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Miranda was still a little reluctant to part with them when Skylar and Tobias dropped her off at her house, saying, "Today's meeting was just too rushed. I'll treat you to a meal one day whenever you're free, Tobias."

Not wanting Miranda and Tobias to interact too much, Skylar cut into the conversation. "He's really busy, so maybe next time."

"I'm free anytime, Ms. Watts. Just ask Skylar to pass on the message to me," Tobias immediately followed up with a smile.

Only then was Miranda satisfied. Tobias was a very powerful man and her savior. If he hadn't been dating Skylar, she might have had to stay in jail forever. Even after so many years, I still have to rely on Skylar.

She'd always thought that it was useless to raise a daughter, but things were different now. Miranda didn't regret having given birth to Skylar anymore, but she did regret taking out all her frustration from the divorce out on Skylar as a child.

"Thank you." Skylar rested her head against the car window, tired and in a bad mood.

"It's not a big deal. You're going to make it up to me anyway." Tobias turned up the heating system in the car, something he usually never did because the warm air conditioning made him feel stuffy and uncomfortable.

"I'm way too tired, and besides, we already did "it" yesterday. Can't I repay you in some other way?" pleaded Skylar.

"Well, what do you have to offer me?"

Skylar grew quiet. How else can I make it up to Tobias? The twenty million cash deposit? It didn't seem like he'd want that.

Besides, her bank account didn't have that twenty million anymore. She'd transferred fifteen million to Miranda because Miranda didn't have any other source of income after getting out of jail, and had never purchased any kind of insurance.

Everything and anything required money nowadays, and she couldn't just leave her mother to her own devices. Plus, she had confiscated from her the card that Tobias had given Skylar.

What if she's unable to control herself and overspends on unnecessary things?

She was worrying herself to death trying to ensure that Miranda could live a normal life.

Shaking her head in resignation, Skylar sighed. "I guess all I can do right now is selling my body. But, filming for my new movie is starting soon. If I become famous, I'll bury you in all the money I'm bound to earn."

That was an absolute lie. There was probably no one on earth who could bury Tobias in more money than he already owned.

Noticing that Skylar looked fatigued, Tobias decided not to press the topic any further. "I know, I know. When you earn enough money to bury me alive, then it'll be my turn to kick back and relax. I want to experience what it's like to be pampered and spoiled too."

The sun had already risen when they arrived home.

Skylar felt even guiltier for having dragged Tobias into her mess. If it weren't for her, he would be asleep on his bed about now.

Yawning, she laid down on the sofa with a pillow in her arms. With her chin resting on top of the pillow and a small pout on her lips, she resembled a lost lamb.

The more Tobias stared at Skylar's new hairstyle, the unhappier he became. The cuteness that he adored from before was replaced by a sassy fierceness, and he didn't like it. Her original black hair was more than good enough. Why did they have to ruin it?

"If you're tired, go upstairs to sleep," he told her.

Skylar yawned again, rubbing her neck. "What about you? Are you going to sleep too?"

Taking a look at his wristwatch, Tobias said, "I need to make another trip to the office."

That woke Skylar up. Tobias going back to the office at five in the morning sounded suspiciously similar to the excuse other husbands would give their wives, saying that they had to stay back at the office for work even though it was the middle of the night. The sleepiness in her mind cleared and was immediately replaced by intrusive thoughts of whether there was actually someone else somewhere else waiting on Tobias.

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Skylar attributed her damned curiosity and pessimism to her Scorpio sun sign.

Even today, she felt that there was no single part of her that was worthy of being Tobias' girlfriend. Everyone always said that "confident women are the prettiest women", but she could only resort to finding her self-confidence in Tobias' companionship.

Her home environment while growing up affected her in a very negative and unhealthy way. It was exactly why she was so desperate to prove herself, it was exactly why she wanted to discover her self-worth, and it was exactly why she wanted to become perfect. Pursuing those ideals was the only thing she was absolutely determined and confident in.

Looking up at him, she realized that he seemed tired, a constant wrinkle between his eyebrows.

"Why do you need to go to work so early in the morning if you're the boss? Can't you just re-arrange your own schedule? If you leave for the office now, you'll arrive earlier than even the security guards."

Tobias could hear the suspicion in Skylar's questions. She was just beating around the bush because she was insecure.

He preferred girls who were obedient, but at least Skylar hadn't outright accused him of anything.

"I have to go elsewhere for a meeting and then come back at noon. That's why I'm leaving so early in the morning. Are you satisfied with this explanation?"

He clearly sounded upset. Is he annoyed because I'm being a busybody?

She waved him away, forcing a near-perfect smile. "Just go. I'll rest for a while and then go out, too."

As Skylar trudged up the stairs, Tobias called out after her, "Be careful while you're home alone and go get some sleep soon."

Skylar didn't respond, continuing to walk up the stairs. She was aware that she wasn't acting right and that her heart felt like it was being squeezed dry inside her chest. It was as if her love for Tobias had completely taken over her entire being, and her emotions fluctuated based on Tobias' every move and every word.

All of his moods directly determined her own. This could not go on. Her past relationship had been exactly like this, and it was the reason why she had been so deeply hurt.

She'd had a total of two relationships, both of which she was very serious about. Is this one going to backfire just like the last one had?

If Tobias turned on her and didn't want to take the relationship seriously anymore, she could guarantee that they wouldn't just be physically apart, they would most likely never get back together, nor even see each other ever again.

She returned to the bedroom and flopped onto the bed, yawning as she curled into a comfortable sleeping position.

She distantly wondered how Wesley and his family were doing. They were most likely stunned by how Miranda had been declared innocent, hastily rediscussing their schemes behind her back.

And to think that Miranda had been worried about returning home so late because she might disrupt their sleep. If she hadn't come home at all, they really might have stayed sleeping soundly like a baby.

Skylar only awoke when her phone rang with a call from Kate, who sounded very cross with her when she answered the call. "We had an appointment at eleven o'clock today. It's already eleven. Where are you?"

Skylar instantly jumped out of bed, washing her face and brushing her teeth at record speed. She had forgotten to set an alarm, and hadn't expected that she would sleep for so long either.

It took her only ten minutes after getting out of bed to leaving the house bare-faced and waving down a taxi to head for Royal Entertainment.

She had yet to reach her destination when her phone rang again. This time, it was a call from Tobias. Skylar was a little taken aback, wondering if he had accidentally called the wrong number because he usually never contacted her at this time of day.

Answering the call and saying "hello" a few times into the receiver, she was met with no response.

All she heard were the sounds of Tobias' surroundings. There were people all around him talking heatedly, and it sounded like their discussion had just reached a boiling point.

Skylar listened to the strange call as she walked, and even occasionally picked out Tobias' cold, emotionless voice.

"The final payment hasn't even been paid, and yet you all keep drawing up new blueprints. Are you just lying to yourselves or do you think I am an idiot?"

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Skylar didn't understand a single thing, but could only ascertain that the conversation was about money.

Tobias had said before that he was only still alive for the sake of earning money and nothing else.

If she were in Tobias' shoes, she would have retired and escaped to an exotic island some years ago.

Scared that she might accidentally overhear some trade secret and become a target, she hung up the call.

Skylar made a beeline for Kate's office. Even though Kate wasn't usually at the company building, she had put a lot of effort into renovating her office, and there were even pictures of her pet dogs on the desk.

I knew it. Kate still isn't married yet, even at this age.

Hearing a knock on the door, Skylar let herself in nearly an hour later than the previously agreed time.

She instantly apologized, sputtering out some excuse about how she was late because of a traffic jam when, in actuality, the drive had been completely uneventful.

She didn't want to lie, but she couldn't tell Kate the truth that she had spent all of last night at a police station.

Kate was very serious and professional woman, and would not give face regardless of whoever it was when it came to her work.

She didn't care for Skylar's explanation, demanding, "Then why didn't you leave home an hour earlier so you'd arrive on time even if there was a traffic jam? Artistes need to know about the importance of punctuality. This isn't college where you can just say "sorry I'm late" and shrug it off. If you keep this attitude up, people are going to think you're arrogant and egotistical."

Skylar just bowed her head and admitted that it was her fault for being late, promising Kate that she would never repeat the mistake ever again.

Only then did Kate seem to calm down somewhat, making a call and asking Skylar's new assistant to come in.

During her previous filming session, Skylar had had to do everything by herself. No one had even helped her to take some of the catering food that the staff had ordered.

Skylar always showed up on set alone without a team, an assistant, nor a manager. This reflected badly on Kate, as other people might think that their company was mistreating their artists, or that Kate was a useless manager.

Before long, a young girl with long, pin-straight hair and wearing plain clothes with dark-rimmed glasses entered the room. She didn't look older than a fresh graduate.

The girl shyly greeted Skylar, taking in the up-and-coming celebrity that she was going to be looking after for the time being.

Needless to say, she was astonished at how good-looking Skylar actually was. Seeing her in person without any beauty filters nor makeup, there was no doubt in her mind that Skylar could easily rise to the top of the entertainment business.

The new assistant's name was Hannah Hayes. Skylar's first reaction to hearing her name was, unfortunately, salivating at the thought of a sweet honey cake.

Hannah was nearly knocked off her feet when Skylar smiled at her. No woman could possibly resist her smile, let alone a man.

Skylar thought that Hannah looked a little ditzy.

After Hannah left the room, Skylar turned around to ask Kate, "Why did you assign me a newbie? Two newbies both with zero experience sounds like a recipe for disaster."

She was very upfront about her dissatisfaction with her new assistant, but Kate had plans of her own and had expected Skylar's reaction.

"If I assign you an experienced manager and they turn out to be a sleazy asshole, you might end up getting taken advantage of. Your assistant doesn't need to do much for now except manage what you eat and where you sleep. Newbies are meant to help each other grow."

Skylar sighed, softening her tone. "Fine. I get it. If there's nothing else, I'm going to go take a look at the script. Filming is going to start soon."

Kate wanted to talk with Skylar more, but sensing that the young woman was desperate to leave, she kept silent and let her go.

Skylar was still weary from having not rested well the previous night. She just wanted to take a look at the practice rooms before heading home straight away.

It was there that she bumped into Amelia, who had just finished practicing her dance choreography.

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Amelia was wearing skintight athleisure wear that complemented her slim, gorgeous body well. If Skylar had to guess, Amelia couldn't have weighed much more than forty kilograms.

Now that's what I call a skinny legend. You could start a fish pond in the hollow of those collarbones.

As fellow artists under the same manager, she felt obliged to greet Amelia.

Skylar waved at her as she wiped off some sweat with a towel.

"I haven't congratulated you yet on getting a female lead role before graduating," Amelia said, a hint of contempt in her voice.

Skylar replied humbly, "I was just lucky, that's all."

Amelia's saccharine sweet giggle that followed sounded mocking.

"It's not as if your luck just came to you out of nowhere. Tell me, do you call your benefactor "daddy" in bed?"

Skylar's smile instantly froze on her face. She did, in fact, have a vague memory of being forced by Tobias to call him "master".

But she would never be so perverted as to call him "daddy".

Amelia interrupted her train of thought by continuing, "That lead role was actually supposed to go to me, you know. But I gave up the chance and so, it went to you. I hope you'll always stay that lucky."

Skylar wiped the smile from her face, her gaze turning sharp. "I hope so too... And I also hope that you won't ever give up your opportunities for my sake again."

Giving her a sidelong glance, Amelia huffed. "Showbiz goes through new generations of artistes and entertainers with a very high turnover rate. Maybe you should put more effort into making sure your benefactor stays by your side. I'm not as fortunate as you are and grew up in a strict household, so I can't possibly imagine selling my body out in order to make a name for myself."

"Please don't worry about me! I was born with a natural determination and talent for doing unimaginable things," Skylar laughed innocently.

From Amelia's point of view, Skylar was broken to the point of no return. How else could someone do something so immoral and scandalous and not be ashamed of themselves, but take pride in it instead?

Skylar decided to stop talking to Amelia, having come to the conclusion that Amelia probably just felt indignant and bitter about Skylar's new role. Don't blame me, blame Kate... She's the one who used to spoil you by focusing all her time and resources on you, and you alone.

Being forced to give up the lead role to someone else must not have been easy, but Skylar could care less.

When Skylar left Royal Entertainment, it was already afternoon and she had yet to hear from Miranda.

She couldn't stop feeling antsy ever since Miranda was released. There was an incessant worry that Miranda might cause trouble, or get involved with the Joneses again.

When she got home and pushed open the door, she was surprised to see Tobias at home. It was out of character for him to return so early.

The man was seated on the sofa, head lowered as he ate his salad slowly and carefully with a disposable fork.

If he live-streamed himself eating and covered up that handsome face of his, no one will ever watch it. His attitude was too prim and proper while eating, and it made his food seem unappetizing somehow.

Skylar set her bag down and went to wash her hands before coming back to the living room to ask him, "Why are you home so early? Where'd the salad come from?"

She expected for him to say that Susan or another one of his secretaries had bought it for him.

Tobias handed her a container of food that he had left untouched in its plastic bag, having bought it for her to eat.

"I ordered it on my phone." He had finished the salad and started eating the leftover chicken slices.

Skylar giggled quietly. Tobias was making speedy progress considering that he didn't even know how to pay bills using his phone a while ago.

Maybe she should be concerned that Tobias had been with her for so long, he had started stooping to her level and ordering delivery food.

Early the next morning, Skylar was awakened by her phone nearly blowing up with notifications from Instagram.

Her follower count had grown by ten million overnight. She even looked at the number three times over to make sure that her bleary eyes weren't fooling her.

Tobias had been woken up by Skylar's movements as well, draping his arm over her waist and slipping a hand into her underwear without even bothering to open his eyes.

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However, Skylar was in no mood to think about those things. Her eyes were fixed on her phone screen as she wondered where all these fans had come from.

It was possible that her company had bought fake followers for her. After all, she had way too little followers on her Instagram page before, and it had made her look a little pathetic.

Skylar grabbed hold of Tobias's wandering hand, pulled it out of her underwear, and got out of bed to open the curtains.

Instantly, the blinding rays of the morning sun spilled in through the windows and shone down on Tobias, who had gone to sleep only in his underwear.

Skylar couldn't help herself from ogling at his well-proportioned body. How much did he spend on gym membership to achieve those six-pack abs?

Tobias shielded his eyes from the sun. He sounded as though he had just woke up. "Why are you pulling the curtains open? Some things are better done in the dark."

Skylar was already wearing her clothes. "Who said I was going to continue rolling around in bed with you? I have to go to the office now. I have an audition for an advertisement."

"What time does it start?"

"In the afternoon," Skylar replied without hesitation.

Tobias stretched out his hand and grabbed his phone from the edge of his bed. It was only eight in the morning.

Her eyes were drawn to the burgeoning tent at the front of his pants. If his underwear wasn't there to keep it in check...

She couldn't help but imagine the salacious image in her mind. Shuddering slightly, she decided not to provoke him so early in the morning. She didn't want to get a fiery dose of him just as she woke up.

After being woken up by Skylar, Tobias couldn't fall asleep again. He clamped a cigarette between his teeth and made his way to the bathroom.

"Are you going to take a shower? I've prepared a towel for you. I've even changed them once every three days, like you requested."

Tobias turned around and looked at her. "Since you can't satisfy me, I have no choice but to use my hands to satisfy my needs."

He said that with a completely straight face. Skylar played dumb and continued packing her things.

After he went into the bathroom, she crept over and pushed the door slightly ajar.

The room was full of smoke—evidently, Tobias had forgotten to turn on the ventilation in the bathroom before he started puffing away on his cigarette.

He squinted his eyes and saw a pair of eyes peeking out at him from the gap in the doorway.

"Do you have a particular interest in watching men in the bathroom? Or are you coming in to assist me in the shower?"

Realizing that she had been discovered, Skylar said without hesitation, "I thought you were really going to do it with your hand."

"Why would I use my hand when I have my woman? If you're really concerned about me, come in and help me out."

Skylar pushed open the door and went to stand by the sink, silently watching both of their reflections in the mirror.

Tobias' hair was cropped in a very stylist fashion. His facial features were smooth and delicate, and his side profile was nothing short of perfect. Both his looks and the manner with he carried himself made her swoon a little.

She wondered wistfully at how beautiful their future children would be.

But will we even have children? Skylar chastised herself for thinking of something so foolish.

Tobias and she were as different as the earth and the sky—she was earth, and he was the sky!

He was a wealthy man sought after by numerous girls in the entertainment industry, and most of them were famous actresses. They were more than suitable partners for a man of his standing.

Throughout their one year relationship, he had never once promised to marry her or to take care of her for the rest of her life.

As Skylar stared at the mirror in a daze, Tobias handed his shaving razor to her. "Do you want to help me shave?"

She frowned. "I don't know how to use this, and I've never helped anyone shave before. Do you have an electric shaver? I think I might have a go with that."

Tobias had already smothered his chin with shaving foam. "Electric razors don't work very well on me. I'll lie down on the sofa and you can do the honors."

The growth rate of one's hair was closely tied with the production level of hormones in one's body. Tobias' moustache grew very fast—although he shaved in the morning, Skylar often found bristles on his chin by the afternoon.

No wonder he was so insatiable in bed. Sometimes, she wondered if a woman could truly satisfy him.

Tobias lay down on the sofa. Carefully, Skylar positioned the razor on his cheek and scraped it down his chin gently.

He shut his eyes without a care in the world. As her hand made its way down his cheek, he could feel the tenderness of her skin against his own.

Abruptly, he said, "I wish I could take a break from work today to be with you for the next twenty-four hours."