

Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband Chapter 1741

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Chapter 1741

Bernard, sensing the awkward tension, stepped forward with a welcoming grin. "Zavier, this is your first time visiting our humble abode, and we're all absolutely thrilled to have you. We've gone all out and prepared a welcome feast in your honor. Please, come in and make yourself at home."

The Blue clan was treating Zavier with the pomp and circumstance befitting a distinguished guest from afar, regardless of whether Zavier appreciated such fanfare or

not.

Today, Skyler, who had always been neglected and disregarded by them, also was treated with smiles and warmth, all thanks to Zavier.

But Skyler wasn't buying any of it. She couldn't care less for their sudden change of heart. Zavier, playing along, provided her with the perfect excuse to spend some quality time with Iris.

Once alone, Iris threw herself into Skyler's arms and clung to her tightly, sobbing, "Skyler."

Tears welled up in Skyler's eyes as she comforted Iris, "Iris, don't be scared. I am here for you now."

Iris rubbed her face against Skyler over and over, seeking the maternal affection she'd never received. To her, Skyler was as vital as a mother. "I was so afraid you didn't want me anymore, and I was so scared."e2

Skyler softly stroked Iris' hair, trying to soothe her fears. "Iris, you're the most important person in my life. How could I ever leave you?"

She had repeated these words countless times on the phone and through WhatsApp messages, but living in fear every day, Iris found it hard to trust any promises. After all, Skyler had once told her they would never be separated, yet she ended up being sent away to the distant Capital.

Iris looked up, wiping away her tears, “Does... does my brother-in-law treat you well?”

The word ‘brother-in-law’ made Skyler blush slightly, “We’re not married yet, Iris. Why are you calling him that already?”

Iris retorted with the logic of a child, “Sooner or later, I’ll have to call him that.”

Skyler pinched Iris’ cheek playfully. “You’re such a little thinker. From now on, you call him Mr. Zavier, not brother-in-law.”

“Why not call me brother-in-law? I think it sounds quite nice.” Zavier’s voice came from behind them. He had managed to slip away from the others in the family.

Skyler was taken aback. “Weren’t you dealing with my family? How did you end

up

here?”

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Zavier chuckled, “Gettin rid of them was a piece of cake.”

Recognizing Zavier’s exceptional ability to handle any situation, and fully aware that the Riveras were no match for him, let alone the Blues, Skyler wisely chose not to pursue the issue any further.

Zavier’s gaze fell upon the young Iris, a ten-year-old girl with an undeveloped innocence, her features not yet resembling Skyler’s. “Were you and your sister born to the same parents?”

“Of course,” Skyler replied without hesitation.

Zavier’s curiosity piqued, “It’s just that you two don’t seem to look much alike.”

“Who says we don’t look alike?” Skyler was quick to defend, pulling out her phone and scrolling through her cloud album to find a picture from when she was about ten, “Take a look at this.”

Zavier leaned in closer, “Is this a photo of Iris?”

“That’s me,” Skyler clarified. “It’s from when I was around Iris’ age.”

The girl in the photo was the spitting image of Iris as she was now-indistinguishable from one another.

Zavier scrutinized the photo for a moment longer, “You two really look alike.”

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Skyler flashed two more photos on her phone, “Take a look at this.”

Zavier peered closely at the images of two children who bore a striking resemblance, “Your sister is a twin?”

Skyler explained, “This is me, and this is Iris. Both pictures were taken when we were five. I had someone Photoshop us together last year. Everyone who sees this picture thinks we’re twins. From now on, you’re not allowed to say we don’t look alike, okay?”

Zavier couldn’t help but chuckle at Skyler’s stubbornness, “Alright, alright, I won’t say you two don’t look alike anymore.”

She pocketed her phone with satisfaction, “Glad you get it.”

Zavier stood up, offering a warm smile, “Come on, let me treat you and your sister to

dinner.”

Iris looked at Skyler with concern, “Can we really go out to eat?” Iris wanted to, but she was also scared.e2

Skyler took Iris' hand in hers, "Do you want to go out to eat, Iris?"

Iris nodded vigorously, "Yes."

"Then that's what we'll do, and there's nothing to worry about," Skyler reassured her.

Iris' smile curled up at the edges, and Skyler's heart clenched with a mix of joy and pity. Just like her, Iris craved the love and affection of a family. The simple prospect of dining out filled her with as much excitement as if she had been given the most precious treasure in the world.

Zavier, observing this exchange, felt a pang of empathy. Even though he knew the sisters had a rough time with the Blue family, he couldn't begin to fathom what they had endured over the years.

The chauffeur Zavier had arranged was waiting outside. Ever considerate, Zavier took the passenger seat, leaving the backseat for the sisters.

The two chattered non-stop, filling the car with their lively conversation. Zavier listened silently, determined to do whatever he could to help Skyler and ensure Iris' well-being. He knew that only when Iris was alright, could Skyler truly heal.

At the table, Skyler kept piling food onto Iris' plate. Iris savored every bite as if it was her first, reluctant to pause even for a moment.

It wasn't that the Blue family hadn't treated her to good food. They had always controlled the portions to prevent overeating, worried that the girls would grow fat instead of tall.

At ten years old, Iris was in the throes of growth spurts, naturally ravenous and quick to

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digest anything she ate. Limiting her food intake was, in essence, starving her.

As Skyler served Iris more food, Skyler cautioned, "Eat slowly, Iris. Don't make yourself sick. I'll be in Southern Port for a few more days, and I'll take you out to enjoy whatever you like."

Iris assured her, "I won't overeat."

Skyler knew all too well the hardships, "Okay, just take your time."

Nodding, Iris continued eating, and Skyler added more to her plate. When Skyler looked up, she caught Xavier's complex gaze. She smiled sheepishly, "Thank you for everything."

Xavier reached over with his fork to serve Skyler, "Don't just look after your sister, make

sure you eat too."

Grinning, Skyler replied, "I will."

The table was laden with seafood, especially shrimp. While Skyler was busy peeling shrimp for Iris, Xavier started doing the same for Skyler.

"You don't need to worry about me," she insisted. "Take care of yourself."

Xavier paused before blurting out, "I want to take care of you."

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Skyler's heart skipped a beat before pounding wildly in her chest as Xavier's ambiguous words hung in the air. 'Xavier, please don't say things that could be misunderstood.'

Iris suddenly perked up, her big doe eyes widening as she gazed at Xavier. "You like my sister, don't you?"

Kids and their instincts. From the moment Iris had met Xavier, she knew there was something special about him because of the way he treated her sister.

Months had passed without seeing Skyler, and Iris noticed a stark change in her sister. Back in the day, her sister shared Iris' fear of their household, they'd barely breathe too loudly in front of their kin, often on the receiving end of venomous words or even a harsh slap.

But this time, her sister returned with a newfound courage, far from the trembling leaf she used to be around family. This version of her sister seemed even more beautiful and

reassuring.

If possible, Iris really wished she could leave this place with her sister and never come back, never see these people again.

Before Xavier could reply, Skyler interjected, "Iris, be careful with their words."e2

But Iris had that mischievous sparkle that kids sometimes get, especially around a sister they adore, "Sis, I'm not making things up. Besides, I was asking my brother-in-law, and he hasn't answered yet. Why are you in such a hurry?"

Skyler turned to Xavier, "Xavier, she's just a kid. Don't take it to heart."

Xavier smiled at Iris, "It's only natural for people to like someone as amazing as your sister, isn't it?"

"So, you do like my sister?" Iris pressed on.

Xavier nodded. "Of course, I do." His answer was short and to the point. That was just the kind of guy he was.

Skyler nudged him discreetly, "Don't talk nonsense in front of the kid."

Xavier retorted, "Who's talking nonsense? I've never been more serious."

Skyler was at a loss for words.

Iris chimed in again, "If you like my sister, then you must always treat her well. You can't ever hurt her."

Xavier ruffled Iris' hair with a smile, "I promise you right here and now that I'll always treat your sister well. If I don't, you can deal with me as you see fit."

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But ironically, it would be Xavier who would cause Skyler the deepest hurt in the future. When he realized his mistake, it was already too late. Skyler had decisively fled from his life, and it took him so long to find her again.

Excited by the promise, Iris looked at Skyler, only to see her sister's eyes brimming with tears. "What's wrong? If you don't want to talk about it, I won't ask."

Skyler shook her head, "Don't worry, Iris. I'm fine."

Zavier's concern was palpable as he echoed Iris' question, "What's wrong?"

"I'm fine," Skyler insisted.

But the more they showed their concern, the more she inexplicably felt like crying. She quickly diverted by fussing over Iris with the food, masking her true emotions.

Zavier kept his gaze on her, "Scaredy-cat, what's really going on?"

Skyler snapped back, "I said I'm fine. Why do you keep asking?"

Zavier fell silent. The girl wasn't scared anymore, at least not in front of him. In front of others, she was still the same little scaredy-cat.

Nonetheless, the meal was finished in a cheerful atmosphere.

After dinner, Iris clung to Skyler, refusing to let go, and Skyler indulged her, embracing her sister's whims for once.

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Skyler had dropped a few grand on a swanky hotel room, and Xavier could only watch as Skyler was whisked away by her sister, feeling a pang of loss in his chest.

Back in his own room, he pinged his buddies in their group chat, [What are you guys up to?] He sent the message, but no one seemed to care.

Zavier: [Lucas is taken, Steven's got his eye on a girl. I get why those love-struck fools aren't replying. But Marc, what's your excuse? You ain't got a lady love, why the cold shoulder?]

After a while, Marcus finally shot back a message, [Was just catching up with my grandma.]

Zavier: [How's her health?]

Marcus: [Gran's tough as nails.]

Zavier: [She's only got you for a grandson. She not bugging you to bring home a bride?]

Marcus: [My gran ain't as bored as your granddad.]

Zavier: [That's a way to put it. You're young now, so she's not pressing you. Give it a couple of years, then we'll see if she starts nudging you.]

Marcus: [Don't sweat it for me. You sort out your own stuff first.]

Zavier: [Already did.]

Marcus: [Really?]

Zavier: [I've decided to go with the family's wishes. When Skyler is of age or after she graduates, we'll make it official.]

At that, Steven and Lucas, who'd been playing dead, suddenly sprang to life.

Steven: [If you're into Skyler, just say it, man. What's with the family wishes excuse?]

Lucas: [Never thought I'd see the day Xavier falls so hard. The age-old tale, even heroes can't fend off Cupid's arrow.]

Zavier: [Thought you guys were dead. Back from the grave?]

Steven: [My bro's getting hitched. I'd claw my way out of a coffin for that.]

Lucas: [Did you even ask Skyler? Is she down with this plan to marry you?]

Zavier: [She'll be on board for sure.]

Steven: [Sure? You're that certain she'll say yes?]

Lucas: [Spill it, Zavier. What's got you so hooked on her?]

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Zavier was stumped. He'd never pondered that question. Maybe it was Skyler's stubborn streak that got to him. Maybe he felt for her and wanted to be her rock. Or perhaps it was just that she fit his idea of beauty.

He didn't want to delve too deep. All he knew was that he wanted to marry Skyler, and be with her for life.

Marcus: [If you've made up your mind, then treat her right. Don't have any other intentions with other women.]

Steven: [Marc, quit playing advisor when you're single as a pringle.]

Lucas: [Let him speak. Marc's making sense.]

Marcus: [If there's anything you need with me, just holler.]

That reminded Zavier of something, "How's the collaboration going with my uncle Matthew and the Hartley Group?"

Marcus: [The guy's got no character or competence. Teaming up with him is a headache. Besides, Rivera Inc. is a mess right now, and I'm not keen on muddying the waters. But if it's you, I'd consider it.]

Marcus's words were the solid backing Zavier needed.

With his friends' support, he felt ready to take on the world, "Thanks, man. Time to roll up my sleeves and get to it."

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Chapter 1745

Time flew by.

In the blink of an eye, Skyler had entered her junior year. She was the epitome of

dedication, acing her studies and keeping up with her part-time job, where every song she composed was a hit.

Just when things seemed to be on the upswing for Skyler, Xavier, who graduated earlier, had slowly risen from being the least likely successor to a formidable contender for the helm of Rivera Inc., bringing the battle for inheritance to a fever pitch.

One day, after class, Skyler barely stepped into her dorm when she received a text from Xavier: [Free tonight?]

Xavier had been swamped lately, and it had been days since Skyler last saw him. She quickly replied, [Nope. I'd clear my calendar for you, Mr. Xavier, no matter what.]

Xavier responded with [Get downstairs.]

Every time Xavier sent such a message, he was usually waiting for her outside. Skyler rushed to the window and looked down. Sure enough, there he was, standing below, a cigarette between his fingers, lost in a haze of smoke.e2

Skyler texted back, [How many times have I told you not to smoke? Why are you still at it?] Xavier suddenly looked up, and although they were too far apart to see each other clearly

—

she was on the eleventh floor — Skyler could still make out the smile on his face.

He obediently stubbed out the cigarette and sent another message, [Dinner tonight?]

Skyler smiled down at him, [Sure.]

Returning to the dorm, Emma and Amanda couldn't help but tease, "Zavier's waiting for you again, huh? The love you two spread could feed our entire campus for a year."

Skyler laughed, "Your boyfriends are just as sweet to you. No need to be jealous of me."

"When's the wedding?" Emma asked eagerly. "I'm dying to celebrate your big day."

"We've got it planned," Skyler said. "We'll get hitched right after I graduate."

Amanda chimed in, "We all thought Zavier was the domineering type, but turns out he's all about warmth and thoughtfulness. Sky, you really hit the jackpot."

Whenever anyone complimented Zavier in front of Skyler, she never downplayed it. In her eyes, Zavier truly was the best partner, "He really is amazing. I'm so grateful that he's the man I met."

But Amanda warned, "Just keep a close eye on him. A catch like Zavier has a long line of

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admirers. Don't let any schemers get the upper hand."

"He's not that kind of guy," Skyler responded with confidence.

Emma added, "Better safe than sorry, right?"

Ding-dong.

Skyler's phone rang, and she thought it was Zavier urging her to hurry. When she picked up her phone and checked, it was a message from the Blue family. Without much thought, she casually swiped it away without opening and reading the messages. "Ladies, I need to head down. Don't want to keep my boyfriend waiting."

“When has Xavier ever rushed you?” they spoke in unison. “Remember your twentieth birthday? We spent ages getting you ready, and he waited downstairs for a good couple of hours. Anyone else would’ve lost patience, but not your Xavier. He didn’t send a single text.”

“He might not rush me, but I can’t stand the thought of him out in the cold,” Skyler retorted before dashing out the door.

Emma called after her, “That girl is showing off again!”

Skyler quickly made her way downstairs and as soon as she reached Xavier, he took her hand firmly into his.

The winters in the Capital were harsh, and Skyler’s hands were always cold, but ever since she and Xavier got together, her hands had never felt the chill again.

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Chapter 1746

During the chillier months, he had stocked up on all sorts of cozy mittens for her, but when they were together, his broad palms were her best source of warmth.

Xavier tightened his grip, “Let’s go see a doctor”

At that, Skyler panicked, clutching at Xavier’s shirt, “Are you hurt?”

Xavier caught her fumbling hands, “Other girls’ hands aren’t as cold as yours. That’s not normal, so I thought we should have a doctor check you out.”

His words were full of concern, but Skyler fixated on the wrong detail, “Xavier, have you been holding other girls’ hands?”

Xavier, completely baffled, stammered, “When have I ever held another girl’s hand?”

Skyler pressed, “If you haven’t held another girl’s hand, how would you know their hands are warm?”e2

She was letting her imagination run wild. Xavier couldn't help but laugh, though thinking about her jealousy suddenly brightened his mood, "Scaredy-cat, you only act tough with me."

Skyler insisted, "Answer my question, no changing the subject."

With a firm but gentle pull, Xavier drew her into his embrace, wrapping her in his coat, "I asked a doctor. That's how I know."

Snuggled against him, she listened to his steady heartbeat and nuzzled closer, "Don't lie to me."

Xavier leaned down, kissing her forehead softly, then found her lips, whispering, "Except for your hand, I don't hold any girl's hand."

Skyler murmured, "Me neither."

Her voice was soft, her cheeks flushed, but Xavier heard her loud and clear, his heart warming at her words, "What did you say?"

Skyler deflected, "I'm hungry."

This tactic had always worked on Xavier, but not today, "Tell me, what did you just say?"

"You know," Skyler said, her voice a whisper.

Xavier persisted, "But I want to hear you say it."

"Except for your hand, I won't hold any other boy's hand," she finally confessed.

Xavier was overjoyed, lifting Skyler into his arms.

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Startled, Skyler protested, "We're still at school, don't get carried away."

Zavier teased, "So it's okay to get carried away when we're not at school?"

Before she could respond, Xavier whispered in her ear, "I wish you were graduating

tomorrow."

Skyler sighed, "It's still more than a year away."

Zavier's voice was husky, "Skyler, I can't wait another second."

He was holding her so close, and she felt his response even through their layers of clothing. "Let's go to your place tonight." She actually didn't mind this. On her twentieth birthday, passion had led them further than before, and in the heat of the moment, things had naturally progressed until an accident at the last minute.

Zavier raised an eyebrow, "Hmm?"

Realizing her boldness, Skyler's face turned beet red, burning hot. She quickly changed the subject, "Zavier, I'm really hungry."

Zavier, ever considerate, wouldn't push her when she was hungry, "Alright, let's grab something to eat first."

However, just as they got into the car, Skyler's phone rang with a call from the Blue family. She frowned, hesitating whether to answer or not, when Xavier's phone rang too.

He glanced at her before answering his call.

Skyler couldn't hear what the person on the other end was saying, but she watched as Xavier's expression grew darker and darker.

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Skyler's gaze was laced with apprehension as she watched Xavier end the call. He reached for her hand again, clasping it tightly, "Skyler..."

His expression was dark and stormy, prompting a wave of panic in Skyler, “What happened? Did something go wrong?”

After a moment of heavy silence, Xavier uttered gravely, “The Blue family has declared bankruptcy.”

Skyler knew all too well what the bankruptcy of the Blue family meant. For a moment, her heart was a chaotic mess, but she refused to let herself fall apart. With effort, she mustered a radiant smile, “No wonder I’ve been getting non-stop calls from the Blue family all day. So, this was the reason.”

Zavier saw through her anxiety, “Skyler.”

Before he could finish, Skyler continued, “The Blue family has never been kind to me. I’ve always been trying to break free from their grip. Now that they’re bankrupt, it’s probably a good thing for me. Don’t worry about me.”

Zavier’s gaze lingered on her. He was at a loss for words, unsure whether she truly didn’t grasp the full implications of the Blue family’s bankruptcy or if she was just pretending not to know.

He reached out again, holding her cold hand firmly, “Skyler, we’re likely to go through a lot in the coming days. No matter what happens, you have to trust me, okay?”

Skyler asked, “What’s going to happen?”

Zavier paused. Then Skyler added, “Zavier, we both know that to take control of our destinies, we must become strong. I’ve been juggling school and songwriting to make money, and you’ve been working hard too. We’re both getting closer to our goals. But...”

Zavier cut her off, “No buts.”

Skyler persisted, “Zavier, we’re capable of supporting ourselves, and we’re getting closer to our goals, but we’re not yet strong enough to take on our families, especially you. Right now, Rivera Inc. is at a critical juncture in its competition. You may not think about yourself, but can you really let go of your brother and father’s death?”

Zavier was silent. He couldn't let go. The culprit would soon reveal themselves. Soon, he would be able to bring the perpetrator to justice, and he couldn't afford to be distracted by anything else.

Skyler spoke again, "Zavier, no matter what choices you make, I won't blame you. So, feel free to boldly do what you want to do."

Zavier decided, "Right now, I'm taking you to Grandpa at the Rivera's Manor."

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Skyler agreed, "Okay."

Zavier added, "Grandpa's getting on in years, and sometimes his memory fails him. His authority in the company diminishes day by day. Matthew and Owen might not listen to Grandpa much, but as long as he's around, they won't dare to cause any chaos."

Skyler nodded, "Right."

Both of them felt uneasy on their way to Rivera's Manor, and they rode in silence.

Fortunately, when they arrived at Rivera's Manor, the other members of the Rivera family had not yet returned, only Hudson was there.

Hudson said, "Zavier, the bankruptcy of the Blue family can be a big deal or a small one, but you need to take charge at the office personally. Don't let Matthew and Owen take this opportunity to cause trouble."

Zavier responded, "Grandpa, I understand. Please take good care of Skyler for me."

Hudson replied, "I asked you to bring Skyler here to keep her safe from those who might have designs on her. Now that she's with me, you can go and do what you need to do without worry."

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"Thank you, Grandpa." Xavier turned to look at Skyler. Despite having a thousand words on his mind, he simply uttered a brief sentence. "Skyler, you just hang tight here, okay? I'll be back before you know it."

Skyler offered a warm smile, "Okay."

Then Xavier said to Hudson, "Grandpa, please look after Skyler for me."

Hudson waved dismissively, "You're a grown man. Stop fussing like an old maid. Go and handle your business. You can only protect the ones you love when you've got your own affairs sorted."

Zavier nodded, "Got it."

Skyler gave him an encouraging smile, "Hurry back."

And with that, Zavier was gone.e2

No sooner had he left than Skyler heard Hudson's sobering words, "Skyler, the Blue family going bust means you're no longer playing in the same league as the Riveras, you get that, right?"

Skyler nodded slowly, "I understand."

Hudson seemed pleased, "I knew I wasn't wrong about you. You've got a good head on your shoulders."

Skyler laughed bitterly, "I just wish I wasn't so clear on the situation right now."

Hudson continued, "You're a good kid, a real catch for any regular family. It's just a damn shame that my grandson Zavier's got too much on his plate."

The implication was subtle, but to Skyler, it already felt too direct, "What would you like me to do, Grandpa?"

The thought of breaking up the kids himself did make Hudson's heart twinge, but that was nothing compared to the future of Rivera Inc. "We're at a critical juncture. Zavier's reputation can't afford the slightest scratch. It'd be better for his image if you're the one to call off the engagement."

"Hudson," Skyler's address to him shifted with the gravity of the moment, "Did you even discuss this with Zavier before making your decision? Does he want this?"

She forced a smile, "If this was Zavier's wish, I wouldn't hesitate. But we both know he has no intention of calling off our engagement. He trusts you completely, and that's why he left me in your care. If he knew you'd tricked me here, then sent him away, knowing his temper, he'd resent you for sure."

Hudson gripped his coffee mug a little tighter, his tone even, "So you want him to resent

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me?"

Skyler was taken aback, "I don't want him to hate you, but your actions will lead to that."

Hudson deflected, making it about her choice, "Whether Zavier resents me is entirely down to what you decide."

Skyler was silent. She had thought Hudson genuinely cared for her happiness with Zavier, but reality was a stark reminder that in the face of great interests, she was always expendable.

However, that wasn't anyone's fault. If their positions were reversed, she might have made the same call as Hudson.

Hudson pressed on, "Skyler, I know you're a good girl. I know you have your own aspirations, and I know you want to break free from the Blue family's control and take your sister out of there. As long as you promise me and take the initiative to propose the annulment of the engagement with Zavier, I can make all these come true."

Two years ago, when they were arranging the engagement between Xavier and her, no one asked them in advance if they were willing. Now that Hudson wanted them to annul the marriage, again, no one had asked them in advance if they were willing.

Whether it was getting engaged or breaking it off, Xavier and Skyler, the two people it concerned most, had the least say.

Skyler felt a bitter laugh coming on but fought back tears instead, “Mr. Hudson, do I have another choice?”

Hudson delivered the ultimatum with a smile that didn’t reach his eyes, “Unless you want to never see your sister again.”

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Back then, the Blue family arranged a marriage for her in the Capital, using her younger sister to threaten her. Now, the Riveras wanted to dissolve the engagement, again using her sister as leverage.

Everyone knew her younger sister was her Achilles’ heel, and everyone could manipulate her as they pleased.

She had never had a second option to choose from.

Skyler stared at Hudson with bloodshot eyes, but Hudson remained eerily calm as he met her gaze. He knew all too well that she had no other choice but to agree to his terms.

Skyler bit her lip so hard it turned white before she finally released the pressure. “Hudson, can you give me a few more days to think about it?”

Hudson smiled, “Zavier will be tied up for the next few days and certainly won’t have time to return. I’ll give you twenty-four hours to decide. Once that time is up, I expect the answer I want.”

His words effectively extinguished any hope she held onto, but she was still not ready to give up. She pulled out her cell phone to call Zavier, only to find she had no signal.e2

Hudson pointed upstairs with a smile, “We’ve installed a signal jammer in the house. You won’t be able to make any outgoing calls. If you receive any calls, we might let you answer as long as you watch what you say.”

This move by Hudson effectively severed her contact with Xavier. Without a connection to Xavier, she was left to fight alone. And how could she, alone, outsmart the cunning Hudson?

In an instant, Skyler felt as if an iron grip had tightened around her throat, and no matter how she struggled, she couldn’t break free.

Hudson continued, “Good girl, if you truly care for Xavier, then you surely know what’s best for him. Unless you don’t really love him at all, and you’re only with him to escape the clutches of the Blues.”

Skyler clenched her fists tightly, “Respecting him, considering his wishes, that’s what’s truly best for him.”

“Respect him? If he fails, who will respect him then? Once he successfully takes over Rivera Inc., who would dare not to? We both know this world is survival of the fittest.” Hudson’s smile was no longer the gentle facade Skyler knew but a chilling sharpness.

This version of Hudson sent shivers down her spine. It took her a long while to find her voice again, “But it was you who initially pushed for the alliance between the Riveras and the Blues. I don’t understand why you now want us to split now.”

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Hudson replied, “How can you not understand? You know better than anyone that when I encouraged Xavier to ally with the Blues, it was because Xavier wasn’t yet strong enough to challenge Matthew and Owen head-on. He needed to keep his edge hidden. Back then, marrying into a less powerful family was a form of protection for Xavier. Now that Xavier has the strength to vie for Rivera Inc., and he’s determined to win, what he needs is a partner who can help him in this battle. If the Blues had maintained their status, even if they couldn’t assist Xavier, at least they wouldn’t hold him back.”

Hudson's gaze on Skyler sharpened menacingly, "But your family have declared bankruptcy at this critical moment. To outsiders, it's as if Xavier has lost an arm. If Xavier doesn't cut ties with the Blues quickly, those who support him will undoubtedly waver. I love my grandson, and I can't bear to see him lose in this battle for succession."

Skyler understood all of this perfectly well.

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"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"

Chapter 1750

But deep down, she clung to a sliver of hope, hoping there was another path she could take. For more than two years, she had been engaged to Xavier, and for at least that long, he had treated her with kindness and respect.

Xavier was the one who made her believe not everyone in the world was out to get her, that there was someone willing to cherish and respect her.

He would often reassure her, "Scaredy-cat, from now on, I've got your back. You don't need to fear anything. Just focus on your music. You've got talent, and I believe you'll make it big."

He also promised, "Scaredy-cat, once I take over Rivera Inc., I'll bring your sister to the Capital. No one will ever threaten you again."

And he had once teased, "I must be out of my mind to fall for a scaredy-cat like you."

He said he loved her. He said he wanted to marry her. They had agreed that a little over a year from now, once she graduated from college, they would go and get their marriage license. Everything was moving according to plan, so how had it turned out like this?

Ironically, it was her most despised, the Blue family, who had brought her to Xavier's side. And it was again the Blue family that forced her to leave him.e2

Hudson insisted, "Skyler, if you truly love Xavier and wish him well, then you should stand

on the same side as me."

Skyler let out the frustration that had been building inside her before replying slowly, "Of course, I truly like Xavier, and of course, I wish the best for him, but I don't think your approach is what's best for Xavier."

Hudson's expression darkened, "Then tell me, what would be best for Xavier? Indulge him in sensual pleasures? To see him defeated in this competitive battle? Do you understand what he'll have to face if he fails?"

Skyler knew, but how she wished she didn't. Then she could rebel just this once.

Hudson, sensing her inner turmoil, continued to persuade her, "Skyler, Xavier's father and brother are gone. He must finish what they started. He can't afford a single misstep before he takes over Rivera Inc. If he still holds you in his heart and wants to bring you back when all this is over, then no one will be able to stop you from becoming his wife."

At these words, Skyler chuckled, "You know Xavier's temperament better than I do."

Skyler understood everything, yet for the sake of her sister and what Hudson claimed was best for Xavier, she was coerced into playing Hudson's game with Xavier.

The Capital was frigid, and so was Skyler's heart, yet Xavier's touch was scorching.

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That night, it felt like she had walked through the gates of hell and back. She knew Xavier was furious, yet she still managed to utter a sentence that pierced his heart as they lay together.

“Zavier, no matter how much I despise the Blue family, they are still my flesh and blood. I don’t want to see the Blue family ruined. I want to see them rise again. Don’t hate me for playing you like this, but I must carry the Rivera family’s heir to secure my place as your wife and give the Blue family a chance to stand tall once more.”

Zavier glared at her with bloodshot eyes, as if he wanted to devour her alive, “You’d choose the Blue family, who treat you like a pawn, over me?”

She wanted to say that wasn’t true.

She wanted to say she chose him.

But she couldn’t.

She managed a smile and said, “In the end, we’re together, isn’t that all that matters?”

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