

In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 546

Thinking Skylar was unhappy about her texting which had affected her level of productivity at work, Hannah quickly shoved her phone into her pocket. "It's all right, I guess. I mean, he's a great guy! He'll be coming over to visit me this month because of a delay in his job!" she replied with a shy smile. Most online relationships tend to end badly the moment the couple meets up in real life, and Hannah's inability to take care of her appearances isn't helping... She doesn't trim her eyebrows, she knows nothing about makeup, and she's always wearing glasses with those ridiculously thick lenses! Oh, and don't even get me started on those baggy clothes of hers! As much as I hate to say this, I doubt she can even get any man interested in her looking like this! Skylar couldn't help but worry at the thought of that. However, she decided to not shatter Hannah's confidence in herself as it was possible that her boyfriend didn't care much about appearances. Upon arrival at the restaurant, Skylar went up to the second floor and saw Molly waving at her with a smile on her face. Skylar had given Penelope the address, but she didn't show up and wasn't replying to her messages, much to Skylar's chagrin. She didn't know what she had to do to help Penelope pull herself together. Despite having grown up in the same neighborhood, Molly and Skylar weren't all that close and had lived very different lives. As the waiter served up the food, Molly began talking about stuff that happened during her childhood. There was even a hint of envy in her eyes as she said, "You looked as cute as a

doll when you were a child, and everyone in the neighborhood absolutely adored you! Heck, my mom is still complimenting you to this day! That's crazy, right?" Skylar's thoughts were all over the place. Molly's probably just desperate for attention or something. Everyone knows how sh*tty my life used to be! Back in the neighborhood, Penelope was the only kid who didn't avoid me like I was some kind of plague. After all, I am the daughter of a murderer living off my grandma's pension! You'd have to be crazy to envy me!

Molly's smile broadened as she continued, "I'm glad we're in the same company, Skylar! I used to feel lonely at times, but at least I now have you to keep me company. I'll probably be needing your help a lot in the future, so I hope you don't mind! I mean, besties help each other out, right?"

Skylar stuffed some food into her mouth absent-mindedly and flashed a faint smile at her.

"I'm very busy and rarely head over to the office, so I wouldn't be able to help you out much."

Molly noticed the look in her eyes and knew she was being a little too pushy, but she had to

boost her popularity to stand a chance at getting the lead role.

If the rumors are true about Skylar and Tobias being close, then I shouldn't have anything to worry about!

Noticing the awkward tension, Molly took a sip of her tea and said with a smile, "Come on,

let's not talk about work when we finally get some time off. My mom has been feeling down

lately because she thinks my dad is cheating on her, so I don't really feel like going home so

soon. Let's spend a bit more time here!"

Skylar remembered how Molly's dad used to be very famous in the neighborhood for his

handsome look as well as how loving he was with his family. On top of that, he was wealthy and fashionable with his perms and bell-bottom pants, which made him popular with the ladies in the area.

Grandma used to tell me how pretty Mom was in her younger day. According to her, Mom had tons of suitors back in the day, including Molly's dad. However, Mom made a bad decision and picked my dad instead of Molly's. I bet life would've been great if she picked

Molly's dad instead! Alas, people tend to be blinded by love until marriage gives them a wake-up call.

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Skylar was supposed to go for the audition for Pretty Detective at first, but Amelia managed to steal that spot through Kate after pictures of her were spread online. To add insult to injury, Skylar was the last one to find out that Amelia had replaced her as the lead actress of the show.

The sky was already dark and gloomy before it was even noon that day as Skylar and Kate sat across each other in a café.

Their coffee had turned cold, and neither of them had touched their food much.

"Why didn't I even get a chance to the audition? I was originally chosen for the lead role, so

why is Amelia the one holding it now?" Skylar didn't want to lose her role as a lead actress

without even knowing why. She felt the need to bring it up with Kate or she could miss out

on even more opportunities in the future.

Kate has found herself a few new faces lately, so Amelia and I are no longer the only

celebrities working under her. Well, Kate was never the type to invest everything into a single

celebrity to begin with. She wants to come out on top of the food chain in the entertainment industry, so having just one celebrity under her simply isn't enough. Skylar couldn't help but feel a little disappointed as her efforts and preparations for the lead role had all been for nothing when Kate chose Amelia instead.

"You were caught going on a date with some mysterious guy, and pictures of it went viral on the internet. As you know, the negative publicity was very damaging for your reputation.

Amelia, on the other hand, has no such issue because she knows how to carry herself in public. Besides, I can't have you hogging all the good stuff while everyone else gets the scraps now, can I? That wouldn't be very fair to the others," Kate replied.

Skylar took a deep breath and said, "You could've informed me sooner instead of after I have completed all my preparations. I've been promoting myself as the lead actress for Pretty Detective all this while!"

"The young really are green and naïve, huh... Listen, nothing is truly set in stone until the very last moment, got it? It's your responsibility to prepare for the audition regardless of whether you get the role in the end. Surely you don't expect to only do the audition for lead roles all the time, do you? The entertainment industry is a tough one to be in, so you'd better learn to deal with failure and disappointment if you wish to remain. Anyway, it's getting late, so I suggest you head on home now!" Kate said with a chuckle.

Skylar didn't even realize how dark the sky had gotten until Kate mentioned it.

She looked out the window and saw pedestrians dressed in thick sweaters and coats as they walked under the dim lighting of the street lamps.

Kate offered to give her a lift, but Skylar refused and insisted on waiting for her driver to pick her up instead.

“The candidate for the Golden Eagle Goddess has been decided and is simply pending an official announcement. I found out from someone on the inside that we’re no match for Sophia’s popularity, so you’ll just have to try and boost yours to beat her next year,” Kate said before leaving.

Skylar wasn’t surprised by that as Sophia’s votes had always been in the lead since the beginning, thanks to her beauty and amazing works throughout the past two years.

After waiting for what seemed like forever, Skylar gave her driver a call to see why he had yet to arrive. The driver informed her that he was caught in the rush hour traffic which was worsened due to a car accident, so it would take him quite some time to get there.

“May I sit here, Ms. Jones?” A voice came from the side, and Skylar turned around to see a

handsome young man in a white down jacket standing next to her.

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That man was none other than Marcus Ford, Tobias’ half-brother.

Skylar paused for a few seconds in surprise before refusing his request,

“There are plenty

other empty seats around here, so why must you choose to sit across me like this? Go share

a table with someone else.”

Marcus flashed her a faint smile in response and sat right where Kate was sitting earlier.

“Are you afraid of someone getting pictures of you having coffee with me?”

Skylar forced a smile back at him. “Why choose to sit here if you already know that, then?

It’s not like we’re close or anything.”

Marcus maintained his devilish smile as he replied, "I didn't come here to start a fight. I've actually been trying to meet you for quite a while now, but never really had the opportunity to. Now that I've bumped into you here, I would like to apologize for everything my sister has done."

Marcus had a chiseled jawline and a dimple on his cheek, giving him a devilish yet childish vibe.

"Apologize? What has Ingrid been telling you? Also, I don't need an apology for something that has happened so long ago."

Marcus shrugged. "Ingrid almost kidnapped you in the parking lot that day. She's been spoiled since she was a child and can be very extreme and reckless when it comes to love. I have given her a proper scolding after finding out what she did." Skylar had been traumatized ever since the failed attempt at boosting her popularity using her scandal with Harry, and hearing about Ingrid reminded her of that. I wonder if Harry and Ingrid are still together now... Harry has been keeping a low profile lately. He rarely showed up at events and stopped accepting offers for any other film projects after *Unrequited Love*.

I remember Marcus and Tobias being at each other's throats when we were at the airport the other day, so I can't even tell if he's being sincere with his apology at all...

"Whatever happened in the past should stay in the past, so I don't want to talk about it.

Regardless, I accept your apology. Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to get going."

Skylar was getting a little anxious as it was pitch-dark outside, and her driver still hadn't arrived.

“You’re going back all by yourself? Don’t you celebrities always have drivers or assistants with you? What if you run into some bad guy on your way home?” Marcus asked.

Skylar rarely left her house at night, and Hannah was nowhere to be found since five in the evening. In addition to that, the thought of how Charles had kissed her the other day caused her courage to waver even further.

Marcus pulled out the keys to his Maserati and placed it on the table.

“You can drive my car home if you want. I’ll just send someone over to collect it later on. Either that, or I drive you home instead.”

Marcus sure is thoughtful and polite compared to Ingrid... Heck, he even offered to lend me

his car because of how dangerous it is for me to go home alone! Skylar frowned at the thought of that.

“I don’t have a driver’s license, so I can’t drive anyway. My driver will be here soon.”

Marcus gave her a funny look like he had just heard the biggest joke of his life. “You’re dating Tobias and you don’t even have a driver’s license? Well, on second thought, it does

make sense. There is literally no need for you to have one since you never have to drive anyway. It’ll be hard to get a cab at this hour, so I’ll just have to send you home instead.”

“No, thank you. I can manage this on my own.” Skylar refused his offer directly as Tobias had told her it was okay to say no.

“What are you afraid of? Are you worried that Tobias would mind? If so, then rest assured that he couldn’t care less about these things. All he cares about are profits and benefits.”

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Skylar couldn't stand having Marcus speak ill of Tobias even if everything he said was true.

"He's a great man, okay? I don't think it's appropriate for you to talk about your brother like that!"

Marcus chuckled. "Since when has he ever treated me like family? He only cares about

Sheldon. Ingrid and I are as good as strangers to him!"

Skylar didn't want to comment much on Tobias' family matters, especially since he rarely told her anything about it.

A faint smile formed on Marcus' face as he saw Skylar off. She seems like a really nice girl...

It's a shame she chose to be with Tobias. Nothing good ever comes out of dating him, after all.

Having received multiple calls from Ingrid asking to see him, Marcus let out a helpless sigh as he drove toward Sky Bar according to the address she sent him.

Ingrid was the owner of the bar which had just opened recently. Marcus never saw her as a

suitable businessperson to begin with, and the bar's horrible location as well as lack of

customer flow proved him right. On top of that, Ingrid had also messed up the bar's

renovation and promotional activities.

Due to the lack of customers, the bar was losing more money than it was making with each passing day.

However, Marcus turned a blind eye to it as it was their dad's idea to have Ingrid manage a

business. That way, she would be less likely to go around causing trouble everywhere.

Marcus went up the stairs to the second floor of the bar and saw Ingrid sitting in a private

room with her friends. In front of them stood a row of male escorts dressed in tight

business suits and performing an erotic dance.

Having gotten used to Ingrid's peculiar kinks, Marcus was not surprised by the sight before him as he entered the room. Ingrid then motioned for everyone inside the room to leave before calling out to Marcus, "Hello, brother dearest!" "Why did you keep calling me?" Marcus asked as he sat down beside her and stared at her face flushed from intoxication. Ingrid frowned as she filled her glass up and said, "Dad will be arriving at the airport tomorrow afternoon. I bet he's going to scold me for causing trouble again..." "Maybe you should've thought about that before doing anything crazy, eh? Anyway, where is that boy toy of yours? Why didn't you invite him over?" Marcus snarked at her. "I had him stay home tonight. Say, do you think Dad will approve of me marrying Harry? Will you please help me talk to him about it?" Marcus made no attempt to sugarcoat things and said, "I think you should forget about it. Given Harry's family background and Dad's ego, there's no way he'd approve of this marriage."

Ingrid clenched her teeth and stamped her feet in frustration. It was almost midnight by the time Skylar got home. Although she was starving like crazy from walking back in the icy-cold weather, she didn't expect to have a hot meal waiting for her either. Even Madelyn's attitude was a little colder than usual when she greeted Skylar at the door, "Have you eaten? Mr. Ford is upstairs." "Don't worry about it. I'm tired, so I'm going to get some rest upstairs," Skylar said after giving it some thought.

Of course, she wouldn't have any appetite for dinner when her man is upstairs... Madelyn thought to herself as she watched Skylar make her way upstairs. Tobias stepped out of the shower when she came into the room. He had a towel around his waist, sitting right beneath his perfectly built abs. "Why are you home so late?" he asked while placing a plate of snacks on the coffee table. Skylar was surprised. "You made me supper?" Tobias flashed her a smile in response. "You haven't answered my question. Why are you home so late? Where have you been?"

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Tobias rarely ever cares about my activities... I wonder if he knows about me bumping into Marcus at the café earlier? If he knows, then choosing to keep it from him would only lead to him overthinking. "I was meeting up with my manager for a discussion, and I ended up bumping into Marcus after that." Tobias frowned. "You'd better stay away from Marcus and Ingrid in the future. They're never up to any good." Skylar had no idea what the grudge between them was about, or if it was actually between their parents who got them involved. Regardless, she simply nodded and stuffed the snack into her mouth. "Did you make this yourself? It tastes amazing!" Skylar exclaimed. "If you find it amazing, then it couldn't possibly have been me. My mom was the one who had me bring them over," Tobias replied. Skylar nearly choked when she heard that and went wide-eyed with surprise. Claudia made me snacks? This isn't like her at all! Now that I think about it, I haven't seen her in a long

time. It was always so stressful being around her, especially since she sighs a lot. It's almost as if she's disappointed in Tobias for choosing to be with me, and she has no choice but to accept me.

"I'll pay Mrs. Ford a visit as soon as I have the time. I've been so busy with work lately that I can't even come home early," Skylar said.

Tobias was quick to stop her. "I suggest you don't go and see her unless she invites you.

She isn't exactly right in the head these days, so there's no telling what nasty stuff she might say to you while you're there. You'll end up in a foul mood and fight with me. So, I don't see any point in you doing that."

At that moment, the screen of Tobias' phone lit up as tons of messages came in one after

another, catching the attention of Skylar instantly. Judging by how aggressively the person

is texting him so late at night, it's either from someone he owes money to or a woman!

Skylar's gaze was so obvious that Tobias noticed her peeking at it. "Are you that curious

about what's in my phone? You can go through it if you want."

"W-Why would I want to do that? I don't care who's texting you!" Skylar stammered and

looked away after being caught in the act.

Despite what she said, her curiosity got the better of her, and she reached for his phone

anyway.

Naturally, Tobias made no effort to stop her. However, the expression on Skylar's face

changed the moment she saw Idania's name on the screen. She then looked up at Tobias

and asked, "Why are you still in contact with her? You told me you would never go back to your ex!"

Tobias was not expecting for Idania to text him at all.

Idania: I'm not feeling well, and I don't know how much time I have left. I used to think life

was boring, but now I realize how beautiful it is.

Idania: Are you busy? Make sure to reply when you see my message, okay? Your coat is still

here with me. When will you come to collect it?

Idania: I've only had a bit of soup throughout the entire day as I didn't have the appetite for

anything. Ah... Do you remember how much I loved eating fried beef cutlets? It tastes really

good with a crispy layer on the outside. I wonder if they're still available these days...

Idania: Could you come over and see me when you're done with work?

I'm scared of being

all alone.

Idania: I had to stop working so suddenly, and I'm still not used to having so much free time.

If I get better, I'm definitely going back to work as soon as I can! Do you happen to be in

need of a secretary, Mr. Ford?

Skylar's frown deepened as she read through the messages. What the hell is she playing at?

Is she trying to gain his sympathy or something by acting all pitiful?

Please, I've tried that

before many years ago! Whenever Jeremy wouldn't reply to my texts, I'd come up with all

sorts of excuses to make it sound weak and in pain, but he just ignored me and kept on

gaming! Oh, well... I suppose we all meet a scumbag or two at some point in life. All we can

do is hope we don't spend the rest of our life with them!

She then tossed the phone toward Tobias so he could see it for himself.