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Erica was dumbfounded. It took some time before she could utter a word. "T-That's fake, right?"

The sound of printed receipts rendered her mind blank once again.

"I-I... I bet that card is stolen. Aren't you afraid of the police knocking on your door?"

Skylar merely returned an unaffected smile. "Slandering someone is also a criminal offence, you know."

At this moment, Tobias returned to the scene after his call ended. When he saw Skylar at the cashier, he was overjoyed. She finally knows how to pamper herself.

Draping his arms over her shoulder, Tobias asked, "You're only getting this?" Then, tilting his head, he looked at the two other people who seemed to be with Erica with curious but guarded eyes.

Erica gulped nervously as his gaze landed on her.

Wait... Isn't her boyfriend Jeremy? Who's this new person?

In the past, there was a running joke in the class that Skylar would most definitely become a widow before anyone else. But judging from the sight, Erica realized how outdated she had been about Skylar's life.

At the side, her boyfriend was visibly shaken. He even dropped his wallet as his hands were trembling uncontrollably.

Meeting Tobias' eyes, he stuttered meekly, "N-Nice to meet you, Mr. Ford. I-I'm... "

"You're Wallace Boyd's son, right?"

The man nodded frantically. "Yes! And I..." His voice trailed off as Tobias walked away heedlessly, clearly not interested in continuing the conversation. He joined Skylar, who was now at the other side of the store instead.

"Erica, who exactly is your friend?"

Erica frowned at how nervous her boyfriend looked. "She's just a nobody. Why do you look so shaken up? It's like you saw a ghost or something."

The man sighed wryly. "I saw something worse than a ghost."

While they slowly recovered their composure, the couple at the other side of the store was in a world of their own, browsing through other handbags.

Skylar was still in disbelief of having spent so much money in one go, while Tobias was casually retrieving whichever handbag the lady looked mildly interested in and passing it to her.

"T-That's too much! My two arms can't handle so many bags," Skylar protested.

"Just hold on to them. Let me teach you the proper way to spend your money," he instructed light-heartedly as he passed her another limited-edition handbag.

The proper way to spend money... Skylar was overwhelmed by the amount of luxury goods she was holding.

Since she was young, Skylar learnt the importance of being thrifty. Meredith would often reiterate how she had no money for retirement, and that they could barely make ends meet. And thus, Skylar had known the need to cut down on her expenses for survival at an early age.

Across the store, Erica watched on, green with envy. She had to go to great lengths to make her boyfriend pay for a Hermès bag. And yet, there Skylar was, having unlimited handbags at her disposal.

She had always considered herself a winner in everything. Losing to Skylar was a first, and it was a bitter defeat she had trouble accepting.

After some time, the couple finally completed their haul and headed over to the cashier. "That will be three hundred and twenty million. Would you like to sign up for a membership card so that you can accumulate the points from this transaction?"

The cashier beamed as she handled the purchases, knowing full well that this single transaction was sufficient to cover their annual sales target.

Conversely, Skylar went pale upon hearing the total price. That is enough money to buy a house.

Meanwhile, the person paying did not bat an eye at all. Suavely taking over the pen, Tobias signed his name on the merchant receipt and scribbled an address on his own receipt. "It's alright, I don't need the membership card. But do help me wrap all these up and send them over to this location."

At this point, Erica could no longer contain her burning curiosity. Letting go of her boyfriend's hand, she strode over and faked a polite grin. "Skylar, since when did you get a new boyfriend? I never knew about it."

At this close proximity, Erica could smell Tobias' expensive cologne. It was hypnotizing, to say the least.

Skylar felt Tobias' gaze on her as she answered, "I have no obligation to update you about my life."

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Erica simply wanted to know how Skylar found herself such a wealthy backing. She did not expect the latter to be so cold to her.

In the end, Skylar left with Tobias without answering her question, leaving her in immense exasperation. Meanwhile, her boyfriend heaved a sigh of relief.

"I must say... Your friend is pretty skillful to have that man wrapped around her fingers."

Erica's brows furrowed. "You know that guy? No wonder you behaved so strangely just now. Who is he? He seems filthy rich, being able to buy those handbags like he's buying groceries at the market." As she said so, she could not help but notice her boyfriend's inferiority in comparison. His wealth came nowhere close to the man Skylar was with.

"Wait, you didn't recognize him? That was Tobias Ford! People like him spend money like water."

Erica let out an audible gasp. "T-Tobias Ford? You're telling me that Skylar Jones is dating Tobias Ford, the CEO?"

While the lady remained rooted to the spot in shock, Tobias and Skylar had already made their way to the other end of the mall. Passing by the Chanel store, Tobias promptly dragged the lady in, insistent on a wardrobe makeover.

He could not bear seeing her natural beauty be trampled by her plain-looking clothes.

Skylar did not want to enter the outlet initially, but she was no match for the man's physical strength. Helplessly looking around, she eventually walked over to a sleek Chanel-brand outerwear. Skylar had no intention of buying it, but still took a look at the price tag. It was a habit inculcated in her since childhood.

Tobias took this as a sign of her liking the product. Without a word, he removed it from the racks and handed it over to a nearby staff, despite Skylar's protests. Then, urging her to look at the other clothes in the store, Tobias began to pile the shopping cart once again.

While Tobias was handling the transaction, the lady became gloomy at the side. Money had always been a luxury while growing up, thus she felt extremely uncomfortable at the mindless splurging that was happening.

As sauntered towards the mall's elevator, Skylar's dour expression piqued the man's concern. "Hey, most ladies I know would be in raptures by now. Aren't you happy after doing so much shopping?"

Skylar shook her head. "This way of spending money just doesn't sit right with me. I don't think we should be- "

Tobias pulled her into a semi-embrace, partly to free up the walkway for other customers to exit the lift, and partly to shut her up.

"Listen here. I grew up in a penurious family. My mother scrimped and saved every penny for my brother and I, and never took care of herself. In the end, her sacrifices were for nothing. My father had an affair and they got a divorce. He even insisted for the mistress to be present when they signed the papers. Thus, the moral of the story is that you should never show mercy on your spouse's wallet. Just spend whatever you want and treat yourself right."

He had never revealed this to anyone else. Skylar was his first listener.

Unfortunately, the lady's takeaway was vastly different from what he intended. Choosing to focus on the affair aspect, she jibed indirectly, "I see that you've taken after your father a little."

Till today, she remembered how she and Tobias met. Truth to be told, if the man had a change of heart all of a sudden one day, she would not be surprised.

Tobias made no reply for a moment, making her slightly apprehensive. But luckily, he did not seem to mind her snide remark in the end.

Instead, he confessed, "Honestly, I know I can be a jerk. I admit that I feel happy around you, and that you occupy so much of my heart that I don't have room to accommodate other ladies for now. But whether this remains true in the future is entirely up to your performance."

Nice, a classic jacka*s indeed.

The conversation then ended there. Tobias did not wish to elaborate further.

The pair took the lift to the top floor, though they had no particular destination in mind. Skylar, who had just recovered from a night of fever and endured miles of walking from the shopping trip, desperately needed a break.

Before them was the cinemas. There was a large poster that hung at the entrance, promoting a locally-produced horror movie that received rave reviews recently.

On it, a lady dressed in white stood ominously with only half her face shown.

It was rare for a local horror film to take the box office by storm, signaling how well-produced it was. Apparently, the movie was so scary that someone passed away from a heart attack during the movie.

“Tobias, what about I treat you to a movie?”

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“Movie? That’s an interesting suggestion. I’ve never watched a movie before, actually. In fact, I have never been to the cinemas,” Tobias admitted.

Skylar’s eyes widened in surprise. “You’re telling me that you own several cinemas, but have never watched a movie yourself? Don’t try to fool me.”

Tobias shrugged off her exclamation.

“I don’t have the time, company, or interest to watch one.”

No company? If you wanted to watch any movie, including those explicit ones, I bet a flock of ladies will make themselves available to be with you in an instant.

But going back to the main topic, Skylar conceded after seeing how disinterested Tobias looked. “I’ll just catch it when it’s uploaded online. Let’s go.”

Tobias observed her silently, noting how the lady appeared significantly more enthusiastic about watching a film than getting herself new handbags and clothes. He also noticed how her gaze parted from the movie poster with great reluctance.

After a moment’s hesitation, he said, “Maybe we should watch that movie instead. Suits your age better.” Skylar followed the direction of his pointed finger.

He was gesturing to a kids’ movie.

Skylar sighed at his childishness. "Forget it. Let's go. Horror movies don't appeal to everyone, and I understand that."

Tobias pulled her back. "Are you sure you want to watch the horror movie? What if I get a heart attack during the film? You do know that I'm getting old, and that my heart can fail me anytime, right?"

Old? You're only thirty!

But the lady made no actual reply. She merely stood there with tentative anticipation, hoping that the man would change his mind. Eventually, Tobias could not resist her pleading look and gave in.

"I'll go get the tickets. Wait over here."

Seated at the lounge area, Skylar pulled the hem of his shirt, holding him back. "I've already said that this is my treat." Then, she pulled out a brand new note ceremoniously and handed it over to him.

The note was part of her hard-earned part-time wages.

The man kept the note in his pocket, but paid using money from his own wallet instead. Instead, Skylar watched the man at the ticket counter with amusement.

Does he not know how to use mobile payment? He really needs to keep up with the times... Skylar chuckled to herself.

When Tobias returned, he caught sight of a couple seated near Skylar.

"Honey, I want popcorn," said the lady.

Her partner pinched her cheek affectionately. "What flavor do you want?"

"They only have the original flavor here. Oh by the way, I'm scared of horror movies, so you need to hold me tightly later on, alright?"

The conversation prompted Tobias to take a look at Skylar. The lady seemed nonchalant, or even unaware of the sight happening before her. He sighed internally. Oh, the disparity. Why can't she be more forthcoming like that?

The couple's exchange also reminded Tobias of something else – they did not have any drinks or snacks for the movie. Instinctively, he went off and got the largest popcorn box and two cans of soft drink.

Before heading into the movie hall, Tobias asked once again, "Are you sure about this?" In response, Skylar merely taunted, "What? You're already feeling the jitters?"

Tobias chuckled. "Oh please. Fear is not in my dictionary."

It was not an exaggeration. The man had offended too many people, but still lived fine in the end. As a result, he been blasé about things like vengeful ghosts and monsters. I'd be dead by now if they can actually harm me.

When they entered the screening hall, Tobias immediately realized his mistake – he had booked the front row seats. It was a greatly wasted opportunity to do certain things amidst the pitch black environment.

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"Tobias... Tobias..." he called out to his brother.

Skylar saw that Sheldon had a young and pretty lady with him who looked like a typical social medial influencer. Even though she was quite pretty, it was obvious that she had undergone plastic surgery.

Sheldon's eyes were twinkling as if he had discovered something interesting.

There were clouds of depression looming at home everyday. Claudia was waiting eagerly for her son to return home and Tanya also wailed and wept in front of her endlessly.

If they saw that his brother was still in the mood to go on a movie date with a woman, they would definitely hit the roof.

"Hey," Tobias acknowledged coldly. He was not particularly happy to bump into Sheldon and hence, could not be bothered to say anything else.

The influencer lookalike had heart shapes in her eyes and was stoked to see Tobias. She almost wanted to take a picture of the man so that she could brag to her friends that she was acquainted with him.

Sheldon waved to Skylar casually while Tobias looked for their seats before leaning in and whispering next to her ears, "Ms. Jones seems to know the right moves. Watching a horror movie with a guy gives you the perfect opportunity to throw yourself into his arms."

A blush spread across Skylar's cheeks as she replied softly, "That didn't even cross my mind. Besides, I won't have to use that tactic on your brother."

"Ha!" Sheldon dismissed Skylar's words with a snort. He did not believe that his brother would initiate a move on any woman.

As there were some empty seats in the theater, even though Sheldon bought seats at the back, he insisted on sitting together with Tobias and Skylar.

The moment he sat down, Tobias spoke with mild irritation in his deep voice, "Go sit elsewhere and don't disturb me."

Sheldon stood up reluctantly, feeling hurt to be rejected by his own brother.

"We can all sit together. The more the merrier anyway," Skylar spoke.

She made the suggestion as she wasn't sure if Tobias would suddenly feel horny in the midst of the movie and make a move on her.

No matter what, with Sheldon around, Tobias would definitely try to behave as he needed to maintain his image of a mighty, aloof and celibate CEO.

Tobias looked at Skylar intently and said, "Keep quiet."

Skylar sat down sulkily and pouted. "Do you have to be so fierce?"

Sheldon let out a sigh which was full of grievances. His brother had merely spoken in a slightly louder voice and Skylar had already found that fierce.

Compared to the treatment he had endured all those years, his brother was already being very gentle.

After Sheldon and the influencer lookalike went back to their own seats at the back of the theater, the woman asked curiously, "Is she your brother's fiancée? She looks really young!"

Sheldon replied in annoyance, "Why did you ask? Is that any of your business? Just concentrate on watching the movie."

The influencer lookalike stopped talking, afraid that she would further irritate Sheldon.

Her position was not secured yet and Sheldon might dispose of her anytime. She did not want to lose such a golden opportunity so soon.

The movie started shortly after. Tobias was carrying a huge bucket of popcorn and his hands were full.

"Want some?" Tobias pushed the popcorn bucket towards Skylar.

Skylar took a few popcorn and tossed them into her mouth. She had a horrified expression on her face as she stared at the woman in white who had just appeared on the screen.

It didn't help that the movie sound effects helped to amplify the scary ambience and Skylar was already starting to break out in cold sweat. She turned to look at Tobias, who was expressionless and sitting upright.

"Aren't you scared?"

Tobias replied coldly, "What's there to be scared of? If you're scared you can close your eyes."

Suddenly, when a woman who was bleeding from her ears, eyes, mouth and nostrils appeared on the screen, Skylar and the couple seated one row behind them screamed.

The guy from the couple immediately pulled the girl into his arms and comforted her gently, "Babe, don't be scared, I'm here. I'll scold her for scaring you, alright?"

The girl buried her face in the guy's chest and replied coquettishly, "Darling, I'm so scared. You have to hug me tightly and cover my eyes when it comes to the scary parts yeah?"

Tobias lifted his arm and asked, "Do you also want to lean here for a while?"

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Tobias raised the armrest between him and Skylar so that the woman could lean on him.

Skylar continued to munch on popcorn while staring intently at the screen with her eyes filled with terror.

When the movie reached the most exciting part, both the imagery and the sound effects were at their climax as well.

Just then, Tobias' phone rang. As he had forgotten to put his phone on silent mode, Skylar got such a huge shock that her heart had almost stopped beating.

"I need to take a call outside. Will you be OK on your own?"

Skylar shook her head and looked at Tobias with her big and watery eyes, appearing just like a damsel in distress.

"I'm quite scared. What should I do if the ghost suddenly crawls out of the screen?"

It was easy for one's mind to run wild when watching a horror film. Skylar could already imagine a woman dressed in white sitting at Tobias' seat and smiling at her with blood oozing out from her ears, eyes, mouth and nostrils.

In the end, Skylar did not succeed in keeping Tobias with her; he still left the theater to answer the call.

Shortly after, Sheldon appeared and sat down next to Skylar.

"My brother told me to keep you company for a while. He needs to pick up a call."

Skylar turned around and took a glance behind. Tobias was rather 'thoughtful' to get Sheldon to accompany her. After all, Sheldon was also watching the movie with his girlfriend. It just didn't seem appropriate for him to leave his female companion alone.

"He had already answered at least five calls when we were on our way here!" Skylar estimated.

Sheldon could tell that Skylar was complaining even though she herself might not be aware of it and explained, "My brother is a busy man. You can't even imagine how busy he is. To get him to watch a movie with you is, in fact, even harder than striking lottery."

Skylar felt that Sheldon was definitely exaggerating. She had spent the entire day with Tobias and apart from answering phone calls, he had not done anything else.

When Tobias returned to the theater after finishing his call, the movie had already ended.

Since they had already bumped into each other, Sheldon had to make use of the chance to get a free meal from Tobias and was waiting for him outside the theatre so that they could go for dinner together.

Tobias asked Skylar, "What do you feel like having for dinner?"

As Skylar had not fully recovered yet, she did not have much of an appetite or any cravings. "Anything will do," she replied.

Sheldon chimed in the conversation, saying, "Men are all afraid to hear that."

The influencer lookalike said softly, "I feel like eating Japanese cuisine. I know of a good Japanese restaurant nearby which I frequent."

Only then did Tobias shoot a glance at the woman and asked his brother, "Girlfriend?"

Sheldon answered rather ambiguously, "You can say so. Meet my girlfriend, Hilary."

Hilary looked at Sheldon reluctantly as it seemed like the man was still not willing to proudly admit their relationship.

She extended her hand towards Tobias. With a gentle and warm smile, she said, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Ford. I'm Hilary."

Tobias had no intention to shake hands with Hilary and was behaving in an extremely cold manner. He had already lost count of the number of women Sheldon had and they all looked the same.

Hilary's hand froze in midair awkwardly and she did not know if she should put it down or continue holding it there.

Just then, Skylar came to Hilary's rescue. She took Hilary's hand and said, "I'm Skylar."

After that, Hilary could finally put down her hand and smiled at Skylar.

After a while, they reached the Japanese restaurant recommended by Hilary. The place was decorated with a Japanese style and looked minimalistic yet luxurious.

When the waiter brought them the menu, Tobias passed it directly to Skylar. Even though there were two other people at the table, Tobias had no intention to ask for their preferences as to what they would like to order.

Hilary could clearly feel Tobias' disrespect and disdain towards her.

As Skylar browsed through the menu, she noticed that even a cup of water cost more than ten, not to mention the main dishes.

The only Japanese cuisine she ever had was the handroll sold outside her school last time.

Skylar held on to the menu and had no idea what to order at all. She was screaming silently in her heart, "I'm such a country bumpkin. I don't even know how to order from the menu!"