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He even sacrificed his marriage just so he could return to Miranda's side and get the help he needed from Skylar. It seemed like he had overestimated Tobias' love for Skylar. Guess I'll have to wait a few more days before handing over the letter of intent to Tobias.

After the others had left, Skylar got up and went to the kitchen, with Tobias following behind her.

Skylar had a sullen look on her face as she was washing the vegetables. Tobias closed the faucet and queried, "Are you angry with me? I only did it in order to avoid being threatened like this again."

Skylar smiled and replied, "Yes, you're right. There was nothing wrong with what you did. I'm not going to be angry over trivial matters. If I were that petty, I would've left you a long time ago."

Watching as Skylar took the ingredients out of the refrigerator, Tobias changed the topic of the conversation. "It's just the two of us. You don't need to cook so much. I'll be fine with just a dish or two."

"Penelope is also coming over to eat with us."

Tobias shrugged his shoulders. I thought the reason she was cooking personally for me.

Skylar spent the whole morning cooking in the kitchen. Tobias was originally assisting her but was pushed out of the kitchen after a while.

Skylar was shocked to see Tobias being so meticulous in washing the vegetables. It took

him more than half an hour to finish washing a stack of spinach.

Tobias' mysophobia is getting out of hand.

It would've taken a whole day for him just to finish washing the ingredients.

A while later, Tobias heard a knock on the door while he was watching TV in the living room.

He opened the door and was greeted by Penelope and Brayden.

Brayden was rather surprised to see Tobias showing up on Christmas day given how strict

and complicated the family rules of the Fords were.

He was incredulous that Tobias would choose to spend the festive day here.

Could it be that Mr. Ford has become gentler and more carefree now?  
Skylar, who was still in her apron, walked out of the kitchen. The smile on her face disappeared when she saw Brayden.  
As much as she disliked Brayden, she didn't kick him out of the house for Penelope's sake.  
Brayden lighted a cigarette in front of Penelope as he was glancing over the interior of the house.  
Hanging on the wall was a painting worth millions named "Sunflowers," painted by Van Gogh.  
This painting must be the real deal. There's no way someone as proud as Tobias would deign to buy a counterfeit.  
Meanwhile, Penelope was covering her nose with her hand as the smoke from the cigarette was making her queasy.  
"She's currently pregnant with your child. How can you be so callous?" uttered Tobias.

Unperturbed, Brayden exhaled a cloud of smoke. "What's the big deal? A little smoke won't hurt anyone. My father also smoked when my mother was pregnant with me."  
Miffed, Tobias took Brayden to the balcony upstairs and let him smoke there instead.  
Thus, Penelope was left alone in the living room.  
"Your wife didn't say anything about this?" Tobias looked concerned.  
Brayden replied, "We had an argument as I was leaving the house just now. She wanted to know who I am going out with."  
Tobias queried, "So what do you plan to do next? It's too late for her to get an abortion now.  
Whether you like it or not, you're going to have another son. I swear, even a pig can't produce offspring as fast as you do."  
After hearing Tobias' question, Brayden was stupefied.  
He let out a chuckle before answering, "What more can I do? I can't exactly divorce my current wife and marry her. It was her own choice to get pregnant. I didn't force it upon her."  
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Having already predicted Penelope's future, Tobias didn't show any sympathy toward her. He was more worried about Skylar getting affected by all of this.  
This friend of hers is definitely plotting something.

If Skylar knew that Brayden was coming, she wouldn't have put in the effort to cook so much.

She wouldn't even let Brayden in if it weren't for Penelope.

When Skylar walked into the living room, she saw that Penelope was sitting on the couch by herself. With the remote control in her hand, Penelope was aimlessly switching between the TV channels.

"Where are they?" Skylar brought a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice over to Penelope.

She even added some sugar as Penelope preferred sweet drinks.

"They went upstairs to smoke." Penelope took a sip on her orange juice.

What could they be talking about right now? The thought of Tobias hanging out with a guy

like Brayden was bothering Skylar.

Just like how the thought of Skylar hanging out with Penelope had bothered Tobias before.

That being said, they were respectful enough to restrain themselves from interfering with

each other's personal relationships.

When Tobias and Brayden came back downstairs, the dishes were served on the table.

Gazing at the various dishes on the table, Tobias was astonished. I didn't know Skylar was

this good at cooking.

This is a big step up from the pasta she usually makes.

Grilled salmon, pot roast, lobster stew...

Tobias was getting ravenous just from the appearance of the dishes.

"Not too shabby. So my girlfriend can indeed cook if she puts her mind into it, huh?"

Tobias

complimented Skylar.

Penelope replied proudly, "Skylar's skills are on par with that of the chefs in restaurants.

Back when she was still dating Jeremy, she was the one who transformed him from a scrawny man to the plump man that he is today."

Skylar glared at Penelope with her eyes wide-opened. This girl is blabbering on again. Peeved, Tobias had a sulky expression on his face. Penelope immediately realized that she

had inadvertently offended him. Why did I bring up Skylar's ex? How can I be so daft and

stupid?

Tobias responded with a chilly voice, "I got a different treatment thought. All I got was pasta."

After hearing Tobias's statement, Skylar was riled up. What is he getting so frustrated? Back

when I got into a fake relationship, he didn't even bother.

She replied, "I didn't have much to do back then. Now that I have to work, I don't have the

energy to cook when I get home. Plus, it's not like you're coming home for dinner every day.

There were a few instances where I had to finish all the dishes on my own because you

stood me up!"

Fraught with guilt, Tobias was reticent. Brayden poured a glass of wine for him before

uttering, "Now, now. We shouldn't let the food on the table go to waste. Let's enjoy the food

and drinks!"

Tobias pushed the glass of wine away. "I'm feeling a bit under the weather today. I won't be

drinking tonight."

Brayden rubbed his nose and sighed. "It's been a long time since we last had a drink together. I really thought that we could finally get the chance to drink together again,

but I

guess not."

Tobias seems quite cautious around liquors. And yet, he was willing to drink the wine offered by my parents yesterday. Did he do it out of respect for my family? If so,

that's pretty

considerate of him.

Brayden finished most of the dishes. He was showering Skylar with incessant praises on her

cooking skills.

At the same time, he was also grumbling about how useless Penelope was compared to

Skylar.

Infuriated, Penelope retorted, "I'll get Skylar to teach me her cooking skills and make you eat

your words! Once I become better at cooking, I'll then be able to make you stay by my side

forever."

Brayden feigned ignorance on her statement and remained silent.