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Since Lina had come prepared, Skylar was left with no choice but to bring her home that

day.

As they walked out of the mall, Lina spotted Tobias in the parking basement from a distance

away. He seems so near yet so far and unattainable.

She would never tell Skylar the reason why she resigned.

Ever since he brought Skylar to the massage parlor, he had never visited there again. What's

the point of staying at that place when I know that he won't be showing up anymore? If I

continue to stay there, I'll just be like an abandoned dock that will never have any ship to

anchor.

I want to make myself better, in the hopes that he will notice me one day.

Although Skylar had accepted Lina's request to stay together with them, she still needed to

ask for Tobias' permission. "Do you mind letting my friend stay with us for a few days?"

He shrugged without making any remark. I don't care much for Skylar's social circle.

Besides, it's good that she has a friend to chat with whenever she feels lonely.

Once they were back, the three of them got out of the car together and headed inside the

house.

Tobias walked in front of them with the keys dangling on his fingers with Skylar and Lina

following behind him.

Even when he saw that Lina needed help to carry her heavy luggage, he did not even offer to

help, which was typical behavior for Tobias—he was unchivalrous.

Seeing the lavishly decorated villa in front of her, Lina was green with envy. Even the air

smells good in this house. Compared to the slum I'm residing at, this villa is more suitable

for me.

Later on, Skylar showed her to the guest room, saying that all the things inside were brand

new.

Lina hugged Skylar and buried her head into the crook of her neck, pretending to be touched. "I won't stay here for too long. After everything is settled, I'll definitely move out

after some time."

Skylar smiled and said nothing in reply. Previously, she said she was just going to stay for a

few days. Why is she saying she's going to live here for a period of time now? After welcoming the guest to the house, she did not get any rest. Instead, she went

to the kitchen to prepare a meal.

Tobias was going to stay the night, so Skylar decided to cook a few vegetarian dishes for

him as she knew that he did not enjoy eating meat.

Meanwhile, Tobias and Lina were in the living room. While he watched television with his

legs crossed, she could not help but stare at him with her burning gaze. We're even closer

now.

straight

Oh my, look at his long legs. Even when he's sitting, he still looks perfectly poised and

graceful. What does it feel like to be in this man's embrace?

Due to their social class difference, it was impossible for Lina to meet Tobias by chance.

Thus, she had no choice but to coax Skylar to let her live here so that she could see the man

she had been longing for.

Besides, Lina thought living in the villa with Skylar was much better than staying at her own

place.

As they stayed in the warm, quiet house, the weather outside was gloomy and windy. After a

while, Lina suddenly heard Skylar's voice from the television.

It was a commercial for MM Beans, and Skylar appeared on the screen for about ten seconds.

"Skylar is very pretty nowadays, but I remember she was quite unattractive when we were in

high school. I guess an ugly duckling can really become a beautiful swan. Many of our ex-classmates also joked around, saying that she had gone under the knife to become

prettier," Lina said, intending for Tobias to hear it.

However, he heard none of it as he had left his seat and gone to the kitchen.

Over on the other side, Skylar was still busy in the kitchen. She was washing vegetables

robotically at the sink. She hung her head low and stared blankly at the running water of the

faucet, seemingly distracted and troubled.

Seeing the frown on her, Tobias went forward and hugged her waist from behind. "Let's hire

a housekeeper, Skylar. I can't help you much in the kitchen. Why do you want to do house

chores when we can hire a housekeeper?"

She turned around to face him and winked. "It's fun to prepare a meal, especially for the

ones I love. The way to a man's heart was through his stomach."

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Tobias lowered his head and planted a kiss on her forehead. He raised his brows when his

lips sensed the burning sensation on her skin. Placing his big palm on her forehead, he

frowned and asked, "Your forehead feels unusually hot. Are you not feeling well?" Skylar was feeling a bit feverish and giddy, yet she just replied casually, "Nothing serious,

maybe just a cold."

In the meantime, Lina pressed herself against the wall outside the kitchen, trying to eavesdrop on the conversation between Tobias and Skylar. She dared not even let out a

deep breath as she did not want to be discovered by them. She was green with envy when

she saw Tobias embrace Skylar and kissed her forehead.

Pfft! Even when preparing dinner in the kitchen, Skylar doesn't let go of the chance to flirt

with Tobias. Her coquettish tone really gives me goosebumps!

When it was time for dinner, Lina sat next to Skylar deliberately at the round dining table so

she could see Tobias clearly.

At the sight of the roasted asparagus, baked prawns, grilled sausages, pumpkin soup, and

steak salad on the dining table, Lina sniffed and complimented exaggeratively, "Wow, all

these look yummy! Skylar, your cooking skill has improved a lot. Ah! If I'm not mistaken,

Jeremy's dad has guided you in cooking, hasn't he? He's a chef, right?"

Skylar was handing Lina a fork. Upon hearing her words, her hand stiffened.

Is Lina bringing up the topic intentionally to drive the wedge between Tobias and me? My

goodness! How can she mention my ex-boyfriend now? After all, he's the only ex-boyfriend I

have had all this while. Why can't the others let me off and keep provoking me on this?

Suppressing her displeasure, she replied placidly, "Tobias is more health-conscious and

prefers food that is less greasy. So, I actually browsed through the menu posted by others

online and tried to prepare something which suits his taste."

Lina put on a guilty look and glanced at Skylar as if she felt sorry for being blunt with her

words.

Tobias did not chime in and started having his meals silently. In fact, it was his habit to eat

in silence.

Lina changed the topic and talked about her career instead. "Mr. Ford, I've just resigned and

switched to sales line now. What do you think about this line? I'm looking forward to having

new career advancement and become a successful entrepreneur. I'm convinced that it can

be achieved within these few years."

Knowing that Tobias would have some negative comments on her confidence, Skylar replied

on behalf of him by encouraging her, "It doesn't matter which line you are in. As long as you

are conscientious with your job, I'm sure you will be successful."

Tobias really disliked people who were overconfident and tended to sound boastful. He

narrowed his eyes and was obviously repulsed by her demeanor. As expected, he finally

opened his mouth and commented indifferently, "Doing sales and marketing is a rather

common job. It's actually even more challenging to excel in this line of job. However, it's

definitely not as simple as what you think to fulfill consumers' high expectations. Hence, it's

too early for you to talk about being a successful entrepreneur."

My goodness! He's really straightforward! Skylar gulped at Tobias' oppression and pinched

him lightly on the thigh to stop him from blurting out more words.

In an instant, there was a slight change in Lina's expression. Intimidated by the coldness in

Tobias' eyes, she lowered her head to eat the prawn on her plate in order to conceal her

awkwardness.

When Tobias was cleaning up the dining table after dinner, Skylar grabbed the chance to

cheer Lina up by consoling her, "Tobias is very straightforward. He never really gives words

of encouragement to anyone. Don't take it seriously and be discouraged by what he said

earlier."

Lina asked her curiously, "He's really fierce. How can you stand him?"

Skylar shrugged her shoulders and said, "Well, I have gotten used to it."

Later, Skylar went up earlier for a rest as she was feeling under the weather. Initially, she

actually thought of asking Lina how long she planned to stay over at their place. However,

she felt awkward raising the topic. Tobias knew her well and even commented that one of

her weaknesses was having difficulty in rejecting others—which was due to her family

background.

Tobias was surprised when he noticed that Skylar was already in bed even before the clock

struck eight at night. She tucked herself under the blanket and was watching the reality

show with her phone.

In the video, Kai was playing games with the host. He looked eye-catching in his pure white

costume for his character in the movie Empyrean Sword.

Tobias' face turned grim when he recalled what Sheldon said about how Kai kept mumbling

Skylar's name when he was drunk. He pursed his lips and snatched her phone instinctively.

"Stop watching the show. The battery of your phone is almost flat."

Skyler knitted her brows and refuted, "It's not true. There's still more than eighty percent left.

I can always recharge the battery later as well. Other than watching the reality show, there's

nothing I can do now. It's not like I have any script to go through."

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Tobias twitched his lips and replied, "Huh! More than eighty percent? It can last for quite

some time. Instead of wasting your time watching the reality show, you can use the time to

do something else. Oh yeah, you don't have to step into the kitchen again from tomorrow

onwards. Someone will come and prepare our meals."

Skylar had voiced her opinions earlier on in the kitchen, yet he refused to take them into

consideration. The adamant man still decided to stick to his opinion.

Skylar knew at once that the meals she prepared failed to meet Tobias' requirements. Even

though he did not say anything during dinner, she noticed that he was eating unusually little.

Nonetheless, she was glad that she would not have to struggle again in thinking of what to

prepare for his meals anymore.

Before she could tell Tobias that she was actually not feeling well, her pajamas were already

ripped off by him. She shuddered at the sudden coldness when her body was exposed to

the cool air.

When they were both indulged in the passionate session, she stared into his dark eyes as

they locked gazes with each other. Right that instant, she was dazzled by the possessiveness and burning desire in his eyes. The moment after the highest peak of pleasure, she clung tightly to him and finally heaved a sigh of satisfaction.

Tobias suddenly felt that Skylar's body temperature was rising gradually. He started to

sense something amiss and asked in great concern, "Your body temperature is unusually

high. Are you having a fever?"

Skylar nodded and replied, "Yeah, looks like I'm a bit feverish. It's alright, I'll be fine after

taking some medicine later. It's nothing serious."

"Do you have a thermometer?" he asked again.

She shook her head and replied, "No, I don't have one."

Tobias furrowed his brows and nagged at her, "It's one of the essential household tools, yet

you don't have one here. How many times have I told you to lead a healthy lifestyle, but

you're eating so little just because you want to maintain your figure. Do you know that your

immune system will be affected when you lack nutrition? I'm worried that you will collapse

due to health issues first even before you gain popularity. You're an adult, yet you are still

not aware of the importance of taking good care of yourself."

Skylar's heart was greatly touched by Tobias' nagging. Tears started to well up in her eyes.

Out of a sudden, he sounded more like an elder brother or a father to her.

Struggling to grow up in a family without much love and attention, Skyler ended up having a

sense of insecurity and inferiority. Nobody had ever showered her with love and care like

how Tobias was treating her at the moment. It was sort of a fatherly love which she had

been yearning for throughout her life.

Sensing that Skylar was gazing at him blankly, he urged her, "What're you thinking now? Get

changed quickly. I'll send you to the hospital now."

Skylar was reluctant to move as she was sustaining muscle pain all over. Thinking of following her grandma's traditional method, she tried to convince Tobias. "It's really nothing

serious. I'll be fine after taking some medicine. You don't have to send me to the hospital.

After all, it's already quite late. I bet all the doctors are off duty at this hour."

Tobias snapped at her, "Imagine if there are emergencies at midnight, do you think that

those patients can wait till the doctors report to work the next morning? Do you know that

there's an emergency department? You have no clue why you have a fever out of a sudden.

How dare you act smart by simply taking any medicine?"

Skylar was at a loss for words and could only give in to him. She put on her clothes and

spent quite a long while wearing her socks. Meanwhile, Tobias had already gone downstairs

with the car key.

All of a sudden, Lina emerged and asked curiously, "Are you going out now? It's quite late

now."

As Tobias had already started the car engine, Skylar replied hurriedly, "I'm not feeling well

and need to go to the hospital now. Don't worry, just go to bed first."

Lina looked worried and offered, "Let me accompany you. At least I can help to look after

you."

Skylar turned her down nicely, "Thanks, but I'm just having mild flu and fever. It's nothing

serious. You don't have to accompany me."

Lina pretended to sound concerned as she saw her off. When Tobias' car was out of her

sight, she turned and went upstairs. A wave of loneliness swept over her again.

When she was alone at her rented house previously, she had often imagined what it would

be like if Tobias was by her side. How nice if such a stunning man like Tobias can be by my

side! As a caring partner, he would definitely keep me company and do whatever I feel like

doing. By then, I won't be feeling lonely again. It only took a second to fall for someone. Nevertheless, she was aware of the vast gap between Tobias and her.