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Skylar felt like she was the most pathetic person in the entire world, still hoping for something she could never have.

Although she clearly knew that Tobias might leave her any time, she felt as though her heart had been gouged by a knife every time she saw him with another woman.

Despite that, she still came to bid Tobias goodbye, which was laughable since he was most probably having a good time with that woman upstairs and avoiding her.

She was going to meet Penelope at the dessert shop in their school. It had been a long time since they last met. Upon seeing her, Penelope gave her a tight hug.

"Why have you lost so much weight? Are you on a diet for the role you are playing?" Penelope said as she looked at Skylar with sympathy. The latter's limbs were so thin that she seemed like she could be blown away by a gust of wind.

Skylar took a mouthful of mango pomelo sago and let out a sigh. "The director told me to put on some weight before filming. But I can't gain any no matter how much I eat."

Hearing that, Penelope pinched her flabby tummy. This is so unfair. If only I can give five kilograms of my body fat to Skylar.

Noticing that Skylar was in a daze, Penelope asked, "Are you still thinking about Jeremy? I told you that he's not good for you. That guy is unreliable."

In truth, it had been a long time since Jeremy last crossed Skylar's mind. She forced a smile and said, "I have already let it go. At least I gave my all when I was with him. Although the ending wasn't what I expected, I am glad that I backed out before it's too late."

Skylar felt like she was losing her mind. She was talking about Jeremy, but her head was filled with thoughts of Tobias. It seemed absurd that she was indignant about getting dumped when she did not even realize that Tobias had such an important place in her heart.

Suddenly, she recalled the words Jeremy had told her before—that she would regret being with such a complicated person.

Meanwhile, Penelope stared at Skylar suspiciously. It was obvious that the latter was not in good condition. In fact, she looked like she was lovesick. When Penelope was talking to her, her mind seemed to be elsewhere.

“When you told me you wanted to get married to Jeremy, I was so pissed off. Why would a beautiful lady like you get married so soon and be at the beck and call of his family? If you marry him, he will surely clip your wings when you become famous one day.”

Unwilling to talk about that person, Skylar turned her attention to a couple outside the window. When she saw the guy crouching on the floor to help his girlfriend tie her shoelace, she couldn't help but feel envious. She had never harbored high expectations in her relationships.

All she wanted was for the other party to reciprocate her sincerity toward him and treat her well.

She asked Penelope, “Let's say, a man asked you to be his girlfriend and you refused, but both of you got along very well and you acquiesced to the relationship. Then, for some unknown reason, this man stopped contacting you. What would you do if you were in this situation?”

Penelope looked at Skylar doubtfully as her instincts told her that there was something fishy going on.

“Skylar, please don't tell me you're talking about yourself.”

Skylar nodded in dismay. “I guess you could say so.”

If it weren't for her years of friendship with Penelope, she would not even dare to tell the latter her secret. She was just glad that there was someone for her to talk to.

Abruptly, Skylar slammed the table in rage. “F*ck, tell me who he is! I will hunt him down if it's the last I do. How dare he bully you! Did you sleep with him?”

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Hearing Penelope's brazen words, her face turned red. "Yes, but he never gave me any promises. He has a fiancée too. I am so confused right now. Should I go talk to him?" she said calmly.

Penelope was rendered speechless. Although Skylar was her best friend, she said bluntly, "Skylar, how could you do this? Why are you messing with a man who has a fiancée? You are not this kind of person. Is he loaded?"

Even though Skylar had expected Penelope to react this way, she still felt ashamed of herself when her friend said those words to her face.

After all, Tanya and Tobias' wedding was merely postponed, not canceled. In fact, Skylar also heard that Tanya was staying with the Ford family.

She pursed her lips as she tried to calm herself. If this situation continued on, she would definitely break down soon.

"He is quite rich, but that has never been my concern. It's just that I found myself starting to feel an attachment to him."

Penelope believed what she said. In her opinion, Skylar was not a materialistic woman. Hence, the only possible explanation was that she was fooled by that man.

Penelope remarked indignantly, "You need to have a clean break with that guy. Considering that he is still messing around when he has a fiancée, he is no doubt an unscrupulous person. Besides, he has not contacted you in such a long time. It means that he doesn't even care about you. Skylar, just forget about this vile man! If you want, I can even teach him a lesson on your behalf."

Penelope had always been a daring person and was practically fearless. At times, Skylar really envied her strong character, unlike herself who was always submissive.

Penelope clenched her teeth. "Skylar, keep your head clear and focus on your career. When you're famous, you can get any man you want. It's only degrading to be with a jerk like him."

Suddenly, Skylar's phone vibrated on the table. When she saw the caller ID, her face turned pale as her eyelids trembled.

With her sharp eyes, Penelope noticed that the phone screen displayed the name "Devil." Upon seeing the name, she was certain that it was that man who was calling. Judging from Skylar's hesitant expression, it was obvious that she wanted to answer the phone.

She had lost contact with Tobias for a month. Hence, his sudden appearance took Skylar by surprise. Naturally, she had the strong urge to ask him what he had been up to, but what right did she have to do that?

While she hesitated with the phone in her hand, Penelope snatched it over.

Unfortunately, Skylar failed to stop Penelope in time, and the latter smashed the green button to connect the call. The next instant, she bellowed into the phone, "Why are you calling Skylar? I am warning you. Do not disturb her anymore! How dare you mess around with her when you're marrying another woman soon? Skylar is a simple-minded girl. That's why she was deceived by you, scumbag!"

Penelope attacked him ruthlessly like a machine gun. Her tone was harsh and unforgiving.

When she had finally finished lashing out at him, she pursed her lips and swallowed the lump in her throat.

However, the other side of the line was completely quiet. Just when Penelope thought there was an issue with the signal, a deep voice came from the phone. She couldn't help but shudder at the menacing voice.

He answered indifferently in a husky voice, "Are you done? I need to talk to Skylar."

"She's not here. She has a date with her boyfriend. Don't disturb her again," Penelope warned sternly before she hung up the call.

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Skylar was awed by Penelope's guts as she was pretty sure that Tobias had never been scolded this badly before.

She's good at making stuff up. What's with the new boyfriend?

Penelope then returned the phone to her and laughed while she said, "If he ever harasses you again, just let me know. I will help you."

Skylar took another mouthful of the mango pomelo sago as she lifted her head curiously. "What did he say? I could only hear you rambling."

"Nothing much. He sounded very impatient," Penelope said after giving it some thought.

Skylar's heart started pounding. Deep down, she was starting to regret letting Penelope answer the call.

What had been done could not be undone. Despite that, she couldn't help but wonder why Tobias looked for her again. Could it be that he already knew she was back in International Garden?

Not long after, Skylar's phone rang again. Unsurprisingly, it was another call from Tobias.

Instantly, Penelope became worked up as she said furiously, "How dare he call again? Skylar, let me answer the call."

However, Skylar stopped her from grabbing the phone as she rejected the call. "There's no need to answer it. Just let it be. We were never meant to be together anyway. I only have myself to blame since I took this relationship seriously, even though he was clearly toying with me. I was such a buffoon."

Penelope felt sorry for Skylar. "You had just broken up with Jeremy not long ago, and here comes another jerk who seems even worse than him. Do you want to get a reading from a fortune-teller? To find out the reason for your difficult love life."

Skylar shook her head. As a pessimist, she was reluctant to go for fortune telling because she was afraid that she would end up getting a bad reading.

It was not just her relationships that were difficult but every other aspect of her life too.

It was only recently that she started having better luck. She was finally given an opportunity by Daryl Williams and got invited to join his cast. This was her chance to rise to fame, so she swore to herself that she would do her best to make a name for herself.

Penelope drank up a whole glass of coconut water. But it was not enough to quench her thirst. She was practically screaming down the phone at Tobias.

In fact, she felt worse seeing Skylar heartbroken than when she herself broke up.

Penelope and Skylar had been neighbors previously, staying in the same residential area.

At that time, the others were not willing to hang out with Skylar because her mother was a murderer, and some of the kids even threw stones at her. For that reason, Skylar fought with the other kids almost every single day. Eventually, everyone kept a distance from her.

The only person who did not shun her was Penelope. Growing up together, both of them were so close that they even shared the same pair of pants.

Right then, Penelope and Skylar decided that it was time to leave as they had to do some shopping at the mall. Skylar was going to film in the suburbs, but without an assistant or a manager, she did not even know what to prepare.

Before leaving the dessert shop, Penelope exclaimed all of a sudden, "Look, Skylar! Isn't that man good-looking?"

As Skylar glanced in the direction of Penelope's line of sight, she saw Tobias in a tapered black suit that showed off his well-built and towering figure. The yellow lighting in the dessert shop and the neon lights outside illuminated his face and accentuated his features, making him look stunning.

That was quite typical of Tobias. Regardless of whether his identity was exposed or not, he would overshadow everything around him in an instant and draw all the attention to himself.

The sudden appearance of Tobias made Skylar suspect that he had installed a tracking device on her.

This is not fair at all. Not only can he find me as he pleases, but he also disappears for as long as he wants and then reappears out of the blue.

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Penelope gaped at Tobias in amazement as he took a seat beside Skylar.

Dumbfounded, she stared at him with her brows furrowed and uttered, "Are you trying to hit on her?"

From her voice, Tobias could tell that she was the one who gave him an earful on the phone just now. What a brazen young lady.

"We're very familiar with each other, so there's no need for that."

Skylar and Tobias were seated so close together that the aroma of his signature white sandalwood cologne was all that permeated her nostrils, and she could even hear his breathing. Their proximity made her so nervous that sweat trickled down her palms.

The admiration in Penelope's gaze vanished when she recognized Tobias's voice. Her attitude toward him took a drastic change as she began to chide him, "The person who called Skylar earlier on was you, right? No wonder she was fooled by you. Look at you sauntering around toying with women's feelings by leveraging your good looks. Despicable."

Skylar hurriedly interrupted her, "Penelope, please stop talking. Let's leave."

She was fearful that Penelope's brashness would infuriate Tobias.

Unperturbed by her sudden lecture, Tobias remained expressionless as he spoke, "Please make yourself clear. How am I toying with women's feelings?"

Penelope scoffed, "You still won't admit it? Skylar's only twenty, and yet you were so eager to take advantage of her. You must be several years older than her. Please, do yourself a favor and avoid harassing the young maidens of our country. Shame on you for robbing the cradle."

Tobias pressed his lips into a thin line. Being labeled as someone who robbed the cradle irked him. It was a grave insult to his character.

He glanced at Skylar and asked calmly, "Is that so? Tell me, how exactly did I take advantage of you?"

Skylar did not miss the hint of menace in his tone. In order to avoid aggravating the situation, she hastily said, "This is not the time to talk about that. I'm going shopping with Penelope. You can stay here."

With that, she hurriedly stood up to escape. However, Tobias reached out to grasp her wrist. "I just arrived, and you're already leaving. In a rush to meet your boyfriend?"

At the side, Penelope was watching the exchange unfold. She noticed that the way he looked at Skylar was rather impassive. There was no inkling of affection in his gaze.

She felt indignant for Skylar and wondered what it was that she saw in him.

Skylar closed her eyes and took a deep breath. "I'll go with you. There're some things that I want to clarify."

After Tobias released his firm grip on her wrist, she shook her hand to relieve the pressure he caused. Then she turned to Penelope and mumbled, "You should go home. I'll come to visit soon, alright?"

Penelope was reluctant to leave Skylar alone, so she attempted to persuade her, "Skylar, don't leave with him all by yourself. Did you not see the news? There are people out there who turn to murder after their relationships turn awry. What if you leave and never return?"

Tobias raised an eyebrow. "What a wild imagination you have. If you're so worried about her, why don't you come along? It won't be that much more laborious to kill another person."

His intimidating remark made Penelope shudder. How did Skylar even meet this person? He's merciless.

Determined not going to desert Skylar and leave her all alone with him, she stood in front of Skylar like a mother hen protecting its offspring and gave Tobias a stern warning, "You can't take Skylar away. If you do, I'll call the cops and tell them that you kidnapped her."

Upon seeing this, Skylar hurriedly intervened. "Penelope, calm down. Let's not cause a ruckus here. Don't worry. He won't be doing anything bad to me. I'll go with him by myself, okay? I have some things I have to clarify by today."

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Penelope was still worried that she was walking straight into the lion's den. What's there to discuss with a guy like him? Unless she's giving him a second chance? That's too foolish of her! Men like him are masters of deceit. Skylar's still innocent, and there's no telling what would happen to her if she blindly fell for his sweet nothings. Besides, he seems like an opulent elite. She definitely needs to be wary of this man.

Hence, Penelope stood at the door, refusing to budge even an inch. She was adamant about not letting the two leave together.

Tobias looked at Skylar's friend as though she was a fool. Gosh. Where is this lunatic from? She's too difficult to deal with.

"Don't worry. We'll leave after our conversation. I'll give you a call once I'm back in the hostel. Is that okay?" Skylar promised in an attempt to coax Penelope.

Realizing that she was being put in a tight spot, Penelope began to waver. Finally, she let go of Skylar's hand and reminded her, "Be careful! Make sure to go to places full of people. If there's anything wrong, call the cops immediately!"

While speaking, she sneakily slipped the anti-rape device she brought along into Skylar's bag.

Skylar nodded. Penelope watches way too many thriller movies. All that's in her mind is related to crime. If Tobias Ford really wanted to murder me, he wouldn't care less about the witnesses.

She then left with Tobias. It had been a month since they last saw each other. As she thought about how distant they grew, she did not even hear the car behind her honk. In a swift movement, Tobias pulled her into his arms to let the white sedan behind them through.

“Could you watch where you’re going? You’re bound to get into an accident if you keep acting like this.” He was visibly annoyed when he scolded her. Just the thought of her crossing the road alone worried him.

Since he did not drive, Skylar followed closely behind him as they walked. When they arrived at the hotel’s entrance, Skylar bulged her eyes at him. “Are you trying to get me into bed again? We’ve just met. How wicked of you.”

Tobias stared at her blankly. “Is there a problem?”

“What do you take me for? Someone at your beck and call to fulfill your sexual desires? Then after you’ve had your way with me, you’ll just throw me aside as usual. Well, I guess the purpose of my existence is to be trampled on by you.” Her words were dripping with sarcasm as she vented her frustration at him with a pale face.

Tobias was confounded. Why is she throwing a tantrum? I’ve just returned from Rome, and the first thing I did upon landing was to meet her. Didn’t we get along well just before I left?

But now she’s looking at me like I’m an eyesore and rejecting my advances.

“If you really think that way, what can I do? Just don’t throw a fit.”

All of a sudden, he grabbed Skylar’s hand. As he dragged her into the hotel, a searing pain coursed through her body.

When they reached the lobby, the manager dutifully handed the room card to Tobias with both hands. He glanced at the pair inquisitively. Why does this lady look so unwilling? Doesn’t she know how lucky she is? So many other women would kill to climb into bed with him.

“I’m going to call the cops if you keep doing this,” Skylar muttered in a feeble attempt to threaten Tobias.

She was well aware that nobody had the ability to restrict him and that her remark barely made a difference to him.

Upon arriving at the room, Tobias flung her hand away. "Come on in. I thought you had something to say to me."

Suppressing her anger, Skylar obediently followed him into the room. The first thing that caught her attention was the whiff of incense that filled the room. The room was dim, making it difficult for her to make out Tobias' expression.