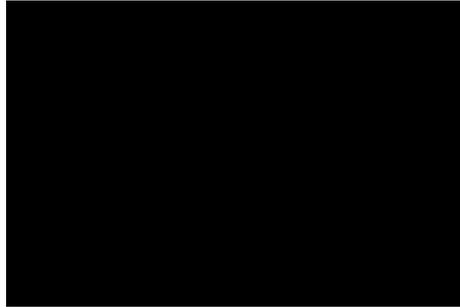


“ODD EYE”

Part 1



<https://youtu.be/uQbtuQ2-2WQ>

(Song By: SHINee)

I know, I know, you're on the defense
I understand, of course,
how could you believe me?

(Lyrics Sung By: SHINee)



5:30 P.M. - MALIBU, CA

EVEN though evening in Malibu brought a calm to the chaos of the events surrounding the afternoon beach video, the wheels were still turning in the lives of those who evolved around sisters, Keis and IlSeok Wu.

Parents, Amanda and MinSeok were firming up dinner plans by text and Henry Lau was getting ready for the Idol Reception at ‘SM’ L.A. The girls in IlSeok’s ‘gang’ huddled over Jazzy’s computer, working on the summer ‘Hotness Blog’, fretting they’d missed most of the video shoot, hoping the new round of trainees were worthy of their attention.

Lastly, an exhausted Kim Kibum and Choi Minho, dozed in the back seat of a taxi van, being transported to ‘SM’ for a pre-dinner orientation meeting, before coming face-to-face with their host family for the first time.

NEXT DAY ACROSS THE GLOBE – S. KOREA

AROUND the world in Gangnam, S. Korea, twelve hours into the next day . . . Chairman Jang’s consultation with investors for his newest personal business venture, turned out to be a

disappointing disaster, leaving him drinking heavily right before lunch. SungWoo had let him down yet again, not returning in time to present the remaining proposal.

Over in Seoul . . . ‘SM Entertainment’s’ Chairman Lee SooMan sat sipping his morning tea. Satisfied with last minute member and name changes he read over the final contract for their newest KPOP Idol group, (now appropriately called, ‘SHINee’).

Smiling, after getting the word that super group, ‘TVXQ’s comeback beach video was a hit and negotiations were in the works for a Japanese release under new name ‘DBSK’, he silently prayed the board’s choice for next year’s May 25th, debut of the five young ‘SHINee’ members, was on track to be the right one.

In line to follow ‘TVXQ’ and ‘Super Junior’, into the booming field of entertainment, this collaboration felt right on ALL levels. It was shaping up to be a great day!

BACK IN MALIBU - WU FAMILY PATO

SILENTLY motioning his two faithful body guards Nose and Baldy away from the side of the patio, MinSeok shook his head, mouthing, “I’ll take care of it.” They had done their jobs, exactly as expected. Followed the girls down the beach, tracking their whereabouts to make sure they were safe and stayed out of trouble.

Keis’s very first day. He’d been suspicious the moment he saw her slip down the stairs past his office in her bikini. Now, sprawled out across the lawn chairs (feigning sleep) were the mischievous sisters, acting like they hadn’t moved an inch for hours. *Well, he would just see about that!*

“FORGET something ladies?” His loud booming voice could be heard over the girl’s heads, eliciting a simultaneous reaction. Frowning, he stood over them menacingly, letting each of their cell phones, slip from his large hands to the top of the small rattan table.

“Did you really think you were getting away with something? And, what’s with the minute makeover Keis? Your hair wasn’t that color when I picked you up this morning. Not sure I like the black.” Hesitating, he chewed the corner of his tongue in aggravation. “And, no lying.”

Already knowing they'd been at the video shoot after talking to the bodyguards only moments ago, he waited them out, tapping his foot impatiently hoping (for once) at least one of them would fess up and give him the truth.

“Daddyyyy . . .” Whining, Keis blinked convincingly at her step-father, hearing IlSeok's voice reminding her they would be in some deep shit if he found out what they'd been up to. “I would never lie to you. Promise. You know I always do a makeover when I get here. I just did it right away this time. You don't like it? Humph, I'm tired of the blonde.” *Why did she feel the inevitable lecture coming?*

Hoping she could run shotgun for Seoky, and take the brunt of his anger, she pulled up off the lounge, lunging forward, wrapping both arms about his waist, snuggling her head against his expansive chest.

“Sorrriyyy . . . it was all my fault. I was just bored after being on the plane so long and needed to get out and take a walk. Don't blame Seoky.”

Continuing to frown down at his daughter IlSeok, MinSeok pulled Keis away from him before she ground her newly acquired spray tan all over his clean white dress shirt. By the sound of their excuses clearly, he wasn't going to get a true rendition of their afternoon.

“Really IlSeok? You're gonna let her take a bullet for you again? The two of you always collaborate on SOMETHING when she's here. This time you barely walked through the front door . . . AND, you just got caught.” Despite the circumstances, he pointed at her, trying to maintain his displeasure. “And, WHY didn't one of you let me know you weren't shopping with your mother?”

“I don't know.” Responding quickly, IlSeok pouted her lower lip out, aware that on the heels of Hyun Joong and JJ they were on shaky ground for sure if they'd already been ratted out by the bodyguards. “Mommy busted out of here right after you went to 'SM', how were we supposed to know she didn't tell you? Geez, Daddy, do we have to do everything?”

Winningly cranking her head around at Keis she kept the deception going. “Really, Keis is right. She just wanted to walk the beach, get the kinks out after a long flight, see some of our



friends. You act like we've never gone down to Coco's alone before . . . everyone knows us there. We're not ten, for crying out loud."

Nodding her head matter-of-factly, Keis agreed. "It's true like I said. It was my idea. I should've remembered to grab my cell before we left since I was the last one out. I know better."

Persisting, she waited with bated breath to hear his comeback. *What would he DO if he figured things out. Being AT the video shoot was one thing but, being IN the shoot was another. Would he curtail their activities out of fear of her Father's retribution? She didn't want to be sent home before the summer ever started.*

With a pounding heart, she picked at the clear buttons of his shirt hoping even in her grown-up innocence he'd take pity on them both and let this one slide. After all, he did it for Mommy when she looked at him with her big, puppy dog eyes.

Sighing, MinSeok shook his head, hating the fact he couldn't win, for losing (especially in a household of females).

"You two are going to be the death of me yet! DAMN. Why am I always the last to know everything? Next time think first. You seem to forget I beef up security at the Chairman's request when you're here Keis." Releasing her arms from around him he stepped away. "Alright then, I'm headed back to my office for a few minutes. You know your mother and I have the 'SM' reception dinner here in a little bit, so please try and behave yourself tonight. We'll check in before we leave."

Mumbling under his breath, "Yeah, behave? Like that's ever gonna happen," he sauntered away, letting the door slam in his wake. Chuckling at his own ability to cave under their quirky smiles and mischievous, twinkling eyes he ran one hand through his long bangs. He knew his girls better than they knew themselves. After his rendezvous and 'intel' with the guards, he was certain because of Keis's Idol obsession, IlSeok had given in to her, resulting in the afore mentioned escapade.

He'd probably done the right thing by keeping quiet, letting them enjoy the fruits of their little adventure. Apparently, they'd met Kim Hyun Joong, and undoubtedly fangirl Keis had coerced an autograph or poster out of Kim JaeJoong, securing him a new position of honor on the Idol wall in her room.

Stopping to grab a beer from the refrigerator he popped it open, hearing the satisfactory fizz, the frothy suds tickling his upper lip as he savored the taste.

“Sudden urge for a makeover my ass . . .”



“**WHOA**H, that was close.” Giggling, Keis snatched her beach towel off the lounge, reaching for the recovered cell phone. Flipping a curtain of newly tinted black hair from around one shoulder, she shook the red soul mate bracelet at her sister, playfully. “You’re getting better at lying by omission. Good job.”

“Whatever.”

Feeling her own bracelet still intact, IlSeok stared into her sister’s light blue eyes, glimmering with delight at getting by with something she shouldn’t have, (even in front of the man who typically anticipated their every move).

“He’s not stupid Keis. He probably already knows we did the shoot. He just didn’t say anything.”

“Eh, maybe not. Nose and Baldy don’t ALWAYS squeal on us. They probably just said we were down there in the crowd or something. I think we’re good.” Shining with positivity, Keis began gathering her things, convinced they’d managed to pull one over on her step-father.

Blurting out, “You know, we’re damned lucky he’s not locking us in our rooms and throwing away the key. I told you before we left I just got off being in trouble,” IlSeok squinted up into her face. “What? You’re going in now?”

“Yep. Sugar crash. I’ve had enough excitement, and reprimanding for one day. Gonna shower and nap. You, coming?”

“Ahhh, shit. I guess so. No sense in staying out here alone.” Snatching her stuff as well, IlSeok followed Keis across the patio. “You want pizza later? I can order while you shower.”

“Naaahhh. Don’t worry about me. Not really hungry. I’ll get a salad or something later.” Stopping in the doorway, Keis swiveled, shaking out the damp towel, before dropping it over the

drying rack. Squinting into the sun, she noticed a familiar figure trudging up the beach toward the stone steps, head down studying his feet as he walked.

“Hey, isn’t that Suni?”

“Shit, sure is . . .”

“Yeah, at least he’s alone and didn’t bring Henry. That would’ve been a disastrous ending to an epic day. Hey, roll out the Korean boyfriend plan on him. I’m too tired to deal with that shit right now.”

“Seriously?” Swinging around, IlSeok reached for her bare arm a look of desperation crossing her face. “You stood up against Daddy, but you won’t stay and back me up here? What happened to ‘sister’s forever’? Come onnnn Keissss. Suni’s gonna wanna see you . . .”

“Oh my God. Stop whining, it doesn’t suit you. Anyway, you’ll be fine. You got this far without me. If he asks, tell him I’m napping, and I’ll talk to him later after things have calmed down. Good luck.”

“What the fuck . . . are you really deserting me right now?”

Walking away (one hand up in dismissal) Keis ignored IlSeok’s cussing, continuing her trek into the kitchen, bare feet padding noiselessly against the cold tile floor.

Irritated at her off-handed response, IlSeok swiveled around, watching Sungjae corner the side of the swimming pool. Headed straight in her direction, face blank, he ruffled one hand through his long dark bangs.

This was not going to be pretty. Sister and her bright ideas. The break up was hard enough and now she was expected to throw a Korean boyfriend by the name of Kim Hyun Joong in his face. How much did she still love him? Enough to save him from SungWoo of course, but despite what she’d led Keis to believe, it seriously DID hurt.

Stopping in front of her, Sungjae shivered, despite the warm breeze coming off the ocean. The confusion evident in his brown eyes, it was apparent seeing Keis was the last thing on his mind. Unable to push his



arms away as they encircled her, IlSeok felt him squeeze tightly, his voice unsteady, “Seok, I’m so sorry.”

Panicked, her mind raced. *What the hell for? Did she miss something? How could he be sorry when she was the one cheating?*

Calmly, patting his back as if he were a penitent child, she mumbled, “Sorry? Did someone die and I’m the last to know?”

