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If their age were further apart, Kate would have already taken Amelia in as a goddaughter.

"Kate, I knew you'd bring me over as well if you jumped ship." Amelia looked gratefully at Kate.

"I've laid the path for you until this point," Kate said with a smile. "I'd never give up on you until you rise to the top."

On the other hand, Skylar kept on getting Miranda's phone calls as she was extremely impatient. Even though Skylar was told to reach by four thirty, Miranda had been calling her since three thirty to rush her.

Miranda also told Skylar that her cousin was back and asked her to pick her up at the station.

"It's not like she doesn't know the way. Why do I need to go pick her up?" Skylar was upset by her mother's request.

"She said she brought too many gifts, so it's hard to carry everything," Miranda responded.

In the end, Skylar took a deep breath and called a cab to the station to meet her cousin, Eva.

Once she reached the station, Skylar could already see Eva coming out of the train with a lot of bags with her.

Their gazes met, but neither of them showed any enthusiasm.

Skylar never liked Eva as she was always arrogant.

Having said that, Skylar did put some thought into it. She was not that narrow-minded, but she remembered how Eva would always ask their grandmother about her grades at the dining table when they were young.

Meredith would always react to Eva's question with a sigh and criticized Skylar in front of the relatives. She would say that Skylar already had nothing but still refused to work hard.

When Skylar was applying for Southwood Film Academy, Eva would always mock her decision, saying that it was a place for rich kids. And that she should just study something that could land her a job easier.

The other option was to just quit school and head straight into sales for clothes and cosmetics to lighten the load on their grandmother since Skylar had grown up.

Eva would always look down on Skylar and criticized her actions while placing herself on the moral high ground.

"I'll get a cab," Skylar told Eva as she took out her phone.

"There's no need. My boyfriend will come over to pick me up," Eva stopped her.

Hearing that immediately got Skylar frustrated. What was Miranda doing? Why did she ask me to come help Eva when her boyfriend's already on it! No wonder she changed her internship location back here. It was for a boy!

Then, Eva took out her phone and made a call. A BMW X1 showed up not long after and honked.

"Let's go. He's here," Eva said with a smile.

Hence, Skylar followed behind Eva, but her hands were empty since Eva already had someone helping her.

When they got on the car, Skylar self-consciously sat at the back and took out her phone from her bag.

"Hermès?" Eva asked as she looked back at Skylar's bag. "How much was it? Why are you using a counterfeit?"

Skylar picked up the bag to have a look, "For vanity I guess. You know me. I'm very prideful. No harm in getting a fake one to boost my image."

“Work hard in the future and get a real one,” Eva smirked. “Using a counterfeit just feels so lowly. By the way, I heard you’ve gone back to school?”

“Yeah. And the holidays are coming soon.”

Eva sighed. “Poor Grandma worked her life away for you. Even her retirement fund was spent on you. To be honest, you should’ve never gone to that school. When Grandma passed away, she only had three thousand left in her bank.” Eva was placing herself on a moral high ground once again, criticizing Skylar as if she herself were a saint.

“Your dad took that last three thousand,” Skylar spoke nonchalantly.

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“That was because he was worried that you’d just waste it. You think my family cared about such a small amount?”

Eva’s response made Skylar snicker. “It really seemed like they cared a lot though. Your mother took everything Grandma left behind after all.”

Eva immediately gave Skylar a threatening stare, and look sheepishly towards her boyfriend. “My cousin really likes to spew nonsense.”

“It’s alright. She just a kid after all.” Her boyfriend laughed.

Before they reached the old manor, Skylar realized that she did not tell Tobias that she would be returning late that night.

Skylar: I’m having dinner with my family tonight.

She sent out her message and got a reply from Tobias after around ten minutes.

Tobias: Which home? You want to have dinner with me?”

Skylar: At my uncle's. Having dinner with a whole bunch of relatives, and my mom.

Tobias: Am I not invited?

Skylar: Emmm... I don't think so.

Tobias: Have fun then.

When they arrived at the house, Skylar tossed her phone into the counterfeited bag Eva talked about. Miranda was standing at the door and welcomed Eva as passionately as possible.

Skylar had heard that, before Miranda went to jail, she was an aunt that took extreme care of her niece.

"Our Eva looks so polished and beautiful now. Is this your boyfriend? What a handsome man."

However, Miranda's warm welcome was met with Eva's cold shoulder. Even Skylar felt a little awkward watching their interaction.

Eva's boyfriend's name was David Johnson, a generic name to say the least. He was a civil servant whereas both his parents were university lecturers, a scholarly family.

Skylar's aunt, Sharon, would always be boastful whenever her daughter was mentioned while she threw some shade at Skylar as well.

The whole house was really lively as all the relatives were gathered together. Having said that, Sharon only showed a smile when she saw Eva and David. Most of the time, she would look really gloomy.

While everyone was mingling around, Skylar went to sit beside Miranda and whispered to her, "Why did you want me to come? I don't really need this meal. By the way, can you just change that stupid habit of yours where you call someone nonstop no matter the situation."

"Family should always come together like this. Look at how lively it is! Why don't you just bear with it." Miranda rolled her eyes at Skylar.

At this point, the way Wesley and Sharon treated Skylar had certainly improved a bit, but they still had doubts regarding Skylar's relationship with Tobias. To them, the prominent businessman having a normal relationship with Skylar just sounded like a huge joke.

Besides, since what happened last time, no one heard anything about Skylar having a boyfriend.

"Your niece might have just been a victim to the rich people's game and got left behind," Sharon told Wesley.

Wesley could not care less about what his wife was talking about. The only things on his mind were how he was still unemployed as well as how his older sister just came back as if nothing happened. The best part was she lived there without showing any signs of shame nor guilt. To top it off, no one dared to go against her.

Previously, Wesley was told that Miranda had gone insane. The situation now however, made Wesley feel like he was the one going insane as Miranda seemed as normal as she could possibly be.

On the other hand, Skylar started getting hungry the more she looked at the table filled with food. Since I'm already here, might as well dig in.

She picked up a piece of duck meat and started chewing away, noticing that the meat was dry and hard to bite through. This was definitely a cheap duck.

One of the aunts saw that Skylar was eating the duck, so she immediately picked up the drumstick of the duck and placed it into Eva's bowl. It was like they were afraid that Skylar would grab the drumstick for herself.

Meanwhile, everyone's attention was once again focused on Eva.

"Eva, is it true that you're staying here for good this time? Have you settled all the work related issues?"

"When are you planning to get married? David here looks like he would be a fine husband."

"Back then, I've always said that, out of all the children, you are the one who is going to shine the brightest."

“Skylar, what have you been up to lately?” Eventually, one of the relatives’ attention went Skylar’s way.

At the moment, Skylar still had a meatball in her mouth as she raised her head. “Haha, nothing much. Just some meaningless work.”

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“Skylar is studying at the Southwood Film Academy,” Miranda told them in support of Skylar. “You all know where that is right? A lot of celebrities graduated from that school. I’m hoping that she’d become really famous in the future. She’s my only insurance plan after all.”

Eva sneered. “So many people that came out of that school would end up just being extras or playing insignificant roles. Those famous celebrities spent a lot of money to get to where they are. Where do you get that money from? There was Grandma’s retirement fund in the past. What about now?”

Eva started being the wet blanket again, clearly not wanting Skylar to get any attention.

Skylar raised an eyebrow in response and smiled. “I just finish filming a new movie by Daryl Williams.”

“Oh?” Eva looked at her suspiciously. “That’s a famous director. What role did you play?”

“The second female lead. There were quite a lot of scenes.”

With that, Eva went silent. She had to admit that Skylar had an exquisite looking face. There are abundance of beautiful faces in the industry though. For a nameless actress like you to gain popularity would be a huge joke.

After a while, Eva cleared her throat and made an announcement. “Everyone, I’m getting married soon. Mum, Dad, David’s parents would like both families to meet before that. They’ve already prepared a house that’s more than two thousand square feet for us.”

"Yeah," David chimed in. "Mr. and Mrs. Watts, my mother really liked Eva so the house was prepared well in advance. It's located in the city so it's more convenient for Eva to travel to work."

All the relatives there were shocked by the announcement. Their jaws dropped even further when they heard about the house in the city.

"Eva's really amazing! Even your husband is impressive. Your in-laws seem nice too! Have you secured a job yet?" One of the aunts said flatteringly.

"It's confirmed," Eva declared proudly. "The human resource department already sent me an offer. I'm going to work in the Ford Group."

At that instance, Skylar almost choked herself when the Ford Group was mentioned. She was astonished that Eva was going to work in Tobias' company.

Sharon and Wesley looked at each other for a brief moment. Other than them, no one knew that they actually met Tobias.

On the other hand, Miranda was in jail for quite some time, so she did not know whether Eva's job was good or not.

Nevertheless, Miranda did not want Skylar to lose face. "Skylar has a great boyfriend too! He even gives me money to spend! Look at my clothes, these costed thousands!"

Eva laughed nonchalantly in response. "Aunt Miranda, why don't you invite him to dinner with us? Give him a call. Everyone here can help you assess him."

Miranda wanted to meet Skylar's boyfriend as well, so she started coercing her. "Why don't you give him a call and ask him to come over?"

But, Skylar was having none of that. "Why should I? What's he even here for? To finish our leftovers? He's a busy man."

"How could you talk to your mother like that?" An aunt reprimanded. "Skylar, you're being really disrespectful. Think about how difficult it was for your mom, she was jailed for so long."

Skylar, however, fought back. "I meant no disrespect to my mother. I know things have been difficult for her, but have you people ever visited her even once? I don't think so."

As the exchange went on, the atmosphere at the table became more and more tense.

All of a sudden, Eva slammed her fork on the table. "You better not go too far, Ms. Skylar Jones. Everyone here is your elder, so show some respect! Don't you dare think you're all great just because you got into a film academy? What did Grandma teach you? Don't use insolence as a weapon to lash out at the people who care most about you."

Skylar felt sick after seeing the smug way Eva talked. "I'm done here. You guys carry on without me. Oh, by the way, can you people please stop thinking that Eva's going to starve? Everyone keeps putting food in her bowl like I was gonna finish everything if you don't guard the food from me. I don't even like duck!"

As she was standing up, Miranda grabbed her arm. "Why are you like this? Why do you have to ruin a nice evening like this?"

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Skylar felt aggrieved. She did not feel like she did anything wrong. Nevertheless, she had always been oppressed like that in the past, anyone would start feeling like letting it out at this point.

However, Skylar stayed calm. "I'm leaving now. Sorry for spoiling your mood. Eva, you should get some more food on your boyfriend's plate. Don't let me affect his appetite."

Eva stared at Skylar, infuriated by her comments.

I would've never brought David here if I knew this would happen. Now, he'll just think we're a mediocre family.

After Skylar left, Miranda apologized to her relatives awkwardly, but she actually agreed with what Skylar had said.

During her time in jail, the only person that ever came to visit was her mother who brought Skylar with her.

Not once did her own brother visited her.

Meanwhile, Skylar got out of the house and heard a car honking from afar. She instinctively looked towards the direction of the noise.

She stood there, looking at a car she did not recognize and scratched her head. What am I thinking? Why would Tobias be here?

All of a sudden, Skylar's phone rang. It was Tobias.

"Ms. Jones, what are you standing there for? Hop on..."

Right then, Skylar realized that the car she was looking at really was Tobias'. Hence, she immediately ran over to open the door and hopped into the passenger seat. Up to the point where she fastened the seat belt, the whole process was smooth like butter.

"Why are you so nice all of a sudden? You're even here to pick me up." Skylar showed Tobias a near perfect smile.

His hands were on the steering wheel when he replied, "I was worried that you might get bullied at the dinner and I'll have to rush in for you."

"I'm not that weak you know. No one would dare to bully me," Skylar affirmed.

There was still a hint of smoke indicating that Tobias lit a cigarette just now. The opened window also pointed towards the same indication.

The weather had been getting colder and colder recently. Especially at night, the frigid wind felt like it would bite into the bones.

Skylar was tightening her collar due to the cold, so Tobias closed the window and turned on the heater.

He did not bring Skylar home immediately. Instead, they went to a café.

"Are we going on a date?" Skylar saw the signboard of a café. It looked like business was going well since a lot of people were seated by the window.

"Well, something like that..." Tobias found a spot and parked the car.

They got out of the car together. The difference in temperature felt like there was a change of seasons.

With it being so cold, Tobias took off his coat and placed it over Skylar. The scent of his cologne immediately filled up every breath she took.

Then, he wrapped one arm around her waist and pulled her closer to him so they could keep warm.

After entering the café, Skylar went to look for seats whereas Tobias ordered a cup of cappuccino as well as a cup of black coffee without sugar and milk at the counter.

"Do all CEOs drink black coffee?" Skylar asked. "Every time I watch a series or read a novel, the CEO would always have a black coffee, without fail."

It was the first time Tobias ever heard about something like that though.

"I got used to it. I'm a very loyal man, once I get used to something, I'll stick to it," he answered.

Skylar smiled as she stirred the coffee, humored by what Tobias just said. She did not say anything as Tobias' description of himself was way off.

"That's why you can't fall asleep. You drink too much black coffee."

Tobias did not respond as he did not want to continue the small talk. They were not there for the sole purpose of dating either as he quietly took out a contract from his briefcase.

Skylar had seen it before. It was the one she signed that very day. They are now in the hands of Tobias.

"Did I filled it in incorrectly? Did it get rejected?" Skylar asked.

