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"Yeah, I had some spaghetti," she lied.

Tobias tightened his grip on her wrist slightly. "Join me for lunch. I'm starving, and it feels lonely eating all by myself."

Skylar didn't believe him one bit.

"Don't lie to me! I saw you come here with a bunch of people, so how could you possibly be lonely? Anyway, I have to go. My mom is still waiting for me to bring her lunch, and she hasn't eaten anything since morning."

The Cardiology Department and Psychiatric Rehabilitation Department were on different floors, so Tobias could only follow her as far as the elevator.

"How's your mom doing?" Skylar asked while waiting for the elevator.

"She's alright. We haven't decided on whether she'll be getting a coronary bypass or a heart transplant. The problem with the latter is that it'll take time to find a donor..." Tobias was clearly fatigued and stressed out when he said that.

Skylar gave him a pat on the shoulder and reassured him in her most mature-sounding voice possible, "Everything will be alright."

She was so caught up in the moment that she didn't even realize the elevator arriving. Noticing that, Tobias decided to keep quiet about it as he wanted to spend more time with her.

By the time she realized it, the elevator was already going up.

"Come on, we'll take the stairs." Tobias took the food over from her and began walking towards the stairwell.

With her food in his hands, she had no choice but to follow him up the stairs.

He only handed the food back to her when they arrived on the seventh floor. "Go home earlier tonight, and make sure to stay away from places that are dark."

That was by far the most heartwarming thing she had ever heard from him.

Even so, she couldn't do as he said as Miranda had a blood test scheduled very early the next morning, so she had to spend the night in the hospital.

She told him everything, including the part about Miranda insisting on getting discharged.

Instead of making her decisions for her, Tobias simply nodded and said, "Well, I won't say any further since you've already made up your mind. Still, will you at least kiss me goodbye?"

The two of them were standing so close to each other that they could feel their breaths on their faces.

Skylar got on her tiptoes and gave him a quick peck on the lips, which obviously wasn't enough for him.

He rubbed the tip of his nose against hers before tilting his head to the side and kissing her passionately, only stopping when they were interrupted by the sound of footsteps coming from behind.

He gave her a quick nip on the tongue as he pulled away from her and turned around.

It was his assistant, Susan.

Ew... Just how desperate is this woman? Tobias' mom is getting heart surgery soon and clinging to him is all she cares about? Does she not have anything else to do apart from seducing men?

Susan looked away in disgust at the thought of that.

While Skylar burned bright red from being seen kissing, Tobias was completely unfazed by it.

He even pinched Skylar on the cheek in front of Susan as he said, "I'll be staying in the hospital for the next two days as well, so just call me if you need anything."

“Okay.” Skylar nodded and flashed Susan a polite smile before leaving.

He waited till she was far away before shooting Susan a cold glare. “So, did you just happened to pass by, or were you actually looking for me?”

“Mrs. Ford had me come looking for you, says she has something to tell you. I think she’s really worried about the surgery going wrong.”

“Got it. Susan, you’ve been working with me for a really long time now. I hope you know what you should and shouldn’t do.”

Susan pursed her lips. “Do you not trust me, Mr. Ford?”

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Tobias’ expression grew cold. “I don’t trust anyone, Susan. You should know that by now.”

Susan felt disappointed. I’ve been working with him for over ten years, and he still doubts me...

“What took you so long? I was starving!” Miranda complained before Skylar even set the food down on the table.

“There was a long queue in the cafeteria,” she replied.

True enough, it didn’t take long before Miranda had finished all of her food.

“I’m so happy to have you here with me, Skylar. I know I’ve wronged you in the past, so I’m really glad that you’ve forgiven me.”

Skylar remembered what Meredith said on her deathbed. Grandma was so worried about Mom that she insisted I take care of her once she got released from prison. She also told me not to hate Mom as she had suffered a lot in life. You really overestimate my

capabilities, Grandma... There's no way I would've been able to afford Mom's medical bills without Tobias' help!

Skylar simply kept quiet and whipped out her B2 French textbook. The exam was coming soon, and she was prepared to give up on university if she couldn't pass it.

The evening sun cast an orange glow in the ward, and the warm, gentle breeze blowing through the open windows provided some relief from the strong smell of disinfectant.

Just like that, Skylar read her textbook in silence while Miranda carried on knitting the sweater. It was such a serene moment, one that Skylar had never thought she would someday live to experience.

"Where do you get your money for the hospital bills?" Miranda tried to start a conversation, but Skylar ignored her question.

After failing to get a response from her a second time, Miranda tried asking the nurse for an answer instead.

The nurse told her the exact amount, which shocked her greatly.

"Where do you think I get the money from?" Skylar asked.

Miranda answered confidently, "It must be your dad, right? Man, it's been so long since I last saw him! I wonder how he looks like now... Do you have a picture of him in your phone?"

"What's the point in seeing his picture when he didn't even contribute a single cent? According to him, he isn't obligated to pay for his ex-wife's medical bills!" Skylar said coldly.

Miranda froze and stared at her in disbelief. "That's not possible! Skylar, do you have some sort of problem with your dad? Why do you keep badmouthing him like that?"

"He and I are no longer related, so what does it matter? Besides, you don't even have a place to stay even if you were to return! Grandma has given Uncle Wesley her house, and there's no way he'd take you in!"

"Forget about your grandma's house, I'm sure your dad will take us in!" Miranda said after a brief pause.

Skylar kept quiet as she didn't know what else to say. Screw it, Mom won't give up until she sees Thomas anyway. He's the one who created this mess, so I'll just let him clean it up himself!

Meanwhile, things were a little chaotic outside Claudia's ward as a lot of people came by to visit the moment they found about her hospitalization.

Tobias had no idea who it was that released that information. He had the bodyguards posted outside the door to prevent anyone from entering.

"Where have you been? You weren't even answering my calls!" Tanya asked as she handed him an apple that she had just peeled.

"I've blocked your number." Tanya glared at him resentfully as he placed the apple on the nightstand.

"Tobias..." Claudia called out to him weakly. She could see that he didn't like Tanya at all. The only reason Tanya was able to put up with his attitude was because of her incredible levels of patience.

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"I've made the arrangements with the specialists. They're all suggesting that you get a coronary bypass as it is the least risky option, so you don't have to worry about a thing," Tobias reassured her as he sat down on the side of her bed.

Claudia got Tanya to leave the ward by having her fetch a glass of warm water from outside.

She then turned towards Tobias and asked, "You went to see that woman again, didn't you? I know her mom is being treated in this hospital, and that you're the one paying for her medical bills."

"Is that why you chose this hospital, Mom? Talk about going the extra mile, eh?"

"Listen, everyone out there is saying that you're calling off your wedding with Tanya, and that poor girl is crying every night because of it! If you weren't planning on taking responsibility, then you shouldn't have gotten her pregnant in the first place!" Claudia said angrily.

"I told you, I didn't get her pregnant, so stop pressuring me already, okay? I don't plan on getting married to anyone!"

Claudia eased up her attitude a little. "Not even with that woman? You're not getting any younger, Tobias. If you had a kid when you should've, that child would probably be of working age by now! Anyway, do as you see fit with Tanya. I'm too old to be getting involved in your personal affairs."

Tobias flashed her a faint smile. "Like I said, I don't plan on getting married at the moment. Besides, I don't like kids and you know that! Get some rest, Mom. I'm going out for a smoke."

Claudia could see that he was dying to end that conversation, and decided to let him be.

It's pointless to get angry at him, given how stubborn he is. If he really decides not to marry Tanya, then she'll just have to accept her fate, I guess. As much as I like her, she is still an outsider and cannot compare to my precious boy! Even so, I still wouldn't approve of Skylar. Her pretty face isn't enough to make up for her lack of education and the fact that she has a homicidal mother!

Unbeknownst to her, Tanya had overheard everything from outside the door and was secretly cursing at her.

So all that talk about liking me and wanting me to marry her son was all a lie, huh? I knew I couldn't trust that old hag... No, I can't just sit around and do nothing! I have to act fast before they get rid of me!

When the ward fell silent, Tanya leaned against the door and strained her ears to find out what was going on.

It was at that moment that the door opened from the inside, and Tanya fell forward onto the floor.

Claudia went pale from shock when she saw Tanya fall as she was allegedly pregnant with Tobias' child.

“Help her up, Tobias! What are you waiting for?” She shouted.

Tanya tried to put on a tough front despite the extreme pain in her tummy. “I’m alright, I can get up on my own... It just hurts a little, that’s all.”

This woman sure is pretentious in everything she does... Instead of helping her up, Tobias simply stared at her and called out to the bodyguard outside, “You there, come help Ms. Hanson to her feet. She’s not feeling well and shouldn’t be in the hospital.”

Tanya clenched her teeth in anger as she spat the words at him, “I fall down while pregnant, and the first thing you do is get rid of me...”

Skylar wasn’t really picky when it came to sleep, so she woke up feeling just fine the next morning despite having slept on the couch the whole night.

Miranda had woken up early that day and was doing some aerobic exercises in the ward. Her body was in such great shape that one would’ve assumed she was in her twenties if they only saw her from behind.

Knock! Knock! Knock! Thinking it was the nurse reminding them of the checkup, Skylar let out a yawn as she went to open the door with her eyes half-open. However, her eyes shot wide open when she saw Tanya standing outside.

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“What is it, Ms. Hanson?” she asked, standing between her and the door.

“I think we should have a nice little talk, you and I,” Tanya said as she stared her in the eye.

“We’ll talk in the corridor,” Skylar didn’t want to let her in, but Tanya simply shoved her out of the way and waltzed right in.

Her boldness was mainly backed by the fact that people generally wouldn’t dare hurt a pregnant woman, which was exactly the case with Skylar.

That was the first time Tanya had met Miranda, and she could see right off the bat where Skylar got that pretty face of hers from. Like mother, like daughter, huh?

"Is that a friend of yours, Skylar?" Not knowing who she was, Miranda greeted her warmly and even poured her a glass of water.

As her gaze fell upon Tanya's tummy, she turned towards Skylar and said, "Look at how far along your friend is while you're still here all single!"

Tanya let out a snicker when she heard that. So this murderer doesn't know anything, eh?

"Single? Is that why she's stealing my husband like a sl*t? Seems to me you don't know your daughter all that well, Miranda!"

"Hey! Watch your mouth, Tanya! Get out of here and take your bullsh*t with you! You're disturbing my mom!"

Miranda asked Skylar what she was going on about, to which she replied, "It's nothing, Mom."

Tanya sneered, her eyes filled with hostility as she glared at Skylar. "Nothing? Tobias would've married me if by now if not for you! Well, I guess I have my own kindness to blame. I should never have let you go that easily! Anyway, you'd better stay the hell away from Tobias or I'll make you pay dearly, you hear? One word is all it takes for me to make you disappear! Do you think Tobias will still remember you when you're gone?"

Yes, that's right... Get angry, Skylar! Get really angry and hurt me! The angrier the better! I've come fully prepared for anything! I don't know if God wants this baby to live, but I sure as hell don't! If I give birth to this baby, Tobias will conduct a DNA test and uncover the truth for sure!

Skylar decided to take a leap of faith and take Tobias at his word that the child wasn't his. "What the hell do you want from me, Tanya? First of all, you two aren't even married yet, so I haven't stolen anyone's husband! Second of all, that child doesn't belong to Tobias and you know it!" she said with great confidence.

Having no idea as to what was actually going on, Miranda got confused and scolded Skylar instead, "I can't believe you actually became someone's mistress, Skylar! Apologize to her right this instant!"

Miranda had always been a people-pleaser, so she naturally assumed that Skylar was in the wrong even though she knew nothing of what actually happened.

However, that only seemed to encourage Tanya further. "Wow, even your homicidal mom knows better than you, Skylar! You wanted to be a star, right? I'll let everyone know what you did! See if anyone will support you, then!"

Skylar mustered every bit of willpower she had in her to suppress her raging anger.

"Go ahead, you'll just embarrass yourself even more if word gets out. Everyone will know you as an unmarried mother living off the Fords!"

Those words opened up Tanya's old wounds, and she felt the urge to stab Skylar to death.

How the hell is a twenty-year-old girl like her able to tolerate being insulted and humiliated in front of her own mother?

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Tanya lifted her hand with the intention of slapping Skylar. However, her wrist was grabbed tightly by Skylar before her palm could hit on Skylar's face. Skylar looked at her with a fiery yet ruthless gaze and responded, "You are not qualified to hit me. Previously, I was together with Tobias because I didn't have a choice. However, he didn't promise me anything. Both of you could have gotten married but you messed up and ended up in your current situation."

Tanya was in pain and asked Skylar to release her. Nonetheless, Tanya would not believe in this little sl*t's nonsense.

Tobias didn't marry her not because of what Skylar had just said. In fact, it was all because this b*tch had sown discord between them through pillow talk.

Men were creatures whose thoughts were influenced by lust and sexual arousal. After Skylar had slept with him, he became flaky and planned to call off the wedding with Tanya.

Skylar must be skillful in bed as she was endowed with a waist as slim as a pencil as well as a pair of long legs. As such, she knew how to catch Tobias's attention.

Skylar released her hands gently at the end because Tanya was pregnant after all.

Nonetheless, who would have expected that Tanya would have fallen down on the floor by herself? She held her stomach with her hand while hunched inside the ward. Her expression was in extreme agony.

Within those few minutes, Skylar's mind was completely blank. She still hadn't come to herself on what had occurred.

Tanya was taken away by the doctor lying on the stretcher. Soon, she was ushered by the bodyguards of the Ford family into the delivery room.

She then saw Tobias. He looked awfully grim while Claudia was present as well.

Claudia slapped Skylar and it went right onto her face as she didn't avoid her incoming palm.

Claudia became furious that her voice began to shiver. Her poise and mannerism were thrown out of the window at this moment.

"You are such a cruel woman. Tanya has been very patient with you all this while yet you are still unsatisfied. All of us are women. As such, you should know how important a child is to a mother," Claudia reprimanded.

Skylar wasn't bothered about that. She was well aware of how Tanya had deliberately fallen down in front of her in order to conveniently accused her of pushing her down. Hence, Tanya was indeed the one who should be labeled as cruel.

All these seemed to be well planned. Luckily, she didn't start a fight except for self-defense when she was in conflict with her.

If she really did push her, then she would be in deep trouble and any amount of explanation would never be able to clear her name.

Skylar's eyes were red. At that point in time, she knew that it would be useless for her to pretend to be strong. With that, her anguishing tears started flowing down. In fact, she could

cry at any time as she was the best student in her class in mastering this skill at the acting course she attended. Thus, the way she cried was neither ostentatious nor stiff.

She lowered her head and wept while lifting her head to glimpse at Tobias from time to time with an innocent look aptly.

Tobias was moved. He then wrapped his arm around Skylar's shoulder to let her lean against him and consoled her, "I know that this incident has nothing to do with you. Don't be afraid as I'm here with you."

At that point in time, Skylar still didn't make any explanation.

She thought that it might be time to fight back as she had been accused of being the third party who stole someone's husband. In fact, she had enough of this kind of life where she needed to hide in the dark.

Since Tanya had taken the initiative by going as far as sacrificing her unborn child to drag Skylar into a dispute, she had also decided to take the initiative to counterattack.

Everyone was taken aback by Tobias' action. In spite of his fiancée struggling to save their baby inside the delivery room, he was still comforting the woman who caused the miscarriage of his child.

With such an unbelievable act, everyone around couldn't help but suspect if Skylar had cast a spell on Tobias.

"The baby can't be rescued," the doctor shook his head and sighed while walking out of the delivery room.

Tobias responded coldly while Claudia nearly fainted.

Claudia pointed at Skylar who was still hiding in Tobias's arm, with a bitter expression as she was heartbroken. "Are you happy with the outcome now? You really acted cruelly. Why such a young woman like you are so wicked? You didn't even give her a chance."

Finally, Skylar moved away from Tobias's arm. Then, she explained, "I didn't touch her. She fell down on the floor by herself. Mrs. Ford, I am not that bad as I don't even dare to kill a cockroach not to mention harming a person's life."