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Meanwhile, Daryl tested his loudspeaker, but the interference of sound waves created a sharp buzzing sound.

He threw the loudspeaker on the ground in an irritated manner, and his assistant quickly brought a replacement for him.

After he got a new loudspeaker, he announced, "Things Of The Past—scene five. Action."

Skylar started running through the lines in her head. She maintained a calm composure the whole time. She had attended numerous acting classes so performance anxiety wasn't an issue.

Tobias was her only source of anxiety then. Whenever she was with him, she would feel nervous.

During the acting scene, Skylar grabbed Katrina's arm, and just as she was about to say her lines, Katrina pushed her away in disdain.

"Katrina, what are you doing? Why did you push Skylar away? The two of you are supposed to be good friends during this scene. No conflict whatsoever," Daryl exclaimed.

Katrina patted her sleeve on the spot where Skylar touched with her.

"My arm is itching badly. Skylar, could you go and wash your hands?" she said.

Skylar opened her hands to reveal her sparkling clean palms. She had taken a shower right before she left the house and she could still smell the fragrance of soap on her hands.

However, Katrina's contemptuous tone made it sound as though her hands were full of germs.

Upset by the two actresses, Daryl interjected, "What's going on between the two of you? Why are you talking about washing hands in the middle of the scene?"

While Katrina was still feeling agitated and uncomfortable, Skylar insisted, "The cleanliness of my hands does not affect our scene. It's not as if I'm the male lead and we share a kissing scene."

She did not make any compromises despite Katrina's darkened expression and her status as a newcomer.

Daryl then told her, "Go and wash up. We can wrap up early if we manage to complete this scene."

Seeing how everyone was against her, Skylar had no choice but to give in even though she did nothing wrong.

She reluctantly went to wash her hands, and when she returned to set, the makeup artist was touching up Katrina's makeup. Despite the brief disruption on set, she appeared more relaxed than everyone else there.

Skylar made a rebound quickly as she showcased her acting skills. She executed every facial expression and detail perfectly, making Katrina look like a newcomer in comparison to her. In fact, the several blunders that happened during the scene were made by Katrina, not Skylar.

Everyone on set knew of Katrina's reputation in the industry. She was well-known for simply being a pretty face.

Besides her attractive looks, there was nothing good about her acting skills.

If Daryl had the say as the producer, Katrina would not be the lead actress in this film.

After the first scene was completed, he did not hold back from praising Skylar's performance. "Your acting is pretty good and versatile. Those who are not in the know might even think you are a veteran in the industry."

Skylar responded frankly, "I've played a couple of minor roles before."

"Those don't count. The real beginning of your career starts here with me. You don't have an agency yet, do you? Are you thinking of signing a contract?" he said.

Recalling how Tobias had told her not to sign any deals, she shook her head and said, "I haven't thought about it before since I haven't graduated."

Daryl was surprised by her response. He had taken the initiative to offer her a deal, yet she turned him down.

So he tried to persuade her by saying, "Right now, you're only getting minor acting roles without an assistant or agent. Sign a contract with my agency, and I promise I'll make you famous in three years or less."

Skylar was undoubtedly tempted by Daryl's offer. It was a great opportunity to make a name for herself.

Nevertheless, she still chose to listen to Tobias and declined Daryl's offer, "I'm in no rush to become famous. We can bring this up again after this film becomes a hit."

Katrina watched them from afar and wondered what they were discussing since Daryl's expression was exceptionally friendly.

I'm playing the female lead. Shouldn't Daryl pay more attention to me?

She then asked Lisa, "Does Skylar come from a prominent background? Why is the director being so friendly to her?"

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Lisa replied, "She's just an ordinary girl in her freshman year of college. If she had connections, she would have been chosen to be the female lead from the start. One of the crew members saw Kai leaving her room this morning though."

Shocked to hear that Kai's name, Katrina grinned and said, "No wonder Skylar was so brazen just now. Turns out she has hooked up with the son of a tycoon."

Lisa then said in doubt, "Skylar probably doesn't know much about his background. Not many people in the crew know either."

Katrina scoffed. "Come on, she's already sucking up to him. Do you actually think she doesn't know who he is? I'll organize a dinner party tonight to find out."

After they wrapped up for the day, she invited the whole crew for a dinner.

The happiest person in the group was Jeremy, who kept showering Katrina with praises for her generosity. He tried hard to butter up to her, but she merely took him as a nobody.

Skylar put on some light makeup and changed into a white loose-fitting t-shirt matched with a pair of skinny jeans.

She had brought a lot of old summer wear with her, and it was only now that she realized she had a lot of t-shirts with cartoon prints.

In the past, she used to love such clothing, but she now thought that they were childish.

One of the t-shirts had a print of Tom and Jerry. Jerry was holding a big block of cheese, while Tom was drooling as he watched on.

Skylar checked herself in front of the mirror for a long time before she finally left, but there were still no messages on her phone.

To receive a message from Tobias the first thing after she finished shooting for the day was what she hoped for every day. Even an emoji was good enough for her.

When she went downstairs, she saw a black Mercedes-Benz covered in a thick layer of dust. It was as though the vehicle had been abandoned in the parking lot for a long period of time.

Suddenly, the window rolled down. "Hop in. I'll take you there. You don't need to take the bus."

The man turned out to be Kai.

Skylar held on to her leather bag anxiously and stammered, "I-I will take..."

Before she could finish speaking, Kai opened the car door for her. As soon as she got in, she felt relieved by the stream of cold air from the air-conditioning.

"I watched your acting today. You are really talented, and you're a lot better than an acting school graduate like me," he said.

Kai, who was sitting in the passenger's seat, turned back to look at her. As soon as he laid eyes on her, he was captivated by her cute and sweet looks.

"I attended the acting school too," Skylar emphasized.

Kai smiled. "I see. Do you enjoy meat fondue by the way?"

She noticed that he was deliberately trying to make small talk so they wouldn't feel awkward in the car.

Nevertheless, she did not pay much attention to him since she was sitting alone in the back seat. Instead, she took out her phone to check if she had received any messages from Tobias.

Skylar: I'm on my way to have meat fondue. Have you eaten?

She stared at the screen for a while after sending the message, but there was no reply.

Seeing how dazed she looked while holding her phone, Kai asked her with a smile, "Are you waiting for messages? From your boyfriend?"

Skylar was taken aback by his question. Is my expression that obvious?

She nodded and said, "Yup, boyfriend."

Kai's expression turned slightly sour as he let out a sigh. "I thought you were single. Having a boyfriend before you make your big debut would affect your career," he said.

Skylar didn't bother to rebut his statement since she was generally not a very ambitious person.

Meanwhile, the crew was impressed when they reached the restaurant. It turned out that Katrina had booked the whole place for their dinner party.

After Kai went into the restaurant, Skylar stood at the entrance to check her phone again. Her heart skipped a beat when she saw an unread message.

Tobias: I'm still busy. Haven't eaten yet.

Tobias' message put a smile on her face as she was relieved that he wasn't being cold to her anymore. Just a few simple words from him made her feel warm and closer to him.

On this sultry summer day, heat radiated in the air while the sound of buzzing cicadas and people's chatters filled the county streets.

Skylar typed her reply to Tobias while she walked towards the restaurant.

Skylar: I won't bother you then. We can chat later tonight.

The smile on her face widened as she saw him typing back.

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Tobias: I want you to strip off all your clothes and show me tonight. I miss your sexy body. I will send you a video too.

Skylar's heart skipped a beat and her cheeks warmed up instantly to a red flush. What kind of request is that? Is he not embarrassed for saying such stuff? Like hell am I going to accept it.

Skylar: I'm entering the place now. I don't want to keep others waiting.

Tobias: Don't drink any alcohol. I'll be waiting for you tonight.

Acting as if she had done something deserving of guilt, she fumbled while keeping her phone. After calming her emotions, she headed up to the second floor and entered the private dining room.

Upon entering the room, Kai waved at her and pointed to the seat beside him. Skylar swept her gaze around the room and realized that it was the only seat left.

She had no choice but to take a seat there. Kai helped to set the cutleries for her while he spoke, "What took you so long? I almost wanted to go down to find you."

Skylar replied, "I was on a call."

Katrina squinted her eyes and teased, "Oh? My male lead seems to be paying special attention to Skylar."

Everyone's ears perked upon sensing that Katrina was trying to create gossip. In response, Skylar threw in a casual comment, "Well, it was probably to return the favor as he came to use my toilet this morning."

She wanted to take the opportunity to clarify while they were on the topic, as there were rumors that someone had seen Kai leaving her room that morning.

Katrina smirked and looked toward Kai. "You are welcomed to drop by and use my toilet too! By the way, did you contact your cousin recently?" While the meat fondue was bubbling, Katrina asked in anticipation.

Kai recalled that Katrina and Tobias had been caught entering a hotel together on camera. "He's a busy man. Besides, I went straight to the film set once I landed, so we did not keep in contact with each other. Why are you asking anyway? His fiancée is still living with him," Kai warned her subtly.

Katrina's face fell. "I thought the wedding was postponed?" she muttered.

Kai dipped a piece of meat into the fondue and replied, "I'm not sure about that. Are you still hung up on Tobias?"

All eyes, except for Skylar's, were on Katrina upon hearing that. The woman in question flashed a bright smile and explained, "Let's not bring up the past. The only reason I asked was because I need his contact so that I can collect some stuff that I've left at his place. So please, drop me a WhatsApp for his contact details later."

Upon the mention of Tobias' name, Skylar froze. The fork she was holding slipped through her fingers and fell onto the floor.

She was in disbelief about the fact that Tobias was Kai's cousin. She placed her cutleries down and gulped down a glass of water.

"Tobias is your cousin?" Skylar's eyes flickered.

The room turned tense at Skylar's question. Everyone stared at her as if it weren't her place to speak about Tobias.

Kai replied with a stiff nod. "Why? Do you not know that I'm from a rich family? Or do you know Tobias?"

Skylar shook her head and lied, "I don't know him."

Katrina chuckled. "She's still a student. How would she know Tobias? Besides, Tobias isn't someone you can just meet on a whim. Speaking of which, we had not seen him for quite some time already."

Someone asked, "Were you really in a relationship with Tobias before? Apologies if I am too direct with my question."

Katrina appeared to be in deep thoughts before she replied casually, "What do you think?"

Every time that question was thrown at her, she would give a vague reply for others to fill in with their imagination. Even though Tobias told her that he did not remember Katrina, Skylar could not help but let her thoughts run wild.

Katrina was the mood setter throughout the meal, while Skylar zoned out often and was not participating much in the conversation.

After the meal ended, Skylar was prepared to leave with the others, however, Kai stopped her and asked, "Are you free tonight? I was wondering if we could rehearse the script later."

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Skylar rejected Kai's request as it was already late at night and she thought it would be inappropriate for a man and a woman to be alone in a room.

She was still hung up on what Kai had mentioned during dinner earlier about how Tanya was still part of the Ford family. She was bummed out but dared not dwell on it further.

Her ringtone sounded throughout the whole room and Skylar fluffed up her hair in front of the mirror before accepting the call.

“What took you so long? Are you ready?”

Tobias was seated on a dark brown armchair in front of a French window that displayed an extravagant view of the luxurious city.

Skylar noticed how exhausted Tobias looked.

“Where are you?”

“In the office, alone.”

“It’s late. Why are you still in the office?”

“That’s not important. What’s important right now is I wanted to see you.”

“I’m here.” Skylar replied, pursing her lips.

“Not like this. I want you to strip naked and face the camera for me.”

Her heart was thumping loudly, and she blushed at the request. “B-but you are at the office. What if someone sees us?”

“The office is empty. There’s nothing to be embarrassed about; I’ve seen you naked before.”

She squeezed her phone tightly in her hands, unsure of what to do.

“Don’t worry, I’m not going to record or take any screenshots of this,” Tobias assured with a weary voice.

She placed her phone down. She knew very well that it was not acceptable for her to perform such indecent acts but continued nevertheless.

Her hands slowly reached down to the button on her jeans and tugged at it. She paused after the button was let loose.

“Take off your jeans,” he demanded impatiently.

Skylar grasped at her jeans and tugged it down past her hips, letting it slide down her legs to her ankles, revealing a cute pair of cotton underwear with strawberry prints.

“Take off your underwear. Do not leave a single piece of clothing on you, and look at me,” he commanded.

Skylar could no longer fight against her discomfort and refused, “I don’t think I can do this...”

On the other end of the call, Tobias’ expression darkened. “The next time I see you, I will give you pleasure beyond your dreams. So be a good girl now and lie on the bed naked, holding your phone above you.”

Skylar felt conflicted within, so she asked, “Before that... I have some questions to ask you. Are you still engaged to Tanya? And what’s your relationship with Katrina?”

Even though she was slightly embarrassed to be asking such questions regarding his personal life, she felt that she could not rest easy without knowing the answer.

“Our engagement is practically non-existent. I’m just playing along to keep my mother’s health condition stable. As for Katrina, I have no idea who she is.”

Skylar still had some doubts about the truthfulness of Tobias’ replies.

“Alright, now that I’ve answered your questions, it’s your turn to do as I say. I’ve got a meeting in twenty minutes, we don’t have much time.”

Now that she had gotten his answer, she had no other choice but to follow his instructions. After stripping down, Skylar lay down on the bed while holding her phone with the lens aiming at her abdomen.

“Move the lens upward and play with yourself,” he instructed in a warm and gentle voice.

She closed her eyes and followed as instructed. Before long, her breath was getting warm and heavy as the air in the room thickened with romance.

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Tobias gave a satisfied smile, all signs of exhaustion on his face earlier had dissipated.

“Do you want me to crave you?”

Skylar bit her lower lip and remained silent.

“Answer me.”

“No,” she lied.

“What is your favorite position, Baby? Let’s try it when I visit you.”

His deep sexy voice ignited the desire hidden deep within her. She hated herself for feeling that way.

“I don’t know. Can I put on my clothes now?”

The vulnerable state that she was in was humiliating yet exhilarating.

“You haven’t answered my question. What is your favorite position? From the side, the front, the back, or on top?”

“From the side,” Skylar blurted out.

Tobias put on a smug smile and instructed, “Put on your clothes and don’t catch a cold. I will visit you two days later.”

Skylar let out a sigh of relief as the humiliating act had finally ended. As she was about to get out of bed, a knock on her room door sent chills down her spine.

She ended the call in a rush and put on her clothes. “Who’s is it?”

“It’s me. Quick! Open the door! My toilet broke down again.”

Skylar speedily slipped her clothes back on. She opened the door to see Kai dressed in his singlet and beach shorts with his arm pressing on the wall.

Skylar stepped to the side to let Kai in. "Have they not fixed your toilet yet?"

Skylar's nervousness seemed a little off to Kai at first, but seeing that she was alone in her room, Kai brushed off that thought.

"Not yet. I'll be quick."

A moment after the toilet was flushed, Kai opened the door with his dripping wet hands.

Skylar passed him a pack of tissues and exclaimed, "Can you please dry your hands? It looked like you peed on your them."

"You are such a vulgar lady."

She glared at him and prompted, "Well, since you're done, please leave. I need to rest. Also, please stop coming to my room just to use my toilet. I don't want rumors to spread."

Kai made no move to leave. He noticed that Skylar did not zip her pants properly. "Your, uh, zipper is open. What were you doing?"

Skylar blushed upon hearing that and rushed into the toilet to tidy herself.

Kai stood outside the toilet with his arms crossed and brows frowning. "See? You're lucky I'm here to warn you! Just imagine how embarrassing would it be for you if you were to leave your room like that."

Skylar rubbed her temple to soothe her frustration. "Thank you very much," she replied with sarcasm. "Now, please remember to close the door when you leave."

In response, Kai looked at Skylar with his pretty eyes and introduced, "Hi, I'm Kai. I'm twenty-four this year. I have no particular hobbies nor bad habits. My height is a hundred and eighty-three centimeters and my weight is-"

"Hold on, what are you doing?" Skylar cut him off.

Kai raised his brows and explained, "I'm doing a self-introduction because I want to be friends with you."