

In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 611 - 620

Chapter 611 No Help

Ingrid knew the clothing wouldn't fit her, yet she still fought over it.

It wouldn't be surprising if the costume had been branded, but it was merely a factory uniform, and Ingrid wouldn't look any prettier dressed in it.

Admiration filled Shay as he studied Skylar's beautiful and delicate face.

Alas, it'll be tough on her since she doesn't have any connections with the production team. Sadly, that's how the world works. Capitalism runs it.

Marcus dropped by for a visit that evening and gained praises from the filming crew. Despite his status, they complimented his looks and humbleness for coming to the filming site.

While he distributed coffee and desserts to the entire crew, Ingrid proudly walked in with her head held high like an arrogant swan and clung to Marcus.

Laurel passed a cup of hot latte to Skylar. Holding the cup of coffee, Skylar walked toward the trash can.

"The coffee is not poisoned."

Skylar's fingers tightened around the coffee cup. "I didn't say I would throw it. That would be such a waste."

In the middle of the crowd, Marcus had one of his hands stuffed into the pocket of his jeans. From his denim jeans, white sneakers, and branded coat, one could see the difference between the usually solemn Tobias and him at a glance. His looks were a perfect fit to be part of Sheldon's inner circle.

The scent of cologne that lingered on him was strong, but Skylar preferred Tobias' scent.

In terms of responsibility, Marcus was slightly better than Sheldon. At the very least, Marcus took part in managing his career while Sheldon was the same old Sheldon, living life carefreely.

“Kate agreed to dinner with me. I’ve reserved a table at the restaurant. I’ll send you the time and location later.”

However, Skylar didn’t respond to him. She intended to let Kate deal with Marcus on her own as she had no care for his connections and resources.

By the end of the day, there was a bangle of a bruise on Skylar’s wrist. She got it from a dispute scene with Maxim earlier. As a novice actor, he still needed more training in controlling his emotions and strength. Her lean wrist and supple skin were defenseless against the brute strength of a man.

Skylar kept flexing her wrist, trying to relieve the pain after the scene as Maxim continued to apologize.

She wondered how long it would take for the discoloration to fade as she stared down at it.

Not taking the matter to her heart, she returned a friendly smile at Maxim’s apologies, hoping he would let the matter go.

When Skylar reached the exit, she saw Kate leaning against Marcus’ blue Maserati as she took off her sunglasses and beckoned for Skylar to approach. At the same time, Skylar noticed that Amelia was standing right next to Kate.

She knew she couldn’t reject Kate outright, so she got into the car.

The minute she did so, a blast of warmth from the heater enshrouded her, warming her up.

Right then, Amelia and Skylar exchanged glances. The latter was wearing a white sports jacket and jeans. She was oozing fresh and young vibes, showing off her forehead and slender neck with a bun on her head.

Looking at Skylar’s style, Amelia had to admit she would lose to Skylar in terms of age no matter how young she tried to dress. The majority of the public would prefer Skylar’s looks over hers.

“How are you getting along with Marcus’ sister?”

“Pretty good.”

“You need a few friends in the entertainment industry. You can’t always be a loner. Otherwise, a scandal will emerge saying you have bad character, hence your lack of friends.”

Kate continued having small talks with Skylar while Amelia sat silently, rolling down the window to watch silhouettes of passing trees and dim street lamps.

Amelia was badly craving a break after a whole day of work, but she couldn’t reject Kate’s last-minute invitation to dinner. Without a choice, she obediently complied. Kate nagged at her throughout the entire ride to get closer to Marcus because his company had recently purchased the rights to existing intellectual properties.

Amelia’s brows furrowed at the conflicting feelings rising within her.

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Chapter 612 Domestic Violence

The restaurant’s location was relatively remote. The first thing they saw when they got out of the car were the grizzled wall, a greenstone bench, and a vintage red wooden door with two lion statues on either side guarding it.

The server led them to a private room Marcus had reserved. The second Skylar stepped into the room, she could feel Marcus’ gaze on her.

“It’s difficult to ask you out,” he joked, but there was an undertone of somberness beneath it.

Skylar’s menstrual cramp was giving her a hard time. Moreover, she suspected the cold air from the ground had chilled her due to the thin soles of her shoes. Her grandmother had always warned her of the cold air that could travel from the ground into one’s body.

After her grandmother was gone, she had no one fussing over her anymore.

Grandma used to check the weather report the night before and tell me to plan my outfit accordingly for the next day. She always insisted that a girl has to stay warm.

Meanwhile, Marcus and Kate were engaged in a low conversation. Not interested in it, Skylar simply sat quietly and focused on the boiled fish in front of her.

As she scooped up a piece of fish, her sleeve was pulled back along with her movement and revealed the bruise on her wrist. The purple bruise had turned darker compared to earlier.

Despite being engaged in a conversation with Kate, Marcus caught the discoloration on Skylar's wrist.

The room was warm, but it felt suffocating for Skylar, so she excused herself and got out of the room.

As the chilling night breeze hit her face, she shuddered from the coldness and quickly wrapped her arms around herself.

"Did he hurt you?" Skylar looked over her shoulder at the question and saw Marcus standing behind her with only a wool sweater.

Skylar smiled. "Why are you asking me such a strange question? Who do you think hurt me?"

With his hands tucked in his pockets, he said, "The bruise on your wrist was his doing, right? You can always ask for my help if you need any."

Right then, she realized Marcus assumed that her bruise was Tobias' doing.

It seems that Marcus doesn't have a good impression of Tobias.

"No," Skylar answered without elaborating. Her bare face was a stark contrast to the night.

Marcus' eyes darkened at the sight. At that moment, he finally understood the reason Tobias broke off his engagement and chose to be with her.

He cleared his throat and warned, "Careful not to fall too deeply for him, or you'll get hurt."

However, Skylar was indifferent to his words. Her heart had numbed after hearing similar warnings so many times. She had heard many people liken her to a short-term stock and warn that Tobias was ready to dump her at any minute.

Meanwhile, Amelia gulped down glass after glass of beer in the room. By the time Skylar returned to her seat, Amelia had consumed quite an amount of alcohol.

Despite that, Kate didn't stop her, and Skylar merely watched from the sidelines. Suddenly, Skylar noticed that Amelia wasn't as arrogant as before. In fact, she seemed to be in low spirits. There was a permanent crease on her forehead as she continued chugging glasses of beer down her throat as if she had a lot on her mind.

After the dinner ended, Kate tried to carry the drunken Amelia away. Looking at Kate's futile attempt, Skylar noted Amelia's intense unwillingness to leave the beers on the table.

Right then, Kate whispered something in Amelia's ear, causing her eyes to dilate from fear. She then shot to her feet and quickly stumbled away.

After settling the bill, Marcus stood with his hand in his pocket as he lighted a cigarette with the other. He blew a puff of smoke as he waited for Skylar at the exit.

"Let me drive you home. It's dangerous for a woman to go home alone at night. More so for a celebrity."

In response, Skylar tipped her chin at a car nearby. His gaze followed hers and landed on the driver and bodyguards in the car.

Marcus recalled a woman's voice in his head. "Marcus, Tobias will be fetching me tonight. His driver and bodyguards will be here too. What do you think I should wear? I hope he likes it."

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Chapter 613 Will You Be Back Tonight

Marcus forced himself to forget about the face of the woman in his mind, for she happily went for a date but ended up losing her life.

Marcus could still remember that she had chosen a white floral dress and proudly explained to him her reason for choosing it.

At that unwelcomed memory, he flung his lit cigarette to the ground, stomping on it as he watched Skylar leave.

Skylar had a petite frame that would rouse men's urge to wrap her in their arms.

Marcus felt it was a waste for such a beautiful and innocent girl to be spreading her legs for Tobias at night.

Skylar had drunk a few glasses of beer, so she had the scent of alcohol lingering around her. Afraid that Tobias would smell it, she rolled down the window, letting the cold breeze into the car to wash the scent away.

The car was completely silent. Cinque, Lionel, and the driver didn't say anything throughout the ride. The only sounds were the wind blowing and the friction between the tires and gravel.

Suddenly, she remembered the adult toy in Kate's purse. It was a quick glimpse, but she could tell that the toy was a dildo with barbs.

Skylar couldn't help but compare the toy's length to Tobias'. After doing so, she concluded that the toy lost.

Skylar broke out in a cold sweat as she imagined Amelia on the receiving end of the toy. She couldn't believe that Kate had such a fetish, and the reason for the despair on Amelia's face finally clicked into place.

Is it truly worth it? I don't understand why Amelia chose to jump into the dark abyss when she had other options.

By the time the car stopped, Skylar had come up with an explanation for Tobias for her late return. After a glance at the clock, she noted it was already a quarter after eleven.

The lights were still bright in the living room. When Madelyn heard the door opening downstairs, she came down.

“Where is he?” Skylar bent down to pick up her shoes. She noticed the pair of blue house slippers sitting on the rack beside the leather boat shoes.

“Mr. Ford is not back yet.”

Skylar lowered her eyes at her reply. Tobias sure was good at talking me into moving in with him but didn’t even send me a text about not coming back.

If a couple moved in together before getting married, the elders would usually look down upon the girl.

Despite that, she had chosen to ignore the humiliation for Tobias’ sake. After all, she wasn’t the daughter of a wealthy family. Her background was nothing in the eyes of the Fords, to begin with.

Initially, she thought moving in together would be the start of a perfect life. Instead, disappointment filled her as she realized it was no different from before.

Plopping onto the couch, she rested her chin on an avocado-shaped pillow and dug through her purse for her phone. Then, she toggled to her call history and found Tobias’ number.

A deep voice came from the phone. “What’s wrong? Is there a problem?”

His question was so direct that Skylar couldn’t manage a response. At the same time, she could vaguely hear a man’s and a woman’s voices in the background.

“If the bank doesn’t adjust the interest rate, all our efforts will go down the drain. Split the funds into three...”

“But Mr. Ford, the regulatory commission...”

Skylar listened to the broken conversation as she glanced at the clock. It was nearly one in the morning, yet Tobias was still busy with work.

At that thought, her resentment dissipated slightly. After all, she had imagined hearing a woman’s voice saying that Tobias was still in the shower.

She wondered how to react to that.

"I'll hang up if there's nothing important." Tobias didn't have a lot of patience for her that night.

Skylar could tell that he was busy, so her tone brightened slightly. "Will you be coming back tonight?"

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Chapter 614 Give Up The Girls

"Go to sleep first, and I'll try my best to be home soon."

"Okay. Don't work too hard so late into the night. You need rest too."

Tobias' lips tilted into a smile as he hung up the phone. She knew working late into the night was bad, yet she still stayed up late.

She's one of the few women I have ever met who leads a callous life. Health is the last of her priorities. I have seen her working herself to the bone on many nights.

Following that, he delved back into work as he picked up the papers on his desk with an exhausted look. His eyes were bloodshot as they scanned the papers.

"Let's call this a night."

The few employees in the office snapped their heads at Tobias. It was unusual for Tobias to leave before finishing work.

Ignoring their stares, Tobias grabbed his coat and massaged his throbbing temples.

Susan asked softly, "Should I book a massage session for you since your back has been hurting for the entire day?"

It was a routine of Tobias' to go for a massage session before going back home after working overtime.

Tobias stopped Susan with a hand gesture. "I'll be heading to Skylar's tonight, so you can get off work already."

Susan nodded without saying anything else.

Exiting his office, Tobias saw Eva waiting outside. He looked at her with a probing expression. "It's late. Why are you still here?"

Eva tightened her grip on her purse strap. "My car broke down. Can you give me a lift home? I've asked a few other colleagues, but my house is out of their way."

Tobias didn't agree or reject her. Instead, he merely cast an indifferent glance at the woman. Eva took his silence as an agreement and followed behind him.

The man's dark green shirt accentuated his broad shoulders and straight back, which exuded the charms of a sophisticated man.

A wicked thought crossed her mind. Why would such a perfect man undress in front of Skylar? Is there any spot on him that she hasn't touched before?

Brayden is so disgusting and repulsive compared to Tobias.

Her steps slowed as she stared at his back.

Eva wanted to figure out her feelings for him, but she couldn't control them. The longer she stayed by his side, the more entangled she was in the web of feelings she had for him.

Suddenly, Eva realized that she had left a document in the office. With a guilty look, she asked Tobias to wait for her at the underground parking lot while she went back up to retrieve it.

When she quickly rushed back downstairs with the document in hand, she saw him leaning back against his seat with his eyes shut through the rolled-down window.

His coat was thrown haphazardly onto the passenger seat over portfolios and papers.

Eva tried to open the passenger door lightly, but Tobias' eyes snapped open at the sound. With a disinterested gaze, he looked at Eva sitting in the passenger seat.

Tobias had regularly driven the Porsche. Even though he had many cars, Eva noticed he drove that car most of the time.

Tobias dug out his phone from his pocket and hurled it into the storage under the armrest. With that, Eva saw the womanly items in the storage.

There was a tube of YSL lipstick, a Givenchy compact, and a pink compact mirror with a Hello Kitty design.

She knew whom those items belonged to.

As Tobias pulled out of the parking lot, his phone rang.

Eva quickly reached into the armrest and retrieved the phone for him. In the process, she caught Idania's name on the screen.

Eva knew the name belonged to a woman from a glance. She had always known that a man with status and power like Tobias would have many women clinging to him.

Hence, Eva refused to believe Tobias would give up all the girls for Skylar. He is just like any other man.

Nine of ten men are salacious, and the one that isn't must be gay.

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Chapter 615 Unreasonable

When Tobias saw that the call was from Idania, he declined it without any hesitation. Freeing a hand from the steering wheel, he took the phone and tossed it into the center console box.

He drove on and did not even ask Eva for her address. He had been to that house numerous times and could easily find his way there without the help of GPS navigation.

“Are you still in contact with Brayden?” he asked solemnly in his deep voice.

Why is he asking about my personal life? Is it because of my relationship with Skylar?

Eva unconsciously preened herself and tucked away some stray strands of hair behind her ears as she contemplated the question.

“I have no interest in Mr. Scott. My upbringing and decency would not allow me to get involved with a married man.” She decided she had to make her stand clear.

Tobias let out a small wry smile and did not probe further. It was ironic to him that Eva seemed to be proud of her upbringing, as he felt her parents had pretty bad table manners.

After entering the neighborhood, Tobias slowed down and brought the car to a smooth stop. Eva was mesmerized by the masculine contours of his face as she watched him turn off the engine.

“Thank you for the ride, Mr. Ford. Have a safe drive home,” she thanked him and got ready to alight from the car.

“How is your brother? Is he still addicted to gambling?” Tobias asked.

“I am to be blamed for that. I have been too busy with work and did not give him enough attention.” Eva frowned lightly as she spoke, sounding self-reproachful.

Tobias knew what she was trying to get at, but chose not to respond to that.

Eva really wanted to invite Tobias to her place for a drink, but knowing her parents would be in, she could only bury that wishful thinking and alighted from the vehicle with regrets.

Skylar was awoken by the sound of the door opening. The house was dead quiet at night, so she could clearly hear every movement, including the sound of the keys being placed on the table

She closed her eyes again and pretended to be sleeping.

Tobias switched on the table lamp and despite it being on its dimmest mode, Skylar seemed to be woken by it.

She rubbed her sleepy eyes as if she had just woken up and murmured, "Oh, you are back. I waited up till late and I thought you will not come back, so I went to bed. Have you taken your dinner?" she asked.

Tobias bent over to give her a kiss on her forehead and softly said, "Get back to sleep."

He sat down on the bed, leaned against the headboard, and pulled her into his embrace.

Skylar lay comfortably in his arms, taking in the familiar white sandalwood scent on him.

After a while, she opened her eyes and stole a peek at him. His upper body was on the bed but his long legs were still resting on the floor. Despite the uncomfortable posture, he was fast asleep. He seemed to be tired after a long day and had fallen asleep instantly, still dressed in his work attire. The glow of the warm dim light softened the outline of his sharp features, and the tired look on his face actually made him more charming and irresistible.

As she watched him sleep, memories of their first encounter came back to her vividly. Tobias was not in her good books when they first met. She lost her virginity to him during their first meeting and she thought they would never meet again. At that time, no one would have predicted their relationship would develop so quickly and they would soon be living as a couple.

Skylar pulled over a blanket and gently put it over Tobias. The sky was getting lighter and soon he would be waking up.

She had no idea when she drifted off to sleep, but when she woke up again in the morning, Tobias was nowhere to be found. The crumpled bedsheet was a clear sign that he had been back and it was not a dream.

She took a quick shower and put on an oversized shirt over her undies. She had no plans to get out of the house and decided to dress casually and comfortably. Since the house was heated and cozily warm, there was no need to bundle herself up.

She walked down to the dining hall and realized Tobias was still around. He had not left as she had expected.

His hand tightened around the glass of milk he was holding as he gave her a scrutinizing look from head to toe. His gaze lingered on her exposed long legs, and she could sense his anger even before he spoke.

“Is that a top or a dress? Cover yourself up and stop showing so much of your legs! Who are you trying to seduce?” he hissed. After they got close, he had become a control freak who would demand her to dress conservatively.

That was the same man who had no qualms about stripping her naked and confining her to the operations table for an examination when they first got acquainted. Eva could only sigh at the unreasonable double standards that seemed to be second nature to most men.

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Chapter 616 So Close Yet So Far

Madelyn was not in, so Skylar came up close to Tobias and planted her long sexy leg on his.

She could feel his warmth on her bare skin.

Tobias caressed her thigh sensuously as he smilingly jested, “What is that for? Trying to seduce me this early in the morning?”

Skylar playfully rubbed her foot against his inner thigh to tease him but was stopped by him.

He held on lovingly to her foot and said, “Stop fooling around. I have to leave soon after breakfast. We won’t have enough time for it.”

He may be rejecting her, but his gaze and tone were clearly doting and indulging.

Skylar withdrew her foot, wore her slippers, and walked behind him. As she bent down to whisper in his ear, her long flowy hair fell close to his face, and he could smell the fresh cherry blossom scent of her shampoo.

“Can you be back a little earlier today? You came and ejected in me that night. I couldn’t bring myself to ask anyone to help me get the pills, and I can’t possibly go buy it myself.” She spoke plainly without a hint of shyness, her tone light and matter-of-fact.

Tobias put down his fork and softly said, “Why did you not tell me earlier? I could have brought it for you last night. Is it still in time?”

Skylar wasn’t sure if it was beyond forty-eight hours, but nonetheless, she nodded and said, “I’ll take the pill no matter what. If it is too late to be effective and I get pregnant, I will go for an abortion. I promise you will not have to be responsible for that.”

She made light of the matter as if aborting the baby would not be a big deal to her. Deep in her heart, she knew how much the baby would mean to her and that she was only putting on a brave front to assure him.

Tobias gently caressed her firm and toned stomach, but his silence spoke volumes about how he felt.

Skylar had no disillusion about her future with Tobias. Even though they had been together for quite a while already, she knew they had no future together. He might have indulged in her and made her feel that he could be trusted and depended on, but she knew he was never really committed to their relationship.

She would love to keep the child if she were blessed with one. However, knowing he would be reluctant, she would not want to make things difficult for him.

“What’s the name of the pill?” It was an innocent question from him, but she felt hurt and disappointed when she heard that. It was a clear confirmation of his stand and she was rudely robbed of the faint hope that he would think otherwise.

She took a deep breath to rid herself of the disappointment then told him the name of the morning-after pill, and he carefully noted it down. Just then, his phone rang, and she instinctively hushed up so he could take his call. She would never utter a sound whenever he was on his phone. Even if she cut herself on the finger, she would not let out a whimper to make her presence known. That was the price she had to pay for having a secret relationship with him.

He had to entertain many calls during the day, and he usually let the caller do most of the talking and replied briefly when necessary. Even if he were to speak at length, she would not

understand what they were talking about. Those business matters were not of interest to her, and she knew she would be of no help to him.

She had a poor appetite since a few days ago, and the French toast on the table could not entice her. She also tired easily and was constantly craving sleep.

She went online to read up and found that those were symptoms of the early stage of pregnancy. However, based on her calculations, that was highly improbable as it was only a couple of days ago when they had unprotected sex.

Two nights ago, Tobias was in a very horny mood and demanded sex when they were on the couch. He lay down on the couch and held her close to him. He was so aroused that he placed his hands on her hips and guided her to mount on him before she could draw the curtains or remove their clothes.

Recalling the raunchy details of that night as she watched Tobias take his call at the other end of the room, her face and ears turned red.

His strong and sharp features were prominent, and even the warm morning sun couldn't soften his sculptured look. He stood with a hand on his hip, his head lowered in concentration as he took the call. Even though his white business shirt was not fully buttoned up and he was dressed casually without a tie, he was the presence of power and success.

She was enchanted by him, but at the same time, keenly aware of their seemingly unbridgeable differences.

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Chapter 617 Three For One

After he ended the call, Tobias turned around and saw that Skylar had not touched her food. "Are you on a diet again? It is bad to skip breakfast. Your health will be affected!" He frowned slightly as he gently chided her.

Skylar forced herself to pick up the fork, but the sight of the greasy French toast made her give up the feeble attempt.

"I'll pass on this. I really do not have an appetite for this early in the morning. And by the way, in the future, please let me know if you are coming back late, so I won't have to wait up for you," she said.

Tobias made a low grunt half-heartedly in acknowledgment. He was used to living independently and was having difficulty reporting to her his movement and plans.

Skylar's simple request was a reminder to him that they were a couple and no longer two independent individuals.

She was already standing in front of the door, getting ready to head out. Tobias found his car keys and asked, "Should I give you a ride? Or do you prefer to go with the chauffeur?"

She chose to be driven by the chauffeur, keen to avoid drawing any unnecessary attention to both Tobias and herself.

As she turned to leave, she felt a grip on her hands. He was standing so close to her that upon looking up, all she could see were his white shirt and his sensuous Adam's apple. She felt his warm breath on her face as he bent down to give her a passionate French kiss.

Skylar was immediately lost in that intense kiss and responded with equal passion. The two of them totally forgot about Madelyn's presence.

Madelyn herself had been through that youthful passionate age and was secretly envious of their exciting sex life whenever she saw the evidence in their trash can. That reminded her of her own youthful days.

After Skylar got into the car, she checked her phone and saw many missed calls from Miranda. She had to take a deep breath to calm herself down before talking to Miranda.

"We are going to be rich, Skylar! We are going to be rich!" Miranda was shouting in excitement on the other end of the phone.

Skylar rubbed between her brows to destress as she answered, "Did you strike the lottery?"

“Oh, Tobias had not spoken to you about it? Our old house will be acquired for redevelopment soon, as the area is rezoned as a commercial area. Ford Group bought the land, and they are offering three units of replacement housing for every unit sold to them!”

Skylar’s slender fingers clenched tightly around her phone in distress when she heard that. She was taken by surprise as Tobias had not told her about the acquisition.

“That house is the only memory I have of Grandma. How can you be so excited, knowing it will be torn down?” she cried out, aggrieved.

“Are you out of your mind? Your grandma had passed on and will not know about the demolition. Why are you harping on that? I am sure she will be happy to know that if she is still with us. Anyway, I have a share in that house, so I am entitled to at least one of the replacement units!” Miranda chided her.

Skylar clearly remembered there were rumors of redevelopment when her grandma was still alive. Meredith flared and reacted strongly against that. She angrily hit her walking stick on the ground and dismissed the idea. “Over my dead body! Don’t they dare set eyes on my house!”

Skylar became frustrated and was in distress after the conversation with Miranda.

When she arrived at the filming location, Laurel started briefing her on the scenes scheduled for the day. She was a fast learner and more efficient compared to Hannah.

Skylar absent-mindedly played with her hair while Laurel was doing the briefing. Her mind was preoccupied with the thought of her grandma’s house being demolished.

Suddenly, she blurted out a strange question to Laurel. “Do you have an old manor in your family?” she asked.

Laurel was briefly taken aback by the unexpected question. Despite being puzzled by the seemingly random question, she composed herself quickly and duly replied Skylar. “I come from a poor family, so my family has always been staying in the same old house. We cannot afford one of those new houses. I have lived in that old house in Springwyn since I was born. I don’t see anything wrong with old houses. If we have to move from our house someday, I am sure I will miss it.”

I will miss it. That was exactly how Skylar felt about her grandma’s house.

"Is your house being acquired for redevelopment? Congrats! That means you will get a big sum of money!" Laurel happily congratulated Skylar on that.

Skylar shook her head, and she was not lying when she said she was in a financially tight situation. Her finances were in a mess as she did not have a financial adviser to help her with her investments. Her money was invested in mutual funds and property, and she did not have much cash.

Even if her grandma's house was torn down for redevelopment, she would not get a single cent in cash. She knew it was a selfish wish, but she would rather keep the old house than make her other family members happy.

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Chapter 618 Charming All The Men

Sharon had been looking forward to the redevelopment of the area. Every year, she would try to ask around to see if any developers had taken an interest in their area.

Time and again, her hopes were dashed, as most of the developers could not afford the massive investment needed to redevelop that area.

However, the most recent offer had great potential as Ford Group was involved. Tobias had the financial means and also the savvy business mind to make things work.

"Once that house is demolished, all my fond memories will be lost too. Whenever I feel down, I always go back to the house, and memories of the happy times I had there will cheer me up. In the future, I will not have warm recollections of the place. All that is left will be a pile of cold steel and concrete," Skylar mumbled softly.



Laurel couldn't judge what would be best for Skylar, but she could empathize with her emotional attachment to the old house. Some people treasured their old stuff because of the fond memories associated with them. She knew many people would keep their old phones even after getting a new one, and they could not bear to delete all the old photos and data in the old phone.

“Which neighborhood is up for redevelopment? I am a local here, but I have not heard of any news of potential redevelopment projects around this area!” Laurel curiously asked.

Just then, Ingrid appeared and threw a paper bag at Skylar. She haughtily held her head high, not looking Skylar in her eyes, and begrudgingly said, “Take it! It is from Marcus.”

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Skylar opened the bag and found a tube of ointment for bruises. She examined the bruises on her wrist, and they were still fairly visible.

She did not expect Marcus to notice those bruises and make Ingrid bring her the ointment. She was positive even Tobias had not noticed her injury.

She handed the bag back to Ingrid and said, “Please thank Marcus for me. I am fine, and the bruises will go away after a couple of days. I appreciate his kindness but I have no use for this ointment.”

Ingrid looked her up and down and snorted at her. “Anyway, I have done my part and brought it to you as Marcus had instructed. I don’t care what you do with it!”

Skylar did not want the ointment, so she handed the bag to Laurel and told her to do as she deemed fit.

Ingrid sent Marcus a text message. "Stop trying to suck up to her. Your effort is not appreciated."

Marcus: "All you need to do is to deliver it to her."

Ingrid was never a nosy person, but she felt that by paying too much attention to Skylar, Marcus would give other people an impression that he was out to fight with Tobias over a woman.

Moreover, she could not bear the sight of all the male filming crew gushing over Skylar's look, looking up to her as a goddess.

She thought Skylar had the look of a vixen and was out to seduce men with her alluring gaze. Besides, she was certain that Skylar's intentions were never good. She counted herself lucky that she discovered Skylar's plot to seduce her man and managed to nip it in the bud before things went wrong.

Harry was still openly infatuated with Skylar and could not get his eyes off her.

If Tobias was not backing Skylar, Ingrid would have taught her a lesson and made her stop seducing Harry.

After she finished her filming, Skylar turned on her phone and was greeted by a video call from Miranda. Miranda asked her to attend a family gathering. It was for a discussion on how to split the potential compensation from the redevelopment of the house.

Skylar was tired after a long day of shooting and had wanted to blank out the issue of the house and not think about it. Unfortunately, Miranda was not about to let her have her way.

"Will Tobias be joining us tonight?" Miranda asked.

"He is busy." Skylar brushed her off impatiently.

Miranda shared that Wesley offered to host the dinner for the get-together, which was a big deal for a stingy man like him.

He wanted to show his appreciation for the help given to Kevin when he lost all the money. Skylar was skeptical and doubted Wesley and his family would be thankful and appreciative. She was sure they had other motives.

Many of the extended family turned up for the gathering. It had been a long while since the whole family got together, and the kids were having fun fighting and playing with one another.

They invited many to the gathering, but Sharon only prepared a measly number of simple dishes. She split the food into small plates to fill the table.

“It is a good thing that the house is going to be redeveloped. Wesley, you can finally move to a better place. This house is too old and rundown.”

“Where do you plan to move to after this place is torn down? The three replacement units should be worth at least ten million, and with that money, you can get a villa in the suburb!”

“You are blessed with so many pieces of happy news this year! I heard the replacement units from Ford Group are very good and spacious, unlike those from other developers.”

Skylar quietly sat by the side and listened as the rest of the family talked about the redevelopment. She munched on a piece of pickled carrot as she looked around the room. Sharon was in the seat Meredith used to occupy.

In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 619

Chapter 619 How Could A Lover Not Know

The cushions on the rattan couch were the same ones that Meredith had painstakingly sewn by hand, and the lights in the kitchen had the same antiquated switch. The only change in the house was that the family had switched to using low-watt energy-saving bulbs.

The doorknob turned, and it was Eva who had returned. The cold air gushed in as she opened the door. Winter had arrived, and the temperature was getting lower by the day. The wind was biting, especially at night.

Eva threw Skylar an intent look, watching her mouth move as she munched on the piece of carrot. Eva started to wonder what acts that mouth had performed on Tobias.

Skylar moved a little to make space for Eva, but she ignored that and turned to ask her mother, "Where is Kevin?"

"He had gone to do revision in the library," Sharon replied as she came out of the kitchen with a set of cutlery for Eva.

Eva knew Kevin was a troublemaker and did not believe he had finally settled down and focused on his studies.

"We are talking about renovations. When we get the new house, we have to do some proper renovation. Your mom and I planned to spend the rest of our lives in the new house!" Wesley was grinning from ear to ear, rejoicing at the prospect of getting a brand new house soon.

Eva stole another look at Skylar and found that she seemed to have a nonchalant attitude toward the subject. She thought Skylar was being pretentious.

Rumors abounded about the redevelopment of their neighborhood, and everyone was speculating about it as not much information was publicly announced. Everyone had high hopes that they would soon get a windfall, and the gambling den in the town was doing brisk business because many had started spending their unearned fortunes.

"Eva, you are working in the Ford Group. Could you give me some insider information and let me know how much the compensation will be?" A relative from the same neighborhood anxiously asked Eva.

Eva casually redirected the question to Skylar by saying, "Why don't you ask Skylar. She sleeps with my boss every day, so she should know better."

Skylar felt awkward being put in the spotlight in that manner. Although it was a fact that she and Tobias were living together despite not being married to one another, it was an unwelcomed comment from Eva.

Everyone suddenly turned their attention to Skylar. They were used to ignoring her presence since she was young, and had forgotten that she was no longer the wallflower she previously was.

Miranda nudged Skylar and asked, "That's right, Skylar. Did Tobias say how much we will be getting in exchange for our house?"

"I have no idea." Skylar put down her fork and shrugged her shoulders.

"What is wrong with you? How could you not pay attention to such an important matter?"

"How is it you do not know anything? What are you trying to hide from us?"

"I heard we will be getting three replacement units. Which benchmark are they using for the valuation?"

The relatives were hounding Skylar for answers until Eva spoke up. She looked squarely at Skylar and said, "Are you sure you do not know anything about this? Ford Group has made multiple changes to their development plans because of your objection to redeveloping this old house. You even told Mr. Ford that the residents here are greedy and will make things difficult for them by asking for high compensation. As such, Ford Group had tentatively decided to bypass our area and leave us out of the redevelopment plans!"

Her revelation stunned everyone present, and their smiles froze and then faded from their face. Instantly, their attitude toward Skylar turned hostile.

"How can you do that, Skylar? How can you be so selfish and inconsiderate? I know you cannot bear to see this house go, but you have no right to do this!" Miranda was the first to scream at Skylar.

Wesley angrily flung the wine glass in his hand onto the floor and said, "What a f**king bad karma! Looks like I am destined to die a pauper." He was out to make Skylar feel bad.

Eva stirred up their emotions and made Skylar the common enemy of the family. Skylar tried to calm herself down and then explained, "I have no idea what you are talking about. Eva, did you verify all those information with Tobias?"

"That's right. I heard it straight from the horse's mouth. If you don't believe me, just wait for the redevelopment notice!" Evan smugly said.

"I did not know I have such a huge influence on him!" Skylar smiled and joked about it.

Eva only used a few words, and Skylar instantly became the sinner who had betrayed the family. The fact that she said she would miss the house had destroyed everyone's dream of getting their hands on quick riches.

In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 620

Chapter 620 Old Enough To Be Your Dad

Staring at the dark clouds outside the car window, Skylar heard the sky rumble, as if a thunderstorm was approaching.

She was listening to Miranda nagging about money.

Sick of hearing it, she stuffed her ears with her earphones, which were quickly taken down by an exasperated Miranda.

Miranda glared at her. "Skylar, can you at least show some concern? Setting aside the matter of how much of the redevelopment compensation is mine, you can't go on offending every single person within the family. What's the use of leaving the old manor there? Will it bring your grandma back? Wake up, and stop dreaming."

Skylar averted her gaze away from Miranda's scowling face, for she knew the latter was just worried about being humiliated in front of their relatives, making things awkward for her going forward.

Evidently, Miranda wasn't aware that those same relatives had ridiculed her during her time in prison. They had never shown her any respect, to begin with.

In fact, she was nothing but the butt of their jokes.

"Skylar, your mom has been locked up for so long, do you miss her?"

“Going forward, remember not to reveal to anyone that your mom is a convicted murderer. If you do, no one will be willing to marry you due to your family history.”

“Despite how pretty your mom was back then, look at how she ended up? You had better not follow in her footsteps.”

Back then, she too wondered if she would manage to find a husband because her relatives did have a point. No ordinary family would be willing to accept someone like her.

Skylar remarked casually, “I don’t care if you believe it or not, but I wasn’t aware of this matter. What else can I do when you rather believe your niece over your own daughter?”

Having heard Skylar’s response, Miranda began to be filled with doubt and asked, “Did you really not know about it?”

Skylar replied, “I don’t. Tobias seldom chats with me, let alone about something related to his work.”

In the face of Skylar’s strange behavior, Miranda gaped in shock and confusion.

“Are you serious? Since when do couples rarely talk to each other? Are you a mute? You should take the initiative to make conversation. Nonetheless, I do understand that you might not have common interests due to the fact that Tobias is a lot older than you are. If he wasn’t rich, I would have hoped that you find a partner who’s closer to you in age. I gave birth to you when I was nineteen, and you’re now twenty-one. Since he is older than you by twelve years, he is old enough to be your dad if you add on a few more years.”

Skylar was tickled by Miranda’s sense of humor, for she could imagine the look on Tobias’ face when he heard those words. After all, he was very particular about his age.

In fact, he had even commented before that he felt as if he was raising a child.

After sending Miranda home, Skylar breathed a sigh of relief.

Before she left, Miranda reminded her, “Go back home and talk to him properly.”

Since it was late, Skylar returned to find Tobias sitting on the sofa. He was wearing a white shirt tucked into a pair of navy blue pants. With his jacket placed on the side of the sofa, his black metal belt buckle looked inconspicuous without a brand logo.

The sight of him reminded her of the time she got to know some boys while working in the hotel. They loved to wear tight-fitting jeans and show off their belt buckle which was the shape of an "H."

Even then, the vibes they exuded weren't even compatible with their fake Hermès belts.

When Tobias heard the sound of footsteps, he turned the television off with his remote control. While doing so, the Patek Philippe watch on his hand demonstrated his masculine aura.

He didn't ask her why she was late that evening. Instead, he took out a box of morning-after pills and put them on the table.

Blushing in embarrassment, Skylar swiftly picked the box up.