

# In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 176 - 180

“You’re leaving already? The sun isn’t even up yet.” Skylar lay on the bed, staring at Tobias as he put on a black shirt and tucked in his trousers, all the while admiring his narrow hips and slender legs.

“Yes, I’m leaving now. Remember, don’t sign with a company yet. I’ll tell you the details when you’re back. Take care of yourself here.”

Tobias had a cigarette between his lips and squinted through the cloud of smoke that was obscuring his vision.

Skylar hated it when people smoked in a room, especially when the windows were closed.

Tobias seemed to be aware of this as he opened the door a crack when he lit a cigarette.

Skylar got up from bed, intending to send him off.

When she snaked her slender arms around his neck, he turned sideways to stub out his cigarette before kissing her with lips that tasted like a mixture of mint and tobacco.

“Behave while I’m not here. I will try my best to reply to your messages, but I can get really busy at times, so you’ll have to bear with me.”

Skylar did not have any complaints since Tobias had patiently offered her an explanation. In the end, they came to a mutual understanding.

As soon as Tobias left, Skylar packed up and prepared to head to the set. When her phone vibrated, she fished it out and saw a message from Penelope.

Penelope: How things are going between you and that old man? Give me all the details!

Fortunately, Tobias had already left. Calling him an old man when he was only slightly over thirty was rather harsh.

Skylar: Just the usual. It’s complicated.

Penelope: Mature and steady men are overrated. These kinds of men fool around the most. I got my heart broken again. Come back soon and drink with me.

Skylar's mouth twitched as she stared at the message. She seemed to recall Penelope saying the same thing less than two months ago.

Somehow, she managed to fall in and out of love in just two months. Skylar admired Penelope's fast-paced love life. She seemed to change men faster than the seasons changed.

Skylar sent a few words of comfort to Penelope before hurrying out. She had just left when she bumped into Kai.

He noticed the subtle marks on Skylar's fair and elegant neck. Needless to say, he knew what Tobias had done to her last night.

Awkwardness blanketed them.

"Where's Tobias?"

"He left early in the morning. Were you looking for him?"

Kai smiled. "No. You should hurry to the set now. You have many scenes today, so there's no time to waste. Oh, right. I forgot to tell you. Jeremy has left the crew."

Skylar was slightly taken aback. He was still with the crew the day before and didn't finish filming his scenes yet. How did he finish so quickly?

"He finished filming that quick?" she mumbled.

Kai still found Skylar too naive. How can she be with a cunning fox like Tobias? She wouldn't even know whether she was being taken advantage of.

"Because Tobias saw him, the producers requested for him to be switched out. I probably don't need to say the rest of it, do I?"

Skylar instantly understood what Kai meant; Tobias was the one who got Jeremy to leave.

Without mentioning anything about it to her, he eliminated Jeremy just like that.

A chill ran down Skylar's spine. Tobias is too ruthless.

At the set, Katrina was the first to approach her, calling out in an overly friendly voice, even drawing out the words, "Hey, babe!"

Skylar felt repulsed by this.

Since when were we that close?

She remained expressionless and did not bother putting up an act with her.

Katrina held back her anger even though she was given the cold shoulder. After Skylar walked away, she turned to her manager, Lisa, and complained, "She's just Tobias' f\*\*k buddy but look at her getting all cocky. Does she think she's better than us now?"

As there were many gossip mongers among the crew members, Lisa remained cautious and kept her mouth shut for fear of her words reaching Skylar's ears.

Pillow talk could be lethal, especially when Tobias was involved. Lisa was not as stupid as Katrina who was the perfect definition of "just a pretty face."

In the beginning, she had wanted to use the scandal with Tobias to create hype, but their plans were foiled when the real deal arrived. In the end, Katrina did not even get the chance to talk to Tobias.

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Daryl called Skylar over right after she was done changing into her costume. He studied her, noting her innocent and clear eyes, spotless face, and youthful body.

It was no wonder Tobias took a fancy to her.

"Please apologize to Mr. Ford on my behalf. I had too much to drink last night. Mr. Ford won't hold me liable, will he?"

Skylar thought it was something important, but he had called her over just to apologize.

"No. He didn't say anything."

Hearing that finally got Daryl to relax a little, but he still regretted drinking so much last night.

Nonetheless, he could brag about having a meal with Tobias Ford to his peers for a long time to come.

"I'm giving you more scenes." Daryl decided spontaneously.

Surprise flickered in Skylar's eyes. "Why?"

Daryl gave Skylar a meaningful look, hinting that this decision was made because of her relationship with Tobias.

Without a moment of hesitation, Skylar rejected his offer, "There's no need. My character isn't even likable, to begin with. If we add more scenes for her, I'd probably be cursed to death by the viewers."

Daryl had also thought about this issue, so he tried again, "Why don't you sleep on it and tell me after you've decided? This could potentially give your character more depth."

Skylar was still not interested and only wanted to finish filming this movie.

The shoot in the morning went smoothly with many scenes passing in one take.

Because she did not have any scenes with Katrina, their progress was much faster.

After the crew wrapped up, Skylar rolled up the sleeves of her costume. As she had not changed back into her clothes, she still looked like a young lady from the 1970s.

"You said you were going to buy me a meal. Did you mean it?" Kai asked.

Skylar immediately turned him down. "I'm sorry, but I can't today. Perhaps when we're back home."

"Why not today?" Kai argued.

"I'm tired and I want to sleep."

Indeed, Skylar looked exhausted. Her complexion was pasty as if she had just recovered from an illness.

During the two nights Tobias was here, she barely slept a wink. She had been thoroughly ravaged and by the time he was done with her, it was already almost dawn.

"I'll tell you his story and you'll understand why both of you can't last long, so are you going to buy me a meal or not?" Kai indirectly threatened her. To a woman who was in love, the condition he offered was too tempting to reject.

Skylar barely knew anything about Tobias' life because until now, their interactions were mostly carnal instead of emotional.

Just after she officially got together with Tobias, she left to film a movie so they did not get the chance to connect on a deeper level.

Hence, Skylar could not bring herself to let an opportunity to get to know Tobias slip from her grasp.

"What do you wanna eat then? Dinner is on me."

Kai gave her a strained smile. "I don't remember it being so difficult to get a woman to eat with me. I'm fine with anything. Let's just eat something simple."

Skylar protested, "Don't worry about the cost. Since I've already decided to buy you dinner, I have to make sure you enjoy a good meal."

Kai complained, "It's fine. There aren't any places with good food around here anyway."

After Skylar and Kai finished work, they ended up going to the county since there were no restaurants in the area.

She found a small restaurant famous for its pasta. Kai said with a grin, "How did you know I like pasta? I'm a big fan of carbs."

The two sat face to face, each lost in their own thoughts as they ate their pasta.

Skylar picked up her fork, twirled some pasta around it, and began eating. She had grown tired of the bland food provided by the filming crew.

“Didn’t you say you were going to tell me his story? Aren’t you going to begin?” Skylar took the initiative to break the silence.

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Kai chuckled softly. “You really wanna know that badly? If I didn’t promise to tell you, you would never have come.”

Skylar did not respond. All she wanted was to lay down and go to sleep. Her dark circles could hardly be covered with concealer anymore.

“Tobias was abandoned by his father when he was young. His father took his mistress abroad and left a huge debt behind. Because of that, Aunt Claudia became a single mother with two sons and a huge debt. Thankfully, she is a very strong woman but they still lived a hard life back then. Tobias is known to be a filial son and has never truly disobeyed my aunt, so stop being an idiot, Skylar. As long as my aunt doesn’t accept you, you can never have a future with Tobias. Plus, he’s not a one-woman kind of man. I’m telling you all of this because I see you as my friend. You should seriously think this through. And one more thing, he used to have many women.”

Feeling restless, Skylar pushed the pasta around her plate. Truth be told, she already knew about most of what Kai told her, but she never knew that Tobias was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth and had a past like that.

She lowered her gaze. “I can’t leave him now. I understand everything you’re saying, but I just can’t let go.”

Disappointment tore through Kai before helplessness filled him. “Well, when you need a shoulder to cry on in the future, you can come to me.”

Skylar was stunned for a moment but did not say anything. If need be, she would cry on her own. She would never show her vulnerable side to others.

After they were done eating, Skylar went to pay the bill. When she took out her phone to pay via the app, she saw an unread WhatsApp message.

Tobias: I've arrived.

They were only two simple words, but a surge of warmth filled her chest at the sight of them.

She took solace in the fact that Tobias was at least trying to change. He was no longer like before when he disappeared without a trace for a month.

He had probably grown used to her existence just like she did his.

The next day, Skylar was with the crew all day. Even though she did not have any scenes, she had come over to watch. Currently, she was sitting on a stool by the side, observing quietly.

Kai really liked Skylar's quiet and unassuming personality.

He tried offering Skylar to cool off in his motorhome several times, to which she politely declined.

"It's my aunt's birthday today. They should be eating together now. Just imagine this; Tobias together with his pregnant fiancée." Without getting his makeup removed, Kai dragged a stool and sat opposite of her the moment he was free.

Skylar tucked some stray strands of hair behind her ear. "No thank you. And please don't try to set me off."

Kai fished out his phone and browsed through social media, finally coming across the perfect content to show Skylar but was afraid she would not be able to take it.

"Sheldon just posted a photo on his social media. Do you wanna see it?" He waved his phone in front of Skylar.

Skylar took the bait, grabbing the phone from Kai's hand, and scrolled through the content.

In the photo, Claudia was wearing a red dress and looking youthful for her age. It was apparent that she was an absolute beauty during her younger days.

The photo that Sheldon had posted was a group photo. In it, Tanya was standing beside Tobias, but the latter was not looking at the camera, seemingly uninterested.

Tanya's baby bump was quite obvious and she was smiling broadly in the photo.

Feeling her heart turn cold, Skylar returned Kai his phone.

Kai raised his brows. "Let's go out for drinks tonight. You'll feel better with alcohol in your system."

Skylar immediately declined, "No thanks. I don't drink and I'm not sad either."

Kai peered at her with a doubtful expression. "You're really stubborn, you know that?"

That being said, Kai couldn't help but admit that Skylar was in fact a very good-tempered person as she turned out to be calmer than he had expected.

When Tobias received a call from Skylar in the middle of his meal, he stood to leave.

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Claudia raised her hand to tug Tobias back. "It's my birthday today. Don't answer it, I'm sure your work can wait."

Tanya lifted her head to look at him and said considerately, "Tobias, you can just answer it here. We won't make a sound until you're done."

Tobias declined the call, not wanting to get into a dispute with his mother during her birthday celebration because of a woman while his relatives were around.

Claudia was happy with his decision.

"When are you going to move back, Tobias?" Tanya inched closer to him, her honeyed voice grating on his nerves.

While Claudia was chatting with their relatives, Tobias led Tanya out of the private room.

As Tanya got up, she cautiously guarded her belly with both hands.

Upon seeing the two of them leave, Tobias' uncle asked, "No wonder the wedding's been postponed. Turns out his wife is pregnant. Why didn't you share such wonderful news with us, Claudia?"

Claudia's expression turned slightly embarrassed. How could I? Was I supposed to say that my son doesn't want to acknowledge his wife and unborn child?

If I did, my son would seem just like his b\*stard of a father who discarded women like they were nothing.

Tobias turned to close the door behind him. He and Tanya were standing in the corridor, and the expression on his face was sullen.

"So when are you going to leave?"

Tanya caressed her belly while standing mere inches away from Tobias. "Why should I leave? You should come home once you've settled your mess outside. It's time to concentrate on raising this child together."

If it weren't for his self-restraint that kept him from laying a hand on a pregnant woman, he would have slapped Tanya across the face by now.

He had seen all kinds of women over the years. It was just too unfortunate that his mother took a liking to such a shameless one like Tanya.

"Do you really think I'll put up with this forever? You should know better than anyone who that baby in your belly belongs to."

Tobias' eyes burned with fury and his voice had a biting tone to it.

Tanya smiled as she thought about how her plan was still on track. Although the child does not belong to Tobias, she would make it seem so.

To join the Ford family, sacrificing a child was nothing.

Once she gave birth to the child, she knew that Tobias would undoubtedly arrange for a paternity test. Her previous attempt to fool him failed, so this child was her trump card to maintain her place in the Ford family for the time being.

As for the baby, she could easily stage a miscarriage. Although she would be harming herself in the process, it was worth it for the sake of her future.

Faced with an angered Tobias, she continued to insist, "Feel free to do a paternity test after the child is born. Tobias, I don't ask for you to love me. I would even accept your cheating ways, but please don't force me to leave your side. Let me take care of Mom."

Tobias' phone was vibrating incessantly at that moment. Due to his boiling anger, he whipped out his phone irritably.

Tanya squinted her eyes and saw that the saved name on Tobias' phone showed "ASkylar."

He's still with that woman. He even put the alphabet A in front of her name so that he can easily find her contact number.

This is practically a public display of affection!

"Your mom and I have talked about Skylar before. She knows that Skylar's the daughter of a murderer. Do you really think your mother will accept someone like her?" Tanya feigned kindness as she calmly reminded Tobias.

Tobias shot an icy glance at Tanya. If it weren't for his mother's health issue, this woman would never have the nerve to act like this.

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"This is none of your business. I don't need anyone's approval to be with who I want to be with."

Tobias glanced downstairs, watching the people coming and going in the hotel lobby.

Tanya stared at Tobias and noticed a storm brewing behind his calm exterior. Thinking about how close she was to marrying Tobias, her resentment toward Skylar intensified.

After the birthday celebration, Tobias and Claudia left in the same car.

Neither of them said anything. Claudia still could not bring herself to forgive Tobias.

When they were about to arrive home, Claudia finally spoke, "Move back tonight. Tanya's belly is getting bigger and she needs someone to take care of her at night."

Tobias replied coldly, "The child isn't mine, so what's there for me to take care of?"

"You're such a b\*stard, Tobias. Tanya isn't so bold. She's a kind and capable woman. She is what every man should look for in a woman. I'm certain she's the perfect one for you..."

Tobias could not help but feel that Claudia was underestimating Tanya. She had no idea how pretentious Tanya could be, always playing the victim to garner sympathy from her.

"I didn't plan to bring this up since it's your birthday today, but I'm in love. Tanya's life has nothing to do with me. If you like her so much, you can keep her by your side for all I care but don't expect me to compromise."

Having said this, Tobias felt as if a weight had been lifted off his shoulders. He had to give Skylar a sense of security instead of making her feel like he was stringing her along.

Experiencing some breathing difficulty, Claudia clutched her chest with a grimace on her face. "Are you trying to piss me off until I'm dead on my birthday?"

Tobias looked back at Claudia just then. The atmosphere in the car was tense, so he did not continue speaking lest he angered her even more.

After sending Claudia home, Tobias finally had time to return Skylar's call, but no one answered on the other end.

Sheldon trailed after Tobias and said unhappily, "Mom used to call me a useless and immature brat, but now you're the one pissing her off the most, and all because of a woman."

Faced with his brother's accusation, Tobias replied in a calm voice, "I've been living for the two of you for a long time. For once, I decided to live for myself. I'm done playing and it's time that I settle down."

Worried that Claudia would use him as her punching bag, Sheldon complained, "I don't know what the hell is going on with you two. All I know is that I'm in a tough spot and I have to protect myself. Can I crash at your place tonight?"

Tobias did not turn him away and took him to Bella Garden with him.

Only then did Sheldon realize that Tobias had been living here all this time and that this place was less than three kilometers away from Skylar's university.

In the car, he couldn't help but tease, "So you're even keeping her company in university? Isn't this what parents do?"

Tobias gave him a dirty look, shutting him up instantly.

Indeed, he was much older than Skylar, but not so much that he could be considered her parent.

When the car took a turn, its headlights shone to reveal a beautiful figure standing before the closed doors of the villa. Tobias stepped on the brake lightly and looked out the window to see Skylar.

He got down from the car while Sheldon remained inside.

When Skylar spotted Tobias, she stood rooted to the ground with an embarrassed look on her face. "I forgot to bring the house keys and you didn't answer my call."

Tobias took out his keys and handed them to Skylar. "Aren't you supposed to be filming? Why are you back?"

Tobias' face did not show the surprise Skylar was expecting to see.

"I took some time off. I don't have any scenes to shoot for a few days, so I dropped by to visit."

Seeing that Skylar did not reach out to take the keys, Tobias placed them in her hand. "To visit me? Or to check up on me because you're worried?"

"I don't know. Maybe both," Skylar answered.

Of course, she could not tell him that her imagination had run wild after seeing those photos, worried that Tobias would be swayed.

She was also annoyed at herself for being distrustful, always allowing her negative thoughts to get the best of her.

"Alright. Head in first." Tobias caressed her hair that was a little damp because she had rushed all the way back here, plagued with worry.

Skylar was dumbfounded. "You're not staying here tonight?"

"Why wouldn't I be? I'm just going to park the car. There's still someone in there. Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere. Seeing as you came back to find me, I'll make sure you're well-loved tonight."