

## Shadows 121

### Chapter 121

" You didn't know ? Wade , when you started lying about me and dragging my name through the mud , you already knew exactly what might happen . You just didn't want to face it . " You're acting all innocent and pitiful ... did you learn that from Kyla ? You should just be like Howard . At least he owns up to being a scumbag , and that's honestly less disgusting ! " Tilda could see that Wade really hadn't known about everything the Jensons had done . But did that matter ? It still didn't change anything .

Deep down , Wade must have sensed it long ago . He just kept pretending he hadn't seen anything or heard anything , all to numb his own guilt . Tilda's words tore through the truth Wade tried to hide . For a second , Wade's face looked absolutely awful and ashen . His clenched fists suddenly went limp . It was like Tilda could read his mind , cutting right through his defenses . She used the most direct , cutting words , and every time she spoke , it crushed whatever lies Wade tried to hide . He felt totally exposed , like he'd been stripped naked and left in the middle of the street .

Every secret , every bit of shame - laid bare for the world to see . As embarrassment , shame , humiliation , and guilt came crashing down over him , he could hardly breathe . " That's enough , Tilda ! We didn't come here to argue with you . Give me the video ! " Howard had no patience for Tilda anymore . He wanted nothing more to do with this mess . If it weren't for to do with her . that damned video , he wouldn't have wanted anything Every time he ran into Tilda , nothing good ever happened . So much for being his little sister ... she was more like a jinx to him . " You want it ?

Come and get it . " With that , Tilda spun around and bolted . Howard was left standing there , dumbfounded . He never expected Tilda to just take off like that . In the blink of an eye , she was already more than 30 feet away . She ran so fast ! At the very least , this time , he didn't want to add to the guilt he felt for Tilda . He wanted to protect her and not let Howard hurt her . Meanwhile , Howard pushed himself and finally caught up to Tilda in a narrow alleyway . Nobody else was around . For Howard , à distance like that was nothing . It didn't even count as a warm - up . But ... Tilda was fast . He nearly lost her several times .

Howard started to wonder if he was imagining things , but it felt like Tilda had even slowed down and let him catch up . " Tilda , you can't get away . Give me the video . " The alley had only one entrance . Howard had Tilda cornered . She was cornered , nowhere left to go . " The video ? Oh , you mean this ... " Tilda calmly pulled out her phone right in front of Howard . She tapped open the video , letting it play .

The whole scene of Rebecca kneeling and barking was right there , volume turned all the way up . " Not bad , right ? Almost a work of art .

" If I posted it online , it would be all over the place . " 12:17 Mon , Sep 8 M Howard couldn't even imagine what would happen to Rebecca if the video went viral . He lunged at Tilda in a panic . He stood at least six foot two , with the build of a pro fighter . When he charged , he exuded an intimidating aura , almost was like a lion going in for the kill . The whole alley seemed to shrink in comparison . His shadow swallowed Tilda's in an instant . All Howard cared about was grabbing the phone .

He wasn't even thinking about anything else . But all his little tricks he had up his sleeve were useless against Tilda . She dodged his grab easily and lashed out with a kick aimed right at his groin . Howard's face turned dark , and he barely twisted out of the way in time . Her kick sliced through the air with a sharp snap . That one move made Howard realize something was seriously wrong . Tilda was a trained martial artist . She knew what she was doing . The second that thought entered Howard's head , it was already too late .

Tilda planted her left foot against the wall , spun in midair , and kicked straight for the side of Howard's face with her right foot . As the sunset cast its glow over the alley , it caught the line of Tilda's cheek . Her dark hair whipped in the air , her body moving with a grace that looked almost winged . She looked like a winged goddess of war . She looked unstoppable . The flash of movement left Howard blinded for a split second . He couldn't even track what Tilda was doing . All he could do was fall back on years of fighting experience and instinctively defend himself .

He blocked her kick with his right arm . But Tilda didn't back down . Her eyes were locked on the weakest spot of his arm - the unprotected elbow joint , where he had no leverage .

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His right arm was useless now . Even someone like Howard couldn't stop himself from screaming in agony . His face flushed deep red , bloodshot eyes wide with pain . Sweat burst from his forehead in an instant , soaking his entire body . Clutching his shattered arm , he dropped to his knees , howling nonstop . " Wrestling world champ ?

Please , you're nothing but trash . " Tilda wasn't about to let him catch his breath . She followed up with a clean , brutal left hook straight to Howard's face . Bang ! Despite weighing nearly 170 pounds , Howard was sent flying into the wall by Tilda's punch . Anyone watching would've sworn she was cheating . Sure , Tilda stood a solid 5'7" , but she couldn't have weighed more than 100 pounds soaking wet . A

hundred - pound girl landing a punch strong enough to knock a 6'3" , perfectly built , former world wrestling champion into a wall ? Basically impossible .

Yet , Tilda did exactly that . One of Howard's teeth flew out from the impact . Blood trickled from the corner of his mouth , thick and sticky as it hit the floor . Tilda slammed her foot down onto his face . " You thought I ran away on purpose ? Nah . I just wanted a quiet place with no witnesses and no cameras , so I could beat the hell out of you . You really think being born a Jenson makes you better than everyone? Think a gold medal makes you unstoppable ?

In my eyes , you're nothing but a smug little puppet , strutting around the spotlight , clueless that someone else is pulling your strings . " Tilda hated Wade's fake charm . Hated Howard's arrogance even more . But this time , it was Howard who chased her down , and Howard who threw the first punch . That mouth had spit out more insults than she could count , every word like a knife back when she was still the old Tilda ... the weak one .. Now , she was here to settle the score . That spineless waste of space - this Howard - was the man she once gave everything for ? Hell no . He wasn't worth a damn thing . Blood filled Howard's mouth , thick with the taste of iron .

His right arm screamed in pain , his face throbbed , but worse than any of that was the sting in his pride and his heart . Furious , Howard's face turned bright red as he let out a deafening , animalistic roar . He lashed out with his good arm - his left - throwing it forward with everything he had , but he didn't touch a thing . Tilda had already spun back and retreated , widening the gap between them . " Tilda ! " he roared . By now , Howard had completely lost it . He didn't care that she was a woman . Didn't care she was his little sister .

All he wanted was to crush the bastard who humiliated him . Every throb of pain , every ounce of shame fueled him . 10 He shot to his feet like a wild animal and lunged , swinging his left fist at her . This punch - fueled by rage and pain - was beyond full force . It was everything he had , and then some . That fist , the size of a small boulder , sliced through the air like it was tearing it open . Tilda didn't doubt for a second - if that hit landed , anywhere on her body , it could be deadly .

But- 213 12:17 Mon , Sep 8 M And once she stepped into the dark web world , always planning ahead , she never let up on her training . She knew this was her trump card , her survival skill . Thanks to the innate gifts of her Omega - type traits , Tilda had always picked things up with ridiculous speed and mastering skills in record time .

She had refined her inner force to near - perfection , pushing her body past normal human limits . It was a level of control and transformation that someone like Howard , who'd only ever relied on brute force and strict training , could never reach . The inner force flowed through her like a current . Her body felt weightless , even her eyes sparkled with clarity and precision . In her vision , Howard's movements were playing in slow motion . If Howard was a venomous snake , Tilda was the cat waiting to strike . It didn't matter how deadly the snake's fangs or venom were .

For Tilda , one slip could mean total disaster . " But with reflexes like a cat's and eyes locked in with razor focus , that snake never even stood a chance of touching her . Speed always trumps brute force . Tilda dodged Howard's rage - fueled punch with ease . She twisted to the side , energy surging through her , and unleashed a devastating uppercut right to Howard's jaw . To his credit , Howard was a former world wrestling champ . Even if his mind was clouded with rage , his powerful instincts still kicked in the moment danger struck . That sixth sense saved his life just barely .

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Blood from his face dripped into his eyes , blurring his vision until he could barely make out Tilda's form . Just a silhouette now , towering over him . Her expression was unreadable . No rage , no satisfaction , just disgust , contempt , and disappointment . Her voice dropped like a funeral bell , landing cold and clear in the one sense he still had left . " You're pathetic . " With that , Tilda turned and walked away without hesitation . She had thought taking down Howard , the so - called world wrestling champion , would take more effort . Turned out ?

He was a total letdown .. The Jensons - loud on the outside , hollow on the inside . All bark , no bite . Trash like that only belonged with more trash . That old saying ? Yeah , it was right on the money . Good thing Tilda had bailed fast , or she might've rotted right along with them . Howard opened his mouth to speak , but the moment he did , blood filled it . He choked on the metallic taste , a sharp pressure clogging his sinuses , his breath caught somewhere between his throat and nose . No words came out . He hadn't expected this .

That the one thing he prided himself on - his fighting skills - would crumble like junk metal in front of Tilda . But now , with the very thing he had built his identity on , his so - called unbeatable fighting skills , crushed beneath her feet like they were nothing ? What did his contempt even amount to ? Sure , maybe he underestimated her . But in a real fight , there's no such thing as " underestimated " or " caught off guard . " There's only winning or losing . And Howard ?

He didn't just lose , he got obliterated . The word failure didn't even begin to cover how pathetic he looked right now . A searing pain bloomed in his chest like something was trying to tear its way out . Ever since he'd achieved his dream , won the world wrestling championship belt , and became the

youngest foreigner in the sport's history to do it , Howard had thought he was unstoppable . He believed he was ready to chase even bigger heights , take on every major combat discipline around the world and collect their titles too . He bathed in praise , high on his own hype .

And now , that long - buried feeling came flooding back - a bitter , gnawing burn . It was the fire born of defeat . Of tears , humiliation , and soul - crushing frustration . " Tilda ! " Wade finally caught up , having chased their trail for a while . Howard and Tilda had moved too fast for him to follow right away , and it had taken him some time to track them down . If he hadn't heard their voices just now .... His heart clenched . He was terrified something had happened to Tilda . But when he saw her standing tall , completely unharmed , the first thing he noticed was her white sneakers .

Streaked with blood . " Tilda , are you okay ? " Wade rushed up , breath tight in his chest . He didn't even realize how anxious he'd been . The thought of Howard hurting her had him in a silent panic . " Wade , do you really think I need your fake - ass concern ? " Tilda's expression didn't soften , and her voice was cold . " Get out of my way ." She didn't wait for a response , she just brushed past him and walked off . " I'm seriously worried about you .

Whether you believe me or not ... just tell me , are you hurt ? Did Howard do anything to you ? " Wade knew words wouldn't change anything now . He just needed one answer . That Tilda was safe . That nothing happened while she was alone with Howard . If Howard had done something and Wade hadn't gotten there in time , he'd never forgive himself . When Tilda turned around and met his worried face , she curled her lips into a cold , mocking smile . " Wade , don't you realize how much you look like a lapdog right now ? Have you lost your damn mind ?

Where's the guy who used to look down on me , insult me like it was your favorite pastime , apply double standards to everything I did ? And now what - you're trying to act like some loving big brother who's worried about his sister ? Why ? To make yourself feel a little less guilty about all the disgusting crap you've done ? " Tilda didn't hold back , not when it came to anyone from the Jensons . Her words shot straight through Wade's chest like a thousand arrows . Thinking back to everything he'd said and done to her , the shame crushed down on him like a weight he couldn't lift . Why now ?

Why the hell did he only realize the truth now , after all the pain , all the damage , all the times he chose to believe the worst of her ? Why did it take this long for him to see how badly he'd screwed up ? The coldness in his voice back then , the verbal abuse , the blatant double standards ... it made Wade sick to . his stomach . He didn't deserve to be her brother . Didn't even deserve to call himself a decent human

being . What kind of person says those things to a sister who had been missing for 19 years ? To someone they were lucky to find again ?

No one with a heart would treat their family that way , and he knew it .

## Chapter 124

" No matter what you think ... I know you hate me , and I don't have any excuse for the way I treated you before , but I'm not doing this to earn forgiveness . I'm doing this because I want to . Tilda , I just need to know - are you hurt ? " Wade said , his voice tight . Call him whatever she wanted . A hypocrite . A piece of trash . Someone faking concern to ease his own guilt . Wade didn't care . This was the one thing he genuinely wanted - to make sure Tilda was okay . Maybe she was right .

Maybe he was just trying to patch up the guilt eating away at him , guilt for the way he'd hurt her . Guilt for all the lines he'd crossed . Guilt for the things he could never take back . Wade no longer hoped she would understand that it was normal for a brother to worry about his sister . € 2 2 2 2 2 8 5 2 Not after all the crap he'd done . He'd already torn her heart to pieces . He didn't even deserve to call himself her brother , let alone ask for her understanding . " Instead of pretending to care ... Wade , don't you think someone else is missing ?

Don't be so sure the blood on my shoes is mine . " She tilted her head slightly , her tone ice - cold . Wade froze . Just then , Tilda's phone buzzed . She glanced at the caller ID . Without another word , she answered the call and walked right past him - face unreadable . " Yeah ... Andy , ran into some trash . Treated it like a warm - up . I'm good . I'll meet you guys in a minute . " Her voice faded as she disappeared down the street . Only when she was gone did Wade finally snap out of it , and then he bolted into the alley . No way . It couldn't be ...

Howard was a world wrestling champion , he was a beast in the ring . Everyone knew how strong he was . Even if Howard had been ambushed by a gang of violent thugs , as long as they didn't have guns or weapons , he should've been able to take them down easily . He'd done it before , and he'd even received a public commendation for stepping in during a street robbery . With that kind of skill , how could someone like Tilda - a girl , seemingly fragile - possibly be the one to do this to him ? But then Wade saw it .

Howard - face covered in blood - slumped against the wall , completely unable to move . " Howard ! " Wade couldn't stop himself from shouting . He rushed over , practically diving to his side . " Oh my god... What the hell happened to you ? Are you okay ? I'm calling an ambulance right now . " " Wait ... Wade , hold on ... " Howard forced the words out between shallow breaths . He paused , catching what little strength he had left , and grabbed Wade's arm weakly . " I don't want the family to know about this ... I don't want to worry them . Just take me to a private hospital .

I'll get treated there first . " " Okay . Yeah . Let me help you out of here . We'll get you to the car . " Wade carefully lifted Howard up , one arm around his back as they started to move , but the pain was written all over Howard's face , Every few steps , he winced hard , sucking in air through clenched teeth . Wade finally broke the silence . " Howard ... was it Tilda who did this to you ? " He still couldn't wrap his head around it . But who else could it have been ? " Yeah , it was Tilda . She's way stronger than we ever imagined - not just some hacker . Her fighting skills are elite .

Like , next - level elite . She used some technique I don't even understand and wrecked me . " Howard's voice was bitter , low , and ashamed . Saying it out loud made Howard feel even worse . This wasn't just about keeping the family from worrying . He couldn't bear the thought of them knowing the truth that he'd been completely beaten down by Tilda . It was humiliating . Wade stayed silent . He was too stunned to say a single word . " When I recover from this , I'm going to challenge Tilda to a proper fight . Next time , I won't underestimate her , " Howard said through gritted teeth .

Tilda had lit a fire in him . His competitive drive had been completely awakened . 12:17 Mon , Sep 8 M. This was about him - Howard - a fighter who had always dreamed of becoming the best in the world , issuing a challenge to someone who had utterly crushed his pride . He'd been beaten badly by Tilda , and if he didn't take that dignity back , then he wasn't Howard anymore . Next time , he wouldn't take her lightly . Next time , he'd go all out . " Damn ...

that hurts ... " he hissed . After dropping Una off at home , Tilda finally told Andy what had happened with Howard and Wade showing up to cause trouble . She didn't bother mentioning Wade's fake concern , didn't think it was even worth bringing up . Instead , she casually explained how she'd beaten the hell out of Howard . " God , finally ! You should've wrecked those two ages ago . Just hearing about it feels so satisfying . " Andy had never seen Tilda fight before , not in person , anyway . Up until now , their connection had only been through encrypted dark web channels and hidden IPs .

But in that world ? If you didn't learn how to protect yourself , you were already dead . Danger was never optional , and when it came for you , it didn't knock first . Sure , stealth and hacking kept you alive on paper . But when things got physical , the basics were non - negotiable - hand - to - hand combat , firearms , precision , speed . As the Queen of the dark web , Tilda had just as many admirers as she had people who wanted her dead .

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Tilda's hacking skills were just too good . The people who wanted her dead had no clue that the legendary Queen of the dark web - feared , respected , untouched - was , in real life , just an ordinary - looking , harmless student at Cetherland . " Still , I'm worried Howard might be dumb enough to team up with the Jensons and come after you again , " Andy said . " He won't , " Tilda replied coolly . " That guy's too obsessed with his image . You really think he'd go around telling people I beat him until he looked like a swollen pig ?

Howard would rather die than admit that . " She scoffed . She knew him too well . The kind of guy who pretended to have morals and a strong sense of justice , but when it came to people closest to him ? That so - called ' integrity ' vanished without a trace . The truth was , Howard had no real bottom line . And he was a master at convincing himself otherwise . He could spin any excuse - I did it for the family , ' I sacrificed myself for others , ' whatever made him feel like a hero . Still , at least Howard owned being a jerk - loud and proud . That was better than Wade's pathetic act .

Wade would screw you over , frame you , and then show up pretending to care . In the end , it was just a race to the bottom . " You're right , but what about that video of Rebecca ? What's your plan for that ? If you leak it online , I doubt that woman's reputation would survive , " Andy said . Anyone who messed with Tilda ? Andy would never let them walk away clean . In the dark web , the most efficient way to solve a problem was to make someone disappear for good . That way , they could never disturb Tilda's peace again .

But since Tilda hadn't given the order , Andy wasn't about to suggest it . As the Queen , Tilda didn't just have the power to protect herself , she had every right to toy with her prey however she pleased . " This video ? Not posting it would actually be more devastating than leaking it . " Tilda said calmly . It's like some kind of water torture . No real pain at first . Nothing obvious . But put someone in total darkness , cut off their senses , and let water drip , one drop at a time , onto their forehead - while they're completely restrained ...

Eventually , the pressure alone will shatter their mind . " When it came to someone like Rebecca , ruining her reputation would've been too easy . But she came after Tilda first . Both their past and present lives ' worth of bad blood , and Tilda was going to settle it all at once . She'd make sure Rebecca would beg for death long before it came . Right now , Rebecca didn't even dare go home , She clung to Kyla like her life depended on it , trembling the entire way back to the Jenson villa . If Kyla hadn't agreed to stay with her tonight , Rebecca was pretty sure she would've lost her mind .

The household's actual owners weren't there , only a few servants . Russell , Blair , and Dominic were all spending yet another night at the office . Kyla brought Rebecca into her own room to help calm her down first , then pulled out her phone and tried calling Howard and the others . Howard had promised earlier - after she told him about what happened to Rebecca - that he'd retrieve the video himself . But now it was already past 9 p.m. , and she hadn't heard a single word back . No one was picking up their phones , and a very bad feeling crept into Kyla's chest .

Finally , Kyla got through , but it was Wade who picked up . " Wade , what the hell is going on ? Why haven't you answered any of my calls ? I've been worried sick ! " " Sorry , Kyla . We ran into a situation . Something urgent came up , and Howard and I had to handle it . He probably won't be coming home for a while ... Wade glanced at Howard , who was still receiving treatment , and lied through his teeth . " Oh my God , what happened ? What's going on with Howard ? And Wade , did you get the video of Rebecca ... " We didn't get it .

I'm sorry . " Honestly , Kyla had already suspected as much . Wade's radio silence basically said everything . It wasn't her mess to clean up . She was about to say something polite , offer a few words of comfort , then hang up and figure out how to break the news to Rebecca - when Rebecca suddenly rushed into the room . " Kyla ! Is that Wade on the phone ? Give it to me ! Now ! " Before Kyla could say anything , Rebecca had already snatched the phone from her hand , nearly knocking her over in the process .

Kyla stumbled backward , barely staying on her feet . Rebecca didn't care , her voice shook as she pressed the phone to her ear . " Hello ? Wade ? Did you get the video ? " " Sorry , Rebecca . Tilda ... we couldn't do anything . " " No ! No , what am I supposed to do now ? What am I gonna do ?! If that video goes public , I'm finished ! " Rebecca burst into tears . All that arrogance she'd flaunted earlier at the amusement park - when she confronted Tilda and Una - was gone without a trace . Wade went silent . What was he supposed to say ? He already had enough of his own mess to deal with .

Tilda had him completely cornered . Every time he faced her , he came out looking like the worst version of himself - ashamed , helpless , crushed by guilt .

## Chapter 126

Now , with all the negative press surrounding the Jenson's - plus Howard's injuries , all thanks to Tilda - It felt like karma catching up with them . Payback for how they had treated their own blood - a sister they had ignored , abused , and cast aside . Time flew . A few days later , the date for the second court hearing arrived . Since Russell had already issued a public apology and fulfilled Tilda's conditions , the

trial went smoothly . A settlement was reached with little resistance . Dominic sat in the gallery , his face like stone .

For the first time , he really looked at Tilda . And it wasn't just with hatred , there was something else in his eyes now - fear . Because Tilda wasn't just connected to Andy anymore . She had ties to Jude from DY Group . The day they learned Jude had personally taken down the Jenson Group's internal systems , Dominic , Russell , and Blair had immediately held a meeting . Dominic even tried calling Jude directly , but Jude didn't even pick up . By the next morning , news broke - DY Group was officially cutting all ties with the Jenson Group , Every single partnership was terminated .

Even the multi - billion - dollar deal they'd been negotiating , one DY Group had shown serious interest in , was now dead in the water . Dominic was so shaken , he could barely function . Sure , for a massive Fortune 500 company like DY Group , a few billion was pocket change , but what major conglomerate walked away from profit without a damn good reason ? Unless they were planning to go to war with the Jensons . Just the thought of going head - to - head with Jude - that deep , unreadable man with terrifying capability- left Dominic completely unsure of victory .

That's why he now viewed Tilda with such fear and hatred . If her revenge ended up dragging Jude and DY Group in as enemies , the consequences would be catastrophic . Once this hearing ended , he had to confront her . " Your Honor , my client would like to file two final requests regarding her legal rights . First, that the Jenson family is prohibited from retaliating against either of my clients following the conclusion of this case .

Second , that they compensate my client for emotional distress and lost wages , totaling 2.5 million dollars . " Rose's brow twitched slightly . " Two - point - five million ? Andy , this was a minor case . That's excessive , don't you think ? " Andy fired back without missing a beat . " Excessive ? Why would it be ? Tilda did hire me for this , after all . Even though we're friends , I am charging her the ' friend rate , you know . " Rose fell silent . She couldn't argue with that .

Getting someone like Andy to handle any case , even a minor one , 2.5 million dollars wasn't even close to enough . People had offered him hundreds of millions to jump the queue and take their cases first . He'd refused without hesitation , and told them to get in line like everyone else . For the Jensons , 2.5 million dollars was pocket change . Giving it to Tilda left a bitter taste , sure - but it was a small price to pay to shut the case down and stop further damage . So they agreed to Tilda's terms . As Tilda and Andy turned to leave the courtroom , Dominic moved fast . " Tilda .

Stop right there . " Tilda didn't even glance his way . She and Andy just picked up their pace and walked right past him . " Tilda , I said stop ! Didn't you hear me ? " Dominic couldn't believe she actually had the nerve to ignore him . He sped up , determined to catch up . If Tilda made it past the courthouse doors and into that sea of reporters , it would be nearly impossible to get a word in . In a quick move , Dominic sprinted forward and spun to block her path . " Dominic , do you not know how to spell the word shame ? Can't you tell I don't want to talk to you ?

I guess the mighty Jenson Group CEO , the heir to the oh - so - powerful Jenson family , is not only a pervert , but also a shameless lapdog . Pathetic , " she said flatly . Tilda didn't miss a beat . Her voice was sharp and cutting , zero mercy . Dominic clenched his jaw , fighting the urge to slap her across the face . " Tilda , I just want to know one thing -what's your relationship with Jude ? " he asked . What business is it of yours what kind of relationship I have with Mr. Bell ?

What makes you think I owe you any explanation just because you asked ? Ridiculous . " Inwardly , Tilda was amused . Thank God Jude had stepped in directly . If he hadn't , Dominic wouldn't be half this anxious . So Jude - Slosa's so - called emperor - had really rattled Dominic this much ? She glanced at Dominic's rare , panicked expression and smirked . Now that was fun . Dominic opened his mouth again , about to push further , but Andy stepped in , blocking his way . Tall and composed , Andy stood eye - level with him .

He was smiling , but his emerald green eyes were cold as ice , depthless and unreadable . His lips parted slowly , voice low and androgynous , but firm with authority . " Mr. Jenson . My client has no interest in speaking with you . Have you already forgotten ? In court just now , father and your legal team agreed without hesitation - not to harass either of my clients . "

## Chapter 127

" You're already breaking the agreement , and we haven't even left the courtroom . Wow . That's bold . Real bold ." Andy's voice carried a mocking edge . " I'm not here to cause trouble ... " Dominic muttered . Just then , Russell's voice cut in . " That's enough , Dominic ." Dominic turned to see Russell and Rose approaching . Russell shook his head at him . Even though he understood Dominic's curiosity - honestly , he was dying to know too . It felt like they'd never really understood Tilda , this so - called biological daughter of theirs .

Not only was she connected to Andy , and she'd somehow pulled Jude into this mess as well . Jude , a man as powerful and untouchable as him had willingly cut ties with the Jensons - and taken Tilda's side . Russell wanted nothing more than to know what kind of relationship Tilda had with Jude , but now wasn't the time . With how guarded and sharp Tilda was , there was no way she'd just hand over that

kind of information . She'd let Dominic choke on his own frustration first . In that way , she was exactly like Russell .

So , in the end , Dominic had no choice but to give up , clearly unwilling . " Looks like you're the only one here with a functioning brain , Russell . " Tilda shot back with a smirk , her words laced with sarcasm . Then she and Andy turned and walked out of the courtroom . Outside , the press had already gathered . Everyone knew today was the second hearing , and with the Jensons involved , the attention was massive . Even though days had passed since the initial headlines , there was still plenty of buzz left to feed off . Where there was hype , there was money .

No one was about to walk away from that . Tilda and Andy moved through the crowd of reporters effortlessly , confidently answering questions about the outcome of today's trial . Dominic stood nearby , watching their smug , composed expressions - and he was fuming . He wanted nothing more than to rip those fake smiles off their faces . What the hell were they pretending for ? This wasn't just some legal win , this was a betrayal .

Tilda had betrayed the Jensons , betrayed the family that Yet there she was , standing in front of the cameras , casually talking about the case like it was no big deal . Dragging the Jensons through the mud , laughing like it was nothing , like she didn't carry Jenson blood in her veins . If she hated them so much , she should've just given her life back to the family . Russell stepped beside Dominic and placed a hand on his shoulder .

" That's enough , Dominic . Let's go . We still have to deal with the fallout later today . " " Dad , I just don't get it . I really don't . Why does it have to be her ? My sister . Your daughter . If she weren't related to us , if there wasn't that blood tie , none of this would've happened . The Jensons wouldn't have taken this kind of hit , and DY Group wouldn't have canceled our partnership . All of it is because of Tilda . " What a perfect sister . What a perfect daughter . Russell didn't respond at first . Then he let out a heavy sigh .

" We were doomed the second she walked in the door . " Once Tilda and Andy wrapped up the media questions and got into the car , Tilda finally spoke again . " Andy , donate the 2.5 million anonymously . Pick an orphanage . " Tilda had zero interest in keeping the Jensons ' money . Just touching it felt disgusting . She only took it to spite them . If she could do something decent with it , like give back to the orphanage where she'd once lived , even better . Andy raised a brow . " Got it . " As night fell , Una and Tilda threw a send - off party for Andy at the Nightingale Bar .

Sipping her Bloody Mary, Una pouted a little. "I can't believe you're leaving tomorrow, Andy, Can't you stay just a little longer?" Andy smiled. "I really can't. Jeselton's been pressing hard for my return. I've already stayed here almost three weeks just to handle Tilda's case. If I could stick around longer, I definitely would." Seeing how reluctant Una was, Andy reached over and gave her a light pat on the head. "Come on, Una. It's not like we'll never see each other again.

Next time you and Tilda come to Jeselton, I'll clear my whole schedule and show you around properly." "Really?! That'd be awesome!" Tilda didn't chime in immediately. She just stood by the riverside, letting the wind brush through her hair. The rotating neon lights of Nightingale Bar shimmered across her figure, casting flashes of color that made her already striking features seem even more mysterious, like something straight out of a dream. "Evening, everyone." A voice cut in as Maurice strolled over, holding a bottle of wine.

"As the owner of Nightingale Bar, consider this a personal gift. Hope you all come back often." He flashed a cheeky wink in Una's direction. Una froze. Instant goosebumps. Sure, she could admit Maurice was good-looking, but that look? Seriously? What the hell did that wink even mean? Maurice really thought that was his charm? He gave her the same weird look last time at Sky Dining too. Tilda glanced at the bottle in his hand and instantly recognized it. "Mr. Rowse, you really don't hold back, do you? A ten-million-dollar, ultra-rare '82 vintage bottle of wine.

"Only the best for the best," Maurice said smoothly. Without waiting for an invite, he pulled out a chair and sat right down. Meeting Tilda's inquisitive gaze, Maurice gave a small smile. "Relax. Jude's not here. He's out on a business trip in Lucien. Had something to take care of." "Oh." Tilda managed a one-word response.

## Chapter 128

The truth was, last night Tilda had suddenly gotten a craving for something ridiculously dark and decadent. She casually mentioned it while chatting with Jude, and without a second thought, he had it delivered right to her. Tilda had also asked if he'd been busy lately, and whether personally stepping in to deal with the Jensons would cause him any trouble. Jude reassured her it was no big deal. He even mentioned he'd have to take care of something the next day. Then he stayed with her for two whole hours before heading out.

What he didn't say was that he'd be flying to Lucien for a business trip. Jude had never hidden the fact that he was interested in forming a contract with her, but he'd always been a gentleman about it. Never once pushed or forced her into anything. Maurice's eyes glinted with amusement. "If Jude knew

how much you were thinking about him , Ms. Tilda ... I'm sure it'd make his day . " " Mr. Rowse , don't get the wrong idea . Mr. Bell and I are just friends , " Tilda replied calmly .

Sure , she could admit their relationship had progressed rapidly lately , but they were nowhere near that level yet . " Mmm , I get it . Now you're friends . But who knows about the future ? Fate's like that , right ? " fun , Clearly , Maurice had zero intention of playing neutral . He was shamelessly helping Jude out - wingman duties , fully activated . You're welcome , Jude . This is my final assist as your loyal bro , he thought. Tilda didn't say anything . Then Andy finally stepped in . " Alright , Mr. Rowse . If you're here for a drink , that's cool - welcome , even .

But maybe don't get too involved in our Tilda's love life , yeah ? Our girl here ? She's way better off staying gorgeous and single . Romance just isn't necessary for her vibe . Okay ? " If Andy hadn't figured out that Maurice meant no harm , and hadn't genuinely loved the vibe of Nightingale Bar , he would've kicked him out already . Andy would've been seriously annoyed if they lost this place and couldn't even throw their own farewell party here . This was a farewell party for their closest friend . No room for side characters . "Okay , I'll stop talking . Mr.

Saville , I've heard so much about you . It's an honor to finally meet . This drink's Pearls On the other side of the screen , Dominic lowered his eyes , trying to hide the flicker of sadness in them . It had all started the moment he heard about the legendary Queen . That fascination had pulled him into the dark web , and he dove headfirst into the hacker underground .

When he actually became her apprentice , he was so ecstatic it was borderline obsession . Even though he had never met her in person , the admiration he felt was more than just respect . It was the kind of intense devotion only a diehard fan feels for their idol . Yes . That's right . No one would ever have guessed that Dominic - CEO of the Jenson Group , firstborn of the ultra - elite Jensons - was secretly a hacker . And more than that ... Queen's apprentice . The person he admired most in the world was her . Dominic had never told anyone . Not a soul . Not even his own family .

THE To the outside world , and to the Jensons themselves , Dominic was the model son . He'd inherited Russell and Blair's best genes . Graduated early with a master's degree from a top international university , returned to Cetherland with honors , and from the moment he stepped into Jenson Group , he was named CEO . Through raw skill and cold precision , he quickly won the respect of the entire company . Anyone who doubted him or tried to stir up trouble was swiftly removed , even the old guard . His ruthless efficiency had surpassed Russell himself .

Which was exactly why Russell had felt confident enough to hand the reins of the company over early and retire with Blair to enjoy their golden years in peace .

## Chapter 129

Russell and Blair had always been proud of their seven sons , but especially Dominic . Dominic had never done anything to worry them . He was smart , decisive , and fast when handling business . He had sharp instincts , almost like a sixth sense . These were the qualities that made him the clear heir to lead the Jenson Group one day . No one would ever guess Dominic had a connection to the dark web . Even fewer would believe he was the legendary hacker known as DJ - the secret apprentice of the infamous Queen .

Dominic's only reason for staying in the dark web was because of her . Improving his hacking skills was just the easiest way to stay close to her . So when Queen announced she was leaving the dark web , Dominic immediately followed . But even though he had been her student for three years , Queen always felt that Dominic only contacted her when it was something serious . She found it strange . They were teacher and student , yet he never reached out just to chat . She often wondered , Doesn't he ever want to just talk and build a normal bond with me ?

In Dominic's heart , Queen was just as important as his parents . Maybe even more . She was his idol , his mentor , and almost a kind of faith to him . One day , Queen messaged him . " Why have you been so quiet ? Are you mad at me ? " DJ replied . " No. You really are amazing - you can even read my mind . Master , I want to ask you for something . Can you help me look into Jude from DY Group ? " When Tilda saw the message , she frowned . " Why do you want to investigate Jude ? Don't tell me ... you're in Slosa ? " Dominic froze for a moment . Then he typed back without thinking .

" Master , you're in Slosa too ? " Right then , an image of Tilda flashed in his mind . From the moment he realized she might have terrifying hacking skills - and that she had connections with Andy and Jude - he had been wary of her . He had already tried digging into her past with his own skills . He wanted to know what really happened in the 19 years she'd been missing , who she'd met , and what her background was . But he'd found nothing . Not even he - the hacker ranked number 11 on the dark web - could uncover anything deeper about Tilda .

That meant someone even stronger was protecting her , someone who had erased every trace of her existence . Dominic had even gone so far as to post an anonymous bounty on the dark web , hiring the

hacker ranked number five to dig into her . If even the number five hacker couldn't touch her records , then the power backing Tilda was far beyond what he imagined . Andy and Jude definitely knew about the dark web . People at their level had to .

Yet Tilda had ties with both of them . If Queen is in Slosa too ... then what is her connection to Tilda ? And if the one hiding Tilda's past was none other than the number one hacker on the dark web - Queen - then it all made sense . The thought hit Dominic so hard he shook his head violently . Impossible . No way ! Queen was too noble and untouchable . How could she ever be tied to someone as dirty and shameless as Tilda ? Queen sent another message . " Jude is the CEO of DY Group , the youngest leader of the Bells . He's in Slosa . Of course , I know that .

The moment you wanted me to investigate him , I figured you must be in Slosa too ." She didn't directly answer DJ's request . But from his quick reply , she already knew he was there . Otherwise , he wouldn't have asked if she was also in Slosa . It also meant DJ might be in competition with DY Group . Tilda could sense that DJ was no ordinary man . His hacking skills were extraordinary . And the way he spoke - polished , refined - showed he had come from a family with power and wealth . She just hadn't expected him to run into Jude , let alone clash with him .

On one hand , DJ was Tilda's student . On the other hand , Tilda didn't know where to place Jude , the man who had helped her and also shared the same Omega - type as her . That thought left her feeling torn . DJ messaged again . " You're right . I am in Slosa . And yes , a big part of my current trouble comes from Jude , Will you help me ? If anyone can dig into him , it's you . " Queen paused before replying . " I'm sorry . I already tried looking into Jude a long time ago ... but I couldn't find anything either ."

### Chapter 130

As the Queen of the dark web and the number one hacker , Tilda hated things she couldn't control . So , of course , she had tried to challenge Slosa's king . But sadly , even she couldn't dig up anything beyond surface - level info . That alone proved how terrifying the Bells were . Their secrets were guarded so tightly that it was like dealing with a government firewall . DJ messaged . " I see ... then are you in Slosa ?

When Dominic typed that , his heart sped up . He was both scared and eager for her answer . Finally , Queen replied . " Yes . " In her past life , Tilda would never have admitted that - not even to her trusted apprentice . Not even Andy knew her true identity . But this time around , she wanted to cut all ties with the Jensons . She wanted to reclaim everything she had almost lost because of blind loyalty to family . So she decided there was no harm in being honest with her student . Dominic's hands trembled when he saw her answer . It was shocking , yet somehow it made perfect sense .

He didn't know how to respond . At last , he took a deep breath . Then he typed , " Master , I'll say it again . I want to meet you in person . " Since we're both in Slosa , this might be our chance . But if it bothers you , just forget I said anything . Still ... if you're willing ... " His words trailed off . He had always wanted to meet Queen . In his mind , she had to be beautiful , with a rare kind of grace . Dominic knew she was a woman . Not only because of her codename , but also from the way she acted , the way she spoke . He was certain .

Ever since the first time he heard about her , since he became obsessed with her incredible achievements , his only wish had been to see her face - to - face . He didn't want their bond to stay inside the dark web . He wanted to meet her in the real world . 112 He wanted to be beside her like a normal person . To walk with her through the streets . To go to an amusement park . To drink coffee . To shop in malls . To ride a hot - air balloon . To try bungee jumping . To watch the northern lights .

To see the beauty of the world , which he had never done before , but only wanted to do with her . Just the thought of it made his chest burn . His life would be so full , so happy , if Queen were by his side . She was the first - and the only - person outside of the Jensions who had ever given him real meaning in his life . His heart raced again , burning with hope . But soon it cooled down . Dominic let out a bitter smile . He already knew her answer . She would reject him again . She always did . He had asked her countless times before . She had never agreed .

Even after leaving the dark web , she still kept her distance . They were teacher and student , nothing more . Only online . Never in person . Meeting in real life was too dangerous . The number one hacker on the dark web had countless admirers - but just as many enemies who wanted her gone . Even if Dominic was her student , meeting him face - to - face would be like gambling with her life . On the dark web , hiding your identity was the first rule of survival . Never get personal . Never let emotions get in the way . Dominic adored her . He wanted to give her everything he had .

But through the cold screen , his burning heart could never reach her . Just when he was about to give up , Queen replied . " Let's meet in a week , at noon . You pick the place . " Dominic froze . For a full minute , he just stared at the words . Chic Then his breath quickened . Sweat broke out across his forehead . His chest surged with joy so wild his hands shook as he held his phone . He had to take several deep breaths , trying to calm the storm in his chest .