

In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 381

“You’re becoming more and more dramatic. How else should I coax you, hmm?” His gaze darkened gradually, and his hands were already in her skirt.

Skylar gripped his wrist. “I need to read the script tonight, as I won’t have much time. Feel free to find something to pass the time, Mr. Ford. You haven’t finished reading the book, right? Read it then.”

Afterward, he no longer forced her. He knew that she was upset and needed time to calm down. Therefore, if he still fussed about that matter, it would make him seem unkind.

Regarding the question of how Skylar knew about Idania, he already somewhat guessed. Kai was a loose-tongued person, after all.

It seems like he still refuses to give up on her. I have probably been too lenient on him, and now he’s becoming more daring and audacious.

Skylar lay on the bed with the script in her hands. Her mind was in a mess, causing her to be unable to process anything she read.

She had naively thought that Idania was merely one of Kai’s casual stories. However, that one phone call made her realize the dangers lurking around her.

If Tobias didn’t care about her, why would he save her number?

She was very curious about Idania, for that woman had made Tobias want to marry her.

When Skylar had returned to her room, she did not close the bedroom door, for she wanted to be able to hear what was going on downstairs.

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The moment she heard the sound of the door closing, she instantly felt empty. He left.

She did not get much sleep that night. As a result, she woke up the next day with a terrible complexion, her face and lips both pale.

After heading downstairs, she noticed that the glass of water Tobias had drunk the previous night was still on the coffee table. It had already turned cold. He had also left the book he was reading behind.

Casually, she flipped through a few pages but could not understand it and did not want to process the text. Ultimately, she was not someone who would research such masterpieces simply to cater to Tobias' hobby.

Only just before she left the house did she notice that there was an unread WhatsApp message notification.

Tobias texted: Cooled down?

In reality, it was precisely such a casual attitude that made her angry. Skylar was a trusting person. Thus, if he had coaxed her the previous night, things would not have turned out the way they did.

Consequently, without replying to his message, she left for the hospital.

All the while, Miranda was still in the hospital, refusing to come out. However, in actual fact, she was fine and had even gained some weight from lying there all day.

Of course, Skylar knew why Miranda did not want to leave. She was waiting for the day where Thomas would pick her up while pretending to be pitiful to gain his sympathy.

After Skylar arrived in the inpatient area, she headed to her mother's ward. It was an expensive ward that Skylar had paid for but did not tell Tobias about.

The reason was that she did not want to cause trouble for Tobias. She understood that even if others did not talk about it, it did not mean that one could always feign ignorance.

In reality, Skylar could long tell that he had strong conflicting feelings toward her family.

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Nevertheless, she understood his feelings. After all, anyone would dislike her family. In addition, Tobias also had to take over the Quest Group mess from Thomas.

Upon pushing the ward door open, she saw Miranda lying on the bed, looking healthy as she ate an apple.

Then, as soon as Miranda noticed Skylar's entrance, she dropped the apple and lay on her side, then pulled the sheets over herself. Afterward, she constantly made sounds of pain to garner pity.

Skylar stood by the foot of the bed as she watched her mother pretending to be ill. "Enough, stop pretending. It's not as if you really jumped. The doctor said there's nothing wrong with you now, so you're getting discharged today. I'm here to pick you up..."

The moment Miranda heard about getting discharged, she pulled the sheets off of her and sat up. She said angrily, "Who's getting discharged? I'm not unless your Dad comes to pick me. I won't move if you're picking me..."

Skylar then took out a payment slip and placed it in front of her mother. "Do you know how expensive this ward is per day? Ten thousand. It hurts me to spend so much every day. If something's really wrong with you, you can stay as long as you want. But what are you doing right now? Do you take this as a resort?"

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Why would someone as wealthy as Tobias care about such a small amount of medical fee? Miranda lay on the bed again. Her reluctance to leave was written all over her face.

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One thing Skylar regretted the most was to let Miranda know about her relationship with Tobias. Now her mother regarded her as a money tree.

"I'm the one paying for it, and I don't have much money to splurge on this. Why are you waiting for Thomas? Are you afraid that he's not coming back?" Skylar emphasized.

Miranda grimaced at her words. Ever since Ford Group took over Quest Group, Thomas kept procrastinating, reluctant to keep his words.

Every time she questioned when he was coming back, he would ask her to wait a little longer, and that would be another two weeks.

Later, she lectured her daughter. "You're so silly. It's normal that a woman spends her boyfriend's money! Why do you even feel shy about asking him? If you don't have money, I'll call and get Tobias to pay for the medical fee."

"You're acting as though he's your son. If you want to pretend to be sick, you can do it at home as well, but not necessarily in the hospital." Skylar sneered.

Despite her disagreement, Miranda remained adamant about waiting in the hospital. Sometimes, the woman could be as stubborn as a mule.

Skylar glanced at her watch. She didn't have much time to spare, as she had to go to the office in the afternoon.

Seeing that her mother had no intention of getting out of the bed and packing her things, she threatened, "I'll tell the hospital that you'll pay for the medical fee later, so you can stay here as long as you'd like to."

Initially, Miranda thought Skylar was only trying to scare her. Unexpectedly, a nurse came into her ward in the afternoon to urge her to pay for the medical fee.

Glancing at the total amount on the bill, she gasped in shock. No wonder Skylar was so desperate to get me home...

Immediately, she dialed Tobias' number. As a man, he should bear the responsibilities.

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In the meantime, Tobias was having a meeting. He brought his phone into the meeting room as he was waiting for Skylar's message.

Much to his surprise, her mother called him instead. Ignoring her calls, the man turned off the vibration on his phone and put it on silent mode.

Yet, the phone screen kept flickering. His brows snapped together in annoyance.

The atmosphere in the meeting room became tense. All his subordinates dared not make a sound during the meeting, watching in trepidation as Tobias strode out of the room with his phone.

He swiped to answer the call, and Miranda's voice came from the other side of the phone. "Mr. Ford, please come over to help me out. I'm still admitted to a hospital, but Skylar doesn't care about me. The hospital is going to stop supplying me with medicines. If you don't come by tonight, they'll kick me out."

"Alright. I'll be there right after the meeting," Tobias replied in a courteous tone. Buttoning up his suit jacket with one hand, he was about to leave.

The weekly meeting came to a halt as the man announced, "The meeting is adjourned."

Meanwhile, Skylar was signing a contract with the filming crew of Empyrean Sword.

The book was the blockbuster of the year. The author rose to fame overnight and was taxed up to millions. As a result, this particular genre of fiction became popular on the Internet again.

Now that I've gotten the female lead role in this sought-after show, I bet Avery wishes she could kill me now. This was her first piece of work, yet I beat her to it. Yesterday, Valerie tore down my fig leaf and pointed out that I got this role because of my relationship with Tobias.

At this thought, her cheeks heated and flushed crimson red in shame as she was signing the agreement.

My success is not earned, but I receive it by riding on Tobias' coat-tails.

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After they sealed the deal, Skylar took a copy of the agreement, staring at the amount of her salary on it. Because of the increased exposure, her status and worth soared as well.

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Though her pay was that of a C-list celebrity, Skylar dared not overestimate herself, knowing that being in her prime right after her debut was only wishful thinking.

It had been proven that she was right. The movie and the TV series only made the audience more familiar with her.

The movie was still playing in the major theaters right now, but it only boosted the female lead, Katrina's popularity.

"This movie will be your masterpiece, and it might still be in another ten years. You must seize this golden opportunity." With her eyes on the signed agreement, a contented smile broke across Kate's face.

Skylar was the easiest actress she had ever worked with. Not only was the woman gifted and cooperative, but it also saved Kate a lot of hassle of securing jobs for her painstakingly.

Tobias is such a keeper. He has paved the way for Skylar, ensuring that she has a bright future.

Before Skylar could give Kate her word of honor, Tobias called and summoned her to the hospital.

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Like a cat on a hot tin roof, she rushed over to the hospital and found the man and her mother sitting in the cafeteria, facing each other.

With exaggerated body language, Miranda rambled on with much excitement, waving her hands vehemently in the air.

Meanwhile, Tobias sat silently in utter stillness, as if he was an emotionless sculpture.

Standing a few steps away from the man, Skylar locked eyes with him. She had been trying to pull herself together on the way to the hospital, as she was afraid that she might lash out at Miranda uncontrollably.

“I’ve activated auto debit for your medical fee. You can stay here as long as you wish. I’ve done everything I should, so I’m taking my leave now.”

Standing up, Tobias wanted to give Skylar a reassuring pat on her shoulder. As the man lifted his hand, he suddenly realized that quite a number of people in the cafeteria were stealing glances at them.

He was reminded that many knew Skylar now. In order to keep their relationship in the dark, he had to avoid any intimate interaction with her in public.

Dropping his hand, he kept a distance from the woman.

Skylar was still holding a grudge against him, so she was eager to set the boundaries between them. “I’ll pay you back. I’ve signed the agreement, so the filming crew will pay me thirty percent of my salary in advance, and it’ll be more than enough to cover the medical fee.”

Tobias gave her a dry smile. “No worries, it’s just a trivial matter. There’s no need to draw the line between you and me. Keep your salary. It’s your hard-earned money. Besides, you haven’t even received it. How can you think of spending it already?”

He’s leaving me with no choice. I’ll have to give it back to him straight away afterward.

As she watched him stride away, he didn’t even glance at Miranda, let alone saying goodbye.

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In fact, the man couldn't wait to leave, reluctant to spend another second in Miranda's presence.

Skylar took the seat where he sat earlier, facing her mother with her arms folded. The woman was fuming rage, yet she had to keep her cool in public.

"You're really something. I never expected you to get Tobias here and make him pay for your medical fee."

Miranda pursed her lips with displeasure. "How could you say that? We're a family."

Skylar gave the woman a death stare. "Dream on! You can stay here if you want to, but don't you disturb Tobias ever again, or else you'll put me in a tight spot."

Miranda shrugged noncommittally without agreeing with her daughter. The latter was on the verge of flying off the handle.

In the evening, the sun turned red, casting a pinkish glow across the sky. Coming out of the hospital, Skylar put on a pair of sunglasses, and her head tilted up slightly.

Instinctively, her gaze fell on Tobias, who was dressed in a well-cut black suit. He's still here.

The woman then sauntered over to him in her high heels with a frigid expression. She had yet to get over yesterday's argument.

Though he came over because of Miranda, it didn't mean that she was going to forgive him. What he does today cannot make up for the fact that he called me fake with a stern face last night. Women have the right to be unreasonable sometimes. Why not me then? Besides, I wasn't being unreasonable last night.

"Mr. Ford, are you waiting for me? I didn't know you're so free."

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With one hand in the pocket, Tobias replied, "I can't let you go back alone. How about having lunch together and watching a movie afterward?"

Strutting past him, Skylar bumped his shoulder forcefully with hers. "No, I need to go home and memorize the script. It all depends on this movie whether I can make a name for myself. I can't let you down, since you've put in so much effort to pave the way for me."

Finally, a faint appeared on Tobias' face. "I can give you a hand. I've brought some learning materials for your reference."

Later, Skylar got into the car with him. The man took a DVD out of the armrest compartment. Glancing at it, Skylar realized that it was an X-rated movie of the nineties.

"What a pervert..." she said with her brows drew together.

Tobias remained nonchalant as he spoke in a steady voice, "Nothing is perverted about it. You can still learn something from this."

"Where did you get it? Is it from those stalls on the street?"

Right then, the traffic turned red. His slender finger tapped gently on the steering wheel. "Someone left it in my car."

The man knew that Skylar was not going to believe his explanation, though he was telling the truth, he didn't mention that owner of the movie was his brother.

The second they were home, Tobias closed the curtains, and Skylar could tell that he was up to something.

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Since when did I say that I've forgiven him for what he did yesterday?

In the meantime, Tobias wasn't too enthusiastic, nor did he ignore her.

Seeing that he was still holding the DVD in his hand, she covered her eyes. "I don't want to watch it. It's such an eyesore."

Her terrified face made his expression soften. "I've never watched this. It's been a long while since I watched an X-rated movie. Why don't we watch it together? It's boring to do this alone. Why are you so scared of it?"

The truth was that Tobias didn't have such a fetish, and all he wanted to do was to frighten the woman.

Before six in the evening, Skylar cooked up some pasta and brought it out of the kitchen. When Tobias saw that she only made a single portion of pasta for herself, he knew she was still mad at him.

"What illness does your mother have? Why does she have to stay in the hospital?" The man struck up a conversation to lighten the atmosphere.

"She's lovesick...." the woman answered without lifting her head.

He chuckled at her words. "It's rare that someone of her age stays loyal to her spouse. What passion do couples have left after getting married? Holding hands no longer make their hearts flutter. Besides, she and Thomas were divorced once."

Skylar resented his views on marriage. He seemed to have envisioned marriage as something petrifying.

"Didn't you want to marry Idania back then? Why weren't you afraid of losing passion for her? Perhaps I'm not the right person for you. That's why I can't make you yearn to marry me." Skylar's heart sank as she spoke.

Tobias' brows raised at her words. Skylar seems to know quite a lot about my past. I'm afraid Kai has told her everything about Idania.

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"I was young and foolish then. At that time, I wanted to get married because she kept urging me to do so. I gave her everything I could, yet she left all of a sudden when my Mom disapproved of her," he described nonchalantly, as though he was talking about someone else's story.

"You must have been broken-hearted. I've never seen you get upset because of any woman though. Why does she get in touch with you out of the blue? Is she trying to get back together with you?"

Putting down her fork, Skylar studied his face speculatively.

The man's expression was gloomy. His brows knitted together, and his jaw clenched.

"I'm not one who will get back together with my ex-girlfriends. The past remains the past. If you break up with me, we'll never reconcile afterward."

Skylar looked away from his ice-cold gaze, which was entirely devoid of warmth and emotion.

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"Are you trying to warn me that I'll never get a second chance once we break up? The only thing you want from me is a docile and malleable woman, who's willing to stay by your side without a whimper."

Tobias' expression turned even grimmer. What does she mean by malleable? Have I ever mistreat her? Other than Idania, Skylar is the woman whom I've been with for the longest, and I treat her well. No one else has ever enjoyed such a privilege.

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Ever since she got a role in Empyrean Sword, Skylar had been feeling stressed out. All eyes were on her as it was the most anticipated show of the year.

Valerie's words made her feel pressured as well.

She got in through the back door. If she still couldn't gain popularity, she would be too ashamed to receive any other help from Tobias.

In the meantime, the man never came out of his study and didn't disturb her when she read the script.

In the middle of the night, Skylar had a nightmare and jolted awake, drenched in sweat. Her heart pounded frantically.

The woman was worn out because she hadn't rested well for days.

The spot next to her on the bed felt cool. She fished her phone from under her pillow and glanced at the time. It was already three in the morning, but Tobias hadn't come into the bedroom.

Wearing her indoor slippers, she ambled out of the bedroom. The light in the study was still lit, and the door was ajar.

Sitting in front of a computer, the man stared blankly at the screen. His hand rested motionless on the keyboard.

Gradually, she pushed the wooden door open. Hearing the sound, Tobias gave her a sideways glance. "It's already late. Why aren't you asleep yet? You can't sleep without me, can you?"

Skylar shook her head in disagreement. She was being honest, as she didn't have such a habit of falling asleep with him.

In fact, she suffered from insomnia for up to three weeks within a month.

"I had a nightmare... Someone was after me with a knife and closed in on me in a corner. Then, I was stabbed countless times."

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The woman narrated the terrifying, bloody scenes in her nightmare, but she didn't mention that the person who stabbed her was Avery.

Turning off the computer, Tobias rubbed the bridge of his nose. "Didn't you dream about me? I thought I would protect you in your dream."

Skylar didn't even try to flatter him, but answer honestly, "No..."

He shrugged. "This shows that in your subconscious mind, you're unwilling to rely on me."

Tobias was spot on. She indeed refused to depend on a man like a parasite.

"It's getting late. Go back to sleep." He lifted his hand to caress her cheek, which used to be chubby previously. Her now bony face appeared even smaller than usual.

She was reluctant to return to the dark bedroom alone. The soothing, dim light in the study put her at ease.

Holding his hand, she pleaded, "Please go to bed with me. The wind is quite strong outside tonight. There'll probably be a thunderstorm. I'm scared of the thunder. It makes me tremble."

"Why are you afraid of the thunder if you've never done any evil deed?" Standing up, the man pulled her into a hug and nibbled her ear.

"You won't be scared if you moan louder than the thunder..." His husky voice was full of desires.

He put his hand on the small of her back, while she went with the flow, parted her legs, and sat on his laps.

"Have you done it with that woman?" Skylar's words ruined the tantalizing atmosphere.

"Yes, I did, when I was in my teenage years. Why did you even ask when you already knew the answer? I'm sorry that my first time wasn't with you." He apologized wholeheartedly.

It's normal that a man has a few women before, as most of us are driven by desires, which are completely unrelated to love.

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Tobias still vaguely remembered the night before Idania left. With her hands around his waist, she asked if he could stay the night to keep her company.

However, he left in the end, so her last wish wasn't fulfilled.

Later, Tobias carried Skylar into the bedroom, knowing full well that a couple's quarrel could be easily resolved in bed. That was when the two communicated with one another the most.

Later, the two got too aggressive, so Skylar was exhausted the next day.

The sun had risen when she opened her eyes, lying feebly in Tobias' embrace. Her hair was damp, and there were hickeys all over her pinkish, glowing skin. Tears were glistening in her eyes, making her look pitiful.

Yet, the man's eyes were gleaming. His voice was croaky as he said, "Don't fight with me just because of jealousy."

She then put herself into a more comfortable position with her back facing him. "You went all out last night. Why didn't you just say sorry to me instead? You were so rude to me."

However, Tobias was perplexed. Since when did I treat her rudely?

Suddenly, a beeping sound from her phone diverted the woman's attention. Reading the text message, she tossed her phone aside indifferently.

How punctual! This person curses me at the same time every day.

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Taking her phone, Tobias and glanced through the text message and found it full of death threats.

His brows drew together right away. "Who sent you this?"

Skylar let out a yawn. "Who knows? It could be one of my anti-fans."

Though the threatening text message didn't bother her, the man took note of the phone number. After looking into the matter, he found out that all the text messages were from Ingrid.

My half-sister is as irritating as ever.

Over the past few years, he had heard so much about Ingrid's bullheaded and ruthless behavior. Nonetheless, he turned a blind eye, as it didn't concern him.

However, she had gotten on his nerves by picking on Skylar.

Hearing a knock on the door, she ordered Harry to answer it.

Nevertheless, the latter was playing Mobile Legends and was about to lose the game. Sitting on the couch, he didn't move an inch.

Ingrid then grabbed the remote control on the table and hurled it toward his head.

After getting hit by the remote control on the head, Harry put down his phone, rubbing his aching forehead while simmering with rage.

Messing around with a woman like Ingrid was the decision that he regretted the most.

The living hell that he was in now made him feel like he would rather kick the bucket.

He didn't even have the guts to see his wife and children, as Ingrid threatened to finish him off.

When he saw Tobias standing behind the door, his usually dull gaze glinted with astonishment.

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Ingrid saw the man as well and greeted him with a smile. "Tobias, what a rare guest! What brings you here? Are you here with the news of a business collaboration?"

Stepping through the door, he replied coldly, "Do you think you deserve to collaborate with me?"

The man had always been harsh toward her.

Ingrid's countenance fell. "Why not? We're half-siblings, after all. Dad asked about you the other day. He's going to return from overseas soon. Let's have a meal together when you're free. We're a family."

Instantly, Harry sensed something seemed off. The atmosphere in the villa made his skin crawl. Tobias' piercing gaze was oozing malice.

"What are you trying to do by sending Skylar those text messages? Are you trying to threaten her or challenge me?"

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Serving Tobias a cup of tea, Harry quickly stepped aside because he dared not meddle in their affairs.

I just got to know that Ingrid still refuses to let Skylar off. What a madwoman. What about my next movie or show?

"Tobias, what are you talking about? I don't get it." With a grin, she feigned ignorance.

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Tobias shot daggers at the seemingly innocent woman. His icy voice made everyone's skin crawl. "I don't care if you get it or not. Don't think that everybody has to tolerate you solely because of your capricious way. If you ever mess with Skylar again, I'll chop off your hand that sends her the text messages."

Harry felt oppressed in the face of such a high-handed man. Should I kneel before Tobias and beg him to save me?

Ingrid's breath hitched at his words. In a split second, she became agitated and shrieked, "Your woman seduces Harry first! I did that only to put Skylar in her place. Isn't it a good thing for you as well?"

Marching over to her, Tobias glanced down at the woman. A few seconds later, he bent forward to stare into her eyes with a vicious gaze. "Cut the nonsense. Since no one taught you how to behave these years, I'll do it then."

With that, he stood up. Unrepentant, Ingrid let out a laugh brazenly. "Since young, Dad doted on me and never once wronged me. He still treats me the same now. Are you sure you want to burn your bridges?"

The corner of Tobias' lips twitched up. His fingers gripped the cup handle as he replied slowly, "It's alright that Dad didn't teach you well. Someone else will do it for him once you leave home."

Behind Ingrid, Harry's palm was covered with cold sweat. The tall and burly man appeared timid and cowardly.

Staring at Harry, Tobias felt sorry for him.

I can't think of any reason why a man like Harry is fond of Ingrid unless she intimidates and lures him into this. They're poles apart and have nothing in common. Besides, she has put on much weight again. Even an ordinary man will be reluctant to be with an overweight woman like her.

Meanwhile, Ingrid didn't have the nerve to blow a fuse in Tobias' face, shrugging noncommittally. Still, her eyes flickered with fury as she simmered in bitterness.

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After Tobias left, she grabbed the vase and smashed it onto the floor, venting all her rage on Harry.

“What right does he have to say those words to me?” she bellowed hysterically.

Startled, Harry took several steps backward because he was afraid that Ingrid might take her fury out on him.

Picking up her phone, the woman sprawled on the couch. In the meantime, Harry was disgusted at the sight of her plump figure.

Other than being rich, Ingrid is completely worthless...

This was the first time he had ever seen her crying. Holding the phone, she was aggrieved while whining, “Dad, Tobias bullied me! He said he’s going to chop off my hand...”

On a private balcony, a waiter placed two sets of utensils and a six-tier dessert stand on a table.

Skylar, who had just sneaked out of her office, picked up a piece of cake and popped it into her mouth. However, the cake didn’t taste as delicious as she expected.

“The issue about the text messages has been solved. Ingrid is the one behind it. I remember telling you to keep a distance from Harry. Have you listened to me?”

His voice was melodious, yet the woman misunderstood that he looked for her so abruptly in the afternoon because she got on his nerves.

She smirked. “I see. She just can’t stop pestering me. I think she needs a psychiatrist, but not a man.”

Tobias squinted his eyes at her. “You seem to be involved in scandals with every actor you worked with before. Is it going to be the same this time?”

Skylar couldn’t tell if he was feeling jealous. He sounded as if he was only casually asking about it. The man had been lenient with her currently.

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"I really have no idea what my company is doing. Have you seen the trending news on Twitter today? I'm going to be attacked soon."

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With that said, she sipped the tea and took out her phone to hand it to Tobias.

Skylar's name was trending. Ever since the public found out she was going to be one of the main characters of Empyrean Sword, there had been an uproar on the internet.

In fact, the netizens began digging for information as they tried to find an explanation for why she could get such a great show at a young age. Most of them were talking about how she must have had a relationship with Maverick Sullivan.

They were saying that Maverick was her sugar daddy.

Curling his lips, Tobias commented, "They've got quite the imagination. Maverick's already six feet under, but somehow, he's still someone's sugar daddy."

Tobias rarely bothered himself with news of the entertainment industry, and Maverick's death had not been anything major.

That was why Skylar paled and asked, "Did you have anything to do with Maverick's death?"

He did not disagree with her as he smiled. In a nonchalant tone, he replied, "Of course he had to die, but don't feel guilty about it. I just don't like the sight of him."

Skylar could not find the words to describe what she was feeling. She could only grit out, "He was wrong to molest me when he was drunk, but that doesn't mean he deserves to die. Tobias, how could you be cruel?"

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The smile was still on Tobias' face as he replied, "Cruel? This isn't cruel. I'm just cleaning up trash. Moreover, this has nothing to do with you. Don't get yourself all sensitive and think that Maverick died because of you."

Skylar's brows drew together. "He laid a hand on me when he was drunk previously, but you're telling me his death has nothing to do with that? He doesn't deserve death for that."

Tobias only sighed. "So you'll just let your bullies off the hook? He hired someone to stalk you. He found out about our relationship and tried to blackmail me. Truthfully, I don't mind it. After all, the exposure of this relationship won't affect me, and reputation matters not to me. However, I hate others threatening me. I hope you understand what I mean."

Tobias felt that he was already patient in his explanation. Whether or not Skylar would overthink the matter was none of his business.

After hearing him, Skylar nearly shrieked. Maverick's insane. He really was pushing his luck by threatening Tobias.

Before the man left, he reminded, "Be smarter when I'm not with you. Tell me right away when you receive those messages and stay away from Harry. I'm starting to get sick of repeating myself. Ingrid is a tough woman, so it's best to keep a distance from her man. I actually came to tell you about this, but I don't know why we ended up talking about Maverick."

Skylar shrugged, about to leave after taking her bag. She, too, was worried that disaster would come if she could not explain her relationship with Harry.

Skylar forced herself not to think about Maverick, for Tobias had told her that Maverick's death had nothing to do with her. However, she could not help but wonder, If not for me, how would Maverick ever encounter Tobias.

Deep down inside, she was afraid that she would end up in hell.

Before Tobias' words, she never thought that Tobias had anything to do with the matter; she always thought Kai had been the one to do it.

Tobias was right. It was time for her to be smarter. She then messaged her assistant, Hannah, asking her to buy some supplements that helped with boosting brainpower.

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After her afternoon tea, she returned to the office. Tobias had not chosen to return with her, and Skylar knew why—he wanted to avoid the public from finding out about their relationship.

In their relationship, Tobias was the one who wanted to conceal the other party.

Just as she stepped foot into the office, she spotted Winnie and Sheldon in the lobby. Recently, the two of them had been going everywhere together. Knowing that Winnie was in a relationship with Sheldon, the staff in the office were careful around her.

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When the two came over, Skylar plastered on a fake smile and greeted them.

By now, her fans and Winnie's were in an intense fight online. Skylar's fans were losing, for there were not as many of them.

Winnie smiled at Skylar and said, "I haven't gotten the chance to congratulate you for starring in *Empyrean Sword*. Your name is all over the net now. Skylar, you're going to be popular soon. I'm sure countless people are envious."

Her smile was as fake as Skylar's. A while ago, everyone in the dance room had been complaining about how a lowly Skylar was getting so many offers.

Skylar's smile widened. "It's too early to say that. It seems like I'm fated to have more haters than fans."

At that, Sheldon said, "Don't be so humble. Look at the way my brother's investing in you. It'll be a waste of his money if you're still not popular. Skylar, did you know that you're still not profiting? If not for my brother, I'm sure that you'll be forgotten by the masses by now. In

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fact, Valerie even said you can't even carry a show by yourself and that it's time for you to stop embarrassing him."

Skylar lowered her eyes, misery flitting past her mind. Truthful words always hurt.

However, she soon recollected herself. "You can think of me as someone with potential. Maybe there'll be a day where I'll be rich and famous, and that'll stun everyone. All right, I need to get going. I've got to attend the table-read upstairs since I'm about to join the filming."

Displeased, Winnie grumbled to Sheldon, "Your brother managed to get such a major role for Tobias, but I'm still a side character until now. No one's offering any roles to me. Darling, my career isn't progressing. What do we do about the interior of the villa? I don't even have the money to install an elevator in the house!"

Sheldon had long transferred the mountain villa that Tobias had given to him to Winnie. He thought that was enough to express his sincerity in the relationship.

Yet, Winnie was now telling him that she did not have enough money for the renovation. Irrked, he uttered, "Are you asking me to pay for the renovations? My brother is strict on my money, so I can't help you much. I've given you all I can. You should learn to be grateful for what you have and stop asking for more."

My brother, my brother, my brother. Everything he says is about his brother.

He isn't a mama's boy; he's his brother's boy. Annoyed on behalf of Sheldon, she snapped, "Are you stupid? You own half of Ford Group. Your brother just wants to take the family assets all for himself. Tobias' such a cunning man. It's embarrassing that you're not doing anything about it. If I were you, I'd have wanted to split the assets and get what I deserve. You're not young anymore. It's time for you to plan for your future."

At a point in time, Skylar's earphones had dislodged from her ear. While she was returning to look for her earphones, she overheard Winnie trying to convince Sheldon to go against his brother. You really can't talk someone's back, huh?

When Sheldon noticed Skylar, he panicked and shot a glare at Winnie before hastily saying, "What are you talking about?"

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With his eyes looking at everywhere but Skylar, he mumbled, “Did you... What did you hear what we said just now?”

In response, Skylar drawled, “Nothing much. Something along the lines of your girlfriend wanting to split the assets. Yes, that’s all I heard.”

Flying into a panic, Sheldon hurriedly tried to appease Skylar before telling her not to say strange things. The way he was panicking was as if Skylar was about to report to Tobias about what she overheard instantly.

At that thought, Skylar felt a tinge of sadness for Tobias. He did everything for his brother, yet his brother’s girlfriend was still trying to pit Sheldon against him.

Thus, she said, “If you really heed your girlfriend’s words, Tobias will be sad. Think about it.”

That was all she said to Sheldon; she did not promise him that she would not say anything to Tobias.

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- Sheldon even told her that as long as she said nothing to Tobias, he would help her keep an eye on Tobias to make sure his brother did not cheat on her.
- It did not pique Skylar's interest, as she thought, It's pathetic if a man is only loyal when someone is watching.
- Sheldon was furious. Once Skylar was gone, he spun around and cursed, "I don't want you to stick your nose into my business. I hate women who speak nonsense most. If you say this again, you get lost!"
- Winnie's only response was to let her tears fall as she mumbled, "Why are you so angry with me? I'm just concerned about you. I don't want your brother to oppress you."
- As Skylar had not been on Instagram for days, thousands of messages were in her inbox. Some were giving her words of encouragement, and some were cursing at her. All she did was skim through them without taking any of their words to heart.
- When the character posters for Empyrean Sword were released, Skylar was trending again. Kate was prepared this time, for she hired ghostwriters to pour praises to Skylar.
- She's so beautiful!
- Skylar's gorgeous! She looks beautiful in the costumes.
- Skylar's my favorite forever. She's charming and pretty.
- Skylar felt uneasy with the comments. Since young, there were people more cursing at her than praising her, so receiving praises was something she was not good at.
- After hiring the ghostwriters, the comment section on Instagram was a peaceful sight. Moreover, it helped that Skylar's good looks made her look desirable and cool in the poster.
- In the dressing room, Skylar had her head hung as she scrolled through her Instagram. The stylist, who was making an updo for her, had just finished putting on the hair accessory when she abruptly said, "Mr. Zeller."
- Raising her head and keeping her phone, Skylar greeted, "Mr. Zeller, you're quick to join the filming. The director said you were going to join us two days later."
- At the start, she barely had any social skills, and she often had trouble looking for a topic to chat about with strangers. However, after joining the entertainment industry, she had improved greatly.
- Largo Zeller was much older than Skylar. When he was in his teens, he had debuted. The moment he debuted, he had risen to fame. In the industry, he was one of the veteran actors. When Skylar was still in school, the girls in class would think of Largo as their husbands, including Penelope.

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- Back then, they were obsessed with Largo. They would buy his songs even if that meant they had to skip meals to save up. Whenever there was news about Largo, she would cut out that particular section to stick it in a hardcover book. That book had been her treasure.
- Largo upheld a positive image. He was already in his thirties, but he was still a popular man. In fact, in the current everchanging entertainment industry, he remained one of the top actors.
- In Empyrean Sword, he was playing the role of the main female character's mentor. The story was a romance between the mentor and the mentee, and it was the most interesting story in its series. That was why the book readers of Empyrean Sword's series looked forward to the show the most.
- A powerful and gentle pair of hands held hers, and Skylar realized Largo's voice was equally gentle. "I wrapped earlier, so that's why I'm here. I look forward to working with you. Everyone said Skylar's beautiful, but I realized you're much more beautiful than your photos. I was even talking to my manager earlier about how you might not look like your photos."
- Skylar was unfazed by praises that focused on her appearance. However, the polite way Largo presented himself made her feel that he was a much nicer person than Harry was.
- Right then, the fragrance of white sandalwood wafted across her nose, and for a moment, Skylar lost herself in her thoughts. Why does it smell like Tobias' cologne? Do they use the same one?
- Throughout many years since Largo's debut, he had never been involved in any scandals. As such, many speculated about his s@xuality.

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