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# In a Love Nest with the Aloof CEO Chapter 471

Amelia was upset that Kate was always siding with Skylar and said, “Kate, you’re too biased. You are giving all the good jobs to Skylar. All that’s left for me are just some random magazine shoots.”

Kate let out a self-deprecating laughter and answered, “You think too highly of me. Do you think I have a say in the cast of Empyrean Sword? You should be asking the higher-ups for an opportunity to be in it instead of me.”

Amelia replied awkwardly, “It doesn’t seem like the higher-ups truly treat Skylar well anyway, letting her star in that kind of show. If her popularity shoots up after the show is broadcast, it wouldn’t be surprising if her next step is to star in R-rated films.”

Sensing Amelia’s jealousy, Kate replied smilingly, “You shouldn’t be assuming what her stardom journey would be like. Skylar has God-given good looks that are meant for this industry, and you shouldn’t feel indignant over that. It would only be unfair if the both of you were equally attractive but she’s being favored.”

Meanwhile, Valerie had asked Susan out for a meal. The two of them had known each other for a long time. Having worked closely together previously, they had always maintained a good relationship.

After Royal Entertainment was set up by the Ford Group, Valerie was appointed as the executive president.

Even though Valerie was reluctant to take up the position, Tobias did not give her an option. As such, she had no choice but to leave Tobias’ side.

When Valerie saw Susan in the afternoon, she noticed how tired the woman looked and couldn’t help but ask, “Is it that busy at the office? You have lost so much weight! You were

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already very skinny, to begin with. If this carries on, I'm worried that you'll be left with bones the next time I see you. How are you doing lately? You haven't been replying to my messages."

Susan added some ice cubes to her lemonade and gulped the entire glass down at one go in order to quench her thirst.

Then, she starting ranting, "How can I not be busy? It's all Sheldon's fault. Not only is he inefficient at work, but he's always playing games in the office. I have to go through every single document once before I can let him sign on them."

Having a hard time understanding, Valerie replied, "Yeah, I don't know what Mr. Ford is thinking. How can he appoint that trash as CEO? After becoming a couple with that lass from our company, he has been acting without logic sometimes."

"Well, it's not possible for us to understand what Mr. Ford is thinking. He's been with Skylar for quite a while. That girl must be quite something to be able to stay by his side for that long. Mr. Ford would even pick up her calls during meetings," Susan said.

Valerie sneered and replied, "What a bit\*h! She's abusing her power in the company just because she has a pretty face. She probably thinks she's the one calling the shots in the company. I arranged for some work for her today, but she refused to cooperate. Ugh, the nerve! She really thinks she's the queen, doesn't she? Let's see how long she can last with Mr. Ford!"

Susan cautioned Valerie worriedly, "I think you shouldn't make things difficult for Skylar on account of her relationship with Mr. Ford. If he knows that you are giving her trouble, he might not let you off easily."

However, Valerie replied confidently, "What's there to be afraid of? I've been with Mr. Ford for so many years. How can she compare to me? Mr. Ford and I are like family, meanwhile, she's just an outsider."

Susan felt that ever since Valerie left their company, she became flashier and more seemed to always behave haughtily. As she gained more authority, she had also become full of herself.

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In the past, Valerie read situations well and would not behave in such a brash manner. Perhaps her reaction was also because she was used to seeing Tobias being surrounded by countless women who were gone as soon as they came. As such, she was aware that Tobias wasn't someone who had a soft spot for women.

Susan felt that she had done her part to caution Valerie and if Valerie insisted on seeking her doom, there was nothing she could do.

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At the film set, the lights were shone on Skylar. When the director told her the requirements for that scene, Skylar's immediate reaction was to back out.

That scene was way more obscene than what the woman had initially thought. She was also required to dress so skimpily that it was as good as not wearing anything.

That director was notorious in the industry for being a maniac. Due to that reason, he had a reputation for offending people.

His most famous quote was, "Even if my works don't make sense to the world, they are all pieces of art."

Skylar wondered if Hugo had even considered whether the scene would be approved for screening.

"I didn't know that the scene would be so explicit. I don't think I will be able to continue filming." The woman raised her objections.

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Hugo looked towards the assistant director and yelled at him angrily, "What's going on? Didn't you make it clear to her previously? If she can't do this scene, why is she here in the first place?"

The assistant director immediately tried to talk to Skylar, hoping to change her mind. He was panicking so badly that he was almost kneeling down to beg Skylar to continue filming.

Clasping his hands together, he tried his best to persuade the woman, "My dear Skylar, I'm begging you. Please don't back out now. Didn't we agree on it previously? Filming is already behind schedule now. If you suddenly pull out, we won't be able to find a replacement on such short notice. Can you please just compromise a little?"

Faced with the assistant director's begging, Skylar remained firm. "Unless the script is amended, my decision is final. We did come to an agreement previously, but no one told me that I'll have to strip to my underwear. I'm not even the main cast, and I won't be benefiting much from this film. Hence, there's no reason why I should make such a huge sacrifice."

The assistant director replied anxiously, "But your agency had agreed, and we've already signed the contract. Besides, you are getting paid for it."

Skylar cast a contemptuous gaze at the man and said, "Thirty thousand for a scene like that? Do you think I'm that cheap? Don't try to threaten me by bringing up my agency. I've already made up my mind that I won't continue filming."

After a lengthy negotiation, Skylar got increasingly annoyed and left with Hannah directly.

When they were outside of the studio, Hannah asked, "I'm sure Ms. Fey won't be happy with this. It's not easy to get a chance to work with Hugo after all."

Skylar frowned and replied, "I don't mind passing up on this opportunity. Given the degree of obscenity of that scene, even if it doesn't pass the screening requirements, it would definitely spread like wildfire on the Internet if leaked."

"Skylar..." While Skylar was still talking away, she suddenly heard someone calling her name. When she turned around, she saw that it was Kai but did not respond to him.

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Kai was the male lead who was specially appointed by the director himself. On such a cold day, the man was wearing just ankle pants and canvas shoes. He had also gotten a crew cut and dyed his hair yellow.

That image reminded Skylar of the hooligans she used to see at her school gate when she was still schooling. During that time, girls tended to be attracted to guys who spotted a “bad boy” image like that.

As compared to Tobias, Kai was much less mature. Full of energy, he always walked with a skip in his step.

Even though the man ran towards Skylar, given his strength and fitness level, he did not even need to catch his breath.

“I just heard that you’re here too. Do you not filter the jobs you take up? Does Tobias really let you do whatever you want to?”

Before Skylar could give her reply, Kai answered his own question. “Oh right, why would he care? He doesn’t care about anything anyway.”

Skylar was not aware of any feud between Kai and Tobias, but she realized that it frustrated Kai whenever Tobias was mentioned.

“My agency had arranged for it, but when I knew the requirements of the scene, I pulled out of it right away. So, please don’t say that I have no filters.”

The conversation with Kai had aggravated Skylar’s initial irritation, and she was burning with anger right then.

Kai was rather surprised to hear that. Isn’t Valerie afraid of offending Tobias by doing that?

As such, Kai came to a conclusion as he said, “Valerie has no respect for you at all. She’s getting too pampered and is becoming arrogant. Even though you are Tobias’ woman, she did not spare a thought for you at all.

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Skylar pulled the zip of her jacket all the way up as a gush of cold wind blew past. As the woman was not warmly dressed, she was shivering from the cold.

"I'm already freezing, so stop adding on to my misery," she replied.

Kai scratched his head and said, "I'll get you some coffee. I can tell that you're in a bad mood. Maybe some caffeine would help to boost your mood."

Skylar shook her head and replied, "I'm in a rush. Besides, I'll have to get prepared to be criticized when I get back."

Kai could tell that Skylar was just brushing him off. Feeling disappointed, he merely replied, "You are looking more haggard lately. You've lost weight too. If you need someone to talk to, I'm always here for you. You know that my shoulder is always ready for you to lean on."

Standing at one side, Hannah could easily tell that Kai had feelings for Skylar. However, Skylar did not return any of that.

If she were Skylar, Hannah would definitely choose Kai over Tobias. Kai was always bright and cheerful. His easygoing mannerisms also made it comfortable for others to be around him.

On the other hand, Tobias always had an air of authority to him and was unnerving to be around.

Skylar already expected a storm to be brewing back at the office. Before she returned, the higher-ups had already received a call, informing them that the woman refused to film that scene and was putting on airs.

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Skylar headed straight towards the dance studio when she got back. The trainees, who were all youthful and pretty, were staying up late to practice their dance moves.

However, Skylar could easily tell that most of those girls had undergone plastic surgery with one look at those high cheekbones and perfect nose bridges.

Skylar was acquainted with all of them, but none of them could be considered her true friends. That was the way the entertainment industry worked.

She simply stood at one side and observed their practice distractedly. Kate had given instructions for her to do that to learn the ropes, as the agency had plans to cut an album for her in the future.

Even though Skylar was a talented actress, she was not that gifted in singing and dancing. When she was in school, the teachers had also advised her that she wasn't made to be a singer.

Currently, Kate's focus was all on Amelia. Kate was a realistic and shrewd woman. Thus, there was no way that she would pit herself against the higher-ups and defend Skylar. She was just waiting for Valerie's further instructions.

A while later, Skylar was called into Valerie's office. She knew that it was inevitable since Valerie had been making things difficult for her and pushing her as hard as she could.

When Skylar entered Valerie's office, Valerie showed her a recording of her quarreling with the assistant director at the film set and chided, "Can you explain this to me? The company had fought for such a good opportunity for you, but you just had to ruin it."

Skylar suspected that Valerie had specially gotten someone to film her argument with the assistant director, rendering her defenseless.

"My image had always been an innocent one. Don't you think it isn't very fitting for me to remove my pants in front of the camera? If I'm single, I probably wouldn't mind following the company's instructions, but I think it wouldn't be worth it if my relationship is affected by it. My boyfriend wouldn't be happy if I do that," Skylar answered.

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Valerie's temper sparked as she replied, "Are you using Mr. Ford to threaten me now? I can give you the answer right away – he wouldn't mind it at all. Please do not think so highly of yourself."

Skylar smiled placidly and replied, "Seems like you're pretty close to my boyfriend, Ms. Fey. You even know his thoughts so well."

Valerie was indeed proud of her relationship with Tobias. After all, she had been with him for eight years.

Narrowing her eyes, she raised her hand slightly and fiddled with the beads on her wrist as she replied, "Mr. Ford knows that I keep having nightmares lately, so he bought me this crystal bracelet. He heard that crystals have calming properties. After I started wearing it, I stopped having nightmares, but unpleasant people started to appear in my life, polluting the air I breathe in."

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A hint of displeasure flashed past Skylar's face when she heard that. No woman would like to know that her man had bought a gift for another woman, no matter how valuable that gift was.

"Since I've breached the contract, I'll be responsible for the damages and won't let the company suffer any losses. I hope that in the future, you can be more careful when arranging jobs for me. It doesn't matter if my career is affected by the frequent breaches of contract, but it wouldn't be desirable if others think that our agency doesn't manage its artistes well. Besides, some might even speak poorly of you, Ms. Fey."

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Valerie could tell that Skylar was a smart woman who had good control over her emotions. She had tactfully managed to use the company's reputation to threaten her. It was also obvious to Valerie that Skylar was not pleased with her close relationship with Tobias, but she did not mention a single word about it.

With a scornful smirk, Valerie replied, "You do know that you're risking your future in this industry, right? Since we can make you a success, we can also bring you down easily."

Skylar shrugged nonchalantly and said, "Well, doesn't matter to me. I don't see much potential in myself currently. I only know that my days won't be easy as long as you're around."

After Skylar decided to speak openly about the situation, Valerie replied coldly, "Not everyone has the right to be picky. Don't assume that you will be successful just because you are pretty. You still have a long way to go. If you continue to be so greedy, you might end up with nothing."

Before Skylar turned around and left, she said, "I'll remember you're teachings, Ms. Fey. Thanks for your kind reminder too. I'm sure I'll get everything I want in the end. I have nothing much to do now and have all the time to wait for good things to come to me."

The woman heaved a sigh of relief as she walked out of Valerie's office. At the same time, the forced smile on her face disappeared at once. Even though she was unsure previously, after that encounter, she could confidently conclude that Valerie's attitude towards her was because of love turned into hatred.

Skylar knew that she had done nothing wrong. Her only mistake was that she had unknowingly snatched Valerie's man.

Valerie and Tobias had worked closely together for many years, and no one, apart from the both of them, knew the extent of their relationship.

If it was just Valerie's unrequited love towards Tobias, she must be quite a sentimental woman.

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Skylar did not get to see Kate before she left the company. According to Hannah, Kate had accompanied Amelia to an audition for a drama that was also set in the ancient past, with time travel as the theme.

Hannah thought that Kate was being too realistic and could not help but feel unjust for Skylar.

However, Skylar was hardly bothered by the situation. "It's a fact that I do not have any jobs now. I can't expect Kate to wait around for me, impeding her own development."

While Skylar was digging for her keys when she reached home, someone opened the door for her from the inside. It was a kind-looking and chubby middle-aged lady. She was wearing an apron and smiling warmly at Skylar.

"Ms. Jones, you're back. I'm the new housekeeper, Madelyn. By the way, you're so pretty! You truly are a good match for Mr. Ford."

Faced with Madelyn's warm welcome and enthusiastic greeting, Skylar felt a little awkward as she was not used to having another person at home.

Her first thought was that Tobias was sick of her cooking, and as such, he waited no further to find them a housekeeper.

"Where is he? Is he back yet?" Skylar asked. When she bent forward to remove her shoes, Madelyn knelt down to help her with them.

Shocked by the new housekeeper's enthusiasm and excellent service attitude, Skylar quickly retreated a few steps and said, "I can do that myself. You can carry on with whatever you were doing. I'm fine here."

Madelyn replied smilingly, "Ms. Jones, you don't have to be so courteous towards me. It's my job to serve you well. Mr. Ford had instructed that I take good care of you as you have a weak body."

Skylar took a few more steps back and was almost out of the door as she replied, "There's really no need for that. I can do that perfectly fine. I'm actually really healthy, Madelyn. He's just overly worried."

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Just then, Tobias came down from upstairs. He was still wearing the same light gray casual wear he had on before Skylar left home earlier. It seemed like he hadn't left the house the entire day.

After changing into slippers, Skylar went upstairs with Tobias. Her footsteps were heavy, and her thoughts were written all over her face.

As Tobias could easily tell that Skylar was upset, he lifted her chin with one hand and asked, "Do you not like Madelyn? Even though she's a little chatty, she's an efficient worker and has a warm personality. She's a great cook as well. I'll get her to make a good meal for us tonight."

Skylar sat down in front of her dressing table and removed her earrings. When she looked at herself in the mirror, she noticed that her makeup started creasing as she was so busy the entire day that she did not have time to touch up.

"I'm fine with any arrangement you make," the woman replied placidly.

Tobias, who was standing behind Skylar, noticed the displeasure on her face. He leaned forward, and putting his face next to hers, he said, "You can tell me right away if you're not happy with this arrangement. You know I'm bad at reading thoughts."

Skylar met the man's gaze and noticed a hint of impatience in his eyes. "I just haven't been resting well lately and keep having nightmares. Do you have any solution for that?"

"I'll get you a crystal bracelet. Crystals have calming properties. After wearing it, you should stop having nightmares. However, it might also be something psychological, and overcoming that aspect would depend on yourself," Tobias replied.

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Upon hearing his words, Skylar knew that Valerie did not lie to her. Her crystal bracelet was indeed given to her by Tobias.

"It's the thought that counts. I don't think I'll need that bracelet. I guess there's nothing I need to be afraid of since I haven't done anything against my conscience."

Tobias moved towards one side and said plainly, "You were the one who asked if I had a solution, but you rejected it. Well, I can't help you then."

Skylar picked up a cotton pad and started removing her eye makeup slowly while asking, "Would you allow me to film a rape scene?"

Obviously, Tobias was no longer paying attention to the woman's words and replied, "Were you thinking of don't that tonight? I can consider that, but I'm not very fond of these acts now that I'm getting older."

The corners of Skylar's lips curved into a smile as she said, "I know you prefer women removing your clothes and having them doing all the work as it feels good for you. I'm sorry that I wasn't sensible enough and always make you exert yourself."

Tobias frowned and replied, "What's wrong with you today? You've been speaking in such a sarcastic manner. If you've suffered grievances and you're venting on me right now, I'm sorry, but I'm not the right person for that."

Madelyn, who was outside the door, could clearly hear the two of them arguing. As such, even though she already had her knuckles on the door, she did not dare to knock.

"It's not easy to be the woman of a rich man," the housekeeper muttered to herself.

Seeing that Skylar was upset, Tobias started kissing her on her lips softly. He was so gentle that she could feel her nerves tingle as her body went weak. Her heart was pounding madly, and her mind went blank as she gasped for air.

It wasn't often that Tobias kissed her in such a manner, gently yet firmly and passionately. It was as if he was comforting her while coaxing her to remove her clothes.

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“Did I offend you? I don’t remember doing any of that,” the man asked as he traced his hand down Skylar’s blouse.

Even though Skylar placed her hands in front of her chest instinctively, Tobias had still managed to lift up her blouse, and at the same time, removed her bra.

Finally, Skylar could not help but ask, “What’s the relationship between you and Valerie?”

Tobias lost his mood at once when he heard that. He picked up Skylar’s blouse from the floor and put it on her before replying, “What rumors did you hear? We don’t have any kind of relationship. Skylar, I remember telling you that I would never cross the line with people who work with me, including my secretaries or business partners. I’ve told you the same thing multiple times. Why do you have to question me on that? Do you think it’s even meaningful to throw a tantrum and harp over such senseless matters?”

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