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As the male lead of this hoo-ha, the man who had horn-rimmed glasses, broke the silence, asking sincerely, "Skylar, I'm Jackson. Have you forgotten about me?"

Lily's eyes gleamed in excitement as she exclaimed, "What? Does that mean both of you are acquainted? Great! Fate must have brought you guys together again!"

Skylar started sizing Jackson up after she heard his name. After racking her brain, she finally recalled the identity of the man in front of them.

Jackson was her classmate who had always taken a seat by her side back in their junior high school days. She once received a confession letter from him during their senior high school days.

It had been so many years, yet he hadn't changed a single bit. He still had the same geeky look.

During their school days, students were arranged into different classes based on their family backgrounds. Since they were both from a relatively normal background, they were treated as outcasts of the school and dispatched to a relatively subpar class.

She could vividly recall the tough condition of Jackson's family back in the day. Yet, he seemed different as compared to the last time they met. He was dressed up lavishly as though he was from a well-off family.

The confused Skylar replied indifferently, "I guess I do."

Jackson responded with a goofy smile and indicated his intention to engage in a conversation with Skylar in private.

The rest of the party thought things would work out between them just fine because they caught a glimpse of Jackson's smile.

Sharon couldn't suppress her joy anymore as she started planning the distribution of the wealth she would soon acquire.

Three hundred thousand! I'll never give Skylar a hundred fifty thousand! If worse comes to worst, I'll give her thirty thousand and chase her off!

As long as I get my hands on the three hundred thousand, I won't have to wrack my brain to collect the fees for my sons' education anymore!

Jackson went after Skylar with his head hanging low.

In the end, Skylar stopped by an ice cream store and got herself a serving of ice cream and a bottle of soda.

She had a sweet tooth—after getting her cravings fixed, she would be in a great mood.

Jackson dared not look at Skylar in the eyes, but he mustered his courage and said, "Skylar, you have always been a gorgeous woman ever since our high school days."

"You're quite a capable man as well. I'm still trying to get myself a degree, yet you're already involved in the corporate world. How did you manage to be ahead of our peers?"

"You shouldn't take my mother's words seriously because she's just kidding. I have quit school after senior high because of my despairing results. Due to the family's condition, I couldn't afford to further my study anymore."

The mother and son duo's words were contradicting as Jackson had stated the exact opposite of Lily.

Skylar pursed her lips and frowned because she had her fair share of doubts. "How can you not afford to further your studies when your mother has saved up the money for your wedding?"

The geeky man shook his head. "I have no idea, Skylar. Out of the blue, she told me she would get me a wife. I didn't expect it would be you!"

He took a deep breath and mustered his courage to look at Skylar in the eyes, confessing the affection he had for her, "I-I can't believe fate has brought us together once again. Skylar, will you marry me? I have a crush on you since our junior high days! Don't worry! You'll become the happiest woman on this planet after we get married!"

Goosebumps sprang up all over Skylar's bare arm when she heard Jackson's confession. She felt uncomfortable and couldn't wait to leave him.

She turned him down without a second thought. "I won't get married to you, Jackson! Pull yourself together! I have been set up!"

Jackson adjusted his glasses and assured Skylar, "I'll take good care of you for the rest of our lives! Trust me! You'll be the happiest woman on this planet!"

Tobias' words are so much more reliable as compared to this fancy promise. Instead of this seemingly empty promise, the uncertain future Tobias has mentioned seems far more achievable.

Skylar had no intention to carry on with the absurd conversation they had. After she footed the bill, she departed and left the man behind, running away from him as fast as she could.

Jackson repeated Skylar's name, yet she didn't bother to stop at all.

The dejected man returned to Wesley and shrugged his shoulders helplessly, indicating the outcome of the blind date. Lily asked, "Where's Skylar?"

Jackson sniffled and told his mother, "She said she would never marry me! Mom, I'm serious about Skylar! I have a crush on her ever since our junior high days! Are you sure she's going to marry me?"

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Lily had made up her mind by then. She wouldn't allow Skylar to escape since her son had a crush on him.

The irritated woman asked Wesley, "What's wrong with your niece? Why don't you go around and ask others if they have received three hundred thousand as dowry nowadays? Things are different. These days, the ladies are the ones who have to compensate the men if they want to get married!"

Wesley couldn't make up his mind. He looked at Sharon in the eyes and asked for her opinion.

Sharon assured Lily, "She's such an ungrateful brat! No matter what it takes, we'll make sure Skylar gets married to Jackson! I'll drop by her school and get her leaves approved on her behalf tomorrow. We'll make sure she shows up during the wedding ceremony."

Jackson looked at the invitation card to the wedding ceremony and got pumped up all of a sudden. He thought luck was on his side because he could finally spend the rest of his life with the woman of his dreams.

Meanwhile, Skylar, who had returned, had a bad feeling about it because someone showed up out of nowhere and proposed.

She confronted Jackson, yet, he didn't seem to have an idea of what was going on as well.

Soon, Skylar received countless calls from Wesley after she returned to the dormitory. As she couldn't take it anymore, she decided to block her uncle's contact.

Finally, she learned about her uncle and his family's true colors. They were a shameless bunch that would forsake her for their sakes. If it weren't due to her grandmother, she would have severed ties with them without any hesitation.

Wesley was her late grandmother's favorite child. She didn't want to disappoint her beloved grandmother. Thus, she had to tolerate the absurd request that had been brought up by her so-called uncle.

The next day, the moment Skylar walked out of the dormitory, she caught a glimpse of Jackson at the hall downstairs, surveying the surroundings.

The horn-rimmed glasses he had put on made him stand out amongst the bunch of good-looking young men and women in the university. He had successfully grabbed the attention of the passerby with his geeky look.

"Where does this loser come from? Is he waiting for his girlfriend?" Skylar heard a few ladies discussing and teasing about the geeky man opposite their dormitory.

Jackson shouted, "S-Skylar!"

She pretended as though she didn't hear him. Jackson was not deterred by this but instead, he shouted her name repeatedly from across the street.

He waved because he was afraid she might have missed him. "H-Hey, Skylar! I-I'm over here!"

Skylar had no choice but to approach the geeky man because she was afraid he wouldn't stop calling her name. As expected, she was greeted by the odd looks of the crowd.

She didn't have anything against Jackson's look since there wasn't anything much he could do about it—he was born with it.

However, she didn't want to be affiliated with Jackson at all. Apart from being ordinary friends, it would be impossible for them to take their relationship to the next level.

"Why are you here?" Skylar asked indifferently.

Jackson unzipped his jacket and showed her the croissant and the cup of coffee he had brought along with him with his signature goofy smile. "I made my way out at five o'clock in the morning and dropped by our favorite pastry shop that was nearby our senior high school to get you your favorite croissant! I have been keeping it inside my jacket to ensure it's still warm when you wake up!"

She was taken by surprise because he was spot on. The croissant from that particular store was her favorite.

With that being said, she didn't expect he would keep that in mind after all these years and go to great lengths to get it for her.

Despite being touched deep down, she wasn't in the mood to savor her favorite croissant. She stated callously, "You should return to where you come from. I have classes to attend. Also, you better stop showing up on the campus! It's way too far from your home!"

Jackson flushed and said, "You don't have to worry about me because I'm not tired at all. I have obtained my mother's consent. She'll allow you to finish your course after we get married. In the future, I'll get your breakfast ready and drop you off at the university every day."

Skylar felt a chill running down her spine because she couldn't believe they had everything sorted out on her behalf, including a future blueprint for them both.

Have I not made myself clear? I'm pretty sure we're conversing using the same language, aren't we?

"Skylar, is this your boyfriend? He's such a handsome man!" The voice of Carmen, Skylar's roommate, could be heard from behind her.

Yasmin lugged Carmen away and told her to get going already instead of poking her nose into other's businesses.

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The entrance of the dormitory wasn't the best location to have the conversation. Therefore, Skylar calmed herself and warned Jackson, "You should forget about it because there's no way I'm going to get married to you! If you insist on behaving as such, I'm afraid we're not going to be friends as well!"

She returned Jackson the croissant he had brought her after she made herself clear.

Jackson lowered his gaze and replied in an aggrieved manner, "I heard about your past relationship from your aunt. You had a boyfriend, and despite his condition, you stayed by his side through thick and thin. I know you're a great lady who will never let me down. Isn't that what a relationship is all about—spending time with your loved ones and taking care of one another?

Skylar was at a loss for words to rebuke the geeky young man's reply because he had completely missed the point of her words.

She found it difficult to communicate with Jackson because they weren't on the same channel. He paid no heed to her words and focused on delivering his one-sided message.

Frustrated, Skylar walked away in an attempt to shrug Jackson off, yet he wouldn't stay away from her as though he was a brand new familiar she had just summoned after leveling up in some fantasy RPG game.

She didn't appreciate this so-called familiar of hers at all.

On her way to Aldwych Building, she encountered Jeremy at the entrance.

Although they were university mates, never would she expect to run into him because their campus was a gigantic one. Running into him was the last thing she had on her to-do list.

She noticed he had reverted to square one and wasn't the dashing man he used to be when he was discharged from the hospital—he stopped dressing up and dolling himself properly.

The set of outfits he had put on was the usual one he had.

Skylar wanted to stay away from Jeremy as far as she could. She quickly walked over to her classroom as usual. However, he got in her way and stopped her by placing his arm on the wall.

As Jackson got ahead of Skylar to defend her righteously, Jeremy started teasing her.

"What do we have here? Have you been dumped again? Is this your new boyfriend? Have you gotten into a relationship with whoever you're able to get your hands on after running out of luck?"

Skylar's eyelashes trembled unwittingly, but she put on a strong front and replied indifferently, "Oh? Who are you to judge? No matter how desperate I am, I will never return to you anymore."

Meanwhile, Jackson held his chest high and announced, "Hey, I'm Skylar's boyfriend! You should mind your words and refrain from badmouthing her!"

Jeremy was confused. He thought Skylar had forsaken Tobias after a few days and gotten into a new relationship with another chubby-looking geek. She was merely a step away from becoming a member of the upper echelon.

However, he thought Jackson and Skylar were a pair made in heaven due to their matching look.

Jeremy ridiculed the duo, "You know what? Both of you are such great matches for one another! It's like the dwarf and the ugly duckling!"

He leaned over and whispered, "Have you forgotten my warning? Your life will end up miserably if you get into a relationship with a man of such complicated background? I guess

I wasn't wrong at all! You should have listened to me! If you did, you wouldn't have settled for less with such a dwarf! Congratulations! I guess this is the best out of the worst possible outcomes, isn't it?"

Skylar smirked in return and rebuked, "So what if he's a dwarf? A dwarf is better than a jerk!"

She turned to enter the building after her words without looking back, leaving Jeremy and Jackson at the entrance.

Jeremy found Skylar hilarious and pathetic. He thought Tobias had abandoned her after he had had enough of an ordinary woman. He misperceived she had gotten into a relationship with Jackson because she had run out of options.

After Skylar got off her class, she couldn't believe her eyes because Jackson was still around, waiting for her outside of the classroom.

She felt a chill running down her spine and dashed off in another direction to stay away from him.

What the hell is wrong with him? He's even more dedicated than Tobias' bodyguards!

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In the meantime, Tobias, who had returned, found the so-called invitation card to Skylar and Jackson's wedding ceremony on his table in the study room.

His pupils constricted while he frowned and walked down the stairs with the invitation card.

Along with Tanya and her parents, Claudia joined the family of three for a cup of tea, catching up with one another casually.

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Judging by the look of Claudia, she seemed to be thrilled as she was in a conversation with the family of three.

On the other hand, Tobias showed up out of nowhere and brought the joyful occasion to a halt as he cast the wedding invitation on the coffee table and confronted in a callous tone.

"Who the hell put this on my table?"

Tanya went dead silent in anticipation of Claudia's defense.

Claudia put on a stern front and replied, "It was me. What about it?"

Nathan took over the invitation card. He was confused because it belonged to another couple when he thought it belonged to Tobias and Claudia.

What's wrong with Tobias? Why has he gotten worked up over someone else's wedding ceremony? Tanya's parents were confused because they couldn't grasp the situation.

"Can you show my parents the respect they deserve as your seniors?" Tanya brought herself up and confronted Tobias.

"What's going on? Whose wedding ceremony are you guys talking about?" The confused Gillian asked concernedly.

Claudia couldn't hold it back anymore when she knew what Tanya had to go through to tolerate her son's unreasonable behavior.

She started recalling the days she spent tolerating her husband as he turned his back against her and had an affair with another woman behind her back.

Tobias didn't expect Tanya and his mother would be able to pull off such a dramatic feat within two days. They had the invitation card to Skylar's wedding ceremony ready.

In other words, they had gotten her into a relationship with another man because they wanted her to get out of his sight.

"The wedding ceremony will have to be called off..." Tobias made himself clear that there wasn't any room for discussion.

His mother got anxious and raised her volume, directing another rhetorical question at him. "Why are you getting in others' way when they are going to get married soon? How do you know they don't have a thing for one another?"

Tobias neglected his mother and turned around, looking at Tanya in the eyes as he enunciated his reply, "Have I not made myself clear? The wedding ceremony I'm calling off is ours!"

Tanya couldn't believe her ears because Tobias had the audacity to announce it in front of the seniors of their families.

Part of her initial plan was to sever ties between Skylar and Tobias by getting Skylar engaged to someone else.

However, her plan had backfired. She regretted rushing things through, but she wasn't about to give up just yet.

Nathan and Gillian stared at Tobias in disbelief because the wedding ceremony between their daughter and the man in front of them was just around the corner.

They were shocked to learn Tobias had changed his mind when their daughter was pregnant with his child.

Claudia slammed the coffee table and warned her son, "Tobias, have you forgotten the fact Tanya was the one who had saved me? Are you going to forsake your child? Have you no shame at all? Are you going to repeat the shameless feats of your father?"

Tobias' nightmare had come true. He didn't want to provoke Claudia any further because he was afraid she would be rushed to the hospital again.

He had been tolerating all sorts of demands ever since she was discharged, yet she seemed to know no boundaries. He couldn't live a single day peacefully at all.

Tobias' irritation was written all over his face, yet they had the guts to bring up the existence of the so-called child in front of him when he was certain he didn't have any intimate session with Tanya.

"I believe she's the only one who's aware if she has been telling the truth all along! Why don't we head over to the hospital and see if she's pregnant?" Torrents of grief streamed down Tanya's cheeks as she covered her tummy and started crying as if she had been wrongfully blamed.

Nonetheless, she had everything prepared because she had been anticipating this. "Fine! Let's head over to the hospital!"

Truth be told, Claudia had her fair share of doubts because she had never heard of such things from Tanya until lately. She was afraid it was a lie from Tanya to be part of the Fords.

Since things had ended up as such, she got the chauffeur to get the cars ready and insisted on tagging along to the hospital.

After they reached the hospital, Tanya went through a series of diagnoses. Actually, she had long gotten in touch with the doctor from the said hospital.

It was a piece of cake for her to disguise her pregnancy. In fact, as long as Tanya won Claudia over by deceiving her, she was pretty sure she could get married to Tobias because he would never forsake his mother's health for Skylar.

After all, his mother had raised him and his brother single-handedly over the years. He wouldn't have allowed a trivial woman's presence to affect their relationship after the things his mother had sacrificed for him and his brother.

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Half an hour later, when the doctor returned with the blood test result and the ultrasound report, Tanya and the doctor exchanged glances and smiled.

Immediately after she retrieved the so-called reports, she showed them to Claudia ahead of others.

Claudia's eyes started brimming with tears. How precious is this baby! I can't believe I'm becoming a grandma soon!

She handed it over to her son immediately, yet Tobias frowned and sneered because he was certain it was another one of Tanya's many tricks.

I can't deny the fact she's quite a capable woman, huh? God knows the source of the so-called child in her tummy!

Tanya's heart skipped a beat when she detected Tobias' glance. It was evident he had his doubts over the authenticity of the reports.

"Tobias, what have you got to say for yourself? You should bear the consequences of your action like a man!" Claudia reprimanded her son in front of others.

Meanwhile, Tobias was frustrated at her mother's inability to move on from the past.

"Are you going to trust me if I tell you I have never done it?" Tobias threw the reports into the dustbin because he had enough of the forged reports.

All of a sudden, Gillian started sniffling and rebutted to defend her daughter, "Mr. Ford, are you going to abandon my daughter when she's pregnant with your child? Do you know what's awaiting her in the future?"

"You know what? I don't really care," Tobias replied nonchalantly because it was none of his business.

Claudia leaned against the bench to support herself as her heart started racing once more. She peered straight into her son's eyes and warned him, "Tobias, if you insist on calling off the wedding ceremony, don't consider me as your mother anymore in the future!"

Tanya finally achieved her goal. No matter how impregnable Tobias was, he couldn't get rid of her if she had control over his mother.

Tobias disliked being threatened by others the most, but Claudia would lose her cool whenever Tanya was involved in the picture.

"If that's the case, I think it's time for you to take a breather and collect your thoughts. I'll move out and stay elsewhere for the time being. We'll talk again once you regain your sanity."

Tanya thought she was merely a step away from achieving her goal, but she was wrong. Tobias didn't even budge and made the call without a second thought due to the invitation card to Skylar's wedding ceremony.

As she got anxious, she leaned over and asked, "Mom, are you not feeling well?"

What's wrong with her? She's supposed to have a heart attack, isn't she?

To everyone's surprise, Claudia returned the favor and warned Tobias, "Fine! Get out of my sight at once! Stop showing up in front of me unless you have regained your senses!"

Tanya couldn't wait for Claudia to pass out in front of Tobias, but she behaved the exact opposite and showed no signs of passing out at all.

"Mom, how are we going to carry on with the wedding ceremony when Tobias has left? What should we do?"

By then, Tobias had long departed without showing any signs of remorse.

Claudia panted heavily because her son's decision infuriated her. She took a deep breath and assured Tanya, "For the time being, we'll have to delay the wedding ceremony and have you take good care of yourself and the child. You're the one and only daughter-in-law of the Fords. Although Tobias has been seduced by that b*tch, I'm sure he'll eventually make his way back to us when he has enough of her."

Tanya looked a little bemused due to Claudia's reply. If they were to delay the wedding ceremony, the fact she wasn't pregnant would be uncovered by others soon.

The actual wedding ceremony was merely two days away, yet her plan was completely ruined, and she had to play the role of his fiancée once again.

The frustrated Tanya had but one wish. She wanted Skylar and the son of the maid to get married as soon as possible.

On the other hand, Sheldon, who had always been a rebel, got in touch with his brother and reprimanded him, "Tobias, you have gone overboard again. Mom threw a tantrum the moment she reached home a few minutes ago. We had to get the doctor over to check on her condition."

Tobias instructed Sheldon, "Please keep an eye on mom because it's only a matter of time before things turn out as such. When she links everything together and asks Tanya to leave, we'll pretend as though nothing has ever happened."

His brother frowned and found Tanya disgusting because she insisted on interfering with others' lives when she was the uninvited guest in the picture.