

Broken 129

Chapter 129 The Past Coming Back DANIEL

I woke up before dawn, and for a moment, I just sat there in the silence of the room. Amy was still asleep beside me, her breathing soft and even in a peaceful way that gave me peace of mind. Selene's sudden return last night made me feel uneasy. Coupled with Elias's smug composure, Amy's silence afterward. None of it felt accidental. Selene suddenly vanished years ago and there was no trace of her and now she popped out of thin air. I got up, showered, and went downstairs to plan my day. Meetings, reports, a review of the upcoming board proposal. But my thoughts kept circling back to Selene. Elias didn't bring Selene back into my life without a reason. I had just started sorting through the morning emails when my phone buzzed. It was a text from Selene: "Can we talk? Just coffee. Nothing more." I stared at the screen for a few seconds before replying. Against my better judgment, I agreed. Whatever this was, I needed to understand it before it grew into something worse. We met at a quiet café near the company's downtown office. She was already there when I arrived, seated by the window, dressed neatly in beige and white. She smiled when she saw me, that same confidence she'd always had. "Danny," she called out softly as I sat down, her voice soft, almost nostalgic. "Thank coming." "Daniel," I corrected gently. "You wanted to talk." Her smile faltered for a heartbeat before she recovered. "I know this must be strange for you, seeing me after all these years. I've... been through a lot. Recovering from a personal loss." "Elias mentioned helping you," I said. "He found you?" Her fingers tightened slightly around her coffee cup. "You could say that. I reached out to him after I got better. He offered me a place to start over. I didn't think I'd see you again, honestly." The way she spoke sounded too smooth. I watched her carefully. "Where were you all this time?" She gave a small shrug. "Away. Healing. You know how the council can be when things go wrong. I needed distance."

"From what?" She smiled again, avoiding the question. "It doesn't matter now. I'm here. You're here. That's enough, isn't it?" "It depends on what you're here for," I retorted. Her eyes met mine, "I wanted to see if you were really as different as people say. The Alpha who survived everything." I leaned back. "I didn't rebuild it alone." "Of course," she said, the faintest curve touching her lips. "Amy." The way she said my wife's name was soft and dismissive. It struck a nerve. "Selene," I said, keeping my tone polite, "whatever we had before ended a long time ago. You showing up again... it's unexpected. But it doesn't change anything." She looked at me for a long moment, then leaned closer. "You don't mean that. I can see it in your eyes." I pulled back. "That was a long time ago," I said quietly. "I'm married now." Her smile didn't fade. If anything, it deepened. "Marriage doesn't erase history." "It does when you choose to move forward," I said, standing up. "Enjoy your coffee." She didn't stop me. She just watched as I left. Back at the office, I tried to focus, but my mind wouldn't settle. I'd seen that look before but not from Selene, from Elias. Calm, patient, and far too confident for someone who claimed innocence. Around midday, I was finishing a call when a soft knock sounded on my door. My assistant poked her head in. "Mr. Carter, Miss Selene is here to see you again."

I frowned. "Did she say why?" "She said it's personal." "Tell her I'm busy." Before the assistant could leave, Selene appeared in the doorway, smiling like she owned the place. "I'll only take a minute."

Amy happened to be walking down the hallway at that exact moment with a stack of files in her arms. Our eyes met briefly. She didn't stop or say anything. She just nodded politely and walked past Selene turned slightly, watching her go. "She's lovely," she said quietly. "She's my wife, so I know." I replied. "I

can see why you chose her," she said. "Strong, composed. A good match for someone in your position." The way she said position made it sound like the marriage was a business deal. I exhaled slowly. "Selene, I don't know what Elias told you, but I'm not interested in whatever game this is." Her smile returned. "I'm just here to reconnect. That's all." "Then do it somewhere else." She finally left, still smiling, still calm. The moment the door closed, I called Mason. "I need you to look into something quietly," I said. "Selene's full background. I want everything you can find." Mason didn't ask why. He just said, "I'll handle it." By the end of the day, his report was sitting on my desk in a thin folder, no thicker than a few pages. She'd come back under Elias's name, funded by one of his overseas accounts. A series of transfers dated just weeks before her reappearance. So that was it. She wasn't just here by chance. Elias had brought her back either to test me or to use her against Amy. Either way, it fit his pattern. That night, after dinner, Amy sat by the window reading through company paperwork. I waited until she finished before telling her what I'd found. "Elias funded her return," I said. "He's moving her money through his overseas accounts. I don't know what his endgame is yet, but it's not good."

Amy listened quietly, then closed the file in her hand. "So Selene's working with him." "Or for him." I said. "Either way, she's not innocent." 6873 Finished "Then we handle it carefully," she said. "Like we always do," Her voice was calm, but her eyes were distant. She didn't ask what Selene had said to me, and I didn't offer details. Some things didn't need to be repeated. When she stood up and walked toward the door, I caught myself watching her. I realized that no matter what Elias planned, no matter what Selene tried to stir, my loyalty wasn't divided. Whatever games the past wanted to play, I'd already made my choice.