

Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband Chapter 1671

Chapter 1671

Skyler knew he was, but she had to bite her tongue. When they'd gotten out of the car earlier, Zavier had made her promise not to spill the beans about their complicated connection.

"You know, he's from a whole other world," she said to Vivian. "Don't get your hopes up."

Vivian glanced back wistfully where Zavier had vanished. "Skyler, I'm so jealous of Desiree. To have a guy like Zavier, who's not only a total stud but also fiercely loyal."

"You'll find your Mr. Right too," Skyler reassured her.

Vivian sighed, "But I'm not as pretty as Desiree, nor do I have her grades or her family's money. I can't compare to her. How could I ever snag a guy who's even half as great as Zavier?"

"The best guy for you is the one that's right for you," Skyler replied, her voice soft but firm. She believed that a boyfriend's worth wasn't in his family's status but in his character and whether their values aligned.

Vivian pouted, "But I still want a guy who's both hot and loaded."e2

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Their path was suddenly blocked by a familiar face the same girl who'd been looking for Skyler not long ago. "Skyler, come with me," she demanded.

Skyler needed no explanation to know that Desiree was behind this, but she had a class to get to. "Sorry. I've got to get to class."

"If you don't come now, we'll come find you during your class," the girl threatened.

Vivian stepped in, "Hey, I remember you. You're Desiree's friend, right? I'm a friend of hers too. Skyler and I really need to get to class. Could you please let Desiree know that Skyler will see her after?"

The girl barely gave Vivian a glance, her cold gaze fixed on Skyler. "Don't forget what you've told Desiree before," she warned before storming off.

Vivian turned to Skyler, confusion written all over her face. "What's going on with you and Desiree? That girl doesn't seem too fond of you."

"Let's just go to class," Skyler said, brushing off the question.

Before Vivian could probe further, her phone rang. She quickly answered, "Desiree, what's up?"

"Let's have lunch together, came Desiree's voice from the other end.

Vivian's response was eager. "Well, absolutely, that sounds great."

After the call, Vivian realized Skyler was already far ahead and hurried to catch up. "Hey, wait up, Skyler!"

The morning lecture was given by a renowned professor, and Skyler was deeply engrossed, so much so that she didn't notice Desiree's entrance.

Desiree sat directly behind her, not paying attention to the lecture, her eyes boring into the back of Skyler's head. When the class finally ended and everyone was leaving, Skyler started to pack up her things, only to be halted by Desiree's voice.

"Skyler!"

She turned around to meet Desiree's cold stare. Skyler wasn't guilty of anything, and she wasn't afraid. After all, compared to the elders of the Blue and Rivera families, Desiree wasn't so intimidating. "What's up?"

Desiree smirked, "Thinking of homewrecking at such a young age?"

Skyler was above such accusations. "Desiree, what's between Zavier and me is a matter for our families, not something we kids can decide. Your issues with Zavier are between the two of you. If you need something or want his devotion, I suggest you go directly to him and stop bugging me."

If Desiree could speak to Xavier herself, she wouldn't need to chase after Skyler.

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Chapter 1672

Desiree thought Skyler had learned the truth from Xavier-that she wasn't his girlfriend at all-and was just trying to rile her up.

Desiree couldn't stand it. With a glance that could freeze hell itself, she signaled her wing-woman, "Allie, handle it."

Allie, ever the loyal sidekick, stepped forward, her hand poised to deliver a slap that would ring through the halls. But Skyler, quick as a cat, caught Allie's wrist mid-air. "What do you think you're doing?"

The two hadn't expected such a burst of strength from Skyler, who always seemed as if a strong breeze could knock her over. They were momentarily stunned.

Allie looked to Desiree for direction, and with a subtle nod, Desiree ordered her to back off.

Once they were alone, Desiree's eyes bore into Skyler like icicles. "Do you know that I could have you kicked out of Capital College?"

Skyler bit her lip, refusing to back down under Desiree's glacial stare.e2

Desiree continued, her voice dripping with venom. "With just a flick of my finger, not only could I have you tossed out on your ear, but I could also ensure you leave a legacy-a scandal that will be the talk of every dorm room and dining hall."

Skyler was timid, not a fan of stirring up trouble, but she wasn't foolish. She knew the Rivera family had orchestrated her public speaking alongside Xavier at the opening ceremony. Regardless of Xavier's acceptance or the Rivera family's opinion of her, to those in the know, she was the fiancée chosen for Xavier by Hudson himself.

As Xavier had said the night before, by wearing the title of his fiancée, she represented him. And how many in the Capital would dare touch her? “You go ahead and try. Don’t come crying to me when it backfires.”

Fuming, Desiree clenched her teeth. “Fine, let the games begin.”

If Xavier were to go public with Skyler’s status, revealing her as his fiancée, Desiree wouldn’t dare lay a finger on her. But currently, only a handful at the college were privy to this fact.

Desiree could easily find a few thugs to ruin Skyler’s future.

With no afternoon classes, Skyler decided to look for another part-time job—preferably one that paid by the hour and settled accounts immediately.

She packed her backpack and was ready to head out when she ran into Emma and Amanda coming back to the dorm. The two were in the middle of a conversation and seemed thrilled about something.

Spotting Skyler with her bag, they chimed in, “Skyler, heading out again?”

Skyler nodded, “Yeah, looking for another side gig.”

Emma grabbed her arm, “You can always find a job, but a gathering of heartthrobs isn’t an everyday sight.”

Skyler was puzzled. “What gathering of heartthrobs?”

Amanda jumped in, “You’re always busy chasing dollars, completely out of the loop with campus life. There’s a big basketball final this afternoon between our Capital College guys and the team from the university across town.”

Skyler knew about the game but hadn’t paid any attention. “I’m not really into basketball.”

Emma teased, “Who’s into the game? We’re into the guys playing the game.”

Amanda stated, “All the hotties from both teams will be there. It’s our chance to feast our eyes. You can’t just sit this one out.”

Skyler had even less interest in “hotties” than in basketball. Her mind was set on earning enough to bring her sister to the Capital. “You guys enjoy the game. I’ll pass.”

But Emma and Amanda wouldn't take no for an answer. Each took an arm, declaring in unison, "We came back especially for you. You're going, whether you like it or not."

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Chapter 1673

Skyler was at her wits' end. "Guys, can you loosen your grip? Let me walk on my own."

Emma shot back, "If we let go, you'll bolt."

Skyler's hands were trapped. Otherwise, she'd have raised them in an oath to prove her point, "I'll go with you, and I swear I won't run off. "You better keep your word." Emma replied.

"Of course. Now, can you let me go?" Skyler retorted.

Finally, they released Skyler.

Emma couldn't help but tease, "Sky, you don't look like you're strapped for cash. Why are you always so hung up on making money? Listen, life flashes by. You've gotta seize the day while you're young, live it up so you don't regret it."e2

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Amanda chimed in, supporting Emma, "She's so right. There's no end to making money. Once we graduate, there'll be endless jobs. College years are our last chance to be a little reckless. Don't waste it all on chasing dollars."

Skyler stayed quiet. They had parents who doted on them and sent them their allowances like clockwork, so they could afford to be carefree for a few more years. But for someone like her, who had no one to care for her, she had to rely on herself to become strong so that she could live the life she wanted in the future.

Emma suddenly changed the subject, "Hey Sky, has your family been on your case about getting a boyfriend?"

Skyler's heart skipped a beat, fearing they'd find out about last night's return to the Rivera residence with Zavier, "Why bring this up all of a sudden?"

"Just think about it, back in high school, my folks were paranoid about me dating too early, always picking me up from school. Now, barely a month into college and I haven't even gotten to know all the guys in my program, they're already pestering me to find a boyfriend. They keep saying good men are scarce and if I don't act fast, they'll all be snagged by others."

Amanda laughed, "My parents are so torn. They want their daughter to find a boyfriend but are terrified their precious little girl will be taken away by some unworthy guy."

Skyler couldn't help but envy them, "Must be nice."

Both girls asked in unison, "Don't your parents let you date?"

Skyler was silent. It wasn't that she wasn't allowed to date. It was much worse. She had been traded off by her family like a bargaining chip.

After her parents sent her to the Rivera family, they never asked her how she was doing. Both her family and the Riveras only cared whether she could bear Zavier a son to secure the Rivera family's legacy.

The irony and the tragedy. In this day and age, arranged marriages still existed.

Their conversation hadn't wrapped up by the time they reached the destination. The massive stadium was packed, with screams of excitement echoing from the female fans.

Emma and Amanda pulled Skyler along, "Skyler, hurry up. Vivian snagged us seats, and they'll be gone if we're any later."

They squeezed through the crowd to the bleachers where Vivian had saved a prime spot in the front row. Vivian, having held four seats on her own, nearly got into an argument, but their timely arrival diffused the situation.

Once seated, Vivian pulled out four bottles of water from her bag and handed one to each person.

Lunch had been a salty affair, and Skyler was already parched. She twisted the bottle open, ready to quench her thirst.

Emma stopped her, "That water isn't for drinking,"

Skyler was confused, "If it's not for drinking, why did you give it to me?"

The trio rolled their eyes in unison, "Silly, don't you get it? Haven't you ever watched the guys play basketball in high school?"

Skyler was even more perplexed,

Seeing her baffled look, they decided to stop teasing her.

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Chapter 1674

Emma remarked with a conspiratorial wink, "This bottle of water is for that special someone. If a guy you fancy comes along during the game, why not play it bold and offer him a drink? If he takes it, it might just mean he's into you too."

Skyler nodded, the gears turning in her head. But then, without a second thought, she tilted her head back and chugged the entire bottle. Emma nearly lost it, "You get it, and yet you drink it? All in one go? What about making a good impression?"

Skyler shrugged, "Because there won't be any guys I like there."

Amanda chimed in with a smirk, "Never say never, Sky. Wait till you see the parade of hunks, all muscles and charisma, and tell me then if none of them catches your eye."

Right on cue, the announcer's voice boomed through the speakers, "Ladies and gentlemen, please take your seats. The players will be entering the stadium shortly."

And with that, the female cheers erupted as the players made their entrance, loud enough to seemingly shake the ceilings.e2

"The Crestwood University basketball team now enters the arena," announced the voice over the PA system.

The basketball players were an impressive sight, each of them towering over the crowd, with even the shortest standing at six feet tall. Their athletic builds and youthful faces earned cheer after cheer as each one made their entrance.

Once the Crestwood team had taken their places, the announcer introduced the next team, "And now, entering the arena is our very own school's basketball team."

The girls' screams reached a fever pitch. Skyler's eardrums felt like bursting when she caught sight of Xavier.

He was the second player to walk in for their school team. Not in his usual casual clothes, he was sporting the team jersey, highlighting his well-defined muscles.

At six feet two, Xavier wasn't the tallest on the team, nor the shortest, but his striking presence and good looks captured everyone's attention instantly.

Including Skyler's.

"Shoot," she muttered under her breath. She hadn't expected Xavier to be part of the basketball team. Had she known he would be there, she would have fought tooth and nail not to come.

Instinctively, she ducked her head, hoping to avoid his gaze, but their seats were in the front row, highly conspicuous. Xavier's eyes swept over the crowd and inevitably found her. However, it was just a fleeting glance before he looked away.

The cheers escalated as someone started a chant, "Zavier! Zavier! Zavier!"

Skyler's roommates joined in the frenzy, their enthusiasm off the charts. It wasn't until all players were in and the host called for calm that the noise died down.

Only then did Skyler's three roommates notice her lowered head, "Skyler, what's up? You feeling okay?"

Skyler ventured, "Can I leave if I'm not feeling well?"

The trio was unsympathetic, "Faking sick? Not a chance."

Skyler sighed in resignation.

Emma perked up, “The game’s about to start. You don’t want to miss out on the eye candy. If you leave now, you’ll regret it for decades every time you think back.”

The others nodded in agreement, “Absolutely.”

Suddenly, Vivian pointed out, “Look, Desiree is here too. She’s definitely here to cheer on Xavier.

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Chapter 1675

As Skyler heard the name Desiree, she instinctively glanced up.

Sure enough, there was Desiree, sitting in the front row opposite the court. It looked like Desiree was watching her, and as Skyler’s gaze met hers, Desiree’s eyes shifted back to Xavier on the court.

The way she gazed at him, it was clear she was head over heels in love.

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Skyler couldn’t help but wonder what Xavier was like around the girls he fancied. She pondered it for a moment but just couldn’t picture

With the pregame prep done, the match kicked off in no time.

Xavier was in the starting lineup. In less than two minutes, he landed a three-pointer.

Skyler didn’t know much about basketball, but the thunderous applause made it clear that Xavier’s shot was impressive.e2

Emma and her friends were jumping for joy, “Holy cow, Xavier is just too damn cool. Such a shame this charmer’s already taken, or I’d definitely be hooking him up with some refreshments.”

Amanda chimed in, “Even if he was single, he wouldn’t give us a second glance.”

“What do you mean?” asked Emma.

Amanda continued, “Every other player was scoping out the stands as they came in, looking for a pretty face in the crowd. But not Xavier, he didn’t even sneak a peek.”

Vivian sighed, “The more you guys talk, the more I envy Desiree. To bag a guy that’s both hot and loyal.”

“Don’t get me started on Desiree,” Emma cut in. “You know her?”

Emma and Amanda both knew that Desiree had caused trouble for Skyler on the day of the opening ceremony, so they did not have a good impression of Desiree.

Vivian, oblivious to their past issues with Desiree, grinned, “She’s super easy to get along with. I’ll have to introduce you guys sometime.” Emma’s face soured at the mention, “That Desiree might play nice, but who knows what she’s like behind closed doors. Just watch your back, okay?”

“But she’s been nothing but sweet to me,” Vivian protested. “I met her just yesterday, and she already took me out for lunch today. Said we’re gonna be BFFs.”

Given that Vivian wasn’t as tight with the group, Emma didn’t press further.

Then another wave of screams erupted from the crowd – Xavier had sunk another three-pointer. Skyler’s gaze followed Xavier as he dashed across the court. He was young, good-looking, fit, and clearly athletic.

The late autumn sun cast a glow on him as if he was literally shining. At that moment, Skyler was sure Xavier had captured the hearts of many girls present, particularly Desiree, whose eyes seemed ready to leap out and attach themselves to Xavier.

But Xavier was all about the game, not sparing Desiree a single glance.

Time passed until the referee’s whistle signaled halftime. Many girls, including Skyler’s roommates, rushed onto the court with bottled water for their crushes.

While not the most popular, Xavier still had his fair share of admirers offering him water, but he didn't accept a single bottle. He just swept past the girls and walked to the sidelines – towards where Skyler was seated.

The court was below, Skyler's seat was above, and she felt that she could easily see him, but if Xavier didn't look up, he wouldn't be able to spot her.

As Skyler silently prayed that Xavier wouldn't look her way, he grabbed a bottle of water, tilted his head back to drink, and his gaze wandered in her direction.

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Chapter 1676

Skyler was taken aback when something brushed past her head, instinctively ducking down, but then, a moment later, a plastic water bottle-thankfully empty-bounced off her shoulder.

Skyler's gaze snapped up, locking eyes with Xavier's piercing stare. His lips twitched, as if to say, "Chin up, don't be a chicken."

Straightening up, Skyler sat tall and proud, refusing to show any signs of weakness.

Just then, Amanda came trudging back, arms wrapped around a pack of bottled water she'd failed to distribute.

Xavier's attention drifted away, gaze wandering off to some distant point in the stands.

Amanda caught the tail end of his diverted attention and looked at Skyler with widened eyes. "Oh my gosh, Skyler, was Xavier just checking you out?"

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Skyler dismissed it with a wave of her hand. "No, don't be ridiculous."e2

Amanda let out a dramatic sigh. "Such a shame."

The halftime break was fleeting. Some players were benched, but Xavier was still in the game, shining like a star. He played as if fatigue was a foreign

concept to him, racking up more points than anyone else and stealing the spotlight with every move.

The crowd roared his name, their cheers a thunderous wave of admiration. By the end of the game, Xavier had amassed a small army of adoring fans.

Good times always passed quickly, and the game ended without anyone noticing.

Skyler's friends dashed off, eager to hand out their water bottles to the players, only to return, spirits deflated. Out of the three, only Emma managed to give hers away.

Amanda slumped, crushed by the weight of her disappointment. "This is the pits. I didn't catch the eye of the first guy I liked in college. Does this mean I'm destined to be single for the next four years?"

Vivian tried to console her. "You've got me, so it's not all bad."

Emma, barely able to contain her glee, quickly steered the conversation away from her success. "Skyler, didn't you fancy anyone?"

Skyler shook her head. "I'm more into making money."

As if on cue, a sweaty player in a jersey approached Skyler. "Hey, Skyler!"

Her speech during the opening ceremony had made her somewhat of a campus celebrity. All eyes suddenly turned from the court to

her.

Caught off guard, she stammered, "Can I help you?"

The player extended a basketball toward her. "This is for you. I hope you like it."

Skyler was taken aback. "I can't accept this. It wouldn't be right."

But he was adamant. "This is my favorite basketball, and I'm giving it to you because I like you. I want you to be my girlfriend." The irony of the situation was not lost on her. Here she was, receiving a public confession, while her so-called fiancé was still on the court, oblivious to the drama unfolding.

Skyler glanced at Xavier, but he didn't even spare her a look, simply grabbing his stuff and walking away.

Relieved, she turned back to the guy. "I'm sorry, but I'm not interested in dating anyone right now."

The guy's face flushed with embarrassment. He had turned down numerous girls who had approached him with water bottles because he had his sights set on Skyler. He thought his chances were good, but Skyler's rejection was swift and final, leaving no room for doubt.

Determined, he pushed the basketball toward her again. "Please, at least take the ball. Think it over and get back to me."

Skyler stood her ground. "There's no need to think it over. I know what I want, and it's not to be in a relationship. Please, don't waste your time on me."

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Chapter 1677

The man asked: "Do you someone you like?"

"No way." Skyler shot back with a dismissive laugh.

The man visibly relaxed at her response. As long as Skyler wasn't into any other guy, he figured he still had a shot. All he had to do was keep being the good guy, showing her kindness, and eventually, she'd see his worth, maybe even fall for him.

Out of the blue, Amanda gave Skyler a little pinch. "Skyler..."

With a puzzled expression, Skyler turned to Amanda. "What's up?"

The man's gaze followed, a silent plea flickering in his eyes.

Amanda's cheeks flushed under the man's intense stare, and she felt a certainty about her own thoughts. "Skyler, maybe you shouldn't reject him so quickly. Let's think it over back at the dorm."e2

The man's eyes lit up with hope. "Skyler, I'm Logan, a senior in the archaeology department."

Skyler nodded politely. "Hi, Logan."

Logan continued, "People say archaeology doesn't have much of a future, but I love it, and it's stable work. I'm a local from the Capital. An only child. My folks run a small business, we're not rich, but we're comfortable. We own three houses: one I live in with my parents, one they're setting up for me, and another one..."

He seemed ready to spill his entire family's financial status. Skyler had to cut him off. "Logan, you don't need to tell me all this because I've already made it clear. My focus right now is on my studies, not on romance."

"But Skyler, I really like you. Ever since I saw you speak at the opening ceremony, it was love at first sight. I've been too busy with studies to date, but I really want to try with you. If you'd marry me, I'd always treat you well, and whether you work or not would be entirely up to you."

Amanda and the others were dazzled. A tall, handsome guy with property in the Capital, a secure job lined up after graduation, and no romantic baggage. Such a catch would be a hot commodity on the dating scene.

No, how could such a catch even make it to the dating scene? He'd be snapped up by matchmakers long before that.

Rejecting him was like saying no to a lottery jackpot. Amanda and the others could barely stomach the thought of letting a billion slip through their fingers.

Skyler stood up, "I'm sorry." Without leaving any room for fantasy, she walked away.

Amanda and Emma couldn't bear to see the golden bachelor just tossed aside by Skyler. "Logan, don't be discouraged. Skyler's just shy with all these people around. We'll talk to her back at the dorm and get back to you."

Facing rejection in front of their peers didn't faze Logan. "I'd appreciate that."

They exchanged contact details quickly.

“And, Logan, you can’t go accepting any other girls in the meantime. Wait for our good news,” Amanda added.

“There won’t be any other girls,” Logan assured her.

“Great.”

Meanwhile, Desiree caught up to Xavier, who had left the stadium. “Zavier, Zavier... Wait up for me.”

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Chapter 1678

Zavier didn’t even glance her way as he strode on, completely wrapped up in his own world.

With his long legs, he covered ground effortlessly, making Desiree practically sprint to catch up to him. “Zavier...” she panted, finally reaching him.

She had stepped right into his path, which obviously annoyed him. “What’s up?” he asked, not hiding his irritation.

Desiree pulled out her phone and played a video. “Just watch this.”

Zavier wasn’t the least bit interested in the video on her phone, but the voice of Skyler, and the words Logan was saying as he confessed his feelings to her, caught his attention. He spared a glance and saw what looked like a typical high school confession scene, except Skyler’s face was tight with seriousness, not the blush of a flattered girl. It was somehow endearing.

He raised an eyebrow, “And your point is?”

Desiree couldn’t read his thoughts and didn’t dare to be too blunt. “I know Skyler’s your family’s choice for a fiancée, but not everyone knows that. It’s normal for others to express their interest in her.”e2

Zavier gave her a cold look. “I’m tight with your brother, but I hardly know you. Please don’t act like we are friends.”

Stunned by his response, Desiree then heard Xavier add, “I really dislike sneaks like you who stir up trouble behind the scenes. Don’t bring this kind of stuff to me again.”

“Fine, it’s not my place to meddle in your affairs. I just didn’t want you to be deceived,” she said, just as she spotted Skyler coming their way. She quickly concocted a plan, pretending to lose her balance and threw herself into Xavier’s arms.

As Skyler turned the corner and saw Desiree lunge toward Xavier, she was too close for comfort and couldn’t turn back without being seen. Skyler covered her eyes and dashed past them, muttering to herself, “I didn’t see anything. I swear...”

Xavier almost laughed at how absurdly innocent she was, and he didn’t let Desiree cling to him for long, pushing her away firmly.

His gaze turned icy as he looked back at Desiree, “Don’t try these low tricks with me, or you won’t know what hit you.”

Desiree tried to make an excuse, “Xavier, I just...”

“Enough!” he barked. “Go!”

Knowing she had lost her chance, Desiree threw caution to the wind, “Xavier, I like you, and I can handle you not feeling the same. But what about you? Are you really content with settling for someone chosen by your family?”

“It’s none of your business,” Xavier snapped. “Who are you to me, exactly?”

Desiree didn’t know what to say to that.

Who was she to him? Everyone at school thought she was Xavier’s girl, but he had never acknowledged her. It had always been a one-sided affair.

At that moment, Reid, along with Garrett and their group, approached. “Reid, your sister struts around the school like she owns the place, but bringing her drama to Xavier is too much.”

Reid and the others had a good relationship with Garrett and usually hung out together, He had also often advised his sister not to fantasize about men like Xavier. Xavier’s marriage was a sacrifice for the family, and he had no authority to make decisions independently.

But this girl seemed to be under some kind of spell, as if no one else but Xavier would do.

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Chapter 1679

Reid leaned against the locker, his gaze locking with Garrett and Xavier. "Guys, don't sweat it. I'll set her straight. She won't be causing any more trouble for Xavier."

Garrett crossed his arms, a smirk playing on his lips. "Make sure you do. After all, she's the prom queen. She's gotta have some standards."

With a casual flick of his wrist, Garrett followed Xavier out of the hallway. Once they were at a distance, Garrett's curiosity piqued. "I've heard you haven't found the perfect theme song for your game. What exactly are you looking for?"

Xavier shoved his hands into his pockets, his eyes distant. "Something that fits the game. Something that makes you want to play as soon as you hear it."

Garrett thought for a moment. "You've been approaching all these famous musicians. Sure, they're great at music, but that doesn't mean they get gaming. Your player base is mostly college students. Why not scout for talent right here on campus?"

Xavier nodded. "The marketing team's already on it."

Garrett playfully punched Xavier's shoulder. "And here I was, thinking I'd come up with a brilliant idea to earn some brownie points with you. Seems I'm always a step behind. Bummer."e2

Xavier didn't respond, his gaze drifting to the right at the crossroads. An image of Skyler flashed through his mind-her hands over her eyes, mumbling and scampering away like a startled quail.

A woman who didn't fight for her betrothed and fled like a scared bird had no place in the cutthroat Rivera family.

Back in the dorm, as soon as Skyler returned, her roommates Amanda and Emma cornered her.

The moment the door shut, they pounced. "Sky, are you out of your mind?"

Skyler rolled her eyes. "What's it this time?"

Amanda blurted out, "Do you even know who Logan is? Do you have any idea how many girls are after him?"

Without giving Skyler a chance to respond, Amanda continued, "Let me tell you, Logan was my top pick. He's so out of my league I didn't dare approach him, so I settled for someone else. And even that guy didn't accept my gesture. But look at you! You treated a confession from a guy like Logan as if it were trash."

Skyler shrugged. "I'm not interested in who he is or how many girls like him."

Amanda threw her hands up. "Sky, are you completely clueless about love?"

Skyler stood firm. "No matter how great he is or how many girls like him, if I don't like him, that's that."

Emma couldn't stand it any longer. "He's one of the most popular guys on the basketball team, second only to Zavier. Sky, how could you turn down such a catch? If I were you, I'd at least give it a shot. If it doesn't work out, then break up. You've got to play the field while you're young, or you'll regret it when you're older and no one wants to date you."

Skyler knew their intentions were good. "Guys, we all have our own ways of thinking. If you want to date, go for it. But please, stop trying to persuade me."

Skyler's priorities were different. Love was a luxury she couldn't afford. Her focus was on earning money to bring her younger sister here, not on romance.

Amanda softened. "We're not trying to push you into anything, just reminding you that life is short. You've got to have some fun."

"I'll keep that in mind," Skyler said with a forced smile, grabbing her bag.

"Out again?" they asked in unison.

"Yeah, I've got a tutoring gig tonight."

Amanda sighed. "Be safe. And don't come back too late."

Emma's eyes lit up with excitement. "Mom/just got her bonus and sent me some cash. How about I treat you both to some barbecue tonight?"

Skyler wanted to decline, to save every penny, but Amanda had already eagerly agreed. With no room to argue, Skyler accepted, "Alright."

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Chapter 1680

Skyler was a maestro of melodies, her fingers dancing over strings and keys with an ease that spoke of certificates stamped with international acclaim. Her skills made her a tutor in high demand, commanding an hourly rate that would make many a nine-to-fiver green with envy.

Her teaching days were neatly packed: two lessons, two hours, and a paycheck that felt more like a jackpot than a wage.

Two hours may not sound like much, but wrangling kids was more about taming wild spirits than ticking clocks. By the time the final note rang out and her students scampered home, Skyler could feel the day weighing on her like a heavy coat.

She needed a third gig, but this time, something that would work her muscles instead of milking her mind. She couldn't afford to crash and burn – not with her own studies. Grades mattered just as much as greenbacks, and failing was a luxury she couldn't afford.

Class let out at nine, a time when the city – The Capital – was just hitting its stride, pulsing with the promise of the night.

Her phone buzzed: Emma's WhatsApp message. [Skyler, you free?]

[Just got out,] she typed back.e2

A location pin popped up, followed by, [Me and Amanda are here. Hurry up. Craving anything? We'll order. The grill's hot.]

Worried that Skyler might be indecisive, Emma quickly sent a photo of the menu.

One glance, and Skyler replied, [Grilled chicken wings.]

[Anything else you fancy?] Emma prodded.

[Whatever you girls want,] Skyler texted back.

[Okay. Come quick.]

[Will do.]

—

Skyler mapped the route – just a mile to the barbecue joint, a brisk ten-minute walk if she cut through the park. She pocketed her phone and picked up the pace.

It was on a deserted stretch of road that trouble found her, in the form of goons who looked like they were bom from the very shadows of the city. Skyler’s grip on her bag tightened, her eyes darting for an escape.

“You Skyler?” one of the thugs grunted.

She feigned confusion. “Skyler? You’ve got the wrong girl.”

A photo was tossed in her direction, and a mocking laugh followed. “Nice try, kid.”

The picture showed her at the game earlier that day, snapped by someone sitting right across. It gotta be Desiree. The same Desiree who nursed a grudge like it was her lifeline.

It didn’t take a genius to connect the dots.

Skyler was scared, sure, but she forced herself to remain calm. “Desiree sent you?”

The goons seemed taken aback by her quick deduction. “Quit stalling,” one snarled. “You got two choices.”

“What choices?” Skyler asked, her heart pounding.

“First, you drop out. Go back to wherever the hell you crawled from.”

Not an option. Not up for debate.

“And the second?” Skyler’s voice barely shook.

The thug leered, “The second is we drag you into the park and have a little ‘party.’ Then we send the pictures, maybe a video, to your school.”

Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband

Score 9.9

"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband" What’s better than a classic