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Tobias treated this place as his temporary imperial residence.

Skylar discovered a long time ago that this man was prone to severe mood swings, and his attitude towards her was hot-and-cold.

When he was in a good mood, he treated her like a precious gem. If she asked, he would probably steal a star from the night sky for her.

However, he was sometimes so brutal that he seemed like a completely different person.

Skylar slammed her schedule for tomorrow onto the table. She hit the table so hard that her hands hurt.

"I have to leave the house before the sun even rises tomorrow. You'll excuse me for not doing it with you tonight. If you're so desperate, you can always find another woman to vent your animalistic instincts on."

Skylar looked as though she had swallowed a few mouthfuls of gunpowder. Tobias gazed at her with a steely expression, feeling aggrieved.

She doesn't like my present.

Skylar caught a faint whiff of alcohol on his clothes. He had probably come straight here from one of his work parties.

Tobias glanced at her schedule on the table. It was almost completely full—she had a very busy day tomorrow.

Without another word, he took her upstairs to a dimly lit room. The moment they entered the room, Tobias removed his hand from her waist and started undoing the button on her pants.

Skylar grabbed his hand, which was hovering around the edge of her underwear. "Are you going to stay after this, or leave immediately after we do it?"

She decided to pop the question. In the past, she had looked forward to living together with Tobias—that meant they could see each other after work every day. It was some form of happily ever after for her; she supposed.

However, he had ruined this fantasy of hers completely. After a few weeks of their quiet routine, he dropped by less frequently. Sometimes, he refused to reply to her texts or answer her phone calls.

It would be a lie to say his change of heart did not hurt her.

Tobias let go of her. With a salacious expression in his eyes, he said, "Just once? That won't be enough. We'll have to do it thrice at least... or I won't go tonight."

Skylar didn't know if she should laugh or cry.

What should've happened afterwards happened. Tobias practically ripped her pants off her body. He was very aggressive this time—her pants were only halfway down her thighs before he pushed her onto the bed and entered her from behind.

Sweat dripped down his forehead as he panted and breathed raggedly. He told Skylar in a low voice that it had been half a month since he did it.

She didn't know if she should believe him.

Afterwards, Tobias sat on the sofa and smoked quietly, while Skylar lay in bed, naked as the day she was born. Even breathing hurt.

She couldn't summon the energy to sit up in bed. Her calves were still cramping up, which made her shiver in pain.

As Tobias flicked the ash off his cigarette into the ashtray, he noticed that there were a few cigarette stubs in it. They weren't from the brand he smoked.

He put out his cigarette, which he had only finished smoking a third of. Gazing at Skylar darkly, he asked, "Who has been here while I was away?"

Skylar knew he had a reason for asking that question. She climbed up from the bed with much difficulty and realized it was the cigarette butts in the ashtray that piqued his suspicion.

"Penelope came a few times. Are you against my friends dropping by?"

The butts in the ashtray looked like a brand preferred by females. Tobias didn't ask about it again.

He lay back down in bed and cuddled up to Skylar, trying to move even closer to her.

He hadn't taken any sleeping pills tonight, but fell asleep anyway. Even with the heavy weight of his arm on her, Skylar didn't dare to move.

After setting the alarm for half-past four in the morning, she shut her eyes and listened to the even breathing next to her ear.

However, her movement as she turned the alarm off jolted Tobias awake.

They quickly changed out of their pajamas. Tobias had behaved like a starved wolf last night, quite unlike how he had been when she first saw him downstairs.

Skylar was kind enough to let him sleep in at her house. It was way too early in the morning, anyway.

However, Tobias placed an arm around her shoulders. Without another word, he steered her out of the door.

It was winter, but the first few rays of the morning sun were already creeping across the horizon, illuminating the cars that were puttering about on the roads.

Skylar got into his car. It was the same one that she had discovered a lipstick stain a few weeks ago, but now it was perfectly clean. She noticed there was a can of xylitol gum in the cupholder.

Skylar popped a gum in her mouth. Her face scrunched up in disgust immediately—it was mint-flavored.

"Be careful," Tobias drawled lazily. "Those are aphrodisiacs."

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Skylar froze and nearly swallowed the entire stick of gum in her shock.

Tobias burst into laughter. "Did you really believe that? Oh, what a foolish child."

He sounded rather affectionate when he said that. Skylar rolled her eyes at him and continued chewing on the stick of gum.

"Aren't you going to talk about your work?" Tobias asked.

"What's there to talk about? If I'm not going for an outdoor shoot, I'm in the filming studio."

Tobias shot her a dark look. "Two people need to share a common topic of interest if they want to have a better relationship with each other, especially two people from different industries. Aside from what we do in bed, we seem to have nothing to each other to talk about."

His words pierced her heart like a dagger. As Skylar looked out of the window, she said dully, "You should go look for a career woman to suit you better."

She had twisted his words entirely. However, Tobias couldn't be bothered to reply her. He had even downloaded Instagram for her sake in order to understand what went on in the entertainment industry.

Evidently, he did put some effort into this relationship.

Before Skylar got off the car, Tobias said placidly, "I'll be there tonight, too. I hope you'll wear that G-string I gave you and come greet me at the door."

"In your dreams!"

He knew she was still angry with him because of what he said in the car. He didn't continue to beg her, but he knew he could simply force her to do it in bed later on.

Tobias admitted he was a little wild in bed. He had many kinks, and he liked spicing up things most of the time. However, Skylar was easily embarrassed by this sort of things. Whenever he suggested them, she clamped up in fear and ruined the mood immediately.

Unlike some of the crazier girls he had slept with, Skylar was shy with these things. Tobias had tried to tone it down as much as he could and be more patient with her.

A man and a woman had to be on the same page when it came to this. Only then could they have an enjoyable time in bed.

As Skylar climbed out of the Porsche, Tyler spotted her from a distance away.

He smiled wickedly and muttered to himself, "See, I was right! She has a sugar daddy, after all. That Porsche alone cost at least five million."

Behind him, Harry, who had gotten up too early in the morning, shut his eyes tiredly. "I can't believe the company wants me to couple up with her. What if we offend her sugar daddy?"

Tyler snorted derisively. "That won't happen. Their relationship is purely transactional; he won't care that much. The company will decide if they want to couple up the both of you after the drama airs. We can't let her mooch off your popularity so easily."

Harry was feeling very miserable. His girlfriend had been kicking up a fuss recently to get him to go public with their relationship. If the company insisted on making him and Skylar a couple, his girlfriend would probably go insane from anger.

As the makeup artist applied her makeup, Skylar played with her phone. Her stylist approached her with a white lace gown and told her to put it on.

Skylar yawned as she entered the changing room. When she took off her clothes and gazed at herself in the mirror, she realized her lily-white skin was covered with purplish-green hickeys. No thanks to Tobias.

Her stylist was rushing her. But if she wore the dress, everyone would know what she did last night!

As the stylist got more impatient, Skylar had no choice but to head back outside. Everyone's gaze was drawn to her naked arm, and the adults knew at once what she had done.

Skylar bore the blazing glares and walked over to the makeup artist stoically. "Can I cover these up with concealer?"

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The makeup artist nodded and got the concealer from the dressing table.

Kate's scowl showed how upset she was as she stood by Skylar's side. Men like Tobias are too kinky and sadistic if they could treat a girl like this? I bet Skylar has been having a hard time ever since they became a couple. Her slender arm is covered with love bites!

Lili covered Skylar's hickey skillfully to match her skin tone.

"Thank you, Lili." Skylar smiled with satisfaction.

After everyone left, Kate took Skylar aside and gave the actress a piece of her mind. "I don't care what you do in private with Tobias, but I don't want this to happen again! You are a rookie making your official debut in showbiz. However, I don't wish to see this happened again in the future. As a public figure, you need to think before you act. To put things bluntly, you're not his whore."

Skylar blushed from the humiliating truth in her agent's words. Kate was right. I have been too giving to Tobias' needs!

She deliberately arrived at the studio earlier because she had many scenes to film. While she was preparing, the director, Vensa, walked towards her with a lady.

Skylar recognized the lady as Sheldon's girlfriend, the trainee she saw at Royal Entertainment previously.

"Skylar, this is Winnie Moore, our second female lead. Please get to know each other." Vensa made the introductions.

Fiona, who was the second female lead and fellow rookie, began shooting with Skylar. Winnie's sudden replacement as the former's role came as a shock.

It was rare to have changes in casting once filming began unless it was by the order of the executive producer. Nonetheless, Fiona's acting was flawless, and she was very cooperative on the set. It was impossible for Mr. Hughes to replace such a fine actress under normal circumstances.

If Winnie had used her connections to get the role, then everything would make sense.

Skylar was reminded of the day when Sheldon had asked Tobias for money to buy his girlfriend a birthday gift. It must be the limited-edition Hermès bag that Winnie's assistant was holding.

The latest member extended her hand to Kate and ignored Skylar. "Nice to meet you, Kate. I'm Winnie; an actress from Royal Entertainment too."

Kate patronized her with an "Mm."

The latter was pissed by her lack of interest, but she quickly hid her emotions and greeted Skylar with a simple smile before stepping away.

The set was bustling as the director cued for the camera.

Skylar was getting the goosebumps in her thin and white tulle dress as Harry and she were on standby before the camera.

All the characters' names had been re-invented for adaptation purposes. Harry was Hans Cruz, the male lead and she, Lenny Dunn, the female lead. In that scene, Hans was asking Lenny the reason for her wanting to go overseas.

Skylar was quick to get into her character; her emotions and body language complemented her script perfectly. Lenny had to convey her pain to Hans through her eyes when she couldn't find the right words.

In comparison, Harry was acting too hard. He was spitting into her face when the script required Hans to curse.

His acting reminded Skylar of the comedian, Tom Carrey.

He couldn't grasp Hans' emotional state even after Vensa's guidance through the walkie-talkie. Out of frustration, the director got up from her chair to give him a personal show-and-tell. She also advised that his acting style was no longer the trend.

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Vensa unwittingly made a comparison. "This is the difference between an amateur and a professional."

She was indirectly criticizing Harry's performance while praising Skylar, a graduate from the film academy, for her professionalism.

Shortly before they went for lunch break, Harry finally got into the momentum.

Hannah was queuing at the food cart for her lunch, like everyone else.

Suddenly, a young assistant squeezed in and cut the queue.

Hannah adjusted her spectacles and tried to reason with the assistant. "Can't you see that we are queuing? How rude of you to jump in!"

The latter rolled her eyes. "I'm in a rush to get Ms. Moore her food. She has hypoglycemia. If she doesn't take her meals on time, she'll pass out."

The crew tried to talk Hannah into forgiving her, but that only riled her more. She collected two sets of lunch and passed one to Skylar, still fuming.

"What happened? Who offended you?"

Hannah then complained to her about the incident. Since it was a trivial matter, Skylar told her not to make a fuss with Winnie.

Conne Kim, Winnie's assistant, was a familiar sight to the filming crew. Because of her dominating personality, Connie had offended many people. It took her years before she finally became an assistant to rookies.

Skylar realized how blessed to have an agent like Kate, who recruited Hannah. If a woman like Connie became Skylar's assistant, she could only imagine the amount of backstabbing the two-faced tyrant would cause her.

Connie tried to push the blame away when she returned to Winnie. "Skylar must pride herself for being the lead. You should've seen her assistant just now. All I wanted to do was to collect you lunch, but she demanded that I queue up at the back of the line! I can't imagine her arrogance once Skylar shoots to fame!"

"I told Sheldon that I wanted to be the lead, but he turned me down. Skylar isn't famous, and she had the gall to act like a diva."

"I agreed, Winnie. People like her are pretentious. I noticed Harry didn't really care about her but he took the initiative to chat with you."

"Unfortunately, I already have a boyfriend. It is useless no matter what he does."

Connie was full of admiration for Winnie. "The entire filming crew knows you are Sheldon's girlfriend. I can see the envy in their eyes when they look at you."

To maintain her figure, Winnie took several bites of the vegetables inside the lunch box and put the rest away. "Skylar has a sugar daddy to back her up, too. I heard her body was covered with bruises from the abuse. Luckily, Sheldon treats me nicely."

"It is natural for him to treat you well. If I were a man, I would fall for you too. Women like Skylar are only fit to be a mistress."

Skylar's ear was burning. Someone must be gossiping about me behind my back now.

Kate had a condescending look when she watched Skylar eat. "Where on earth can you find another actress who has your appetite?"

Skylar put down her fork. Kate was right. Again. She didn't have the same discipline.

Kate sighed. "You need to bring your weight down to ninety pounds. I believe it's doable."

Skylar slapped her forehead. Huh, talk is cheap. I can't do it unless I fast for the next one month!

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Skylar was allowed to rest for an hour in the afternoon. Hence, she directly went to the motorhome to take a nap.

Kate arranged for fresh flowers to be delivered daily so Skylar could smell the fragrance of jasmine. The agent was always attentive to details.

Skylar left the studio earlier once she was done with her scenes in the evening. On her way home, she received a call from Tobias inviting her to a teahouse for a discussion. After that, they could head back together.

She entered the address into the navigation system and realized the teahouse was far away from her house, in the opposite direction.

Regardless, she arrived at the teahouse, past a rosewood partition, and came to a door where she could hear the boisterous laughter of several men in a room.

One man said, "Mr. Ford, my models are all very young. One of them is only seventeen, a minor. If you are interested, you can have her tonight."

"No thanks. I've been practicing a new routine recently," Tobias drawled.

Skylar was standing by the entrance. The rich really have various forms of ways to pleasure themselves. She thought she was young enough for Tobias' taste. Alas, she was wrong.

She opened the door and entered the room. The men watched as Tobias pulled a chair for her to sit beside him. "When are we leaving?" she asked, showing off her sovereignty.

The man who had introduced girls to Tobias earlier smiled in embarrassment. "Oh, Mr. Ford has a date. My bad for being in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Tobias took his wallet from the table and teased, "Luckily, I didn't take up the offer just now. I'm leaving now."

The way their fingers interlocked together reminded Skylar of Jeremy from her university days. Jeremy used to skip classes and go to cybercafé with his friends. I used to look for him after class so he could send me home. That was ages ago. The cybercafe became a teahouse. Even my friends were gone.

Skylar was dazing when Tobias interrupted her, "You wish to say behind?"

She shook her head.

Tobias knew she was feeling cold, so he held her in his arms to warm her up as soon as they got into the car.

"I hate the way those men teat a woman. Can you stop inviting me to such gatherings?"

He laughed. "The conversation among men usually revolves around woman or money. Don't take it too seriously."

Skylar was worried she might become the topic of their conversation after the meal. "I assumed that includes sex. Have you told them about ours?"

"Nah! I don't need to share our blissful moments with them. There is no reason to prove how good I am in bed as long as you know it."

While having the conversation, Tobias stopped his car at a seafood restaurant.

"Wait for me inside. I'll join you in a while." Tobias helped to unbuckle her seat belt.

However, Skylar remained seated. "I thought we were going home? You haven't eaten yet?"

"Your mom is inside. She wants to meet me."

Finally, Skylar understood his intention. She had underestimated her mom's capability. Miranda managed to contact Tobias directly, without her knowledge. Skylar got off the car and entered the restaurant.

Miranda was sitting in the private room while a waiter served a plate of lobster.

Skylar put her bag down and stared at the table full of seafood. She smacked her lips and asked, "Are you paying for the meal? It's at least three thousand."

Miranda raised a brow. "Of course. Since I invited your boyfriend for dinner, I can't let him pay, right? Only a sumptuous spread is worthy of his status."