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Miranda spotted the bite mark on Tobias' neck as she sat down opposite him reluctantly. She obviously knew how he got that.

Miranda quickly retracted her gaze. "I called your uncle a few times but he didn't pick up. I'm not sure if they're home, but anyway, I'll go over to their place right after breakfast."

"They have probably blocked you already, that's why your calls are not getting through."

Miranda's eyes widened in surprise. "That's impossible. He's my brother. Stop thinking the worst of people."

Skylar zipped her mouth. It was no use trying to make her see the truth.

Tobias shifted his gaze between the two women as he ate. "Why don't you just move in next door? I thought you've always wanted to do that?"

Anger surged in Miranda's heart at the mention of the issue. "It's fine. I'll just stay with my brother for now. That stupid Thomas has only paid for a month. The landlord came and asked me to pay the rent for the next month and it is fifty thousand a month! I don't have the money to pay for that!"

"You can just ask Skylar to buy you a house. She's signing the contract for a film soon, so she will be able to afford a nice house. I can even give you a twenty percent off if the house is under Ford Group."

Skylar looked at him from the corner of her eyes. What is he trying to do? I know how much money I have in my bank. Why do all the rich people act the same?

Skylar knew just how much money she had in her bank. It was true that she could afford to buy a villa, but after factoring in real estate tax and everything, she would not have much left. In fact, she might even be in debt.

She quickly put an egg on Tobias' plate, hoping he would just shush and eat.

To her dismay, Miranda took Tobias' suggestion seriously and a smile curved on her lips. "That's a good idea. A house is an appreciating asset. Besides, the projects under Ford Group are all high-end. Come to think of it, it's better I don't stay with Wesley. It's an old neighborhood and everyone knows me. I bet they will point fingers behind my back too. I'm already old, so I should have a home of my own. What do you think, Skylar?"

The daughter swallowed her food hard and almost choked.

"Why do you want such a huge house? You're staying on your own."

Not only did Tobias not keep quiet, he further fanned Miranda's greed. "It'll be nice to live in a huge house. Your mom will feel proud everyone knows that her daughter bought it for her. We should just settle this quick and get a house for her."

His proposal definitely sat well with Miranda. The friends she had before she went to jail were all leading good lives. She was the only one who had nothing. None of them believed her when she told them her daughter was dating Tobias Ford.

With that in mind, Miranda decided to take up the offer.

Tobias was already done eating. He looked at the clock and wiped his mouth clean. Since he had already gotten what he wanted from Skylar, it was time he left. The company had just launched a new project, so Tobias took it on himself to go and check everything out at the site. He still did not trust Sheldon fully.

Besides, it was not like the people working there were completely trustworthy.

"Take your time to think about it. A twenty percent discount is not an offer you always come across."

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Skylar got up to send him off. She leaned closer, sticking up an angry thumb at Tobias as she lowered her voice. "What do you think you're doing? I know you want to empty my bank account so I have to ask for money from you like before."

Tobias shot her a gentle smile. "Then, you'll have more motivation to earn money. I still remember what you said when you got drunk the other day. You said you'll leave me once you're independent. You can do with a few obstacles."

After he left, Skylar went to the bank to check her bank account. She was pleasantly surprised to find she had saved up more money than she expected.

She could actually refuse to buy Miranda the house, but she could not bring herself to reject her. She had a soft spot for that woman. Miranda often talked about how difficult it was to raise her up. Back then, she would even sell her blood for money just so she could afford treatment for Skylar when she was sick.

Skylar's memory of her childhood was rather vague. She did not verify if what Miranda told her was true or not, but even if it was not, Skylar could only say that Miranda was really good at shedding crocodile tears.

Skylar decided to just dismiss that thought. After all, just as Miranda said, she was getting old and it would be better to have a home of her own.

Ring! Tobias called just as the ATM machine ejected her card.

"I am just about to call you. I have a few questions. I think I have enough to buy a house. Is a twenty percent discount the best offer you can give? What do you think is a good location? Can I make a down payment first and then pay my loan on a monthly basis? How many years do you think it'll take for me to clear the loan? Does social security cover a house purchase?"

Skylar bombarded him with a litany of questions as if he was a real estate agent.

"We can sort this out when we meet. Do you have time for lunch? I'm not full from breakfast."

"I'll see you after work. I need to go check on Penelope. Her baby is already three months old and I haven't seen her even once."

"Alright then."

Tobias did not insist and hung up swiftly.

Skylar hailed a cab and got in after wearing a cap and a face mask so no one would recognize her. As long as she did not dress too flamboyantly, no one would take a second look at her.

She first dropped by a baby store to get some items for Penelope's child. Since this was her first time shopping for baby stuff, she had no idea what she should get. She took a cursory glance at the products and finally made up her mind to get a few sets of clothes. She figured it would be best to make her shopping trip quick. It would just be a matter of time before she compulsively bought all the cute and small pieces in the shop.

I wonder when will I get to shop for my own baby though, but if that happens, the father won't be Tobias for sure.

Skylar came out of the store with a handful of shopping bags and went over to Penelope's place. She climbed up six fleets of stairs before she finally reached. She finally understood why Miranda insisted on installing an elevator in her new house.

Knock! The door opened to a haggard old man. Penelope's dad did not look well. His brows furrowed when he saw Skylar.

He moved aside and ushered her in. When Skylar saw Penelope, she was dressed in her pajama and glasses, and she had her hair tied up in a bun.

Skylar could still remember how her friend used to say she wanted to just leave her child to the nanny after she gave birth and focus on getting back in shape.

Her current state was far from that.