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"Why did you insist on taking my virginity then?" Skylar finally asked the question that burned in her heart for a long time.

She wasn't sure how many girls experienced the same thing before her.

"I just felt like it at the moment. You were the first." Tobias tousled her hair but his gaze wasn't gentle.

Skylar was stunned as she felt his answer was both amusing and infuriating at the same time.

"Did you like anyone else before this?" Skylar peppered Tobias with questions as she was curious about his history. When it came to a relationship, she was unable to keep her curiosity in check.

There was a lot she wanted. But most importantly, she wanted security. She hoped to hear Tobias say, "No, you're the only one."

"I did. But it was a long time ago when I was still studying. I felt as if she was the most innocent girl in the world. She was good in her studies and also very pretty..."

Hearing how Tobias described her, Skylar began to feel jealous.

When he was talking about the girl, his eyes were filled with gentleness.

Perhaps every man has a soft spot for his first love. No matter how rich and powerful one may become or even be surrounded by an innumerable number of girls, there will always be one that is pure.

However, Tobias didn't notice the jealousy that was creeping into Skylar. In fact, he assumed that they were still chatting casually.

Over the last few days that she spent with Tobias, they were making love most of the time. To the extent Skylar felt a sense of phobia when she looked at the bed.

The kitchen, bathroom, living room sofa... every spot in the house had traces of their lovemaking.

As Tobias was creative with the multiple positions to "punish" her, he would f\*ck her till she begged for mercy. Sometimes, he would get her to call him "master" just to fulfill his fantasies.

As her holiday was about to end, Tobias told her that she could go and see her mother.

The doctor told her that her mother's condition was stable. Sometimes, the nurse would take her down to the garden for a walk. She would also chat with the other patients and participate in the hospital's activities.

Miranda was wearing a blue and white checkered hospital gown and a brown woolen hat when she saw Skylar.

As they had not seen each other for a very long time, Miranda could barely recognize her.

She looked intently at the girl with reddened eyes in front of her. "Miss, why are you staring at me? You seem very familiar. Do you know me?"

Miranda had never talked to Skylar in such a calm and gentle manner before.

Skylar shifted her glance toward Tobias who was watching from afar while leaning by an old locust tree.

Although she told him that she would be fine by herself, Tobias still insisted on coming.

Skylar began to speak, "I'm Skylar, do you remember me? I'm your daughter."

Skylar was both nervous and fearful as she wasn't sure if her name might agitate Miranda.

Miranda had always blamed her for her divorce, thinking that it was because Skylar wasn't a boy. She assumed Thomas divorce her because he preferred to have a boy.

What she wasn't aware of was how much Thomas loved Avery. Hence, the divorce had nothing to do with the child's gender.

"Skylar? My daughter?" Miranda covered her mouth. The moment she heard Skylar's name, tears began to flow. She then motioned for Skylar to come closer.

Her response came as a surprise to Skylar who was expecting herself to be yelled and cursed at.

When Miranda embraced her tightly, tears began to flow. "Do you know how much I have missed you? It's been such a long time since you came to see me. Skylar, take me out of here. I want to live together with you. So that I can take care of you and make amends."

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Skylar froze as she realized she had a tendency to be taken advantage of. Given Miranda's request, she didn't know what to do about it.

After crying for about half an hour, Miranda largely spoke rationally and didn't seem like she was sick at all.

Bathing under the afternoon sunlight, Skylar sat shoulder to shoulder with her on a bench in the hospital garden.

Miranda held onto Skylar's hand. "Skylar when do you plan to get me out of here?"

Skylar had counted a total of six times Miranda requested to be discharged.

She replied, "That will depend on the doctor."

"It's so expensive to stay here. How can you even afford it? I heard my room costs a hundred thousand a month. I don't want to put so much pressure on you. Just let me out of here."

Skylar didn't tell Miranda that someone else was paying for it as now wasn't the time.

She promised Miranda that if the doctor agreed, she would arrange for her to be discharged. After all, she hoped that Miranda would be able to restart her life.

However, Miranda was currently on medical parole. Once she was cured, she would have to return to prison to finish serving her sentence.

Am I going to send her back to prison?

As she escorted Miranda back to her ward, Tobias continued to watch nearby. He was worried that Miranda wasn't mentally stable and would potentially harm Skylar.

Although the doctor's report stated that Miranda had recovered her mental capacities, Tobias was still worried about eventualities.

Skylar finally left the ward at night. Time passed quickly as both mother and daughter had a lot to catch up on.

Before Skylar left, she promised Miranda that she would ask the doctor.

Waiting on a bench, Tobias passed Skylar a bottle of warm honey grapefruit.

"Are you happy that you could finally reunite with your mother?" he asked.

Skylar had mixed emotions about it and couldn't clearly explain what she was feeling. It all still felt surreal to her.

"Can my mom be discharged? She asked me sixteen times today about it. Before I left, she still reminded me that she was waiting for my answer."

"Technically, the decision is entirely up to you." Tobias had already checked with the doctor. He said Miranda was ready to be discharged anytime.

"The hospital is a lot more comfortable than prison and I don't really want to send her back. She assumes that medical parole means that she's free," Skylar explained her considerations.

Miranda still had eight years left on her sentence. Even if Skylar managed to get her out, Irene would definitely kick up a big fuss given her character.

A murderer should pay for her crimes. This was something Skylar had never sympathized with Miranda before.

"I can help you deal with it. We can give her a place to stay and arrange for parole," Tobias explained his plan slowly.

Skylar didn't agree to it immediately as she needed to think through it.

When they were leaving the hospital, they saw a hearse and a few men in white uniforms carrying a large coffin.

Tobias quickly covered her eyes tightly with his hands and led her away.

Dragging Skylar away, Tobias knew that she might be frightened at night or scared of the dark after seeing something like that.

The next morning, Skylar was to take a flight back to where she was filming. The moment she reached home, she started packing. This time there were a lot more clothes for her to bring.

Tobias' assistant had bought them based on his taste. He felt that Skylar's current outfits were too childish.

Both of them didn't look compatible when they were out on the streets. He was worried that he looked like an uncle taking his niece out instead.

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Tobias looked at her apologetically. "Tonight, you will have to stay home by yourself as I need to drop by the office. Remember to check all the doors and windows at night before you sleep."

Skylar was disappointed. "Why are you going so late at night? Did something serious happen?"

Already changed, Tobias replied when he was about to leave, "It's still manageable. Tomorrow, I'll get the driver to pick you up. You should go ahead and rest early."

Skylar didn't ask him to stay despite feeling reluctant to let him leave. She wasn't going to coquettishly make him stay.

In fact she was very independent, which had cost her to suffer a lot during her previous relationship.

But, Tobias was pleased with her. By not acting clingy around him, he wouldn't lose his patience and understanding for her.

He needed someone that was sensible and not too dependent on him.

After walking Tobias out, she watched until the black Porsche disappeared from her sight.

Skylar let out a lonely sigh as he could be away due to a single phone call. She was already used to it by now.

When she reached the set, Skylar met Kate. She was the assistant Tobias had assigned to Skylar though he didn't mention it to her.

Kate was in her thirties and looked very experienced. She also gave off a mature and aggressive vibe.

After chatting briefly, Kate asked Skylar, "What is your relationship with Mr. Ford?"

When Skylar replied that there were in a relationship, Kate didn't ask anything further. Meanwhile, there was a new Mercedes-Benz motorhome at the film site.

Kate explained, "Mr. Ford arranged this as a gift to you."

Skylar stared at the luxurious motorhome in surprise. "He didn't tell me about it. Besides, it doesn't seem appropriate for me to be in such a high-end motorhome given my trivial role."

Kate raised her eyebrows. "This has nothing to do with your role. It's just unimaginable to stay in such a dusty place without the cozy motorhome."

Skylar then called Tobias to verify and also ask him why he didn't tell her in advance.

However, the call just wouldn't connect. Ever since he left the night before, she didn't manage to get in touch with him.

When she called in the morning, his phone was off. But now, it just wouldn't connect at all.

"Can you get in touch with Tobias?" Skylar asked Kate for help.

Kate replied helplessly, "Since when does Mr. Ford even have time for me. If even you can't get him, I doubt I can."

Before the morning was over, the news of Tobias gifting Skylar a new motorhome had spread throughout the crew.

Katrina raged in jealousy. She couldn't accept how Skylar could continuously one-up her given that she was still unknown.

In the shared dressing room, Skylar's makeup artist was helping her to apply her foundation. Her actions were incredibly gentle as if she were a different person from earlier.

"Ms. Jones, your skin is flawless. It's so great to be young. On the contrary, Katrina's skin is visibly different. She has larger pores and experiences outbreaks frequently."

Skylar was reluctant to gossip as she was worried her words would find their way to Katrina's ears.

Hence, she closed her eyes in silence.

At the sound of footsteps approaching, the makeup artist closed her foundation kit with a crisp snap.

"Congratulations, you got a motorhome on your first movie," Kai remarked indifferently.

Opening her eyes, Skylar turned to look at Kai. His expression did not reflect his congratulatory wishes at all. Instead, it was one of disdain.

"It was unexpected as I just got to know about it. Now, I no longer need to use your motorhome to shower."

Kai pulled up a chair and sat opposite Skylar. "It seems your trip home was extremely fruitful. Tobias appears generous to women, throwing money around like it's nothing. I can only lend you my shower but he can present you a motorhome."

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Skylar understood what Kai was insinuating. It was as if his pride as a man had been trampled upon.

Skylar didn't understand why this even bothered him. Perhaps in his eyes, she was just a materialistic woman.

Skylar adjusted her collar. "I can't accept the gift as it is too expensive. I'm just borrowing it for the time being. Once the shooting is done, I'll return it in its original condition."

Kai felt his heart tied up in knots. Given how rare it was for Tobias to treat a woman so well, Kai was worried that Skylar would be further entrapped by him.

Although he only knew Skylar for a short while, he felt the sudden urge to protect her when he saw her spacing out and looking lonely at times.

Suddenly, Kate entered anxiously looking for Skylar. She informed her that the director had called out her name a couple of times and couldn't find her.

When Kai saw Kate, he recognized her right away.

He guessed only a newbie like Skylar wasn't aware of how capable Kate was.

As an extremely experienced agent within the entertainment industry, Kate wouldn't just manage anybody. As she had a wide network of contacts in showbiz, she groomed many famous celebrities throughout the years.

Any actor or actress would die to have Kate manage them. And now, Tobias had assigned her to help Skylar.

Furthermore, it was likely that Tobias was very influential as Kate was taking a break over the last two to three years. She had returned to work just for Skylar.

Meanwhile, Skylar quickly followed Kate out and ran towards the film site.

She was supposed to have a dialogue with Kai but he only came out from the dressing room after a long time.

Before filming started, Skylar tried her best to familiarize herself with the lines. In this scene, she was supposed to confess her feelings to the male lead played by Kai.

The script required some physical contact. She was to hug Kai by his waist and stood on her toes to kiss him.

Meanwhile, Kai was already dressed in a red tank top and an army green jacket. Although it was a cheesy combination, he managed to pull off the look and was absolutely dashing in it.

Skylar and Kai quickly went through the script together before Daryl hurried them to get ready as filming was about to start.

The scene where she was to confess was under a locust tree outside of the village entrance.

As the weather was scorching hot and the sun shone over their heads, it felt extremely uncomfortable with the heavy makeup on their faces.

"Are you nervous about our scene together?" Kai asked out of concern when he noticed Skylar fidgeting.

However, Skylar was actually uncomfortable with the heat as she fanned herself desperately. "If only we can speed up filming."

Whether in real life or acting, Skylar was terrible at confessing her feelings. Especially when she was required to steal a kiss from Kai.

She kept stuttering in her dialogue and couldn't bring herself to kiss him.

Skylar was unable to play the proud second lead role in front of the camera.

As the atmosphere was getting tense and Daryl was fuming, Kai helped her to relieve the tension by joking with everyone.

By the time they wrapped up, night had already fallen. They filmed the same scene from the afternoon till the evening.

As it was her fault that the filming was delayed, Skylar apologized to the crew sincerely.

Daryl reprimanded her for losing her focus after a few days of holiday. It would be unacceptable if she continued to perform that way.

It was just like when she was in school. Every time she returned from a school holiday, her exam results would be terrible as she needed more time to settle.

After having her makeup removed, Skylar saw that Kate had come out of the motorhome and was waiting for her to have supper. As of now, both of them were still unfamiliar with each other.

Skylar was someone that was slow to warm up to others. Hence, it was difficult for her to be friendly with people she didn't know well.

Visibly upset, she frowned with her lips pursed tightly.

Kate consoled her, "It's impossible to get in character all the time. Don't think too much about it and take your time. Today, I talked to Daryl. He said that you are very talented and wants to sign you."

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Skylar was still frowning from the immense pressure she felt. "Tobias won't allow it. Perhaps he thinks that I'm still a student."

Until now, Kate didn't understand what Skylar's relationship was with Tobias. What does Skylar mean when she mentioned that they were in a relationship? Does Tobias even need a girlfriend?

It was obvious that he didn't. Nonetheless, Tobias is paying too much attention to her to make this just a fling.

Did the Ford Group venture into the entertainment industry just for this girl? It was unlikely for Tobias to do something as impulsive as that.

Meanwhile, Skylar checked her phone and saw that there weren't any messages from Tobias.

After she returned, she began tidying her room to distract herself. Her room was so messy that it looked like a pigsty.

The last time it was tidied up was before Tobias left as he couldn't stand how messy it was. The clothes in the wardrobe were all neatly arranged.

It was the next morning before Tobias finally contacted her. His excuse was that he was busy and didn't check his phone.

Turning herself on her bed, Skylar sounded sleepy as she still hasn't fully woken up. "Why did you send me a motorhome?"

"Is there a need to ask why after receiving a gift? It's simple. You are to have what others have."

No lady on Earth would be able to refute to that.

When Skylar saw that it was still early, she got out of bed and headed to the washroom with her phone.

"Would you mind if I have a kissing scene?"

The line went silent for a few seconds.

"Don't ask me this question. You should decide for yourself. I'm sure you know what my answer is."

Discussing with a mature man will always put one at a disadvantage. He will always leave the choice to you but make his stance very clear.

"I understand. I'll be back the following day. Will you come and pick me up?" Skylar asked in a coquettish manner.

It was a rare request from her.

"I'll get the driver to do it. I'm don't have time lately."

Skylar wasn't happy with his answer but wasn't in a position to voice her displeasure.

After chatting for a while, she heard a female voice in the background.

"Mr. Ford, you barely rested the last two days. Do you want to delay the meeting?"

While Skylar was still on the line waiting for his response, Tobias ended the call without even saying goodbye.

She didn't call back as she didn't want to disturb him.

Nevertheless, she was still upset. What's so difficult about ending the call properly? She felt that it was disrespectful for him to end the call abruptly.

Today, she managed to finish all her parts and performed within expectations.

Sometimes she would wonder if she was really suited to be an actress.

When she told her grandma that she wanted to be one, Grandma replied, "We're just ordinary folks. You should be grateful if you can earn a living instead of having such a ridiculous dream."

After the filming was completed, Skylar thought about the little girl that approached her and called her "Mommy". She wondered how she was doing.

She asked the villagers where the little girl stayed.

Not far from the filming location, Pollyanna's house was made of mud bricks while the compound was lined with a wooden fence. Inside, there were a few hens.

When Pollyanna saw Skylar, she put down her winnowing basket and ran toward her with her dirty little hands outstretched.

"Skylar."

Skylar tousled Pollyanna's dirty hair which had knotted by itself. She asked, "Why are you home alone?"

At that moment, a woman with tan skin walked out. She was so fat that one could see the layers of fat on her face.

She was holding a boy in her arms with her top unbuttoned, exposing her breast. She must have just finished breastfeeding the boy.

Skylar quickly averted her gaze.

"Did you come from the city to film here?" The woman looked at the slender and beautiful woman in front of her before approaching Skylar with her exposed chest.