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Even though Tobias had seen through her cheap tricks, Skylar had no intention to explain anything to him.

Needless to say, she did not do that to please Claudia.

I'm not that despicable. Had Winnie not mistreated me, I would not have been so cruel.

Perhaps I might ruin her relationship with Sheldon by doing so, but I couldn't care less.

Once they were back in their house half an hour later, Tobias saw many toys and clothing for infants piled up at the side of the bed.

As he unbuttoned his shirt, he eyed Skylar curiously and asked, "Are you pregnant? Why are

there so many kids' stuff here?"

With a gleam in her eye, she questioned back, "If so, what would you do?"

"Honestly, I don't like kids. Besides, I don't feel like I would be a good dad, but the decision is

yours." He shrugged nonchalantly.

His answer was just as Skylar had expected.

Back then, when they were still lovey-dovey, he had mentioned having kids with her. I knew

that he didn't mean it. If I really get pregnant, I don't think he would be kind to me.

"Are you really pregnant? But I've always been cautious," he said, picking up the baby

products and putting them into the cabinet.

Then, he turned around and wrapped his hand behind her neck, pulling her into his arms.

Taken aback, she froze for a moment before hugging his waist in return.

A while later, she finally said, "No, I'm not pregnant. These baby products are for Penelope's

cute little baby. By the way, Brayden is heartless. He has never visited Penelope and their

baby ever since the child was born. Do the bad truly sleep well at night?"

He stroked her hair and placed his chin on her head. "We can never imagine how cold-blooded people can be. Not everyone is qualified to be a parent. Take me for example. I

can't even begin to imagine what it's like to have children or bear the responsibility of being

a father."

Skylar could not help but sigh. It's common for people nowadays to refuse to have a child,

especially in developed countries. For some people, having a baby is a kind of luxury they can't afford, but for rich people like Tobias, I wonder what's his reason to remain childless.

With that thought in mind, she asked, "What's the point of earning money then? You've got everything you want, and definitely have enough resources to raise a child. I believe money is just a number for you, and the money you have now is enough for several lifetimes. Why not retire early and travel the world instead?"

He glanced away and looked outside the window. "Some things are not as simple as they seem. Maybe I just have an insatiable desire."

Looking at his side profile, Skylar believed that he was telling the truth. It's not hard to see that he's an avaricious person. He's always been goal-oriented in everything he does. The next day, Skylar stayed at home from morning till noon. She did not call anyone, nor did her phone ring.

Coming down the stairs, Tobias saw her exercising in the living room to a workout video online.

Now, she seems to have endless energy. If she's so energetic in bed like this, I'd be very pleased. Whenever we're making love, she'll always complain that she's tired, and if I force her, she might even bite me. What she's doing now seems way more tiring than what we do between the sheets. Most of the time, she was the one lying in bed and enjoying herself while I did all the work.

"Aren't you going out? It's noon already." Tobias felt uncomfortable with how free she was.

Upon hearing him, she paused the video and used the towel around her neck to wipe the sweat on her face. "I don't have much work at the moment. I'm still waiting for the post-production of the film to complete. Basically, my company has stopped all my activities."

He held up his hand and said, "Wait, say that again."

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Skylar frowned. I'm pretty sure I didn't stutter. Did he not hear me well? "The company has

somehow blacklisted me, so I don't have any work to do at the moment. No commercial to shoot, no performance to do.” Tobias took out his phone from his pocket and scrolled through his contacts to find Valerie's number. Skylar immediately stopped him. “No, I don't need your help. Thanks, but I can handle it on my own. I don't think she can do that for long. If I still don't have any job opportunity once the film is aired, that's considered abuse of power. I'm not blacklisted without reason. It's because I refused to be the host of a children's show and defied the company's arrangement for me, so it's not her fault.” He rested his chin on his hand and looked at her. “What the hell? A host for a kids' show? Is she out of her mind?” Skylar put up a tough front and insisted that she could handle it by herself. He eventually relented and let her be as he also wanted to give Valerie a chance to come to her senses before he took action. One day, in late November, the cold wind swept across the city, and the temperature dropped sharply. The weather changed quickly. It felt like early spring yesterday, but the city was as cold as ice on the next day.

Since Tobias had nothing much to do at home, he accompanied Skylar to have some paperwork done at the university. She wanted to get back to class as soon as possible, but winter break was around the corner, so she had no choice but to extend her leave of absence before her authorized leave came to an end. Now that her popularity had increased, she beat Avery and became the campus diva. Unfortunately, as the most popular girl, she spent very little time at the university. To avoid any hassle, she did not want Tobias to enter the university building with her. Therefore, she asked him to park the car nearby as he waited for her in the car. Looking through the window, Tobias saw a young couple not far away from him. They were wearing matching T-shirts with jeans and canvas shoes of similar color. The girl was sipping on her coffee while the guy took a muffin out of the paper bag in his hand and brought it to her mouth.

Watching them did not make Tobias feel nostalgic or sentimental, but it did remind him of Idania, whom he dated when he was a student. Everything was much simpler back then. Even our love for each other was pure and true. Now that several years have passed, I still have no idea who was the one who caused us to break up. That time, I knew that she was going to leave me, and I let her go. I guess I got fed up with the relationship, so that was why I hadn't bothered to get her back. To be honest, I know that I have the same scary thoughts crossing my mind occasionally when I'm with Skylar as well. Sometimes, I feel like being single is much more relaxing than having a partner because having a girlfriend usually takes up a lot of my time and even holds me back from pursuing greater things in life.

Luckily, Skylar is tolerable. She is not clingy and gives me the privacy that I need. Therefore, so far, we're quite compatible, and I don't plan on leaving her just yet. Since Skylar was a celebrity now, the university staff had a 180-degree change in their attitude toward her. They prepared all the documents required for her extension of leave, so all she needed to do in the office was to put her signature on those forms. After she settled everything, she stepped out of the office with a face mask and a beanie. A gust of chilly wind swept over her, and she instinctively tugged her chin into the scarf around her neck and walked briskly across the campus. As the autumn wind continued to blow, the fallen leaves swirled and danced in the air, lifting up the dust on the ground. She sneezed, suddenly feeling weak and sluggish in the cold weather. Since she was a child, she tended to catch a bad cold whenever there was a change in season. Despite that, she was rarely admitted into the hospital. Whenever she was sick in the past, Meredith would always give her plenty of medicine and said that going to the hospital was just a waste of money. After she walked out of the campus, neither Tobias nor his car could be seen. She tried to

search for him within the vicinity but to no avail.
Therefore, she took out her phone and sent him a voice message. "Tobias, where are you? I can't find your car."
A few seconds later, he replied, saying, "Walk two hundred meters southeast from the gate, and I'll be at your three o'clock."
Frowning in displeasure, she responded, "Can you please be clear? Which direction is the southeast? What is the three o'clock direction? How do I know if I'm facing north or south?"
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Tobias got out of his car to look around and saw a supermarket behind him. He then told her that he was in front of Jaya Jim Supermarket.
Skylar rolled her eyes and threw her hands in the air, exasperated. Why didn't he say that earlier? Why make things complicated?
Five minutes later, as soon as she hopped into his car, he handed her a bag of roasted chestnuts. Grinning widely, she could not help but imagine the scene of him, tall and imposing, standing in front of a street food stall.
Her heart felt strangely touched by his sweet gesture.
Tobias thought Skylar would go home with him, but she said, "I'm going to meet a friend later. She's someone you know as well. It's Lina. We sent her home before. Do you remember her?"
He nodded. "Yup, her business card is still with me. I wonder why it's with me. Anyway, since you're going to hang out with your friend, what about me then?"
She knew that he was pretending to be pitiful. A businessman like him always had something to do.
Skylar caressed his chiseled jawline, deep in thought. He just shaved this morning. Why is his jaw peppered with stubble already?
A moment later, she answered, "You can go somewhere nearby and wait for me, and I'll meet you once I'm done. You can even watch a movie while you wait for me."
After Skylar arrived at the mall, she got off the car and rushed to a café on the second floor with a spring in her step. I can't wait to see Lina. Gosh, it's been such a long time since I have been able to hang out with a friend. As soon as Lina asked her out for a coffee, she

was thrilled and said yes immediately.
When she saw Lina sitting at a table near the window, she could hardly recognize her.
She
wore a black business suit with her hair tied into a sleek low bun. Her demeanor did
not look
like a masseur at all, but more like a white-collar worker.
Lina waved at her and cracked a joke. "It's so hard to invite a celebrity out."

Putting down her bag on the chair, Skylar sat down across from her and rolled her
eyes
playfully. "Stop teasing me. I'm not a celebrity yet."
Lina chuckled and looked around before asking, "Where is your boyfriend?"
Skylar decided to play dumb, uncomfortable with her question. "Huh, which one are
you
talking about? I have many boyfriends."
Fortunately, Lina did not probe further. She then told Skylar that she had quit her job
as a
masseur and became a salesperson.
Skylar was shocked at her radical career change. Why did she change her job all of a
sudden? I thought she was doing fine at the massage parlor.
Concerned, she asked, "How's your work? It's quite tough being a salesperson, isn't
it?"
Lina took a sip of her coffee before answering, "I've chosen this job because it
doesn't
require any qualifications and has better pay than my previous job. I believe I can
cope with
it. By the way, Skylar, I have a favor to ask you. Can you help me? Besides you, I can't
think of
anyone else from whom I can ask for help."
"Fire away. We're friends after all. I'll do whatever I can do to help."
Hearing her reply, Lina was overjoyed. "Can you rent me a room? I've just changed
my job,
and my income is not stable for now. Besides, your place is very close to where I
work. After
I get paid, I'll find another place to live. I promise I won't bother you for too long."
The smile on Skylar's face faded gradually as Lina's question had put her in a tight
spot. She
pondered for a while and suggested, "Why don't I lend you some money first while I
help you
to find a place to live? It'd be inconvenient if you move to my place."
"I promise I won't bother you. It'll take some time to find a place to rent." Lina
pouted and
shed a tear. "Let me stay for a couple of days first. If it's really inconvenient for you,
I'll move
out and find a motel to stay at temporarily. I don't want to cause you trouble either."

Skylar was a tad bit upset with Lina. She's the kind of friend who seldom contacts me, and whenever she does, it'll be to ask for help.

But, she also helped me out a lot in the past. We also often went to school together and shared tater tots with each other during lunch.

Hearing that Lina was going to stay at her place for only a few days, Skylar eventually yielded to her request.

However, later on, she realized that Lina had even brought her luggage with her. It was as if she had expected that Skylar would not refuse to help her.