

# In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 527 - 530

A figure suddenly appeared before them as they turned a corner in the corridor, and Tobias wasn't able to step out of the way in time. As a result, he ended up with a huge cup of coffee being spilled all over his suit.

The air was instantly filled with the fragrant aroma of the coffee, and both of them stared wide-eyed at the woman before them.

As she was frantically retrieving some paper towels from her handbag, Skylar recognized her as Molly Zimmer, a trainee at the company who was about the same age as her.

Molly was her neighbor during her childhood days. Her dad started up a hotel after resigning from his factory job, and they moved out of the old house when he expanded his business.

That wealth was the main reason she could afford to become a trainee at the company as the registration fee and uniform cost a bomb.

"I'm sorry, I didn't see where I was going... This suit must be really expensive, right? I'll pay for the cleaning!" Molly mumbled apologetically and tried to wipe the coffee off him.

Tobias frowned at the sight of his sleeve that was completely drenched. "That won't be necessary."

Right then, Molly exchanged glances with Skylar and seemed extremely nervous from how pale her knuckles were as she gripped her arm tightly.

Tobias then leaned so close toward Skylar that she could feel his warm breath on her ear as he whispered something into it.

It was unclear what he said, but Skylar simply waved goodbye and excused herself after that.

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Tobias walked away moments later, leaving Molly rooted to the spot with her hand held against her chest. She was so flustered that it took her quite a while to calm herself down.

Skylar and Molly barely had any time to chat as the former had debuted while the latter was busy preparing for her own debut.

Since childhood, Molly had always been dolled up like a princess with fancy dresses and pretty accessories.

Skylar, on the other hand, looked like a tomboy with her short hair and dirty old clothes.

As a result, she used to envy Molly growing up and even saved up money to buy a hair straightener so her hair would look better.

Molly wrapped her arms around Skylar's the moment she entered her office, eager to share her experience earlier.

"When will you be making your debut? I didn't even know you were a trainee here until a few days ago," Skylar asked.

"Given how popular you've gotten, it's only natural that you wouldn't pay attention to us trainees. Anyway, I've still got a long way to go before my debut. I spend every day practicing my dance routines, and they wouldn't even let us use our computers at all! We're only allowed to use our phones at night, and I have to sneak my way through security just to enjoy a cup of coffee! Man, this sure is hellish!" Molly replied.

That was when Skylar understood why Molly looked like she was afraid of being caught with the cup of coffee earlier.

The company was extremely strict with the trainees when it came to maintaining their body weight. They had to be weighed every day, and female trainees weren't allowed to exceed a hundred pounds, or their debut would be postponed.

It was very tough being an artist in this era where people glorified skinny body figures.

The two of them added each other on social media after another brief exchange.

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"It's been way too long since we last saw each other. I remember you being the only one in class without a phone back then, and you would always watch from the side whenever others were playing with their phones!" Molly said.

Skylar went silent upon hearing that casual remark as she didn't want to recall the harsh life she went through in the past.

Upon returning to the dance studio, Molly told Cassandra excitedly, "I've just added Skylar on Instagram! See, I told you we know each other! Skylar and I used to be neighbors! Now, do you believe me?"

## In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 528

"I heard that the management was pissed about Skylar getting her picture taken. Does she have a boyfriend or not? Why is she being so secretive about it?" Cassandra asked after seeing a lot of Skylar's selfies on Molly's phone.

That was when Molly remembered the handsome guy that was standing next to Skylar earlier.

Word on the internet is that Skylar has a kept man... If he really is a kept man, then he's got some guts showing up at the company like that!

The door to the dance studio was opened, and the trainees stood up immediately when they saw Winnie enter.

None of them dared sit down until Winnie did as they had to show her respect for being their senior as well as Sheldon Ford's fiancée.

Winnie shot the trainees a cold glare and said disdainfully, "The entertainment industry sure is scraping the bottom of the barrel these days... I don't understand how they even made it in with such ugly faces!"

None of the trainees dared say a word in retaliation.

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Meanwhile, Tobias was still wearing his suit with the huge coffee stain on it as he drove toward his office.

He hated how sticky it felt, but he didn't really have the time to get changed.

He received a call along the way and put it on speaker mode when he saw that it was Skylar. "I'm driving right now. Whatever it is will have to wait till I get to my office."

"Are you seriously going to attend meetings with your clothes like that? Wouldn't it affect your image in the company?" Skylar asked worriedly.

I told her I'm driving, so why isn't she hanging up yet? Is she so immature that she can't even take a simple hint like this? With that in mind, Tobias hung up the phone and carried on driving.

Upon reaching, he saw Idania standing in front of him with a folder in her hands as he got out of his car in the parking lot.

How long has she been waiting there? Still as persistent as always, I see...

"What are you doing waiting outside my office building on a Tuesday? Aren't you supposed to be working? I told you to contact my people in the investment management department instead of coming to me directly, didn't I?" he asked.

Idania shook her head. "The people in that department of yours aren't very friendly. They were being judgmental and said my proposal was worthless."

Tobias let out a sigh when he saw how dejected she looked. "All right, come with me... I know you won't give up unless I make it very clear to you anyway."

Sheldon was waiting in Tobias' office and saw him return with Idania following closely behind.

"Oh, my god! It's been so many years since I last saw you! Look how much you've grown!" Idania exclaimed in joy when she saw Sheldon, much to his chagrin.

What does she mean by that? I'm not a kid! In fact, the difference in our age isn't even that huge!

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Sheldon took a glance at Tobias but couldn't tell what was going through his mind from his expression alone, nor did he know how Skylar would react if she witnessed that.

Skylar is no longer the same woman she used to be now that she has risen to fame. Thanks to her pretty face which matches all the beauty standards that men have set for women, countless men have used her pictures as their wallpapers.

Tobias then motioned to Sheldon to get out of his office. "Be careful not to lose control and end up reigniting that old spark with her, okay?" he whispered on his way out.

## In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 529

Tobias shot him a cold glare in response, prompting Sheldon to hold a hand over his mouth as he ran off.

With only Tobias and Idania left in the office, the awkward silence between them made the atmosphere thick with tension.

Instead of showing Tobias the documents, Idania carefully retrieved a red velvet box from her handbag. The box looked a little dirty and darker in color from how old it was.

She then opened the box in front of him, revealing a pair of rings inside. They were simple and elegant in design without any additional embellishments nor patterns on them.

Tobias frowned at her as he found the rings rather familiar.

Idania flashed him a bitter smile and said, "The other reason behind my visit today is to return these rings to you. We were going to put them on for our marriage back then, but I don't think they are of any use to me now. You should hand it over to the woman worthy of wearing it."

Tobias took the box over and examined the rings inside. Both of their names could be found engraved on the inside of the ring.

He then closed the box with a loud snap and handed it back to her.

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"I gave it to you as a gift back then, so you have the right to do whatever you want with this. Feel free to throw them away if you don't want to keep them. I have no use for them anyway."

Idania felt hurt by his cold attitude and protested anxiously, "B-But this is different! These are wedding rings, and they hold a different meaning as opposed to engagement rings! I can't be keeping our wedding rings now that you've got yourself a girlfriend! That'd be unfair for her! You should give this to her instead!"

Tobias frowned before breaking into a sarcastic chuckle. "How will she wear it if it isn't even her size? Why are you returning these rings to me now? Are you trying to remind me that I nearly married you back then? Take them away. My girlfriend wouldn't want used goods anyway!"

Idania's gaze fell upon the pair of rings upon hearing that. Overwhelmed by emotions, her legs gave way and caused her to slump against the sofa in front of him.

"Are you still mad at me for leaving without saying goodbye back then? I had my reasons for doing that! You have no idea how sad I was when I left! It could very well be the thing I regret doing the most in life!" she shouted with a melancholic look in her eyes.

If she's looking for someone who loves living in the past, then she's definitely come to the wrong person... Tobias thought to himself as he stared at her.

"Everyone has their own difficult problems to deal with. I felt nothing when you left back then, and I have done nothing to wrong you either, so I hold no grudges against you whatsoever."

Idania bit down on her lip as her eyes began to tear up. She then whipped out a kraft paper bag from her handbag and seemed to have come prepared.

She had been feeling extremely uncomfortable ever since she saw the news about Skylar yesterday. Although the man's face wasn't clearly shown in the pictures, she was able to figure out that it must have been Tobias.

That was when she knew she couldn't just sit around idly anymore. She knew full well what she wanted as well as why she had returned. As someone who never admitted defeat, going all out to achieve her goals was all she could do.

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Having spent such a long time with Tobias in the past, she understood him very well. Despite being a cold and decisive person on the outside, he had a soft spot for women and would easily take pity on them.

That was exactly what happened between him and Skylar, as her tragic past aroused his desire to protect and care for her.

Idania took a deep breath and mustered every ounce of courage she had in her as she said, "I left you back then because I was sick, and I didn't want to be a burden to you. I thought I'd get myself treated and reappear before you in good health, but... Unfortunately, life seems to hate me, and my sickness has relapsed."

## In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter

### 530

Inside the folder was a thick stack of Idania's medical records.

Idania raised her eyebrows in surprise, her eyes filling with tears with almost perfect timing.

"Where's your family?" Tobias asked, his tone softer than before. "You should inform them about this as soon as possible."

Shaking her head, she replied, "I don't have any family left. I'm probably going to end up dying all alone at home with no one to ever discover my rotting corpse."

Both of her parents were simple labor workers, and her father was an alcoholic who would take his anger out on his wife and daughter when he was drunk. Tobias was well aware of all of this.

The last page of Idania's medical report stated that she was diagnosed with stage three of recurrent breast cancer.

Idania glanced over at Tobias, but she couldn't tell what was going on in his mind.

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“Don’t worry about me,” she said with a bright smile, taking the initiative to break the silence. “Now the mood’s gone all bad. I’d only meant to come here to talk about work with you and return the ring; I never expected for this topic to be brought up.”

Tobias sighed internally. You were the one who brought the medical records with you though...

“Well, we did date in the past. I’m not going to just sit by and do nothing. You can take your hands off the project and focus on regaining your health back. It wouldn’t do you any good to keep working in this condition.”

Idania opened her mouth as if to say something, then seemed to have second thoughts and closed it again. After a brief pause, she hesitantly probed, “I don’t have any relatives here, nor do I have any friends. If you have time to spare, could you accompany me for a while longer? I really do feel very lonely, and who knows how much longer I have left to live? I didn’t even get to marry someone before I die.”

“I’ll try,” the man answered vaguely. “Don’t say such things. As long as you’re still alive, you still have a chance at recovery.”

After the whole “pregnancy test” incident, Skylar had her first public appearance at a business event as Gucci’s newest brand spokesperson.

The event started at eight in the morning, but fans filled up the venue before that in hopes of getting a glimpse of her.

This came as a surprise to both Skylar and the event organizers, who had to scramble to hire extra security guards.

Skylar eventually appeared in front of everyone dressed in casual clothing from Gucci’s newest Fairytale collection, causing her fans to erupt in deafening cheers and screams.

Stuck in the middle of the crowd of fans, Idania stared up at the screen that displayed and emphasized Skylar’s beauty. Her heart squeezed painfully inside her chest.

She and Skylar shared similar-looking eyebrows. Everyone around Idania constantly commented that she resembled Skylar, and strangers would even comment on the similarity under selfies that her friends took with her.

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She was starting to wonder whether Tobias was merely dating Skylar because she looked like the past Idania.

“You see? This is everything Tobias gave her,” Avery scoffed, wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap as she stood next to Idania. “The early bird might get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese. I feel so sorry for you, Idania.”

Meeting Avery at a banquet had been a complete coincidence.

Avery only found out that Idania was Tobias’ ex-girlfriend after exchanging numbers with her at the banquet. The woman then started aggressively pursuing a friendship with her. Of course, Idania knew what Avery was truly after. The two of them entered a mutually beneficial alliance where they each planned on using each other for their own selfish intentions.

“Who cares? It’s not as if Tobias bought her fame.” Idania rolled her eyes. From her point of view, no one could ever replace her spot in Tobias’ heart.

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