

Chapter 70 No.

The aftermath of the Summit was chaos.

Reporters swarmed Eulalie as she stepped off the stage.

"Ms. Bradford! Is it true you wrote the original code?"

"Are you suing Holloway Holdings?"

"What is your relationship with Professor Liu?"

Eulalie answered them calmly, flanked by Jory and, surprisingly Professor Liu himself, who acted as a terrifying bodyguard, barking at anyone who got too close.

Caden and Adalynn had fled out the back exit.

Eulalie walked out of the St. Regis. The air was cold, but she felt warm.

A black Rolls Royce pulled up to the curb.

The window rolled down.

Harrison Sterling.

He didn't smirk. His expression was one of profound, unnerving respect. The kind a predator shows to a more dangerous one.

"Bradford," he said, his voice level, stripped of its usual arrogance. "That was... something. Caden's finished." He took a breath. "Look, I'm an asshole, but I'm not stupid. Let me give you a ride. Call it... an apology for being on the wrong side of history."

Eulalie paused. She remembered the gun, the rain, the fear.

She saw that fear reflected in his eyes now.

She opened the door.

"Only if you're dropping me at the airport," she said. "I have a video conference with my legal team."

Harrison nodded once, a sharp, deferential gesture. "As you wish."

She got in. Jory followed.

As the car pulled away, Eulalie looked out the window.

She saw Caden standing on the sidewalk, arguing with Adalynn. Adalynn was shoving her bound report into his chest. Caden looked defeated.

He looked up. He saw Eulalie in the Rolls Royce.

Their eyes met for a split second.

In his eyes, she saw regret. Deep, terrified regret.

In her eyes, he saw nothing.

She turned away.

"So," Harrison said, staring straight ahead at the road. "That was quite a show. 'The Ghost'."

"It's not a show," Eulalie said, leaning back into the leather seat. "It's a resurrection."

She pulled out her phone. She texted Elara.

Mission accomplished, my little hero. I'm coming home.

She closed her eyes.

The war wasn't over. Caden would fight back. He would be vicious.

But the Ghost was out of the machine.

And she was never going back in.