

## **Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband Chapter 1682**

Posted by **AdminM**, 3489 Views, Released on December 13, 2023

### Chapter 1682

Skyler stood firm, her voice cutting through the tension like a knife. "You can check if I'm lying or call Desiree yourself. If this was such a big deal, why didn't Desiree give you a heads-up? She probably wanted you to waltz into your own downfall."

The leader of the thugs eyed her skeptically, his face a mask of doubt, before slowly fishing out his cell phone and dialing a number. "The chick we're supposed to rough up is Xavier's fiancée?"

Skyler couldn't hear the response, but she watched as the thug's expression soured, his face twisting into a scowl before he spat out a filthy curse and ended the call.

He glared at Skyler with a begrudging respect. "You got lucky, girl." With those words, he signaled to his lackeys, and they slunk away into the shadows. The Rivera and the Duran families, titans in the Capital, were not to be trifled with. The thug knew that as well as anyone.

Skyler watched them go, her legs giving out as their figures faded from sight, and she collapsed into the bushes with a thud. Her stomach churned like a bonfire, and she heaved into the underbrush, emptying the undigested remnants of her lunch.

Just as she felt utterly drained, a large hand appeared with a bottle of mineral water.

Skyler jumped, looking up to find Xavier standing over her, the last person she expected to come to her rescue. Her mouth opened to speak, but another wave of nausea hit, and she was bent over the bushes once again.

Xavier looked down at her, his presence regal and detached. "Here I thought you'd grown a spine. Turns out you're just scared out of your wits."

Snatching the water from his hand, Skyler rinsed her mouth and spat, then asked, "When did you get here?"

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"I passed by just as those thugs were hassling you," Xavier replied.

Skyler pressed her lips together, not bothering to respond.

Zavier crouched to her level, eyes searching hers. "You blame me for not showing up sooner?"

Skyler had always known the only person she could truly rely on was herself. She never expected a savior. "I never thought that."

He studied her pale face. Even now, she was putting on a brave front. "Really? You never thought that?"

Blinking back tears, Skyler mustered a bright smile. "Whether you choose to help me in danger or not, it's your prerogative. No blame to be cast."

No sooner had she spoken than her stomach rebelled once more, and she was doubled over, retching into the greenery. With nothing left to bring up, she was left weak and drained.

Zavier frowned in disgust. "Coward."

Skyler didn't respond. She hadn't cried or panicked in the face of danger, and she'd found a way out. She was no coward.

"Coward," Xavier repeated, a note of command in his voice. "Get up. I'm taking you to the hospital."

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**Score 9.9**

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Posted by **AdminM**, ? Views, Released on December 14, 2023

Chapter 1683

Skyler took another big gulp of water and rinsed her mouth. She said, "Thanks for the concern. It was just stress puking. I'm fine now, no need for a hospital run."

She didn't get to finish her sentence before Xavier cut her off, "Are you sure you don't want me to drive you?"

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"It's not that I don't want a ride, just I don't need a trip to the hospital. Could you maybe drop me back at campus?" Skyler wasn't certain if those three thugs had really taken off. In such a dicey moment, she wasn't about to foolishly decline Xavier's offer of a ride.

The girl had puked her guts out from fright, but she spoke with a casual tone as if nothing had happened. Sure, she was a bit of a scaredy-cat, but without a single teardrop-tougher than he had expected.

Zavier's rare kindness surfaced, "Get up. Let's go."

Skyler tried to get up, but her entire body felt weak, and she couldn't stand up. She looked up at him, batting her doe eyes pitifully, "My legs are jelly, and I can't stand up. Could you give me a hand?"

Zavier snorted, "Skyler, cut the act. I'm not falling for your tricks."e2

"I'm not playing any tricks. I really can't stand up." Ignoring Xavier's cocky attitude, she extended her hand, "Just help me up, it's not like you'll lose a limb."

Faced with her outstretched hand, Xavier couldn't refuse. He took her small, soft hand in his large one and with a firm tug, pulled her to her feet. Perhaps he hadn't judged his strength well, or maybe her legs were still too wobbly, but she ended up tumbling into his arms. Her soft breasts met his firm pecs in a stark contrast.

Zavier froze for a second before pushing her away. Skyler, not yet steady, fell back to the ground with a thud.

Zavier was far from chivalrous, instead, he accused her first, "Thought you weren't playing games? That move might work on some guys, but not on me. Best drop the act before you really tick me off, Skyler."

Skyler gritted her teeth in frustration and thought to herself. "What's wrong with this guy?"

He had yanked her so forcefully that it was no wonder she hadn't stood firm. She hadn't blamed him, yet now he was turning it around on her. Talk about playing the victim.

Zavier pressed, "Feeling guilty?"

Skyler couldn't be bothered with him.

Zavier went on, "Cat got your tongue? If you love being mute so much, you might as well cut it out and donate it to someone in need."

Thankfully, she had regained some strength. Pushing herself off the ground, Skyler brushed off the dirt from her clothes, "Did I ask to be pulled into your arms? It was you who hauled me in. If you wanted a piece of this, just say so, instead of pinning it on me."

Zavier actually chuckled at that, "Me, want a piece of you? Skyler, why don't you take a good look at yourself in a mirror? Do you have any idea how disheveled you look?"

Skyler fell silent. Looking at her reflection right now was out of the question, but she was well aware of her disheveled state.

Before she could retort, her cellphone rang from inside her bag—a call from her roommate Emma, undoubtedly, "Skyler, why aren't you here yet? Did you get lost? Do you need us to come get you?"

Hearing her roommate's concerned voice, Skyler, who had been holding back tears, finally felt her eyes well up, "Emma, I ran into someone I know, and I got a little situation to handle. I'll skip the barbecue."

"Which acquaintance? Other than us, who else do you know in the Capital?" Emma's voice was full of curiosity.

"I'll tell you all about it back at the dorm," Skyler replied, trying to sound composed.

"We can pack something for you to bring back," Emma offered.

"It's okay, I'm not hungry." Skyler managed to say, her voice trailing off.

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## Chapter 1684

Emma, “we’ve ordered a feast, including your share. You’ve got to eat, even if you’re not hungry. Look at you, you’re as thin as a rake. Alright, that’s settled then. Catch up on whatever you’re doing, and I’ll see you back at the dorm in a bit.” After saying that, without giving Skyler a chance to speak, Emma hung up the phone first.

Turning her attention back to Xavier, Skyler fixed him with a stern look. “Zavier, since you were already here when those three goons cornered me, I think you know who’s gunning for me.”

“And what if I do?” Zavier retorted, an eyebrow arched in challenge.

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Skyler felt like biting him out of frustration. His girlfriend sent people to hassle her and he had the nerve to act so nonchalant.

“I’ve told you before, this marriage is not something either of us wanted. I won’t stand in the way of you finding someone you truly like,” Skyler said, her voice laced with a mix of anger and earnest.

Zavier remained silent, his expression unreadable.

“I explained to your girlfriend when she confronted me, assuring her that there’s nothing between us. I’m not the other woman. But she’s using these dirty tricks on me now, and I expect you to handle it, Zavier. Otherwise, I’ll have no choice but to call the cops and let her face the consequences,” Skyler continued, her tone firm.

It was the first time Zavier heard the normally quiet girl say so much. “Who’s my girlfriend? Who told you I have one?”

Skyler was taken aback. “Isn’t Desiree your girlfriend?”

He countered her question with another. “Desiree approached you before?”

“Yes, she’s your girlfriend, isn’t she? She’s got the wrong idea about us. It’s up to you to clear things up with her, to stop her from bothering me and disrupting my life,” Skyler insisted, her patience wearing thin.

Zavier's gaze darkened as he replied flatly, "She has never been my girlfriend."

"Really?" Skyler's confusion was evident.

"Did she tell you that herself?"

Skyler thought for a moment. "She didn't say it outright, but everyone at the college seems to think you two are an item."

With a disdainful snort, Xavier dismissed the notion. "Hmph."

"You can't blame people for gossiping. If there's nothing between you two, you should've set the record straight. It's only fair to you and Desiree, rather than giving her false hope and then denying any connection," Skyler said.

"Are you lecturing me now?"

"Not at all," Skyler replied quickly, sensing his irritation.

Without another word, Xavier changed the subject. "Are we leaving or what?"

"Of course, we're leaving."

Zavier walked ahead, his long strides putting distance between them in no time. Skyler had to jog to keep up with him.

His car was parked by the curb on Park Road. He got in first, and this time, without prompting, Skyler took the passenger seat obediently.

The distance from here to the school, just one kilometer, didn't take long at all. In no time, Xavier dropped Skyler off at the school gate. After leaving her, Xavier stepped on the gas and drove away.

Skyler took a deep breath to calm herself before heading toward her dorm.

After driving away, Xavier dialed a number on his phone. "Why does everyone at college think Desiree is my girlfriend?"

The voice on the other end replied, "She's been spreading that rumor, and you never denied it. I thought you were okay with it."

Zavier's tone was sharp. "She caused trouble for Skyler today."

There was a pause before the voice assured him, “Don’t worry. She won’t have the chance to do that again.”

“By tomorrow, I want the whole school to know that Desiree, that troll, has absolutely nothing to do with me,” Xavier demanded.

“OK,” the voice on the other end replied/

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### Chapter 1685

Back in her dorm room, Skyler couldn’t wait to wash off the day’s grime. She showered quickly, laundering her clothes in the process. Lying on her bed afterward, her mind buzzed with the evening’s events. Desiree was a piece of work, downright terrifying. Tonight’s lackeys hadn’t succeeded, but Skyler knew that witch wouldn’t hesitate to strike again.

Something had to be done. If not, her job and studies would suffer, and that was non-negotiable.

Lost in thought, she barely noticed when Emma and Amanda returned, trailed by Vivian, who rarely stayed in the dorm.

Skyler sat up, urgency coloring her tone. “Vivian, you wouldn’t happen to have Desiree’s contact, would you?”

Vivian nodded and cautiously asked. “Yeah, why?”

“I need it,” Skyler said plainly.e2

Hesitation flickered across Vivian’s face. Sharing a friend’s contact without permission felt wrong. “Can I check with Desiree first?” “Just tell her that I have something to talk to her,” Skyler said.

Vivian immediately sent a message, but it took Desiree quite a while to respond after the message was sent.”Vivian, darling, everyone at school wants my number, but I’m selective with my friendships.”

A hint of pride welled up in Vivian. She felt she was special to Desiree. “Skyler, she’s not comfortable with it.”

Skyler nodded, masking her disappointment. “Got it.”

Emma, puzzled, asked, “Sky, why the sudden need for Desiree’s digits?”

“I’ve got something to take care of,” Skyler deflected, grabbing her jacket.

“More stuff?” Emma frowned. “Hey, slow down. At least eat the BBQ we packed for you before you dash off.”

“Thanks, guys, but I’m not hungry. I’ll treat you guys once this mess is sorted.” Skyler’s voice trailed off as she hurried out the door. Emma glanced at the packed barbecue chicken wings and grilled fish. “Let’s just eat. It’d be a shame to waste it.”

Amanda looked worried. “Skyler seemed off. Think she’s in trouble?”

“Sky looks delicate, but she’s tough as nails. She’ll tell us when she’s ready,” Emma said.

Amanda said, “I hope she’s okay.”

“Skyler is so good, she definitely will be fine,” Emma said. After that, she glanced at Vivian, about to say something, but after some thought, she chose to remain silent.

Stepping out into the brisk night air, Skyler dialed the Rivera’s Manor. As expected, the familiar voice of the elderly butler answered, “Miss Skyler, it’s quite late. Is everything alright?”

“I need to speak with Grandpa Rivera. Could you send a car to pick me up from campus?” Skyler asked, opting for the safety of a familiar ride over the risk of hailing a cab that could be a trap set by Desiree.

“Is Mr. Zavier giving you a hard time?” the butler inquired with concern.

“No, it’s personal. I just need to see Grandpa Rivera,” Skyler clarified.

With understanding, the butler replied, “I’ll arrange for a driver near the school to bring you home. Please wait a few minutes.”

Skyler hung up, once again impressed by the Rivera family’s extensive network. She nodded to herself, and settled in to wait for the ride.

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## Chapter 1686

In just five short minutes, Skyler got into the special car sent by the Rivera family. With few vehicles on the road at night, the journey was smooth, and she arrived in just half an hour.

The old butler had informed Hudson of Skyler's imminent arrival, so Hudson was still up, waiting in the living room, a rare break in his usual routine.

Upon hearing of her arrival, Hudson even made a move to greet her in person.

The butler quickly interjected, steadying Hudson with a gentle hand on his arm, "Mr. Hudson, there's no need for you to personally welcome the younger generation."

Hudson cast a cool glance at the butler, "Don't think I'm oblivious to the fact that you, like everyone else in this household, wouldn't mind seeing her stumble."

The butler felt a chill run down his spine at Hudson's words, "Sir, I..."

Hudson continued, "It's true that Skyler is a pawn the Blue family is using to curry favor with us, the Riveras. But she's also the wife I've chosen for Xavier. If he is to take over the helm of Rivera Inc., she will be the lady of the house."e2

The butler knew full well that Xavier's claim to the Rivera legacy was anything but secure, and the position of the lady of the house for a young woman who seemed scarcely able to raise her voice was eve

even more unthinkable.

He kept his thoughts to himself, though, responding with due respect, "Sir, I'll make sure to treat the young lady properly from now on."

Hudson responded, "After decades at my side, if you still require guidance, then perhaps it's time you considered retirement."

The very thought struck fear into the butler, who hastily replied, "Mr. Hudson, please, have a seat. I'll go welcome Miss Skyler."

But Skyler was already there, “Grandpa. I’m so sorry to disturb you at this late hour.”

Her voice was sweet, her manners impeccable, and her address to Hudson warmed his heart.

Hudson replied with a smile, “You never come to see me unless there’s a matter at hand. What seems to be the trouble tonight?”

Skyler approached Hudson straightforwardly, “I’ve encountered a situation I cannot handle on my own and I need your help.”

Desiree’s family had connections in the capital, and Skyler knew she was no match for them. But with the formidable Rivera family behind her, and given the issue stemmed from Zavier, it would be a waste not to seek their support.

Hudson reassured her, “You tell me everything, my child. With me here, there’s nothing you should fear.”

Skyler had always respected Hudson, the only one in the Rivera family who had shown her kindness, whether feigned or genuine. She confided her evening’s ordeal to Hudson, carefully omitting Zavier’s later involvement to avoid causing him any trouble.

After listening, Hudson’s expression darkened, “It is my oversight that has put you in harm’s way. From now on, you can attend your studies without worry. No one will trouble you again.”

Skyler took comfort in his words, choosing not to pry into how Hudson planned to deal with Desiree, “Thank you, Grandpa Hudson.”

Hudson took her hand, patting it gently, “Zavier may be a bit of a brat, but he’s not bad at heart. You should make an effort to understand him better. I truly wish for you two to find love and happiness together.”

Faced with such kindness, Skyler nodded obediently, “I will try.”

“It’s late. You should stay here tonight, and I’ll have the driver take you to school in the morning,” Hudson stated, not leaving room for refusal and instructed the butler, “Take Skyler to Zavier’s room.”

Skyler could hardly refuse, “You should rest as well.”

Hudson simply smiled, "Hmm."

Little did Skyler expect that tonight, of all nights, Xavier would also be home.

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Chapter 1687

Seeing Xavier in the room, Skyler stammered with a start, "You-you're here too?"

Xavier glanced at her and walked further inside, "Do I need to report my whereabouts to you?"

Skyler was at a loss for words. She had never thought that way. Nor did she dare to.

The butler interjected, "Mr. Xavier, it was Hudson who asked Miss Skyler to come over."

Xavier paid no mind to the butler and said to Skyler, "Close the door behind you."

"Goodnight!" After bidding the old butler farewell, Skyler finally shut the door.

Xavier turned to look at her, "So it was the old man who sent you?"e2

Skyler didn't want to lie, "I came to ask Grandpa for help because I'm scared that Desiree will pull another dirty trick on me."

Xavier cracked a smile and his gaze softened somewhat with appreciation, "You might not be the strongest, but at least you're not dumb. You know when to seek allies."

Skyler simply stated, "I just want to live a peaceful life."

That had always been her goal, but some people didn't seem to want that for her. And if that was the case, she couldn't be blamed for fighting back.

Xavier grabbed a blanket and settled on the couch, leaving the only bed in the master bedroom for Skyler. Without asking questions, Skyler finished her nighttime routine and climbed into bed.

The lights went off, and the room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop. After a while, just as Skyler was drifting off, she heard Xavier's deep voice, "Skyler?"

"Hmm?" she murmured.

Xavier continued, "I refuse the marriage arranged by Hudson not because I have someone I like, but because I hate them dictating my life."

He wasn't really explaining himself to Skyler, but he wanted someone in his corner to understand what he abhorred. It would make for a better partnership down the line.

Skyler responded with a sense of shared sentiment, "Who doesn't?"

The difference was, Xavier had the power to resist, and she didn't.

Xavier then mentioned, "I received some information tonight."

Skyler wasn't interested in what information he might have, but since he brought it up, it would be rude not to inquire, "What kind of information?"

Xavier rolled over, facing her direction even though he couldn't see her from the sofa, "I hear the Blue family's preference for sons over daughters is pretty extreme."

He had people look into Skyler's standing within the Blue family. Even though he had anticipated her tough situation, the details still shocked him.

As a pawn himself, he still had some autonomy, and his parents had at least shown him some love.

Skyler's experience was utterly different. From the moment she was born, she had never received affection from her family, for no other reason than her being a girl.

Preferring sons to daughters was an outdated notion, and many families nowadays even favored daughters, but some people's beliefs were deeply ingrained, clinging to the idea that boys were the bearers of the family torch, while girls were destined to belong to someone else's family.

Skyler's eyebrows twitched, but she stayed silent.

Zavier pressed on, "Because your mother always felt that you and your sister took the place meant for a son, she's been particularly harsh on you. Not just harsh, but exceedingly so."

No one liked having their deepest wounds exposed for discussion. Still, Skyler kept her thoughts to herself.

Zavier prodded, "Don't want to talk about it?"

Skyler retorted, "What good would talking do?"

Zavier chuckled, "You might be timid, but you do have many strengths, like self-awareness."

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#### **Chapter 1688**

Skyler was done engaging with him. She closed her eyes, trying to drift off into sleep. Zavier, for his part, didn't bother her further, and the night passed without incident.

The following morning, they rose with the dawn, even joining Hudson for a hearty breakfast of scrambled eggs and bacon before heading off to school together.

The half-hour journey to campus was cloaked in silence, neither of them uttering a single word until they reached the school grounds.

Zavier dropped Skyler off at the same corner as the morning before, and she made the rest of the trek on foot.

With no morning classes, Skyler headed straight back to her dorm room. As soon as she stepped through the door, Emma blurted out, "Skyler, you've got to check out our college's homepage, there's some major drama happening."

"What's going on?" Skyler asked, pulling out her phone to log onto the campus network.

A pop-up notice was the first thing she saw e2

-Desiree from the Finance Department, suspected of criminal activity, is under police investigation. Her enrollment at our institution has been terminated.

Skyler couldn't help but think that the Riveras were truly impressive. When Hudson made a move, what chance did Desiree's family stand against the Riveras?

She felt relieved that she had sought Hudson out the previous night. Otherwise, it might have been her facing expulsion.

Emma was curious, "What on earth did Desiree do? She was Xavier's girl. The school might not care about the Meador's reputation, but surely they'd consider the Rivera's clout."

Amanda chimed in, "Suspected of a crime? That's got to be serious."

Emma turned to Skyler, "Do you know anything?"

Skyler knew, but couldn't spill the beans. "You guys are more plugged in than I am. If you don't know, how could I?"

"Fair point" **said** Emma. "You're always so wrapped up in studying and part-time jobs, you don't leave any room for gossip. Can't expect you to be in the loop"

Amanda said, "Isn't Vivian good friends with Desiree? Could she know some insider information?"

Emma scoffed. "Desiree isn't the type to consider Vivian a true friend"

Amanda suddenly remembered something. "Skyler, you didn't come back last night. Where did you crash? You've been away two nights in a row. Don't tell me you've got a secret boyfriend and you're shacking up with him."

Skyler replied. "I stayed with some relatives."

"Which relatives? Emma pressed. "You told us before you didn't have any family in the Capital."

Skyler had **to** weave another "A friend of my parents."

about to probe further when Amanda let out a shriek. "I knew it! With the Riveras backing her Desiree couldn't possibly be in to Tums out she was never Xavier's girlfriend to begin with"

How do you know? Emme asked.

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**Score 9.9**

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## **Chapter 1689**

Days turned into a blur of routine, the humdrum of school life punctuated by the occasional ripple of excitement. That ripple came in the form of an online bulletin board post that caught Skyler's eye. The school's intranet was abuzz with a call for a video game theme song, promising a hefty reward for the chosen submission.

The words "hefty reward" set Skyler's heart racing. Music was her jam. So, without a second thought, she decided to throw her hat into

the ring.

Therefore, Skyler, who never played games, downloaded the game to create the most fitting theme song. In her free time from studying and working, she played the game for several days in a row.

She played for days, immersing herself in the game's lore and mechanics. After understanding the heartbeat of the game, Skyler found herself riding a wave of inspiration. Her emotions, always close to

the surface, resonated with the game's characters, and in just half a day, she had penned the lyrics.

The melody came even easier. Within three days, she had a complete song. With a mix of trepidation and excitement, she fired off an email to the game studio and began the agonizing wait for a response.

With the submission sent, Skyler checked her email and stared at her phone every day, hoping to receive a response. Waiting was always long and tormenting. As a week passed, there was still no news from the game company.

Patience had never been Skyler's strong suit. Another week ticked by, and she had already taken up another side gig to fill the gap. She had almost given up hope when her phone finally rang with an unfamiliar number. Snatching it up, she answered with a cautious, "Hello? Who's this?"

A pleasant female voice came through, "Is this Free speaking?"

Skyler Blue

was a name that carried weight, tied to the reputations of both the Blue and Rivera families, so she never used it for work. For every job, she went by "Free," a name that spoke to her deepest desire the freedom she yearned for and chased relentlessly.

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"Yes, that's me. Who am I speaking with?" Skyler replied, her voice steady despite the flutter in her chest.

"This is Tina, the music director at Twilight Game Studio. I've gone through your lyrics and listened to your composition. I must say, I'm quite taken with your work," the other person said.

Overjoyed but momentarily lost for words, Skyler finally managed to ask, "Thank you. So, what should I do now?"

Tina's chuckle came through the phone. "It's not just me. Our CEO loved your song too. If you're available, we'd like you to come in and talk."

Skyler's hands trembled with excitement. "I'm available."

"How about tomorrow afternoon at two? Our CEO keeps odd hours, and that's the slot we have open," Tina proposed.

Skyler's heart sank. She had her cafe shift from two to eight on Saturdays. "Could we do tomorrow morning instead? I have another commitment in the afternoon," she asked, hoping for flexibility.

"I'm free then, but it'll depend on **our** CEO's schedule," Tina replied, pausing. "Let me check with him and get back to you."

"Thank you," Skyler said, a mix of hope and anxiety swirling within her.

The call ended only to be quickly followed by another. Tina confirmed that the CEO had agreed to meet Skyler the following morning.

After hanging up, Skyler took a moment to steady her racing heart. She spent the evening revisiting the game, determined to arrive at the studio the next morning in peak form, **ready** to face the game company's enigmatic CEO.

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Chapter 1690

The next morning.

Skyler set out two hours early. Arriving an hour ahead at the gaming company's building, she decided to wait downstairs until it was time to go up and meet her contact.

At the reception, she simply gave her name and was warmly escorted to the Music Director's office by the receptionist. "Miss Free, right this way, please. Ms. Tina has been eagerly awaiting your arrival."

"Thank you," Skyler said with a polite smile.

Soon, she was ushered into the Music Director's office. "Tina, Miss Free has arrived."

Tina looked up and was taken aback by the youthful face before her. "I didn't expect Miss Free to be so young and yet so talented in songwriting."

Music wasn't something everyone can excel at through sheer effort alone. Some people were just born with a knack for it. And Skyler was one of those people, destined for musical greatness, though her family circumstances had often held her back.e2

Being new to the professional world, Skyler wasn't sure if the compliments were genuine or just polite flattery, but she took them at face value nonetheless.

She chuckled, "Most of the players of the game are around my age, and the protagonist is about as old as I am. Maybe it's because I can empathize with her that I was able to create the lyrics and melodies."

"You're too modest," Tina remarked.

There was a common belief that the youth of today were arrogant and overconfident, and Tina had met her fair share of young people who were all bluster and no substance. The young woman before her was a true talent with a refreshing sense of humility. Tina was quite taken with her. "The others haven't arrived yet. Shall we chat for a bit?"

"Sure," Skyler agreed.

"What would you like to drink, Miss Free?"

Skyler brought her own bottled water. "I'll just drink this."

Although Skyler was young, she had talent, and Tina, being someone who valued talent, particularly appreciated young individuals like her.

Tina went ahead and brewed a cup of coffee herself. "You young ladies seem to enjoy coffee and milkshake. Try this and tell me what you think."

"It is great." Skyler sipped the coffee politely. Truth be told, she had tasted various coffees when accompanying her mother at social events, but to her, all coffee tasted the same-bitter. However, she had long learned to mask her true preferences, and no one could tell her real tastes.

Tina, however, noticed. "You don't like it. I'll get someone to bring you a milkshake instead."

"It's okay, really, Skyler insisted.

"No, it's not okay. A good day's work starts with good food and drink." Tina called someone to fetch a milkshake for Skyler.

Skyler observed Tina who seemed to be in her forties, exuding intellect and elegance, with a confident aura in every move she made.

She too wished to be someone like Tina.

Could she become like Tina? She didn't know. But she was determined to try.

The milkshake, at least, was to Skyler's liking, and she gratefully took a sip.

"You look like you're still in school. Are you from a Conservatory?" Tina inquired.

Skyler shook her head. "No, I'm studying at Capital College."

Not from a Conservatory, yet capable of producing such quality work-it must be natural talent.

Tina was so keen to keep such a promising talent around. "What a coincidence, our CEO is also a student from your college. When he arrives, I'll make sure to introduce you properly."

"Thank you," Skyler said with a genuine smile.

Just then, the secretary announced, "Ms. Tina, Mr. Rivera has arrived."

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