

## **Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband Chapter 1691**

Posted by **AdminM**, 1737 Views, Released on December 18, 2023

### Chapter 1691

Tina gave Skyler a nudge and a wink as they stepped out of the director's office. "Come on, let's go meet the big cheese. Mr. Rivera, our CEO, is quite the young gun. Might seem a bit prickly at first glance, but he's a straight shooter- always fair with us minions."

Skyler just couldn't find the right words to respond.

They were at the CEO's office door in no time. Tina knocked, announcing their arrival. "Mr. Rivera, Free's here."

Skyler's gaze immediately landed on a familiar, towering figure. With the surname Rivera being common as muck, it never crossed her mind that the CEO of a gaming company would be-Zavier.

Zavier caught sight of her too. "You? You're Free?"

She nodded, "Yes, Mr. Rivera. Pleased to meet you."

Tina looked from one to the other, eyebrows raised. "You two know each other?"e2

Both of them attended Capital College, and being equally outstanding, it wasn't surprising that they would know each other.

Dispensing with further introductions, Tina suggested, "Well, since you're acquainted, let's get down to brass tacks."

Zavier fixed his eyes on Skyler. "Did you single-handedly craft those lyrics and melodies you sent us?"

"That's right," Skyler confirmed.

"And what sparked the idea for this creation?"

The game had been around for a while, with Zavier commissioning scores of theme songs. Many had hit the Marc, but none resonated with him quite like Skyler's. Both the tune and the words had nailed the game's essence.

“The inspiration definitely came from your game,” Skyler said.

“You game?” Xavier seemed surprised.

“Not until recently. I downloaded it and played for a few days specifically to write the theme song.”

“Just a few days?”

That she could produce such a fitting piece for the game theme after only a few days was testament to Skyler’s exceptional musical talent. But Skyler mistook his astonishment for skepticism. “If you’re questioning my integrity, Mr. Rivera, I’ve got nothing to say. But maybe hear out my creative philosophy before casting doubt.”

Catching the misunderstanding, Xavier chose not to correct her. “Continue, then.”

Skyler took out her notebook, containing notes she made while creating this piece, and earnestly talked about the inspiration and ideas behind her creative process.

When she finished, Tina couldn’t help but applaud. “Free, you’re incredible! You’ve hit on all the key points Mr. Rivera’s been harping on. We just couldn’t find anyone to satisfy his standards until now.”

Zavier, not usually one to mince words, was generous in his praise for genuine talent. “Your work is the first that I’ve been completely satisfied with since the game’s launch. It’s spot-on for our theme.”

Skyler was taken aback by the rare compliment. “Thank you.”

Zavier observed her, noting the stark contrast between her usual timidity and the confident, articulate professional before him. When Skyler talked shop, she shone, her enthusiasm infectious, commanding everyone’s full attention.

Sensing such potential in Skyler, Xavier’s admiration grew. “Your work is excellent. I’m taking it. Name your price, and we’ll do our best to accommodate. “Just stick to the terms in the call for submissions,” Skyler said.

“No other demands?”

“None

## **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

Chapter 1692

Skyler was one to stick to her guns-what was hers, she'd accept without hesitation. What wasn't, she wouldn't covet for a moment more.

“You know you can ask for more,” Xavier said, his tone casual as he leaned back in his leather chair.

“Thanks, Mr. Rivera, for the offer, but there are rules here. Just because we know each other, doesn't mean you should cut me the fattest slice of the pie,” Skyler replied, her voice firm yet polite.

“I'm not offering you a better deal because we're acquainted. It's because I truly admire your work,” Xavier insisted, his eyes meeting hers across the desk.

Hearing his genuine respect for her art, Skyler's face broke into a warm, sincere smile. “I appreciate your kind words about my work, Mr. Rivera. But honestly, I'm more than happy with what the company has offered me.”

“Idiot!” Xavier blurted out.

Her lyrics and melodies were worth their weight in gold, far more than his initial offer. She could easily demand a higher bounty, yet there she was, stubbornly settling for less. If that wasn't foolish, what was?e2

Skyler remained silent, caught off-guard by his outburst.

“Since you have no objections, Tina will take you to sign the contract. After the contract is signed, we will make the initial payment. The remaining balance will be paid once you cooperate with us in producing the song and after it is released.” Xavier explained, returning to business.

“Got it,” Skyler nodded.

“Tina, you'll be coordinating with Skyler from here on out,” Xavier instructed.

“Skyler?” Tina echoed, her brows furrowing slightly.

“Yeah, ‘Free’ is her,” Xavier said, revealing Skyler’s alias.

Tina’s gaze shifted to Skyler, a realization dawning on her. “Wait, you’re not the Skyler-the one the Rivera family picked out as the fiancée, are you?”

Skyler had used her alias when submitting her work, hoping to keep her connection to the Rivera family under wraps. Yet, here it was, out in the open. Skyler sighed internally.

Fortunately, it seemed Xavier got her, “In the workplace, she’s just ‘Free.’ Don’t let her other identity overshadow her professional capabilities.”

“I understand,” Tina replied, nodding.

Skyler couldn’t help but glance at Xavier. Hearing such words from him was something she’d never dared to imagine before.

He was like her, bound by family obligations. Yet, he was also different from her. While she suffered in silence, he fought back in his own way.

Maybe Xavier wasn’t as reckless as she’d once thought. Perhaps this was his way of protecting himself.

The contract signing went off without a hitch, and soon after, Skyler received her advance. It might have been pocket change for Xavier, but for her, it was a small fortune.

The first thing Skyler thought of was her sister, Iris, and the possibility of bringing her to the Capital to live together.

But life was unpredictable.

When her messages to Iris went unanswered and the video call was picked up by her mother, Skyler’s heart sank. “Skyler, have you got nothing better to do than to call us while you’re stuffed and bored?” her mother’s voice came through, cold and mechanical, devoid of warmth.

Skyler had bought Iris that phone with her own savings, and the rest of the Blue family wasn’t supposed to know about it. The fact that Barbara now had the phone meant something had happened to Iris.

Panic set in, and Skyler couldn’t care less about where she was or who was listening. “Where’s Iris?”

“She’s fine, and you don’t need to worry about her,” Barbara’s voice was as chilly as ever. “Right now, we’re taking good care of her. She’s living the high life. Just remember why we sent you to the Capital and focus on what you need to do. Don’t stick your nose where it doesn’t belong.”

Skyler didn’t trust a word Barbara said. “Tell me the truth, what have you done to Iris?”

## **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

Chapter 1693

Barbara’s voice crackled through the phone with a barely contained fury, Skyler, listen to me carefully. If you don’t get your act together and do what needs to be done, you can kiss any chance of seeing your little sister goodbye.”

Skyler snapped back, “Just remember, if anything happens to Iris, don’t expect to get any favors out of me with the Rivera family.”

Barbara let out a cold laugh, “Skyler, you’re not big enough to talk tough with me yet. I’m giving you one more month. If I don’t hear any good news about you and Zavier, I’m sending your sister abroad, and you’ll never be able to find her again.”

With that, Barbara ended the call.

Skyler tried to video call back, but the screen just flashed as the call was declined, and when she tried to phone, a message indicated that the number was already powered off.

Skyler’s face went pale with worry.

What to do? If they really sent Iris abroad, how would her little sister survive all alone?

Suddenly, a deep male voice broke her train of thought, “You look awful. Feeling under the weather?”

Skyler turned towards the source of the voice and opened her mouth to ask, “Can you help me with something?”

But the words died on her lips, and she swallowed them back down. Asking for help felt more daunting than trying to figure it out herself.

Zavier asked, "Heading back to school?"

Skyler's mind was so preoccupied with thoughts of Iris that she barely registered Zavier's words and just nodded absently.

Zavier couldn't stand her silent, downcast demeanor, "Skyler, no one in this world has sympathy for the weak, nor do they love them."

Skyler knew that, which was why she was striving to become stronger-to protect not only herself but also the ones she loved. But growth wasn't overnight, and many issues couldn't be solved by just 'getting better.'

Now that she had money and could support Iris financially, she realized it wasn't as simple as bringing her sister to the Capital. That family of leeches would never let the two sisters go until they'd squeezed out every last drop of value from them.

So, she had to find another way.

Zavier continued, "If you want to be respected and loved, then you have to make yourself strong. Otherwise, anyone can walk all over you and push you into an abyss from which you'll never recover."

Skyler bit her lip, "Thanks for your concern. I know what I have to do."

Zavier inquired, "Worried about your sister?"

Skyler, taken aback, glared at him, "How do you know about my sister?"

Zavier revealed, "I had someone look into your family a while back and learned a bit about the situation between you

Skyler pressed, "What else do you know?"

and your sister."

Zavier said, "Your parents sent her to a boarding school. She only gets to come home once a month, and they don't allow any communication devices, so you'll have a hard time contacting her."

Skyler, with a hint of anxiety, "Is she really just at boarding school?"

Zavier shrugged, "What benefit would I get from lying to you?"

Relieved to hear her sister was safe, Skyler's composure returned, "Thank you."

Zavier warned, "Just because you signed the contract doesn't mean you're out of the woods. Go back home today. Come back to the office on Monday, and if there are any changes needed for your songs, you'll have to work with Tina."

Skyler nodded, "That's what I'm supposed to do."

Zavier offered, "Shall I drive you back to school?"

Skyler shook her head, "No need. The school's not far. I'll just take the bus."

Zavier accepted her decision, "Alright then."

## **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

### Chapter 1694

Skyler wasn't one to turn down a free ride, but she wasn't heading back to campus just yet. She had a shift waiting for her at a nearby coffee shop in the bustling business district.

Time had slipped away from her, and now she was cutting it close to the start of her shift. With swift strides, she made her way to the café.

As a temp, she hadn't graduated to the art of coffee crafting just yet. Her role was more about waiting tables, keeping the place spotless, and handling all sorts of odd jobs.

What she didn't expect was to bump into Zavier again, so soon after their last encounter.

Zavier had set up a coffee meeting and, of all the joints in town, he chose the café where Skyler worked. If Skyler didn't know any better, she might have suspected Zavier of engineering these run-ins on purpose.

Even though Skyler never felt any shame in waitressing, she couldn't help but wonder if Xavier, with his air of nobility, would look down on her job. So, after delivering his coffee, she beat a hasty retreat.

She thought her cap and mask would render her unrecognizable, especially with Xavier deep in conversation. However, against all odds, Xavier's eyes locked onto hers and he called out, "Skyler!"<sup>e2</sup>

Pretending not to hear, she quickened her pace, but Xavier reached out, gripping her arm. "Playing the stranger now?"

Skyler glanced away, hoping they weren't the center of attention. "Sir, can I help you with something?"

Zavier raised an eyebrow, giving her a once-over. "Straight from my place to slinging coffee here. Don't you get tired, Skyler?"

"Tired, sure," she admitted.

It was tiring, indeed, but Skyler needed money. The thought of earning money to provide a better life for her sister made the fatigue seem insignificant.

"You're tired and yet you're working all these jobs?" Xavier probed.

Skyler shrugged. "There are plenty of people out there more worn out than me, but they keep pushing for a living, never daring to stop."

Zavier released her arm, saying nothing more.

Skyler didn't wait around, making her escape quickly.

The man sitting across from Xavier finally spoke up. "Zavier, if Hudson finds out that his chosen fiancée for you is working in a place like this, you know how furious he'll be."

Zavier took a sip of his coffee, unfazed. "She's earning her keep honestly, not stealing or doing anything disgraceful. What's the problem?"

The man chuckled. "For the average Joe, no problem at all. But she's Skyler, your betrothed picked out by Hudson."



“Zavier, if someone with an agenda finds out and blasts it online, it could hit the Rivera family’s stock. Even a single point drop, and she couldn’t make up the loss with a lifetime of waitressing.”

Zavier smiled thinly. “What’s her job got to do with the Rivera family’s stocks?”

The man leaned in. “You know the stakes. By not stopping her and acknowledging her here, are you aiming to blow her cover, stir the pot, and cause a loss for the Rivera family? That would surely get Hudson to kick her to the curb.”

Zavier’s gaze turned icy. “Is that who you think I am?”

The man shrugged. “You’re not, but that doesn’t mean you wouldn’t use such tactics.”

“If I want to annul the engagement, do I really need to frame a helpless girl?” Zavier stated flatly.

The other man simply said, “Do you?”

Their conversation was cut short by Zavier’s ringing phone. It was the old butler. “Zavier, Hudson requests your and Miss Skyler’s immediate presence at the family estate.”

## **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

### **Chapter 1695**

Zavier replied curtly, “I’m tied up.”

The seasoned butler’s expression was grave as he spoke, “Miss Skyler’s waitressing gig at the café has come to the attention of Mr. Hudson. If we don’t nip this in the bud, the consequences could be dire.”

A chill swept over Zavier’s features. “Who told you Skyler’s been moonlighting at a café?”

The butler hesitated, “Mr. Hudson just received some photographs. As for who sent them, he didn’t say, so I’m in the dark there.”

Zavier hung up the call and shot a frosty glare at the man opposite him, "You've grown bold, haven't you? Betraying me to my face?"

The man responded, "Zavier, I'm doing this for your own good, and for Skyler's. If I don't intervene now, the whole affair of Skyler working outside could be twisted and eventually reach Mr. Hudson, and then both of you could be in a world of trouble."

Zavier understood all too well, but he didn't believe there was anything shameful about Skyler holding down a job, "Skyler..."

Before he could finish, Skyler approached quickly, "Sir, what can I do for you?"

Zavier commanded, "Get out of that uniform and come back to Rivera's Manor with me."

Skyler was puzzled, "To Rivera's Manor right now? What happened?"

Zavier revealed the issue at hand, "Hudson knows about your café job."

Realizing the gravity of the situation, Skyler quickly changed clothes, excused herself to her supervisor, and left with Zavier.

Seated in the Rivera family's car, Skyler was restless. Sensing her discomfort, Zavier reassured her, "You were working a decent job, and there's nothing to worry about."

Skyler was less optimistic, "Since the Rivera family hasn't disclosed my identity publicly and there are no photos of me online, I thought my part-time job wouldn't tarnish the Rivera name...."

Zavier cut her off, "Spare me the explanation"

Skyler bit her lower lip anxiously, drawing blood, but she kept biting.

Zavier tugged at her gently, "Silence is even less helpful."

Skyler posed the question that was eating at her, "How did Hudson find out I was working at the café?"

Zavier admitted, "The man **with** us earlier spilled the beans."

Skyler fell silent.

Zavier clarified, "It wasn't my doing."

Skyler responded softly, "I didn't say it was you."

Zavier probed further, "Are you that short on cash?"

Skyler admitted, "Yes."

Zavier explained, "In the past, when your parents didn't give you money, you had no recourse, but now, it's different." Skyler was curious, "How so?"

Zavier revealed, "Because you're my fiancée."

Skyler chuckled, "And what does that change?"

Zavier proposed, "With that status, you could get things from the Blue family that were previously out of reach." Skyler refused, "I don't want their things."

Zavier laughed **at** her stubbornness, "Skyler, I'd love to crack open your head and see just how your brain works."

Skyler retorted, "**You** don't need to keep belittling me. I know I'm not that capable."

Zavier argued, "What do you mean you **don't** want their things? They sent you to the Capital to cement an alliance with the Rivera family, **and** do you have any idea how much they've gained?"

Skyler shook her head, "No clue."

Zavier explained, "The moment the **union** between the Blue and Rivera families was announced, your Blues secured several major contracts they'd **previously only dreamt** of. Those contracts are as good as gold. If they manage them well, those projects alone could dominate the Southern Port **region and** elevate the Blue family to new heights."

**"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

Chapter 1696

Zavier couldn't shake the feeling that all the credit for those projects should have been given to Skyler, but there she was, blissfully unaware, thinking they had nothing to do with her.

Skyler, "Oh..."

Oh? All she had was a single 'oh' in response. Zavier couldn't be bothered to engage further.

Before long, they arrived back at Rivera Manor.

The old butler was waiting at the gate, hastening to greet their car, "Mr. Zavier, Miss Skyler."

Skyler greeted him, "Hello."

The old butler sighed, "Miss Skyler, I don't mean to overstep, but this is no small matter. It's not just about the prestige of the Blue family but also the Rivera family's reputation. Just think about it. If word gets out that the future lady of the Rivera family is moonlighting at a coffee shop, where does that leave the Rivera family's dignity?"e2

"I'm so sorry." Skyler knew, which was why she never used her real name when working. She thought her anonymity would suffice, but there was no such thing as a secret, and somehow the news had reached Hudson's ears.

The old butler, "You don't need to apologize to me, talk to Hudson. He's in the back garden having tea. Come with me."

They were quickly led by the old butler to the garden. Hudson sat in the gazebo, sipping his tea. Instead of getting angry when he saw them approach, he greeted Skyler with a smile, "My dear, come join me for some tea."

Skyler, "Grandpa, I'm sorry."

Hudson chuckled, "Why apologize when I'm inviting you for tea?"

Skyler, "I..."

Zavier took a seat first, cutting Skyler off, "Grandpa, don't blame Skyler. It was my idea for her to earn some money outside."

Skyler was stunned, her eyes lifting to meet Xavier's. She truly hadn't expected Xavier to speak up for her.

Hudson gave Xavier a cold glance, "So you realize it's your fault?"

Zavier, "We aren't stealing or committing any crimes. We're earning money with our own hands, and I don't see anything wrong with that."

Each word from Zavier seemed to tread on Hudson's last nerve, but Hudson didn't show his annoyance. Instead, he turned to Skyler, "My child, it was thoughtless of me not to consider your expenses in the Capital."

Skyler felt even more guilty hearing this, "Grandpa, I should have thought it through. It's not your fault."

With a wave of his hand, the old butler handed over a card, "Miss Skyler, this card is from Mr. Hudson for your personal expenses. There are five million dollars in there for you to use, and Mr. Hudson will make sure to top it up every month."

Such a large sum made Skyler hesitant to accept. She wanted to be self-sufficient, not a parasite, "Grandpa Hudson, I don't need the money. You don't have to do this for me."

Hudson sighed deeply, his voice filled with emotion, "This card is a small token of my affection for you. Accept it. You don't know how it pains me to see you struggle out there."

At this point, Skyler had no choice but to accept, "Thank you, Grandpa."

Hudson continued, "If you need anything in the future, and you're too shy to tell me, just tell the Butler. Don't hesitate."

Clutching the bank card, Skyler knew Hudson was forbidding her from working outside. Despite her reluctance, she had no option but to agree, "Thank you."

### **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

Chapter 1697

Hudson nodded in approval, his eyes then shifted towards Zavier. The gentle gaze he had a moment ago turned into a stern glare. "Skyler is your fiancée."

You've let her fend for herself out there, struggling. You need to have a serious think about your responsibilities."

Zavier lounged back in his chair, stretching his legs out with a casual air. "Grandpa, you look beat. Aren't you tired?"

Hudson replied, "If you youngsters had half the gumption of your brother, I wouldn't have to work myself to the bone."

Mention of his late brother darkened Zavier's expression momentarily, and he chose to remain silent.

Hudson continued, "Tonight, you two are staying in. We'll have dinner together, just family time."

Skyler replied with a simple, "Okay."

"I've got things on my plate, no time for dinner." Zavier stood up, turning to Sky. "Weren't we supposed to have a date tonight? Are we flaking out now?"

Skyler was taken aback. When did she agree to a date?

Overhearing their supposed date plans, Hudson couldn't hide his delight, "Well, if that's the case, go on and tend to your business. Come back for dinner another night when you can spare an old man some of your time."

Skyler nodded again, "Okay."

Zavier, with a tug at Sky's arm, led the way out. Once out of earshot, Zavier released her. "Heading back to campus?"

"That's the only place left to go."

"Need a ride?"

"Thanks."

During the car ride, silence reigned. After a while, Zavier finally broke it. "Working so hard for money, you planning to bring your sister to the Capital?"

Skyler nodded.

“And you think just wanting to bring her over is enough?”

She didn't respond. Skyler had always thought she could simply bring her sister over, but today's failed attempt to reach Iris had been a sobering reminder that things were not that simple. There were too many obstacles in their way, and only by becoming stronger could she hope to change their circumstances.

Zavier offered, “I can help, but...”

Skyler quickly interjected, “If you can help bring my sister to the Capital, I'll do anything you ask.”

“Anything?” Zavier asked with a wry chuckle.

Skyler nodded vigorously, “Yes.”

Zavier smirked, “Skyler, never underestimate the depths of human depravity. Never agree to ‘anything’ so lightly.”

But Skyler was determined, “For Iris, there's nothing I fear.”

“I'll think of a way, but I can't guarantee anything,” Zavier said, tempering expectations.

Skyler asked, “What's your plan?”

“Don't worry about the how. Just wait for the results,” he replied cryptically.

Skyler said, “Thank you! If you ever need anything, just say the word. I'll do whatever I can to help.”

Zavier looked outside, “Stop worrying about others for a change. What's your plan going forward?”

After pondering, Skyler answered, “I can't keep working at the café, and my tutoring gig is probably on borrowed time too. It's bound to be discovered sooner or later.”

Zavier stared at her, “Hudson just gave you a check for five million. It's yours to spend as you please.”

Skyler laughed lightly, "If I spend this money, it will be even harder to break free from the control of the family in the future."

After a pause, Xavier suggested, "You've got a real talent for music. If you gave it your all, you could probably make something of

for believing in me," Skyler said with gratitude.

## **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

### Chapter 1698

Zavier casually extended his right hand, pressing a button on the central console to retrieve a business card, which he handed to Skyler. "I've got a buddy in the music industry. If you need anything, give him a call. Don't bother dropping my name. He's all about the talent, not the connections."

Skyler took the card and her eyes widened. The name was familiar: a renowned wunderkind in the music scene, famous for his contemporary twists on classical tunes.

Talented folks often march to the beat of their own drum, and this guy was no exception. People who'd worked with him said he was a tough nut to crack, but there was no denying the fire in his tracks. Despite his rep, the line to collaborate with him snaked around the block. Landing a gig with him could mean playing to her strengths, and maybe she wouldn't have to worry about the constant tug-of-war between the two families anymore.

Skyler was genuinely thrilled. "You know Carter?"

Zavier shrugged, "What's so surprising about that?"

To Xavier, it was a simple gesture, but for Skyler, it was a lifeline thrown to her in deep waters. "Zavier, I really can't thank you enough."

"Just do your thing," Xavier replied. "Show some guts, make a name for yourself. When you're your own boss, you won't have to live at the mercy of others."e2

"Thank you." Skyler's voice was heartfelt. She hadn't expected the first person to tell her to stand on her own two feet would be Xavier, who didn't seem to take much of a shine to her initially.



“Don’t thank me. Thank yourself,” Xavier said with a nonchalant tone.

Skyler nodded.

Having quit her odd jobs, Skyler took a couple of days to regroup and then reached out to Carter. She didn’t mention Xavier’s referral, but Carter cut right to the Lucas at their meeting. “Anyone Xavier sends my way has gotta have some chops. So, what have you got? Any tracks to show?”

Skyler fidgeted, her portfolio was still a work in progress. “I don’t have any finished pieces just yet.”

“Everyone starts somewhere,” Carter said, unfazed. “If you’ve got the talent, I’ve got the space for you to grow.”

“I’ll work hard.”

“I hear you play a slew of instruments?”

“I do.”

“That’s not always a good thing,” Carter mused. “With music, it’s all about the depth, not the breadth. There’s a piano over there. Play me something, and let’s hear your musicality.”

“Sure,” Skyler replied, walking towards the piano but couldn’t resist asking, “Mr. Carter, how did you come by all this info about me?”

Carter just smirked, “What do you think?”

“If you don’t feel comfortable telling me-”

“I’ve known Xavier for years, and he’s never sung anyone’s praises before. You’re the first.”

So it was Xavier. Pretending to keep his distance, he was quietly paving the way for her.

Skyler didn’t press further. She took a seat at the piano and played a simple, yet beautiful melody. After the last note lingered and faded, Carter spoke, “I was expecting something more complex, something to prove Xavier right, but you went with something straightforward.”

Skyler said, “You weren’t looking for flashy technique, just a sense of musicality.” Overdoing it in front of someone like Carter was a rookie mistake. Skyler had done her homework before coming, and she knew Carter’s likes and dislikes.

Carter chuckled, “Looks like Xavier owes me another dinner.”

“So, does this mean I’m in?” Skyler ventured.

“Sticking around is easy,” Carter said with a challenge in his tone. “Producing something worthwhile, that’s what’ll determine if you stay for the long haul.”

1/2

10:01

Chapter 1698

Skyler got the message loud and clear. “Thank you, Mr. Carter. I won’t let you  
down.”

### **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

Chapter 1699

Carter handed an A4 sheet of paper to Skyler with a casual flick of his wrist. “Take a look at this.”

Skyler took the sheet, and then Carter’s voice followed, “A TV series has approached me to be the music director. Here are a few lyrics. Can you compose music for them?”

Glancing down, Skyler saw just a few lines without any specified scene, leaving her unsure of the desired emotion. “Which show is it?”

Carter replied, “It’s still in post-production. Haven’t seen the footage myself. But it’s adapted from a novel, if you’ve got the time you might wanna check out the original book.”

Skyler nodded, “Sure thing.”

Stepping out of Carter's music studio, she looked up at the sky. Winter had its grip on the Capital, the biting wind slicing across her face like a knife. The weather forecast promised heavy snow tonight, and it seemed to be closing in quickly.

Picking up her pace toward the subway station, Skyler aimed to catch a train back to campus. But barely a few steps out, she heard her roommate Amanda calling out, "Skyler, what are you doing here?"

She turned and saw Amanda waving. "Came for a gig. What about you?"

Amanda gestured to the middle-aged couple by her side. "This is my mom and dad. They thought the Capital's too cold and worried I might freeze, so they came to see me. Mom, Dad, this is my roommate Skyler, the one I'm always telling you about." Skyler greeted them, "Hi."

The couple, Dominic and Tracey, smiled warmly. "Hey there, Skyler. Our Amanda never stops talking about how good you've been to her. Thanks for looking after her."

Skyler shrugged off their thanks. "We're all here to help each other. Don't mention it."

Amanda hooked her arm around Skyler's. "You got plans this afternoon?"

Skyler shook her head. "Nope."

"Perfect, then you'll join us for dinner. Can't pass up a family feast."

Skyler hesitated, "You guys should spend some quality time together. I don't want to intrude."

"Nonsense," Amanda insisted. "They're here for a whole week. And they've asked to treat you and Emma to dinner. I've already told Emma, so you can't bail on us."

Before Skyler could protest further, Tracey chimed in, "Skyler, Amanda was our little girl, never left our side before heading to the Capital for college. She was all alone, in a strange place, and without you and your friends, she'd probably be homesick all the time. We just want to show our gratitude with a nice meal, so please, don't say no."

Given Tracey's heartfelt words, Skyler found it impossible to refuse.

To make it convenient for their return to campus, Amanda's family chose a well-known restaurant nearby.

At the dinner table, Dominic and Tracey were the epitome of hospitality, particularly towards Skyler and Emma, but their primary concern was for Amanda.

Amanda had a soft spot for shrimp, but found them a hassle to peel. "You're such a princess, still can't peel your own shrimp," Dominic teased as he peeled them one by one into Amanda's bowl. "What are you going to do when you get married and want shrimp but there's nobody to peel them for you?"

"Why would I need to get married when I have you and Mom to spoil me?" Amanda retorted playfully, popping a shrimp into her mouth. "Dad, it's delicious."

Tracey wiped her daughter's mouth with a napkin. "If you don't want to get married, that's fine by us."

"Really?" Amanda's eyes lit up.

"Yep," Tracey smiled. "Your father and I will just have to work a bit harder, save up some more money, and we can always find you a son-in-law to come live with us. That way, you'll never have to leave and be mistreated elsewhere."

## **"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**

Chapter 1700

Amanda chuckled, "You got it. Mom and Dad, you guys better step up your game. Whether I'm the bully or the bullied depends on you."

Tracey playfully tapped her daughter's forehead, "We didn't raise you to be a bully, nor to be bullied."

Amanda replied with a grin, "Mom, I'm just joking. Don't take it seriously. Dad, hurry up with that, I've finished mine."

Dominic reassured her, “Almost done, sweetie. Eat slowly, don’t make yourself sick.”

Skyler watched the family of three with eyes that began to well up with envy. This was the scene she had longed for all her life.

She didn’t desire wealth, she had no interest in inheriting a family business, nor did she want to be part of any prestigious marriage. All she yearned for was a happy, healthy family where her parents showered her with love and affection, and where her sister could grow up strong and well. Yet, this picture of familial warmth, so common in other households, seemed like a luxury to her.

Throughout her life, she had never felt the genuine love and care from her parents. Now, she couldn’t even reach her own sister. She worried her sister might be enduring the same hardships she had faced, and the thought alone turned Skyler’s face pale. It was Tracey who noticed something was amiss, “Skyler, what’s wrong? Are you feeling okay?”

Skyler shook her head and forced a smile, “I’m fine.”

Tracey, not convinced, checked her forehead, “You’re burning up. How can you be fine? Dominic, the thermometer.”

Dominic quickly pulled a thermometer from his bag. “Here, let’s check your temperature.”

Tracey motioned to Skyler, “Come sit over here, honey. Let me take your temperature.”

Skyler, who was used to dealing with illness alone, felt a bit overwhelmed, “I’m really okay. I can do it myself.”

But Tracey wouldn’t hear of it and inserted the thermometer under Skyler’s arm, “Hold it there for a few minutes.”

Skyler mumbled a thank you, feeling like a burden, “Sorry to trouble you.”

Tracey brushed it off, “It’s no trouble at all.”

Dominic chimed in, “I’ll ask the kitchen to prepare some chicken soup. It’s better for a fever.”

Even strangers were so kind to her. Skyler blinked, attempting to force back the tears swirling in her eyes, but a few drops escaped her control and fell.

Tracey, feeling Skyler's forehead again, "Sweetheart, you must be feeling terrible, aren't you?"

Skyler, savoring the warmth of the moment, instinctively nuzzled into Tracey's hand, "Mom..."

If only she could call this woman 'Mom'. If only her own mother would show her this much concern...

Amanda leaned in, "Skyler, are you delirious? This is my mom."

Skyler apologized quickly, "Sorry."

Amanda waved it off, "Don't be. I just don't want you getting confused. Stop crying and don't be scared. My dad's a pediatrician and my mom's an OB-GYN, but they're really good at bringing down fevers. I used to get sick a lot as a kid, and they always took care of me. You'll be okay in no time."

Skyler whispered, "I'm not scared." But deep down, she envied Amanda for having such wonderful parents.

Skyler did have a fever. It spiked to 39 degrees, but with Dominic and Tracey's care, taking medicine, and a night's rest in her dorm room, the fever broke.

When she woke up, the world was blanketed in white. A heavy snowfall had come in the night, yet she hadn't heard a thing.

She stood by the window, gazing at the snow-covered world outside.

**"Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband"**