

Chapter 8 He Was 18 When He Committed Suicide

Selen sat at her desk and had not opened the gift from Jade. Even without unwrapping it, she knew it contained a crystal hairpin, possibly Swarovski. While it might be considered a luxurious gift at that time, Selen disliked wearing jewelry, feeling as if she were bound by an iron chain whenever she adorned herself with such accessories. This psychological effect left her uncomfortable, so she decided to keep the gift under the desk cabinet.

Instead, she focused on her mathematics booklet for the third year of high school. These questions posed no difficulty for her. In the past, Selen's grades were poor, but she had sought Zeke's help to improve her academic performance, especially since she wanted to secure a place at a university. Zeke, despite having only a junior high school diploma, was incredibly knowledgeable, having self-studied numerous subjects. His exceptional intelligence and diligence could be considered sky-high in her school, even surpassing the top scholar of Hulbury.

Selen admired Zeke's intelligence and knew that he was capable of creating miracles with his hard work. It was no wonder Archie had recognized his potential.

However, Archie's focus on Selen's academic performance was minimal. Instead, he trained her to be a refined lady, emphasizing interest classes like dancing, piano, golf, cooking, and embroidery. He had plans for her future, intending to marry her off to a suitable and wealthy family, forging a strategic commercial alliance through marriage.

In Archie's eyes, a woman's virtue lay in her lack of ambition, as he expected her to prioritize her role as a wife and mother. He believed that once married, she should tend to her husband and raise children, remaining hidden from public view.

All she needed was to find and win the heart of a good husband.

As Selen gazed out the window, she noticed a black car leaving through the gate. It seemed that they left.

Archie would not return until three days later, giving her a rare and free time in the coming days. She decided to put down the book and do whatever she pleased. She did not want to be restricted by her family's views.

Hurriedly, she made her way to the backyard garden, where a date tree had been planted. Sharon had told her that it was planted when her mother was pregnant with her. Now, it had grown taller than the wall, with branches thicker than arms, curving and stretching into the neighboring villa.

The villa areas here were all interconnected, and only a few trees were planted by the wall, barely separating the view.

The dates on the tree were perfectly ripe, and Selen could not wait to climb up and enjoy them while taking in the scenery.

However, Selen soon realized that she had overestimated herself, as she could not climb the tree. She had to fetch a ladder.

Seated at the head of the fence, she was covered by the lush branches and leaves of the date tree. Picking a red date, she casually rubbed it a few times before popping it into her mouth. Swinging her feet and feeling incredibly at ease, she thought she had never experienced such freedom before. She closed her eyes and enjoyed the gentle breeze...

Suddenly, a sound of broken porcelain came from the neighboring villa, accompanied by the angry voice of a young man, "Get out, get out of here..."

The voice seemed to come from the second floor. Selen looked up, and a crutch was thrown from inside.

"Birch, it's for your own good. Let's go for a walk, shall we? You've been staying at home, and mom is really worried about you."

"What's for my own good? You hate me because I'm a burden. Wouldn't it be better if I died... You don't have to worry so much about wasting time on me, a piece of trash. Get out... get out of here!"

"Birch..."

"I told you to go out, didn't you hear?" the boy roared angrily.

The woman spoke in a conciliatory tone, "Okay... I'll go out. Don't hurt yourself."

Who lives there? He sure has a great temper.

Selen recalled a significant event that took place about half a month after she had cut her wrist. Zeke had taken her to the hospital for a reexamination, and upon their return, she witnessed an ambulance parked next door.

The medical team was solemnly carrying out a covered corpse, indicating that the person had already passed away. Like her, he had tragically chosen to end his life by cutting his wrists. His body had been discovered in the bathroom, where he had been lying for two days and nights.

Sharon told her that the young man who had taken his own life was the future heir of the wealthy Oakley family, prominent in Hulbury. Apparently, he had been suffering from mental illness and had struggled with suicidal tendencies. Though he had been fortunate enough to be rescued a few times before, this time, he was not so lucky.

It was a heart-wrenching fate for someone so young, who was only eighteen years old, to succumb to such despair.

Feeling a sense of sorrow, Selen plucked a date from the tree and absentmindedly tossed it through the broken window...