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Skylar's hand trembled a little. Immediately, Tobias let out a hiss of pain. She ran to get a few pieces of tissues to staunch the flow of blood.

There was a cut on the right side of his face. Although it was a relatively small wound, it was visible to the naked eye.

She had ruined his face!

However, Tobias didn't seem to mind, even as Skylar apologized repeatedly to him. She was careless and jumpy by nature, so it was a risk he had to take.

In a lazy drawl, he said, "I'll be returning home very late tonight. My mother asked me to stop by for a while. Do you want to come with me?"

As soon as he mentioned Claudia, Skylar felt overwhelmed with dread again. She had developed a sort of trauma towards that woman. If Claudia saw her again, she might collapse from anger, and her old illness might relapse.

"Are you sure your mother is well enough to handle the shock of seeing me?"

Tobias fell silent as he pondered over her question. Eventually, he decided not to extend the invitation to her again. Indeed, his mother flared up whenever she laid her eyes on Skylar.

Her anger when she saw Skylar was no less than her fury when the topic of her disloyal scumbag of a husband was brought up.

Tobias hugged Skylar and bit down lightly on her earlobe. "You must regret being with me."

This was the first time he had said anything like that to her. Skylar smiled. "I don't mind—I'm not a Hollywood starlet or anything. But I believe I'll get there soon! One day, I'll become a household name because of my looks and gain some influence in the industry."

Skylar was pretty, and she knew it. Since she had the looks, she might as well flaunt it to her advantage.

Tobias pressed a kiss to her forehead and said, "Yes, you are beautiful. I'm going to die in your hands one day, you cunning vixen!"

"You overestimate me," Skylar retorted, her lips curling into a smile. "My fragile little body is going to break under your rough ministrations one day."

Something flashed in his eyes as he realized that there was some truth in her words. Indeed, he could be rough with her in bed sometimes.

Her moans as she pleaded for mercy last night were still resounding in his ears. However, he had continued going, venting his fresh desires on her. Making love to her was simply one of the best things he had ever done.

The two of them lounged around the flat until afternoon. Then they finally left together.

On their way to Royal Entertainment, Skylar suddenly turned to Tobias and asked, "If I were to become famous one day and the paparazzi exposed our relationship to the public, what should we do?"

"I can pay them to keep quiet. Don't you worry about it."

She felt a lump form in her throat. This wasn't the answer she had wanted.

"You mean we can't ever go public with our relationship?" she pressed.

"Do you want us to go public? Don't tell me you expect me to marry you."

Skylar's mind had gone completely blank. Betraying her heart, she responded with a laugh, "No way... you misunderstood me."

Tobias looked a little colder and haughtier now. "I think our relationship right now is splendid! We can have the space to do our own things without being tied down by the burden of marriage."

This was exactly how a jerk would think. Suddenly, Kate's warning flashed in Skylar's mind again. You'd better be more careful of Tobias. Don't think you can live happily ever after just because a powerful man like him made you his woman.

As she continued to struggle with the complicated emotions within her, the car pulled up in front of Royal Entertainment.

Without even saying goodbye to Tobias, she opened the door and got out of the car.

Likewise, he remained silent. Evidently, the topic they just discussed had brought a great deal of unhappiness to the both of them.

The moment she entered the lobby of the office building, Skylar spotted a bunch of trainees crowding around. There was a bus just outside the door, which seemed to be here to pick them up.

One of the girls was being surrounded by the rest.

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Skylar shot a few curious glances towards them. Without her noticing, Kate sneaked up behind her.

She followed Skylar's gaze and said simply, "That girl is Sheldon's girlfriend. The two of them have been getting along very well recently, and he keeps dropping by to visit her. That's why the other trainees suck up to her so much."

Skylar understood the hidden meaning behind her words. No wonder these girls were hanging around her!

Frankly, Skylar thought the girl looked like an average online influencer.

How did she steal the heart of a notorious playboy like Sheldon? She probably has some sort of hidden talent.

Sheldon probably liked her the same way Tobias liked Skylar for her unquestioning obedience. However, it wasn't something Skylar particularly enjoyed doing—rather, she couldn't hold herself back from doing so. After all, she owed Tobias too much.

The filming crew dropped by to sign the final contract with her. Skylar was a little disappointed to see that her pay was slightly below one million.

Kate was exasperated. "I can't believe you're hesitating! This figure is practically unheard of for newcomers in the industry. Besides, this is your first drama. You have to climb the ladder slowly."

However, with this measly salary, Skylar wondered how long it would take for her to gather enough cash to smother Tobias.

Even his watch cost more than her entire salary for this drama. They were truly worlds apart.

She picked up the pen miserably and signed her name on the dotted line.

This contract also required the signature of the CEO. Thinking that it was Tobias, Skylar flipped quickly to the last page. However, the signature there belonged to Valerie instead! Skylar slumped back against her seat.

Kate knew exactly how she was feeling. "Mr. Ford has transferred his decision-making power to her. He's way too busy to bother with Royal Entertainment now."

Skylar had met Valerie once. She was awe-inspiring, not unlike the suave, self-assured Kate herself.

Tobias seemed to like surrounding himself with powerful, talented women.

He didn't return to the flat for the next few days. Skylar hadn't seen him ever since he went home for dinner with his mother—or rather, she hadn't seen him since she brought up that uncomfortable topic in the car.

Did I scare him off? As the endless possibilities swirled around her mind, Skylar felt her heart sink miserably.

She had called Tobias twice during the time he refused to return to the flat. He answered both times, but their calls had never lasted for more than thirty seconds. He always said he was busy.

In the end, Skylar gave up on calling him. Anyway, filming for the new drama was going to begin soon, and she didn't want her emotions to affect her work. Besides, there was no use being too enthusiastic towards a man.

However, Tobias wasn't one to fall for this sort of behavior. If she didn't bother to contact him, he might just continue ignoring her for an indefinite amount of time.

While the filming crew set up the shooting set, Skylar posted a photo of her on set for the first time in her life.

It was the result of a three-hour painful discussion between the makeup artists and stylists.

Kate had a very clear vision of what Skylar's image should be. She wanted the latter to dazzle everyone with her beauty the moment she stepped into the limelight.

"You're beautiful, sweetheart!" Kate exclaimed as she looked at her, loading Skylar with effusive praises.

"Thanks..." Skylar forced a smile onto her face. They had put her in a dress that was so red it looked as though it was on fire, and she didn't like it one bit.

She was the only one who was dressed so formally. Naturally, she stole the attention on set, but the gaudiness of her dressing and makeup gave everyone the impression that she was desperate to stand out among the crowd.

She stood quietly next to Harry as they waited for the crew to finish setting up. Next to each other, the duo looked like the perfect couple.

Harry was a very chivalrous guy. When they took a photo together, he let his hand hang limply in the air instead of draping it over her shoulder.

Kate and Harry's manager, Tyler, stood in a corner. Both of them were busy scrutinizing their own artist with their arms folded.

Tyler observed, "Your girl is pretty good-looking. As long as her acting isn't too terrible, she'll gain quite a lot of fame immediately. See how well the two of them look together! In fact, the company has been meaning to make a couple out of them."

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Kate burst into laughter. "Why does it sound like they're doing Skylar a service? She has always had an innocent image."

Tyler gazed at Skylar's beautiful face. Innocent? Yeah, right.

Like Helen of Troy, Skylar had a face that could launch a thousand ships. Men would go weak in the knees when they see her. She was still a student, but she had already starred in one of Daryl's films and was now the lead of this drama.

It was no secret how she had risen in the industry so quickly—she probably slept her way up! Innocent my foot!

However, Kate didn't shut down the idea of Harry and Skylar being a couple entirely. "We'll have to see the audience response when this drama is aired."

#Unrequited Love Press Conference#; #Harry Reid#; #Pride of Southwood#.

Those were the three hashtags that started trending on social media immediately afterwards. Skylar found herself saddled with the unfamiliar burden of being Southwood Film Academy's pride.

She felt a little embarrassed. She had always kept a low profile in school, except for the one time people dished the dirt on her on social media.

After that, however, everything had pretty much returned to normal.

As it turned out, the public took very well to her ravishing appearance at the press conference. Her Instagram followers shot to five hundred thousand in less than a day.

Despite that, there was another camp of people who were very critical of her on social media. They frequently left all sorts of nasty comments under her posts.

They complained that Skylar's looks were completely different from what they imagined the female lead would look like, and that she wouldn't do justice to the novel.

Not only was she too beautiful, but her face had a rather b*tchy look to it as well.

That was the most liked comment under that post.

Skylar used to think that she was only passably good-looking. However, after her makeup artists did their magic, her looks were greatly elevated to that of a renowned beauty. No wonder so many women were jealous of her.

In the car, she scrolled through the comments miserably.

Why don't you act as a vixen or the male lead's mistress? You aren't suited for this role at all.

Don't you dare sink your claws into Harry!

How did she have the gall to accept a lead role when she has never acted much before? Just look at her rubbish acting skills! I bet she has a sugar daddy who got her this role in the first place.

My poor Harry is going to get tainted by her! Don't you think she'll try to seduce Harry with her looks?

Skylar felt a wave of anger wash over her. She closed the Instagram application immediately.

It had been five days since she last talked to Tobias. She decided to unleash her pent-up fury on him instead.

Her fingers flew over the keyboard as she typed furiously.

Tobias's phone screen lit up again and again as notifications continued to pop up.

Susan placed the documents she compiled on his desk.

They were both quick and efficient, and their partnership was nothing less than a perfect one.

This was also why Tobias particularly valued Susan as his secretary.

It was very quiet in the office. Occasionally, there was a loud crinkle of papers as someone turned a page.

“Mr. Ford, you have some notifications on your phone,” Susan reminded him.

Tobias finally clamped the file shut and picked up his phone from the table. Immediately, he saw lines and lines of text messages from Skylar, all filled with angry expletives.

Tobias felt a little confused. Was she acting up because he had been neglecting her for the past few days? That couldn't be helped. Unfortunately, he had to go to work, too. He couldn't spend all of his time engaging in debaucherous behavior with Skylar.

He told Susan to leave first. She shot a curious look at his phone and saw Skylar's name on the screen.

So they are still together! Susan felt a little stunned.

She had worked with Tobias for so many years, and she knew he had a messy private life. Most of his relationships with women didn't last long.

There were only a few types of woman on this earth. He despised those who got emotionally attached to him and refused to leave.

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In fact, Tobias had a fiancée once, but they never went through with the marriage. Susan heard she had a mental breakdown and was institutionalized in a mental hospital.

Only Tobias himself knew what happened between them.

Susan knew that, stripped of his charisma, Tobias would be nothing more than an average hostile, dangerous playboy. This was why she constantly reminded herself not to fall for him.

Her boss would rather remain a bachelor for life than being bogged down by marriage and the demands of one singular woman.

Just as Susan was leaving the room, she bumped into Eva at the door.

Susan shot her a look. Eva had a rather lovesick look on her face, and Susan's expression turned rather critical.

The office had just hired a few assistants. Eva was objectively the best-looking one out of all of them. Susan feared that she might have developed a few strange ideas. Eva was a pretty good worker, and she completed all her tasks wonderfully.

Tobias tore his gaze from his phone and looked up at Eva. "Is there something wrong?"

"Mr. Ford, the weather has been rather cold lately. My mother made some soup to thank you for taking such good care of me. Please drink some—it'll do wonders for your health." Eva placed the canister of soup on his desk and made to twist open the cover.

Tobias leaned back in his chair and continued reading his documents, looking utterly unruffled.

"Mr. Ford, you should drink while it's hot," Eva persisted. The silence in the room was making her uncomfortable.

“First, I’ve never extended any special treatment towards you. Second, I hate soup—they make me sick and taste horrible to boot. Besides, do we know each other very well? You don’t have to be so concerned about me.”

Tobias drew blood with every word. Eva felt as though someone had just emptied a bucket of ice-cold water on her head. She put the lid back onto the canister.

The wild, savage expression in Tobias’ eyes frightened her.

She had no choice but to leave the room. Just as she reached the door, he looked up and gazed at her.

Eva’s heart started beating wildly as she felt her face heat up.

“Aside from work matters, please do not come in here to look for me. You might be new, but that’s no excuse for your lack of propriety.”

Eva bowed her head in humiliation. This was the first time she had been so thoroughly embarrassed. Tobias hadn’t bothered to treat her with respect at all.

The office fell silent as she crept despondently out of the room and shut the door behind her quietly.

Susan was waiting for Eva in the corridor.

She gazed contemptuously at the canister in the latter’s hands and the melancholic expression on her face.

Blocking Eva’s path, Susan smiled and said mockingly, “I remember telling you about the rules of this office on your first day. Have you forgotten all about it? Don’t think you can climb the corporate ladder by engaging in this sort of atrocious behavior. Use the time and do your work properly!”

Eva tried in vain to defend herself, but Susan refused to listen to her. She had seen this sort of girls before.

Tobias had never expressed an interest in any of his female subordinates. He hated it when people tried to suck up to him.

He frowned and pursed his lips in annoyance. He tried to call Skylar, but she hung up on him every single time.

After he tried calling her a few more times, she got so frustrated that she simply blocked his number.

What the hell is she doing? Infuriated, Tobias removed his tie and flung it onto his desk. He stalked over to his window and watched as rain poured down onto the streets outside.

It was already winter, but it still rained every other day. Recently, it had been bone-chillingly cold. Sometimes, it was so cold at night that Tobias had a hard time falling asleep—that was when he thought two people in bed was better than one.

He hadn't had much time to rest these days. He was spending most of his days in the office, which left him no time to engage in his usual debaucherous behavior. In fact, it had been a month since he last had s@x.

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Skylar packed up after a day of shooting. On her way home, Hannah informed her about the filming time and location for the next day.

Skylar couldn't help but admire Kate's prowess in choosing her staff. Although Hannah wasn't exactly the brightest, she was loyal, hardworking, and responsible.

When Skylar heard she had to leave the house by five-thirty tomorrow morning, she nearly cried. In the past, she had woken up before dawn, but now that she was busier than a bee, she wanted nothing more than to sleep in.

She took out her keys to open the door. As she bent down to remove her shoes, she spotted a pair of men's shoes on the rack.

When he heard the door slam shut downstairs, Tobias stuck his hands in his pockets and ambled down the stairs slowly.

Skylar had been keeping a careful count of the days since she last saw him a month ago. She couldn't help but feel a little distant from him.

"What are you doing here?" she asked callously.

Tobias walked over to her and tilted her chin up with his finger. In a voice laced with lust and desire, he said, "You don't seem thrilled to see me. Weren't you trying to get me to come over just now? You sent me so many emojis."

Skylar was certain that she had never asked him to come over to spend time with her. How had he managed to turn the tables on her so quickly?

As calmly as she possibly could, she replied, "You're a busy man, and an important one at that. I would never dare to disturb you like that."

She sounded a little huffy as she said that.

Tobias held a plastic bag up from the sofa and passed it to her. "I came over to visit you as soon as I was done. You didn't disturb me at all. Anyway, I was busy. Can't tell you what I was busy with, though—you probably won't understand a word I say."

Skylar opened the plastic bag. When she saw what was inside, her face flushed scarlet in embarrassment. As expected, Tobias hadn't changed at all.

Gingerly, she fished a translucent G-string out of the bag.

"Are you going to wear it? I won't have much to say if you do, but if you want me to put this on, you can dream on!"

Tobias smiled, but it didn't quite reach his eyes. "Are you dumb or something? Do you think I could fit in that tiny piece of cloth?"

Skylar flung the flimsy piece of underwear at him, and Tobias caught it in his hands.

Without even blinking, he brought the G-string to his face and gave it a deep sniff. "This will smell even better after you've worn it."