

**In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter  
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Sheldon did not greet her as enthusiastically as he usually did. Instead, he had a grave expression on his face as he remained silent.

Skylar had never seen Sheldon that way before.

“Skylar’s thinking of having some seafood. You’re okay with that, right?”

In a sarcastic tone, Sheldon answered, “I thought we were going to have tacos, but it seems

like Skylar’s preferences are changing, huh? It seems like her tastebuds now crave better food.”

Skylar gave him a small smile. “I’m just worried that you might be upset about eating tacos

with me all the time. Won’t it demean your status as a rich man?”

Skylar knew why Sheldon was acting in this way; she knew Winnie must have said something to Sheldon.

Glancing at Sheldon, Tobias uttered, “You should appreciate the fact that you’re getting to

eat. Why are you so picky?”

Sheldon was in a foul mood. Ever since Skylar appeared, his place in his brother’s heart had

been plummeting.

Thus, he complained, “Tobias, can’t you be fairer? Stop acting bias toward Skylar.

Skylar was

mean to my girlfriend, but you didn’t even bat an eyelash at it. Don’t you know how embarrassed I was in front of Winnie?”

By then, the trio had arrived outside a Ferropenian restaurant.

Sheldon’s expression was as dark as the night, and it was as if he was a sulky child.

He kept complaining in the car, and Tobias ignored him the entire way.

Upon thinking about how Tobias looked down on her stingy ways, Skylar pursed her lips.

She was not one who did not mind troubling others.

When others treated her to a meal, she dared not order expensive dishes so that they would

not need to spend so much on her. She did the same even when the other person is a rich

man.

However, under Sheldon’s watchful eyes, she ordered six plates of lobsters.

At that, Sheldon grunted, “Aren’t you afraid of getting a gout attack if you eat that much?

You’ll get an early death if you eat much more than others.”

Skylar furrowed her brows and uttered, "I'm still young. What does gout have anything to do with me?"

Sheldon then pointed at Tobias, who was pouring wine into his glass. "Your man's old. You can't just think about yourself."

Hearing him, Tobias narrowed his eyes and hissed, "None of my foot is in the grave yet."

Putting one of the lobsters on his plate, Sheldon then said, "Tobias, my bar's business is doing quite well. Don't you think you should reward me for it?"

In response, Tobias frowned. "It's been so long, but you haven't gotten much profit. Yet, you're asking me for a reward?"

Sheldon grumbled, "Your standards are too high. It's already an improvement that I'm not losing any money in my business. I want a house. I've recently fallen in love with a mountain villa. It's not that expensive. It's only around fifty million."

No wonder Tobias looks down on my stingy ways. Fifty million is a lot to me, but it's barely anything to Sheldon.

No wonder others always talk about how you should marry someone of a similar status. If you're born into a different world, you think differently.

However, Skylar knew it would be a bad idea to have a falling out with Sheldon, so she did not voice out loud about how the house he wanted must be for Winnie.

In the past, Winnie often talked about how she wanted to buy a house in the area for her parents in interviews.

To her fans, she was a hardworking girl who wanted the best for her parents. Yet, Winnie was actually hinting at Sheldon.

Skylar thought Sheldon was a playboy, but she now realized she was wrong. A man in love was a man blind.

Hearing Tobias' silence, Sheldon panicked and pleaded, "Tobias, just say yes to me. Look at how hardworking and reliable I've been recently. I'll be even more motivated with rewards."

Skylar thought, Chances are, Tobias won't say yes.

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"Okay. Tell Susan which house you like."

His answer made Skylar screamed in her mind, He's spoiling his brother!  
With what Sheldon was earning recently, Tobias was sure that he would not be able to even buy the bathroom of the villa.

Finally, Sheldon revealed the first smile of the day. Seemingly gloating, he then glanced at Skylar.  
For the rest of the meal, Sheldon happily ate three lobsters. By the end of it, his stomach was filled, and he even gained a villa. In other words, he was in a great mood. When he left, he was even humming a tune. A short distance away from the restaurant, he hurriedly called Winnie and told her about how he had gotten the villa. Meanwhile, the driver was already waiting by the doorway. When they came out of the restaurant, Skylar and Tobias then entered the car.  
After returning home, Skylar headed straight to the bathroom to shower and wash up, for the scent of lobster was still in her mouth. When she was done and in the middle of brushing her teeth, she heard the sounds of television coming from the living room. However, there were no lights on downstairs. When she went downstairs, she saw the light from the television casting a blue glow on Tobias' face.  
Walking closer, she realized Tobias was not watching a classic movie that she originally thought he was. Instead, he was watching her television show, Unrequited Love. The character she played in the show was much younger than her actual age. On-screen, she was wearing a blue and white school uniform as she and Harry sat on a rock, talking about their plans for the future.  
When Tobias spotted Skylar, he turned off the television and commented, "It looks boring."  
Skylar shrugged. "Shows like these aren't your taste. These are for the young people."  
Tobias' brows knitted. "I'm not in my seventies. Is my age troubling you?"  
At that, Skylar quickly added, "I'm just joking. What I mean is that shows like these aren't meant for people who prefer meaningful shows."

Tobias did not disagree with her. No wonder Skylar's reputation in the entertainment industry isn't high. It'll be tough for her to climb up the ranks in the industry with soap operas.

Noting that she had yet to change into her pajamas, Tobias reached out to take her chin and kiss her. At the end of the day, a woman was the best cure for a man's boredom. Skylar's bathrobe was only loosely on her frame, and Tobias' hand snuck inside. Touching her smooth skin, he praised, "You're quite sensible to not wear your undergarments once I'm back."

His hand remained in the same place as Skylar took off her bathrobe. Then, Tobias kissed that spot.

At his bite, Skylar winced.

With his hand wrapped around her thin waist, Tobias whispered, "Eat more. Stop losing weight."

He had a neutral look on his face when he said those words, but Skylar could hear his concern.

However, she only gave him a half-hearted nod, as she knew Tobias did not know how important body shape was for a female celebrity.

Just before their passionate act reached its peak, Tobias carried her upstairs. Skylar panted, "Someone's looking for you."

One of Tobias' hands was around her waist as he undid his belt with his other hand. "Ignore it."

Nevertheless, the phone kept ringing. Annoyed by the constant noise, Tobias pressed a pacifying kiss on her cheek and said, "I'll come back to deal with you in a bit."

When he picked up the call, an endearing smile crept upon his lips, for he had seen the way Skylar was using the blanket to cover herself.

However, that smile dropped the moment he heard the voice in the call. "It isn't convenient for me right now. We'll meet tomorrow."

Skylar had good hearing, and she heard the soft female voice from the other end of the line.

After all, the room had been quiet.

She had heard how the woman had called Tobias; she had called him Tobi.

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At that moment, she realized she always called Tobias either Tobias or Mr. Ford.

After the call ended, Skylar muttered with a hint of displeasure in her tone, "A woman is calling you late at night, and she's talking to you so intimately, too. Although I'm no one of yours, you can't pretend as if I'm not in the room."

Tobias touched her lips and replied, "Just an old friend. Don't take it to heart. Shall we continue?"

Lying down on the bed, Skylar said, "My passion died when I heard Tobi."

Tobias then pulled the blanket away and exposed Skylar's body to the air. His hand trailed

down the side of her body as he murmured, "Are you a dog? Why is your hearing that good?"

By the time Tobias saw Idania again, ten years had passed.

Idania had never thought that Tobias had not changed his number in ten years.

When she

made the call, she did not have high hopes for him to pick up. Yet, it was Tobias who took

the call.

When the two met again, the moment felt awkward. However, unlike her, it seemed like

Tobias was completely unaffected, for he still looked calm as ever. He still looked like the same man in her memories.

"How have you been?" Idania's voice was as gentle as it always was.

With one hand twirling a cigarette, Tobias replied, "Neither good nor bad. It's just life as always."

Idania raised her head to look at him. Tobias was Ford Group's CEO. Life as usual was an

understatement for the great life he was having.

That was the Tobias she knew. No matter how great he was, he never gloated about it. He

always kept a low profile.

Idania thought she would have many things she wanted to talk to Tobias about. Yet, only

when they met, then did she realize what it meant to feel reserved and fearful.

"I heard you're getting married soon. I didn't get the chance to congratulate you."

"The engagement has been called off," came Tobias' reply.

Almost immediately, delight was in Idania's eyes. "You're single now? Why did you change

your mind so suddenly?"

"I'm not single. I have someone I'm dating."

Bitterness rose in Idania's heart upon hearing his response. In the end, Tobias has forgotten

about our promise. I'm afraid I'm the only one who's trying to cling to that promise of ours.

Forcing a smile on her face, she said, "I'm not going to leave this time; I'm planning to stay here."

Tobias did not know where Idania had been all these years, but he was not interested in asking what her plans would be either. To him, she was just a small part of his life, and he felt that her plan was part of her privacy.

Tobias knew her well. Idania was someone who planned out almost every part of her life, and she knew what she wanted. Back then, he was evidently not included in her plans.

Subconsciously, he would compare Skylar and Idania. Skylar lived her life somewhat in a daze, and she took everything one step at a time.

That was something Tobias did not like.

Right then, the server brought a plate of foie gras with cherry to their table. The color was a beautiful creamy white.

Idania took a small piece, but just as she raised the fork to her lips, she lowered her arm.

Softly, she said, "I can't finish all of it. I'm on a diet. Is it okay if you take half of it?"

It was then Tobias recalled that Idania had always been like that. She always gave him half of her food, and she always fed him the food.

Lifting a brow, he smiled. "Do you still need to be on diet with that figure of yours?"

"Do I not?" Idania raised her head and puffed up her chest. "Which parts of me do you think have changed?"

Tobias only smiled in response. Idania had barely changed. Time had barely left its mark on

her, and the only thing she gained was a stronger sense of feminine maturity.

She was smart, and she knew how to tease him.

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From the start to the end, Tobias never touched the foie gras.

Outside the restaurant was a drizzle that soon passed. It was as if it had never rained.

Staring at the untouched plate of foie gras, Idania thought, It's been ten years. If I had tried

harder back then, we might have a kid by now.

When she saw the loving family enjoying their meal beside them, Idania averted her eyes. I  
have a great career, but I've sacrificed my love life for it.  
The meal ended earlier than Idania had expected it to. When they were done, Tobias  
stood  
up and folded his black jacket over his arm.  
Right then, the child by the next table accidentally smeared his ice cream on Tobias'  
pants  
while playing with his sister.  
Instantly, Tobias frowned.  
Holding onto the melting ice cream, the boy mumbled, "Mister, I'm sorry. I didn't  
mean to do  
it."  
It seemed like Tobias was frustrated, for he left with a sour look almost immediately.  
On the other hand, Idania crouched down as she looked at the boy with gentle eyes.  
"Here, wipe your hands. You won't like how sticky your hands are," she said as she  
gave him  
a piece of tissue.  
At the same time, she watched Tobias leave from the corner of her eyes. As always,  
he did  
not like children.  
At the suburban district, Skylar stared at the gloomy skies when the cold wind blew.  
A storm  
is about to come.  
Hurriedly, she rushed to the elevators. She was there to deliver food to Penelope.

When Skylar pressed the doorbell, Penelope was slow to get to the door, for she was  
pregnant.  
"I've gotten everything you wanted, and you can actually order delivery, but you just  
had to  
insist for me to come."  
Skylar's arms were sore from carrying the things. She had bought everything from  
the  
supermarket according to the list Penelope had given her, and Skylar knew the  
amount of  
groceries would last a week. However, Penelope seemed unfazed by Skylar's words.  
As she poured her a glass of water, she replied, "I've run out of money, so I can't  
order  
delivery."  
At that, Skylar hastily asked, "Where did all your money go? Why are you living so  
terribly?  
How could you not have enough money to buy food?"  
It was then Penelope told Skylar where she had spent her money on—prenatal  
checkups,  
medical fees for delivery, and baby necessities.

As Penelope was planning to give birth to her child at Concord Hospital, her medical fees had been terrifying to look at. Without getting a package deal there, every visit cost her several thousand.

The more Skylar listened to her, the more confused she became. "Shouldn't Brayden be the one paying for all these? You're giving birth to his child. Although that doesn't mean he has to pay for everything, he still should be paying for part of it. You don't even have a job right now; where would you get your money from?"

A few days ago, Penelope had just been telling her how Brayden was going to buy her a house. Now, she could not even afford to get delivery.

Yet, Penelope was still forgiving with Brayden. "He's too busy recently. He'll pay me back for all these in the future."

At that, Skylar then transferred fifty thousand to Penelope.

She was not actually someone who would do anything for others. If Penelope was not her best friend, she would not have bothered herself with her matters.

Penelope was quick to thank her as she promised to give her back the money as soon as she could.

However, Skylar rejected her. "Just think of it as a gift for you to buy clothes for my godson.

It won't be right for you to pay me back for a gift I'm getting for your child."

However, Penelope had noticed how much skinnier Skylar was in comparison to her last

visit. Thus, she was sure that Skylar was hectic at work.

Hence, she insisted, "No. This is your hard-earned money. I'll pay you back when Brayden gives me money."

When Skylar realized Penelope was going to pay her back with Brayden's money, she subtly flinched.

Not wanting to continue the topic, Skylar put on an apron and went to the kitchen.

She felt

bad that Penelope was ignored by others even when she was about to give birth soon.

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In fact, Penelope had told her earlier that she had yet to have anything to eat since the

morning, and it was already three in the afternoon.  
After making a simple dish for Penelope, Skylar left in a hurry.  
Although she had made sure her cap was covering her face, Zelda, who came down from a blue Porsche, still recognized her.

Skylar knew it was not a coincidence for her to encounter Zelda here. After all, it was impossible for someone like Zelda to appear in a small residential area like this. The only reason for her visit would be that she was here for Penelope.  
When the two locked eyes, Skylar looked away guiltily before saying, "Ms. York, what a coincidence."  
Taking out a cigarette from the box, Zelda placed it between her red lips before answering,  
"Yes, what a coincidence. Ms. Jones, do you live here? This doesn't seem like Mr. Ford's style. This place doesn't suit your current status."  
Skylar chuckled. "My friend lives here, so I came to visit her."  
At that, Zelda stared at Skylar and uttered, "Then, it is such a coincidence. I'm not going to go in. Please tell your friend, Ms. Jones, that I know there's nothing to do now that the baby is too big. She can have it if she wants to. However, I'd say she'll be losing more than gaining."  
Skylar froze as Zelda flashed her a smile. Zelda knows everything. She just never said anything until now.  
It seemed as though she did not care about anything, but actually, she knew everything about what Brayden was doing.  
Hence, Skylar did not explain on behalf of Penelope. After all, Penelope was the one who had done wrong in this matter. No explanations would be able to make her the one in the right.  
That was why Skylar said, "I'll convey your message to her. Ms. York, are you going back now? My friend isn't at home."  
There were many videos of wives beating up mistresses circulating on the internet. Skylar did not want the same to happen to Penelope.  
Penelope's stomach was gigantic by now. If anything physical were to happen, she might die along with her baby.

Zelda snorted. She knew Skylar was afraid that she would make things difficult for the mistress. How foolish. I'll be dirtying my hands if I were to deal with that b\*tch myself.

The words "let me leave" were written all over Skylar's face, so Zelda turned to go back into the car. Before she left, she wound down the window and reminded, "Don't assume that youth is everything for a girl. None of these men are good people. You think they're in love with you, but you're wrong. They're all heartless men."

Skylar knew what Zelda meant. The latter was reminding her that the chances for her to have a bad ending were high.

After the other woman left, Skylar took out her phone and searched for Penelope in her contacts.

With her head lowered, she rapidly typed out a whole paragraph of words, persuading Penelope to plan for her future and warning her against thinking that Brayden would give her anything. Skylar even told her not to destroy someone else's marriage.

However, just as her finger hovered over the send button, she deleted everything. Penelope would not heed her words, anyway.

Winnie was suffering because of what Skylar had done. Winnie debuted in a talent show, and those who entered the entertainment industry through talent shows were known to be exceptionally resistant to scandals.

When her fans realized she was getting bullied, they began attacking others online. They had been lying in wait when Winnie's haters were thriving. Once the rumors died down, they reemerged.

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Skylar's such a pretentious bitch. She's deliberately making Winnie accuse her of something before pretending to be pitiful. Disgusting.

Our Winnie doesn't know how to stand up for herself. Poor girl. She doesn't know that she has to tell others about it.

Winnie's boyfriend is Sheldon Ford. I'm sure Skylar's going to be boycotted soon. Get out of the showbiz, Skylar Jones!

Skylar clicked into their accounts when she saw their comments. I'm not dead yet, but someone's taken a post-mortem photo of me. I can't believe they even said that they're going to send me a memorial wreath if I keep bullying Winnie. It was a familiar sight to Skylar, and she was sure that someone was stirring the pot in Winnie's fanbase. There was no point getting frustrated over the mess, so Skylar put her phone away. Well, it's free popularity. I might as well enjoy it. In fact, Skylar even thought, Thanks, Winnie's fan, for tagging me in your post. I'm actually gaining more followers on my Instagram. Who cares if they're haters. They're all people at the end of the day. Instead, she waited quietly for Kate to introduce the director to her. Kate arrived in a rush. She then kept the door open for the man behind her, Josiah Zimmermann, to enter. Promptly, Skylar stood up to greet the man with a smile. When she stared at Josiah's signature mustache, she wondered, Won't pieces of his salad get stuck on that?

Josiah was the stereotypical stern director. He was unimpressed by Skylar's greeting with a smile as he snapped, "What's the point of having a mouth?" Then, he turned to complain to Kate, "All young people are like her. They don't even know to greet properly." Instead of panicking, Skylar greeted, "Hello, Mr. Zimmermann, I'm Skylar Jones." With a smile on her lips, Kate glanced at Skylar with displeased eyes. She had always found Skylar's communication skills to be dissatisfactory. Her shy personality was exceptionally annoying to her, for the smarter ones would have acted enthusiastic from the start. Kate found her insensible, as Skylar was not as good in buttering others up as the other girls. "We actually had an actress in mind, but the producers weren't satisfied with her. Instead, they wanted Skylar to be in it. I was wondering if you've had a hand in this matter." Josiah was disgruntled about the matter. The producers had insisted on having Skylar as one of the main characters, and she did not even need to audition for the role. That was

something directors despised most.

Hearing him, Skylar frowned. She knew nothing before hearing his words. In fact, Kate had

been the one who abruptly asked her to meet the director.

Kate was quick to refute Josiah's words. "Royal Entertainment aren't investing in this.

The

producers must have chosen her to cater to the market."

At that, Josiah rubbed his temples. "Avery, the poor girl. She's such a great actress, and

she's been training for this for three months. She hasn't even found out she's been replaced

yet."

Skylar then sat down on the opposite of Josiah, thinking, What a small world. While it's

normal to fight for a role in the entertainment industry, I never thought I'd ever snatch the

role from my sister.

Skylar was actually uninterested in the show. It did not matter to her whether she would be

in it or not. After all, media franchises like these were risky to be in. If anything went wrong,

the novel fan would be screaming and cursing at her for ruining the role.

That was what happened in Unrequited Love. Even now, the novel fan still said that her

character was too pretty to be kind.

Somehow, they made it seem like being beautiful was her fault.

At the start, she was not enthusiastic about Josiah's appearance. However, things were

different a moment later.

Skylar was quick to change her expression into a miserable one. "Mr. Zimmermann, this is

the company's decision, so I can't intervene in it. The only thing I can say is that I'll do my

best not to disappoint you. I'll join the training."

Josiah was silent as he stared at Skylar for a long time. Then, he said, "You look quite like

Avery, but Avery looked more innocent."

In response, Skylar said, "When I take off my makeup, the others say I look like a junior high

student. My makeup's a little heavy today."

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Since things had already concluded, there was nothing more Josiah could say. He was

forced to give in to money. "I'll negotiate your next job with your manager. I hope you don't cause trouble for me."

Skylar looked at him with sparkly eyes as she said countless words of gratitude and expressed her determination.

The sight made Kate dumbfounded. Moments ago, she had thought that Skylar was not being enthusiastic enough. However, in a split second, she seemed to have become a different person.

It's pretty hard to guess this little lady.

Just then, Valerie called on Skylar to head upstairs.

Concerning Valerie, Skylar did know quite a bit about her matters. Apparently, she had been

beside Tobias when he was first starting his own business.

Similarly, he also attached great importance to Valerie. For instance, he had directly made

her the executive president of Royal Entertainment.

As soon as Skylar entered the office, Valerie asked, "Have you been through the discussion

with Mr. Zimmermann?" She then turned off the computer and leaned back on the chair. As

usual, her gaze was aggressive.

In Skylar's eyes, Valerie's appearance looked mean. They say that one's appearance determined about a third of one's personality. Thus, there was perhaps no artiste in the

company who was not afraid of Valerie. In secret, they were calling her Madam Killer and

Devil.

The title of "Madam" blatantly mocked Valerie's single status, for she was already in her

thirties but had no man. Some said that even male flies did not go near her.

Skylar replied, "It's basically confirmed. I haven't received the script yet though."

Valerie then said, "There's no hurry. It will take some time for the project to begin, for

planning to start, and for the actors to receive special training. As for you acting as the

female protagonist, I'm not optimistic about it."

Even though Skylar had to hear such frustrating words, there was still a signature fake smile

on her face. "If my acting is bad, I can practice. My acting skills have to be good enough for

me to pass."

Valerie sneered. She had on a sarcastic, contemptuous smile as she said, "I quite hate

people who rely on relations. I came from the countryside and worked hard to get myself to

where I am today. But others can easily get what someone else wants. It's no different from getting something without doing anything. This time, Mr. Ford specifically said he wanted

you to act in it. According to your market ratings, many others in the company surpass you.

So technically, this role shouldn't be yours... Do you understand?"

Upon hearing her words, Skylar felt embarrassed. Her entire body heated up, and it felt like

she had nowhere to hide.

However, she had no way to rebut Valerie. If it were not for Avery, she would never have

accepted something she had not gained by herself either.

Avery had snatched too many things away from her...

Skylar took a deep breath and replied, "I'll remember your words, Ms. Fey. I won't give up on

this role. If we only blindly follow the market ratings, those at the bottom will never make it

in the industry. In the first place, it is a very unfair model."

Valerie sneered. "There's not a lot of fairness in the world. Did you get that role fairly?"

I hope

Mr. Ford doesn't hear about whatever I told you today. But even if he knew, it's no big deal.

We've gone through a lot together for so many years. You've only been beside him for a

short while. I think we have to be self-conscious."

Little by little, the sky darkened outside, just as Skylar's mood did.

Unable to hide her emotions, Skylar's bad mood and unhappiness were all written on her

face.

As soon as Skylar came out from Valerie's office, Kate had noticed the clues and sensed

that something was wrong with her. She appeared to have taken a blow.

Thus, Kate asked, "What did Valerie say to you? You look so lifeless."

Skylar replied, "Nothing much. It's not anything pleasant, but you can't find any reason to

argue back too. I'll just listen and forget it."

Kate smirked. "You can also interpret it as she's jealous of you."

Skylar took a sip of coffee, for she was desperately in need of some energy right then. She was in a terrible mood, was hungry, and even had a headache. "What's she jealous about? She's in her thirties and has already got everything she wants. There's nothing about me that she'd be jealous of." However, as an experienced person, Kate had already seen through everything. She got straight to the point and asked, "What do you think Valerie lacks right now?" Skylar pondered and replied, "A man?" Kate then patted her on the thigh in acknowledgment. "She's jealous of Tobias' kindness to you. She's been beside him for so many years and definitely has some feelings for him. For a man like Tobias, you'd be hooked even if you only saw him once, much less if you've been by his side for so long." In reality, Skylar had never considered such a thing before and had never thought that Valerie's single status for so many years had anything to do with Tobias. Isn't that stupid? She wasted most of her youth waiting for someone but still ended up lonely? That day, after she left the company, Skylar immediately got a taxi home. If it were the past, she would have taken the subway instead. However, more and more people were starting to recognize her. The last time she took the subway, someone had taken a photo of her and posted it online. In the comments, some had said that she was putting up a front.

Moreover, others also said that she had no morals and wanted to disrupt public order. Skylar was speechless about such keyboard warriors. Since when had my popularity gotten to that extent? When she eventually arrived outside her house, she noticed that the lights were switched on inside. Tobias didn't say he'd be over tonight. She then entered her password and opened the door only to see Tobias reading in the living room. As soon as he saw her, he put the book down on the coffee table. There were also many yellow-colored containers atop the coffee table. "You didn't text that you'd be over today," she said as she bent over to take off her stiletto heels.

She had no idea why such international big-name high heels were so expensive. They rubbed against the feet and were uncomfortable, clearly not caring for the user's comfort at all.

"I suddenly decided to come and see you."

Moving over to the sofa, she then sat down and glanced at the book he was reading.

It was

neither a book about success nor was it a self-help book.

The title read: War and Peace. As soon as Skylar noticed the title, she lost interest, for she

did not read such literary masterpieces. At the age when she loved to read, she mostly read

romance novels.

Of the books she read, Sense & Sensibility was one that left a larger impression on her. Back

then, she envied Marianne Dashwood a lot because she met John Willoughby. He was

attractive and was the man of all women's dreams.

However, once she grew up, Skylar came to realize how distorted her views were back then.

As a result, she later came to dislike John and instead supported Colonel Brandon.

Noticing that she seemed to be absent-minded, Tobias asked, "Why? Am I not welcome? If

I'm not, I can leave."

Only upon hearing his question did she snap back to reality. She smiled and replied, "It's all

written on my face. You're very welcome here."

He then pointed at the several glass containers on the table. "My chef made a few dishes

tonight that were quite good, so I got them to make another serving for you. Just heat it in

the microwave, and you can eat it."

In reality, such details made her touched, even more so than receiving diamond necklaces

did.

After all, it showed that he had thought of her. However, he had forgotten what she previously said. She did not eat after six o'clock.

For some reason, Tobias often neglected a lot of her words.

Yet, to prevent him from thinking that she was putting up a front, she took the containers

and headed into the kitchen to warm the dishes up.

From the living room, he said, "There's some spaghetti in the pot. It's already cooked. Just

heat the other dishes."

Skylar then stuck out from behind the wall and replied, "I just got home and haven't even had time to take a breath. Why can't you help me warm them up?"

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She had only suddenly thought of it and simply wanted to casually complain about it.

Outside, the winds were raging, but it was warm in the villa. She was afraid she would ruin

the good atmosphere that night.

Whenever she interacted with Tobias, she always told herself not to be silly and to forget it.

However, there was always some anxiousness present, and she could never be fully relaxed.

Once she said those words, Tobias, who had picked up his book again, put it aside and went

to the kitchen to help her.

After all, if she had not mentioned anything, he would never have thought of it and would

have felt that she was too hypocritical.

Moreover, such a small matter was ultimately within his power and was not tiring to do at

all.

He did not understand what was going on in women's minds and what they were thinking.

However, he did not want to understand them either.

When he entered, Skylar had already heated the dishes. She then opened the pot and took

out a serving of spaghetti.

Something doesn't look right about this spaghetti.

She asked, "Do you want to eat? Should I get another set of utensils out?"

"I already ate. These dishes are for you," he replied as he helped to open the boxes and

placed them on the table.

Moreover, he was afraid that she would complain about working all day and being tired but

having no one to give her some water. As a result, he poured her a glass of warm water

before she could even think about it.

Afterward, Skylar sat down and scanned the array of dishes on the table. They all looked

delicious and smelled heavenly. His home chef must also have a star chef background.

There were barbecued pork ribs, roasted asparagus, grilled salmon, and even steak salad.

Although they were simple dishes, they were cooked to restaurant standards.

She first took a bite of the spaghetti. However, Tobias seemed to have cooked it for too short a time. Resultantly, the raw spaghetti had a hard, grainy texture that made it difficult to swallow.

"Does it taste bad?" he asked, thinking that there was a problem with the dishes. She then pushed the plate over to him.

"The spaghetti's too hard. I can't eat it."

Tobias had always been a determined, confident person. Up to the point that he ate the spaghetti, he did not think there was an issue with it.

Only after he took a bite did he realize that there was a weird taste. Although the outside was cooked, the inside was not.

He said, "Forget it, don't eat it anymore. I don't really cook, so I have no experience. I'll take note next time."

Nodding, she then bit into a pork rib before noticing that Tobias' eyes were on her. It felt as if she were doing an eating show.

By that time, she had already gradually gotten used to others' gazes. On the filming set, one always had many cameras focused on them and would not know which of their expressions

would later be shown on screen. Thus, even when eating a simple salad, she would always be worried that food would get stuck on her teeth.

Although she was not afraid that others would stare at her, it did not apply to Tobias. Consequently, she slowed down her eating, chewing so slowly that she could be described as a gentle lady.

"Eat quickly! You're eating as if you're at a slow wedding banquet." Upon hearing that comment, she almost choked on her food.

She had thought that all men liked women who ate elegantly while sitting upright.

However, after staring at her for a long time, he instead thought that she was eating too slowly.

After the meal, Tobias began reading War and Peace again. Meanwhile, Skylar headed upstairs to take a shower. When she went back down again, he was still reading his book with a solemn expression on his face.

It was one of his habits that she admired a lot. That is, he was very dedicated no matter what he did.

Finding a comfortable position, she then leaned into him. In response, he freed an arm and

put it around her shoulders, rubbing it for a while.

“Why did you let me act in Josiah’s show? I found out that it’s one of this year’s biggest

shows,” she asked.

He smiled at her words, although the meaning behind the smile was unclear.

She then continued, “Is it because you really think I’m suitable or because you simply want

to use such resources to carve a path out for me. Now everyone in the company’s discussing why I even got to become the female lead.”

“Don’t you want this role?” he asked. He only wanted to know the result, so others’ opinions

were not important to him.

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Skylar smiled slightly. “If Avery weren’t the female lead, I wouldn’t want it. I don’t want to use

such a method to become the lead. It’ll only make me feel even more like I’m getting rewarded for nothing...”

She did not deny that Valerie’s words did affect her.

He looked into her beautiful eyes with an indifferent gaze. “You put in the effort as well, so it

doesn’t count as getting rewarded for nothing. If I’ve given you something you want, you

should accept it. Act well in the show and see if you can seize the opportunity and become

famous. You can also take it as I’m investing for my benefit. You said it yourself, after all.

You’re going to make money and take care of me next time.”

Wow, he’s incredible. Often, Tobias did not know what she wanted to do or why she was

having certain emotions. Yet, despite that, he still knew what she desired.

He understood that she was not so kind and carefree to let Avery off completely.

After all, it was Avery who made her experience so much despair and disappointment.

Back when she was in school, her classmates all knew that she was the daughter of a murderer. Everyone isolated her and talked about her behind her back.

Some even refused to touch whatever she had touched before because they said she was

dirty.

In reality, all of it was because of Avery. Even if they were not in the same school then, Avery had found different ways to spread such information to those around Skylar. As long as Skylar did not live happily, Avery did. She had even gone as far as to say that Skylar had criminal genes, then asking everyone to be careful of her. Just like that, school bullying affected Skylar's entire student life. She smiled and said, "It's a bit hard for me to be the breadwinner. Just one of your watches is enough to pay me for several of my shows."

Tobias took off his watch and replied, "Then it's fine as long as I don't wear it. It's easy to take care of me. Just give me food and clothes." Suddenly, she felt a vibration under her bottom. Looking below, she realized that she had sat on his phone. The instant she saw Idania's name on the screen, her heart sank. Isn't this the woman that Kai mentioned? The only time that Tobias brought a girl home and said he wanted to marry her? Why is she appearing again? She pointed to the phone and asked, "You have a call. Do you want to answer it?" He nodded, taking the phone from her before heading upstairs to answer the call. Looking at his leaving back, she yelled, "Do you have to avoid me like this?" He glanced back and said lightly, "It's okay, my friend's just looking for me." She then ordered, "Hang up. I have a headache. The phone's giving off too much radiation." She's being unreasonable and causing trouble for no reason. He then replied in a cold voice, "Rest early then. I'll go to the terrace to answer it. It won't affect you." However, his attitude made Skylar disappointed. Therefore, she complained, "What's wrong with you? You're contacting your ex-girlfriend right in front of me. What do you even take me as? Am I nothing to you? If you don't even respect me, why don't we break up." He frowned and hung up before replying coldly, "I'll take it as you're saying that in a moment of anger. Don't say such a thing in the future. I don't like hearing it. Also, how do you even know that she's my ex?" She was speechless upon hearing his question. After all, she could not betray Kai. "I guessed," she explained casually.

Tobias then threw the phone onto the coffee table. When he spoke, there was an additional impatient tone. "Don't spoil tonight's atmosphere and argue with me over a baseless phone call. We have nothing to do with each other. Everyone has their past." He then pushed her to the cabinet in the hallway and leaned in to kiss her before she raised her hand to block him. "I'm tired and want to rest. If you're busy, you can go back first. Of course, you can have a past. I was the one who couldn't find a virgin to date. If I did, I wouldn't have to deal with so many emotional disputes and worries."