

In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 486

Skylar had always been unwelcomed by the Joneses, so they were all irked upon seeing her.

Slamming her cutlery on the table, Irene sprang to her feet.

“Why are you here? And when did you become so ill-mannered that you simply walked in without permission?”

Avery shot daggers at her while Hayden pinned a vicious look on her.

Thomas was the only

one who wore a grim expression, and he was only the only person with his composure intact.

“I have something to say to him,” Skylar declared with a thoughtful expression.

Without any regard for seniority whatsoever, she pointed her finger at Thomas.

Thomas put down his cutlery. “I have nothing to say to you. Also, has no one ever taught you manners that you’re pointing a finger at your elder?”

Ignoring his reprimand, Skylar murmured, “I’ve just gone home earlier and had a good chat with my mother. I found out that the two of you actually have a lot of history. I wonder if...”

“Zip it! Follow me to the garden, and I’ll teach you some manners,” Thomas blurted, cutting her off.

In truth, Skylar was traumatized by the garden in Jones residence. On that particular rainy night, Thomas threw a paltry two hundred at her feet as though she was a beggar and warned her to stay far away from him.

As Meredith looked on at her drenched self, who was still clutching the bills in her hand, she hugged her and wept with her.

Her grandmother lamented her difficult life, bemoaning the fact that the affluent Jones

family would even begrudge taking her in.

Ever since then, she never again asked her to go to Jones residence for money.

At that moment, there was a hint of guilt in Thomas' eyes. "What did your mother tell you?

How could you possibly believe her when she isn't in her right mind?"

"She told me a lot of things about Tara Ziegler. Some things can never remain a secret

forever, after all. If that matter gets out, your reputation will inevitably be ruined."

Despite the stricken expression on his face, Thomas still tried to deny it, snapping, "Stop

slandering me! Tara's incident has nothing to do with me. If you don't believe me, just lodge

a police report!"

Fishing out her cell phone from her handbag, Skylar started tapping her long and slender

fingers on the keypad. "What's the number again? Something along the lines of 911?"

Finally, Thomas snapped and moved to snatch the cell phone out of her hands. At that,

Skylar's gaze suddenly turned cold. "Fine by me if you want this matter to remain a secret,

but you've got to do something for me right now, Thomas Jones. Don't feel aggrieved, for

you're only cleaning up the mess your precious son and daughter created."

She then threatened to lodge a police report and expose him for having murdered Tara back

then if he refused to issue a statement revealing the truth that he abandoned his wife and

daughter back then.

She also lied and claimed that Miranda had agreed as well.

Although many years had passed since the incident, Thomas wasn't certain whether he

could get off scot-free if the case was overturned and reinvestigated.

Skylar pressured him relentlessly, giving him no room to decline. She also saved him

considerable trouble, sending him the script she had prepared and ordering him to type it out and post it on Twitter.

Kate, on the other hand, had contracted the top ten Twitter marketing accounts with the greatest number of fans to have them sway the public opinion by sharing Thomas' post.

When Avery saw the script in Thomas' hands, she exclaimed incredulously, "Dad, how could you promise Skylar this? Did you consider your reputation and my future? If you publish such a post, I'll become the illegitimate daughter while she becomes the most innocent victim!"

With his face a mask of worry, Thomas hissed through gritted teeth, "This was all your doing! It was you who brought all that to light, yet you're now asking me whether it'll affect your future? Don't think I'm unaware that the two of you paid the media off to sabotage her!"

His voice was colored with rage.

Hayden rushed forward at once and shielded Avery behind him. He couldn't understand why his father was adamant about speaking up for Skylar at the cost of his sister being hurt and his own reputation being tarnished.

"Why would you do this, Dad? You love Avery most! Did she use Tobias Ford to threaten you and browbeat us?"

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Thomas was tortured and distressed, feeling as though a thorn was simply stuck in his flesh, prickling him every so often. However, he couldn't explain the matter to his son and daughter.

Indeed, Skylar and her mother had dirt on him. He had been plagued with uneasiness ever

since Miranda was released from prison. And now that Skylar was aware of the truth of the matter, no one knew how much longer it would remain a secret. Irene glared at her husband with eyes filled with fury and disappointment. "Thomas Jones, I'll divorce you if you dare publish that post! Are you trying to announce to the world that I was the third party who wrecked your marriage back then? I have no objections to you

proclaiming yourself as the modern Julius Caesar, but how am I supposed to hold up my head in public henceforth? The Ziegler family is a prominent family, so I was already lowering myself when I married you. I'm now up in years, yet you're not even leaving me my reputation?"

"Just put up with it for a bit, okay? The public will quickly lose interest, anyway. Besides, it won't do us any good to offend Tobias Ford," Thomas gently coaxed, looking morose and dejected.

Sneering, Irene stared at him coldly. "You're really a coward. I'll have a lawyer prepare the divorce agreement. The choice is in your hands."

After Thomas had published the post, Skylar then published her long Twitter post half a day later.

As for Miranda having committed murder in the past, she portrayed it in such a way that it was self-defense.

She weaved a long story on Twitter about a woman who was betrayed by her husband and threatened by his mistress. The mistress moved into the house and threw her and her daughter out into the streets in the freezing winter without even a penny, leaving them to starve.

Later on, the pitiful mother was placed in shackles and went to prison, leaving the abandoned little girl to be taken in by her elderly grandmother. Being poor, the little girl matured faster than her peers, living a hand-to-mouth existence with her grandmother. Before she attended high school, she had never worn any new clothes. And the year she took her college entrance examination, her grandmother passed away...

Meanwhile, the mother thought life would be better after being released from prison, but people hurled abuses at her without giving her an opportunity to turn over a new leaf.

The final sentence Skylar wrote was this – The little girl asked her mother, “What exactly did we do wrong, Mommy?”

After she published that Twitter post, many of the netizens who were previously calling for her to leave the entertainment industry did a one-eighty. The female fans on Twitter cried at the post and condemned Thomas for being a cheating b*stard, even going so far as to stamp him as a spineless coward.

#AHugForSkylar

#HangInThereSkylar

#AHappyEndingForTheLittleGirl

In the blink of an eye, Skylar’s sensational news shot up to the top of the trending list. In

fact, its popularity was comparable with the news of a popular actress going to Anglandur

to be a surrogate back then, the number of hits skyrocketing.

This time, she didn’t take an aggressive stance and issue any statement about suing for

defamation. Instead, she merely portrayed herself as the victim, yet her popularity actually soared.

Naturally, Avery was also dragged into the mess. The netizens had zero tolerance for a homewrecker, so her daughter was also disdained. After all, no matter how inadequate the wife was, she still had the upper hand. As Tobias scrolled through his Twitter page, the corners of his mouth lifted. Well, well... I wonder what Skylar did to coerce the cunning Thomas Jones into doing this, ruining his own reputation. When Skylar received his call at the office, he didn't even ask her whether she was free but told her outright that he had made a reservation for dinner. And the moment she arrived, she noticed that he had already ordered the dishes. However, there wasn't a single dish that was to her taste. The fare was mostly nutritious in nature, with several being downright bland, in fact. Disappointed engulfed her. Ah, we've been dating for so long, yet he still doesn't know my likes and dislikes, huh?

"Congratulations on your recent shot to stardom." Tobias poured her a cup of green tea. Skylar, however, didn't drink it. Instead, she asked the waiter for a glass of fresh orange juice. Flashing him a faint smile, she replied, "Well, adversity made me stronger. While I'm no pegasus, I'm still an old thoroughbred. Despite being weak, I still aspire to reach greater heights though it takes time..."

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"I heard that you resolved the matter by yourself. You've truly grown a lot. This is exactly how people should be, being ruthless when the situation calls for it," Tobias complimented.

Haha, I don't think I've even learned a tenth from him. He'll probably be disappointed if he

knows what paltry method I employed.

"Everyone pities me now, but this isn't what I actually wanted. I didn't want to play the victim,

but I had no other choice," Skylar lamented with her chin propped against a hand.

If I truly have to establish a public persona, I'd hoped to have a more positive image – a

wealthy family background, a smooth-sailing life, as well as a cheerful and upbeat

personality. Alas, all those had never been mine.

Chuckling, Tobias asserted, "You've got to work harder to change the pity to adulation, then.

By the way, didn't you miss me after having not seen me for half a month?"

Skylar had been so busy lately that she completely lost track of time. If he hadn't said that,

she actually thought that they had only seen each other a few days ago.

"Oh, has it really been that long? Times really flies," she replied in bewilderment.

At that, Tobias' heart sank slightly. In the past, Skylar used to send him WhatsApp

messages when they didn't see each other. Back then, he found it rather clingy at times and

didn't reply to her.

But now, he checked his cell phone every so often, yet there hadn't been anything from her.

She had the time to change her profile photo on WhatsApp multiple times, yet she didn't

have the time to say a few words to me? What the hell?

"Was there a problem with your cell phone? Why didn't you contact me?" he demanded

indignantly.

Skylar, on the other hand, was surprised. "Wasn't it you who told me not to keep sending you

WhatsApp messages, saying that a phone call would make things much clearer? There was

nothing important on my side, so I didn't call you. Did I do something wrong?"

"Do you think you did nothing wrong?"

Hearing that, Skylar's brows knitted together. "What did I do wrong?"

You were the one who

told me not to message you for no reason, preferring a phone call instead. I didn't message

you since I had no reason to do so. Isn't that just what you wanted?"

Tobias flashed her an exasperated smile in response. "Since when were you so glib?"

At that point, Skylar changed the topic. With a stiff smile on her face, she remarked, "Later,

I'll return the painting you gave me. I'm not a person who knows how to appreciate art, so I

don't have much use for it. Also, it was too expensive. It's courtesy to reciprocate, but I've

never given you anything. So, I can't give you anything in return when you give me a gift."

Exasperation swamped Tobias. Jeez, she's really blunt. Or perhaps she just can't be

bothered. If she's truly sincere, she can just give me a small token. I won't mind. But the

bottom line is, she's simply too stingy with me!

The bland and nutritious feast wasn't to Skylar's liking, but she wasn't as rude as to show it

on her face. Nevertheless, she would be much happier eating a bowl of pasta right then.

"You're already full?" Tobias asked.

Skylar nodded and even put on a show of wiping her mouth. "Yeah, I'm really stuffed now..."

Conversely, Tobias was a tad chagrined. Good grief! She's really a light eater. I didn't even

see her eat that much. In reality, he had specially ordered the tableful of nutritious dishes to

enhance her health.

When they were walking along the corridor of the restaurant, Skylar and Tobias kept a

distance between them. Her popularity was soaring now, so they wanted to avoid another scandal that might break out if she were to flaunt her relationship with Tobias.

They had been photographed several times in the past, but Tobias had the news

suppressed. However, he couldn't stop netizens from doing so.

"Tobi..." A gentle female voice drifted into their ears.

Tobias didn't stop, but Skylar was rooted to the spot. Tobi? Even I couldn't bring myself to

address him so intimately!

Halting, Skylar cast her gaze in the direction of the voice, only to glimpse the clearly visible

expression on Tobias' face. His usual forbidding mien had been wholly transformed with a

faint smile.

She then shifted her gaze to the woman across from him. Judging from her appearance, the

woman was gentle and slim, her features exquisite and delicate with long hair that flowed

past her shoulders.

Skylar's frank impression of the woman was pure, and her features were pleasant to the eye.

In comparison, she appeared sensual to the point of being skanky.

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"What a coincidence! I didn't expect to bump into you here. I was planning to ask you out for

a meal, but you didn't reply to my message."

"I was too busy, so I didn't see it," Tobias replied.

Idania then turned her gaze on Skylar beside him. At a single glance, she recognized the

celebrity who frequently appeared on the trending list on Twitter recently.

Just yesterday itself, she spoke of Skylar with her colleagues and expressed her sympathy

for her tragic background.

"And this is..." Idania inquired with an inquisitive gaze.

“A friend,” Tobias nonchalantly answered, leaving it at just that. Upon hearing that, the courteous smile on Skylar’s face faded. Her expression froze and turned taut. Subsequently, the woman graciously extended a fair and slender hand. “Nice to meet you. I’m Idania Garland.” Skylar had only ever heard of her name but had never seen her in person. Never had she expected to bump into Idania here, the only woman whom Tobias told his family he wanted to marry. She stared at her for a few seconds before retracting her gaze. “Nice to meet you. I’m Skylar Jones, Tobias’ girlfriend.”

Idania froze upon hearing that. Is this for real? Did he really find a girlfriend from the entertainment industry? But isn’t he big on chastity? So, she is the girlfriend he mentioned to me the other day, huh? How ironic that I’d just pitied her today itself! Then, she flashed them a gentle smile. “I’ll leave the two of you to your date, then. I’ve got a meeting with a client here, so we’ll get together next time.” After she had left, Skylar put away the fake smile on her face. Anguish surged within her. He claimed that we’re just friends, and he did that before his ex-girlfriend to boot. Noticing her dejected expression, Tobias caressed her hair. “What are you thinking that you’re spacing out here? You’ve got to satisfy me tonight. I’ve got half a month’s worth of repressed desire to sate.” Long since immune to his crude remarks, Skylar countered, “That’s your problem. You should just keep it for yourself since your ex-girlfriend is really beautiful.” Tobias stared at her sharply. “She’s passable.”

Snorting, Skylar deliberately bumped him with a shoulder and stalked ahead.

Meanwhile, Idania was exceedingly distracted after returning to the private room. As the meal went on, the sound of cutlery hitting the plates irritated her greatly.

Her mind kept going back to Tobias' answer of Skylar being his friend. What did he mean by that? Was he worried that I'd misunderstand, or was it out of concern for me?

She had always harbored the hope that they would reconcile one day, confident that the wonderful memories between them could never be replaced by anyone else.

"You seem preoccupied today, Ms. Garland. I haven't seen you raising your wine glass even

once." Her business partner, Andy Waldo, started urging her to drink.

Upset, Idania guzzled her wine in a single go.

Her chest was now aching fiercely, and it was a long-term sequela thanks to Tobias having

pissed her off back then. Of course, there were good memories, but she was simply

unwilling to recall the pain in the past.

After several rounds of drinks at the table, someone suddenly brought Tobias up.

Even after so many years, the mention of his name still felt like a stab in the heart to Idania

every single time, the pain excruciating.

Speaking of him, it could be none other than business. She listened attentively since she

had once contemplated jumping ship to Ford Group.

Nonetheless, she had also considered the fact that it wouldn't do her any good. After all, it

was difficult to guarantee that she would bump into him when Ford Group was such a huge

corporation.

"How does it feel to have bumped into an ex-girlfriend?" Skylar teased with a snicker.

Tobias merely threw her an indifferent look. "I've got too many ex-girlfriends, so she doesn't really matter to me."

However, Skylar felt that he was lying. Hah, as if! The look in his eyes when he gazed at her was obviously different. His tenderness in that instance couldn't have been fake.

As soon as they stepped into the house, Madelyn brought them both a glass of hot chocolate to warm them up.

Skylar seldom cooked ever since Madelyn came to be the housekeeper. Madelyn was a decent person, her only flaws being too talkative and nosy besides getting off work too punctually.

She was so intrusive that she even asked Skylar where she graduated from.

Nevertheless, Skylar still chatted with her to assuage her boredom. After loosening the tie around his neck, Tobias patted the sofa and gestured for Skylar to sit beside him.

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When Skylar sat down beside Tobias, he pulled her into his arms. Madelyn looked on with a grin, not at all embarrassed to be the third wheel.

"Did Valerie do anything else to make things difficult for you?" Tobias asked. "If she did, don't just keep it to yourself. I'm now allowing you to voice your grievances."

"Well, she hasn't made things difficult for me, but she looks down on me. After all, I stole her man, so it's only natural that she hates me."

At that, Tobias ruffled her hair gently. "What nonsense are you spouting? There's nothing between the two of us."

"But she likes you," Skylar countered.

“Many women like me, but that doesn’t mean anything,” Tobias replied nonchalantly. “If you want people to look up to you, work hard and seize the opportunity you have with Empyrean Sword. If you can’t make a name for yourself, it only means that you’re not suited to this career path and should just give up.”

Madelyn was truly considerate, for since she went shopping, they had never run out of condoms in the house.

Skylar had no idea whether she was overzealous or Tobias had ordered her to do so, but it had never happened again.

In the past, Tobias even went out to buy condoms in the middle of the night when he was suddenly gripped by passion, but sometimes she would fall asleep by the time he came back.

When they returned to the bedroom, Tobias tightened his arms around Skylar and hugged her tightly, instantly plastering their bodies together.

Having been apart for half a month, he was much more eager than before in expressing his desire for her body with his actions.

As their lips came together and their tongues intertwined slowly, their clothes were already in much disarray.

It felt as though their bodies were burning with infinite attraction, making them both frenzied and wild.

“Who owns your body?” he demanded in a hoarse and low voice.

Her face flushing bright red, Skylar kept mum. She abhorred answering such a flirtatious question while being intimate, finding it too much of an embarrassment. Despite her lack of reply, Tobias had already impatiently moved his hands to her waist and caressed her flat stomach. “You’re too thin, so eat more in the future. Bones and skin aren’t

a good look on you. Don't consider the audience's preferences. Instead, consider the fact

that I love having some meat to hold onto."

"Did you ask me out because you missed me or missed being intimate with me?" Skylar's

voice was shaky from arousal.

"What do you mean by being intimate?" Tobias queried, deliberately acting obtuse.

Skylar merely kept quiet without bothering to reply.

Ah, forget about it! What's the point of asking further when I know what his answer will be?

He's a very realistic person who knows full well what he wants. He never asks me out

because he misses me. Rather, it's because of his physiological need for release and

pleasure.

In the next moment, Tobias hugged her tenderly and blew into her ear.

"Moan louder later. If

I hurt you, Baby, you can even scream."

He then carried her to the bed, and they became a tangle of limbs. Their bodies bounced up

and down as they became one entity.

As Skylar propped herself up on the bed, the moonlight outside the window appeared

particularly desolate that night. She saw that Tobias had already come out of the bathroom

and was choosing a suit from the closet. So, he's leaving.

"Are you not staying here tonight? It's late, so what other important business do you have?"

"No. I'm going on a business trip tomorrow, and it'll be too far if I were to depart from your

place. Do you want me to stay?"

Skylar weakly flashed him a smile before languidly lying back on the bed.

"Nah, just leave,

then. It's just that I feel really perturbed by the way things are. I read from the Internet that if

a man really loves a woman, he won't immediately pull away after being intimate with her.

Instead, he'll hug her tightly. So, it's rather dastardly of you to pull on your pants and leave right away."

Tobias noticeably stilled while buckling his belt with his head lowered.

"Stop reading so

many deceptive articles on the Internet. What's the point of hugging when both people are

sticky with sweat? If you want me to hug you, I'll hug you when I'm free during the day."

I wonder if there are any classes for insensitive men that I can enroll him in. But then again,

he'll definitely demur.