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< The Ghost Wife's Billion Dollar Tech Comeba...  +120 Points at most

Chapter 57 No.

Uptown, in the executive suite of Holloway Holdings, Caden was having a very different afternoon.

"Serena!" he bellowed.

His new assistant rushed in, looking terrified. She was fresh out of college, and currently holding a tray with a single coffee cup.

"Yes, Mr. Holloway?"

"What is this?" Caden gestured to the cup on his desk. "I took one sip. It tastes like battery acid."

"It's... it's the Guatemalan blend, sir," Serena stammered. "Two sugars. Oat milk."

"It's burnt!" Caden shouted. "And the ratio is wrong. It's too milky. Do I have to teach you how to use a scale?"

"I'm sorry, I..." Serena's eyes welled up.

"Take it away," Caden dismissed her with a wave of his hand. "Just get me a water. I can't deal with this incompetencetoday."

Serena fled.

Jared, Caden's Chief of Staff, walked in as Serena ran out sobbing. He looked at the untouched coffee.

"Fifth cup?" Jared asked dryly.

"She's useless," Caden grumbled, rubbing his temples. "Eulalie... Eulalie used to make it perfectly. Every time. I never even had to ask."

"Maybe because she wasn't an assistant, Caden," Jared pointed out. "She was your wife. She cared."


Caden shot him a glare. "Don't start. I have enough of a headache."

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His phone pinged. A text from Adalynn.

Adalynn: Babe, you won't believe what Karli just told me. She got fired from Nexus!

Caden frowned. He typed back.

Caden: Why?

Adalynn: Because of HER. Eulalie. She's at Nexus. She took Karli's job! Karli says she's just doing it to spy on you. To steal your IP. You have to stop her.

Caden stared at the phone.

The memory of the gala, of Professor Liu's awe-struck face, flashed in his mind. It wasn't laughable. It was a threat. She wasn't pretending. She was escalating.

He knew the thousand-dollar invoice for the coffee consultation was a slap in the face, not a real bill, just as he knew the short sale had only wounded him, not killed him. This move, her stepping back into the tech world officially, was the real declaration of war.

A cold knot of fury tightened in his stomach. She had hidden this from him for years, living in his house, breathing his air, all while building an empire in the shadows. An empire he had inadvertently funded.

Adalynn: Karli says Eulalie is going to ruin the company. But what if she doesn't? What if she uses their resources against you?


Caden set the phone down. The coffee taste lingered in his mouth, bitter and wrong.

Everything was wrong. His house was quiet. His daughter was distant. His coffee was bad. And his ex-wife was a rival tech mogul.

It felt like the world had tilted on its axis.

He needed to reassert control.


"Jared," Caden said, his voice dangerously calm. "Get legal on the line. I want to look into the IP ownership of the CUAP protocol. Eulalie

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developed the foundational concepts while living in my home and acting as my executive assistant. I want an injunction filed. Claim she misappropriated corporate resources and trade secrets. If she stole so much as a line of code from a Holloway Holdings server or even an idea from a conversation she overheard-I'll bury her."

"Sir," Jared warned. "That's a declaration of war."

"She started it," Caden said, looking at the empty spot on his desk where his perfect coffee used to be. "She walked out."

 "Help me, and I'll give you a special reward!" Check