

## Shadows 201

Chapter 201 Drop Dead He slipped his phone into his pocket , lips curving into a quiet , knowing smirk . No need to say anything - the victory spoke for itself . Once the ceremony wrapped up , it was time for the big group picture . Of course , Alfie and Tilda were right in the middle , the stars of the moment . And then , the livestream chat blew up again . " Wait , who's that insanely hot guy handing her the trophy ? I can't breathe right now ! " " Pretty sure he's from Woodward Group since they're sponsoring this event . " " Woodward Group ? As in the Woodwards ?

They're just as powerful as the Bells ! Rich , influential , and now apparently stupidly good - looking too . Seriously , how's anyone else supposed to compare ? " " Low - key , he and Tilda look like a perfect match . My heart's officially broken . " " I ship it . I ship it so hard ! " Kyla scrolled through the comments , practically grinding her teeth . She knew exactly who Alfie was - the heir to Woodward Group , a business empire strong enough to rival the Bells .

Not only was he ridiculously handsome , but he also had an Ivy League degree , insane talent , and a future brighter than anyone else in the room . Way better than Preston , who looked like trash standing next to her . Alfie had even been on Kyla's mental list of potential husbands . Now , watching Tilda stand shoulder - to - shoulder with him , laughing and chatting like they were already close , Kyla's rage nearly boiled over . At the same time , Preston noticed too . His brow tightened , something ugly and unfamiliar twisting in his chest .

It felt like someone had snatched away a toy that used to worship him . Even if Preston had no interest in Tilda - shallow , greedy , unworthy Tilda - she was still his fiancée . If he did not want her , then nobody else should either . Especially not Alfie ! Alfie was not just any rival - he was Jude's friend , which made him Preston's direct enemy . While Preston and Kyla silently fumed , the two standing at the center of the stage were playing their own games , each with secrets hidden behind their smiles . Meanwhile ...

Jude was in Lucien , watching the livestream on his screen . The moment he saw Alfie standing beside Tilda , his gaze darkened , like the night sky swallowing its stars . A chilling aura spread from him . Right then , Vassal walked in with an update . However , as soon as he caught sight of Jude's expression , he froze . He instantly dropped to one knee , head lowered , not daring to even glance up . Sweat poured down his back , soaking through his clothes . His whole body trembled . Jude's icy , murderous aura was so strong it felt like the air itself froze .

Vassal could not even remember the last time he had seen his master like this . What on earth could've shaken someone as cold and unshakable as Jude ? It had to be something massive - maybe even a threat from the entire Bell family . While Vassal's thoughts spun in circles , he had no idea ... The truth behind Jude's fury boiled down to just two words - Jealous . Rage . And the person he was jealous of was his own best friend , Alfie . Once Jude got home, Alfie was either getting skinned alive or straight - up buried . Sure enough.

After wrapping up with Tilda , Alfie casually glanced at the iPad a staff member handed him . They were buzzing with excitement , showing him the madness happening online . The chat had completely lost it over the new ship . People were already fighting over couple names , making fan accounts , and spamming screenshots of him . and Tilda side by side . Shares , comments , likes - everything was blowing up at once . The fans were absolutely living for it . The staff thought Alfie would be thrilled .

After all , the ridiculously handsome sponsor had been hovering around the champion all night , If he played along with all that buzz on the internet , Alfie could snag the girl without even breaking a sweat . However ... Alfie's grin froze on his face . Oh no . Oh crap . He was so screwed . He whipped out his phone , firing off calls to every media connection Woodward Group had , throwing money left and right to shut down every trending topic about the couple . He could not let this spin out of control . Because if Jude saw this ... Wait .

Oh no . Tilda was in the National College Art Competition , and Alfie had literally bragged about it to Jude a few days ago ! There was no way Jude missed the livestream . Yep . He was dead . Hands shaking , Alfie started spamming Jude with messages . " Jude , listen , it's not what it looks like , I swear ... " Jude ! Jude ! Don't ignore me , I'm freaking out here , bro ! " Look , when you get back , I'll let you do whatever you want with me , deal ? " Finally , a reply came . " Drop dead . " Just two words . But they sealed Alfie's fate .

With nowhere else to turn , Alfie's last hope was Tilda .

Chapter 202 Jealous ? Out of nowhere , it struck him . Crap ! He never even got Tilda's number or Instagram ! Alfie cursed himself . What kind of idiot forgets something that important ?

After saying goodbye to Tilda , Simon was practically bouncing with energy , already making plans for her upcoming International College Art Competition . He was dead set on helping her become a world champion , grab that gold medal , and bring pride to the whole country . Meanwhile , Una had the entire family glued to the livestream .

When it came time to vote , she did not hold back - texting , calling , and begging every friend and relative to cast a vote for Tilda . And when Tilda actually won , standing in the spotlight for everyone to see , Una was so hyped that her face turned bright red , screaming nonstop until she nearly passed out .

Once she calmed down a little , she immediately called Tilda to congratulate her Naturally , she also invited her out to Nightingale Bar to celebrate , saying , " Everything's on me tonight! " Tilda accepted without hesitation .

Back at her apartment , Tilda carefully placed the trophy in her display case . The funny thing was , trophies and titles never really mattered to her before . She had always had full confidence in her skills . With her mentor's guidance and her Omega - type talent , there was not much she could not achieve if she wanted it . Yet , this time felt different . A faint smile touched her lips . It was like she had rediscovered the joy of creating , the lessons her mentor once told her . The thought of representing her country on the world stage lit something inside her .

For the first time in a long time , life felt meaningful again . If you've got the talent , why not chase greatness ? Why not aim to be remembered forever , to leave something that dazzles the world ? Why waste time clinging to a family that doesn't want you , or sink into bitterness and hate ?

So , Tilda snapped a quick picture of her trophy and sent it to Dane . " Dane , I just won the National College Art Competition ! Praise me ! " Dane's reply came back almost instantly . " You're amazing , Tilda .

" And that was while he was in the middle of a research project . Nothing and no one could normally distract him from his experiments , except Tilda . She was the only person he allowed to pull him away from work , even briefly . In fact , Dane barely had any contacts saved , but he gave Tilda a custom notification just for her messages . He even refused to mute his phone or shut it off while working , just in case she needed him . His lab assistants , watching all this , were stunned . Professor Kerrigan's favoritism for Queen could not have been more obvious .

Tilda and Dane ended up chatting for a while longer . Then , Jude finally texted her . He said , " You won the championship ." Tilda replied , " Jude , why do you sound so calm ? Aren't you even a little happy for me ? " " With your talent , it was bound to happen . Of course I'm happy , but I didn't want to make a big deal out of it . " Tilda texted back , " Hehe . I'll just take that as your way of praising me then ." Jude responded , " I caught the livestream . Seems like a lot of people are shipping you with Alfie ." Honestly , Jude had not even planned on sending that last part .

However , the jealousy sitting heavy in his chest spilled out before he could stop himself . Even his penthouse was filled with this dark , brooding vibe . When Vassal came earlier to give a report , he was so nervous he could barely get the words out . The second Jude nodded , he bolted like his life was on

the line - like staying one more second would get him swallowed whole . Tilda joked , " Don't tell me ~ Jude , are you jealous ? " Even someone as clueless as Tilda could pick up on it .

The jealousy was practically radiating off her phone screen . Jude answered , " If I admitted I was jealous , would you think I'm being petty ? " Pff . Tilda almost spit out her drink . Was Jude seriously acting humble ? Gosh .

That was so not his style . If anyone else saw this side of him , they would swear she must have cast some kind of spell over him . Tilda texted back , " Nope ! If I said I'd be happy , would that make you feel better ? Less jealous ? " She hit send . Then froze . Wait , wasn't that kinda flirty ? Too late now . Jude definitely saw it .

Trying to delete it would only make things worse . On Jude's end , he stared at her reply . For a moment , he was stunned . He never thought she would respond like that . Finally , he steadied himself enough to type back . " Yeah , I'd be happy . Really happy . " " That's good . Don't be jealous , okay ? Good boy . " .. Meanwhile , Alfie was still in full panic mode , desperately trying to figure out how to beg Jude for forgiveness . He kept blowing up Maurice's phone with nonstop voice calls . Maurice was stuck in a meeting , staring at the screen in disbelief .

Over 30 missed calls already , and Alfie was still spamming like his life depended on it .

Chapter 203 Too Late Maurice didn't just ignore Alfie - he blocked him . Only after his meeting would he think about unblocking . Alfie nearly blew a gasket . " Unbelievable ! I'll just book a flight and beg Jude in person . If I wait until he's back in Slosa , I'm completely screwed . " Just as he was about to order a ticket , he got a message . It was from Jude . " Here's your shot at redemption . Help me analyze something . " He forwarded his chat with Tilda , covering it up with the classic " asking for a friend " . Alfie almost laughed out loud . Good thing it was over text .

If Jude saw his grin , Alfie would already be dead . Seriously ? The almighty DY boss suddenly fishing for relationship advice ? Yeah , no . This was clearly about him . Still , Alfie knew this was his only chance to redeem himself . So he played along . " Isn't it obvious ? The girl's already softening up . " If the guy keeps showing he's real , she's basically his . " If I'm wrong , chop off my head and use it as a soccer ball ! " Jude read it in silence . His sharp , cold eyes softened , like winter thawing into spring . Could it be true ? Was Tilda already touched by him ?

For once , the icy CEO looked almost hopeful , light flickering in his gaze . That night , Tilda and Una hit up Nightingale Bar . " Cheers ! " They clinked glasses , grinning like complete idiots . " I'm so freaking happy ! The only thing missing is seeing Kyla's jealous little face - ugh , that fake witch ! " I've imagined it a thousand times , but nothing beats seeing it in real life ! " Even in her excitement , that was Una's one regret . Tilda chuckled . " Forget about her tonight , Una . Let's not let Kyla spoil the mood .

" " You're right , Tilda . Beating her down was satisfying , but tonight's about partying , not wasting time on that wannabe . Forget her ! " Right then , the band by the bar struck up a tune . " Tilda , I've got another surprise for you ." Una shot her a playful wink before strutting over to the stage . She waved at the band , signaling she wanted to sing . Since everyone at Nightingale was a VIP , the band did not hesitate . They passed her the mic and spotlight . Una grinned and cleared her throat . " This one's for my ride - or - die , Tilda !

" And to celebrate her winning the national championship ! " Next stop , the world stage ! Tilda's gonna light it up even more ! " This song is for you ! " Thanks to a hit reality show , this old song Una wanted to sing had gone viral again - TikTok could not get enough of it . Funny enough , it was also Una's favorite back when she was hooked on watching dramas . Tonight , it was the perfect way to show how much she adored her best friend . And Una crushed it . Her voice was sweet , clear , and crazy addictive .

She sang with so much energy that she even busted out some dance moves mid - song . Tilda just sat there , smiling at her best friend , totally warmed by it . Upstairs , Wade was watching everything unfold . He had caught the whole live stream earlier and even voted for Tilda himself . When her painting popped up , he was floored - completely speechless . It was not just art .

He had never seen a painting so powerful , so overwhelming , that words could not even describe it . It was not just a simple piece of art .

It felt more like a creation born from the fusion of souls Something that could steal away the spirit of anyone who laid eyes on it . It was a masterpiece . And then she won by a landslide . Wade felt proud - genuinely proud - because this shining star on stage was his little sister . With a little sister this amazing , how could he not feel proud ? However , mixed with that pride was a sharp sting . Why hadn't he ever tried to really know her before ? He realized he had no clue what Tilda loved , what drove her , or what talents she had been hiding all this time .

By the time he noticed , she was already dazzling the whole world . By the time Wade regretted it , by the time he wanted to win back his sister and really get to know Tilda , it was already too late . He even found himself jealous of Una , who was singing and dancing on stage , overjoyed . Because as Tilda's best friend , Una could be by her side without restraint , share in the things she loved , and understand her more and more . That was a place Wade no longer had the right to stand in .

Chapter 204 Unlucky Day " Alright , Wade . I knew the second you dragged me to Nightingale Bar for drinks that nothing good was gonna come of it . " Aren't you tired of living like this ? You're just throwing your life away ! " Clive shook his head as he watched Wade . Ever since Tilda walked out onto the second - floor patio , Wade hadn't looked anywhere else . Clive rubbed his forehead in frustration . If

Wade had known it would end like this , why had he started in the first place ? Clive did admire Tilda , though . Her achievements were amazing .

In Clive's eyes , if someone had just one of Tilda's skills , they'd already be called a genius . But Tilda ? She had them all . Ever since she cut ties with the Jensons , she had shown every bit of her talent without holding back . Sure , Clive thought Tilda was a walking jinx . Anyone who got too close to her would end up in trouble . But even he couldn't deny one thing - she was stunning . And it wasn't just her looks . She had this dazzling presence that made it impossible to look away . " I know I'm throwing my life away , " Wade muttered , " but I can't help it .

" After watching her competition live stream today , I kept thinking how amazing it would be to see her in person . " Even if I don't deserve to stand in front of her anymore . Even if she completely hates me . I just want to sit somewhere she can't see me , watch from a distance , and cheer for her in my heart . " She won the championship . I'm really happy for her . " So Wade used the dumbest method .. He didn't really know anything about Tilda . He had no clue where she liked to hang out . The only reason he came here was because he'd run into her at Nightingale Bar several times before .

So his simple idea was to rent a private booth at night and wait . The open patio on the second floor was Tilda's favorite spot . Funny enough , it was Wade's favorite too . From there , you could feel the cool breeze blowing off the river . Across the water , the neon glow of Slosa's nightlife lit up the skyline . Sometimes , fancy riverboats drifted by , gliding under the bridge with their lights sparkling . Wade was afraid that if Tilda saw him , she'd turn around and leave . And then he wouldn't be able to look at her at all .

So he pulled Clive along and hid in a booth instead . Just being able to see her like this was enough for him . He didn't dare ask for more . Clive let out a long sigh as he watched his friend . He never imagined Wade would turn into this . To feel this guilty over one person ... it had tied his heart into a knot . And Clive had no idea how to untie it . How to bring Wade back to the carefree , arrogant guy he used to be before Tilda . Just then , another figure stepped into the bar . The man's eyes instantly landed on Tilda , happily drinking and listening to music . His brows furrowed .

" Of all places ... to run into this bitch here , " Tilda felt the weight of someone's hostile stare and turned her head . Oh great . Preston . What a coincidence . Tilda rubbed her forehead . This was supposed to be her day to celebrate , but it suddenly felt like an unlucky day . First , all those annoying people , now him . Talk about bad vibes . Honestly , she didn't have much of an impression of Preston . In her past life , she

and Preston had barely spoken . Back then , Kyla played the innocent act in front of the Jensons and let them crush Tilda as hard as possible .

That was the trick that hurt her most . As for Preston , he was just part of the setup - engaged to Tilda on paper , but really Kyla's backup guy . Kyla had been careful to keep Preston away from Tilda , afraid something might slip out of her control . In five years , Tilda had only met him a few times . Each time , it was either him warning her not to bully Kyla , or him flat - out saying he'd never marry her . She never cared . She told him over and over that she had zero interest in him , so he shouldn't read too much into it . But Preston was just too full of himself to listen .

Tilda gave him a single glance , then looked away . Tonight she wanted to enjoy herself . She wasn't about to waste time on an idiot . Preston , on the other hand , noticed her ignoring him and felt his temper rise . He suddenly thought back to earlier that day - when he saw her laughing and talking with Alfie . Ha . So that's it ? Playing hard to get with me ? He'd seen through her act long ago . She always pretended to be aloof , but deep down , she must've been drooling over the Bells ' power . He hadn't planned to bother with her . But then he remembered Rebecca .

At that moment , Tilda was still watching Una finish her set on stage : Preston pulled up a chair not far from her and leaned in . " Tilda , " he said , smirking , " I guess this is the first time we're really meeting face to face

Chapter 205 Inflated Ego " I wasn't in Slosa for a while , and yet you stirred up quite a storm with the Jensons and the Bells , " Preston said . His tone was calm , almost gentle . But Tilda didn't even bother listening . Her eyes stayed fixed on the stage , full of excitement as she watched Una perform . Preston's brows pulled tight . This bitch . She heard me , but she's pretending not to . Tilda , this whole hard to get ' act ? It's getting old . From their private booth upstairs , Clive and Wade could see everything . " Wade , isn't that Preston ?

Didn't he use to be engaged to Tilda ? " So technically ... doesn't that make him her fiancé ? " Clive only knew about it because the news had been a big deal . The truth was , Preston had always been in love with Kyla . He only wanted her as his wife . And it wasn't just him . Both his parents and the Jensons had supported the match . Preston and Kyla had grown up together , practically childhood sweethearts . Their bond was strong . On paper , they were perfect - family , looks , background , everything lined up . Everyone thought they were the ideal couple .

But things got messy when Kyla refused . She said she already owed the Jensons enough as their adopted daughter . Since Preston was officially engaged to the Jensons ' real daughter , Tilda , Kyla didn't want to steal what wasn't hers . Even though Tilda had been missing for 19 years , with her life or death uncertain , Kyla wouldn't say yes to Preston . She avoided him at every turn . And no one blamed

her . People just thought she was too kind , too naïve - willing to give up her own happiness for a sister who might not even exist anymore .

But when Tilda was finally found , Kyla and Preston's chance was over for good . 13:11 Mon , Sep 8 Wade remembered how he used to complain to Clive . He blamed Tilda's return for breaking up Kyla and Preston , who loved each other so much . He'd even called Tilda a homewrecker , someone who used an old family promise to ruin other people's lives . Clive glanced at Wade now . Sure enough , his friend's face was twisted with regret . He was clearly remembering the ugly things he'd said about her . He had been cruel back then .

Now he wanted nothing more than to go back in time and slap his old self across the face . " It's him , " Wade muttered , his eyes narrowing . " I'm worried he's up to no good with Tilda . " " What ? That's impossible , right ? This is the first time they've actually spoken . " And besides , Tilda already cut ties with the Jensons . That engagement doesn't count anymore . Why would Preston even bother with her ? " Wade stayed silent . He couldn't exactly tell Clive about Rebecca crawling on the floor , barking like a dog .

He'd followed the story online afterward and found out Tilda had filmed the whole thing , but never released the video . Rebecca had been so embarrassed , she ran off to hide in Hetsa just to avoid her . Wade had no idea if Preston knew about it . But if he did , then there was no way this sudden approach was just casual . " Tilda ! " Preston suddenly barked . His voice was sharp and heavy. Tilda's head ached instantly . She turned and glared at him , annoyed . " Don't push it ! " " What ... what did you just say ? " Preston's eyes narrowed dangerously .

" Didn't you notice I've been ignoring you ? Why are you sitting near me ? Why are you talking to me ? " You're annoying . Just a guy with an inflated ego ! " At last , Tilda said it . In her last life , she had wanted to spit those words at Preston a thousand times . She honestly marveled at his confidence . How could someone so ordinary act like he was God's gift ? Where did he get that kind of nerve ? Did he really think he was gold - someone everyone would want , who could never be rejected ? Preston froze .

This was the first time in his entire life that anyone had dared say that to him . Annoying . Inflated ego . Me ? How could that be me ? He was a true heir of the Bells . Handsome , educated , a man with ambition . He was talented , not some spoiled rich kid with no future . He could even outshine Jude , for God's sake . Women should be falling at his feet - his looks , his family , his abilities . That's how it was supposed to be . But looking at Tilda's face , full of disgust and irritation , Preston suddenly found himself without a single excuse .

He forced himself to believe she was just pretending . Playing the game , trying to pull him in by pushing him away . " Tilda ... " he started again . Just then , Una bounced over , glowing with excitement after her set . She plopped down beside Tilda . " That felt amazing ! Did you hear me sing ? Was I good or what ? "

Chapter 206 Ditch Him " You sang great . Alright , if nothing else is going on , let's get out of here . Time to switch places ." " What ? Why so sudden ? " Una blinked in surprise , then her eyes fell on Preston . Preston instinctively straightened his back and locked eyes with her . He tried his best to look proud , noble , and flawless - like some priceless treasure Tilda should admire , not the ' inflated ego ' she had just called him . But then ... " Tilda , did this guy just hit on you ?

And look at him , acting all smug and confident . " Guys with inflated egos are the worst . " Una's voice wasn't loud . But Preston heard every single word . " Hahaha ! Una , you're so right . You really are my best friend . We see the world the same ! " Tilda laughed and patted Una's head with approval . Even Una could see what kind of man Preston was at a glance . " We need to protect our lives and stay far , far away from men like this . Come on , Tilda , let's ditch him . " She and Tilda were totally on the same page .

Sure , Una didn't know who Preston really was or what kind of history he had with Tilda . O But just looking at his fake , pretentious pose made her want to gag . At that moment , Preston was standing with his chin lifted toward the ceiling , like he was some brooding model . Oh , please . What century do you think this is ? Dream on . If Una didn't have such good self - control , she would've already socked him in the face . She didn't want to ruin Tilda's good mood tonight , though . Even if Preston got himself thrown out by security , it would still sour the vibe .

Better to just leave first . " Fine , let's take my car and drive up the mountain to look at the stars . " Tilda grabbed Una's hand and headed for the door . Preston couldn't believe it . They insult me and then try to run ? No way ! He shot to his feet and blocked their path . " Move , jerk . Get out of the way ! " Una snapped , her voice sharp with anger . She just knew this type . Guys like Preston never gave up . She was sure he was only here because he was drooling over Tilda's beauty . " Tilda , you and this girl just kept insulting me .

Don't you think you owe me an explanation ? " Preston clenched his teeth , fighting to control his temper . The noble upbringing in his blood told him not to lose control , not to scream . But his words still came out sharp with rage , like fire spilling out with nowhere to go . " Insulting you ? " Tilda laughed . " You love putting yourself in the spotlight , huh ? " " You ... what do you mean by that ? You just ... " I

never said your name , did I ? " Preston , you're a Bell - Why would you automatically assume I was talking about you ? " Her words hit him like a whip .

Preston froze , unable to fire back . Because she wasn't wrong . She hadn't said his name .

When she called someone an ' inflated ego , everyone knew who she meant - but she hadn't said it out loud . If he kept pressing her now , then he'd be admitting he was exactly that guy . And since Tilda was popular here at Nightingale Bar , people nearby were already turning to watch . The place wasn't crowded , but enough folks were listening . " Hey , Wade , looks like Tilda's fighting with Preston down there ... hey ? " Clive was still enjoying the show .

But by the time he turned , Wade had already bolted out of the booth , heading straight downstairs . Clive couldn't stop him . " This idiot running straight into trouble again , " Clive muttered , helpless . Even if Wade jumped in to help , Tilda would probably just throw his kindness back in his face . Maybe even mock him . After all , Wade owed her too much . Ditch Him Clive had no choice but to follow in case things got ugly . Una scoffed , " The Bells ? Tilda , you sure you're not mistaken ? " You're saying this guy is from the Bells ? No way .

He's nothing like Jude . " She'd seen Jude before , even if she didn't know him well . Compared to Jude , Preston was like a pile of crap in a public bathroom - disgusting , smelly , and hard as a rock . Not even in the same universe . " You ! " Preston's jaw could've almost cracked from how hard he was clenching it . Nothing enraged him more than being compared to Jude - especially when the comparison made him look worse . And coming from some random girl he didn't even know ? That was the last straw . What the hell does this have to do with you ? " Preston ! " A voice cut in .

Wade stormed over and stood in front of Tilda and Una , shielding them , his eyes locked on Preston like a predator . " What are you doing here? " " Wade ? Why the hell are you here ? "

Chapter 207 Fizzled Out Preston frowned deeply . What is Wade doing ? Does he get it all wrong ? Why is he acting so defensive in front of me ? Isn't Wade supposed to be against Tilda coming back ? Shouldn't he be defending Kyla instead ? Tilda and Una were both confused . " Tilda , what's going on ? Why is Wade here ? And why is he acting like he's protecting us ? " Even Una couldn't believe her eyes . Wade had always hated Tilda - he would've been happy if she'd never come back . She had seen it with her own eyes . " He must be confused . Let's not get involved with them .

Let's just go Tilda grabbed Una's hand , and they both started running . Preston tried to block their path , but Wade stepped in front of him . " Wade , get out of my way . This isn't your business . " " This is my business , Preston ! " Tilda is my sister , and if you dare hurt her , I won't let you get away with it Wade stood firm , blocking Preston with everything he had . His voice wasn't loud , so Tilda and Una , who

were still running , didn't hear him . If Tilda had heard , she would've turned back to kick Wade hard and tell him to stop saying disgusting things like that .

Preston stared at Wade in disbelief . " Wade , are you crazy ? Tilda is your sister ? Since when have you cared about her like this ? " And what about Kyla ? " How do you think she'll feel if she hears you're treating Tilda this way ? She'll be heartbroken ! " The mention of Kyla made Wade's heart tighten as he remembered her crying . " Kyla is my sister too , but Tilda is my real sister by blood . That's a fact . " I made mistakes in the past , but I've woken up . Can't I try to fix things ? " Preston , I'm warning you - don't even think about hurting Tilda .

If you do , I'll make sure you regret it ! " Wade couldn't repeat his past mistakes . He had hurt Tilda before , all because he was so focused on how Kyla felt . But now he understood the damage it caused . He knew everything couldn't be fixed , but he wouldn't make the same mistakes again . Preston glared at Wade , his teeth clenched . Just when it seemed like the two of them might fight , Preston finally spoke . " Wade , I won't argue with you this time . " But remember , I'm not scared of you .

Our families have history , and we've known each other since we were kids . " We're practically brothers . But for a woman who cut ties with the Jensons and betrayed them like that ? You'll regret it sooner or later . " Preston turned and walked away . His attachment to the past was his weakness . Preston still valued his connection to the Jensons . And he knew the Jensons were key to his plans to defeat Jude and take control of the Bells . So he couldn't afford to have a confrontation with Wade here . The tension fizzled out , leaving everyone disappointed . Why didn't they fight ?

It was so boring . Tilda and Una made it to the underground parking lot . They were about to leave in Tilda's Porsche Cayenne when a figure stepped in front of the driver's seat . " Tilda ! " It was Clive . Tilda rolled down the window , her impatience obvious . " What is it ? " He pressed his lips together . Seeing Tilda's annoyed attitude , he knew Wade's attempt had failed . At least Wade hadn't tried to talk to Tilda , or Clive could already imagine how heartbroken Wade would be . Clive didn't know how to help his friend get over the past and make things right with Tilda again . So ...

Tilda , Wade blocked Preston for your sake . " He saw Preston being persistent and thought he might hurt you guys . " Erm ... I don't know what else to say . " You get it , right ? Wade regrets everything . He's trying his best to make up for what he did to you ." Clive's emotions were all over the place . He could barely get the words out . His mind kept flashing back to Wade's regret and depression . And now , seeing Tilda's cold , mocking expression , he couldn't say any more . Tilda finally spoke up . " So what ? " Clive blinked at her .

" What ? " " What does any of this have to do with me ? " If you're really Wade's friend , you should tell him to stop wasting time on me and stop pretending to be some ' I've learned my lesson ' hero in front of me . "

Chapter 208 Protect Her " Because I don't care , and he doesn't deserve it ! " Tilda ...

Una glanced at Tilda , who was sitting there completely calm , not even a little upset . She lowered her eyes . Tilda , Wade really does regret it ! No matter what , Wade is still your brother ! " Is this really nothing to you ? " Clive couldn't help but speak up , clearly worried . He could see that Tilda was done with Wade , but he also remembered how Wade had been spiraling these past days , so he felt bad for him . Would it be so bad to give Wade even a tiny chance ?

Does it have to be so final ? " Ha ... " Tilda felt like laughing , but it was more out of disbelief . She felt like she was talking to a clown , so she didn't bother to respond and just rolled up the car window and started the engine . " Tilda , I haven't talking yet ! Don't go ! Don't go ! " Clive banged on the window frantically , but Tilda didn't even look his way . She slammed the gas pedal down , turned the steering wheel , and drove off , leaving Clive standing there stomping his feet . Clive sighed heavily . He knew that coming to talk to Tilda like this was a lost cause .

" Ugh ... " ? IF Z Tilda had made up her mind - she hated the Jensons and she hated Wade . No matter what Wade did , even if he gave up everything , Clive knew Tilda wouldn't shed a single tear . In fact , she might even cheer for it . Just then , Preston showed up at the parking garage and ran into Clive . The Bells and the Rowses were two of the top families in Slosa . Preston knew Clive and Wade were close . Clive asked first , " Where's Wade ? " " He's Kyla's brother , and he's my good friend . What do you expect me to do about him ?

" Even though I can't understand Wade's actions , I think it's completely irrational . " What happened to Wade ? Why is he helping Tilda ? " After everything she did to the Jensons ... is he out of his mind ? " Preston had asked Wade , but Wade hadn't answered , so he hoped maybe Clive could shed some light . " There's a lot to this , Preston . Don't make things harder for Tilda . " Wade won't agree with you , although I've tried to talk sense into him . He's made up his mind .

" Clive wasn't about to air out Wade's personal struggles , so he left Preston standing there with a dark expression on his face . Dammit ... What the hell are these people up to ? Preston had only been away on a business trip for a few months , and when he came back , it felt like all the familiar faces had completely changed . Did Tilda put some kind of spell on them ? When Clive finally found Wade in the

private booth , Wade was drinking . When he saw Clive , a spark lit up in his eyes . " Where have you been ? " Clive sat on the sofa .

Seeing Wade's hopeful expression , he sighed internally . " I figured you could handle Preston on your own . Then I saw Tilda and them leaving , so I went to find her . " " Did you say anything to Tilda ? What did she say ? " Wade couldn't stop himself from asking . Even though he knew the answer probably wouldn't be what he hoped for - and might hurt - he couldn't help but want to know . " Wade , you really can't let go , can you ? Tilda will never forgive you . " Just pretend none of this ever happened .

Be the old Wade , do what you want , chase your dreams , " If you keep this up , chasing Tilda around , all you'll do is dig yourself in deeper . " It'll just make you miserable . Is it really worth it ? " Clive couldn't help but keep trying to talk some sense into Wade . Wade's eyes suddenly dulled . " I understand ... " Wade silently poured more alcohol into his glass . Clive stared at him helplessly . " Wade , snap out of it ! You have to know the damage is already done and can't be undone .

" If you were in Tilda's shoes and someone treated you like that , you wouldn't forgive them either ! You need to move on , face your life ! " " Don't worry , Clive . I'm as clear - headed as I've ever been . I'm facing the damage I caused Tilda . " Whether Tilda forgives me is a secondary issue . " But I won't make the same mistakes again . I won't hurt her anymore or sit idly by while she suffers . " If I see anyone hurting her , I'll protect her . " That's all I can do as a messed - up brother . It's the least I owe to my wounded sister . " Clive gave up .

He yanked his shirt open , undoing the top button , frustrated . " Fine , I can't convince you . You've got me worked up . Let's just drink ! "

Chapter 209 Just Clowns Meanwhile , the Porsche Cayenne was driving down the road . " Tilda ... Una couldn't help herself . " Have you really let go of everything ? " Una's voice was uncertain . She felt like Tilda was truly indifferent now , fully committed to the decision to cut ties with the Jenson's when she left Jenson Villa . But back then , Tilda was so attached to her family . How could she feel nothing now , even if they wanted to make amends and win her back ? Wouldn't it still hurt ?

Una didn't care about the Jenson's , but she was worried that Tilda might be pretending to be fine when , deep down , it was causing her pain .. " Don't worry , I've truly moved on . " I said I'd never forgive the Jenson's for what they did . " My bond with them is completely severed . " No matter what they do , even if they die in front of me , I won't care . " Tilda said all this so calmly , her words sounding harsh and heartless to anyone else listening . Una could only relax when she saw that Tilda wasn't just pretending .

" Well , since you've made up your mind , I support you , " Una said , her voice softening . Tilda gave a small , teasing smile . " I thought you were going to try and talk me out of it . " " Please , Tilda . Don't think I'll just blindly support you . " I'm not one to forgive people who've hurt you , especially without some good reason . " Even if Wade truly regrets what he did , the rest of the Jensons don't necessarily think the same way . " They treated you terribly , trampled on your hopes for family .

" If I were to encourage you to make peace with them , I'd be the worst kind of person ." Una puffed her cheeks , clearly upset by Tilda's distrust of her . She was angry and wanted Tilda to cheer her up . 115 70 " Yes , they hurt me so badly . " Now , Wade thinks he can act all brotherly and expect me to forget the pain ? Just so I'll forgive them , only to be hurt again ? " Tilda couldn't forget what happened . She wouldn't forget the hellish five years she endured . She would never forgive the Jensons .

If she did , she would be betraying the second chance life had given her . And besides , Tilda had found something more important than family - her dreams , her friends , her mentors , and her seniors . As for the Jensons , if they wanted to keep playing pretend , she would let them . Tilda wouldn't be moved , and she wouldn't give them a second glance . To her , they were just clowns desperately trying to please her . " It's all too late ! " At home , Preston walked in to find Daphne still in her pajamas , waiting for him in the living room .

After hanging his suit jacket on the coat rack , Preston saw that Daphne was still awake and asked with concern , " Mom , why aren't you asleep yet ? " " Preston , why are you home so late ? I was worried about you . " Ugh , with everything that happened with Rebecca ... Ryan even went to Hetsa to look for her . " I just spoke to Ryan . He hasn't found Rebecca yet , and no one knows where she's gone . " He even asked me about the video situation , and I couldn't give him an answer Daphne looked exhausted .

Her well - kept eyes were shadowed by dark circles , and fine lines appeared around her eyes . Her face had taken on a sickly hue , likely from all the stress . " Rebecca is such a disappointment . " Preston clenched his teeth . If Rebecca weren't his sister , a good - for - nothing who only caused trouble , Preston would've handled her long ago . Preston and Ryan had warned her many times . Yet , before leaving for her trip abroad , Rebecca still managed to create a mess .

Just as Preston was preparing to make his move against Jude and reclaim control of the Bells , Rebecca had to stab him in the back . " Preston , no matter what , Rebecca is still your sister . " Don't worry about it for now . I'll figure out how to get rid of the video . " But Tilda's defiant attitude had only made things worse . It was clear that desperate measures were now required . Daphne's eyes briefly flashed with a

dangerous glint . " By the way , Preston , weren't you and Kyla at that National College Art Competition today ? " I saw on the news ...

Tilda didn't just win the championship , she's more famous than ever ? " When Daphne saw the news , she was completely stunned .. She knew Preston had been involved in some behind - the - scenes planning . Tilda should never have won . But since Preston was out with Kyla , Daphne hadn't wanted to disturb him . She'd been hoping he'd bring Kyla home soon , so she waited until he got back to ask " She was just lucky , " Preston muttered , his fists clenching as he thought about the humiliation he'd endured at Nightingale Bar that night , at the hands of Tilda and Una .

Preston didn't want to mention this episode to Daphne .

Chapter 210 The Dragon Peak Boxing Club That was truly humiliating . Seeing Preston's expression , Daphne , who knew her son better than anyone , decided not to press the issue . Clearly , this Tilda girl isn't someone to be underestimated . I really need to make up her mind soon The next day , Daphne went straight to the Jenson Group . The receptionist at Jenson Group recognized Daphne right away . She respectfully asked her to wait for a moment before notifying Blair . After getting the message , Blair came down quickly .

Looking at Blair , Daphne reached out and gently touched Blair's face with concern . " Blair ... It looks like you really haven't been doing well lately . You look worn out , and you've lost weight . " Daphne was aware of what the Jenson Group had been through . She was concerned and anxious , but things had gotten out of hand , and there wasn't much she could do to help . Luckily , Jenson Group managed to survive , and so did the Jensons . Everything was starting to get back on track .

" To be honest , Daphne , working at the company with Russell for the past few weeks has made me feel young again . " Dominic is back , too ... it's just that he has been working so hard lately that I'm a little worried . " Blair didn't mention him fainting or anything related to Tilda . This was something not to be shared with outsiders ; the Jensons had to deal with it internally . " It's a good thing for young people to be ambitious . " Dominic is the rightful heir to Jenson Group , and everyone knows how capable he is . Now , he just needs to prove himself and gain everyone's trust .

" Every generation finds its own way . We really shouldn't worry so much . Come on , Blair , let's go to the café outside ... " Blair's lashes trembled slightly as she sighed . " Daphne , if this is about what you asked me regarding Tilda on the phone the other day , I'm sorry . There's really nothing we can do about that girl anymore . Now that the Jensons have ended up like this , all we want is to keep our distance from Tilda . " Tilda is nothing but a jinx . Nothing good ever comes from being involved with her . Blair was exhausted .

The Jensons , Jenson Group , even Dominic and Wade had all been hurt by Tilda . Club To Blair , maybe this was just karma . Maybe this was fate's way of balancing out her smooth life with a harsh lesson . The so - called karma was that her long - lost biological daughter - the one she was so determined to find- ended up hurting the rest of her family deeply . What a joke . " Blair ... I wouldn't have come if I had any other choice . " Actually ... here's what happened ... " Daphne told Blair everything . Blair's eyes widened . " Oh my god ...

How could something like this happen ? " " Blair , I really didn't want to tell you about something so embarrassing , but it affects the reputation of the Bells . " Preston's at a critical point in his career , and he absolutely can't let Rebecca ruin things for him . " The only way to get rid of the video is through Tilda . I've run out of options , so I have to come to you . Please , I'm begging you , help me ... " Blair looked troubled . " But ... every time I go to Tilda , I just end up getting humiliated .

I really can't help ." Daphne bit her lip and pleaded , " Blair , you watched Rebecca grow up . You don't want to see her kicked out of the Bell family and end up on the streets , do you ? " Blair was speechless . Inside , she was torn between wanting to help and wanting to stay out of the mess . After hesitating for a moment , she finally spoke . " All I can say is I'll try Daphne . If things don't work out , please don't blame me . " 285 but I really can't promise anything , " Blair , I'm just grateful you're willing to help . There's no way I'd blame you . And ...

this is so humiliating , you're the only one I've told . As for everyone else ... " " Don't worry , I'll keep this to myself . I won't breathe a word to anyone . " Tilda still didn't know what Daphne and Blair were planning . She went to Dragon Peak Boxing Club . Training at the boxing club had been part of her routine in her previous life . Every month , whenever she had a day off from school , she'd set aside a day to go train at Dragon Peak Boxing Club .

Even though Tilda was a tough fighter and had learned inner force from her mentor , her fighting skills would get rusty without intense training . Physical training was how she kept her sixth sense , instincts , and her body's dormant combat feeling sharp . In her previous life , ever since the Jensons took her in , Tilda had let go of the habit of training at the Boxing Club . She just wanted to keep a low profile , blend in with the Jensons , and avoid anyone finding out she was the dark web Queen .

This was so the Jensons wouldn't be dragged into unnecessary trouble . So much had happened since her rebirth . After her clashes with Howard , Tilda realized she needed to get back into the habit . Even though she had completely dominated both matches with him , she could tell her moves had gotten

sluggish . Another reason she needed to train on her own was that Howard simply wasn't a strong enough opponent to truly push her limits .