

**In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter
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After all the guests had departed, the expressionless Eva sat at the table peppered with leftovers and stared vacuously at the wall.

Wesley asked his daughter cautiously, "Are you alright, Eva? I told you before that I wasn't

sure, but who could have guessed Skylar would still be seeing Tobias?"

Eva looked back angrily and snarled, "How could you be so muddle-headed, Dad? Why didn't

you tell me when both of you knew it all along? Now you got me looking like a complete idiot."

Wesley mumbled, "I couldn't have known that they were still together. I assumed that a

big-shot like Mr. Ford would only be fooling around with her."

Eva bit her lip, and her eyes burned at the seats previously occupied by Tobias and Skylar.

"Yeah, not like she's good enough for him. She really made me look so bad today."

Sharon was heartbroken to see her own precious daughter so aggrieved. "This isn't going to

last for Skylar. Didn't you see how nobody knew about her? If Tobias was serious about

being with her for the long haul, why would he be so secretive about it?"

Eva could not stand listening to the mention of Skylar's name, as hearing that name once

more might send her over the edge.

She had no idea how she was going to face Tobias back in the office.

Over the years, Skylar was like an unwanted weed that would never amount to anything even

if left to its own devices.

"Were you unhappy with the way I handled the situation?" Skylar asked.

She was unsure if Tobias minded being called away from his family reunion to become a

tool for her little tantrum.

Tobias was seated by the bed, seemingly in great discomfort after having one drop too

much.

"Why would I be unhappy over such a trivial matter? I'll be there anytime you need me to."

Skylar passed along a hot towel to Tobias which he used to wipe down his own face. He

then retrieved an envelope from his suit pocket and handed it over to her.

“Merry Christmas!”

Skylar examined the paper-thin envelope before she opened it up to find a check. The

number of zeroes on it was too many to count.

“This gift is a little too weighty for me,” Skylar said before she replaced the check and slid the envelope back.

“Why not? Keep it...” Tobias furrowed.

“It’s too much. Besides, I don’t need this because I’m already able to earn my own keep.”

“How much can you possibly make? Just hang on to it.” Tobias’ tone had an almost condescending quality to it.

Skylar was a little exasperated and disconcerted by his scornfulness. It would seem that no

matter how hard she tried, her efforts were never good enough for Tobias.

Meanwhile, his phone kept ringing away. A quick peek at the number displayed on the

screen made Skylar a little nervous, as one call from Claudia could prompt him to leave at

any given moment.

Tobias picked up and grunted twice with his deep inflection.

Skylar said in disappointment as she leaned against the wall, “Will you be heading back this

late? It feels kind of like your wife’s checking in.”

Tobias did not take well to her casual quibble. “Know your place and think before you

speak.”

Not knowing how to respond to that, Skylar handed him his coat.

Tobias slipped on his coat the moment he received it, but after some thought, removed it

and leaned back weakly against the bed. “I’m not going anywhere else. I shall keep you

company tonight...”

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Hearing that, Skylar threw herself into his arms. The scent of sandalwood he used to carry

had already been overpowered by the stench of alcohol.

Nothing else happened. The couple merely held each other and slept through the night.

Owing to the effects of alcohol, Tobias slept particularly soundly.

It had been a while since Skylar saw him manage without sleeping pills.

As Tobias fell asleep sooner than Skylar the night before and with his phone set to silent,

Claudia was unable to reach him despite calling three times in a row.

Skylar saw them but dared not answer, as it could prove quite problematic should she let the elderly woman hear her voice on Christmas Eve.

Kai did a rather impressive job spying and had sent her some photos via WhatsApp. The potential future daughter-in-law Claudia had her eye on was there with her alongside her

own family, and it was a different woman this time.

Claudia was very concerned about her son's marital arrangements and almost obsessive

about ensuring that the candidate was one whom she approved of.

Skylar no longer bothered to keep tabs as it had become a little tiresome. She was sufficiently satisfied that Tobias stayed by her side through the night.

When Tobias heard a knocking at the door, he opened it to see Thomas with bags both large

and small in hand, and Miranda in tow.

The way the door slammed shut behind these two uninvited guests drew a frown from

Tobias, whose demeanor betrayed his displeasure. "Could you keep it down? Skylar's still

asleep."

"What's that girl still doing in bed at this time? If she's not even going to get up to prepare

breakfast, how's she going to become somebody's wife?"

Miranda was eager to coax any sort of assurances out of Tobias for Skylar's sake.

Tobias was a little conflicted about the word "wife," as the last time he used that word was

during his schooling days.

He had no idea where the woman whom he last hailed that way from that ill-fated relationship had gone, but that was both the first and last time that he thought

about

building a future together with anyone.

"Actually, Mr. Ford, I came by today hoping that we'd be able to discuss the issue of Quest

Group. I'm sure you already understand the situation, so you should know that I cannot

afford any more delays."

When Thomas heard that Tobias would be staying over here the night before, he was

apprehensive about calling in too early for fear of disturbing his rest, while simultaneously

afraid that the latter would be gone should he arrive too late.

That was why Thomas stayed up all night waiting for the right time to come over.

“I understand, but I’ve no interest in Quest Group. The process of restructuring a family business like this one and trying to make it viable is just too tedious. I’m afraid that I won’t be able to help solve this pressing problem of yours.” Tobias declined it rather assertively.

“I know that you aren’t bullish about Quest Group’s potential, but as an established company, we have a solid reputation in the industry and a network of clientele that’s second to none.”

Tobias remained unmoved. “No deal. We’ve been through this three times already, so I hope that this will be the last.”

At the side, Miranda swallowed and appeared lost in thought. Tobias was a tough customer.

Whenever he had his mind made up, there was nothing anyone could say even to cause him to flinch.

Skylar was halfway down the steps when Tobias’ words reached her ears. “Do your daughter a favor? I guess y’all must be mistaken cause I don’t think she’s deserving of such a huge one.”

As reasonable as that was, it was a hard pill to swallow.

Tobias’ eyes were drawn to the landing of the steps by the sound of Skylar’s approach and remained transfixed upon her.

He beckoned for her to come over, but she chose to sit next to Miranda. He had no idea how much of their exchange she had overheard.

Thomas was disappointed at Tobias’ uncompromising stance and how this was turning out to be much harder than he thought.