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Zavier chuckled, "Where did you hear that?"

Skyler shot him a glare. "Are we going or not?"

"Alright, alright. Miss Skyler commands, and I dare not disobey," Zavier replied with a hint of playful sarcasm.

Skyler got into the car, and quickly fastened her seatbelt, afraid that he might drive fast again. Fortunately, Zavier seemed to be behaving this time, driving with steady hands.

As they neared Kalene's place, he finally spoke up. "Carter's a married man, Skyler. Don't let his kindness fool you into playing the other

woman."

Skyler's eyes blazed as she stared at Zavier. "Do you even hear yourself, Zavier? Is that what you think of me? For the last time, my relationship with Carter is purely mentorship. Nothing more."d2

"I'm just looking out for you," Zavier replied, taken aback by her fiery response. It was rare to see Skyler lose her cool, and despite the seriousness, there was something inexplicably endearing about it.

He was aware there was nothing between her and Carter at the moment, but given how much time they spent together, and considering her charm, he couldn't rule out the possibility of Carter developing inappropriate feelings. As her fiancé, he felt it was his duty to warn her. He couldn't just stand by as she potentially walked into a trap.

"Don't worry. I won't," Skyler said.

"Are you really mad?" Zavier asked, half-teasing.

"No, I'm not." she huffed, and Zavier couldn't help but laugh at her adorable indignation.

Skyler bit her lip in frustration. She was genuinely upset, and here he was, laughing. She decided to give him the silent treatment.

Ever since Samuel passed away, Kalene had been struggling. It had been a while since Skyler last saw her, and it was clear that Kalene was not faring well.

Yet, the sight of them together brought a smile to Kalene's face. She had prepared a lavish spread for their visit. "Skyler, Zavier tells me you've been staying at the dorms. The campus must be empty during the break. Are you sure you're safe there all alone?"

"Don't worry about me, Kalene. The campus security is always there. It's perfectly safe," Skyler reassured her.

Kalene turned to Zavier. "And you, as the man of the house, shouldn't you take better care of your fiancée?"

Zavier sipped his soup, seemingly nonchalant, yet his gaze never strayed far from Skyler. "I've told her to move into my place, but she doesn't want to. What can I do?"

Not wanting to discuss their personal matters in front of an elder, Skyler quickly changed the subject. "You've lost weight. You should eat more. Can't neglect your health."

Understanding Skyler's discomfort, Kalene let the topic slide. "Yes, let's eat. I had these Southern Port dishes prepared especially for you. Make sure you eat up."

Skyler smiled and reached for the food, just as Zavier nudged her under the table. She looked up at him, her eyes asking, "What's that for?"

Without a word, Zavier picked up a piece of her favorite meat and dropped it into her plate. "Why reach for something you don't like? At home, you should eat what you want. Don't force yourself to eat anything else."

Skyler didn't know how to answer to that. Who would pick and choose only their favorite dishes as a guest at someone else's table? That could easily be seen as rude.

But Zavier wasn't concerned about that. He pushed all of Skyler's preferred dishes towards her. "You're family. Eat what you like, and don't bother with the rest."