

## Shadows 271

Chapter 271 Ryan's Family Was in Chaos Tilda replied , " Ahem , well , considering our friendship , of course I have to think it over . The best thing you can do is just stay by my side , no matter what happens . " Jude was the kind of person who would support Tilda even if everyone else turned against her . He would protect her , trust her completely , and always be there for her . That support gave Tilda the biggest strength to fight against all the hatred ! Jude wrote , " Tilda , I'll always be with you . I always keep my promises . " Oh , I almost forgot .

I watched the Orica University orientation party live broadcast last night . You were amazing ! " No wonder I fell for you . " Jude typed the last message but then deleted them . He frowned slightly . That usually cold and perfect face looked a little unsure this time . He worried that what he wrote might be too much . He didn't want to scare Tilda . While Tilda was chatting with Jude , Ryan's family was in total chaos . Preston and Daphne were eating breakfast when suddenly Ryan stormed down the stairs , looking furious . Seeing his face , Daphne nervously asked , " Honey , what's wrong ?

" She tried to hand him a cup of coffee . Ryan snapped , " That bitch Tilda posted the video online ! " " What ?! " Daphne shouted in surprise . She lost her grip on the cup , and it slipped from her hands . Crash ! It shattered all over the floor . Preston was shocked , too . " Dad , is that really true ?! " Ryan shouted , " Do you think I'd joke ? Of course , it's real ! " Damn that useless daughter ! I don't know who helped her hide , but I went to Hetsa myself and still couldn't find her ! " Now she's caused a huge mess , ran off , and left us to clean it up !

I should've dealt with her myself ! I should've ended her back then ! " Ryan slammed his fist down on the table . Daphne hurried to calm him . " Honey , don't get so angry . It's bad for your health ... " " This is all your fault ! She has been spoiled too much ! I told you we should send Rebecca abroad to make her independent , so she wouldn't cause trouble for our family , but you wouldn't listen ! " Look at where we are now ! Are you happy ? Just wait until Dad finds out . You've just handed Jude the perfect weapon against us !

After Ryan shouted , Daphne lowered her head and stayed quiet , too scared to even breathe . 1/2 P P . Outsiders thought she had a perfect life . Married into the Bells , she seemed respected and loved . She and Ryan appeared like a perfect couple . But in truth , she was like a dog in front of Ryan . When he was happy , he would show her a little affection . When he was angry , yelling was the smallest part . Sometimes , he even got physical . After the kids grew up , he didn't hit her as much . But that wasn't because he changed .

It was because Daphne had learned her lesson . She was no longer the arrogant , bossy woman she had been in her youth . Now , she only dared to obey and never argued back . Preston said , " Dad , don't blame Mom . Right now , we should focus on fixing this problem . " Forget about Rebecca for now , Dad , you need to see if there's any way to control this mess online . Maybe delete all the videos online . " I checked . The video went up just last night . It hasn't blown up yet , so we have to act fast before it spreads ! " At that moment , Preston was torn with mixed emotions . Could it be ...

Did Tilda post the video because she was angry at me for trying to block her way ? If that's true , I really messed up . But why would she do it ? She had been keeping that video hidden , just to get my attention , right ? To make me notice her and like her . Then , using the engagement between the Jensons and my family , she could win me over , marry into the family , and gain everything . " Alright , " Ryan muttered , rubbing his temples . His head hurt so much ! Thank goodness . Even if Rebecca caused trouble , at least he had Preston , a son he could rely on .

Without him , things would be a total disaster . Preston skipped the rest of his breakfast , grabbed his suit , and rushed out . Daphne finally made up her mind and approached Ryan . " Honey , maybe we should find a way to make Tilda disappear from this world . " As she spoke , her eyes shone with a cold , murderous glint . Ryan stayed quiet for a moment , then asked , " I heard Tilda is really close to the top lawyer Andy Saville and Jude . Do you know what's going on within them ? " Ryan knew that , even with the Jensons ' power , winning their favor was impossible .

They pick their own friends . They don't let anyone choose for them .

Chapter 272 The Queen Ryan didn't think Tilda was as simple as she looked . The girl who had disappeared from the Jensons 19 years ago was definitely hiding some secret . Otherwise , why would she be involved with those two people ? Daphne responded , " I'm not sure ... But Honey , does it really matter ? If we wanted someone to disappear completely , it wouldn't be that hard . " As long as we catch Tilda alone , even if Jude and the others are suspicious , they won't have any proof . She'll be gone for good , and we'll never have to worry about her causing problems for us again .

" Daphne had made up her mind . No matter what it took , she was determined to make Tilda vanish from their life . " We need to think carefully first . Right now , let's just handle the problems we already have , " Ryan said . JAS As the family head and the son of the once - dominant Slosa business tycoon Abram Bell , Ryan might not be as skilled as his older brother , Aiden Bell , or his nephew , Jude Bell . But he had his own talents . He could sense danger better than most . He could feel clearly that Tilda was not someone to mess with .

Now that they had crossed her , even if she became their enemy , they couldn't rush to get rid of this difficult problem . Of course , compared to some real threats , Ryan knew he was still far from being a match . That thought stabbed at his heart like a thorn , impossible to ignore . " Daphne , I'm warning you . Rebecca's mess has already caused enough trouble . Don't go behind my back and start anything stupid that I'll have to clean up ! " Otherwise , I won't let you off ! " Hearing that , Daphne had no choice but to hide her plans and reluctantly agree . Night fell .

There were no classes today . Tilda had been busy all day after waking up , working on a programming task given by Lab Seven . She finished it in one go , compressed the files , and sent them to Manfred . Tilda wrote , " Mr. Parker , I'll be going abroad in a few days to help Professor Linscott at the International Art Competition . I'll take on more missions when I return with the championship ." Manfred texted , " Haha , then I hope you a big win ! Bring glory to the country! But with your skills , winning the championship will be a piece of cake . Go and amaze everyone !

" At first , Parker didn't understand why someone like Tilda would bother with an art competition . Compared to some art championships , her identity as the dark web Queen was enough to make every country fight over her , wanting her on their side . Luckily , Tilda was loyal to her country . She only worked with Lab Seven to find her senior , putting her talents to work for her country After watching her work these past few days , Manfred realized she was a geniousal unbelievably smart ! He was amazed .

The latest mission alone would have taken a dozen top scientists working nonstop for days . Tilda finished it all by herself in just a few days ! Every program was perfect and without a single bug . All the data was neat and easy to understand , which helped Dane a lot ! Thanks to the teamwork of Dane and Tilda , both geniuses , the lithography machine project was moving forward faster than ever . Later , Manfred realized that Tilda didn't care about money or fame . She only wanted to serve her country and took pride in earning honors for it .

Her courage and dedication were worth more than anything else . Having someone like Tilda was truly a treasure for Cetherland ! After chatting with Tilda , Manfred packaged the files and sent them to Dane through his team . Tilda wanted to stay for Dane's compliment , but there was still some time . After a long day , she decided to go for a walk . Una was helping at the welfare center that night and had invited Tilda . Tilda had been too busy before and turned it down , but now she had nothing to do . She thought it was the perfect time to grab a drink at a quiet bar .

At Nightingale Bar , Tilda sat on the balcony of the second floor , overlooking the river . The night wind gently blew through her long hair , making her pale face shine in the lights along the riverbank . She

looked calm and relaxed , almost like a cat , leaning back in her chair with half - closed eyes , holding a glass of Bloody Mary . The deep red drink matched her slender fingers and red lips perfectly . People in the bar couldn't take their eyes off her . Even rich kids who had flirted with many girls didn't dare go near Tilda .

Her reputation at Nightingale Bar had already become legendary . Everyone quietly called her the " Queen . " It meant she was like a real queen . Anyone who dared provoke her always paid a heavy price . Just like a noble queen , she was untouchable .

Chapter 273 Showdown at Nightingale Bar Anyone who thinks about messing with Tilda , had to make sure they can handle whatever she throws back at them . Since catching sight of the Queen of Nightingale Bar was such a rare treat , the guys could only sneak peeks at Tilda's silhouette and flowing hair , while pretending to focus on their drinks . Stunning ! Absolutely gorgeous ! Her phone buzzed . Tilda pulled out her phone . Dale's name appeared on the screen . Dale had texted her , " Tilda , I got the files . Outstanding work .

" Tilda typed back , " Dale , come on aren't you gonna praise me ? " www Dale's response came quickly , " Tilda , you're incredible ! " Tilda's fingers flew across the keyboard , " Dale , you're pretty amazing yourself ! I can't wait for the day your lithography machine gets finished , starts manufacturing chips , breaks up that monopoly , shocks the entire world , and creates ripples across every industry ! " Dale replied , " You've been a huge part of this project .

Without your help , we never could have made this much progress on the lithography machine ." Dale's praise sent Tilda's confidence soaring . Nothing beats getting recognition from Dale . Ha ... okay , maybe that's a slight exaggeration . Still , having Dale acknowledge her work felt sweeter than her favorite candy . Warmth spread through her chest . Right then , someone came rushing over . The person's eyes were locked on Tilda as they charged straight toward her . " Tilda ! " Preston's voice had that grinding , furious edge to it .

Even through his obvious rage , you could see the exhaustion written all over his face . Preston had spent the entire day hunting for Tilda ! He'd checked Orica University and hit up every single place she might turn up . The problem was Preston didn't have Tilda's phone number . He'd even quietly asked Wade if he had her contact information . Wade claimed he didn't have it either and wondered if something was wrong . There was no way Preston could - explain this humiliating mess to Wade , so he just brushed off the question and hoped to keep the whole thing under wraps as long as possible .

After asking every connection he had , Preston finally discovered that Tilda was having drinks at Nightingale Bar ! Preston was so furious during the drive over that he almost crashed his car , then bolted straight to Nightingale Bar without even stopping to catch his breath ! Preston's family had been thrown into complete turmoil because of that video Tilda had suddenly dropped online . And there was that bitch , Tilda, casually sipping drinks at Nightingale Bar like absolutely nothing had happened .

How could Preston not be absolutely furious ? Here we go ! The crowd that had been watching Tilda perked up with excitement ! Every single time Tilda showed up at Nightingale Bar , she managed to stir up some kind of drama . She was like a magnet for trouble - impossible to ignore . Guys often ended up fighting over her . For everyone else watching , this was pure entertainment - another show about to begin . This time , it was Preston from the Bells coming after Tilda ! Go get him , Queen Tilda ! Crush this loser and amaze us ! Tilda shot Preston a cold glance and set down her wine glass .

" I'm having a drink and I'm in a great mood , so I might go easy on you . Finished " But if you're planning to be stubborn and start trouble , I won't hold back . Get your ass out of here and go cry to your mommy . " Tilda had wrapped up her assignment today , earned Dale's praise , and was now enjoying premium wine while feeling the evening breeze . With her mind crystal clear , she felt absolutely fantastic . She wasn't about to let her good mood be ruined by a stupid fight with Preston . Preston stared at Tilda like she'd lost her mind , as if she were some shameless , hideous creature .

" Go easy on me ? What kind of joke is that ! That video that went viral online - you were behind that , weren't you ? " Since this was such an embarrassing situation , Preston kept his voice low and controlled , even though his temper was boiling over . Tilda's expression was pure contempt . " Yeah , so what if I posted it ? What are you going to do about it ? Hit me ? Take me to court ? A pathetic loser like you doesn't even qualify to try . " She relished how these jerks hated her yet were powerless to stop her . Watching Preston's face turn bright red with rage was incredibly satisfying !

Preston hadn't expected Tilda to admit to it so boldly and directly . He'd figured Tilda would put on some kind of act first , giving him the chance to expose her true colors . But Tilda was so blunt and uncompromising that it left Preston completely speechless . All those carefully prepared arguments - he couldn't get a single one out . " Tilda , why ... why would you do this? You kept that video just to get my attention , didn't you ? got you wanted , so why did you suddenly post the video online last night and humiliate everyone involved ?

" 1 After thinking it over all day , Preston finally asked the question that had been gnawing at him . Tilda didn't say a word .

Seriously ? Was something wrong with Tilda's hearing ? . But seeing Preston's delusional confidence , she realized this wasn't some bizarre hallucination . Tilda felt genuinely disgusted . Oh Finished " Oh my God , why do pathetic men like this even exist in this world ?

You're like my Uncle John's nasty old work boots - beat up , crusty , and just plain gross ." Tilda put her hand over her mouth in mock surprise . In some twisted way , Tilda really had to give Preston credit . Looking at him now , it was like he genuinely believed he was the center of the universe - as if everyone was head over heels for him and the entire world revolved around his existence .

Chapter 274 Three Seconds to Run Those who despised him , those who went out of their way to avoid him - in Preston's delusional mind , they were all just desperate for his attention . It never crossed his mind that people simply wanted nothing to do with this inflated ego . This guy was completely ordinary , yet brimming with confidence . Talk about shameless ! When it came to pure narcissism , Tilda had to throw in the towel ! " What did you say ? " No matter how confident Preston felt , he couldn't miss the mockery in Tilda's voice .

Finally , he realized things weren't what he'd imagined - that Tilda kept the video to get his attention . The truth ran much deeper . " Oh my , Preston , you mean that video on those international platforms ? It's trending right now . Everyone should check it out you're in for quite the shock ! " Tilda's sudden loud announcement caught everyone's attention . Curiosity sparked , everyone pulled out their phones , logged into international websites , and scrolled through the trending lists . They were dying to know what video Tilda was going on about .

Preston lunged forward to cover Tilda's mouth , but he was too late . Regarding the domestic broadcast of Rebecca's humiliating performance , Ryan had leveraged his influence to block all media channels . As for international websites , Ryan's hands were tied . He could only desperately call the administrator of the website that first posted the video . He offered to pay any amount to take down the video and prevent it from spreading further . But when the website administrator attempted to remove the video , they discovered it was impossible .

Not only had this video somehow bypassed review and been published directly , but it was also permanently locked in place . The programmers were frantically working to fix the system bug . No one knew when it could be repaired . They could only watch helplessly as the video's popularity skyrocketed and secured its spot on the trending list . The comments had surpassed 30,000 , and the view count had blown past ten million . Rebecca , along with Ryan and the entire family , faced international humiliation . " Oh my God ! I found that video ! Isn't ... isn't that Preston's sister , Rebecca ?

I've seen her at social events ! " " Holy crap ! She actually got down on her knees and did something so degrading . Doesn't she have any dignity ? " That's absolutely insane . I never thought Rebecca was into that kind of thing . " " Well , she's still part of the Bells after all . No wonder Preston looks completely panicked . " Everyone who found the video started gossiping and reveling in the drama .

They even discreetly shared it within their own social circles .

Preston listened to the buzz and muttered through gritted teeth , " You posted this video , bypassed the website's review system , and locked the page so it can't be deleted . All of this was your doing , wasn't it ? " " You're pretty smart , but don't make accusations without evidence , or I'll sue you for slander . Now , would you kindly get lost ? " Tilda settled back into her seat . She deliberately pulled out her phone and searched for the video of Rebecca performing the degrading act . She turned on the speaker and cranked the volume up to maximum .

Instantly , the sound of Rebecca getting on her knees , crying , and acting pathetically echoed throughout Nightingale Bar . Everyone gasped . No wonder Tilda earned the title Queen of Nightingale Bar ! This move was absolutely savage ! She couldn't care less about Preston or the Bells ! She was literally crushing Preston underfoot and treating him like trash ! " Tilda , what are you doing ? " Preston couldn't bear to hear such humiliating audio again . Right now , he wanted to strangle Rebecca . All he wanted was to snatch the phone from Tilda's hands . " Oops , my finger slipped .

Sorry about that . " Preston , I've had enough fun watching your ridiculous clown show . I'm being generous and giving you three seconds . If you don't disappear and stop being an eyesore , I won't be nice to you anymore . " " One . " Two . " " Tilda ! We need to talk ! " At this moment , Preston's mind was focused entirely on pacifying this unhinged woman , Tilda . Otherwise , Tilda still had another video up her sleeve .

If she managed to release it and let it spread on international video websites where it couldn't be deleted , then Ryan wouldn't even be able to suppress the domestic media ! Jude and the others would come after Ryan's family ! " What you want is for me to marry you , to honor the engagement between the Bells and Jensens , for you to marry into the Bells , right ? I agree . " Splash ! Tilda hurled the Bloody Mary in her hand directly at Preston's head . The cold alcohol streamed down Preston's face . He stood there as if struck by lightning . He was completely frozen .

He stared at Tilda in shock . He still had no clue what had just happened . But Tilda wasn't finished . Tilda grabbed another drink and stood up . She poured it over Preston's head . The icy liquid was bone - chillingly cold . With the night wind from the river blowing fiercely , Preston shivered and snapped back to his senses . Tilda threw the glass in her hand at Preston's head . Fortunately , Preston reacted quickly and dodged Tilda's attack . " Tilda , what the hell is wrong with you ? " " I said three seconds .

You didn't leave , so I won't hold back . Get your butt out of here and go cry to your mommy ."

Chapter 275 Hitting Where It Hurts Preston's words hit Tilda like a hammer , each syllable dripping with arrogance . What did he mean , claiming she hoped he'd marry her ? What the hell ! The suggestion made her stomach turn . It was beyond revolting . Tilda's temper flared white - hot . The pleasant buzz from her earlier drinks evaporated instantly . Even if Preston dropped dead right here , it wouldn't satisfy her fury .

Without hesitation , she pulled out her phone right in front of him , In one fluid motion , she uploaded another video of Rebecca crawling across the floor , acting like a deranged animal , to multiple international websites . When he finally caught on and grabbed for her phone , it was already too late . Preston's face contorted with rage . " Tilda , hand over that phone ! " He lunged forward to forcefully snatch the phone from Tilda's hands . Since Tilda was the one posting the videos , if he could just access her account , he could delete the videos completely . But then ...

A sickening crack split the air , followed by a snap . The unmistakable sound of something important breaking . Preston's eyes widened in shock . Excruciating pain exploded through his entire body . He collapsed , clutched his crotch and releasing an agonized howl that echoed through the bar . His face turned beet red as veins bulged across his forehead . Words completely failed him . Every man in the vicinity instinctively crossed their legs . Holy crap . That sound just now Had Tilda just nailed Preston right in his most vulnerable spot?

The lighting was too dim to catch exactly when her leg shot out like lightning . Such precision ! Targeting a man's weak spot ! Quick ! Dead - on ! Merciless ! She truly lived up to her title as the Queen - even her methods of neutralizing men were absolutely flawless . One strike to end the fight permanently , ensuring he'd never be a threat again . But she wasn't finished . Tilda grabbed a champagne boule from the nearby ice bucket . She shook it violently and aimed it directly at Preston's head . Preston was writhing in too much agony to dodge anything .

Pop ! The cork shot straight into Preston's forehead . A huge bump swelled up instantly . Champagne erupted everywhere , drenching Preston from head to toe . His clothes , pants , hair ... nothing was spared . Everything was completely ruined ! Only after this complete humiliation did Tilda feel the disgust from Preston's words begin to fade . Everyone tactfully backed away , giving Tilda plenty of room to work on her fallen victim .. The crowd was so captivated by the spectacle that they completely forgot to pull out their phones .

They were all wondering what new torture methods Tilda would unleash next . Absolutely savage ! They were actually starting to pity Preston ! In all their nights watching Tilda humiliate people at Nightingale Bar , Preston was definitely receiving the most brutal treatment they'd ever witnessed . Tilda reached for the champagne bottle , ready to smash it over Preston's head . " Preston ! " A familiar shrill scream rang out . The corner of Tilda's mouth twitched slightly . Kyla came running over and crouched beside Preston . " Preston , are you okay ? " she asked with concern .

" What happened ? Tilda ... " " Kyla ! Tilda ! " Justin and Kayden also rushed over . Tilda thought , What kind of cursed evening was this ? What kind of cursed coincidence was this ? All these pieces of trash showing up one after another . Tilda deeply regretted never taking her mentor's mysticism lessons seriously . At least then she wouldn't keep running into low luck every time she went out . She probably wouldn't be able to come to Nightingale Bar anymore - it was too easy to run into people she knew . " Justin , Kayden , please help Preston ! Oh my God , Preston's hurt so badly !

" Kyla couldn't lift Preston alone . Justin and Kayden quickly moved to assist . " Preston , are you alright ? " " I - I'm fine . "

Each word seemed to cost Preston tremendous effort . His breathing came in short gasps , and the veins on his forehead looked ready to burst . It was genuinely frightening . But Preston couldn't admit weakness . Because he was injured down there . The embarrassment would be unbearable . In front of Kyla and everyone else , Preston needed to maintain his image . He just needed somewhere to sit and recover properly .

" Tilda , what exactly happened ? Why were you two going at it like that ? " Kyla looked at Tilda with tears streaming down her face , her voice soft but demanding answers . Since Justin and Kayden had wrapped up their latest project , they had significant free time ahead . Finished They'd even turned down new opportunities - partly because they needed rest . Money meant nothing without peace of mind . Also , they wanted to spend quality time with family and fulfill Dominic and Wade's request - to bring Tilda back to the Jensons and help her embrace the love that was rightfully hers .

Given how deep the rift ran between Tilda and the Jensons , Justin and Kayden had spent an entire day discussing it without reaching any solutions . They'd decided to bring Kyla to Nightingale Bar to unwind and lift everyone's spirits . After all , Kyla's performance had flopped yesterday , and she'd been noticeably down ever since . They never expected to walk straight into this chaos the moment they stepped foot in Nightingale Bar .

Chapter 276 Thorns That Never Heal " Kyla , if you've got time , please quit obsessing over your terrible performance . Keep an eye on your man instead . " You know what he told me after your embarrassing disaster at last night's freshman welcome show ? He said you two were just childhood friends . He

claimed that he has zero feelings for you . He wants to chase after me instead . " Tsk , tsk , tsk , Kyla , you're absolutely pathetic . I've crushed you at school already . Now , you can't even keep your own guy interested . What's the point of living ?

" Tilda felt furious and exhausted by Kyla's pitiful victim act . She attacked with the most painful words she could find . Kyla's face instantly turned deathly pale . No way ... That was impossible ! How could Preston betray her like that ! Preston loved Kyla . He was her devoted follower . A puppet she had completely brainwashed long ago ! But remembering how everyone in the Jenson's had changed because of Tilda's transformation , Kyla's rock - solid confidence in her acting skills and charm began to crumble violently . She was terrified Preston would abandon her too . " You ...

don't spout nonsense . Tilda , I never said anything like that . " Preston writhed in agony from his groin injury . He desperately tried to explain . " You never said anything like that ? Of course you didn't . Believe it or not , Kyla , I have zero interest in joking about this . Being liked by such an inflated ego is truly disgusting . " But hey , inflated egos are pretty entertaining . They fall for every woman they meet . What a disgrace to the Bells ! " Tilda dropped those words and strutted away . She knew her words had planted a deep thorn in Kyla's heart .

One that could never be removed . Every time Kyla saw Preston , that thorn would dig deeper into her heart . It would hurt so badly she could barely breathe ! Only this way would Kyla be pushed to want to eliminate Tilda more desperately . To cooperate with Tobias . To quickly achieve Tilda's ultimate goal . Sure enough , Kyla's expression looked like she'd just bitten into a raw lemon . Justin noticed that Tilda was about to leave . He pressed his lips together . He told Kyla and Kayden to stay and care for Preston while he chased after Tilda . " Justin , be careful .

" The usually quiet Kayden grabbed Justin's arm . He spoke with genuine concern . " Don't worry , nothing bad will happen . She's still our sister no matter what . I believe in our blood connection . " I'm leaving Kyla and Preston in your capable hands . " Justin gave Kayden a reassuring look . After Justin left , Preston endured the excruciating pain . He explained to Kyla , " Kyla , don't believe what Tilda said . She's lying through her teeth . After all these years together , you should understand that you're the only one in my heart . " Kyla suppressed the urge to slap Preston .

She forced a smile . " Preston , don't talk about this now . You look seriously injured . Let's get you to the hospital first . " Yes , Preston , let's get you to the hospital . We need to check your injuries before making any other plans . " Finished Since she had been drinking , Tilda planned to call a designated driver

service to take her home . She was just about to take her phone out to open the app . " Tilda . " A gentle voice called out to her . Tilda's eyes flickered with cold light . She sent her address to the driver .

Then she put her hands in her pockets and turned to face Justin . Her biological blood brother , Justin . To be fair , Tilda's hatred for Justin and Kayden wasn't nearly as deep as her hatred for Dominic , Howard , and Wade . But their actions toward Tilda were unforgivable . They would rather believe every word Kyla said . They'd always put her first in everything . Whenever there was any conflict involving Kyla , they would abandon their role as " brothers " , and they criticized everything Tilda did . Even in her past life , Justin and Kayden had never believed Tilda once .

They only believed Kyla . They had watched helplessly as Tilda was thrown into the fire and burned to death . They never stepped in to help . Brothers like that ? Tilda didn't need them . She hated them to the core . " Don't call me that . I can't handle it . I've already severed ties with the Jensons . Don't tell me you still don't know that . " Faced with Tilda's coldness , Justin secretly sighed . It seemed like he still had a long way to go to eliminate the grudges and hatred in his sister's heart . " I know . I also heard from Dominic and Wade about what they did .

They all regret it deeply . They want your forgiveness . " They did many wrong things . Even as family , I can't deny that . I gave them a thorough lecture for it . " You know what they say about people turning over a new leaf . If it were anyone else , I wouldn't have the right to ask you to . forgive anything . " But they're your biological brothers . We share the same blood . That's something you can't deny or abandon , Tilda . You should understand that . " Please ! Give them another chance ! This is my plea to you as your brother ! Please ! " Justin pleaded desperately with Tilda .

Chapter 277 Pick a Sister Justin spoke with incredible gentleness . His voice carried earnest pleading . He understood something important . Regular approaches couldn't remove Tilda's deep hatred . She possessed the same stubborn streak as other Jenson family members . Money and power wouldn't sway her . Threats and bribes would fail completely . Her hatred ran too deep for such shallow tactics . Only Tilda herself could release this burden . Justin's only weapon was complete sincerity . But Tilda couldn't help but laugh . Her laughter dripped with pure mockery .

Everyone could see it clearly . " Tilda , you ... " Who do you think you are , Justin ? They feel guilty now , so what ? Why should that matter to me ? " If I stabbed you and apologized , would you forgive me ? Would you skip calling the cops and just let it slide ? " " Tilda , that's totally different ! Dominic and Wade never threatened your life ! " Justin desperately defended them . " Really ? So emotional abuse doesn't count ? Cold words and cruel wishes don't hurt ? As long as nobody hit me , it's fine ? " Justin , keep your fake kindness to yourself ! Get out of my sight and stay out !

" Tilda's icy words cut like invisible daggers . Justin's cheeks actually stung from her harshness . Her burning rage left him momentarily speechless . " I know you hate the Jenson's , Tilda . But I'm your brother . I won't give up . " I'll help you understand what family means . You'll forgive Dominic and Wade eventually ." Justin steadied himself and spoke from his heart . He refused to abandon his long - lost sister of 19 years . Tilda was trapped in swirling hatred now . If he gave up , she'd drift away forever . Darkness would swallow her with no escape . " Think you're my savior ?

My brother ? Look in the mirror , Justin . Ask yourself if you're worthy . You're absolutely worthless ! " For the first time , Justin's gentle expression disgusted her completely . His self - righteous bleeding - heart act made her sick . She couldn't resist tearing off his fake mask anymore . " Curse me all you want , Tilda . Humiliate me however you like . I won't give up . I'm your brother , so I can handle this . " Justin spoke with firm determination . Seeing her brother act this way sparked an idea . A playful smile curved Tilda's lips . She'd found an interesting game to play .

" Justin , you want me to forgive Dominic and Wade , right ? Fine . Kick Kyla out of the Jenson Villa right now . Then I'll agree . How's that sound ? " " What did you say ? "

Perfect . The moment Kyla's name came up , Justin's firm expression cracked . His resolve wavered instantly . " Kick Kyla out and I'll come home . Simple as that . " It's a fair trade . Satisfies your sense of justice perfectly , right ? " Tilda felt satisfied watching Justin's expression change . This proved everything . This gentle Justin matched her memories perfectly .

She could destroy him without any restraint . " Those are two different things entirely ! Why should Kyla leave just for you ? That's completely unreasonable ! Finished " You're the Jenson's biological daughter , but Kyla is also a daughter of the Jenson's . Our love doesn't have boundaries based on blood ! " Justin's voice changed completely . His earlier gentleness vanished . Cold anger replaced his sincere tone . " Are you deaf ? Haven't you heard Kyla's promises ? She said she'd leave the Jenson Villa if I came back . " I'm just fulfilling her wishes . Why are you freaking out ?

" Scared I'll kick your precious Kyla out of the Jenson Villa ? Then why plead me to return ? Let Kyla stay the only Jenson heiress . I'll give up completely . Wouldn't that be better ? " Justin fell speechless . He lowered his head and clenched his fists . " Y - you're being totally unreasonable ! " " Who's unreasonable here ? It's you ! " Tilda suddenly roared . It startled Justin . He stared blankly into her stone - cold eyes . In that moment , his soul felt pierced and torn . Icy coldness spread through him . It froze his entire body . " Justin , in your heart , am I worth anything ?

Your so - called blood sister who was missing for 19 years ? Am I worth even one hair on Kyla's head ? " In your eyes , Kyla's the warm sun . I'm just cold moonlight . She always comes first . When she's around , I'm always second place ! "

Chapter 278 The Cruel Truth " Kyla is an adopted daughter . She was originally abandoned , but she's already enjoyed 18 years of the wealth , luxury , and family love that should have belonged to me . She was treated like a princess , living in luxury , adored by everyone ! " And me ... during the 19 years I was missing , if I hadn't met the person who changed my life , I might already be wandering homeless by now or even dead ! " Now I've severed ties with the Jensions , and you have the nerve to come up to me trying to convince me to come back home , then call me unreasonable . What a joke !

" Justin's heart began to race , and faced with Tilda's aggressive confrontation , he couldn't help but retreat , cold sweat suddenly breaking out and soaking his entire body . His posture already showed that Justin had completely lost the upper hand to Tilda when it came to presence . He even began to wonder whether there was truth in her words . Was ... was Justin wrong ? No ... that wasn't right ! Justin hadn't done anything wrong ! One was a sister he'd lived with for 18 years , with no blood relation .

The other was his biological sister who'd been missing for 19 years and was finally found . He wanted to keep both - was that such a terrible thought ? The Jensions could certainly afford to support two daughters ! " But ... Kyla is innocent , Tilda . You can't blame her for the mistakes made back then ! " I know you're angry right now , and the Jensions wronged you . You're technically Kyla's older sister . Can't you just be more understanding toward her ? " Crack . The words struck one of Tilda's most sensitive nerves .

Looking at his face that was trying to stay calm but was absolutely disgusting . For a moment , Tilda really wanted to rush forward and tear him to pieces . Understanding ? Hadn't Tilda been understanding enough ? Afraid that Kyla would feel inferior and sad , Tilda had hidden her abilities and become a pushover ! She'd been understanding until she was burned alive and died the most horrible death ! " I will never be understanding ! Justin , I'm telling you - I want to take everything . I want it all to belong to me , and no one else can even touch it ! " I am exactly this kind of evil woman .

See my true colors and stop bothering me ! " The driver arrived just then , pulling up in a sedan . He asked cautiously , " Um ... which one is Ms. Tilda ? " " That's me . " Tilda pulled her car keys out of her pocket and tossed them to the driver . " My car is over there . Follow me and drive me home . "

After saying this , Tilda turned around and left without hesitation . The driver gulped nervously , looking at Justin who was standing there with a pale face .

Finished He'd actually been there for a while already , but seeing these two people locked in what seemed like a heated argument with such tension in the air , he hadn't dared to approach . Now he hurried to follow Tilda . Justin watched his sister's figure gradually disappearing into the distance . His fists clenched and unclenched repeatedly . Finally , he took a deep breath and shouted out what was in his heart . " Tilda , I know you're saying that out of anger , but you can't take your rage out on Kyla . In this matter ... you're the one who's wrong !

" Justin knew that saying this would make Tilda hate the Jensions even more and refuse to come back . But Kyla was Justin's bottom line ! Even for the sake of his biological sister Tilda , Justin absolutely could not kick Kyla out of the Jenson Villa ! The rest of the Jensions would never agree to it either . Shouting those words showed where Justin stood . As for whether Tilda could ever return to the Jenson Villa , that was up to fate . Justin could only do his best . Tilda stopped walking . A self - mocking smile curved her lips . Wake up , Tilda .

This is Justin , not the idealized version you've built up in your head . That so - called gentle Justin - his bottom line , his " number one " in his heart , his most important sister , would always be Kyla ! It could never be his biological sister ! If it weren't for loving so deeply , yearning so desperately , there wouldn't be such terrifying possessiveness ! It's exactly because I once yearned so much for family , for kinship , for care , that I developed such possessiveness , that I could tolerate Kyla buzzing around in front of me like an annoying mosquito !

If I returned to the Jenson Villa and didn't even feel jealous of Kyla , didn't even have thoughts of kicking her out , that would only mean the Jensions weren't important to me at all ! Love is the most twisted curse in this world . Love is the most terrifying possession in this world . No one would allow sharing their " most beloved " with others . What they want is exclusive ownership . The old Tilda had been trapped in this curse , fallen into an abyss with no way out . Even though she was so jealous of Kyla , she still had to endure it , to compromise .

There is no emotion more terrifying in this world than love . It could make the Queen , the top hacker of the dark web , willingly abandon everything and become a nobody .

Chapter 279 Love Is the Most Twisted Curse Now ... none of it mattered anymore . Like a bolt of lightning striking Justin's body , he froze in place . His breathing gradually became rapid . In his mind , he remembered the first video he had ever seen . It was that video that had sparked Justin's dream of becoming a pianist . Back then , Justin was even more withdrawn than Kayden . Doctors diagnosed Justin with congenital autism . Even with his family's care and medical treatment , Justin had improved considerably , but he was still different from typical people .

Only by chance , when he was taken abroad for treatment , did he come across that video . A girl with a natural elegance , her fingertips dancing across the black and white piano keys in the darkness .

Powerful and heartbreaking emotion transformed into musical notes , shocking the souls of everyone who heard it like a curse . The name of that piece was " Love Is the Most Twisted Curse . " From then on , Justin began wanting to practice piano , to immerse himself in it . After turning this passion into his career , Justin finally overcame his autism and became a world - famous pianist .

He would never forget that the video had once saved him . But when Justin tried to go back and find it , the video had been deleted from the entire internet , leaving no trace behind . He didn't even have time to download and save that video . He could only keep practicing that piece from memory , along with the image of that graceful young girl in the darkness . By the time Justin snapped back to reality , Tilda had already disappeared without a trace .

At the Jenson Villa , after settling Preston down and he insisted repeatedly that he was fine , Kayden drove Preston back to the Bell Residence . Justin then drove Kyla back to the villa . Throughout the ride , she seemed worried and didn't speak . Justin didn't know how to start a conversation either , his thoughts completely scrambled by Tilda . Forget about comforting Kyla - right now Justin didn't even know how to handle the complex emotions in his own heart . Seeing him like this , Kyla pouted.

In the past , when she would look this sad , the gentle Justin would have immediately offered comfort . When Justin went to find Tilda earlier , something must have happened to make him like this . What Tilda had said about Preston confessing to her had deeply shocked Kyla . Despite Preston's repeated explanations , Kyla's heart felt very uncomfortable . The seed of doubt had been completely planted , and she could no longer shake her suspicions . This made Kyla forget to fake being hurt to keep Justin from going to Tilda alone .

Letting Justin and Tilda be alone together was her biggest mistake . That damned Tilda - just how shameless was she going to be ? Did she really need everyone around Kyla to turn against her before she'd be happy ? Finished When they returned to the Jenson Villa , Justin said , " Kyla , just like we agreed , don't tell Dad and the others about what happened today . " " Okay , got it , Justin. " " A - are you okay ? " He asked in return . " I'm fine , Justin . I won't take what Tilda said to heart . She hates me . I'm used to it . Maybe I really am annoying .

" I don't deserve to be a daughter of the Jensons . Tilda is so much better than me . She's the real Jenson heiress , and I'm just a fraud , a replacement . " Kyla smiled at Justin , but her smile looked very forced . Her eyes began to reddens , and tears were about to fall any second . Justin quickly said , " Don't spout

nonsense , Kyla . You're not some replacement ! Tilda is our sister , but you're our sister too ! That will never change ! " " Justin ... I can actually feel that Dominic and Wade , even Howard , are starting to distance themselves from me and pay more attention to Tilda .

" It's because of your blood bond , right ? Because Tilda is your biological sister , and I have no blood relation to you . " Seeing her about to spiral into negative thoughts , Justin reached out and hugged her , comforting her gently . " Enough , Kyla . You're just too tired today , that's why you're overthinking . Go wash your face , take a shower , get a good night's sleep , and everything will be fine tomorrow . " " Justin ... , I'm really scared . I'm so afraid . I don't want to leave the Jenson's . I don't want to lose you all , but if I don't leave , Tilda can never come back .

" Kyla suppressed her sobs in Justin's arms , making her voice sound even more heartbreak .. Seeing this , he temporarily pushed down his complex thoughts about Tilda and comforted Kyla . " Kyla , don't overthink things . Leave Tilda to me . " I'll make Tilda change her mind and understand the importance of family , " Even though you don't share the same blood with us , you're still our sister . You always have been , you always will be , now and in the future . That will absolutely never change! "

Chapter 280 Tough Times Justin already had an answer for Tilda's demand . There was absolutely no way it was going to happen . If Tilda insisted , Justin would wait . He'd do everything he could until she changed her mind . Until she realized Kyla was also their sister and a part of the Jenson's . " Alright , stop crying . If Mom and Dad see you like this , they'll just get worried . Wipe your tears , okay ? " Justin gently brushed away Kyla's tears with the tip of his thumb . That gave her a bit of courage . She nodded silently and wiped her face clean .

Hand in hand , they walked into Jenson Villa . To their surprise , Russell and the others were already home at this hour . No one had gone to bed yet . Everyone was sitting in the living room , talking about something . Justin and Kyla walked over . " Dad , Mom ... why are you still awake ? " Even Howard was there . Russell looked up . " Good timing . By the way , where's Kayden ? " " He ... Kayden said he had to meet a friend last minute . " He might be late , " Justin claimed , lying . " Then we won't wait for him . There's something I need to tell you all .

" Your mom and Dominic are going to Endralsia for business . They'll be gone for a while and might not be back until New Year's . " Justin froze . " What ? That's so sudden . And isn't this the kind of trip Dominic usually goes on alone ? " " Dominic hasn't been in the best shape lately . I'm worried about him . I can't let all the pressure fall on his shoulders . Your dad and I are still strong enough to handle it . " While we're gone , your dad will be leading Jenson Group . If you don't have other work , go help him .

These are tough times ." At those words , Dominic's lips curved into a bitter smile . " Sorry , Dad . Sorry , Mom . I've caused so much trouble for you . " He wasn't pretending to be fine . He really wasn't okay . He was nothing like the man he had been the last time he traveled abroad . Because of Tilda ... Because he had betrayed the teacher he once loved most ... At least now , his family was standing behind him . They gave him support and strength at his darkest , most hopeless moment . And yet , Dominic couldn't stop thinking .

When Tilda was in her darkest , most hopeless moment , hadn't we all turned their backs on her ? Hadn't we all pushed her away and hurt her with cold , cruel words ? She must have been heartbroken back then . Wade stayed quiet . He was thinking the same thing as Dominic . The more he felt the strength of this family's unity . The more guilt he felt for how they had treated Tilda . Why hadn't that same unity ever included her ? How cruel had we been to think of throwing her out of Jenson Villa ? And now , who were we showing this guilt to ?

Russell didn't notice the shame on Dominic's and Wade's faces . He turned to Howard . Finished " Howard , I know you've been down lately . But while your mom and Dominic are gone , if you've got nothing to do , come help out at the company . " You've got the skills . Sitting at home all day isn't the answer . You need a new environment and a distraction ." Howard pressed his lips together . " I understand , Dad . I'll help ." Ever since Tilda defeated him , Howard had shut himself away . After such a long time, he was finally starting to step out of it .

If he kept on wasting away like this , his family would only worry even more . He had already lost his dignity and pride when he lost to Tilda . That was humiliating enough . He couldn't let himself drag down the people around him anymore . ☺☺ As for his so - called " dreams " . Howard didn't even know where to go from here . The future just looked pitch black . All he could do was take it one step at a time . With his promise , Dominic and Blair finally felt at ease . Meanwhile , Kyla's eyes shifted slyly .

Once she got back to her room and locked the door , she pulled out her phone and texted Tobias . " I've got some news . Want to hear it ? " Tobias replied quickly . " That depends . Is it worth anything ? " " My mom and Dominic are heading to Endralsia for a big deal . If it's serious enough that they're both going , it's got to be huge . " If I can steal some files for you , I want 30 million dollars . " Kyla couldn't stand Tilda strutting around anymore , stealing everyone to her side . With the International College Art Competition just a few days away , she needed money .