

## Shadows 231

Chapter 231 I'll Remember This Tilda smirked . " You think everyone is as pathetic as Preston - tripping over themselves for you and throwing all common sense ? " Preston , I'm honestly jealous of your Kyla . She's got a loyal simp like you . A blind simp and a fake bitch - what a perfect match . Go marry soon and quit showing up everywhere . You make us sick . " Without hesitation , Tilda grabbed a bunch of juice from the table and dumped the whole stack over both Kyla and Preston . Their clothes , hair , and even their faces were dripping wet in seconds . " See that , Una ?

That's how you throw it right . One glass isn't enough - you gotta go big if you want to feel satisfied . " " Damn ! Tilda , you're a total badass ! I freaking adore you ! " Una's eyes lit up like cartoon hearts as she stared at her . She couldn't help it . Who wouldn't be drawn to someone that cool ? She even wished that she'd been born a guy so she could openly chase after Tilda . " Tilda ! How dare you humiliate us like this ?! " Preston was trembling with fury . The people nearby looked at him with pity , watching his pride crumble .

His rage burned so hot that he wanted to rip Tilda apart . But she wasn't finished yet . She smashed the glass hard against Preston's head . Bang ! Blood poured down his face immediately . The glass shattered on the ground into pieces . " Tilda , what are you doing ? How could you hurt Preston ? " Tilda answered coolly " Because I don't like the way he stares at me . Guys , don't interfere . I'm just having some fun . " She grabbed another glass and raised it toward Preston . That was enough to break him . Preston roared and lunged at her , ready to choke her out . " No ! Preston !

" Kyla finally snapped out of it . She held him back , stopping him from attacking . If Tilda had been alone , Kyla would've let him tear her apart . But with Jude and the others around , Preston would only get himself destroyed . Kyla still needed him as her backup plan . No way was she letting him get hurt for her now . Bang ! Because she blocked him , the glass slammed into Kyla instead . She screamed in pain . " Kyla ! "

When the girl he loved screamed , Preston instinctively called out . " Preston , I don't want to stay here .

Take me to the hospital ... It hurts ... " Finished Kyla wept , her shaky voice selling the flawless act of helplessness and hurt . Tears mixed with blood slipped onto Preston's arms , each drop searing his skin like fire . Tilda twirled the glass in her hand and laughed . " What a touching performance . So what now ? Still planning to stay ? " Preston's jaw clenched so tightly that it sounded like his teeth would crack . He glared at Tilda's smug smile . If Jude and the rest weren't guarding her , she wouldn't dare act this boldly . I'll remember this , Tilda . Just wait .

You'll pay for what you did today ! He tried to leave with Kyla , but Tilda wasn't done yet . She hurled another glass , hitting Preston in the back of his thigh .. His legs buckled instantly . He dropped onto the broken glass scattered on the ground . Sharp pieces stabbed deep into his skin . Pain ripped across his face as his eyes went wide . He nearly screamed . Kyla got cut too - the shards sliced her thigh . Unlike Preston , she couldn't hold it in and let out another shriek . " Oops ! My hand slipped ," Tilda said sweetly , her voice dripping with fake innocence .

Preston didn't even need to look back to know she was mocking him . Gritting his teeth , he staggered up , ignored the cuts , and half - carried Kyla out . If they stuck around , with Jude , Alfie , and Maurice standing behind Tilda , Preston had no chance of standing up for himself or Kyla . Tilda would just crush him again and again . A real man won't fight with women ! Once Preston and Kyla finally left , the whole place felt lighter . Una threw her arms around Tilda . " Tilda , the way you destroyed those two was epic ! I was buzzing the whole time !

" If it had been anybody else , Una might've thought Tilda crossed the line . But since it was aimed at fake bitches and inflated egos - her most hated type - it couldn't have been more perfect . Truthfully , Una wished Tilda had pushed it even further . " Tilda , you rock . " Alfie and Maurice silently gave Tilda a big thumbs up .

Chapter 232 She Means Everything Tilda grinned . " With you guys backing me up , it'd be a shame not to put Kyla and Preston in their place after they went looking for trouble . " Alfie and Maurice exchanged glances . Was she joking ? With the way she'd handled things tonight , she didn't even need their help . Taking down Kyla and Preston - two nobodies- was child's play for her . Jude leaned closer , whispering , " Are your hands sore ? " His eyes held that cold , dangerous edge . He was already tired of dealing with those two nuisances , but they were Tilda's prey .

As a fellow hunter , he understood the rush of a pursuit . He couldn't step in and steal her fun . " Nope , still fine . " " Want me to rub them for you ? " ... Not here , not in front of everyone . " Tilda cleared her throat , a little awkwardly . Jude's chest tightened at her words . She hadn't said no - just shy . In other words , if the others weren't around , she probably would've let him . After that little episode , everyone eating on the second floor scrambled out , not wanting to stick around . The staff rushed in to clean , bowing nervously as they served Tilda and her friends .

Una looked worried . " Tilda , it was fun , but that got loud . What if people talk ? " " Relax . With these three on my side , no one is saying a word . " And Kyla and her simp ? You think they'll brag about being humiliated ? Please . They'll just swallow it . " Jude alone had enough pull to silence the city . With Alfie and Maurice's influence added , they basically controlled the entire media . Even if Kyla and Preston wanted revenge , it'd be like smashing eggs against a rock . It was pointless . They'd never risk their comfortable lives by crossing Jude's crew .

Una nodded , only half understanding . She wasn't used to being around this much power , but even she could tell there were people she just didn't mess with . And right now , those people were sitting right beside her . After the meal , Tilda was about to offer Una a ride and say goodbye to the rest . But before she could get a word out , Una jumped in . " Oh , Tilda , I just remembered something I need to do . I'll head out first ! " She gave an apologetic gesture and slipped away . " Oh , same here ! I've got plans too . Right , Maurice ?

" Alfie tugged at his friend's sleeve and shot him a knowing look . " Yeah , I should get back to the office . See you tomorrow , Jude . " Maurice quickly caught on and left with him . And just like that , only Jude and Tilda were left . " I'll walk you home , " Jude said . He wasn't asking - he was telling her .

With the third wheel gone , he finally had her to himself . It had been too long . All he wanted was to see her face , hear her voice , and just stay by her side . " I'm so full . I don't feel like heading home yet .

Let's take a walk , " she said . " But these busy streets might bother you . They're noisy and crowded . " " As long as you're with me , I don't care where we are . " Jude never bothered to hide how he felt . His words always came out straightforward and honest . Tilda froze for a moment , then warmth spread through her chest . Was that what it felt like to be someone's first choice ? It was incredible . After treating herself like she didn't matter for so long , she had almost forgotten how good it felt . She was lucky to feel it again . " There are too many people out here , Mr. Bell .

Try not to get lost . With how you look , I wouldn't be shocked if some girl tried to drag you away . " She led him through the busy downtown until they found a quiet park . Couples wandered nearby , hand in hand . People stared as the two passed - good - looking pairs always drew attention . Tilda and Jude looked like they didn't belong in this world . It was like they'd stepped straight out of a peaceful mountain . retreat , too flawless for ordinary life . Jude didn't care about the stares . To him , nothing mattered except the girl walking beside him .

So this was what that feeling truly was . As long as she was here , he could stand in front of the greatest treasure pile in the world and still walk away . She was worth more than anything . Jude's voice was gentle . " I didn't expect you'd be that patient . " " Huh ? You mean how I handled that fake bitch and her simp earlier ? " Tilda stopped and glanced back at him . The wind stirred the trees , and the streetlights cast her face in soft light . For a second , she looked like she wasn't even from this world .

Chapter 233 Her Plan His heart skipped a beat . " Yeah . I've heard the Queen of the Dark Web doesn't let things slide , always paying back a hundredfold . " With trash like them who keep bothering you , I thought you'd crush them by now . I didn't expect you to let them run wild this long . " Jude squinted , doubt flickering in his eyes . Taking out the Jensons would be messy and exhausting for Tilda . But making one or two pests disappear ? That was nothing to her . If the Jensons were still standing , maybe it was only because Tilda had a tiny shred of family feelings left .

But Kyla wasn't family . Preston wasn't either . So Tilda had zero reason to hold back . She smiled slightly . " Jude , do you think people can see the future ? " Her tone was soft , almost dreamy , like she was quoting a line from a sci - fi flick . " If you're the one saying it , I'll believe it . " Jude's faith in her had never shaken . It wasn't just that they had the same blood . It was something deeper , like their souls were wired together . The first time he saw her , he'd already decided she was the one . He'd give everything to her . For him , feelings like that didn't come often .

But when they did , he followed them without question . " Then here's my prediction - Kyla is going to bring the Jensons to their downfall . " Even if I do nothing , they're doomed . And not just doomed - it's going to hurt worse than dying . " So keeping Kyla alive means nothing . Snapping her neck would be easy . " But what I want is to watch their faces when the person they adored most , Kyla , becomes the one to destroy them . " Tilda wasn't bluffing . She knew exactly how Kyla worked . In her previous life , Kyla had planned to torture Tilda , not kill her outright .

That was just how Kyla worked . If she got blood on her hands and slipped up , she'd be in serious trouble . She liked using other people as her tools , turning Tilda's days into pure misery , But in the end , Kyla did get involved . She twisted the Jensons ' blind love for her , plus their coldness toward Tilda , and set her up to die in the fire . And the reason behind it ? Tilda had figured out that Kyla was secretly working with outsiders , draining the Jensons from the inside and leaking their secrets .

If it had been anyone else , the family would've noticed right away and crushed them before things went too far . But Kyla was their favorite - their most trusted daughter and sister .

So they ignored every red flag and walked step by step straight into disaster . Back then , even after Tilda realized what Kyla was doing , she still wished Kyla would stop before it was too late . She knew how badly it would hurt the Jensons to be betrayed like that . But her fate was sealed . Finished Tilda , the pathetic clown , was poisoned .

She was tortured by her family and finally thrown into the fire like she was trash . After coming back to life , she had no interest in wasting her time tangled up with the Jensons again or drowning herself in hatred . One reason was that she wanted to speed up that disaster herself . That was the best revenge for the Jensons ! Kyla thought no one knew what she was doing behind the scenes . But she couldn't have been more wrong . Tilda already had all the proof . She knew Kyla was neck - deep in the mess , sinking further every day .

The only fools left in the dark were the Jensons , still loving and trusting Kyla blindly . So what would their faces look like when the truth came out ? And how broken would Kyla be when everything collapsed ? Tilda couldn't wait to see . She hadn't forgotten that Kyla was one of those who had killed her before . Sure , being reborn had shifted a lot of things , like a butterfly stirring the air . But as long as Kyla stayed the same , Tilda could keep pulling the strings behind the scenes and make it all fall apart again . It was a game she had played once before . She knew every step .

" I get it , " Jude said simply , not pressing her further . They were so in tune that a few words were enough . " Tilda , if you ever need me , just say it . " " Fine then . Bring me more of those Omega - type snacks I love . I haven't had them in ages . I'm craving them like crazy . " Forgive Tilda for being such a foodie . That strange pitch - black stuff might've looked gross , but for someone like her , it was the best thing in the world . Though weird on the outside , it was amazing once she tasted it . " Of course . Whatever you want , I'll get it . " " Oh , really ?

" Her eyes glinted with mischief . " Anything at all ? Even if one day what I want is your life , you'd give me that too ? "

Chapter 234 Surgeries " Yes . " Jude's answer was short , but it was so decisive and sure , not even a trace of hesitation . It hit Tilda straight in the chest like a flaming arrow . For a moment , she couldn't even speak . Her blood felt like it was rushing everywhere , warming her whole body . Her mouth went dry , her legs went weak , and her cheeks and ears burned red . Since coming back to life , she'd never felt this flustered . She quickly looked away . " You said it so fast ... You totally caught me off guard . " Jude lowered his eyes , trying to hide his nerves . " Is that ...

not okay ? " " Thank you for choosing me so completely . No second thoughts , no hesitation . " Tilda gave him a smile that was pure and real . It felt like the world had suddenly bloomed , like a sunset spreading light over a field of flowers . Her smile was like fireworks in a dark sky , there for just a single breathtaking moment . Jude's eyes softened , calm as water . Honestly , I should be the one thanking you . Thank you for coming into my boring , lonely life . Before you , life felt like just getting through the day .

I worked , went for occasional drinks with friends , and attended family and business events like a robot . Nothing ever seemed worth it . But after meeting you , everything has color . " Jude , what are you daydreaming about ? There's a fountain over there ! Let's check it out ! " Tilda's voice pulled him back to reality . He looked up to see her under a streetlamp , smiling and waving . For a moment , she wasn't the Queen of the Dark Web - just a 19 - year - old girl , carefree and unburdened .

Meanwhile , Preston rushed Kyla to the Bells ' hospital , making sure she got top - notch treatment , The doctors were shocked at how badly she and Preston were injured . Without asking questions , they went straight into surgery . They removed every shard of glass and anything else that had gotten stuck inside them . Afterward , Preston and Kyla were resting .

" Mr. Preston , how did you get hurt like this ? " Finished The doctor couldn't help but ask . The injuries didn't look like a normal fight - more like someone had deliberately attacked them .

But who would even try that ? Preston and Kyla were the darlings of the Bells and the Jensions . Whoever did that had to be crazy . " Don't tell anyone about this , " Preston said coldly . It was way too embarrassing to let anyone know . Not just Tilda had humiliated him - Jude was in on it too . Damn it ! He clenched his fists , vowing revenge . Just wait , Tilda , Jude - what goes around comes around . Don't think you can keep me down forever ! Ow ! Damn , that hurts ! The doctor didn't press further and just told him to rest . It would take a few days before he could walk normally again .

Preston nearly panicked . " A few days ? I need to get back to work ! And what am I supposed to tell my parents ? I don't care- just get me moving again ! " " If you insist , we can give you injections , but they might have side effects . Resting is still the safest . " Preston took a deep breath and calmed himself . " Got it . How's Kyla ? " The doctor relaxed . At least he wasn't completely unreasonable . " She's out of danger . But like you ; she needs rest . " " Okay , I need you to do something for me .

Pretend n On Kyla's side , she didn't have to fake - cry anymore when no one was around . She gripped her phone tightly . Her thigh still throbbed from surgery , wrapped in bandages . The pain came in waves . But she couldn't tell the Jensions about it . Even if she wanted them to hate Tilda and get rid of her , it involved Jude and the others . If she said anything , the Jensions wouldn't be able to help her either . Those three influential families were completely out of their depth . She thought about how Jude had hurt her tonight .

Alfie and the others were all laughing and having fun around Tilda . Were they that close ? Why did Tilda get all their attention so easily ? Kyla had worked hard , been pampered by the Jensions , and received the finest education as she grew up .

Chapter 235 Kyla Betrayed the Jensions The graceful , charming girl surrounded by Jude , Alfie , and Maurice - that should've been Kyla . Why was it Tilda ?! God , did you make some kind of mistake ? The more she thought about it , the more Kyla's jealousy toward Tilda raged , like an uncontrollable tidal wave . The veins in her forehead bulged . Tilda ... You're the one person I'll never forgive . One day , only one of us will remain in this world . And that's going to be me - Kyla . You can go to hell ! Kyla's eyes burned with a chilling madness .

Her hand trembled as she picked up her phone and dialed a number . The line connected quickly . A playful male voice came through . " Ms. Kayla , what an honor . " " This time I want 20 million . " To ruin her at the competition , Kyla planned to smear Tilda with plagiarism , so she needed money ! The allowance from the Jensions was far from enough . If she borrowed money from people like Preston , they'd get suspicious . The only way to get that much cash fast was through this kind of deal . " Of course , Ms. Kayla . As long as you give me the right intel ...

" For example , some of the Jensions ' latest business moves. Twenty million will be in your account right away . " " Deal . I'll send over a proposal I found in my dad's study . " After hanging up , Kyla forwarded the plan she had been saving for a long time . Not long after , she got a message . " Great , Ms. Kayla . Once we confirm the value of this proposal , the money will be in your account tomorrow . " " OK " A fierce gleam appeared in Kyla's eyes . I finally got 20 million by betraying the Jensions Tilda , this time . I'll make you lose everything !

Without Tilda in the way , Kyla was confident she could earn 200 million , even two billion , with ease . Meanwhile , Tilda returned to her apartment .

She sank into the hot water , music playing softly in the background . Then her phone rang . It was Andy . " Finished " Tilda , I've got an update on what you asked me to track . Kyla sold the Jensions ' 100 - million - dollar proposal for 20 million . " " Thanks , Andy . Put the data together for me , and I'll take you to dinner to thank you . " " Tilda , forget dinner .

Come visit me in Jeselton sometime . It's been so long , and I miss you ! " " Okay , I'll pick a time and bring Una with me . But then it won't be me treating - you'll be the host , and you're paying . " " As long as you come , you can spend whatever you want . Don't worry , my personal savings will be enough for you and Una to worry , my personal savings will be enough for you and Una to spend for ten lifetimes . "

Andy was a top lawyer in Cetherland and a middleman on the dark web . He had more than enough money to back up his bold words .

After hanging up a cold smile tugged at Tilda's lips . Her fingertips skimmed across the water , stirring up ripples of steam . " As expected ... Kyla's finally making her move . " I knew it . My presence is slowly driving her into a corner . To fight me , money is the one thing she can't live without . " In her past life , Tilda had never understood why Kyla struck a deal with those people . But as long as she knew the reason , she could push Kyla into betraying the Jensons . Money . That single word was the root of all evil .

It was already dragging Kyla and the Jensons slowly into the abyss . Tilda couldn't help but look forward to it . Once Kyla tore the Jensons apart with her scheme , they would be left in the dark , unaware of the truth . Then Tilda would throw all the evidence in their faces . I wonder what their expressions will be . It will be so interesting to watch ! t Time flew by . That day , Tilda received a new assignment at Lab Seven . She glanced over the programming formula and raised an eyebrow . " So , your organization's starting research on lithography machines now ? That makes sense .

The tasks you had me do before were the basic algorithms for them . " Manfred was willing to hand her something this close to the organization's core secrets . This meant they trusted her more and were willing to take bigger risks . " As expected of Queen . We've been stuck on lithography machine technology for a while . " We can't have a strong country without strong chips , and we can't have those without lithography machines .

" It was so frustrating when that foreign country used its chip technology to block our progress last time .

" Thankfully , we have Professor Kerrigan on our side . He actually came up with a solution in just three years . " Manfred was speaking to Tilda nonstop . After spending so much time with her , Manfred had let his guard down around Tilda . He was also overjoyed that she could tell at a glance that the programming was for a lithography machine . That proved Tilda had more than enough skill to help their organization develop one .

Chapter 236 I Believe in You The country had originally estimated that developing lithography machines would take at least a few decades . Such precise , high - tech equipment couldn't possibly match foreign technology in a short time . But then , out of nowhere , a genius appeared in Cetherland - Dane ! And he had Tilda's help , too ! The tasks assigned to Tilda weren't just completed - she nailed them and even fixed all the flaws ! When Dane got the data from Tilda and realized she was the one who did it , he couldn't stop praising her .



It helped Dane think outside the box and advance his research . Even he couldn't help but write a sentence on his whiteboard , looking incredibly proud . " Tilda is amazing ! " Manfred was thrilled to see this . As expected , heaven had truly blessed their organization . It wasn't just Dane who appeared . They also had Queen . With the help of such geniuses , how could they not succeed ? , " This is an absolute secret and can't be leaked right now , but with Professor Kerrigan and Queen , I'm confident our success is near ! " When that day comes , you'll be famous historical figures !

" Tilda smiled faintly . " The credit belongs to Dane . My role was minor , but if I can help the country and Dane , I'm more than happy to do it . " " Queen , you're far too modest . The amount of work and calculations you've done alone equals ten of our top scientists . With you helping Professor Kerrigan , we've made incredibly fast progress ! " It's just ... " Manfred glanced over at Rick nearby . Rick let out a soft sigh " I'll tell her myself . " Rick appeared on the video call . " Girl , the time's up . We failed .

" After Rick shared the news , his eyes were full of regret and sadness . " His fists clenched , and the face that used to be full of energy and radiance now looked like a deflated balloon . " I see ... Thank you for taking care of Dane all this time , Dr. Day ." Tilda wasn't surprised by the outcome . She had a feeling this would happen . Rick spoke with guilt , " Don't say that . Maybe my medical skills aren't good enough . What if I beg the organization to let you come here and personally treat Professor Kerrigan ? Maybe- " It's no use , Dr. Day .

Your medical skills have already achieved the exact effect I wanted , but it still wasn't enough to cure Dane's strange illness . Don't worry , I won't give up . I'll find a way to treat him ..

" It's just ... I'm worried Dane might not be able to handle it . He'll need you to be there for him . " Tilda lowered her gaze . The one who truly felt guilty was her .. Dane had gone through countless treatments , and he had grown used to disappointment and failure .

Dane had gone through countless treatments , and he ha But this time , it was Tilda , his junior , who was treating him . When a beam of light pierced the darkness but failed to clear the fog and withdrew , that light became a " sin . " It was giving someone hope , only to bring even greater disappointment . Tilda didn't regret suggesting this plan for Dane . After all , every treatment carried the risk of failure . In her eyes , even the tiniest bit of hope was worth fighting for . Still ... She felt sorry for Dane . Seeing Tilda like this , Rick quickly pulled out a whiteboard .

On it was Dane's own handwriting . " Tilda , I believe in you . " Tilda was stunned by the simple message . " Dr. Day ... this is ... Dane's ? " " Professor Kerrigan said he knew you would feel guilty , so he had this

ready for you . Finished " Professor Kerrigan's strength is greater than what either of us can imagine . He even comforted me . Our country is truly lucky to have a genius like him . " Rick couldn't help but sigh . He was skilled in holistic medicine but didn't understand scientific research .

Still , after spending so much time at the base and seeing how everyone treated Dane , he could tell . It was genuine admiration and respect . Elite individuals wouldn't show this attitude unless your talent was unmatched . At the same time , Dane was strong , with a heart as firm as a rock . Rick had been wrong about him . " Yeah ... " A small smile appeared on Tilda's lips . After ending the video call , she sent a message to Dane , " Thanks for comforting me ." Dane replied quickly , " I believe in you ." Just four words . Deep and unwavering . Tilda stretched .

Okay , no more slacking off . She needed to help Dane finish the lithography machine calculations . The International College Art Competition was coming up soon , and Tilda had a lot on her plate .

Chapter 237 You Look So Young ! " Let's go ! " By the time Tilda finished the first round of coding work , a message popped up in the Comet Squad's WhatsApp group . Ever since the team officially formed and everyone got to know each other , Tilda hadn't hesitated to share her WhatsApp account . They had moved from the forum group to WhatsApp - a clear sign of trust . Jarrett sent a message , " Queen , I've fixed the code you gave me ! " Theo replied , " Jarrett , you're trying to get ahead again! Queen , I finished mine too !

" Astrid added , " +1 " Zach chimed in , " +10086 " Tilda thought for a moment , then replied , " I want to check your programming assignments myself . " Jarrett , last time you said your group has a base . Send me the location ; I'll com by . " TIPRA Jarrett's message came almost immediately , " Queen , you mean ... we're meeting in person ? " Tilda messaged , " I even use my real name and phone number . Didn't any of you bother to check my real info ? " Theo quickly replied , " Ahem ... Queen , how could we dare ?

Being your mentees and getting your help already feels like a gift from the heavens ... n Tilda replied , " I appreciate your trust . You can't have ill intentions toward others , but you can't be careless either . We'll talk about the details when we meet ." Jarrett replied , " I'll send you the location right away ! " He sent Tilda the location . Tilda glanced at the time - 3.p.m . She'd better get ready . At this moment , Astrid privately messaged Jarrett . " Jarrett , about what I mentioned last time ...

" Jarrett replied , " You think Tilda might be your uncle's daughter who went missing 19 years ago ? " Astrid said , " Yeah , it's the same name but I'm not sure . I haven't looked into Tilda's background . If it really is her ... Ugh , I don't even know how I'd face her . " Astrid didn't dare go into too much detail .

After all , she had heard some bad things about Tilda . She'd heard things about how Tilda had completely cut off the Jensons , betrayed them , taken Russell to court , and even hit Howard .

Even though she wasn't that close to Russell's family , as a relative , she'd caught wind of the rumors about Tilda . Jarrett replied , " It's fine ! Queen is Queen . Don't forget why the four of us came together in the first place . We're her fans , and now she's leading us to serve the country ! " Astrid replied , " Yeah . I have to ask her about it when we meet . "

If it really was Tilda , Astrid wasn't sure whether she could trust her - after all , she didn't know her well . But if it were Queen , Astrid would believe her without a doubt !

Finished She'd trust the Queen , the one who single - handedly brought down a foreign firewall , brought glory to the country , and set up rules about not harming innocent people or betraying the nation . Jarrett and the rest of the four - person team arrived at the base first , since they knew the way better . They were nervous about Tilda's sudden visit . They even gave the base a thorough cleaning , not wanting Tilda to think it was too messy . Actually , Jarrett and the others had very different personalities . Take Jarrett , for example .

At his own place , he was carefree and never bothered with cleaning , leaving everything to the housekeepers . But at this base , where they all worked together , no one wanted it Before long , Tilda arrived by car . She messaged Jarrett . " Queen , one second , I'll open the door for you . " The base's gate required a fingerprint , an iris scan , and a password . to be a mess . You couldn't open it without being registered in the system beforehand .. Jarrett and the others nervously opened the base gate . They were wondering what kind of woman Tilda would be .

Each of them had a different image of her in their minds . Finally ... When Tilda came into their sight , they were all stunned . She had long , flowing hair and was dressed in casual clothes , making her look young and beautiful . Her fair and bare face was captivating . Tilda had one hand in her pocket and wore white sneakers . Her perfect figure was a real head - turner . She looked like a regular , beautiful college student . - At first glance , she seemed ordinary . But her deep eyes sometimes flickered with a sharp glint that you couldn't underestimate . Tilda raised an eyebrow .

" What ? Stunned ? Am I that beautiful ? " " Ah ... no , Queen , you look so young ! " Theo was the first to voice what everyone was thinking . In their minds , someone capable of becoming the top hacker on the dark web and breaching a nation's firewall had to be at least in their 30s , Maybe even older . But Tilda looked like she wasn't even

Chapter 238 The First Mission " Of course I'm young , I'm only a sophomore . But you guys aren't that much older than me either . " Let me officially introduce myself . I'm Tilda Jenson , 19 , second year in computer science at Orica University . Nice to meet you all . " Tilda casually reached out her hand to

Jarrett and the others . " You ... You really are Uncle Russell's daughter ! Oh my god ! " Astrid finally realized it and blurted it out . Is this world really that small ? The so - called top hacker of the dark web , idolized by countless people , was actually her relative !

" Astrid , I guess you've probably heard a lot of bad stuff about me from Russell . " I don't bother explaining my actions . I only do what I think is right . " If that bothers you , I'm sorry . " The reason Tilda said this to Astrid was that she knew Astrid wasn't close to Russell's family . She wasn't like the Jensons , getting played by Kyla without even realizing it . Otherwise , Tilda wouldn't have even approached this team in the first place . " No ... I trust Queen ! " I don't care who you really are . As long as you're Queen , that's enough !

Sorry , Queen , I was just shocked that the world is so small ... " To be honest , after looking into the real identities of you four , I was just as surprised to find my cousin is in this group . " Maybe it's fate . But since we're on the same team , we're comrades . I don't want to see unnecessary distrust . " I won't explain too much else . The best way for me to earn your trust is to prove myself through my skills in our future work . " Tilda didn't bother explaining the whole Jensons ' mess to Jarrett and the others . That was a disgusting memory she couldn't wait to forget .

Jarrett and the others exchanged a glance . " Astrid's right ! Whoever Queen is , Queen is still Queen ! " " Yeah , Queen's skills speak for themselves , We're all here because we admire Queen ! " , " Great . " Tilda then took a walk around the base . Servers , internet speed , equipment - everything was flawless . Tilda said casually , " Building this base must've cost a few tens of millions , right ? " Jarrett nervously replied , " Um ... Queen , do you think the base is too small or the equipment isn't enough ? If you need anything else , just let us know . We can get it !

" " Don't worry , this is more than enough . After all , we're just a five - person team , not some movie company with hundreds or thousands of hackers .

" Now , let's go over your technical issues , then we'll start our first mission . " Everyone froze . " Now ?! " " Yes ! And I won't be interfering in this mission - it's all on you four ! " Tilda's eyes flickered , landing on Zach . Zach was taken aback , then lowered his head , too nervous to meet her th gaze .

Since Tilda said it like that , even though the four of them were anxious , they had no choice but to push forward . We can't let Queen down ! That was the only thought in their minds . www Finished After pointing out the group's current technical issues , Tilda had them start hacking . The target was an intelligence network of an overseas underground organization . ' She didn't explain what the

organization was for . Behind the scenes , she monitored how each member of the team worked together .

Jarrett and the others were skilled and had known each other for a long time, so they trusted each other completely . Each person had their own tasks , orderly and unhurried , with a clear division of labor . This kind of trust , coordination , and team spirit wasn't something that could be built overnight . At the same time , Tilda could tell that Zach had the most talent and skill as a hacker . And his ranking on the dark web made it clear - he was the most skilled of the group . But Zach lived up to his name - quiet , reserved , and easily embarrassed .

He hardly spoke up or showed off in front of Tilda . Next were Jarrett and Theo . They were chatty and outgoing , not the shy type at all . Among hackers , that made them stand out as a bit unusual . Most were so used to hiding behind the mask of the online world . Over time , they found it hard to connect with reality . This is also known as social communication disorder , which is different from Zach's natural shyness . Last was Astrid . The only girl and the one who was last in rank . That said , her gap with Jarrett and Theo was tiny , almost nonexistent .

Tilda's impression of Astrid was that she was calm . Even when Zach became emotional and impatient , Astrid was like an iceberg . She never lost her composure when handling a situation . The four of them had their own strengths and weaknesses . But their personalities miraculously complemented one another , allowing them to make rapid progress .

Chapter 239 Taking Down An Underground Organization . Tilda nodded in satisfaction . What a blessing ! I found such a perfect team so quickly ! Time ticked by , bit by bit . When the intel network was finally broken through , Jarrett and the others let out a sigh of relief . Excited , they shouted , " Queen , mission complete ! " " Great . " Tilda handled the final steps . Her fingers flew across the keyboard like she was playing a piece of music . In just a few strokes , she packed up the data and sent it off to an account .

This intel network you just cracked belongs to an underground group overseas that specializes in human trafficking . " I've already sent the data to Interpol . With solid evidence and exact locations , they'll be able to wipe them out in one go and rescue the innocent people who were taken . " " What ?! " Jarrett and the others froze in shock . " Queen , something this big ... Why didn't you tell us beforehand ? " " If I had , you all would've been nervous - afraid of making a mistake that couldn't be fixed . " The result is great , isn't it ?

You guys gave it your all , broke through the intel network , and saved countless innocent lives . " We saved them ... Jarrett and the others glanced at each other . Their hearts pounded , blood boiling , sweat breaking out across their skin . Did they just use their own skills to bring down an underground organization and save countless innocent people ? For the first time in their lives , a new feeling rose

inside them - honor and pride . " For centuries , courageous soldiers have charged into battle and returned triumphant .

" We may not be like them , fighting with weapons on the front lines . But our belief is the same . " To protect our country , and to do everything we can to save those who are suffering , " " This is the age of information , and our honed skills are the greatest weapon . They can make enemies defenseless , allowing us to attack their core and gather intelligence ! " I'm proud to have met you all and to have this team . You're strong . With teamwork , you just saved countless people , and you'll save even more and protect our country in the future !

" Tilda didn't hold back on praising Jarrett and the others . Listening to her words , Jarrett found himself moved to tears without even realizing it . The others ' eyes were red too . " Queen , before we met you , we always wanted to do something for our country , but we never dared to touch things like this .

" We weren't confident in our own skills . We were scared that one mistake could hurt many people . Finished " This was our first time , but I believe with you here , it won't be the last !

Queen , please keep leading us ! " Jarrett spoke from his heart , his voice choked with sobs as he wiped his tears . The others stared at Tilda with unwavering eyes , as if burning like the sun . They wanted to use their strength to save more people ! To protect the country that raised them , and to get rid of the pests to make it a better place . It's not that Interpol couldn't handle these underground organizations without them . But because they stepped in , those pests were eliminated sooner rather than later .

Even if it was just one day earlier , even just one hour sooner , more people would see a the dark abyss . Tilda smiled . " Okay , it's already nine o'clock . None of you had dinner , right ? My treat . " Only then did everyone realize how hungry they were . Their stomachs had been growling for a while . They rubbed the back of their heads , feeling a little embarrassed . glimmer of hope and be saved from Leaving the base , less than a mile away was the bustling business district full of office towers . Setting up a base in a place like this was a little risky - too easy to get exposed .

The But putting it out in the suburbs had a huge drawback too - lousy internet , with constant lag and unstable connections . Here in the heart of Slosa's busiest area , though , network delays and glitches were basically nonexistent . The only thing that made Tilda a little uneasy was .... The Jensen Group's headquarters were in this same area . Well , whatever . It's not like I would be so unlucky as to just bump into one of the Jensons by chance . Besides , it was already late . Tilda found a five - star barbecue restaurant on her phone and took Jarrett and the others there .

The group was still excited , talking quietly about the details of taking down the underground organization . Of course , they kept their voices low and left out the sensitive stuff . The last thing they wanted was someone overhearing , thinking they were criminals , and calling the cops on them . That would've been embarrassing . Even Zach got swept up in the mood and spoke a little more than usual . Jarrett and the others stared at him like they'd just discovered a whole new world .

Chapter 240 Running Into Russell and Dominic Zach shyly lowered his head , his ears turning red . His messy hair and nerdy black - rimmed glasses couldn't hide his good looks . Tilda rested her cheek on one hand , watching with interest . She didn't join in on the conversation , but inside , she felt a sense of contentment . Looking at the trustworthy teammates , she thought , This feeling is great . I don't feel like I'm fighting alone anymore . The job of ordering food was left to Astrid . She was the calmest one of the bunch , not like Jarrett and Theo .

After ordering , she handed the menu to Tilda . " Queen , is this okay ? " Tilda nodded . " As long as you like it , I'm fine . I eat everything , I'm not picky . Waiter ! " Not long after they finished ordering , two people walked into the BBQ place . " Dominic , I'm telling you , I came here before with your mom . The food's really good . " You've been working way too hard . I'm glad you're feeling better , but you've got to eat on time . " Eat whatever you want today . It's on me ! " Russell pulled Dominic along , looking at his son with worry .

In just the past few days , Dominic had gotten even thinner . When Russell grabbed his arm , he could barely feel any flesh and could easily feel the bones . Not to mention the dark circles under Dominic's eyes and the exhaustion he couldn't hide . " Thanks , Dad . " Dominic knew he was in bad shape . He didn't want to sleep because he couldn't . He didn't want to eat because he had no appetite . The only way to escape the things that haunted him , the guilt that was driving him insane . Was to throw himself into work . Work like crazy . Let work take over his entire life .

Let him be busy so that he has no time for anything else ! Dominic couldn't come up with any other way to cope besides this foolish and self - destructive one . Still , after Russell's repeated pleas , Dominic gave in tonight . Even without an appetite , he followed his dad to the BBQ place . At the very least ...

and Dominic He didn't want his family to keep worrying about him . He had made too many mistakes when it came to Tilda . No amount of regret could fix them . Unless , like Tilda once said ...

only his death could make her anger fade . Just then ... Russell and Dominic spotted Tilda sitting with her group , grilling meat . Russell blinked , wondering if his eyes were playing tricks on him . Why would Tilda

be here ? But reality was cruel . The one person he least wanted to run into , he ran into . This biological daughter truly is a curse to our family ! Dominic saw her too . Guilt , panic , and fear all flashed across his eyes as he quickly looked away . He couldn't help but remember the day of their falling out . It was raining . Tilda had said she'd only forgive him if he died .

Now , running into her like this .... Finished Even though Dominic felt incredibly guilty and knew he was in the wrong , he wondered if there was still a chance for her to forgive him . It's impossible , right ? If Tilda didn't rub salt in his wounds and make him feel worse than death , that would already be considered mercy . " Let's go . " Russell took a deep breath . He could tell that Dominic's attitude toward Tilda had changed . Just by looking at his son's expression now , he knew ... And it made him even sadder . That sadness was something Tilda had brought onto Dominic .

Russell had tried asking him a few times why he'd changed so much when it came to Tilda , but Dominic never said a word . As a father , the only thing Russell could do was keep him away from her , to stop Dominic from getting hurt by Tilda any further . The next second . Russell seemed to spot someone he definitely hadn't expected . He let go of Dominic and strode straight over . " Astrid ? What are you doing here ? " Astrid , who had been chatting with Tilda , froze for a moment .

Hearing Russell's voice , she looked over , shocked .

" U - Uncle Russell ?! " Then she glanced awkwardly at Tilda . She knew Tilda had pretty much cut ties with the Jensons . " If Russell said anything that might hurt her , it'd be bad . Tilda wanted to facepalm . Of course , this would happen . How could I run into Russell and Dominic here ? Finished " Why are you sitting with Tilda ? " It's so late . Why are these two troublemakers cating barbecue ? I've never seen them be Russell had rarely seen his niece , Astrid . 10 interested in this kind of food before ! She had grown up overseas .

Even after moving back to Slosa and getting a senior executive job , she always came up with an excuse to refuse whenever Russell invited her to have dinner at Jenson Villa . Russell knew Astrid was shy around people , so he let her be and simply kept an eye on her work . Astrid was doing better and better in Slosa , connecting with wealthy families and building her own network and resources .