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In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 541

Hannah's jaw nearly dropped. Why did Tobias buy such a cheap gift for Skylar? He was loaded; he could clearly afford to purchase something much better than a piece of jewelry that must have cost peanuts to him.

Yet, Skylar greatly treasured the necklace. She's way too easy to please.

The driver made a U-turn and headed back for the studio, but none of the staff members managed to find the necklace.

The only way Skylar could comfort herself was that Tobias hadn't personally picked out the gift.

Thus, she could just buy a gift of equal value for Tobias and call it even.

On the way back, Skylar discovered that the video of her getting forcibly kissed from yesterday was still trending online.

I thought the company already paid people to remove the video from the trending page? Why is it still there?

I've been humiliated enough already.

She chucked her phone back into her bag, closing her eyes as she leaned back against the car seat, feeling exasperated.

"This has to be someone's doing. Someone working for the social media platforms must have been paid off to make the video trend again."

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Hannah hadn't considered that possibility at all. "I'm sure it must be the same guy from yesterday. Only people who are truly sick in the head would have the audacity to do such a thing."

"That's what you think," Skylar huffed. "The situation only appears to have calmed down. Keyword, 'appears.' There has to be someone who's out to sabotage my career."

"You're being way too pessimistic. People are mostly good – not everyone harbors evil intentions. All we've been doing is minding our own business, and we haven't offended anyone or crossed any lines we shouldn't have."

At that, Skylar rolled her eyes. After so long of being her assistant, Hannah was still way too naïve and innocent.

In a way, she envied the woman for it. The less you overthink about life, the easier life becomes for you.

After notifying her company, they helped to remove the video from the trending page once more. Skylar decided that she would pay a visit to the center where the assailant was being locked up and ask him if he'd been acting on anyone's orders.

Skylar saw Miranda and Madelyn chatting as soon as she got home. Unlike her daughter, Miranda was a friendly and open person, able to strike up a conversation with just about anybody.

Upon seeing Skylar step through the door, Madelyn got up and headed to the kitchen to make preparations for dinner. Miranda then requested for her to cook pumpkin soup in a very specific way that she liked.

It didn't take long for Madelyn to realize that Skylar's mother was turning out to be quite hard to handle. Skylar had never once ordered her around like this in all her time of living together. The woman would eat anything she cooked.

What a stark contrast between a mother and daughter.

"At least let me go upstairs and change my clothes," Skylar grumbled when Miranda gestured for her to sit down next to her. "Why are you here?"

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"I'm worried about you," Miranda replied, clutching onto Skylar's wrist and refusing to let go. "I saw the news. Was Tobias upset? I really think you should quit the entertainment industry; no one likes to see their daughter making public appearances like that, much less your future mother-in-law."

It had just been a lighthearted suggestion, but Skylar instantly lashed out at her after hearing it. "Are you kidding me? I'm not even married yet! Do you know how much your expenses cost me each month? Do you think you'll still be able to use those Lamer skincare products if I ever lose my job?"

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Skylar had to accept the fact that Miranda behaved like a nouveau riche now. Not only was she staying in a villa, but she also had housekeepers working for her.

Skylar totally understood why Miranda was willing to spend her money on these. After all, anyone would dream of living a stress-free life at this age.

But Skylar did not know how to react when Miranda said she only drank imported premium bottled water because she believed the water from the tap was full of contaminants.

Did she learn this nonsense when she was in prison? Even if her logic made sense, why can't she drink locally manufactured bottled water?

The thought of it got Skylar speechless.

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Miranda continued to diss Skylar, "Could it be your personality problem? Are you not worried that your boyfriend has no intention of marrying you?"

Listening to her know-it-all blabber about marriage gave Skylar a headache.

She ignored Miranda and went upstairs to get her clothes changed. It was when Madelyn told her dinner was ready that she decided to come out of the room.

Madelyn had prepared not only pumpkin soup but also BBQ ribs and a plate of sautéed vegetables!

Yet, Miranda was not pleased about it. "You expect us to eat three dishes only? I know Skylar is a nice person, but how could you treat her like this?"

Madelyn contained her frustration and looked at Skylar for help.

Skylar stepped in and explained, "Three dishes are just nice. Otherwise, we'll just be wasting food. When I was growing up, Grandma used to heat up leftovers for us too. I don't see any problem with it."

Miranda pursed her lips and gave Skylar a sullen stare. This girl doesn't respect my opinion at all.

Skylar diverted her attention to another topic. "I met Molly at the studio today. Do you remember her, Molly Zimmer? She used to be our neighbor."

Miranda froze for a bit and nearly dropped her fork. "That's the girl who liked to wear dresses with floral print, right?"

A line formed between Skylar's brows. What's with her odd reaction when I mentioned Molly's name?

She felt there was something amiss with Miranda. Ever since she got out of the prison, she seemed to have been pestering Thomas.

Miranda was so obsessed with him as if he was the only man in the world. She even forced Thomas to file for a divorce from Irene.

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Yet, it had been a while since Skylar last heard his name mentioned by her. Skylar also found it weird that Miranda seemed to be wearing dresses that were in pastel colors. It was as if she was dressing like a young adult again.

It's either Miranda had gotten over with her obsession, or she had found a new target.

Skylar asked, "Are you in love with someone lately?"

Miranda almost choked on the pumpkin soup. "Excuse me. Why are you so curious? Just mind your business."

"I'm not going to stop you from pursuing a relationship," Skylar warned, "But please choose your man wisely."

Miranda ignored her and took a sip of the soup.

When they were about to finish dinner, Tobias arrived. Skylar took a glance at the leftovers on the table and said, "You didn't say you're coming."

The moment Miranda saw Tobias, she instantly put on a smile. She could not help but think how fortunate Skylar was to have met him.

Deep in her heart, Miranda thought an elite like Tobias deserved someone better than Skylar.

Skylar didn't come from a prominent family, and she's such a dork when it comes to pleasing her man.

On top of that, this girl doesn't like to smile and is constantly emotionally distant. I bet she'll make Tobias happy if she calls him honey in a sweet voice.

Tobias responded with a grin. "I've taken my dinner. Please continue."

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Despite having a smile on his face, Tobias had no intention of interacting with Miranda.

Miranda remained all pumped up. "Tobias! I haven't seen you in quite a while. How have you been? How's your work? Has Skylar been good to you?"

Skylar felt so embarrassed. "All right, dinner's over. I'll get someone to send you home now."

Miranda instantly shot daggers at her. Is she trying to chase me away? I'm just trying to help her improve her relationship with Tobias!

Tobias kept his reply short. "Everything's fine. I have to go upstairs and reply to an urgent email now. Catch up with you soon."

Skylar understood why Tobias wanted to stay away from Miranda. I bet he must have had enough of her rambling.

Not only that, Miranda would indirectly force Tobias to make promises that would benefit her.

It was clear that Miranda wanted to cling on to her wealthy son-in-law for the rest of her life.

Miranda gave Skylar a disdainful look upon seeing how aloof Tobias was. "How disrespectful. It's all your fault."

Skylar pointed at herself and did not know how to react to that remark. "My fault? What has his attitude got to do with me?"

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Miranda sighed and frowned. "Can't you see how annoyed he was? He's annoyed because he's sick of you, and that's why he vented his frustration on me. You have to work harder to make him happy. What if he dumps you?"

"I'll not break up with her. Don't worry." All of a sudden, Tobias' voice came from the back.

He overheard their conversation when he was coming downstairs to retrieve his phone.

To Miranda, this was the best reassurance he could give her. Everything Skylar owned today was because of Tobias. Hence, Miranda knew they must cling to him to maintain their current lifestyle.

Skylar could only look at Miranda and shake her head. When will my misery end?

Skylar had been tolerating Miranda's behavior all this while. She would turn a blind eye to the things Miranda did as long as she did not cause problems. Skylar understood it would be difficult for her mother to get rid of her bad habits at this stage of her life after years of suffering in jail.

Tobias then ordered his chauffeur to send Miranda home. Before leaving, Miranda reminded Skylar to start acting like an employer in front of the housekeepers. Otherwise, they would take advantage of her.

We should never be too kind to all these housekeepers. After all, these ingrates are not our family members.

The remark Miranda made loudly in the common area put Skylar in an awkward position. Skylar believed Madelyn must have heard what Miranda said.

After Miranda left, Madelyn went up to Skylar and said, "I'm sorry, Ms. Jones, I think I should quit. I've been working as a housekeeper for years, and I've never been humiliated like this before. I've always tried my best to keep the house as clean as possible, and if you're unhappy with my performance, tell me straight instead of talking bad about me behind my back."

Skylar had always been pleased with Madelyn's work. Though Madelyn would slack off a little once in a while, Skylar had never complained about her.

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Madelyn would also indirectly pressure Skylar into increasing her pay by convincing the latter that their neighbor paid their housekeeper at a higher rate.

Though Tobias was the one who hired Madelyn, Skylar decided to take care of Madelyn's salary as she did not want to take advantage of Tobias.

The salary Skylar offered Madelyn was based on the research she had done.

Skylar believed Madelyn's monthly salary was a reasonable rate as and there was no need for Madelyn to take care of children or elderly folks. Furthermore, Skylar did not come from a wealthy family, and she could only pay Madelyn within her financial means.

She did not understand why this housekeeper of hers was still unhappy with the pay.

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Skylar tried to explain to her. "My Mom doesn't have any bad intentions. She doesn't think when she speaks. Just ignore her."

"You know, my daughter-in-law is going to birth soon, and she has been calling me to go home to take care of the baby," Madelyn continued to express her dismay, "Even if I don't get to go home, she hoped that I could support her financially. But with my low wage, how much can I give her?"

"I'm afraid I can't work here anymore, Ms. Jones. Please hire someone willing to work for the salary you pay." Madelyn shot a glance at Skylar as if she was trying to test the waters. She knew Skylar would not want to go through the hassle of hiring another housekeeper, so she waited quietly for Skylar to make her a better offer.

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Skylar wanted to know how much Madelyn wanted because she did not want to deal with another stranger in the house.

But before she could open her mouth, Tobias got downstairs and stood beside her.

He shot a sullen glare at Madelyn, causing her to lower her head. She instantly regretted voicing her demand when Tobias was around.

Tobias must have heard the conversation she had with Skylar earlier. "You don't want to work anymore? Pack your stuff and leave right now. Don't force yourself to work since you're always tired. Find yourself a new employer who can give you better pay."

Skylar was ready to increase Madelyn's pay, but Tobias decided to get rid of her without any hesitation.

Madelyn thought she could have her way with Skylar, but when Tobias stepped in, she knew she did not stand a chance to negotiate anymore.

She immediately played the sympathy card. "That's not what I meant, Mr. Ford. Ms. Jones treats me well, and I enjoy working here. I'll tell my son to take care of their own baby later."

Skylar's jaw dropped upon seeing Madelyn's complete attitude change.

What Miranda said to her earlier made sense now. People simply take advantage of my kindness and step all over me.

Thanks to Tobias, Skylar finally knew Madelyn was emotionally blackmailing her. She did not intend to quit at all.

Skylar had been treating Madelyn like her family member, yet this was what she got in return. This incident had caused Skylar to lose faith in humanity.

She went back to her room and sat by the bed. She did not go through the TikTok videos like she always did despite having twenty million followers, which the app had supplied her.

Instead, she reflected upon how soft-hearted she was. All this while, she always put people's interests before hers, and more often than not, she found herself suffered in silence.

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If she were a character in a historical drama about royal family feuds, the villain would have easily gotten rid of her by episode two.

Though the phone kept sending out the low-battery signal, Skylar did not bother to charge it. Since Tobias did not like to see her playing with her phone, she decided to ignore it.

It was Tobias who plugged her phone into the charger. Upon seeing the wallpaper on the screen, he snorted. It was a picture of a teenage male celebrity. Why did she use a young boy's photo as her wallpaper? Does she know how old she is?

While Skylar was slowly removing her earrings, she noticed Tobias was staring at the picture. She smiled. "Is he handsome? This boy is only seventeen years old, can you believe it? These good-looking young boys are stealing the hearts of older women like us."

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Tobias arched an eyebrow in frustration. "Oh... So, you like younger guys, huh? Getting tired of me because I'm old now, eh?"

I'm only in my thirties, but I suppose I am considered old compared to those young guys in their teens...

Skylar narrowed her eyes at Tobias and said with a chuckle, "Nah, young guys are way too immature! Older men like you are much better at taking care of others. I mean, just look at how well you're taking care of me!"

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Tobias had already changed the phone's wallpaper back to the original one. He had to admit that he didn't really take care of Skylar all that well as he had wanted her to be more independent. It was only when she encountered problems that she couldn't solve on her own that he would step in to help her out. That was the best way to remind her of how important he was.

Skylar headed over to the police station and pulled some strings to meet the fat guy who kissed her by force the other day. Had she not felt something off about the incident, she would never have wanted to see his ugly face ever again. If anything, she wanted nothing more than to stitch his mouth up permanently.

The fat guy no longer reacted excitedly when he saw her and simply shot her an indignant glare in response. From what she heard, the police had kept him there for a week and was going to release him in two days, a punishment that Skylar deemed too light for his crime.

"What you did the other day... Did you do it out of your own accord, or were you acting under someone else's orders?" Skylar asked, her face mask making it impossible to see her facial expressions.

The fat guy ran his eyes all over her body and broke into a lecherous grin. "I simply couldn't help myself because of how hot you are. Man, everyone's so jealous of me right now! I mean, kissing a female celebrity is something I could brag about for the rest of my life! How was my embrace? Did you like it? I'll be sure to visit you often once they let me out of here!"

Skylar clenched her teeth in disgust. "What you just said counts as a criminal threat and can be added on to your existing crime if I decide to sue you for it. However, I'll consider letting you go if you tell me who sent you."

The fat guy snorted in disdain. "Pfft! No one sent me, and so what if someone did? I'll be out in two days, so there's nothing you can do to me! Do you even know who I am? I'm the king of West Street! There isn't a single woman that I can't get my hands on!"

I've had someone conducted a background check on this guy. His name is Charles Walker. He's an unemployed hooligan and has spent the past few years going in and out of prison, so being held at the station for a week means nothing to him. There's no way I can threaten a ruthless guy like him... Charles may not admit to anything, but my instincts are telling me there's more to this than meets the eye!

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With that in mind, Skylar ended the visit in frustration.

“See? What did I tell you? No one is trying to sabotage you, Skylar! I mean, why would anyone do that? We haven’t made any enemies in the entertainment industry!” Hannah who was with her said with a slightly smug grin on her face.

Skylar kept quiet as she began plotting how she would force Charles to talk after his release from the police station.

Hannah kept her head low and her eyes glued to her phone as she texted with a huge smile the whole time.

She had told Skylar about her boyfriend once a while back and never brought it up again ever since. However, it was obvious from her behavior and constant texting that she was still in a love bubble at the time.

“Do you and your boyfriend have that much in common? I haven’t seen you two run out of topics to talk about!” Skylar asked out of concern.

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