

## 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 Jensons 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 Jensions . 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 , untouchable - 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 Jensions - 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 Jensions 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 Jensions , 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 Jensions 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 Jensions 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 Jensions ' 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 Jensions 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 Russelland 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 Jensions . 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 . 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 .