

## Shadows 241

Chapter 241 What's Wrong With My Sons ? Astrid had built her success entirely on her own , without relying on Russell or her father , Dwayne . Seeing his niece's talent and courage at such a young age , Russell felt relieved ; he could tell his brother , Dwayne , that she was doing well . But what was this ? The niece he had invited countless times but could only see through photos or videos was now sitting here eating barbecue with the daughter he hated the most ? Russell felt like he'd just been slapped in the face . The pain stung , just like when Tilda had betrayed him .

Even Jarrett and the others went quiet . As members of Slosa's elite , they knew that this man was Russell , chairman of the Jenson Group , who had recently caused a huge stir in the media . " Why ? Because we get along . Is that a problem ? " Or is the mighty chairman of the Jenson Group planning to control even his own niece's right to make friends ? " Tilda mercilessly shot back . She hated that kind of talk from Russell ! Why can't Astrid sit with me ? Am I a germ or pest ? Why shouldn't Astrid sit with me ? If anything , sitting with you Jensons is worse !

You'd even corrupt Astrid and make her stupid and ignorant ! " You- ?! " Russell ground his teeth . Tilda ... After all these days , her mouth is still as sharp as ever ! He honestly didn't know if she got that sharp tongue from him or from Blair ! If it were used against enemies , he would've been proud . But turning it on her own father ? That stung . " Sorry , Uncle Russell , but ... I don't think this is the right time to talk . " Out of respect for her uncle - and for her father's respect for his brother - Astrid kept her voice calm .

But the meaning was clear , she was siding with Tilda . " Great ! Awesome ! " The feeling was impossible to put into words . It was like someone had stabbed Russell hard in the back . Dominic quickly stepped up and pulled on Russell . " Dad , that's enough . Let's just go eat . "

" Don't worry , Dominic . I'm calm . I'm perfectly clear - headed . " Russell gave Astrid and Tilda one last long look before turning to leave , That look ... Astrid got it . Russell was disappointed in her . But Astrid didn't regret her choice .

But Tilda felt uneasy . Should I have just thrown the water in my cup in Russell's face ? She didn't because she didn't want to ruin the mood for Jarrett and the others . Ugh ! I kind of regret it now .... it's put me in a bad mood . Why did that idiot Russell look at me like I'm not worthy of hanging out with Astrid ? Damn it , what a jerk ! Russell wanted to find a seat where he wouldn't have to see Tilda , so he and Dominic could eat But Dominic chose a table where Russell could still see Tilda but wasn't too close to her . Russell squinted .

" Dominic , are you trying to get a look at Tilda ? " Dominic pressed his lips together . " Yes ... Dad , I want to see Tilda . " Chances like this were rare . It was his only chance to run into Tilda and see her without being driven away by her cold words . If he were to try to meet her any other way , he wouldn't even get the chance . At the same time , Dominic's gaze moved to Astrid . He felt a slight stirring in his heart . Russell was speechless He never expected Dominic to admit it . Dammit ! What's wrong with my sons ?!

Dominic and Wade were suddenly so caught up in everything Tilda did . peace . Finished Howard was beaten so badly by Tilda that he had been hiding in his room . Russell hadn't seen him step out of his room . Hard to believe this was the same young man who used to be energetic . Tilda , meanwhile , did her best to ignore the looks Russell and Dominic kept throwing her way . She was enjoying a good time , drinking cola , eating barbecue , and talking with the members of the Comet Squad . Unfortunately ....

Dominic and Russell just had to keep staring at her , It made Tilda want to go over and gouge out those two bastards ' eyeballs , toss them on the floor , stomp them into paste , and

yell , " See enough now ?! " Astrid and the others could tell Tilda was in a bad mood . Obviously , it was because Russell and Dominic showed up . They quickly finished their food , said they were full , and left . Tilda was the first to leave . The barbecue was great . Her teammates were great . Too bad she had to run into the Jensons .

One bad apple did spoil the bunch . Watching Tilda hurry off , Dominic lowered his eyes . A trace of hurt flickered across his face . Tilda .... Do you really hate seeing me that much ? Is there really no way for us to go back and fix our relationship ? Russell angrily snorted . Damn , Tilda . I didn't even get to complain that you're ruining my and Dominic's dinner !

Chapter 242 A Conversation Between Astrid and Dominic How dare you keep avoiding us like we're the plague ? I'm so mad ! Dominic stood up . " Dad , you can head back if you're done . I have a few things to take care of . " " Dominic , you're not going to go look for Tilda , are you ? " Dominic had been so focused on Tilda during the meal that he had barely touched his food . Russell worried . If Dominic went to talk to Tilda , with her personality , he'd probably get humiliated .

He could still vividly remember the last time Tilda had Dominic ; he had a complete breakdown and had to be hospitalized Russell couldn't let it happen again . " Even if I wanted to see Tilda , with how much she hates me right now , there's no way she'd meet me . " Dad , I'm going to see someone else . Don't worry , I won't cause you any more trouble . " Dominic smiled at Russell and hurried away . Russell sighed heavily . 19 Since Dominic had put it that way , all he could do was trust him . Astrid came by taxi - she didn't bring her car . Theo raised an eyebrow .

" Astrid , want me to give you a ride back ? Jarrett's taking Zach home . " " No , I'm fine ... I'll just take a cab myself- " Before Astrid could finish , a figure came running out . " Astrid ! " It was Dominic . Astrid had expected this and had Jarrett and the others leave first . " Um ... Astrid , are you sure about this ? " Theo looked a little worried . Jarrett and Zach watched Astrid with worried eyes . After all , Queen didn't have the best relationship with the Jensions . Since Astrid was part of the Jensions , she could end up stuck in the middle . " Well , he's family .

He's not gonna hurt me , right ? You can go . " Then , Astrid walked toward Dominic . When she saw him , she spoke calmly , " It's been a while , Dominic . " " Astrid , do you have a moment ? I need to talk to you . " " Okay . " Jarrett and the others could only anxiously watch them go . " Should we tell Queen about this ? " Zach spoke , which was rare for him . "

Forget it . I feel like her relationship with the Jensions is already complicated enough . No need to bother her with this .

" Astrid said she'll handle it , so let's just trust her ! " Dominic and Astrid found a coffee shop that was still open . " What do you want to drink ? " " Americano , no sugar , warm , please . Thanks . " Dominic and Astrid sat across from each other . 2 For a moment , Dominic had so much he wanted to say but didn't know where to start . Finished It was Astrid who took a sip of her coffee and spoke first . " The last time we sat face - to - face like this was probably six years ago , when you and your family came to visit us in Flonche . " " Yeah ... Time flies .

So much has happened since then ... Dominic gave a wry smile . " Astrid , how do you know Tilda ? " " Is it strange for us to know each other ? Tilda's my cousin too , " Astrid spoke calmly , not revealing anything about the base or the Glory Team . Astrid was 22 , a year older than Wade , which technically made Tilda her younger cousin . Of course , that was only based on age - Tilda was both Astrid's idol and her leader . " You know what happened between our family and Tilda , " Dominic said , probing . " Isn't there another reason ? " " No , don't overthink it , Dominic .

Tilda and I just get along well . The issues with your family are your private matters , and it's not my business to get involved . " Are you here to confront me because you're upset that Tilda and I are friends ? " " No , don't get me wrong . I'm glad you and Tilda get along ; it helps ease my guilt . " A flicker of emotion crossed Dominic's eyes . Tilda still maintained a relationship with Astrid .. That meant ... the bond between Tilda and the Jensions wasn't completely severed . It was just Dominic's wishful thinking , but he had to believe it to feel better .

It was his only way of coping , deceiving himself . " Dominic , what happened between Tilda and your family ? Wasn't she the daughter you all had been looking for for 19 years ? " Why did she cut ties with the Jensions so quickly and decisively , in less than a month ? Why did she even sue Uncle Russell ? " Astrid had heard about this but didn't care , She felt it was a private family matter and that her uncle wouldn't be happy with anyone asking , and it wasn't her place to get involved . But now that it concerned her boss and idol , she couldn't ignore it .

Queen had said she had no regrets about this matter .

Chapter 243 The Talk Is Over After spending so much time with Tilda , Astrid understood her personality . Tilda would never have done something so extreme unless she had been treated unfairly by the Jensions . Finally , he spread his hands and covered his face . " Yeah ... She's the one we had been trying to find all these 19 years , my missing sister . Dominic murmured softly . His face was full of sadness . 21 HEY " This is on us ... Astrid , I can't really explain all the details , but Tilda's disappointment with our family is our fault . " We owe her .

We finally found her after 19 years , but we never gave her the warmth she deserved . " Instead , we forced her to cut us off , and now we've ended up here . " It's all on us . Regret . Just www regret . Like Wade , Dominic desperately wished for a chance to start over . If I could be reborn , I'd go back to the day Tilda first returned to Jenson Villa . Back then , Tilda was so hopeful , excited , and happy . If they had just been willing to show a little goodwill and accept Tilda , their biological sister who had been missing for 19 years , things wouldn't have turned out this way !

They wouldn't be like this now , broken and hollow inside . Happiness wouldn't have left , and suffering wouldn't have come . Astrid trembled all over . She never thought Dominic would admit it so directly ! " So why did you let those stories spread on social media and in the news ? Why did you make it Que - Tilda , the one who was selfish and spoiled , who cut ties with you guys and got kicked out ? " That news was so convincing that even Astrid believed it . Because she didn't really know Tilda . And because she trusted her family .

Astrid believed that Russell and the others were not so bad as to lie about their daughter , who had been missing for 19 years ! If Tilda weren't Queen , Astrid would still be in the dark ! She wouldn't feel like hitting Tilda , but she wouldn't treat her nicely either . And it wasn't just Astrid . Many people saw that news and didn't bother checking the truth . They believed whatever others said . How badly did they misunderstand Tilda ? Dominic was left speechless .

That news is trashing Tilda ... Yes , it was indeed Dominic's doing .

Finished Even after Tilda struck back perfectly and severely hurt the Jenson Group , many people still didn't know the truth . Watching Dominic like this , Astrid felt a disappointment she'd never felt before .  
thar " You treated Tilda like that ... even I , as a relative , can't stand it . " You should wake up and see what you've done . No wonder Tilda cut you off . You just don't deserve to be her family ! " Do Uncle Russell and his family have any idea how powerful and brilliant Tilda is ? If they didn't ... They must be blind ! They threw away a priceless gem ! But ...

Maybe this is for the best . A queen who's tied to nothing is unstoppable ! So - called " family ties " are just obstacles for Queen . They're never a help . It's better to ditch this kind of toxic family ! " I know ... Astrid , we regret it now and want a chance to make it up to Tilda . A " I don't expect Tilda to forgive us or come back to Jenson Villa , but I want to do something for her . " Just something to ease this guilt that's about to drown me . " Dominic didn't dare tell Astrid everything that had happened between him and Tilda . If she knew ...

She probably wouldn't ever want to see him again . Let alone help him . For now , all they had was this cousin relationship . This was the only way Dominic could think of to keep track of Tilda . It was a lie , a fragile one that would eventually be exposed . Call Dominic despicable , shameless , a liar - he didn't care . He just couldn't let this one channel to stay connected to Tilda be cut off . But ... " No need . Tilda is far stronger and tougher than you think . She doesn't need the Jensons ' charity ! The best way you can help is to just stay out of her life !

" Astrid already thought Russell and his family were hopeless . The day they found out Tilda's true identity , they'd be completely shocked .

Tilda by herself was strong enough to stand equal to the whole Jenson Group . This time , Russell's family had truly lost a treasure . Given Queen's personality , there was no way she'd ever go back . After saying this , Astrid prepared to leave . " Astrid , wait . " ! Dominic grabbed her arm , stopping her from leaving . " Dominic , the talk is over .

Please show some dignity as the future heir of the Jenson Group ! "

Chapter 244 Why Are You With Tilda ? " Look , we're family . I don't want to have a falling out with you , " Astrid said coldly . After knowing just how badly they treated Tilda , Astrid couldn't even stand Russell and his family . Even if Tilda wasn't Queen , she was still Russell's daughter who'd been missing for 19 years . What kind of nonsense was that ? During the days Blair visited Astrid's house , she constantly went on about how guilty she felt toward Tilda , Even when Astrid's parents told Blair to let it go , she refused .

She insisted on finding her long - lost daughter - alive or dead , she had to see her . Blair claimed everyone else in the world could give up looking for Tilda , but not her , Tilda's mother. At the time , Astrid truly believed her . But now that Tilda was found , Blair didn't cherish her at all - she just abused and bullied her without hesitation ? She acted one way in public and a totally different way in private . Astrid couldn't believe she was related to someone like that . It felt so filthy ! The trust she had placed so deeply had been completely betrayed .

Dominic's heart skipped a beat . Looking at Astrid's cold , ruthless gaze , he had a gut feeling ... that she might know Tilda's true identity... that she was Queen . Could the new dark web hacker , who copied Queen's habits , actually be Astrid ? Seeing Dominic still wouldn't let go , Astrid picked up the Americano from the table and splashed it onto his face . The warm coffee splashed on him , snapping him fully awake . Astrid broke free from Dominic and left quickly . Dominic stood there . The coffee dripped from his hair and face , soaking his clothes . His heart ...

had never felt this cold . Even Astrid , who didn't know the full story , was furious just hearing how they had misunderstood and slandered Tilda . Why ... Why did they , as Tilda's brother and the family she so desperately wanted , not feel a single thing back then ? Why did they crush Tilda's longing for family like it meant nothing ? A staff member saw what happened and rushed over . " Sir , are you okay ? " Did you have a fight with your girlfriend ? I'm fine .. Dominic kept his head down and left the cafe like that , his heart sinking into a depth of despair he had never known .

A few days passed in the blink of an eye .

One day , Tilda made a point to attend a bidding meeting . She put on sunglasses and dressed up a bit . She was accompanied by Jarrett . " Que - Tilda , what made you suddenly decide to go to this bidding meeting ? " Jarrett was shocked when Tilda called him to ask for an invitation to the event . With the Bells ' connections , getting an invite to a bidding meeting like this was no big deal . " There's a show I want to see , " Tilda said with a mysterious smile .

" You don't have to come in if you don't want to . " She asked Jarrett for help because they were teammates , and he owed her quite a few favors . Getting Jude , Alfie , or Maurice to get an invitation would have been just as easy . But it would mean owing them a favor . Even if Jude and the others didn't care , Tilda did . It just wouldn't sit right with her . " Since we're here , of course I'm going in . I'm going to be your bodyguard ! " Don't let my looks fool you . I'm great at kickboxing ! " Jarrett said , confidently patting his chest .

" I can tell ." Tilda wasn't just flattering him . As a fellow martial artist , she could see it . She could tell from Jarrett's unique habits - how he walked , how he reacted to sensitive situations . They were habits he'd picked up from years of kickboxing . " Jarrett , what are you doing here ? " An unpleasant voice came from behind . Tilda and Jarrett turned around . It was Daphne and Preston . Seeing Tilda , Daphne was startled . " You bitch ... What are you doing here ?! " Since it was a public place , she had to watch her manners .

Her instinctive outburst was a bit too loud , drawing a lot of attention . " Jarrett , why are you with Tilda ? " Preston's brow furrowed slightly . His gaze was full of hostility . The reason was simple . He just despised the spoiled youngest son of the third branch from the bottom of his heart . He'd heard that Jarrett had dropped out of university . Jarrett spent his days either running wild outside or holed up in his room , making a mess . Without the backing of the Bells , where would Jarrett get the money to live like that ?

But at one family gathering , Jude went out of his way to talk to Jarrett and even praised him .

Even Jarrett's parents were stunned for a long time . Finished Everyone in the family recognized Jude as the one in charge , the one they pinned all their hopes on , and the most capable of them all . Although his relatives were jealous of him , they also feared his abilities . Jude rarely paid attention to any of them , so the fact that Jarrett was valued so highly by Jude

Chapter 245 That Familiar Pain No one expected it . When Preston saw what happened , he thought Jude had lost it . He immediately felt a deep jealousy toward Jarrett . How could such a loser - living off his family , having dropped out of university - catch Jude's attention ?! " Why can't I be with Tilda ? Who I'm with is none of your business , " Jarrett said , looking at Preston like he was a fool . Jarrett wasn't stupid ; of course he knew Preston looked down on him . He didn't feel the need to show off his skills to anyone . He liked keeping things low - key .

That didn't mean Jarrett would just let Preston humiliate him ! " You ?! Jarrett , you've got some nerve - thinking you can talk to me like that ! " " Seriously , Jarrett ! Didn't your dad teach you any manners ? How dare you talk back ? Apologize ! " Daphne and Preston really were alike - mother and son through and through . So shameless . " Don't pay them any mind , Jarrett . Let's go inside . " Tilda grabbed Jarrett , trying to lead him into the bidding hall . " Stop ! You still owe us an apology ! " Daphne wasn't about to let Jarrett off that easily .

Seeing this good - for - nothing kid dare to talk back to her brilliant , promising son , she was furious . She had to put him in his place . The next second .... Daphne got a sharp slap across the face . She turned her head , her cheek stinging , and a look of disbelief on her face . That slap again ... That familiar pain ! No need to think - she knew exactly who it was . It had to be that bitch Tilda who slapped her ! This was the second time ! The second time ! And in front of all these people ! Everyone's eyes were instantly on Daphne and Tilda . Even Jarrett and Preston froze , too .

Once Preston came to his senses , he immediately pulled a completely humiliated Daphne into his arms .  
" What are you doing ?! Tilda ! "

Preston could barely hold back the urge to slap Tilda back right there . Tilda's slap wasn't just against his mother - it was an attack on his pride . No one could believe it ... Tilda actually had the guts to act so brazen ! To slap Daphne right in front of everyone ! Did she not care about her own life ? " Que - Tilda , what are you- " Jarrett was completely dumbfounded by Tilda's courage .

He had wanted to do the very same thing countless times . This aunt and her family were always so arrogant , constantly looking down on him . He had only ever dared to think about it . He never found the guts to actually do it . Tilda must have felt so satisfied , but what about next ? " I slapped her to shut her up . She was being so loud , " Tilda said icily . Daphne had been talking behind Tilda like an annoying bug . Did she think Tilda wouldn't get mad ? " Tilda Jenson !

" Finished Preston had grown up in high society , taught never to lose his cool in public , but Tilda's constant insults were leaving him no dignity at all . He couldn't hold back anymore . He raised his hand , ready to slap Tilda . " Tilda ! " In a panic , Jarrett stepped in to protect her . But Tilda kicked Preston right in the knee . His knees still hadn't healed from when he fell on the broken glass . Tilda's kick was fast and precise , and no one noticed it .

1 It hit Preston's knee so hard it felt like it might split open , A sharp pain suddenly hit him , he lost his balance , and he fell directly to his knees . Everyone was dumbfounded . It was hard to believe what had just happened . They had all thought Preston was about to strike back for his mother . Instead ... he dropped to his knees before Tilda ? What on earth was going on ? " Oh wow , I didn't expect such a big gesture from you ! Stay there . I'll grab my phone and take a pic ... " Preston , are you okay ? Are you hurt ?

Daphne didn't care about the pain in her face ; she rushed to help Preston up . " You bitch ! How dare you hit me ! " Finished " You can't just say things without proof . Who saw me hit you ? How could a weak woman like me beat a grown man like you ? " Fine , just drop to your knees if you want , but to lie all the time ? That's shameful . " " You ! " Preston practically wanted to tear Tilda to pieces . In fact , Preston had indeed made a move . Tilda said calmly , " By the way ... Did you forget that I still have something on you ?



" Preston's raised hand froze in midair . Rebecca's video ! His open hand slowly clenched into a fist . He glared at Tilda , his forehead tight with anger . " That look of yours makes me really uncomfortable , Preston . If I weren't careful and said it out loud ... your Rebecca once stayed on her knees before me , barking like a dog , even licking my shoes ... " Tilda ! That's enough ! Stop saying that ! " Daphne was absolutely terrified and quickly stopped Tilda . She cautiously glanced around . Tilda had kept her voice low enough that only the three of them could hear what was said .

Chapter 246 Tilda Had to Go ! Damn it , Rebecca ! She stirred up such a huge mess , dragging Daphne and Preston down with her . Now they were stuck , forced to keep quiet even after getting slapped around . And Rebecca ? She was nowhere to be found . Ryan had even tried to look for her but came back to Slosa empty - handed . Jarrett was completely stunned , frozen in place . He couldn't believe what he'd just heard from Tilda . Rebecca ... that arrogant troublemaker actually knelt down to Tilda , barked like a dog , and even licked Tilda's shoes ? Oh my god !

But then Jarrett thought about it . If Rebecca were dumb enough to mess with the " Queen , " she'd be lucky to get away alive , let alone unharmed . " Not talking ? Fine ... " Preston's eyes were bloodshot , glaring at Tilda like he wanted to kill her . Tilda's lips curled into a cold smile . Without warning , she slapped Preston hard across the face . Smack ! The sharp sound of the slap echoed through the silent room . " Well then ... show me some respect ! " From now on , whenever you see me or my friends , stay far away . Don't come begging for a beating .

If I see you again , I'll slap you again ! " After the slap , Tilda rubbed her wrist and turned to walk toward the bid center . Jarrett snapped out of it and hurried after her . " Tilda , wait for me . " Once Tilda and Jarrett left , everyone pretended not to notice Preston and Daphne, quickly steering clear of them as they entered the bid center In Slosa , who didn't know the Bells ? Especially Preston , the rising star everyone was talking about lately . Now , Daphne and Preston had both been slapped by Tilda - right in public - and didn't even dare fight back . It was almost laughable .

" Preston , come on , let's go inside , " Daphne said , her cheeks burning . It wasn't just the sting from Tilda's slap . It was the humiliation of being looked down on by everyone . Daphne had never felt so embarrassed . She'd always been a socialite in the upper circles , the Bells ' daughter - in - law , a spotlight among all the rich ladies . Now , Tilda had slapped her in front of everyone , threatened her with Rebecca's video , and left her gasping for air . She couldn't have felt worse .

If Ryan heard about this , Daphne knew she'd be in for it when she got home . Finished Preston's face was cold , and he gave off this scary , icy vibe as Daphne dragged him inside , ignoring the stares from everyone around them . " Preston ... I can't believe you held back . That bitch Tilda went way too far . "

There was a moment I really wanted you to hit her back . We're so humiliated now ! " . " Mom ... Honestly , I almost lost it . But ... Tilda is connected to Jude . " If Tilda twists that video and gives it to Jude , our whole family would be done for .

" Now's not the time to go against Tilda and Jude ... " What ?! Tilda's got ties to Jude ? Since when ? How come I didn't know anything about this ? " Daphne was stunned . She never imagined Preston had a reason for holding back . " Could Jude be interested in Tilda ? Is he out of his mind ? " " He's supposed to be the head of the Bells , and he's got his eye on some low - class drifter ? When I see Abram , I'm going to tell him all about Jude ! " Daphne was furious , but if Tilda really had a connection to Jude ... it was like Tilda had them in a chokehold .

From now on , Tilda could walk all over them . With Rebecca's embarrassing video and Jude to back her up , she could crush Preston anytime . Right then , Daphne felt a surge of murderous intent . Back when Blair said the issue couldn't be solved , and Tilda had kept quiet about the video , Daphne hesitated about getting rid of Tilda . Now , it was clear . Tilda had to go ! Preston silently closed his mouth , not saying another word . His cheek still stung , but his head was finally starting to clear . He realized ... Tilda held too much evidence against them now .

Plus , with her ties to Jude , he needed to find a way to ease things with Tilda . He couldn't keep fighting her like before . I'm sorry ... Kyla , for our future happiness , I'll have to sacrifice a little and try to win Tilda over . Tilda didn't care what Preston and Daphne were thinking . She'd already delivered the slap and embarrassed them in front of everyone . They didn't even dare fight back . Feels great ... Queen , what happened between you and Aunt Daphne and Preston ? Why are they so scared of you ? "

Jarrett was like a curious kid , eyes wide with admiration as he bombarded Tilda with questions . Tilda briefly explained what had gone down between her and Daphne's family . " Wow , Queen , you're amazing ! " Jarrett gave her a big thumbs

Chapter 247 A New Face " They've always been arrogant and pushy . I've never liked that family . " " With you here today , Queen , I finally got to vent my anger ! Ha ! I can't wait to go home and tell my folks all about it ! That was awesome ! " The Bells have four households in total . Besides the former head of the Bells , Abram Bell , who is Jarrett's grandfather . There's the eldest son , Marcus Bell . The second son is Ryan , Daphne's husband and Preston's dad . The third son is Leonard Bell , Jarrett's family . The youngest is Devin Bell , Jude's family .

Devin is the youngest of the four brothers . But thanks to Jude - a once - in - a - century genius - he took over the Bells from Abram at a young age and became CEO of DY Group . He's the star of the Bells , completely outshining everyone else . Next in line is Marcus . As the oldest , he still has some say in things . Then there's Ryan . He's pretty capable , and with Preston - the " genius " he's raised - their household has clawed back some influence over the years . The weakest household is Jarrett's family . Leonard doesn't care about power struggles .

He'd rather travel the country with his wife , seeing all the beautiful sights , never chasing after money or status . Leonard's laid - back attitude rubbed off on his kids . Even though Jarrett and his siblings are talented , they don't show off much and just want to do what they enjoy and live comfortably . That's why Leonard's family barely has a voice in the Bells . Of course , they don't really care about that . Being born into the Bells , even if you're a slacker , you're living a life most people only dream of . " Whatever . " Tilda shrugged .

She then leaned back in her seat , settling into a comfy position , ready for the show to begin . It didn't take long . The main characters arrived - Russell and Dominic . Russell could feel something was off as soon as he walked into the bid center . It was like something had happened before they got there . Usually , Russell would leave these bidding events to Dominic after he retired and handed over the company . He hadn't come to one in ages . But lately , Russell was worried about Dominic's mental state , so he stayed close .

Especially after that night when Dominic ran out to find Astrid . When he came back , he was even more out of it . Russell tried asking Dominic what happened , but Dominic wouldn't say a word . He even called Astrid , but she wouldn't answer his calls . It was obvious Astrid had been brainwashed by Tilda . Russell spotted Preston and Daphne . It made sense - they were at a big Slosa bidding event . Russell greeted Daphne , but she barely responded , her face looking pale . Looking closer , Russell noticed her face was still swollen and red ...

He wondered if he was seeing things . The bidding event was about to start . Finished Russell had no choice but to lead Dominic to their seats in the front row - the ones marked on their invitation , reserved for VIPS . It showed just how important Jenson Group was in Slosa . Even after everything that happened , Jenson Group was still a dragon that refused to bow its head . Just then , someone in the shadows curled his lips into a slight smile . He suddenly felt like something - or someone - was watching him . The man's instincts were sharp , like a wild animal sensing danger .

He glanced behind him , but the feeling vanished without a trace . Was that just my imagination ... ? " Mr. Lowell , is something wrong ? " The secretary whispered to Tobias Lowell . " It's nothing ... Stay sharp . This is an important bidding event . " I spent 20 million dollars just to get this intel . I hope it's worth it . " Tobias pushed away the strange feeling in his gut . His amber eyes sparkled with excitement . This was only the first step in his grand plan . Everyone around glanced at Tobias . He was a new face , but strikingly handsome .

He stood about six - foot - three , dressed in a pricey custom suit , with stylish , wavy hair and amber eyes . He sat with one leg crossed over the other , his chin resting on one hand , looking bored but with an unmistakable sharpness in his gaze . Just from his presence , you could tell Tobias was no ordinary man . Jarrett noticed Tilda's eyes kept drifting toward Tobias . He whispered , " Queen , is there something special about that guy ? "

" What do you think ? " Tilda pulled her gaze back and tossed the question back at Jarrett .

Finished Jarrett thought for a moment . " That guy ... is really good - looking . It's the first time I've seen someone who's on par with Jude . " Even from far away , when Tobias turned his head for those few seconds , Jarrett got a clear look at his face .

Chapter 248 First Real Partnership Other than " handsome , " Jarrett couldn't come up with any other word to describe him . Tilda gave Jarrett a quick smack on the head . " You idiot , since when do you care so much about looks ? Watch out - if Jude hears you , Jarrett rubbed the bump forming on his forehead . Hille he'll kill you . " " Oh , come on , Queen , I can't help it . It's my first time seeing this guy ... I haven't met many people , but I really don't recognize him at all . " But Jude wouldn't care . He's always said that guys who rely on their looks are the worst .

He's never used his face to get ahead ! " Tilda was a little thrown off . Jude ... would actually say something like that ? It sounded like something that proud , cold guy would say . But for some reason , whenever Tilda was around Jude , she had the feeling he actually cared a lot about his looks . Jarrett kept staring at Tobias . " That guy ... the way he carries himself , the vibe he gives off ... you can't ignore it ! " , After watching for a while , Jarrett could sense it too . He was a Bell , after all . " Keep watching . " Tilda said , crossing her arms , clearly interested .

Tilda had already dug up the truth . In her last life , it was Tobias who used Kyla to steal secrets from the Jensons . She'd done a deep dive into who Tobias really was . She knew that Tobias was the illegitimate son of Malcom Lowell , the Director of the Crown Group , who basically controlled the economy of Xosas Tobias was incredibly talented . He'd shown it since he was a kid , finishing a master's degree in finance overseas by the age of 22 before coming back to the States .

Even though he was an illegitimate child , Malcom saw his talent and ambition and gave him all the resources and support he needed to grow . Tobias had only been back in the country for less than three months . To avoid any suspicion , he came to Slosa with the first chunk of money Malcom gave him and started his own business . He managed to win Kyla over in no time , using every trick in the book to get her interested , work with him , and betray the Jensons . Kyla needed money , but she was also drawn in by Tobias's looks .

After all , Tobias really did have a face that could drive women wild , plus the charm , the body , and a way of talking that could get anyone to listen . In her last life , Tilda died not knowing if Tobias ever managed to destroy the Jensons .

Now , reborn , she finally got to see Tobias's first real partnership with Kyla in Slosa . Tilda wanted to see with her own eyes - did Tobias really have the skills to take down the Jensons ? Only then could she feel at ease . The bidding event began ..

People started making offers, but it was just the appetizer . Things didn't get serious until the plot of land Kyla had leaked information about came up . Russell made his move , putting in the lowest bid at 20 million dollars . Once Jenson Group got involved , everyone else backed off . Based on their calculations , the land would make money , but not much . Finished Rather than go head - to - head with Jenson Group and end up embarrassed , they decided to just let Jenson Group have it . But then- Tobias raised his paddle . " Thirty million . " The crowd gasped .

Everyone turned to look at this unfamiliar , strikingly handsome man . Nobody knew him , but for someone to call out 30 million dollars and even challenge Jenson Group ... This young man was definitely not a pushover ! Russell glanced at Tobias , instantly sensing he wasn't just anybody . After conferring with Dominic , he raised his paddle . " 35 million . " Tobias raised his paddle again . " 40 million . " Russell hesitated . Dominic spoke up , " Dad , just stick to the plan - go up to 50 million , but don't go any higher . " " Alright . " Russell nodded and raised his paddle .

" 50 million . " " Fifty point two million . " Tobias seemed to know exactly what Jenson Group's limit was . He added just 200,000 dollars to beat them out . In the end , he won the land . His goal achieved , Tobias and his secretary stood up to go handle the paperwork . As he passed by Tilda , Tobias's amber eyes landed on her for a moment , full of suspicion . But it only lasted a second before he looked away . Russell and Dominic didn't get the land and didn't notice Tilda at all . They'd done most of what they came for , so they got up and left to deal with business back at the office .

7 Since they hadn't secured the key piece of land for their plan , it was all pretty much ruined . Finished They'd have to come up with a new plan , and there was still so much work to do - they couldn't afford to waste any more time here . Jarrett clicked his tongue . " I can't believe Jenson Group gave up so fast . The guy only outbid them by 200 grand . If they really wanted that land , they could've kept going . " For a huge company like Jenson Group , 200,000 dollars was nothing .

Letting that land slip away just like that - to Jarrett , it felt like a total loss of face .

Chapter 249 Got Played This was way more important than 200,000 dollars . " According to Jenson Group's plan , they figured buying that land could bring in 100 million dollars in profit , but that's not a sure thing . " Tilda explained . " A lot of unexpected stuff could happen and turn that land into a worthless mess , costing them big time . " No one can guarantee a hundred percent success in business . If someone could , they'd be a miracle worker . " Setting 50 million dollars as their bottom line and not getting emotional about it - that's how Jenson Group always handles things calmly .

Tobias just took advantage of that attitude . " After all , pride doesn't pay the bills . For a company to grow and survive , you have to think about a lot of things . It's not as simple as you think . " When you go up against Jenson Group , if you know their bottom line , you can get what you want for the lowest price . That's why the information Kyla gave was so valuable - it let Tobias bid without holding back and crush Jenson Group . This time , it was Russell and Dominic who got played . Tobias made a killing off them for the first time ! But it wouldn't be the last . " I get it ...

sort of , " Jarrett said , scratching the back of his head . When Jarrett and Tilda walked out of the bidding center , they happened to run into Tobias , who had just finished the paperwork . The two groups met again . This time , Tobias came over and greeted them . " Ms. Jenson , right ? " Even though Tilda was disguised , Tobias's sharp eyes still recognized her . " That's me , " Tilda replied coolly . " What can I do for you ? " Tobias handed her a business card . " This is my card , Ms. Jenson . If you ever want to work together , just give me a call .

" - Tilda took the card and glanced at it . XY Group . Heh . So he is going head - to - head with Jude's DY Group ? She slipped the card into her pocket . " Alright , I'll think about it . " Tobias gave a small , knowing smile and walked away . His secretary followed close behind , asking quietly , " Mr. Lowell , why bother with Tilda ? She's not really important to our plan , right ? " Tobias wanted to make a big splash and prove himself to the Lowells as quickly as possible . He chose the riskiest , gray - area route .

Through all kinds of tricks , he found out the Jensons trusted their adopted daughter Kyla completely - almost to the point of spoiling her . When Tobias came to Slosa to start his business , all he had was the hundred million dollars Malcom gave him . He registered a company and set a clear direction for the future . Then he started working on Kyla . Tobias had already figured out how important Kyla was to the Jensons , and he understood how Jenson Group operated at these bids .

If he could nail down Jenson Group's bottom line , his chances of winning were 95 % . After pouring so much time and effort into it , he finally got Kyla to talk and landed his first project . But from Tobias's perspective ... This project wasn't just about the 100 million dollars Jenson Group expected in profit !

Tobias was confident he could make 200 million dollars . " One more piece on the board means more control . Tilda isn't as simple as she looks . " I heard about her even before I came to Slosa . If I can help it , I'd rather not make her my enemy .

" That was just Tobias's gut feeling . Growing up as the Lowells ' illegitimate son , Tobias had always lived a tough life . That rough childhood helped him grow up fast . Tobias walked away . Tilda watched his figure disappear into the distance . Jarrett hesitated , then couldn't help asking , " Uh ... Queen , you're not falling for that guy , are you ? " " Don't be ridiculous . " Tilda shot Jarrett a huge eye roll . " Do I look like someone who forgets everything just because a guy's good - looking ? " " Not really , but Queen , you sure do pay a lot of attention to him ...

" I get it , though . He is pretty handsome . " Jarrett had no idea about Tilda and Jude's relationship . He just made his own guess . If Jude were here , he'd probably kick Jarrett straight out the door . " For your own safety, I'm telling you - don't ever say stuff like that again . " Anyway , thanks for today . I'm heading out . " Tilda patted Jarrett on the shoulder and turned to leave . When she got to the underground parking lot , she ran into Preston and Daphne . Tilda smirked with a hint of disdain , treated them like air , and spun her Porsche keys as she walked toward her car .

Daphne glared at her , furious , but didn't dare say anything . Last time she mouthed off , Tilda slapped her across the face and embarrassed her in front of everyone .

Chapter 250 I'll Remember This As Tilda walked past Preston , he suddenly spoke up . " Tilda , I think we need to talk . " Even Daphne was stunned , staring at Preston in disbelief . " Preston , you ... " Mom , let me handle this . I'll take care of it , " Preston said , shooting Daphne a look . But Tilda didn't pay Preston any attention . She walked straight to her Porsche Cayenne , opened the door , got in , shut it , and started the engine - all in one smooth motion . Preston rushed to her driver's side window , knocking hard . " Tilda , I said we need to talk . Didn't you hear me ?

" " There's no need . I barely know you , and there's nothing to talk about . " Tilda pressed the gas , ready to drive off . Preston couldn't believe how cold she was ! He thought - she'd sleep with anyone if it helped her get ahead . She'd slept with the professor just to steal Kyla's spot in a competition . She tried seducing Jude to marry into the Bells , and when that wasn't enough , she started flirting with Jarrett . Why ? If she wanted to marry into the Bells and climb the social ladder , wouldn't seducing her own , fiancé , Preston , be the easiest move ?

Why would she rather chase after Jude and Jarrett instead of Preston ? It was like Tilda was saying - Preston wasn't even as good as Jarrett , who was all talk . It was like she'd slapped him across the face , over and over , and it stung - bad . Desperate , Preston stepped right in front of Tilda's car . " Tilda , I really need to talk to you about something important ! " " Not moving ? " Tilda's eyes turned icy . She

took her foot off the brake and pressed down on the gas , ready to drive straight at him . At the last second , Daphne cried out in panic , " Preston !

" Preston snapped out of it and dove to the side . He tumbled across the pavement , looking completely pathetic . Filda didn't even glance at him . She tossed out the word " coward " and sped away in her Porsche . " Damn it ! That bitch ! " Preston was so angry , he nearly ground his teeth to dust .

" Preston , are you alright ? Oh my gosh , you're bleeding ! We should go to the hospital " No , Mom , it's just a scratch . I'll clean it up myself . " . Preston stared at his wounds . Tilda ... I'll remember this .

One day , I'll make you bow down to me willingly ! I'll prove to you just how wrong you were - Preston is better than Jude or Jarrett ! Night fell . Tilda was taking a shower . Just then , her phone buzzed with a message - from Jude . Jude texted , " Want to grab something to eat tonight ? " Tilda replied , " Sure ! Bring it over . I'm almost done with my shower . " Almost done with her shower .... Jude was waiting downstairs at Tilda's apartment building . His lips pressed tight , thinking about Tilda in the shower - bare skin and all . He coughed , trying to shake off the thought .

For someone usually as cold as ice , he was feeling things he never expected . No matter what , Jude was still a normal guy . He hadn't felt this way before , only because he'd never met the woman he wanted to spend his life with . Now , with Tilda - his light - he couldn't help but fall from his high , untouchable pedestal . He was no longer the emotionless , untouchable god . He was just a man , moved by love , feeling joy , anger , and sorrow . " Boss , " Vassal , his driver , glanced at Jude in the rearview mirror . Hmm ... How should he put it ?

Jude's expression was changing more than usual . Never seen the boss like this before ... Jude waited in the car for half an hour before finally bringing the food up to Tilda . " Come in and sit , " she invited . These days . Tilda and Jude were pretty close - almost like good friends . Jude stepped inside , feeling totally at ease , like he was at home . Or maybe , this was the only place he truly felt relaxed . Sure , her apartment was tiny compared to Jude's sprawling mansion that covered miles .

Finished But here ... Tilda was here .

It was a place that felt safe . Tilda unpacked the food Jude brought , plated it , and added some chilled , sugared tangerine slices sprinkled with sour cherry powder . " Try this with me . Last time I mixed it with tangerines , it tasted even better . " " Alright . " Jude picked up a fork and tried a bite . " It's pretty good . " " You're so half - hearted ! You have to really taste the food . Trust my foodie standards , okay ? " Tilda



teased him . Then she stuck a toothpick into a tangerine slice and held it out to Jude . Jude paused , a little surprised . " What are you waiting for ?

Open up ," Tilda urged . Under her encouragement , Jude automatically opened his mouth . Then she stuck a toothpick into a tangerine slice and held it out to Jude . Jude paused , a little surprised . " What are you waiting for ? Open up ," Tilda urged . Under her encouragement , Jude automatically opened his mouth .