

Chapter 22

Tilly eyed Shannon even more suspiciously. "She's so young. What can she do? Helen, are you sure you didn't get tricked again?"

She turned toward Helen with a questioning expression.

Helen's expression turned a little dark. "Mom! Although Ms. Jensen is young, she's good at what she does. Please watch what you say."

She was afraid Tilly would offend Shannon.

However, Tilly pursed her lips in dissatisfaction. She didn't believe that a young woman like Shannon had any real ability. She assumed that Shannon had merely fooled Helen with the gift of the gab. So what if Helen was highly educated? Helen was still a poorer judge of character than she was!

Tilly was glad she got another expert to come over. They were doomed if they only had this young woman to rely on. The family wouldn't survive without her.

Keen to knock Shannon down a peg, Tilly looked at Shannon and said, "You claim to be a real expert, right? Go on. Prove it."

She should at least be able to wield a sword like Desmond could, right?

"Mom!" Helen cried out in exasperation. Terrified that Shannon would be angered by Tilly's attitude, she turned to Shannon and said, "I'm so sorry, Ms. Jensen. Please don't take it to heart."

Shannon didn't care. She nodded at Helen and headed for the bed, sidestepping Tilly and Desmond. From the moment she entered the room, she spotted Emily, who was lying in bed.

Smoke filled the room, but Emily showed no sign of waking up.

Meanwhile, ever since Shannon and the others entered the room, Desmond had been eyeing them from the corner of his eye. Alas, he was supposed to be in the middle of a session, so he couldn't come to an abrupt halt. He had to act as though he remained immersed in what he was doing, unbothered by the outside world.

However, when he saw Shannon approaching the bed, he snapped sharply, "Don't go near her! You'll interrupt the ritual!"

Shannon glanced at him before turning back to Emily. She lifted Emily's fingers and studied them closely.

Desmond was affronted by Shannon's disregard of his warning. With a furious expression, he stopped what he was doing and marched over to Tilly.

"Mrs. Shaw Senior! What on earth is going on? Didn't I say

that no one is allowed to disturb me while I'm performing this ritual?"

Tilly was displeased too. She quickly appeased him, "I'm so sorry, Mr. Lund. I'll chase them out right away."

Glaring at Shannon, Tilly was just about to demand that Shannon leave when Shannon set down Emily's hand and looked at Desmond. With a clear, emotionless gaze, she asked, "Since you were performing a ritual, Mr. Lund, I'm sure you know what's wrong with Ms. Shaw, right?"

Thinking that Shannon was trying to learn from him, Desmond snorted and replied, "Ms. Shaw has been possessed by a ghost. I was chasing it out of her, but you interrupted my ritual, and now, the ghost has escaped!"

In other words, he was claiming that the ritual's failure and Emily's continued unconsciousness had nothing to do with him. It was all Shannon's fault. ¹

Shannon chuckled. She eyed Desmond as if she were looking at a con artist.