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Kate smiled confidently. "With we around, there's no need for you to worry about becoming popular. We will take it a step at a time as there's no need to rush. I have just been officially assigned as your agent by Mr. Ford. Of course, you have the right to decline."

Skylar had done some research on Kate before. She knew that Kate was an experienced manager who had groomed many popular stars. She had made new artists popular and reinvigorated the careers of old ones. She didn't need to get her hands on top-notched stars as she could turn those under her into one.

A manager played an important role in an actress's career as she was the conduit to all the available auditions. She would also have to choose the script for which she wanted her actress to audition and also be on the constant lookout for vacant roles.

The more capable an agent was, the more demanding she would be towards her actress. Skylar was aware that based on her current status and abilities, Kate was willing to be her agent simply because Tobias had arranged it. Therefore, she had to make the best of the opportunity.

Skylar gladly accepted, "I'll be in your care going forward. I hope I won't disappoint you."

When Kate realized that Skylar was still very young and was the main actress she was responsible for, she gave her some honest advice. "You have to seize the opportunity given that you are at your prime. If it were up to me, I wouldn't have arranged for you to star in that movie as a second lead unless you can outshine Katrina. But after a few days observing you onsite, it's obvious you still don't have what it takes to do that yet."

Skylar was happy to accept Kate's brutal honesty. Although Katrina's acting was bad, so was Skylar's. Both of their acting skills were more or less on par with each other. All she could do now was stand toe to toe with Katrina, but to outshine her was simply impossible.

Kate chatted with Skylar's till it was late, telling her about how competitive the entertainment industry was.

Furthermore, she encouraged Skylar to solidify her relationship with Tobias. After all, he was also an extremely valuable resource to be tapped. Skylar asked her, "How do I do that?"

Kate gave her a knowing smile. "You're also an adult. So I don't think I should be that blunt."

Skylar understood that Kate wanted her to try her best to ingratiate herself with Tobias. But, she didn't want to do it.

When Kate was about to leave, her sharp eyes noticed a pair of male sandals. It seems like Tobias comes here too.

The girl is really lucky. With such a powerful patron, her career will likely progress very smoothly.

Meanwhile, Skylar wanted to know about Claudia's condition and whether the operation was successful. Or perhaps they were still preparing to check her into the hospital.

When she dialed Tobias' number while standing at the door, she heard a ringtone from outside.

When the call connected, Skylar asked, "Where are you?"

"I'm at the door, open it."

Putting her hands on the doorknob, Skylar couldn't wait to open the door. Tobias put down his phone when he finally saw her.

"Didn't you say you weren't coming back at night?" Given how late Tobias came home, Skylar considered it a pleasant surprise.

"I'm here to check if you're hiding another man," Tobias replied half-jokingly, looking awfully tired.

Skylar stepped aside for Tobias to enter. "There's no man here unless you introduce one to me."

"How dare you!" Tobias' gaze darkened. It was obviously a joke but he had taken it seriously.

"Why are you being so angry. I was just kidding," Skylar grumbled. He really has no sense of humor.

Tobias tousled her hair as he softened his tone. "I'm not angry, just a little tired. I just want to see you. I'll be heading back tomorrow."

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As Skylar was fetching the slippers, Tobias noticed two glasses on the coffee table. He picks up one of them and looks at Skylar.

"You have a guest over?"

"Yeah, Kate was here. She said she wanted to be my manager, who I believe was your arrangement?"

Tobias nodded. Good... I don't really feel safe leaving Skylar alone at home...

He had brought a cardboard box with him when he came over. Skylar kept staring at it as he placed it on the coffee table, curious as to what was inside. Unbeknownst to her, it was her parcel which he had helped pick up from the post office.

"Are you tired?" Tobias asked, making no mention of the box whatsoever.

Skylar shook her head. "Not really. I've been resting for two days, which is a huge break from filming. Do you want me to make you dinner?" That's probably all I can do for him right now...

"Since you're not tired, go ahead and open the box!" Tobias tilted his head in its direction.

Having received the green light, Skylar quickly cut the tape with a pair of keys and opened the box. In it was a fluffy fox's tail with a small bead on the front.

This... I know what this is...

Tobias noticed her blushing and asked softly, "Would you like to try it?"

Skylar felt her heart race a little. As if I could say no to Tobias when he comes up with some new idea?

After giving it some thought, she asked hesitantly, "Will it hurt?"

"No, though you'll probably feel a slight discomfort. I want to see you put it on," Tobias said as he walked up to her and tapped on her pants button.

His mom will be having her surgery soon, and here he is, bringing me a fox tail butt plug in the middle of the night... I'm not sure if I can understand his logic here... Does he see me as a tool to relieve his stress or something? This reminds me of that incident where a female celebrity was sent to the ER because she couldn't remove the five golf balls she put inside her. According to the rumors online, she did it because some rich guy promised to pay her ten million for each golf ball she could fit inside her. Well, this butt plug is a lot milder compared to that, but still... Are rich people so stressed that they need such weird kinks to relieve themselves?

Tobias sat down on the sofa and patted himself on the thigh. "Come on, get those pants off and bend over. I'll help you put it on."

Being the shy type, hearing those words only made her feel a lot more uncomfortable than she already was.

She tossed the fox tail at him and said, "No, I can't do this. Put it on yourself if you like it so much."

"Yes, you can. Now, come here!" Tobias commanded.

Oh? No room for negotiation, eh?

"And if I refuse?" She asked, lifting her chin defiantly.

Tobias looked disappointed. "Forget it, go get some rest. I'll be in the study."

Little did she know, he was actually manipulating her through the use of reverse psychology. Skylar found herself starting to waver when she saw that he was unhappy. On top of that, she was also curious about how it would feel if she had it on.

As he was about to get up, she took off her pants and bent over on his lap.

He gave her a kiss on her back and whispered in her ear, "That's right... You be a good girl, and I'll be nice to you."

He was very gentle in his approach, and all she felt was a slight chill when the tail was attached.

Tobias then watched in satisfaction as Skylar stood up and spun around with the tail. It gave her a certain inexplicable air of sexiness, and he felt his fatigue disappear as it was quickly replaced by a powerful surge of arousal.

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"How long do I have to keep this thing on? It's really itchy and uncomfortable... Also kind of embarrassing..." She asked meekly.

Tobias stared at the tail that was now a little wet and said, "Just a little while longer..."

Skylar had to stand as she couldn't sit down with that thing on. Damn it, I'm dying to take this thing off, and he's just sitting there leisurely enjoying the view...

After standing for a bit, she felt her legs start to get tired and grabbed a cushion to kneel on instead.

Oh, man... She has no idea how sexy she looks right now...

Tobias felt his body heating up from the arousal. "Baby, you sure are a fine dime!"

He then whipped out his phone and began snapping away, much to Skylar's chagrin. She stood up and tried to snatch his phone away as she couldn't bear to have anyone see those pictures of her.

Tobias grabbed her by the shoulder and whispered into her ear, "Don't worry, these are for my personal viewing only. My phone has been encrypted, so the pictures are very safe in here."

Despite her being on the verge of tears from the embarrassment, she found herself charmed into submission by his gentle voice.

He then held her against the sofa with one of her legs on his waist as he continued, "You can take it off now if you don't like it. I'm going to shower you with all of my love and affection tonight."

Skylar felt goosebumps all over when she heard that.

Who else will he be showering his love and affection with next time, I wonder...

The sun shone brightly through the thin curtains in the bedroom, which was now filled with the scent of a crazy night in bed.

Tobias had already left the house while she was still sleeping.

At around 10 a.m., Skylar was having some toast with coffee for breakfast when she got a call from the hospital urging her to head over as soon as possible.

She tried asking what it was about, but the guy on the phone hung up on her without answering her question. Having no other choice, she gobbled down her food and rushed over to the hospital.

At the entrance, she was putting on her face mask when she saw two black Maybachs pull up nearby.

Skylar recognized the license plate right away and quickly hid behind a pillar. You've got to be kidding me!

Tobias was dressed in a black suit as he stepped out of the car, his ice-cold expression forming a huge contrast with the warm morning sun. He sure looks like a completely different person when he's in public...

She saw him talking to someone next to him, but couldn't make out what they were saying as they were too far away.

The driver then opened the door, and Tanya helped Claudia out of the car. Skylar felt her heart pounding rapidly from the discomfort of having to hide whenever she saw them.

"I'll go take care of the admission procedures upstairs," Tobias said before making his way into the hospital.

Claudia felt incredibly nervous as she watched him disappear into the distance. She was afraid that she would die on the operating table.

A heart surgery is a very risky one... I can't die just yet... I want to live to witness the birth of my grandchildren, and hear Tanya tell me it's a boy...

Skylar let out a sigh of relief after seeing them all enter the hospital.

Gosh, why am I so useless? Why is it so hard for Tobias to just have a normal relationship? Perhaps things would've been a lot different if I come from a rich family like Tanya, but I suppose I can't ask for much in life... Who knows, maybe I've done something unforgivable in my past life and am paying for it in this one?

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Skylar made her way to Miranda's ward in the Psychiatric Rehabilitation Department and saw her knitting a sweater.

Miranda put the needle and thread down when she saw Skylar and motioned at her to sit down beside her.

Skylar was a little excited at first as she thought Miranda had made her a sweater, but a closer inspection revealed that it was for men. The sweater was halfway done and only lacked a sleeve to make it complete.

"Do you think it'll fit your dad?" Miranda smiled gleefully while showing off her work.

"Why are you making Dad a sweater? He never paid you a single visit during your time in prison!" Had the doctors not confirmed Miranda's full recovery, Skylar would've thought she was still crazy.

"He must've had his reasons. I know he still loves us, Skylar. I mean, how else would you still be alive today if he didn't? You should learn to be grateful, you know?" Miranda gazed at the sweater and imagined how Thomas would look wearing it.

It took Skylar every ounce of her strength to refrain from going on a rant about how Meredith was the one who paid for her school fees and daily expenses, all with that meager salary of hers.

However, she knew there was no point in telling Miranda that as all she could think of was how amazing Thomas was.

Even when Thomas cheated on her back then, Miranda simply blamed everything on the fact that Irene was able to give birth to a son.

Given how old-fashioned and patriarchal Skylar's grandparents were, it came as no surprise that they wanted a son to help carry on the family lineage. Naturally, Irene fulfilled that wish of theirs and replaced Miranda's position in the family by giving birth to Hayden before the divorce even took place.

To make matters worse, Miranda had to have her uterus surgically removed due to excessive bleeding when giving birth to Skylar, so having children was no longer possible for her.

That was why she hated Skylar so much back then.

"You had me come all the way here just to see this sweater?" Skylar asked in annoyance.

Miranda was oblivious to the change in her tone and held her hand as she spoke, "The doctors say I can be discharged soon, so why haven't you made plans to take me home yet? By the way, I'll need to have a family member accompany me throughout the final checkup, so you have to stay here with me for the next two days."

Staying with her is fine. I'm just worried that she'll go looking for Dad once she gets discharged, but I can't just keep her in the hospital forever... Speaking of which, I hear Dad's had it pretty rough lately. His company has been liquidating its assets ever since Tobias refused to help him out. Skylar sighed deeply at the thought of that.

In the end, she promised to accompany Miranda for her checkup and agreed to bring her home if the doctors declared her fit for discharge, much to her delight.

She sure doesn't look like a prisoner who's been cooped up for too long... If anything, she strikes me as a migrant who's returning to her home country! Looks like prison's been treating her well...

At noon, Miranda told her that she was hungry and that she hadn't taken her lunch.

Skylar glanced at her watch and said, "I'll have the nurse bring you some food right away."

"No! Despite this being a VIP ward, the food they serve here is terrible! Get me some BBQ ribs from the cafeteria instead!" Miranda said disdainfully.

"Were you so picky during your time in prison as well?" Skylar asked.

Miranda didn't like that one bit. "How could you say that? Are you looking down on me just because I went to prison for manslaughter? What happened back then was an accident!"

She didn't have the courage to tell Skylar the secret that she kept locked up deep down inside. You did this to me, Thomas! I'll have you repay what you owe me with the rest of your life!

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Skylar quickly defused the situation when she saw how offended Miranda was. "I was just kidding, Mom! Wait here while I go get you those ribs, okay?"

She decided to ask for directions to the cafeteria at the counter and overheard the nurses chatting excitedly.

"I heard Tobias' mom has just been admitted into our hospital today! We've got cardiologists from all over the world over here! Did you see the flowers outside the Cardiology Department? It's crazy!"

"The lives of the wealthy are worth more, I guess... I bet the director is stressed out of his mind after accepting such a high-profile client!"

"My friends from the Cardiology Department told me how handsome Tobias is. I can't even imagine how many women he's slept with! It's such a shame that he's already got himself a fiancée, and a pregnant one at that!"

The two of them were so carried away with their conversation that they didn't even notice Skylar standing there.

The news hit her like a freight train and left her devastated.

So Tanya is still sticking to him like glue, huh... Tobias said he'd take care of things with her, but when? After Claudia's surgery?

After finding out the directions to the cafeteria, Skylar took the elevator to the first floor.

Ding! The sound of the elevator doors opening was followed by a deep male voice.

"Where are you going?" Skylar looked up and saw Tobias standing in front of her.

After a brief exchange of glances, Skylar quickly looked away as she explained, "My mom called for me. I wasn't following you or anything!" Considering how suspicious he is, I've got to explain myself clearly or he'll get the wrong idea and think I'm following him! Well, I guess I can't really blame him for being so paranoid. Given his position, he's probably dealt with all sorts of liars on a daily basis! The naïve young boy who would readily believe everything people tell him is long gone!

"Yeah, I know. I saw you hiding behind the pillar when I arrived earlier."

Skylar gasped. And here I thought I did a great job at hiding too!

"Why didn't you come to say hi to me, then? Was it inconvenient for you to do so?" she asked as she continued walking in front of him, the two of them not more than two feet apart.

Tobias didn't bother holding back and replied honestly, "It is indeed inconvenient at the moment. Don't worry, we'll have plenty more opportunities in the future to get you two properly introduced."

Oh, wow! Gee, thanks for assuming that I was trying to suck up to your mom, Tobias!

Tobias followed her all the way to the cafeteria where she bought honeyed pork ribs, BBQ ribs, and a Caesar salad.

Skylar didn't really know what Miranda's favorite food was. All she remembered was seeing her come home drunk as a skunk all the time when she was a kid. The memories of her mom laughing and crying on the floor like a madman still haunted her to this day.

Before Tobias was able to reach for his wallet, Skylar had already paid for the food using her phone.

I'd better learn to pay with my phone too, or she'll always beat me to the bill! I know she rarely uses the Black Card I gave her, so she's basically paying out of her own pocket. That stubborn girl...

That thought left him feeling uncomfortable as he believed men should pay for their women.

"Have you taken your lunch?" Tobias grabbed her by the wrist when he saw her hurrying off.

Her face is pale, her lips are cracked, and yet that hasn't stopped her pretty face from getting the attention of every guy in the cafeteria!