suspicion flashed across her face before she looked away and pretended not to see him. "Grandma!" Sonia greeted with a smile.

"Take a seat, Sonia." Rose patted on the spot beside her.

Sonia shook her head. "It's fine, Grandma. I came to bid you goodbye. It's getting late, so I'd like to head home now."

"I see. That's fine." Rose knew that it was getting late, and she didn't stop Sonia as she knew that Sonia had work the next day. Instead, Rose used her walking stick to support her to her feet. "You had a few drinks earlier, so you can't go home on your own. I'll get Toby to send you home."

Does she want Toby to send me home? Sonia immediately rejected the offer. "It's fine, Grandma. I'll just call for a personal driver to take my car. He drank alcohol too, so he can't drive me back."

Toby's face was grim as he spoke. "Tom didn't drink. He can send us back."

"Us?" Sonia froze.

Toby lowered his cup as he got to his feet. "I should be leaving too, Grandma. I'll get Tom to drive us back now so that he can get off work earlier after that."

"Great. You guys should leave together, then." Rose rolled her eyes at Toby when Sonia wasn't looking. It's so obvious that he wants to leave together with Sonia. Well, I guess that's good—that's what I intended to do when I told him to send Sonia home.

"Look, I don't need to follow you guys. I can—" Sonia was about to say something when Rose patted the back of her hand. "Alright, Sonia, go along now. I'd feel more at ease knowing that Toby's the one sending you. I'd be more worried if you just hired a stranger as your personal driver."

Rose turned to Toby just to pretend to give him a stern warning. "You'd better make sure that you send her home safely. You'll be the first person I look for if something happens to Sonia."

"Okay." Toby nodded.

Sonia let out a bitter laugh. Fine. Grandma already has everything planned out for me, so I can't do much, can I? If I reject her now, it'd seem like I'm being disrespectful. Forget it. Let's just do it. "We'll leave now, Grandma." Sonia tidied her hair before she bid goodbye to Rose.

When Toby heard Sonia referring to them as 'we', he curled his lips into a slight smirk. Rose merely chuckled as she waved. "Okay, okay. Goodbye."

Sonia nodded before she followed Toby out of the pavilion. They had only taken a few steps when she heard Rose talking in a playful tone behind her. "Look at Sonia and Toby, Mary. They look like a perfect couple."

"They do." Mary nodded agreeably. Upon hearing that, Sonia tripped on something and nearly fell. Toby instantly held onto her waist. "Watch out," he uttered in a gentle tone.

"I got it. Thanks." She straightened her back and was about to slip out of Toby's grip. However, Toby then let go of her waist before he reached over to hold her hand. Sonia widened her eyes. "You..."

"I'm holding your hand because the path here is covered with large pebbles. The intention was to replicate the theme of an ancient garden but walking around this area with heels can get pretty hard. You'd fall really easily," Toby said.

Sonia parted her red lips to speak, but no words came out of her mouth. She had no rebuttals—it was true that the ground made it hard for her to walk. She had already stumbled her way over when she arrived at the pavilion with Tom. If Tom hadn't helped her over, she would have certainly fallen onto the ground.

I guess there's nothing wrong with Toby holding my hand. I just don't want to fall down, that's all, Sonia thought to herself as she lowered her head. Toby knew that she had agreed to let him hold her hand when he sensed that her grip was no longer as tense as before. He smiled before tightening his grip and shoving both their hands into his coat pocket.

"You—" Sonia stared at him, her eyes filled with surprise.

"My hand's freezing. I need to warm it up a little," Toby uttered with a poker face.

Sonia's lips twitched with annoyance. Did he say his hand is cold? What a lie! I can still feel the warmth from his palm. If anything, I'm the one who's cold now. Wait! Sonia widened her eyes. Did he do this because he wanted to warm my hand? Sonia stared at Toby as she zoned out for a while.

"What is it?" Toby asked gently.

"I-It's nothing," Sonia mumbled as she looked at her feet. Toby didn't force her to answer him when he saw her response. Instead, he gave her hand a soft squeeze before he shifted his gaze away from her.

Soon enough, the three of them exited the manor's main gates and arrived at their car. At that moment, Sonia's phone began to ring. She used one hand to unzip her bag and pulled her phone out. "Huh?" Sonia mumbled in a puzzled tone.

"What is it?" Toby asked. She showed him her phone. "How odd. It's 11.00PM, yet the police are calling me."

"The police?" Toby frowned. "Did you make a police report recently?"

"No." Sonia shook her head. "That's why I'm so surprised by this call." This number was the number she had saved from her previous encounters at the police station. That was why the caller ID indicated that it was from the police station.

"You should just pick it up to find out what's the matter," Toby suggested. Sonia nodded as she swiped a finger across the screen to pick up the call. "Hello?" she uttered as she placed the phone against her ear.

"Something has happened, Miss Reed." A stern, male voice sounded from the other end of the line.

Sonia's expression turned serious when she sensed the man's grave tone. "What is it, Officer Olsen?"

"Tina jumped off a building and killed herself," Teddy replied grimly. A loud ringing sounded in Sonia's ears as her expression turned into one of disbelief. "What did you just say? Tina... jumped off a building? She's dead?"

Toby and Tom were just as shocked upon hearing Sonia's words. "Tina killed herself?! How is that possible?" Tom was shocked.

"Put him on speaker!" Toby ordered. Sonia gulped and did as she was told. Teddy could hear all three of their voices then. "That's right. About ten minutes ago, she jumped out of one of the windows in her ward. She died on the spot."

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Chapter 518 Toby the Fashion Critic

As the plaintiff in Tina's case, Sonia had the right to know everything that was happening to Tina. That was why the police immediately called to let her know about it after they found out Tina killed herself. "Tina is dead?" Sonia mumbled in disbelief.

Tom's jaw dropped. "What? She killed herself? That's just..."

Toby took Sonia's phone. "Why did she kill herself?"

Teddy recognized Toby's voice, and he answered, "We're still looking into it. It happened very suddenly, so nobody knows why. The only guess we have now is that she's trying to avoid prison. Tomorrow's her last day of house arrest, so that's probably why. However..."

"This guess is probably wrong," Toby finished his sentence.

Teddy nodded. "Yes. If she's really trying to avoid prison, she wouldn't have waited until now to kill herself. She would have done it as soon as she was placed under house arrest. But that's what we can work with now. We're still looking into this."

"I see. We'll be right there." Toby hung up and handed the phone back to Sonia.

Sonia took the phone dumbly. "Tina killed herself?" Apparently, she was still in shock.

Toby patted her head. "Yes."

Her lips trembled, but she said nothing. Her mind was raging and impossible to calm, for she could not believe Tina had died just like that. Sonia bit her lip.

Toby said nothing. To be honest, he never thought Tina would commit suicide. It caught everyone by surprise, and he had a feeling the suicide wasn't as simple as it looked. First, the timing wasn't right, and the reason was too outlandish. Couple that together, and that would be a recipe for a mystery. But I'll have to take a look for myself to find out.

"Let's go. This is no laughing matter. You're the plaintiff, so you must know what's going on as well." Toby tipped her chin up gently.

Sonia looked at him. "Okay."

Toby retracted his hand. "Drive," he told Tom.

Tom nodded. "Yes, sir!"

They got into the car and went to First World Hospital. Nobody said anything on the way, and the atmosphere was depressingly somber. Tina's suicide was too shocking for them, making it impossible for them to calm down.

Tom drove fast, so they reached the hospital in less than half an hour.

Before they got out of the car, Sonia realized that there were a few police cars outside the hospital. The police officers stood in a line and cordoned off the area, prohibiting all but the patients requiring immediate treatment from entering.

More than half of the people outside the cordoned-off area were reporters from Flashbang Media. They raised their mics and cameras as they tried to breach the area. They tried to push the police officers away so they could get exclusive news.

Sonia squinted. So the news has spread. It's probably going viral on the Internet as we speak. Just then, she felt something covering her head, and she touched it. "A hat?"

"Yes. It'll cover you up a little. If those reporters see you later, they're going to surround you and bombard you with questions." Toby covered her up with a jacket.

It wasn't the one he was wearing. The jacket was already in the car all this time just in case he needed a spare, and now it was put to good use.

Sonia looked at the jacket and fidgeted. "I'm fine with the hat, but not the jacket."

"Just wear it," Toby interrupted imperiously. He pressed the jacket down on her tightly so she wouldn't shake it off. "It's freezing out there. You can't just walk around in a dress."

"Oh." Sonia finally realized something important—it was nearly zero degrees out there. Earlier, she didn't feel cold just wearing a dress because there were heaters installed in the car and the old manor. Naturally, she had forgotten that it was winter. If she actually went out in her dress, she'd freeze to death. "You can let go. I'll wear it," she muttered awkwardly.

Toby laid his hands off her happily.

She stuck her arms into the sleeves and wore the jacket. It was oversized and reached the top of her knees. Coupled with the long sleeves, it made her look like a child who was wearing her parents' clothes. She looked at herself and felt amused by the sight. "I think I can act in an opera now."

"It is a little big." Toby rubbed his chin while looking at her. After all, it was his jacket, so it was normal that it would look big on her. "Stay put. I'll handle this." He took off his necktie with one hand.

Sonia was curious about that. "What are you trying to do?"

Toby didn't answer. Instead, he wrapped the tie around her waist and pulled it tight. Then, he tied it into a bow and shifted it to the side. The necktie turned into her belt, and it cinched her waist.

It looked fashionable for some reason. His was a blue-striped necklace, while her dress and jacket were black. It was as if a blue moon had suddenly appeared in the night sky, dazzling everyone. "Done." He finished adjusting the necktie and pulled his hands away.

Sonia looked at his handiwork. "Not bad. Never thought you knew how to do this."

Toby chuckled. "I'll take that as a compliment. We can go out now."

He popped a cap over his head as well. Tom had bought those caps in a nearby shop when they stopped earlier.

Toby opened the door and got out first, then he extended his hand to Sonia.

Sonia put her hand in his without any hesitation, and he held her hand tight. Toby took her out of the car, then they went to the cordon point.

They came up to one of the officers, and Sonia quietly identified herself.

The officer had been told by his captain about their arrival, so after he verified her identity, he lifted the tape up and allowed the three of them to go in.

It wasn't until the trio had gone in did the reporters realize who they were. However, they were too late, for Sonia, Toby, and Tom had gone into the cordoned-off area.

Since they didn't dare to breach the area, the reporters took deep breaths and shouted out their questions as Sonia and the others went in. They wanted to know Sonia's opinion about Tina's suicide, but Sonia and Toby pretended they heard nothing. They kept walking, and eventually, they got out of the reporters' sights.

When they came to the ward area, Sonia noticed that one of the buildings was crowded with police officers and the medical staff. Aside from that, there wasn't a single civilian. They were probably evacuated.

"They're just up ahead," Toby said softly.