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Running out of patience, Sheldon urged Skylar, "Skylar, why are you so indecisive? I'm famished!"

Skylar closed the menu and passed it back to Tobias. "Since you're the one treating, you should order instead."

Tobias then tossed the menu to Hilary.

Even though Hilary told Sheldon that she frequented restaurants like that, she had actually only been to the restaurant once. During that one time she dined there with her friends, they were shocked by how expensive the meal was when they saw the bill.

As such, since there was someone else treating, Hilary did not intend to stand on ceremony and had her mind set on ordering the most expensive items on the menu.

The wagyu beef alone already cost more than a thousand per plate. In addition to the red wine ordered, the bill was expected to be at least three hundred thousand.

To Tobias and Sheldon, that wasn't a big deal and that fact alone fortified Skylar's belief that she was a world apart from them. She felt that her presence was a mismatch with the high-class restaurant. Unlike the heirs and heiresses from wealthy families, Skylar had not grown up worry-free in a loving environment with people doting on her.

Before all the dishes were served, Hilary already couldn't wait to take pictures. With a cheeky grin, she said, "Let me take some pictures first."

She had already thought of the captions which she was going to put on her social media together with the photos.

Skylar, who had just picked up her utensils, quickly put them back down so that Hilary could take photos.

There was a hint of impatience in Tobias' deep-set dark eyes as the other three of them waited.

After Hilary finished taking pictures, she said smilingly, "This is one of my favorite restaurants. Their chef is really good and was even featured on a previous issue of Michelin Guide. Ms. Jones, what do you usually like to eat?"

Skylar looked at Hilary with a confused expression as the woman's sudden question caught her by surprise.

What should I answer? Tater tots? In addition to tater tots, Skylar usually only ate simple food such as sandwiches, pastas or takeaways. She couldn't even bring herself to order extra food in her takeaway.

"Oh, I eat anything. I'm not that particular with food," Skylar responded vaguely.

Hilary was rather surprised at Skylar's answer and exclaimed, "Us girls should have more class when choosing the food we consume and can't be too casual about it. My friends and I dine here quite often. Ms. Jones, maybe you and I can hang out together next time too. We can go shopping and eat some good food."

Skylar smiled awkwardly and replied, "Sure, we can find a time to do that."

She couldn't understand why Hilary had to keep emphasizing that she frequented the restaurant. Was she trying to show off? Either that or she was just trying very hard to hide something she lacked.

Realizing that Skylar had not lifted her utensils, Tobias asked affectionately, "Do you not like the food here? We can go elsewhere if you wanna eat something else."

Skylar took a sip of her red wine and answered, "Maybe it's because I just recovered that I don't have much of an appetite."

If Skylar had not brought it up, Tobias had already almost forgotten how much Skylar suffered the night before.

The man placed a hand on Skylar's forehead to make sure that she wasn't running a fever and was glad that she wasn't.

Just then, a clicking sound of the camera was heard and Hilary smiled sheepishly. She had forgotten to switch her phone to silent mode again.

The woman had already snapped more than ten photos of that bottle of red wine.

Tobias and Skylar had both barely eaten. Most of the dishes were gobbled up by Sheldon and Hilary shortly after they were served and there wasn't even a single drop of red wine left in the bottle.

A waiter, who was dressed in a kimono, walked towards their table with a point-of-sale terminal and said, "Sir, your total bill would be three hundred and twenty thousand."

Skylar gasped in shock when she heard the amount.

The day spent with Tobias was indeed eye-opening for her. It seemed like money to him was nothing.

She immediately regretted not eating much at a meal that cost three hundred over thousand. Why did she restrain herself?

Hilary fought to foot the bill, knowing very well that Tobias would never let her pay.

"Let me get it! Mr. Ford, let this be my treat." Hilary pretended to reach for her credit card.

Sheldon stayed out of the situation, waiting for the woman to admit defeat.

He could already tell that Tobias was getting impatient and it was obvious that his brother did not approve of this new girlfriend of his.

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"OK, go ahead and pay then," Tobias replied nonchalantly.

Hilary froze on the spot as that was the complete opposite of what she had expected.

Having no other choice, she swiped her credit card but was notified that her credit limit had exceeded.

Hilary was so embarrassed and at a complete loss that she wished she could dig a hole and bury herself in it right then.

Feeling annoyed with his girlfriend, Sheldon said, "Stop making a fool out of yourself. Aren't you aware of your limits? There's no need to be a show-off."

Sheldon felt that Hilary was such an embarrassment. At that instant, he suddenly understood why his brother would fall for a woman like Skylar.

Skylar was demure and did not speak unnecessarily. With her pleasant-looking face and her low-profile personality, she was definitely not the sort who would invite any trouble even though she might not stand out.

In the end, it was still Tobias who foot the bill and Skylar followed him into his car after they left the restaurant.

"I need to go back to school today as I have an audition tomorrow." Skylar took out her makeup mirror to check how she looked and realized that she was still looking very pale.

Tobias looked at her thoughtfully and said, "You didn't accompany me last night and you're thinking of going back to school? How about me then?"

Skylar blinked her eyes, feeling puzzled. "What do you mean how about you?"

There was a hint of fatigue on the woman's pretty face and in addition to her pale complexion, she looked rather pitiful.

Tobias fixed his gaze on Skylar and grabbed her hand, placing it on the bulge in his pants.

Feeling the intensified pressure at the man's crotch, a blush spread across Skylar's cheeks immediately as she said, "I don't want to pass my cold virus to you. Let's just skip tonight."

"The fastest way to recover from a cold is to pass it to someone." Tobias wasn't bothered by it at all and kissed the woman's lips after saying that.

Tobias traced his lips all the way from Skylar's mouth to her neck and was proceeding further downwards. The man smelt like white sandalwood and with him just inches away from her, Skylar could feel his breath on her skin.

Tobias slowly moved his hands towards Skylar's chest and unzipped her jacket, before sliding his hands underneath her shirt.

Skylar shivered as she suddenly felt the man's cold fingers on her bare skin. Just then, someone knocked on the car window and Tobias had no choice but to stop his actions reluctantly.

He had a grim expression on his face as he took a deep breath, feeling annoyed to be interrupted.

After Tobias rolled down the car windows, Sheldon poked his head in and was beaming widely.

"Tobias, what are you guys doing in the car? Why are you not driving off?"

Tobias had a murderous glint in his eyes right then, as if he couldn't wait to skin Sheldon alive. "Is it any of your business? I'm not even blocking your way."

When Sheldon noticed that Skylar was tidying her hair and pulling up the zip on her jacket, his eyes widened.

He couldn't believe that his brother was someone who would make out with a woman in the car. Even he himself had not done that before.

Sheldon felt awkward at once that he had ruined his brother's plan. No wonder he had such a cold expression on his face. If it wasn't for his interruption, those two people might have already took things a step further.

To ease the tension, Sheldon quickly spoke, "Mom hasn't been feeling well lately. You should make a trip back home. You can't stay in a stalemate like this forever right?"

A glint of melancholy flashed across Tobias' eyes as he gave a slight nod and replied, "Got it. Take care of mom for me. I'll find a chance to go visit."

Sheldon left right after he got his point across so that his brother would have some time left to continue whatever he was doing.

However, Tobias was no longer in the mood for that. He glanced at Skylar and said, "I'll let you off today! I'll just send you to school now."

Skylar heaved a sigh of relief instantly but she couldn't help but feel a little disappointed. A part of her wished they had done the deed.

She had to admit that she was already getting addicted to the pleasure she felt while having sex but even more so, she found that she had gotten physically attached to Tobias.

When they were nearing Skylar's school, Tobias parked his car in an alley two kilometers away from the school compound.

It was already late at night and they could clearly hear the sound of cats caterwauling even though they were inside the car.

Those cries were bone-chilling and sent shivers down Skylar's spine.

"Why are the cats shrieking? Are they hungry?" the woman asked.

"They are moaning," Tobias replied.

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At that instant, Skylar really felt like giving herself a slap on her face for asking that question.

Tobias rolled down his car windows and lit a cigarette. Blurred by the bright spark as well as the smoke from his cigarette, the man's expression was unfathomable.

"Even the cats' moan sound nicer than yours. You should learn from them." Tobias inhaled deeply before slowing blowing out smoke rings.

Skylar always held herself back when they were in the bedroom and did not dare to make any sounds. It was immensely torturing for her to suppress herself with Tobias' vigorous movements inside her.

Feeling indignant at the feedback given by Tobias, Skylar said, "You can look for a woman who moans well then, I'm leaving now." She intended to bid farewell to the man right there.

Tobias grabbed Skylar's hand, refusing to her let leave. With a hoarse voice, he said in an intimate tone, "Your curfew is at eleven, so that gives us half an hour more. Even though we won't have time to get down to serious business, shouldn't you still comfort me a little?"

Skylar closed her eyes and gave Tobias a peck on his cheeks.

"Just that?" Tobias was hardly satisfied with what he had gotten.

Skylar then planted a kiss on his lips and could taste a faint mixture of mint and tobacco.

With a subtle smile on his face, Tobias asked coolly, "Baby, do you want to suck on a lollipop?"

Skylar pinched her throat and replied, "Not today. I'm having a sore throat."

The way Tobias called her 'Baby' was so gentle that she almost melted.

Skylar's reply was so sincere and innocent that Tobias was sure she didn't understand his implied meaning.

That was the downside of being with someone inexperienced. Most of the time, he had to state explicitly what it was that he was referring to as the woman would not be able to catch subtle hints.

"What if I insist that you suck on a lollipop?" Tobias suddenly seemed like a different person with a dangerous and icy look in his eyes.

Skylar finally understood what Tobias meant when she saw him unbuckling his belt. It was so quiet inside the car that the only sound was that coming from the metal buckles on his belt.

Skylar swallowed a lump in her throat and looked extremely flustered.

"It seems like you can't wait to taste it?" Tobias had a teasing smile on his face while he slid his fingers towards the corner of Skylar's lips.

The woman already had one hand on the door as she said, "Tobias, can you control yourself? I'm still feeling unwell."

Tobias enjoyed watching Skylar's panicky expression as she looked just like a cute little kitten in shock.

After wearing his belt properly again, he said, "I'll send you back now. Text me when you get into your room."

Skylar was dumbfounded as she stared at Tobias. He was obviously making fun of her.

Does he really enjoy scaring me that much?

Before Skylar went upstairs, Tobias called out to her and said, "I'll be quite busy for a while. Take good care of yourself during this period."

After that, Skylar turned around and left without even saying goodbye to Tobias.

When she returned to her room, she saw that Avery was back as well and knew that it had to be for the audition the next day.

Skylar had assumed that Avery would be more mindful after her previous experience but the second she entered the room, Avery stretched out an arm and stopped her. "I heard that you're getting married? Did you just go on a date with your geeky boyfriend?"

When Avery got back to the dormitory, she heard rumors that Skylar was hitting it off well with a man named Jackson, who looked rather geeky and not too bright.

As for Tobias, Avery did not believe that Skylar would last long with that man as he was out of her league.

Skylar walked past Avery and put down her bag, before slumping down into the chair, completely drained of energy. Cocking her brows, she smiled mirthlessly and said, "Do you want to put on your best lingerie to seduce my fiancé at midnight just like you did last time? You can have him if you like."

Color immediately drained from Avery's face. She couldn't believe that Skylar had exposed her in front of their other roommates.

Pointing her finger at Skylar, she warned, "Don't you dare falsely accuse me."

Just then, Skylar received a notification on her phone. After glancing at her screen, she noticed that Tobias had sent her a message and intended to reply to a while later.

With a wry smile on her face, Skylar said, "How is that a false accusation? I still have the video in my phone. If you can't remember, I can help to jog your memory."

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Anger stirred within Avery as she glared furiously at Skylar. "You are just like your mom. Both of you are insidious and vicious. It's obviously a genetic issue. With a murderer as a mom, you can't be any good either."

After Avery disclosed Skylar's background, the other two girls in the dormitory immediately distanced themselves from Skylar.

Even Yasmin, who was on good talking terms with Skylar, had an unnatural expression on her face.

However, the fact was that Skylar herself was not sure what had happened back then.

She only knew that since young, she had always been labelled as a murderer's daughter by both neighbors and classmates.

In her final year of high school, when everyone were sharing their dreams, she casually mentioned to her desk buddy that her dream was to join the army and somehow, word was spread to their teacher.

In front of the whole class, the teacher told her to forget about joining the army as they conducted stringent background checks. Also, she should not even think of becoming a civil

servant as the recruitment department would assess the past three generations of her family to make sure their backgrounds were proper and it was impossible for a murderer's daughter to venture into any of those areas.

As such, Skylar understood since a young age what it meant by everyone hitting a man who was down and that the defenseless would always get targeted.

However, Skylar had never blamed Miranda for that. Since she could not choose her family background, she could only accept it.

The next day, Daryl arrived at the school for the selection of the female lead for his new film. The auditions were held at the school hall.

Avery was the most popular candidate for the role as shown by the results of an online poll in the school's forum. As such, the moment she appeared in the hall, all the boys offstage started cheering and clapping.

Avery had been a goddess in the eyes of all the boys in school since her first day there.

The assistant director was also strongly recommending Avery to Daryl. "That girl seems like a good match for our role. She looks fresh and pretty. Besides, she is also one of the top scorers in her faculty."

Daryl looked at Avery and commented in dissatisfaction, "Both her nose bridge and cheekbones are too high. No doubt she's quite attractive, but she has a mean look which wouldn't sit well with audiences."

Since the assistant director had been bribed by Avery, he had to continue singing her praises. "Director, don't you think she has a very distinguishable look that people would remember? I also heard that her acting skills are very polished."

Daryl couldn't be bothered to listen to the assistant director spouting nonsense. He had already auditioned tens of candidates but couldn't seem to find anyone he was happy with. It seemed like he would be leaving empty-handed.

If he couldn't find anyone suitable from the Southwood Film Academy, he was thinking of opening up the auditions to people who were not trained in acting.

The scene which Avery had chosen was that of Nancy, the lead female character, confessing her love to Zac after knowing that he was going back to the city soon. The scene was set at the suburbs and Nancy wanted to convince Zac to stay.

Avery slipped into her role very quickly and memorized her lines well. She managed to complete the scene in one take while giving a natural and astounding performance.

At the end of her audition, the assistant director had even given her a standing ovation, clapping his hands excitedly.

However, Daryl, who was the one making the decision, remained expressionless as that was not the female lead he had in mind.

Even though Avery was undeniably a beauty, she wasn't the kind of beauty he was looking for. Besides, there were plenty of good-looking actresses in the entertainment industry, so being pretty wasn't a big deal.

"Our female lead needs to have short hair. Your hair is too long," Daryl commented.

Avery touched her waist-length hair subconsciously and replied, "I can wear a wig right? Director, I'm flexible with the arrangement. We can discuss this later."

Daryl was rather irritated with the girl's reply.

While he was scanning the audience casually, a pretty face suddenly caught his attention.

The director squinted to take a more focused look at the girl, who was looking down at her phone. She was indeed extremely pretty and had such a fair complexion that with the spotlights in the hall casting down on her, the other girls around her paled so much in comparison.

That was what a "distinguishable look" meant to Daryl. It should only take one glance to catch one's attention.

Avery remained on stage and was full of confidence. Since Daryl was already talking to her about the lead female character's hairstyle, that would mean that he was already close to confirming her as the female lead.

Becoming the female lead in Daryl's film was the perfect gateway to entering the entertainment industry.

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Daryl turned on the microphone and spoke, "Can the thirteenth girl from the right sitting at the third row please come on stage?"

There was a sudden commotion among the audience and the students seated at the third row were especially excited.

However, Skylar was still concentrated on looking at her phone and did not even look up!

She remembered she was supposed to be the last one to audition and did not expect that the director would specifically ask for her.

"Hey, I think it's you," the student next to Skylar nudged her and only then did she react. She immediately stood up and rushed up on stage.

After Daryl got to take a closer look at the girl, the frosty look on his face gradually dissipated and was replaced by a look of anticipation.

He got Skylar to perform the same scene as the one Avery did earlier on and also got her to change into a tracksuit which was worn in the seventies.

Skylar got changed quickly and Daryl sized her up with a hand on his chin before saying to the assistant director, "Look, she fits in perfectly into that era and that is the distinguishable look we are looking for. She feels exactly like the lead female character in the original story, looking so pure, innocent and fair. She looks even more alluring when she smiles."

Skylar was completely immersed into the scene and had put all her emotions in it, especially during the ending scene where she took a pause in the midst of her sobs, giving it the perfect finishing touch. The way she looked with tears glistening in her eyes was extremely attractive.

Even until after the scene ended, Skylar was still trying to hold back her tears.

Daryl said, "The lead female character has short hair. Your hair is a little too long."

That was the same comment he had given to Avery.

"I can cut it shorter. To be honest, I don't really like to have long hair too as it's too troublesome to wash it during winter," Skylar answered.

The corners of Daryl's lips curled up into a satisfied smile as he stood up from his seat and walked towards Skylar. When she did her self-introduction, she had mentioned that she was twenty years old. Perhaps due to her young age, on a closer look, Daryl noticed that she had such good complexion that no pores could be spotted on her face even under the bright lights.

Skylar's features were beautifully sculpted. She had long, softly-angled brows and a nose that was slightly upturned at the perfect angle. She looked exquisite and different from the typical pretty faces that the industry currently had.

"I'll give you a chance to shine. Don't disappoint me."

Daryl's words were like a dynamite which sent the hall into chaos. No one had expected that after a half-year long search, Daryl would end up choosing Skylar, a freshman, as the female lead for his new film.

Even Skylar herself could not believe her luck.

However, the person who was most affected by that decision was Avery. She was casting a fierce and vicious gaze at Skylar, who had instantly become the center of attention. Avery was so upset that she could feel her heart trembling in anger.

The news of Skylar landing the female lead role in Daryl's new film had become the hottest topic of discussion in school.

If everything went smoothly, Skylar wouldn't have to wait until graduation to enter the entertainment industry.

When Jeremy heard the news in his dormitory, he punched the metal cabinet next to him.

After their breakup, Skylar's life seemed to take a turn for the better and was doing increasingly well. He wondered if those years they spent together even meant anything to the girl.

Skylar informed Penelope of the good news at once. She had also wanted to tell Tobias about it but dropped the idea after some thought as she assumed that he wouldn't be too interested in her life.

Besides, he seemed to have disappeared into thin air once again.

Skylar was about to go with the film crew to the suburbs in N Province.

She had just realized that it had been almost a month since she last heard from Tobias and she wasn't even sure if she should inform him of her departure.

Tobias' words during their previous meeting were still clear in her mind. He said that they would be meeting often in the days to come.

So that's what he meant by meeting often. There was not even a single text or call. The man seemed to have fallen off the face of Earth.

During her break, Skylar went back to International Garden to retrieve her belongings. When Laura saw her, she looked as though an unwelcome guest had turned up.

However, she only had that expression for a split second before an unfathomable smile appeared on her face.

"Is Mr. Ford around?" Skylar asked while standing at the door.

"Laura, who's that?" Before Laura answered, Skylar heard a gentle and sweet voice coming from inside the villa.

Seconds later, a young lady appeared behind Laura and was looking at Skylar with a puzzled look in her pretty eyes.

Skylar tried to suppress the bitterness which was creating chaos in her heart and said, "Sorry, I think I knocked on the wrong door."