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Skylar remained frozen in her spot while Tobias headed straight for the bed. He sat down and removed his suit jacket while staring at his phone.

“Why’re you losing your temper at me? I don’t recall offending you.” Tobias was the first to break the silence.

Skylar felt an indescribable melancholy. “I have to make this clear today. What sort of relationship do we have?” questioned Skylar.

The lines between both of them were far too blurred. Skylar had once fantasized about being in a relationship with Tobias, yet he disappointed her repeatedly. He gave her false hopes again and again, only to let reality break her heart every single time, plunging her into despair.

She could not deny the fact that he was indifferent toward her. It was apparent that he barely made an effort to close the gap between them.

Above all, Tobias only needed her body to satisfy him in bed. Her heart ached further at the thought of him allowing some other woman to reside in the International Garden.

Tears began to well up in her eyes.

Looking at her pitiful and teary eyes, Tobias began to adopt a more gentle attitude. “What sort of relationship do you think we have? Didn’t I say this before? You’re my girlfriend. Hasn’t that been made clear enough? Or do you feel that I haven’t been worthy enough as a boyfriend?”

Skylar sniffled as she struggled to stifle her tears. If she shed tears in front of Tobias, he would probably make a snide remark and criticize her for crying so easily.

She kept her gaze on the floor as she lamented, “Do couples behave this way? You only look for me when you need me. When you don’t, you seem to disappear from the face of the earth without a trace. I hardly receive any messages from you.”

Tobias's brows furrowed. The fatigue was evident in his visage. "Are you blaming me for not contacting you? Well, I'm an extremely busy person. I won't always have the time to take care of you. Skylar, if you want to be in a relationship with me, you have to keep up with my pace. I won't be like your ex-boyfriends. My whole life can't revolve around you, and I can't possibly ask about your wellbeing through texts all the time. You're not a teenager anymore, so you shouldn't be maintaining your relationship with childish ways."

With the nonchalance in his tone, it was obvious that he didn't see any problem with his attitude.

Skylar gradually understood that being in a relationship with a successful man like him was no easy feat. It's like giving a porcupine a hug. If I want to get close to him, I have to brace myself for injuries.

"I can see why you have no time for me. With the time spent on other women, how would you have the capacity to deal with me? I recently went to International Garden and saw your latest conquest there," hissed Skylar, who was oblivious to the notes of jealousy in her tone.

Tobias knitted his brows. "I don't know what you're babbling about. In the first place, I bought that villa for you. Besides, I've been in Rome the past month and only just returned," he rasped.

Skylar stiffened at this revelation. "But I really saw a woman staying in there."

Tobias looked up to scrutinize her. When their eyes met, he realized that she was indeed confused. "I'm not sure who that was either. So... Is that jealousy I'm sensing?"

"I am jealous! I've had enough of this undefined relationship. Tobias Ford, since you're not able to give me the slightest sense of security, there's no need for me to give a d*mn about you either. I'd rather live a happy single life than get tormented by you."

Those words did not sound foreign to Tobias. Sense of security? What's that? He was clueless as well.

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Tobias stood behind Skylar. Suddenly, his low and deep voice sounded above her head. "A sense of security doesn't have to come from others. Remember, you can't rely on anyone in the world except yourself. Once you're strong enough, you'll feel secure."

Skylar's body tensed up. The closer Tobias was to her, the more anxious she became.

She found herself unable to rebuke his argument while she was overwhelmed by that familiar scent of his.

The light and refreshing white sandalwood cologne he had on masked the smell of tobacco and ignited her desire.

Tobias circled his arms around her waist firmly and inhaled the faint scent of her shampoo. "Let's make a trip back. I want to see who's staying there so you can stop imagining things and cease the accusations about my nonexistent mistress."

With that, the force around her waist vanished. Skylar shot him a suspicious look. Does he really not know? Or is he pretending not to know?

As they made their way to International Garden, nervousness began to hit Skylar. She was apprehensive about approaching the property and confronting the woman who resided in it.

A million thoughts crossed her mind. Maybe she's an ex-lover of Tobias? Perhaps International Garden was where she used to live?

When they arrived at International Garden, Laura saw Tobias and Skylar return at the same time.

She respectfully waited at the entrance to assist them with changing their footwear, but the pair couldn't be bothered about it. Skylar was more concerned with clarifying the issue as soon as possible so that she could return to school without delay. Besides, she had to prepare for her trip to N Province.

She even wondered if Daryl had forgotten about her.

"Tobias, how did you know I'm back? I called you several times, but there was no answer. Then I heard that you were in Rome for business."

A sweet female voice echoed in the house. When Zoey Stewart saw Tobias with a woman in tow, the smile on her face evaporated.

Laura had warned her that Tobias brought a woman home previously, but she was unconvinced.

Skylar blinked her eyes in shock. She knew that Tobias had a younger brother, but she didn't expect him to have a sister as well. Unless she's an illegitimate child? I guess you'd never know what kind of secrets the affluent families are hiding.

But this woman bore no resemblances to Tobias.

When Tobias saw Zoey, there was barely any change in his expression. "Why are you staying here? You didn't even inform me. When did you return?"

Zoey's eyes never left the woman beside Tobias. Her piercing gaze told Skylar that she was unwelcome.

"This has always been my abode! I'm just returning home. What's wrong with that?" She shot Tobias a pitiful look.

Fearful that Skylar may develop the wrong idea, he introduced Zoey to her. "This is Zoey Steward, my friend's younger sister."

Skylar gave Zoey a light nod and a polite smile. She decided to turn a blind eye to the latter's unfriendly demeanor. I can't possibly ask her why she's glaring at me on our first meeting...

Upon hearing the words "friend's younger sister," Zoey lowered her head dejectedly. Then, she murmured, "And this is? I've never seen her before, and she doesn't look like Tanya."

Skylar remained silent and waited for Tobias to introduce her.

She was unclear on what their relationship was. Referring to them as lovers would be an overstatement.

"This is my girlfriend, Skylar." His tone was low and domineering, lifting Skylar's spirits.

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Zoey's beautiful eyes narrowed ever so slightly. She felt as though her heart was crushed into pieces.

That was the first time in the years she had known Tobias where he introduced a woman as his girlfriend.

He had never even publicly acknowledged his relationship with Tanya and had always remained aloof about it.

When Tanya Hanson bullied her, Tobias did his best to defend her and outrightly sided with her.

The memory of Tanya fuming was still fresh in Zoey's mind.

Laura walked over to serve them drinks. She first poured some for Tobias, then Zoey. When she reached Skylar, she asked, "Is this alright for you?"

Skylar frowned. "Yes, this is fine."

Zoey took a seat on the couch as sorrow began to engulf her. Disappointment was an emotion she was familiar with when it came to Tobias.

When she first heard of Tobias's engagement, she was broken-hearted.

She was unable to accept the fact that the man she had pined for all these years was going to marry someone else. Despite the fact that their relationship remained stagnant for years because Tobias only regarded her as a sister, she still hoped for more.

No matter how hard she tried to fight for his love, nothing could alter the reality. All she could do was head to Italy to heal her wounds. When she caught wind that his engagement was called off, she was over the moon and immediately bought tickets to return home.

All these years, she had been unwilling to give up. To her, as long as she put in the effort, sparks were bound to fly between the two of them. She even made a wild guess that the abrupt cancellation of the engagement was because of her.

Alas, she was proven wrong. Tobias had abandoned his fiancée for a new conquest.

“Tobias, I want to stay here for a period of time. I’m not going home! You won’t mind, right?” Zoey asked.

Tobias frowned slightly and replied, “Everywhere else is fine. Why are you adamant about staying here?”

Putting on an innocent and piteous look, she stared at Tobias with teary eyes and responded, “I’m used to staying here. I don’t want to move. Or are you planning to stay here with your girlfriend?”

Skylar then chimed in with a bright smile on her face. “Don’t worry. I won’t stay here often. But I don’t have the right to make the decision.”

Zoey studied her carefully from top to toe.

Her delicate features and flawless face accentuated her beauty. Every smile she flashed was enchanting and alluring. Even Zoey was impressed by her exceptional looks.

Then she took a peek at Tobias, whose face was still expressionless.

“Do what you want. I’ll leave this place to you. Anyway, I’m going to send Skylar somewhere near her school.” Fishing out his keys from his pocket, he tossed them to Zoey.

As she reached out to receive the keys, she felt dismayed. After shooting Skylar a death stare, she glared at their intertwined hands. Is she doing this on purpose to spite me?

Upon leaving International Garden, Skylar promptly let go of Tobias’s hand.

He raised his hand and smirked. “How realistic of you. You were holding onto my hand so tightly.”

“Hmm... Sister? Thankfully, I’ve been staying in school. I didn’t know I was staying in someone else’s house.”

Tobias lifted an eyebrow. He disliked having to explain himself, but something about Skylar's manner told him that she was going to get the wrong idea if he did not clarify the matter.

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"Zoey is my friend's younger sister. I've been taking care of her since her brother passed on a few years back. We were rather close, so he requested for me to look after her. Is this explanation clear enough for you?"

That sounded like an old trick in the book to Skylar. However, she knew she would seem petty if she continued to dwell on this matter, so she forced out a smile. "I think she likes you. Her gaze seemed suspicious," commented Skylar.

She was a Scorpio, and they were known to possess strong intuitions on top of being meticulous.

Tobias replied coldly, "Look, kid. There are many women out there who are infatuated with me. Does that mean I have to become their lover? I can't dictate how others feel. All I can do is control my own feelings."

Being referred to as a kid irked Skylar. How is it possible that no woman can resist his charms? Being in a relationship with him means that I'm bound to torment myself over the possibility of him cheating. Moreover, he's the kind of guy who won't even bother to update you on his whereabouts or send you sweet nothings every minute.

Skylar didn't bother probing further. The only thing she could do was to deal with the problem when it actually occurred.

Instead of returning to the hotel with Skylar, Tobias hailed a cab to send her back to school.

At the entrance of the school, Skylar bid him farewell. "Don't bother sending me. It's a long journey from here."

He placed his hand on her shoulder and kissed her cheek. "I'll accompany you. What if you run into a lusty young man and he drags you into the bushes?"

That sent a chill down her spine as she knew that he was not spouting nonsense.

When she first entered the school, she had heard of an incident where a senior who was jogging was dragged into the bushes. She was then raped and murdered. Unfortunately, the culprit got away scot-free and remained at large. Whenever the incident came up in conversations, students would be consumed by fear.

“You’ve heard of that incident too? I didn’t expect that,” Skylar teased.

He frowned slightly and replied, “The victim was my brother’s ex-girlfriend. We offered a handsome sum to catch the killer but to no avail. So it’d be better for you to be wary. I’ve installed a GPS system in your phone as well.”

She was taken aback. I didn’t expect Sheldon to have such a past. I guess he isn’t that sentimental after all. His girlfriend has just passed on and he’s already gotten himself a new one.

Tobias kept Skylar company until they reached her doorstep. All of a sudden, a dark figure jumped out and startled Skylar. Her instinctive reaction was to dive into Tobias’s arms, to which he responded by holding her firmly.

When she realized it was Jackson, she heaved a sigh of relief. He hadn’t shown up in a while, but his incessant text messages were enough to irritate Skylar.

“No wonder you called off the wedding. It’s true that you have someone else.” Hoping to reconcile with Skylar, Jackson had been waiting since five o’clock with a large bouquet of fresh flowers in his hands. However, never did he expect to witness her holding hands with another man who even gave her a peck.

Tobias resisted the urge to scoff at the fool who held a bouquet of flowers in his hands. That’s so last century. I can’t believe he’s still out here giving girls roses.

Skylar responded, “I never planned to marry you. It has always been your wishful thinking. We’ve already returned your family the money. What more do you want?”

Although her tone was gentle, she was actually doing her best to suppress her fury. She could hardly contain the urge to expose Jackson and his misdeeds.

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Jackson had it all planned out, right down to their children's names. Hence, he was unable to fathom the reason why Skylar would do him injustice, considering his immense love for her.

I have been very forgiving toward her. I've even accepted the fact that she had a boyfriend previously, but now there's another man? Is she that lonely?

As Tobias looked on silently, he decided to leave it to Skylar to settle her conflicts with this fool who seemed to be riled up.

Infuriated, Jackson began to chastise Skylar, "I've apologized so many times. Yet, not only did you ignore my texts, but you also rejected my calls. Skylar, who gave you the right to treat me like that? Just because you know I'm fond of you, you bully me like this?"

His words reminded Tobias of Skylar. Young people these days... Why are they so obsessed with replies to text messages?

Skylar was incensed to hear his accusations. Fury flashed in her eyes as she snapped, "You're too shameless. How dare you send me nudes? Does it excite you to send explicit photographs to me every night?"

Tobias's expression darkened upon hearing that.

Jackson, on the other hand, saw nothing wrong with that. "I just wanted to show you my body. Skylar, I'm really muscular all over. If you marry me, not only will I give you happiness, but I can also satisfy you in bed."

The blood drained from her face. Jackson must be insane to have said all that.

She pursed her lips and clenched her teeth. "You are a goddamn pervert!"

The more she thought about those photographs, the more revolted she felt.

What was originally a deadpan expression on Tobias' face morphed into a frightening look. He reached out and grabbed Jackson's collar. With an icy-cold voice, he yelled, "Who gave you the guts to do such a despicable thing? It's impossible between you and Skylar. Just continue dreaming."

Jackson's breathing became constricted. "You're going to pay for stealing my woman. Skylar's mine." He coughed as he attempted to speak.

Skylar had never imagined that there would be men fighting over her. After all, it never crossed her mind that she was attractive. Besides, she was sure that people were bound to steer clear of her once they knew about her background.

Without any mercy, Tobias aimed for Jackson's groin and gave it a mighty kick. Jackson's face immediately turned ghastly pale, and he let out a loud howl while clutching onto his crotch.

The thought of Skylar looking at those pictures infuriated Tobias. He felt as though she had been taken advantage of.

As he raised his hand to deal Jackson another heavy blow, Skylar rushed forward to shield Jackson.

"Stop hitting him. I don't think he would be able to endure it," uttered Skylar. Deep down, she began to regret letting Tobias send her back.

Should anything bad happen to Jackson, she would not be able to bear the consequences.

However, Tobias disregarded her words. With a stony look on his face, he sneered, "Move aside. Why? Are you feeling sorry for him?"