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Upon hearing that, Skylar's heart skipped a beat. Brayden is such a jacka*s, much worse than I've expected!

Infuriated, she slammed her hand on the table and tarred everyone with the same brush. "All of you men are despicable creatures! Can you actually sleep at night after impregnating a woman?"

Gazing at her face which had turned red in anger, he chuckled. "Did Brayden force her? Absolutely not. Hence, you can't blame it on one party for it takes two to tango. You should be thankful that you've met a serious and responsible man like me."

She rolled her eyes at him. Sheesh! It's equally selfish to engage in any casual relationship that doesn't end up in a marriage.

He did tell me before that he might not be able to spend a lifetime with me. Does that reflect his serious and responsible attitude?

She asked him, "What if I have your baby? Will you behave like Brayden-toy with me, and then leave me?"

"I don't want to answer a hypothetical question." He dropped the topic.

Skylar did not push it further as she was not interested to discuss the subject in detail with Tobias. Birds of the same feather flock together. They're both the same.

In Skylar's eyes, Tobias was a slightly better scum than Brayden.

Though Quest Group had collapsed, there were still many guests who came forward to celebrate Thomas' birthday with him.

The arrival of Tobias was a big deal. If it were in the past, Thomas would surely felt proud and excited. However, it was not the case that night—he was glum and troubled.

Miranda had been pressuring him to announce his divorce with Irene publicly at the banquet. Otherwise, she threatened to tell the police what happened back then.

Why didn't I steel my heart and kill Miranda in jail last time? Who would have thought she could be acquitted on all counts? Thomas regretted not taking action sooner.

All in all, Miranda's release was made happen after Skylar got together with Tobias. Thomas strongly believed that Tobias played a part in it and admitted his mistake for underestimating Skylar's capabilities.

Irene spotted Miranda in the crowd. While plastering an elegant smile on her face, she shot a questionable gaze at Thomas, which he managed to dodge.

The two women had animosity toward each other for half a century-long. Accompanied by her son, Irene approached Miranda.

"What a surprise! Don't you think it's really inappropriate for you to appear at this banquet? Do you like being a troublemaker so much? Are you too free after being released from jail?" Irene said softly through her gritted teeth.

She did not want others to hear a single word she said.

Miranda stood there, scrutinizing both Irene and Hayden. He's so tall and looks so much like Thomas.

"I return to claim my position as the lady of this house. This will be my home henceforth." Confidently, Miranda stared at Irene with a pair of provocative eyes.

"What nonsense! A crazy woman like you should be kept behind bars until the day you die," Hayden retorted as he glared at Miranda.

He then shifted his gaze to Skylar. This mother-and-daughter pair is unbelievably insolent! They dare to the banquet today, thinking that they have Tobias' backing.

In the past, Skylar was just like a beggar when she came to ask for money. The only difference between now and then is that this beggar now wears a custom-made gown.

Miranda waved at Thomas, who knew he could not escape his fate. At that time, Avery appeared with a three-layer birthday cake.

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Avery was the one who selected the cake personally. She was wearing a white pleated tulle dress and a tiara on her head. Coupled with her exquisite features and curvy figure, one would have assumed it was her birthday.

Meanwhile, Tobias was surrounded by guests who wanted to strike a business relationship with him. Yet, he refused to acknowledge nor give them any response, let alone accepting any of their name cards.

Skylar kept a distance from Tobias at the banquet. She knew that he would not have attended the function if it were not for her.

The ignorant Avery called upon Thomas to cut the cake, giving him an excuse to escape Miranda.

Avery passed the knife to Thomas and gave him a peck on the cheek, leaving a light lipstick stain on his face.

Smiling gleefully, she said coyly, "I'd like to wish my dearest Dad, a happy birthday. You're the best Dad in the whole world. I love you so much!"

While Avery was expressing her heartfelt love to Thomas, Skylar felt so down for not knowing how it was like to be showered with fatherly love. Thomas had channeled all of his attention and affection to Hayden and Avery, leaving none for her.

"The youngest Jones is such a beauty. I heard that she's studying at the film academy. She's probably going to be a famous celebrity in the near future."

"Oh, the way the little princess simpers melts my heart."

"She's only twenty, being in the prime of life."

In a low voice, Tobias reminded Skylar, "If you feel uneasy, we can leave right away."

Skylar took a glance at Miranda and shook her head. "Leave now and let her face this alone? Should I empathize and feel sorry for my mom or support her to be a homewrecker?"

Tobias replied indifferently, "I think you already have the answer."

A hostile look settled upon her face. None of them is a saint. Irene was a mistress whereas my mom keeps getting herself entangled in this mess though she's unwanted. In a nutshell, she concluded that it was all Thomas' fault for being a womanizer.

Only in novels would there be unrealistic praises or positive characteristics written about a disloyal husband and a mistress.

"Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for coming from near and far. I have an important announcement to make today." Faced with Miranda's coercive gaze, Thomas was about to bring up the dreaded topic.

Right then, there was complete silence in the room. The guests were anticipating good news, namely, Irene was pregnant.

Thomas looked in the direction of Irene but did not maintain eye contact with her. He uttered, "Let's get a divorce."

Skylar squeezed Tobias' hand tightly. Oh my, he did it! It's exactly like what I've visualized in my nightmare.

The people in the room froze in shock, contrasting to Miranda's delightful expression.

Baffled, Irene looked at Thomas in the eye. "Is this a joke? Are you out of your mind?"

At that moment, Miranda, who was wearing a brown gown, strode to the center of the room and held Thomas' hand. "I'm sorry, Irene, time's up. Thanks for taking care of my man all these years. You've done a lot. Now that I'm back, you can step back into your little corner. I told you, I'm here to reclaim my position as Mrs. Jones."

Irene was dejected. Avery went ballistic as she yelled, "Get out of here, you crazy woman! You're not welcome."

With a clenched fist, Hayden was about to throw a punch at Miranda. Thankfully, he was stopped by Skylar, who rushed to block in front of her mother.

She advised him calmly, "Don't act in a rash. Is it necessary for you to create a scene when millions are watching us right now?"