

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 Jensons . 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 Jensons 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 Jensons 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 Jensons , and received the finest education as she grew up .

Chapter 235 Kyla Betrayed the Jensons 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 Jensons 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 Jensons ' 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 Jensons Filda , 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 . no Finished " Tilda , I've got an update on what you asked me to track . Kyla sold the Jensons ' 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 wsared 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 Jenson 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 Jenson's 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 eating 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 .