

## **Impulsive Vow to an Enigmatic Husband Chapter 1736**

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### Chapter 1736

Skyler's cheeks flushed a deep shade of crimson under his teasing gaze.

Kalene chuckled softly, "Skyler, Xavier's right. When you're at home, you should feel free to eat whatever you like. Make yourself comfortable."

Skyler murmured an acknowledgement, "Okay."

Kalene glanced at Xavier, and after a silent exchange of looks between mother and son, she added, "I'll have the housekeeper tidy up the guest rooms. Why don't you both stay over tonight and keep me company?"

"Sure," Xavier agreed with a nod.

Skyler had a flight back to Southern Port at midnight and knew she couldn't stay the night, but she was at a loss for how to politely decline Kalene's kind offer.

As she hesitated, Xavier stepped in, "Mom, I've got some things to take care of tonight. After dinner, I can drop Skyler off at school on my way."

"What do you have planned?" Kalene asked with a trace of suspicion. Just moments ago, he was insisting on having Skyler stay the night. Why the sudden change? What game was this boy playing?

"Life's big decisions," Xavier said cryptically.

Kalene shook her head with a wry smile. "You're never serious, are you?"

After dinner, without wasting a moment, Xavier announced he would take Skyler back to school. But no sooner had they left the neighbourhood, he asked, "So, you really don't want to hang out with us?"

Skyler was taken aback and quickly clarified, "It's not that I don't want to. I just have other commitments."

"What kind of commitments?" Xavier pressed.

Skyler simply replied, "Personal matters."

Zavier's mood clearly soured as he dropped the subject.

"Thanks for bailing me out earlier," Skyler added after a moment.

"Hmph." was all Zavier offered in return. So, she did realize he had helped her out of a tight spot.

They arrived at the school soon after, and as Skyler got out of the car, Zavier sped off with a rev of the engine.

With a sigh, Skyler headed back to her dorm to pack a few essentials before hailing a cab to the airport. The dinner had set her

back a little, but she reached the airport just in time, boarding her flight without any issues.

After a two-hour flight, she arrived at Southern Port, and it was already past two in the morning.

The winter in Southern Port might not have been as cold as in the Capital, but the damp chill seemed to seep into her bones. Instinctively, she wrapped her down jacket tighter around her.

The next thing she knew, a large hand had taken hold of her small suitcase's handle. Startled, Skyler was about to cry out for help when she realized the hand belonged to none other than Zavier. "You-how did you get here?"

Ignoring her question, Zavier countered, "Missing your sister?"

Skyler nodded, "Yes, but-"

"Are you sure you can see her all by yourself without being noticed?" Zavier interjected.

"We had arranged a time. On Christmas Eve, the Blue family won't notice whether she's there or not."

"That might have been the case before, but now things might be different."

"Why?"

“Because of you.”

Being known as Xavier’s fiancée had its implications, and Iris was the person Skyler cared about the most. If the Blue family wanted to control Skyler, Iris was the perfect leverage.

Skyler began to grasp the situation, “Zavier, thank you.”

Zavier pulled at his coat, “It’s cold. Let’s find somewhere to stay first, and in the morning we’ll let your family know we’re here.

“I’ve booked a hotel already.”

Dragging her suitcase, he said, “Then let’s grab a cab and get going.”

Skyler hesitated, “The hotel I booked is quite budget-friendly. I doubt it’s up to your standards. Maybe I should book another one for you, something a bit nicer?”

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Zavier watched her dilly-dally with a look of sheer displeasure, “If a young lady like you can endure it, what’s stopping a grown man like me from staying?”

He talked a good game, but once they reached the hotel, Zavier regretted it. The girl was making good money these days, but she still pinched pennies like nobody’s business. This place wasn’t a hotel. It was more like a dodgy motel that charged a few bucks a night.

Not only was the cleanliness questionable, but safety seemed like a gamble too.

Dragging her suitcase behind him, Zavier turned on his heel, “We’re leaving, now.”

Skyler protested, “It’s past check-in time. They won’t refund the room charge.”c2

Zavier shot back, “You got a death wish or something?”

Skyler just fell silent. She had already told him he wouldn't be comfortable in a cheap place like this, and he insisted on coming with her. Now he wouldn't even let her stay alone. The guy was a real pain in the neck.

Considering he'd rushed over in the middle of the night to help her out, she decided to let it slide.

Zavier picked the fanciest hotel in town, the kind where a single room for one night could cost a small fortune.

Skyler, feeling a bit embarrassed to have Zavier foot the bill after he'd come all this way, insisted on paying for the room herself.

A room cost thousands, and getting two would run them nearly ten grand. Every penny was hard-earned, and Skyler couldn't bring herself to splurge, so she booked just one room, planning to make do with the couch for the night.

The pricier room, of course, came with all the bells and whistles. The air conditioning was already purring, making the room cozy and warm.

Skyler walked in and immediately shrugged off her coat.

Zavier looked at her and said, "That eager to bunk with me?"

Skyler retorted, "It's not like we haven't shared a room before. Don't play the innocent."

Zavier's eyebrows arched, "What did you say?"

Skyler repeated, "I said it's not like we haven't....."

She couldn't finish her sentence. Zavier suddenly closed the distance between them.

Skyler backed away in alarm, "What are you doing?"

He advanced with each step, quickly cornering Skyler against the wall. Skyler had no way to retreat, "Zavier, stop kidding around." Zavier replied, "Who's kidding around with you?"

"You-I..."

Zavier leaned in, his gaze searing, "Skyler."

His intensity was too much, and Skyler couldn't meet his eyes. She turned her head away, trying to escape, "What do you want?" Xavier lifted his hand, gently stroking her delicate cheek, "From now on, you tell me what's going on. If something were to happen to you, as your fiancé, where would that leave my pride?"

So, that was what he wanted to talk about. His words were harsh but were laced with concern.

Skyler's heart started to race. She opened her mouth to speak, but her chook so much she couldn't get a word out.

Zavier leaned closer, his forehead brushing against hers, "Promise me, Skyler."

His voice, deep and sultry, struck right at/Skyler's heart, "I-I got it."

"Are you sure?" he pressed.

Skyler hummed a soft affirmation, "Mhm."

Zavier's lips sought hers. Skyler's eyes widened as his lips drew nearer, eventually blocking her view. She felt a warm touch on her lips, first a gentle caress, then a firmer press.

Instinctively responding, Skyler was caught off guard when Xavier suddenly pulled away. He patted her head, "It's late. You should freshen up."

Skyler was speechless. Was he playing innocent now?

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Zavier teased, "What are you staring at? Want more?"

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Skyler retorted, "Shut up!"

She snapped back before spinning on her heel and dashing into the bathroom. The sound of the faucet echoed as she splashed cold water on her face, a desperate attempt to calm the storm within her. Although the two were engaged, they were still quite young, and there were many uncertainties ahead for them.

Could they truly make it to the altar? It was anyone's guess.

Some choices were made in the heat of the moment, a fleeting happiness that could lead to a lifetime of regret. And Skyler couldn't afford any regrets.

Thankfully, Zavier hadn't pushed her further, instead giving her space to think. When she finally emerged, refreshed and more composed, she found him on the balcony, a cigarette dangling from his lips.

She couldn't help herself. "How many times do I have to tell you to cut down on smoking?" she chastised, her voice laced with concern.

This time, Zavier actually listened, snuffing out the cigarette. "Let's get some rest. Tomorrow we'll need to be on top form to meet the Blue family."e2

"Okay," Skyler murmured, her voice soft. "I'll crash on the couch. You take the bed."

"As you wish," he replied.

Exhaustion claimed her quickly, and she was soon adrift in sleep on the sofa. Time blurred until she felt herself lifted, a warm cocoon enveloping her as she was gently placed in the bed.

Blinking awake, she saw Zavier tucking her in. "Zavier, you're giving up the bed for me again?"

He didn't offer an explanation, just a quiet, "Did I wake you?"

She shook her head slightly and he playfully poked her cheek—a tender gesture that carried no sting. "Sleep," he whispered.

Her eyes fluttered closed, and sleep reclaimed her. Zavier sat by her side, watching her peaceful expression. She seemed so serene, undisturbed by nightmares.

He remembered when she first arrived in the Capital, those early days when they were forced by their families to share a room. Her sleep was restless, haunted by bad dreams that would wake her-and him-several times a night.

It wasn't that he cared particularly. It was just that his light sleep was disturbed by her startled movements. He'd watched her, impassive, as she fought her demons night after night.

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But times changed. Months passed, and Skyler had slowly found her purpose and strength. She'd learned to fend for herself, her confidence growing. Most importantly, she was away from the suffocating presence of the Blue family, and the oppression that had once been her daily life.

Now, she was not only more confident but less intimidated by others. She even dared to snap back at him when provoked.

Unable to contain the flutter in his heart, Xavier gently prodded Skyler's cheek again. She seemed healthier. Her cheeks were fuller than when they first met.

Feeling the disturbance, Skyler swatted in her sleep at the nuisance on her face. Xavier caught her hand in his, holding it firmly. "Scaredy-cat," he murmured with a promise only for himself, "I'll make myself strong so no one can bully you again."

Yes. He was determined to become strong. He wouldn't let anyone force him to do things he didn't want to do anymore.

Skyler slept on, undisturbed by the world. When she awoke, the room was bathed in sunlight, the sheer curtains turning the rays into a golden haze.

"You sleepyhead, finally up?" Xavier's melodious voice suddenly rang in the ears.

Turning her head, Skyler saw him sitting at the edge of the bed, his laptop now resting beside him. He must have been handling business while she slept.

Closing the laptop, he asked gently, "Did you sleep well?"

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Skyler nodded in agreement.

"Time to get a move on," Xavier said. "Spruce yourself up. Make those relatives take a second look and see you're not the same person they used to push around."

"Right," Skyler replied, immediately standing up and grabbing her cell phone to check the time. "It's already eleven?!"

She couldn't believe she had slept like a log until eleven in the morning. She usually had trouble sleeping, but last night, she had crashed and didn't wake until the late morning. It was definitely out of the ordinary..

"It's only eleven, still early. No rush, let them wait a bit longer," Xavier remarked casually.

Although Skyler was itching to show the Blue clan a thing or two, to prove they couldn't mess with her and her sister anymore, she knew she wasn't strong enough to take them on just yet. Confronting them now was like a suicide mission. She wasn't about to play the fool.

Skyler got ready at lightning speed and then headed out the door with Xavier.e2

What she didn't expect was to find the Blue family waiting for them in the hotel lobby, and not just any member, but Gilbert himself-the very man who had always looked down on her, treating her like she was worth less than the dirt under his shoes.

Upon seeing Xavier, Gilbert approached with the eagerness of a puppy, "Xavier, you're heading back to Southern Port with our dear Sky? Why didn't



you let us know sooner? We've got plenty of room at home, no need for you to spend money on a hotel."

"Our dear Sky," he said with such feigned affection. It was quite a shift from the past when he used to call Skyler every name in the book, none of them pleasant.

Skyler knew exactly why the sudden change in attitude but still managed a respectful, "Uncle Gilbert."

Gilbert nodded, his face showing uncharacteristic warmth towards Skyler, "Sky, how have the past few months in the Capital been treating you? I heard that Zavier has been very good to you, but I didn't quite believe it until now. It seems the rumors were true."

It turned out that Zavier had notified the Blue family at eight in the morning that he would be accompanying Skyler back to their estate.

Upon receiving the news, Gilbert decided to personally come to the hotel to pick them up. He had arrived before nine and had been waiting in the hotel lobby for nearly three hours, growing more impatient by the minute, but he had to wait because of Zavier's presence.

"Thanks for your concern, Gilbert. We've been doing alright," Skyler replied.

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Zavier glanced at Gilbert and took Skyler's hand, ready to leave, "No need to trouble you to pick us up. Skyler and I will make our own way to the Blue estate."

Notifying them but refusing their ride-it was a clear snub, intended to embarrass Gilbert.

Gilbert didn't dare to retaliate against Zavier, but he felt he could manipulate Skyler, "Sky, you're just going to head back like this? Not taking my ride? I'm afraid it wouldn't look good when you explain it to the family, especially Iris. She's been eagerly waiting for me to bring you home."

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On the surface, it sounded like a concern, but it was clearly a veiled threat. Skyler understood all too well. She might be out of the Blue family's reach while in the Capital, but Iris was still with them. If she acted out, it would be Iris who suffered the

consequences.

She couldn't take that risk. Yet, she didn't want to put Xavier out, feeling caught between a rock and a hard place.

Xavier saw her concern and reassured her, "Don't worry. They won't dare to bully your sister anymore."

"But..." Skyler hesitated.

Xavier squeezed her hand tighter and continued, "Before, they confiscated Iris' phone to prevent her from contacting you because they were worried you'd refuse to follow their plans and marry into the Rivera family. They used Iris to control you. Now things are different. They've seen how well I treat you, and how much I protect you. From now on, they'll probably be begging Iris to keep in touch with you every day."

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Considering Xavier's words, Skyler nodded in agreement. "Thanks for tagging along with me on this. If I had come back alone, meeting Iris would have been a toss-up."

Xavier quipped, "Well, since you're the fiancée my family has set me up with, who else would I accompany but you?"

His words carried an undertone. He was reminding Skyler that their relationship was approved by both their families. It wasn't just about the two of them being willing. No one would tear them apart.

To Skyler, though, it sounded like she was just another item arranged by her family-his past resistance and current assistance were both out of obligation.

As they stepped out of the hotel, Skyler murmured, "Let's hail a fancy ride. We can't tarnish your reputation."

Zavier was amused by her earnest silliness. "Afraid of tarnishing my reputation by taking a cab?"

With her head held high, Skyler retorted, "I'll call for the most expensive one. We can't have your reputation tarnished."e2

Zavier, holding Skyler's hand, walked directly towards the Lamborghini parked at the hotel entrance. "Get in."

Skyler realized, "You called for a car ahead of time."

Without offering an explanation, Zavier said warmly, "Get in, silly."

Skyler didn't waste a second and quickly jumped into the car, not even glancing back at Gilbert, who was seething with anger.

Thinking of the usually haughty Gilbert now brought low, Skyler suddenly felt a refreshing sense of delight, as if the weather itself had brightened.

Seeing her joy, Zavier felt genuinely happy for her. "How're you feeling now?"

Skyler beamed, "Absolutely fantastic. Never been better."

Zavier watched her smiling face and couldn't help but smile as well. He resolved to make sure she felt this good every day, and to never let anyone bully her again.

About twenty minutes later, they arrived at the Blue household.

Gilbert had beaten them there and was already at the doorstep with the family, all wearing smiles that had never been afforded to Skyler before. They greeted her warmly as if she had always been their darling "Sky."

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But Skyler's eyes searched only for Iris.

Iris had longed to rush over and hug her sister, whom she missed dearly. However, with family members around, she lacked the courage. Standing at the back of the crowd, she timidly watched Skyler.

Surrounded by relatives, Skyler couldn't break free. It was Xavier who came to her rescue. "Every day in the Capital, you kept talking about your sister. Why not go and see her first?"

Hearing Xavier's suggestion, the Blue family quickly made way, pushing Iris toward Skyler. "Iris has been talking about Sky non-stop too. We told her to wait for you, but you know kids-she wandered off to play just before you arrived."

Skyler glanced at the speaker, about to say something but held her tongue. Iris was the most sensible. If Iris knew her sister was coming, she probably wouldn't have slept a wink, let alone sneak off to play.

"Skyler!" Iris called out.

"Iris..." Skyler raised her hand and gently touched Iris' head. She had many questions for Iris, but with everyone's attention focused on them, she couldn't ask anything. She had to restrain even the desire to hug her own sister.

Barbara spoke up, "Xavier, seeing you and Sky getting along so well puts our minds at ease as parents."

Xavier asked, "What are you at ease about?"

Barbara replied, "Of course, about entrusting our daughter to you. We used to worry that she would be mistreated if she married far away from home, but not anymore."

Xavier gave a cold smile, "Is that so?"

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