

In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO

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Chapter 606 Mutual Intolerance

Since Skylar refused to change up, the filming crew was at an impasse, and proceedings for the night shoot had also grounded to a halt.

Ranting and raving on set, Shay was blowing his top as well, "I can't understand what's going through the minds of you young'uns. Just can't seem to take a little hardship and more pompous than your level of fame warranted."

Those words were obviously directed at Skylar, who was splitting hairs as she could not stand the way Ingrid kept tripping her up and how the director silently abetted it.

Just because her brother is the producer, she saw it fit to be cocky and deem everyone beneath her.

Skylar loosened up her own hair and regarded Laurel. "Gather my things. I'm not feeling well today and won't be able to continue."

Laurel had no idea what had gotten into Skylar as it did not seem like a big deal to her.

While it is annoying to have one's wardrobe tampered with, she could have just tolerated it. Skylar shouldn't have kicked up such a fuss over a trivial matter like this, to the point that she even pissed off the director.

Shay stopped the departing Skylar in her tracks. "After making the filming crew wait on you the entire day, are you going to bail on them just like that? Don't take this too far now, Skylar Jones, taking advantage of your own popularity and showing no respect for anyone whatsoever."

At that moment, Skylar looked frigid and distant, as she felt that Shay had been seriously prejudicial right from the get-go.

It was understandable that she had to do retakes since her scenes did not come out well.

However, she thought Shay had been downright shabby toward her. When he was not criticizing her acting, he was suggesting that she was ditzy and slow-witted.

In contrast, he always smiled at Ingrid fawningly, no matter how many bad takes the latter had.

During her scenes with Ingrid, Shay would chastise her all the same when it was obviously Ingrid who was at fault, while the latter got to stand on the sidelines and blatantly look on in glee.

The situation with the wardrobe was merely the straw that broke the camel's back.

Skylar cast an impassive smirk in Shay's direction. "I'm taking the day off. Will be back tomorrow as soon as the props crew has my new costume ready."

Shay was left flabbergasted while Skylar, who had no heed of anything he had just told her, casually strutted off. Why should the onus be on me to try and overcome the hardships that Ingrid has been causing me?

After exiting the studio, Skylar got straight into the car. Close behind, Laurel and Hannah briefly exchanged glances with each other.

It was plain to see that Hannah did not look upon her new colleague too fondly. She thought that she herself was sufficient in her role as an assistant and saw no reason why Skylar needed to hire another.

"If this got out to the press, they would surely say that you were being a diva. That is not going to go down well with many fans," Laurel noted gloomily.

Skylar's luscious lashes fluttered as she lifted her hand to admire the silvery band around her finger. "Doesn't bother me one bit. I haven't been making the headlines recently, so I could use a boost of publicity, no matter what form it takes."

With a slight wistfulness in her eyes, Laurel gazed toward the neon lights and bustle beyond the window, which were the signature of this international metropolis.

She then bit her lip tightly in a seething outrage. "It isn't surprising at all how everyone would indulge those young ladies born into privilege and let them snatch up whatever they want and behave as they please. Even though Ingrid was really too much, Skylar, it isn't worth falling out with the director over her."

Irked, Hannah immediately retorted, "Could you stop being so negative? Is someone rich that different compared to someone who isn't? What is there to be envious of? If you don't have money, you jolly well get out there and earn some for yourself. Are you begrudging your parents for not raising you in a well-to-do family? Even a dog wouldn't do that."

Laurel, too, got very emotional when she explained herself, "I didn't mean it that way, so don't try to read too much into what I said, all right?"

Things were getting quite heated inside the MPV between these two assistants of hers who were already at loggerheads with each other in spite of not having worked together

very long. Skylar watched as they spitted and snarled, stopping just short of rolling up their sleeves and getting into fisticuffs.

“Enough, both of you. You’re giving me a headache. Can’t you just grant me some peace and quiet for once?” she spoke up in intervention.

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Chapter 607 A Failure Of An Investment

Laurel regarded Hannah like the latter was a fool. Look at this girl. It’s obvious that she must have been born with a silver spoon in her mouth, and that’s why she has absolutely no idea what I’m talking about.

Having grown up shielded by her own privilege, Hannah was probably unable to fathom how one’s fate was often dictated by the conditions of one’s birth.

Skylar understood what Laurel meant, though. As someone who had similar experiences, she was better able to relate to the things Laurel said.

The car had not strayed too far when Skylar heard her phone ringing. Pulling it out, she saw that it was a call from Kate.

After she swiped the call through, Kate questioned before she could say anything, “Since when have you become acquainted with Marcus Ford? He said that you’ve agreed to have lunch with him but only on the condition that your manager is present. Hence, he wanted me to go along too.”

Skylar was speechless as she did not expect Marcus to hit up Kate when she only mentioned the latter in passing. “Sorry for bothering you. I was really just kidding around and didn’t think that he would take me so seriously.”

“Word has it that Marcus is Tobias’ younger brother, so it wouldn’t necessarily be a bad thing to accept his invitation. This could help build your connections in the entertainment industry, so don’t be such a hermit. Put yourself out there and make some new friends.”

Skylar reacted with a frown. Going out to dine and make friends? That’s easy for you to say, Kate.

If she and Marcus were to be photographed in each other’s company outside, Kate would definitely demand that she explain herself for feeding the tabloids again.

Following that, Skylar smiled and replied genially, “That sounds great. I’ll see to the arrangements as soon as possible. Who would resent being well connected?”

Kate laughed heartily in the belief that her counterpart was coming around. "That's the spirit. Nothing to lose from making conversations over a nice meal. Just be careful that you don't get photographed doing it."

Wanting me to network and, at the same time, protect myself? She really has everything worked out.

Though she was chuckling away, Skylar's expression had only grown increasingly dour by the minute.

As she was about to hang up, she heard a soft female voice echo in the background.

"Do you mind helping me with the body lotion, darling..."

Kate had hurriedly hung up before she could hear the rest of it.

Skylar rescinded her smile. That voice was so saccharine that it gave her diabetes. There were not many voices as girlish as this one in the entertainment industry, and Amelia's happened to be one of them.

The two of them together this late into the night, with Amelia asking Kate to apply body lotion for her...

Skylar was honestly shocked. I bet Amelia has been sleeping with my manager. I wouldn't be as surprised if it were a man and a woman, but now it's two women...

Prior to this, she could not tell at all that Kate was a lesbian, but now the truth was becoming increasingly clear.

Judging from Kate's assertiveness, it's obvious who's the butch and who's the femme in this relationship.

Skylar went on to share her big discovery in its entirety with Tobias, who had just moved his stuff in and was now formally cohabiting with her.

Coming through the door, she did not even kick off the Yeezys on her feet. Like an entertainment page, she just stood there and rabidly unloaded that exposé onto Tobias.

In truth, what Skylar revealed was not exactly news to him.

Although he was not one for gossip and lacked the enthusiasm for things that did not concern him, it did not mean that these sorts of things would not automatically reach his ears.

Tobias had some regrets about allowing Kate to represent Skylar, to begin with. Based on the arbitrary manner by which she quoted her fees, she should already have been dropped from consideration.

He was not exactly pleased with the results yielded after having Skylar in her charge for so long and felt that Kate had not proven herself to be worth the money he splashed out for her services.

When assessed from a business standpoint, there is no doubt that this is deemed a failure of an investment.

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Chapter 608 Sleep Is All About Comfort

Tobias sat through all the talking Skylar did rather expressionlessly. He then paused before replying, "Aren't you tired from standing out there for so long? Why don't you come inside to have something to eat?"

With her eyes widened, Skylar blinked. "Don't you find this surprising in the least?"

"Not really. This is how the entertainment industry has always functioned. You could change your sexual orientation or the way you pick your partners just to get ahead. Everyone will do what they must in order to get what they want. You'll come to see this in time," Tobias said.

Skylar bent down to take off her shoes before she placed them neatly on the rack. In the past, she would usually leave them by the door. Whenever Tobias saw her do that, he would unfailingly help to pick them up and put them away.

Having no one pointing it out was no excuse to remain oblivious. A couple of times later, Skylar already made it a habit to place her own shoes in their proper place.

"Since you are already aware of Kate's sexual orientation, aren't you worried about her trying to seduce me?" Thinking back on it, Skylar found an odd fixation about the manner Kate looked at her sometimes.

Maybe she had been overthinking it, and perhaps the latter was not even interested in her.

Unhurriedly, Tobias gently explained, "That was why I've always made it clear to her that you're my woman. Even if she grew a pair, she wouldn't dare harbor any funny ideas toward you."

Skylar exhaled and appeared to be deflated.

Having long known about Kate, Tobias had already taken all these precautions while she had been left out of the loop and groping in the dark, only to realize it now.

That made her even more convinced that she would not be able to get the most out of her collaboration with Kate, especially with Amelia now being the latter's love interest.

Thoughts of changing managers started to cross her mind. The timing may not be right at present, so this would probably have to wait until filming wraps up.

Upstairs, the man had already made his presence felt inside the bedroom and at the basin.

When she opened the closet, she saw that half of it had been filled with Tobias' formal clothes. Alongside these, there were only a few sparing pieces of casual wear inside.

In the past, this place had only been Tobias' temporary abode where he often walked around with only his pants on. Now, it felt more like home to him.

Skylar sat herself down by the bed. The freshly laid pink sheets trimmed with lace were evidently Madelyn's kind of aesthetics.

Many more basic household essentials had also been purchased in Skylar's stead, as the latter had been hampered by indecision and did not have too much free time.

In retrospect, I should have gone and made these purchases online myself.

For a moment, Tobias thought this was something that Skylar was recently into and wanted to respect her choices, but the pink bedsheets became a bit of an eyesore for him whenever he walked into the bedroom. Even the material itself felt cheap to him.

"Do all girls fancy the color pink?"

Under the impression that Tobias was referring to her lipstick, she was quite thrilled that he had finally noticed how rosy her lips were.

She nodded in affirmation. "Yeah, I do. Every girl dreams of being a princess."

The sight of the pink sheets only increasingly got on Tobias' nerves. "You're no longer a little girl. Compared to a princess, I'd much prefer a lascivious whore in bed."

Whatever good mood Skylar was in was left in the dust immediately. Tobias sifted through the cabinet and found a set of gray-colored sheets that was visually subtle and more comfortable to sleep on in the buff.

Now that he was living with Skylar, there would be ample opportunities to go to bed naked. If they were to use a material that stung to the touch, it would definitely not be cozy.

“Why are you changing out the sheets? It was only put on this morning,” Skylar asked him.

Tobias was smiling from ear to ear. “In preparation for the night. Pure cotton feels more comfortable, and isn’t sleep all about comfort? What’s the point of making the sheets so garish?”

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Chapter 609 Sharing Experiences Of Annulling Marriages

Skylar wrapped her hair up into a neat bun. Coupled with her minimally made-up face, there was an indescribably insouciant sense of beauty to her. Even without even eyeshadow, this simple look was able to accentuate the snowy fairness of her skin.

Tobias unraveled the black elastic band she had on. “I told you before that I like the way you look with your hair loose.”

Wrapping that elastic band around her wrist, Skylar intended to wait until Tobias left before tying her hair back up. He has no idea how hot it is having my hair let down.

She wanted to talk to Tobias some more, but he had already shifted his attention elsewhere and turned away in search of his earpiece.

Skylar briefly looked at the Bluetooth earpiece Tobias was wearing and his sleeves that were rolled up halfway. Inferring from that, she guessed that he was preparing to drive out and make a work-related call along the way.

He continued to stay on the line even when she stepped outside the door and made no indication that he meant to send her to work.

After having his offers to drive her on a couple of occasions turned down, Tobias seemed to have taken it as a given that she did not need him as her chauffeur.

Though she had been standing in the doorway for some time, Tobias seemed to have overlooked her existence and no longer spared her any extra time that he might have.

Even if she did not understand the content of the work he was discussing, his assertive display was one that was unique to those who were used to being in high places.

Although his tone was stern, it never came across as unapproachable.

She did not bid him farewell before she bundled up her own hair and departed.

That sicko Charles did not call last night. Skylar did not know what to do about him but opined that that man would sooner or later become a problem if he was not taken care of.

Unable to come up with a good solution, she filed a police report. Though he was called in for questioning, Charles was released less than two hours later.

There was little she could do apart from putting a tail on him. After all, she could not possibly have him killed on a personal whim!

When Skylar exited the house, she saw that Cinque and Lionel were already waiting outside. These two statuesque, strapping lads were like her guardian angels, and she felt much safer having them around. Judging from their physical stature, she assumed that they should not have any problems individually taking on five opponents at the same time.

Skylar took up the seat to the rear of the front passenger seat as that was the most secure position to be in, even in the event of an accident.

She was not sure what time Tobias left the house. As a boss, his schedule was more flexible than typical white-collar workers.

Gavin had waited all night. It was only then that Tobias had time to return his call and arrange for them to meet at the office.

However, the former looked crestfallen. Though the sky was clear and the sun shone brightly outside, he pulled out a cigarette and settled himself down in a smog of melancholy.

“Laurel’s back. I told her that if she was willing, we could still continue dating even after I got married. But it has become apparent now that she wants to cut ties with me completely. Women are a real pain in the ass.”

Tobias snuffed out the cigarette in the ashtray. “Really? Did you come over here this early just to gripe about that one woman? What advice can I possibly offer you?”

The fingers that Gavin used to prop up the cigarette trembled. “You’ve already gotten yourself a girlfriend now, Mr. Ford! I just wanted to tap on your experience of getting a marriage annulled.”

Gavin held Tobias’ past heroics in much esteem, as he heard that Claudia had nearly passed out in a fit before everyone present back then.

He knew well how domineering the old matron was, being one who never took no for an answer. Tobias also had a reputation for being a filial son who rarely went against his mother's will.

Word had it that Claudia was full of praise for her then chosen daughter-in-law with everyone she encountered. Hence, he wondered why nothing eventually came of it.

It was only after Gavin returned to the country that he heard about Tobias' infidelity through the grapevine. As for who the third party was, no one seemed to have a clue.

However, Gavin was not surprised either. Tobias had always been an aloof person, quite unlike himself who was steadfast and tried everything to bridge the distance between Laurel and himself in spite of everything.

How Gavin wished that he could carry out such a valorous act too! In the past few days, he had been in regular contact with his future spouse.

At no point did he ever feel comfortable in the company of the woman whom he found to be nothing but pretentious. If he had to spend the rest of his life with this person he did not fancy, Gavin was afraid that he might lose his mind.

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Chapter 610 Without Care for Her Standing

With his long legs crossed up on the edge of the coffee table and his head tilted slightly back, Tobias stretched himself out lazily on the couch. Not quite recovered from his exertions the night before, he had his eyes closed as he spoke blandly, "I just didn't want to get married, so no matter who I was attached to, I knew that I'd bound to regret it! At first, I thought I'd just muddle through it, but later on, I came to the realization that such things simply cannot be forced."

Gavin massaged his own throbbing temples. "I bet your current girlfriend would surely be saddened to hear that. You're totally wrecking her dreams, man."

Tobias opened his eyes. "She's just a little girl. Besides, she's never brought this up for discussion before."

That only piqued Gavin's curiosity even more. What sort of woman is she to be able to win the recognition as Tobias' girlfriend?

Seeing Laurel's incoming message prompted him to tap on it immediately.

Laurel: You've left some stuff behind. I'll have them sent back to you by courier.

Gavin frowned. These past few days, he had been contemplating using picking up his things as an excuse to visit, but Laurel had eliminated that possibility and resolutely refused to give him that chance.

Scheduled to field a meeting at nine, Tobias tapped on his watch in a gesture that Gavin understood immediately. The latter puffed out the smoke from his mouth and got back onto his feet. "I'm out of here. My family's watching me really close as they're afraid that a grown man like me would try to flee from a wedding."

Tobias merely waved his hand. At the office door, Gavin nearly ran headlong into Eva who was sending in some files that were required at the meeting.

Eva bowed apologetically.

Gavin regarded the beauty in the corporate dress with her hair worn up in a bun. The female secretaries who worked under Tobias were never lacking in quality, especially Susan, who stayed by Tobias' side for many years and reputedly remained single to this day.

The file on top of her pile contained the latest plans conceived for the business district, which Eva had taken a peek into before she came in.

Primarily, the focus of the plan revolved around how to skirt around Harbourside. Three solutions were proposed by the design team, but no matter what was tabled, the end result of the development would still be compromised so long as Harbourside remained intact.

It takes only one bad fish to spoil the broth.

Eva was positive that a perfectionist like Tobias would not accept this sort of proposal, and it would only be a matter of time before her family got evicted from their home.

Before he entered the conference room, Tobias had already reviewed these three proposals, and during the meeting, he roundly rejected all three of them.

The atmosphere in the meeting room became tremendously suffocating.

While she continued to take notes, Eva had already inferred Tobias' stance from the expression on his face.

Sweating it out inside, she was just waiting for Tobias to demand the addition of Harbourside into the parameters for redevelopment himself, believing that all that was needed was a little nudge. The monetary compensation for their relocation from that house was no small sum.

In the end, Eva was left disappointed by the conclusion of the meeting, as Tobias only requested the proposals to be reworked. Harbourside was going to be retained in its entirety, regardless.

Having her hopes dashed left Eva infuriated. If not for Skylar's sentimentality and reluctance to part with the old manor, there would not have been so much trouble.

In her esteem, Skylar was a jinx who had only caused her grief at every turn.

Meanwhile, the new costume had already been delivered to Skylar's dressing room. Even though Shay was still miffed about that fiasco from yesterday, he had to make concessions.

If Skylar were to find even more excuses to delay their progress, the filming crew would overrun their budget. It seems that that brat does not care much about her own standing amongst the crew members.

For the life of him, he was still unable to understand why the usually reserved and amiable Skylar had to throw such a hissy fit over that one issue with the costume.