

Out of the Shadows: Tilda's Brilliant Second Life Novel

Chapter 30

Out Of The Shadows: Tilda's Brilliant Second Life Chapter 30 Chapter 30 A Lousy Brother

Tilda thought, Maybe tonight I'll have a nice dream? The next day came. She didn't have a single nightmare. Tilda woke up feeling fresh and rested. She grabbed her phone and sent Una a quick text. While getting ready, her phone buzzed again. Thinking it was Una replying, she checked it. But to her surprise ... It was Jude. "I slept really well last night. Thanks." Tilda texted back, "I didn't really do anything, though." Jude instantly sent another text, "Just having you around made the difference.

She furrowed her brows a little, unsure how to respond. After thinking for a second, she replied, "Well, thanks to you, too. I didn't have any bad dreams either." Tilda let out a quiet laugh when she saw the reply, "Glad to hear it. " She pictured Jude with his usual cold, serious face-typing a smiley emoji on his phone. It feels unreal. Even people who seem untouchable and powerful also have feelings, she thought. Nobody is truly emotionless. With her backpack slung over her shoulder, Tilda got into her Porsche Cayenne and drove to Orica University.

In her past life with the Jensions, she'd followed every family rule without question-keep a low profile, avoid trouble, never steal Kyla's spotlight. She'd been constantly scared of disappointing them. But this time, things were different. She was over that nonsense. Why should I? I worked for everything I have-my money, my talent-and now I'm supposed to hide it all just for the sake

of my so-called family. I have to tiptoe around while worrying that Kyla might feel insecure. I have to force myself to play small and stay invisible just so no one notices me?

Just because I'm labeled an "orphan" or a "nobody" doesn't mean I have to believe it. How foolish! Thinking about her old self made her want to yell at the girl she used to be. "Screw you!" Her Porsche Cayenne pulled smoothly into a parking space near the university gates. She stepped out, wearing sunglasses and carrying her bag casually over one shoulder. She had on skinny jeans that showed off her long legs, a crisp white t-shirt, a light brown windbreaker, and clean white sneakers. Her chin was up, face tilted toward the sun. Every step radiated confidence. She looked so cool and stylish!

As she walked across campus, people couldn't help but notice her. "Whoa, she's stunning." "When did Orica University get such a gorgeous girl?" "Is she a senior? A freshman? Or maybe a new professor?" "I need her number." Everyone around started whispering. Just as Kyla and Wade got out of the car, they caught sight of the scene. Hearing all the chatter nearby, they turned to see what the fuss was about. And the moment their eyes landed on her, they froze in place. "Wait... is that Tilda?" Kyla's chest tightened as if she'd been punched. Her hands clenched around her backpack straps.

It didn't make sense. How could Tilda be glowing like that? Back in college, Tilda had been practically invisible. Back when she first showed up at the Jenson Villa, Tilda was nervous, quiet, and didn't believe in herself at all. She couldn't even dress well. Kyla had never seen her as a rival-Tilda couldn't match her talent, background, or charm. That girl was nothing more than an irritating relative. To stay the center of attention in the family, Kyla had no choice but to stir up that whole "trending topic" mess.

It hadn't gone exactly as planned, but in the end, she'd gotten rid of Tilda without their parents suspecting a thing. Kyla had thought everything was finally under control. Since Tilda had cut ties with the Jensons on her own, getting back into the family would be nearly impossible. And if she ever did try to return, Kyla could easily step in, put on some tears, and tug at the family's heartstrings. There's no way they'd take Tilda back. But now, seeing her in person, Kyla's instincts screamed at her.

Ever since that scandal went viral, Tilda had done a total 180-and Kyla couldn't wrap her head around it. "It's her..." Wade finally spoke. He couldn't quite describe what he was feeling. Tilda, which version of you is real? Why the huge change? It's like you've been reborn. Her face was the same, but everything else-her attitude, her style, the way she carried herself-was totally different. She wasn't the shy, desperate-for-approval girl he remembered, the one who used to annoy him. Meanwhile... Wade and Kyla were just getting dropped off at the university.

As the car pulled away, something hit Wade-Tilda went to the same university as them. She had been home for over two weeks, and it had never once crossed his mind to offer her a ride. Part of it was to avoid upsetting Kyla. Another reason was that he simply didn't like Tilda. He didn't want her to be part of the family again, and he couldn't stand how weak and nervous she used to be. But... Was it because he still felt guilty toward Tilda deep down? Or maybe, now that Tilda had cut ties with their family and no longer posed a threat to Kyla, he could finally see things more clearly?

It hit him that he might've been a lousy brother all along. Tilda wasn't just anyone; she was his biological sister.

Chapter 31 That's for the Best That girl wanted a family so badly - why was I so cold back then , pushing her away and throwing such harsh words at her ? " Wade , what's wrong ? You okay ? " Kyla noticed how Wade kept staring at Tilda's back as she walked away , and her heart just sank . She tugged on Wade's sleeve gently . Her voice was soft as she pulled him back to reality . Wade shook his head and brushed Kyla's hair with his hand , smiling weakly . " It's nothing ... " Wade , I know you're thinking about Tilda . She's your real sister , your blood . It's not too late . Go after her .

If you talk to her I'm sure she'll listen to you ! " Kyla's eyes filled with tears as she said it . She looked down , clutching Wade's arm tightly . " There's no going back , silly girl . Maybe it's better this way . The Jensions already have you , Kyla - there's no room for Tilda anymore . Maybe ... that's for the best . " Wade lowered his eyes and held Kyla's hand gently , his voice soft . The guilt for Tilda still sat heavily in his chest . He knew without doubt that Tilda was his real sister , lost for 19 years . The DNA test proved it .

But even if she came back , Wade was sure he couldn't love Tilda more than he loved Kyla . Because Kyla was the one he grew up with , the little sister he had spoiled forever . And it wasn't just Wade . The other brothers felt the same . Even Russell and Blair thought the same way . To the Jensions , Tilda was just extra . She could never compare to Kyla , Wade thought . If she came back , she'd only suffer . So , it's better to leave things as they are - it's easier for both the Jensions and Tilda , " Wade ... " Kyla bit her lip and threw herself into his arms , tears shining in her eyes .

" I really hate myself ... If I hadn't been with the Jensions , none of this would have happened . " I should be the one to go . I'm the one who doesn't belong . Because of

me , Tilda- " Wade pressed his hand to her lips, cutting her off . " That's enough , Kyla Stop . You're just too kind , too soft . You always take everything on yourself . It must've been hard . " And this isn't on you . It's us . We just can't face our own hearts . " Tilda had no clue what Wade and Kyla were saying . And even if she did , it wouldn't matter anymore .

0 Chapter 31 That's for the Best She'd felt disappointment , sadness , and pain so much that she was numb . Nothing could hurt worse than Blair's words at Sky Dining last night . To the Jensons , Kyla was worth everything , while Tilda was worth nothing . At the college entrance , Tilda saw Una waiting excitedly , with a backpack on her shoulders as she stood on tiptoe . " Tilda ! " Una spotted her , waved hard , then ran over and hugged her tight . " Been waiting long , Una ? " " Not at all ! Come on , hurry up . The first period is with the year coordinator , so we can't be late !

He's crazy strict ! " " Alright . " A tiny smile tugged at Tilda's lips . At least ... I'm not alone . ٥ I've found what truly matters , what has always been right beside me .

Together , Tilda and Una slipped into the classroom right on time . The moment Tilda walked in , every pair of eyes landed on her . And of course , they'd all seen the headlines the past few days . Almost everyone in class knew now : Tilda was the Jensons ' real lost daughter . Before , only Una had ever talked to her , and later they became friends . Tilda had always been a loner .

She was distant and hard to approach , so nobody really knew her . No one had guessed a girl like her would turn out to be the Jensons ' real daughter . It was unbelievable . " Tilda , don't mind the stares . " " I know . They're just curious . I don't

care . " Truth was , Tilda never cared about people who didn't matter to her . She pulled Una with her to a corner of the room . Soon , the year coordinator walked in for class . Finished His name was Shaun Manning . At Orica University , School of Computer Science , he oversaw sophomores and taught the main programming courses .

He was 54 and wore a suit , his hair slicked back with streaks of gray , with a pair of glasses on his nose - he looked like a proper professor . At first glance , he didn't seem scary . Day to day , Shaun was easygoing and kind . But once class started , he was super strict . Plenty of students had failed his classes . He had this obsession with time that was almost extreme . In the School of Computer Science , everyone said . " If you're late to Professor Manning's class , expect a warning " P P .

Chapter 31 That's for the Best Students half - joked and called him " Professor Grim . " Shaun set his slides on the podium . " Everyone here ? Class rep , take attendance . " The roll call showed that the whole class was there . S

Chapter 32 Professor Manning's Challenge Shaun gave a small nod , looking pleased . " Today , we're not doing regular class . We're doing something different . " I'm sure most of you already know - since I've been teaching at Orica University for so many years , I have a tradition . " If someone can beat this challenge , you'll never need to come to my class again . At the end of the semester , I'll just give you a perfect score . " The room exploded with shocked gasps . Of course , everyone had heard about it . Shaun had written a special program himself .

If a student could fix all the bugs in it within the time limit , they were free from all his classes . It was pretty much like skipping straight to graduation . But in all Shaun's years of teaching , only one student had ever done it . A That was Wade , now a senior in the School of Computer Science and one of the most famous students at Orica University .

" Looks like you all know the rules , so I don't need to explain much . " Every year, during sophomore year , I give this challenge . " You only get one shot . So who's brave enough to try ? " ...

Una leaned close and whispered to Tilda , " Oh , my God ! Can you believe he just said that ? Tilda , are you thinking of trying ? " " Yes . " Tilda answered right away , no hesitation . If she didn't have to attend Shaun's strict classes anymore , she could sleep in . She'd also get more time to hang out or do part - time work . " If you're in , then I'm in too ! " Una grinned . " I'll probably fail in five minutes , but who cares - it's the fun that counts ! " When it came to Tilda's skills , Una had total faith . " Wade was the first one who ever passed this . Took him 54 minutes .

Tilda , you have to beat him ! Crush him ! " " Una , this has nothing to do with Wade . I just don't want to wear myself out . " With that , Tilda stood up and raised her hand . " Professor Manning , I'd like to take the challenge . " " Me too ! " Una chimed in quickly . The whole class stared at Tilda in shock . It wasn't just because of the challenge . It was because she was glowing with the aura of the Jensons real , long - lost daughter , And the only student who had ever beaten the challenge before was her seventh brother , Wade . This was going to be a show . 123 P p .

Chapter 32 Professor Manning's Challenge 2 B 10 Finished " Tilda ... Shaun adjusted his glasses , narrowing his eyes as he studied her . Back in freshman year , Tilda had scored the very highest in the whole department . Even Shaun had been amazed by her talent , expecting big things from her . But once sophomore year started , something had changed . She kept asking for leave , and her grades dropped fast . She was barely passing . Shaun had even called her in for a private talk , but no matter what he asked , she wouldn't explain . He worried a lot .

After all , he didn't want to see a genius like Tilda waste away , but there was nothing he could do . Later . he saw the news blowing up in campus group chats . That was when he learned Tilda had found her real family - the powerful Jensions of Slosa . They had taken her back . That was why she had been distracted , skipping class and failing grades . But Shaun could clearly feel that ever since the Jensions showed up , Tilda seemed sensitive and insecure . She wasn't happy . Then , after the scandal broke out , she disappeared again for two days . This time . Shaun didn't press her .

He just texted her one line . " I look forward to the strong Tilda coming back . " And she replied simply , " I will . " And now , Shaun looked at her standing tall , full of confidence , glowing like a spotlight was on her , pulling every eye in the room . He nodded , satisfied . She wasn't just back . She was stronger than before . In the end , only Una and Tilda signed up . Shaun's challenge had a terrifyingly low pass rate . Most students didn't even want to embarrass themselves by trying . So , everyone's attention landed on Tilda . After all .

Wade had been the first to succeed And now his little sister was stepping up . They wondered if she could do it too . The news spread through group chats in minutes 273 1119 AM p p . Chapter 32 Professor Manning's Challenge Wade was sitting in the library , reading . That was when Clive came running at full speed . " Wade , what the hell are you still reading for ? Something huge just happened ! " He was so loud that half the library turned to look . Finished Wade frowned , annoyed . " Clive , what's wrong with you ? If you want to act stupid , don't drag me into it . Don't you have class ?

" " Forget class , man ! I've got enough credits , so I'm basically waiting for graduation anyway . But this - this is way bigger ! Look ! " Clive shoved his phone in Wade's face . It was the post about Tilda taking on Shaun's challenge . Wade froze . Tilda is gonna attempt Professor Manning's challenge ? He knew exactly how tough it was because he himself had once been Shaun's student . Send Gifts 560

Chapter 33 Looks Like Tilda's Doomed The title of being the first person to ever beat Shaun's program still stuck to Wade like a badge . He knew better than anyone how insanely complicated that program was . And every single year , Shaun updated it , making it different . So , trying to copy what worked before wouldn't work . Back when Wade had passed , it was right at the one - hour deadline . And honestly , luck had helped him , too . That was why Wade knew - this challenge was brutal . It was pretty much impossible . If it were anyone else , Wade wouldn't even care . But this time ...

it was Tilda . And suddenly , his feelings were all tangled . He didn't even know if he wanted her to pass or fail . Of course , Clive wasn't going to let such a chance slip by .

He nudged Wade with a grin . " So ? Think your sister can actually do it ? " " How would I know ? " " Oh , come on . You would know . You're the only one who's ever passed . You know exactly how hard it is . " Wade paused for a while before he finally said , his voice steady , " She's not gonna make it . " " Damn , Wade . That's cold . It's not like you .

Even if you two aren't close anymore , she's still your blood . " Wade shot him a sharp glare . " Don't be stupid . If I went back to sophomore year and tried Professor Manning's program again , I'd only give myself 60 % odds . " You need both skill and luck . And sure , Tilda's attitude has changed a lot lately , but her actual IQ and coding skills couldn't have magically leveled up overnight . Clive's eyes lit up with mischief . His lips curled . " Then wanna bet ? " You re convinced she can't pass , so I'll bet she can . " The loser owes the other a month of lunches . Home - cooked .

Deal ? " " lame " " So you in or not ? * Fine " To Wade this was basically free food . There no way Tilda is gonna make it Meanwhile Kyla couldn't resist sneaking near Tilda's classroom She tucked herself into a quiet corner in the hallway , staying out of sight 11.19 AM PP . Chapter 33 Looks Like Tilda's Doomed From there , she could see groups of students crowding outside the room . And of course , everyone was talking about whether Tilda would pass the ultimate test . " Do you all think she's actually gonna succeed ? " " Maybe . Back in freshman year , she was at the top of our class .

" And now she's with the Jensions . Maybe Wade even taught her a few tricks . " O Finished " Yeah , Wade's the only one who's ever cleared it . And look at Tilda now - walking around like she's confident . She must have something planned . " " She's wild .

She was all quiet one minute , then suddenly - boom , turns out she's the real Jenson daughter . Talk about rags to riches . " " I saw Wade and Kyla riding to campus together this morning . I didn't see Tilda , though . What do you think that means ? " " What else ? The fake daughter was keeping the spot warm , but now the real one's back .

Guess who's about to get replaced ? " Laughter broke out . Hidden in her corner , Kyla's face burned . Fake daughter? Replaced ? No. I AM the Jensons ' daughter . I've always been , and I always will be . Nobody can take that away . The one who will be pushed out isn't me - it's Tilda . If this had been before , Kyla wouldn't have been worried . She would've thought Tilda taking Shaun's challenge was just her being cocky . Even Wade had barely passed , so what chance did Tilda have ? But lately , Tilda's whole vibe had shifted in ways Kyla couldn't explain .

So the second she heard the news , she found herself sneaking over , almost without thinking . Please, please fail . Tilda . If she succeeded , people would compare them . And Kyla couldn't stand the thought of that shame . Just then , the classroom door opened . Una came out , head hanging low . Right away , classmates rushed up to ask " Nope , " Una sighed " Professor Manning's program is way too tough . I didn't even know where to start " Everyone gasped Una was always one of the best students .

She was easily in the top three in the class And if she couldn't solve it and gave up that fast , that just showed how cruel the challenge really was . Looks like Tilda's doomed to " Yeah , there's only one hour It's already been 40 minutes . " P P Chapter 33 Looks Like Tilda's Doomed " Exactly . If it were easy , Wade wouldn't still be the only one who ever passed . " Una's temper snapped . " Hey ! Don't talk crap ! Tilda can totally do it ! "

Everyone knew how close Una and Tilda were . And seeing her this mad , they all shut up quick . But Kyla saw everything . Send Gifts 560

Chapter 34 Wade Actually Lied Kyla already met Una yesterday at the Porsche dealership . So when Una came out complaining about how impossible the program was , Kyla finally felt a little better . Yeah ... I've definitely been overthinking . Someone like Tilda ? No way she can actually pull it off. Her trying so hard will just backfire , turning her into the laughingstock of everyone watching . Feeling relieved , Kyla spun around and walked away . Five more minutes passed , making that 48 minutes now .

Just when everyone was certain Tilda had already failed , the door suddenly opened , and Tilda walked out , right beside Shaun . Shaun's whole face lit up with pride and joy . " Time : 48 minutes . Congratulations , Tilda ! You've set a brand - new record . Challenge cleared ! " From now on , you don't even need to attend my classes . I'm giving you a perfect score ! " " What ?! " The crowd exploded .. Except for Una , everyone had thought Tilda was doomed . But no . She'd actually done it . And in only 48 minutes ? That was crazy .

Not just rare , not just once - in - a - lifetime - she had beaten Wade's record of 54 minutes by a whole 6 minutes . it was unbelievable . Wade had already been called the genius of Orica University's Computer Science department . Professors praised his brains , talent , and sharpness . But Tilda now outshone Wade ! It was hard to wrap their heads around . " Yeah! I knew you could do it , Tilda ! " Una jumped up and

hugged her tight , her face glowing with excitement . Tilda smiled softly and ruffled Una's hair . " I had to win - just to prove you were right about me .

" Truth was , Tilda could ve solved Shaun's program in 20 minutes This time she didn't hold back . But she was stuck using the university's clunky system instead of her own special hacking - repair software It had slowed her down a lot . That was the only reason it had taken her 48 minutes . News of Tilda's victory spread across Orica University like wildfire . PP . Chapter 34 Wade Actually Lied Finished Of course , it reached Clive and Wade too . " Hahaha ! Wade , guess what ? Tilda cleared it in 48 minutes ! She beat your record by 6 whole minutes !

" Wade froze , his pen slipping right out of his hand . " Th - this can't be real ! " His voice cracked with disbelief . " Look ! Even Professor Manning posted about it . Congrats and everything . You owe me a month of lunches now - no running . away ! " Clive shoved his phone in Wade's face before he could argue . On the screen , Manning's post read , " Proud to introduce , after 20 years of teaching , my most outstanding student yet , Tilda Jenson . " Two pictures followed . The first showed Tilda , smiling at Una , her face confident and radiant .

The second showed the program screen - finished , complete . The timer stopped at 48 minutes . Not a second more , not a second less . " She really ... did it ... " Wade whispered , his voice shaking . Even his eyes trembled . " Wade , looks like your sister isn't as simple as you keep saying . " Honestly ? I think I'm starting to like Tilda myself . " Clive dragged a finger slowly across his lips , eyes full of mischief . Suddenly , Wade

shot to his feet and bolted for the library doors . " Hey ! Wade! Where are you going ?
Wait for me ! " Clive didn't need to guess .

There was only one place Wade could be headed - Tilda's classroom . Meanwhile , Kyla
, on her way back to class , caught wind of the news too . Tilda had passed . And not
just passed - she'd broken Wade's record by six minutes . Her whole face froze . " Th -
this isn't possible . No way Tilda could've done it ! " She even outdid Wade . It doesn't
make sense . It doesn't even sound real ! Then came the sound of quick , heavy
footsteps . Kyla looked up It was Wade " Wade why are you in such a hurry ? Where
are you going ? " Kyla's throat went dry .

She didn't dare voice her suspicion P P. Chapter 34 Wade Actually Lied Is he running
because he already heard the news ? Because he has to see Tilda himself ? " Kyla ,
don't you have class right now ? What are you doing here ? " " I - I was just heading
there ." " Alright . We'll talk later . I've got something urgent to take care of . " Wade
brushed past her , not even explaining , and rushed away faster . He left Kyla standing
frozen , lip caught between her teeth until it hurt . He lied . Wade actually lied to me for
Tilda , an outsider ! He's never lied to me before . Tilda ...

you really think you can steal what's mine ? What rightfully belongs to me ? By the time
Wade reached Tilda's classroom ... Send Gifts 560

Chapter 35 Their Family Business Inside , class was still going on . Through the window
, Wade scanned the room . He froze when he realized Tilda wasn't there . " Oh , hey ,
Wade . " Professor Manning . Wade's outside ! " A younger student spotted him and

called out , and the class immediately stirred with noise . Today , Tilda was hands - down the star of Orica University . Even Shaun wouldn't stop bragging about her . He'd even posted online that Tilda was his most remarkable student in decades . And it wasn't just that she'd broken a record - she had smashed Wade's . And the best part ?

The two of them were siblings . No wonder the gossip was blowing up . It was drama on top of drama . " Quiet down . Self - study for now . " Shaun hushed the room and stepped into the hallway . " Wade , whatever you want , wait until after class . " Shaun still had full faith in Wade . He was his prized student , after all . Even if Tilda had burst onto the scene out of nowhere , Shaun wasn't about to turn his back on Wade . "

Professor Manning , where's Tilda ? " Wade's voice was sharp , urgent . " You forgot ? Anyone who can fix my program doesn't have to come to class anymore .

She's done . She left . " " L - left where ? " Wade's head buzzed with questions he needed to ask her . Why ? Why has Tilda hidden such a huge talent ? Why has she never once shown it to me ? " Wade , isn't she your sister ? Everyone knows she's the Jensons ' real daughter , the one who got brought back . Don't tell me you don't even have her number . " The words were stuck in his throat . Because it was true . He didn't have it . He didn't even want the number of his sister , who was finally found after 19 years .

To be honest , part of him had wished she'd stayed gone , or that she'd never even been born . He felt it would be best if she were lost for good or dead . He wished she would never show up again or be found by the Jensons . He wished she wouldn't come back to steal Kyla's spot in the family PP . Chapter 35 Their Family Business His cold ,

sharp disgust toward Tilda had always been like a spear . Any warmth in her heart would've been stabbed straight through and ripped apart , left bleeding and broken . " Wade ? " Shaun frowned slightly , sensing something off in his expression .

But he couldn't put his finger on it . Sorry , Professor Manning , I shouldn't interrupt your class . I - I'll go look for her . " Finished Wade knew that if he really found Tilda now , things would get ugly , messy , and humiliating , but he still needed answers . Computer programming had always been his passion , his dream , and his future . From AI to robotics , from rockets to airplanes to microchips , every modern machine depended on code . And Wade had always known he was gifted . But he'd never gotten cocky . He worked like crazy , studied hard , and pushed himself nonstop .

Talent alone wasn't special . Even talented and hardworking people weren't rare . The world was full of stronger people - his older brothers alone proved that . But here , at Orica University , in this field ? Nobody could beat Wade . Nobody . Until now . Tilda's record - breaking 48 minutes had crushed his pride . Tilda solving the program in 48 minutes meant she had pure confidence . She didn't need luck , like Wade had . Wade had never thought it was possible . Someone had surpassed him in the field that used to be his pride and future .

And the person who beat him was Tilda , the same sister he had hated , ignored , and written off as useless . " I won't let you go near her ! " The angry voice snapped him out of his thoughts . It was Una Her eyes were blazing . " If you dare hurt Tilda , I swear you'll regret it . " The second she saw Wade , she knew trouble was coming . Tilda breaking the record was a direct slap in his face . And knowing the Jensons ' cold

attitude toward Tilda , Una was sure Wade had come to make things worse Even if Tilda acted like she didn't care , Una knew better . Tilda hated being alone .

She hated the cold and hated being abandoned More than anyone , she wanted warmth , hugs , and love . But after finally being found all she got was pain that felt worse than death Her strong front was just a task . Inside , she'd already been broken long ago - so broken that there was nothing left to break PP . Chapter 35 Their Family Business Una couldn't let Wade cut her deeper . 0 D Finished Wade pressed his lips together . He knew Una was Tilda's closest friend . He didn't bother to explain . He just turned to leave . " Stop right there !

" Una lunged after him , but Shaun blocked her . " Una , class is still going on . Go back to your seat . " This is their family business . I know you're close with Tilda , but this isn't for you to step into . " " But Professor Manning , Tilda's already- " Una bit down hard on the words , stopping herself . Send Gifts