

# In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 171 - 175

They were less than thirty centimeters apart.

When Tobias saw Skylar walking toward him, he waved her over.

Katrina did not have any intention to step aside for her.

Tobias took the croissant from Skylar and noticed that it was still warm. However, since he did not have much of an appetite, he gave it to Kai.

Skylar felt a pang in her heart when she saw that Tobias did not even appreciate the croissant she specially brought over for him.

“I have to get my makeup done soon, so I’ll leave you guys to talk.” Skylar looked intently at Tobias.

Tobias flicked his eyes toward Katrina. “Don’t you have somewhere else to be, Ms. Hudgens? It’s inconvenient for us to talk with you around.”

Katrina held her breath at Tobias’ blunt words, reluctant to leave just yet as she had barely said more than a couple of words to him.

Unfortunately, she had to swallow her discontent and leave, all while cursing silently at Skylar for her untimely appearance. She couldn’t help but speculate about the relationship between Skylar and Tobias.

She noticed that the two of them looked very close to each other. Skylar had even leaned toward Tobias subconsciously, an action that represented extreme dependence.

“Remember to visit my mom when you get back or you’ll never hear the end of it from her,” Tobias reminded Kai.

He could only hang about for a while, planning to leave with Skylar soon.

“I called Aunt Claudia just a few days ago. She said Tanya’s baby bump is already showing and it won’t be long before she gets to meet her grandchild. So aren’t you going to go home?”

Kai’s words were like needles piercing into Skylar’s heart.

As for Kai, he was mad at Tobias’s irresponsible behavior as it would only end up hurting Skylar.

He even speculated that Tobias was merely using Skylar as an outlet because Tanya was pregnant and unavailable.

After several seconds, Tobias replied calmly, “I’m not going home. If that’s all, I’m leaving with Skylar now.”

Tobias did not elaborate further. After finding out Tanya was really pregnant, he realized that the woman was willing to go to lengths beyond his expectations.

He did not know who was the child’s father, nor did he care. Since she wanted to put on a show, he would play along for now.

Once the baby was born, the truth would be revealed by the results of a DNA test.

Kai’s hands balled into fists by his sides and his chest heaved with anger.

“Why don’t you go home for a short visit?” Skylar looked listless and her lashes trembled slightly.

“What for? To see my wife and child?”

Standing so close to Tobias, Skylar could feel the heat radiating off his body.

“Isn’t that what you should be doing?” she asked in a small voice as a wave of jealousy surged within her.

She would always be labeled as a homewrecker, but nevertheless, she chose to trust Tobias unconditionally without knowing if it was the right or wrong choice.

Tobias could tell that Skylar was upset. Frustrated, he massaged his temples and sighed heavily. “I will handle this mess and make sure you’re not negatively affected by it. I don’t

have a wife or a child. If the child does turn out to be mine, I will end things between us and take responsibility for it. But I doubt that would be the case since I have never touched Tanya before. I'm sick and tired of repeating myself, so don't make me do it again. The reason why I haven't cut Tanya off completely is because my mother has severe heart disease and can't be emotionally provoked. This matter has to be carefully handled. The world isn't all about being in love. Sometimes family comes first. This is the last time I'm saying all of this to you, so don't bring it up again. You're not a homewrecker, okay?"

Skylar sensed the simmering anger in Tobias. She felt aggrieved as she clearly didn't say anything outrageous. It was rare for Tobias to say so many words to her.

To her dismay, it wasn't honeyed words he offered her, but a stern lecture instead.

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Skylar knew that she shouldn't add fuel to the fire. If she went head-to-head with Tobias, things could very well get ugly.

She nodded. "I understand, I won't ask you again. I'm fine with whatever you say."

Tobias reached out to grab her hand. "I'm sorry. I shouldn't have used that tone."

Skylar's lashes fluttered. "I understand where you're coming from. It's not easy being trapped in between. It's my fault that your mother doesn't like me. I really do have a poor background. My neighbors used to say that I'd have trouble marrying in the future and that my in-laws would scorn me, even my children won't be able to live with their heads held high."

Tobias heaved a sigh, then lifted her chin and gave her a peck on the lips. "It has nothing to do with you. Why are you overthinking it? I don't choose my partner based on their family background or whatnot. I can make up for everything that you lack."

Daryl had caught wind of Tobias' visit to the film set.

Hence, the first thing he did was look for the man. When he saw Skylar and Tobias together, he was visibly stunned.

Before Skylar went to get ready for filming, Tobias whispered something into her ear, making her blush furiously and scurry off after that.

They already had a wild night in bed yesterday, but Tobias was insatiable, eager to have another lovemaking session tonight.

After Skylar left, Daryl asked out of curiosity, "Mr. Ford, are you very close to Skylar?"

Tobias replied blandly, "She's my girlfriend. This is her first time acting in a movie, so do take good care of her."

Daryl was dumbfounded. He never thought that someone with no background like Skylar had Tobias Ford as her backer.

He couldn't help but think that she was being too low-key. If she revealed her relationship with Tobias, the female lead role would never have been snatched away by Katrina.

He couldn't fathom why Tobias did not provide Skylar with extra resources when he could do seemingly impossible things with only a snap of his fingers.

Even the producers would cower upon hearing Tobias' name and would never insist on casting Katrina.

Daryl quickly answered, "I didn't know Skylar was your girlfriend, Mr. Ford. Don't worry, I'll take good care of her. She's very talented in acting and is a fast learner too. She's also very smart and..."

"Mm, I know," Tobias interrupted him, obviously not bothering to engage in a conversation.

In Tobias' eyes, everything Daryl said was unnecessary flattery.

Within a single afternoon, word of Skylar's relationship with Tobias spread among the crew like wildfire.

Everyone started to look at Skylar differently.

Katrina was distracted during the shoot in the afternoon, frequently having to retake her scenes. The rumors about her and Tobias were all ineffectual now.

Before Tobias visited today, there were some people who thought she was acquainted with him, but he did not even give her the time of day when he was here earlier.

Katrina was livid at becoming a laughing stock for everyone, and she blamed it all on Skylar.

After wrapping up for the day, Skylar went back to her room to look for Tobias with a thermos flask in her hand.

Upon her return, Tobias closed his laptop and put it aside.

“What are you wearing?” He scanned Skylar from top to bottom.

She was wearing army green overalls with a caramel-colored short-sleeved inner shirt that had Mickey Mouse designs on them. It was an odd combination, not to mention rather childish.

Skylar looked down at her clothes and tugged at her sleeve awkwardly. “What’s wrong? Do I look bad?”

Tobias’ gaze on her was gentle as he ordered, “Be more confident. Change out of it.”

Despite being judged for her fashion preference, Skylar kept silent and deduced that Tobias probably found her appearance childish and completely lacking in femininity.

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This wasn’t a catwalk runway. The place she was at was dirty and dusty. After work, all Skylar wanted was to dress comfortably.

It never crossed her mind to dress sexily in order to please Tobias.

She had always liked dressing up this way since she was a child, preferring unisex clothes that were simple and comfortable compared to skirts.

“Alright, I’ll go change.” Skylar opened the closet to look for something else to wear.

After rummaging through the closet only to find more cartoon-printed T-shirts, she finally gave up.

"I don't have any nice clothes, so you're gonna have to bear with this." She shrugged nonchalantly.

"Change your pants then. It looks odd. And what are the big holes for? Saving cost on fabric?" Tobias simply couldn't accept her pauper-looking overalls.

His OCD seemed to be acting up again as he had the strong urge to sew the holes on Skylar's overalls shut.

Left without a choice, Skylar obediently found a pair of skinny jeans.

Tobias' gaze fell on her as she emptied out the pockets.

All of them were small and disorganized items; a strawberry hairpin, an almost empty packet of tissue, and earphone cords that were severely entangled.

One by one, she placed the things on the table.

Tobias shook his head at her. "Are all girls so sloppy?"

"Not really. Are you calling me sloppy?" Skylar asked.

Tobias withheld his answer, certain that he would only get into an argument with Skylar if he did not.

Even so, his silence was already an answer. He stood up and carefully untangled Skylar's earphones.

Skylar felt slightly rueful for being bad at pretending to be something she was not.

Perhaps I should at least pretend to be elegant, considerate, and classy. But... I really could not care less about my appearance.

Checking his watch, Tobias decided that it was time to leave with Skylar.

Sitting in his car, Skylar asked where they were going and why he was driving toward the county.

Noticing the wary and fearful look on Skylar's face, Tobias' smile deepened. "Do you think I'm going to sell you off or something? Besides, even if I wanted to, No one from the village wants a skinny girl whose shoulders and arms look like they can be snapped like twigs. They prefer meaty and fertile-looking girls."

What Tobias said sounded awfully similar to what the village women said about her the other day.

Fine, being thin is all my fault.

Tobias had accepted Daryl's dinner invitation tonight. He rarely participated in socializing events such as these, and he only agreed out of courtesy to Daryl and also to make Skylar's days with the crew easier.

Daryl arrived well before the appointed time, but without Tobias here, he did not dare to let the waiters serve the food.

Kai grumbled silently at being forced by Daryl to attend.

He did not want to see Tobias and Skylar appearing together.

When the couple finally arrived, Daryl hastily stood up to welcome them.

If it were not for Tobias, Skylar would never have gotten the chance to see a well-known director such as Daryl being so subservient.

"Mr. Ford, Skylar hasn't signed with an agency, so why not sign with me?" Daryl poured Tobias a drink.

Tobias glanced at Skylar. "What do you think?"

This was quite a tempting offer to her. Pursing her lips, she replied, "I think it's up for consideration."

Skylar no longer wanted to be alone and running around like a headless chicken on the set.

"I will make Skylar famous within two years," Daryl promised.

At that, Tobias' gaze on her turned slightly chilly and he turned a deaf ear to her answer.

Meanwhile, Daryl had begun outlining Skylar's future in an animated manner.

"She won't sign," Tobias flatly rejected.

Daryl's excited chatter came to an abrupt halt.

While nursing his drink, Kai refuted unhappily, "Tobias, you're being too controlling. This is Skylar's own business and it's her decision to make. You do know that she's not your plaything, right?"

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Tobias shot Kai a dangerous look.

"Does Skylar have other plans?" Daryl conjectured.

Tobias replied plainly, "I have my own arrangements. Just take care of her during this period of time. She's still young and is bound to make mistakes, so cut her some slack whenever you can."

Kai felt uneasy bearing witness to Tobias' affection toward Skylar. He obviously has a wife but he's still messing around with a young girl.

The dinner was a long and boring one. Although Skylar was the main topic of discussion, she felt like an outsider with no room to pitch in her opinion.

Wanting to get some fresh air, she stood up with the excuse of using the restroom. Seeing this, Kai followed her out as well.

"I didn't get to ask you before. Why bother being with Tobias?" A maelstrom of emotions swirled in Kai's eyes.

"There's no particular reason and I don't really have an answer for you." Skylar stood by the restaurant's entrance as the summer night breeze blew past, the slightly humid air making her body feel sticky.

"The two of you aren't compatible. All he can give you is money. Nothing else," Kai said bluntly. His heart felt as if it was being squeezed by an invisible force.

Skylar had already lost count of the number of times she had heard people saying the same thing.

She shrugged and explained, "I know that, but I can't bear to break up with him just yet. He treats me very well and that's enough for me."

It seemed to Kai that Skylar was only deceiving herself, and he felt that they had different notions of good treatment. He found it hard to believe that Tobias would treat Skylar well.

After all, his cousin had an abundance of women throwing themselves at him and had already grown used to it, so it was impossible that his numb heart could warm up to a woman.

Skylar was naive and inexperienced, thinking that he cared just because he came to see her.

Kai sighed in defeat. "This is your choice and I respect it, but don't fall in too deep or you won't be able to walk out of it unscathed. I know him well. If he gets tired of you someday, you won't be able to salvage the relationship no matter how hard you try to. Hell, you won't even get to see him again."

Skylar could tell that Kai believed it was only a matter of time before she was given the boot.

"I'll head inside first. I've been away for too long," Skylar excused herself.

"Can we still be friends?" Kai called out.

Skylar smiled feebly and reassured, "Of course. You saved my life, so you're not just a friend to me, you're also my savior."

Kai decided that he would settle for the next best thing and let things unfold in their own time because he was certain that Skylar would come to regret her decisions.

They returned to the private room one behind the other. After drinking himself into a drunken stupor, Daryl could no longer be bothered about taking care of his image. He was currently shirtless with cheeks that were flushed red.

On the other hand, Tobias remained composed as he languidly raised his glass of beer to his lips.

Daryl lay sprawled across the table and was mumbling incoherent words.

Tobias told Kai to send the director back. Despite his reluctance, Kai could only do as he was instructed.

Before leaving, Daryl was so touched that he looked to be on the verge of tears. "Mr. Ford, I never thought that I'd be able to sit down and drink with you in this lifetime of mine."

The entire room reeked of alcohol. Skylar sat down when she saw that Tobias had no intention to leave any time soon.

"It's getting late. Let's go back now," she suggested.

Tobias chugged the remaining half of his beer, his body starting to heat up. "You were outside with Kai for a long time. What were the two of you doing?"

At that moment, Skylar felt like she was a child being quizzed by a parent.

She blinked several times before finding her voice. "It was getting kind of stuffy here so I went out for some air. I guess it was the same for Kai."

Tobias frowned deeply and reminded, "Remember to behave yourself when I'm not around. Don't get too close to other men or I'll be upset."

Skylar drew in a deep breath at Tobias' bluntness and emphasized, "I didn't. We're just normal friends."

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Tobias stood up and leaned close to Skylar. The pungent smell of smoke and alcohol instantly invaded her senses.

“Stop explaining yourself to me. I’ll go settle the bill. Wait for me at the door. Are you full?”

“Yes, but isn’t it the director’s treat tonight? Why are you paying for it?”

“He can barely walk straight. How’s he going to pay?”

Because the restaurant was located in a county town, the feast Daryl had ordered only totaled up to slightly more than three hundred.

As usual, Tobias took out his wallet and paid in cash.

Seeing this, Skylar had the urge to teach him how to pay via his phone.

It was very late by the time they got back. While Tobias wiped his body with cold water, Skylar leaned against the toilet door and asked, “When are you going back?”

“Why? Can’t wait to see me leave?” Tobias threw a towel toward her, motioning for her to wipe his back.

Skylar walked in with the towel in hand. “That’s not what I meant. I’m just worried that staying here too long will keep you from making money.”

She gently wiped Tobias’ broad back with the damp towel, the tattoo on his shoulder looked even more distinct this up close.

If he were to wear a white tank top during the summer season, his tattoo would be completely exposed. She thought of getting one as well, but she did not have the courage.

“Even if you keep me from making money, I’ll still be able to take care of you. Stop worrying about these things. When will you finish shooting? Being apart isn’t going to work,” Tobias countered.

“We can still text every day, no?”

“What’s the point of texting when we can’t see or touch each other?”

As Skylar wiped Tobias' back thoroughly, she noticed the long scratch marks on his back, reminding her of how passionate they were in bed last night. Her cheeks instantly flushed a crimson red while her heart galloped in her chest.

"I'm not sure yet. Soon, perhaps. I'll leave once we wrap up here. It probably won't be long until then."

"Good. You can actually go back every day since it's quite near."

Skylar put down the towel and placed her hands on the sink, listening to the cicadas outside.

"Alright, go undress. We only had two rounds last night and I want more. I'm going back tomorrow, so I won't be able to have my way with you for quite some time."

Even when talking about such a crude topic, he had no reservations when it comes to stating what he wanted.

"You're going back tomorrow? Why didn't you tell me that when I asked you just now?" Skylar's eyes dimmed, she was reluctant to part with him.

She did not even realize when she had become so attached to Tobias.

"It's my mother's sixtieth birthday the day after tomorrow, so I have to go back. She's been very disappointed in me lately. She'd feel very hurt if I don't celebrate with her."

Skylar would feel skittish whenever Tobias mentioned his family.

"Does that mean you'll also be seeing Tanya?"

"Yes, she'll be there. Why are you still dwelling on this matter? So what if I see her? It's not like I'm going to do anything." His gaze was calm, but there seemed to be a flicker of other emotions in them.

After coming out of the toilet, Skylar sat on the bed and gripped the blanket.

Tobias walked toward her bare-chested and leaned down to kiss her forehead.

"Put your hands on the edge of the bed with your a\*\* facing me."

Skylar was reluctant to be ordered around like a puppet when it came to sex.

She stayed motionless, completely not in the mood for a serious discussion anymore.

“Why are you upset?” Tobias had a little too much to drink earlier, so his breathing was slightly heavier than usual. Even after wiping his body, the smell of alcohol still remained.

“You always order me around! I don’t like that feeling,” Skylar said truthfully.

Tobias circled around Skylar and lay on the bed. “Then let’s make it fair. I’ll lie down on the bed and you can do whatever you want.”

Skylar held her breath. “Are you sure?”

“Yes.”

Skylar took out her lipstick and walked to Tobias with a mischievous grin on her face before lowering her head to draw a pig on his body.

Tobias smiled dotingly at her. “That’s it? I gave you a chance but you didn’t use it wisely.”