

Shadows 351

Chapter 351 The Eighteenth Hell Kayden had already tried everything to win Tilda back and got nothing . But this matter was related to Justin . He had to think of a much more careful approach to her . Two days passed in a blur . Today , Tilda wasn't hanging out with Mystro for once . Instead , she showed up at Fairville's underground gaming hub . The locals called it " The Eighteenth Hell " . The name wasn't hard to figure out . The gamers here weren't the kind anyone wanted to cross . Thugs , gangsters ... Others would find the individuals with different shady jobs there .

Good people didn't last long there . Only the ruthless survived . The Eighteenth Hell was loaded with games others would never see in a regular store . Those things were way too wild for official release . But even though the content was insane , the games themselves were top - tier . Anyone could tell the creators had poured their efforts into them . They hated bland , predictable games where they could guess the ending in five minutes . They loved dark , complex stories that made them think , argue , or even start trends .

Those kinds of games couldn't go mainstream , so places like that were the only refuge , Creators made games to satisfy themselves . Their focus was on creating the game they wanted , without caring what anyone else thought . It wasn't about the money . It was for all the players who longed for that kind of game . At that moment , Tilda walked in . She was bundled up in a mask , scarf , and a puffy jacket , hands tucked in pockets . She stood out instantly . A few thugs noticed she was new . Seeing her nice figure , their eyes lit up with greed as they started hitting on her .

" Hey , gorgeous . Coming to The Eighteenth Hell alone ? Brave move . " " Where're you from ? Got a boyfriend ? " " Not many girls show up here . You're making my heart race . " One of them couldn't hold back any longer . He reached out , trying to yank off Tilda's scarf and mask . He wanted to see if her face matched her body . Tilda just glared at him coldly . She grabbed his hand and twisted it . Crack ! The sound of breaking bones echoed . The thug's sleazy smirk vanished instantly , replaced by a look of pain .

He let out a shrill scream . The others panicked at how easily he went down and charged at her . " How dare you hurt him ?! You're fucking dead ! " " I'm gonna teach you a lesson today ! " Tilda didn't even flinch . She kicked the closest guy , sending him flying . The rest weren't spared either . She hit their stomachs , thighs , toes , and every spot that hurt the most . In under ten seconds , all the thugs were flat on the ground , groaning in pain . Tilda walked toward the arcade without a blink . Everyone else saw what went down and didn't dare challenge her .

They just stared, eyes wide with a mix of fear and respect, watching her walk off. In The Eighteenth Hell, there were no rules. Even if someone got beaten to death, nobody would call the cops. At most, the manager would come clean it up. Here, survival of the fittest ruled. The weak got crushed, and the strong ran everything. Fights rarely got so extreme that someone actually died. Even though the authorities mostly ignored places like that, a real death would make a huge mess. They'd have to step in. Tilda approached the entrance of The Eighteenth Hell.

A big skull marked the door, warning that chaos awaited inside. She didn't hesitate, opened it, and stepped in. The place was packed inside. Everyone was huddled around a single arcade machine, shouting excitedly, "King! King! King!" Tilda glanced up and immediately recognized him. Harry was dressed exactly like the last time she'd seen him at the amusement park. He was gripping the joystick, adrenaline rushing as he battled the other players. When "victory" flashed across the screen, the crowd erupted. "Wow!"

King is amazing! That's 18 wins straight! He's the absolute boss of The Eighteenth Hell!"

Chapter 352 I Won't Lose This Time "Of course! King is the only player to reach platinum VIP at The Eighteenth Hell just on skill alone. Nobody can beat him!" "But is he good at fighting in real life, too?" "Hard to tell. Looking at him, he doesn't seem like the type who fights. He's just insanely good at games." Harry's expression immediately changed. He slammed his hand on the arcade machine and jumped up. "Who said that? I can fight too! I'm tough as nails!" "But I came here for games, not for throwing punches! Come on, who's next?!" "Me."

"Tilda's calm, confident voice cut through the noise. When Harry heard her, his body stiffened. Slowly, like a robot, he turned to look at her. Even with her mask, hat, and scarf hiding her face, Harry recognized her instantly. It was Tilda! He swallowed nervously, remembering the last arcade match. She had mimicked his moves and crushed him so badly that he didn't even stand a chance. The others hadn't realized how serious it was, nor did they notice Harry's hesitation. They started mocking Tilda. "A girl? Playing live-action fighting games? Hah!"

That's a first for me. " " This isn't a place for girls. Go find your mommy. " " Don't cry when it gets tough. We're not babysitting you. " " First time seeing someone take on this fighting game at The Eighteenth Hell. Do you even know who you're dealing with? " He's King - the king of this arcade and even official ones. What makes you think you can win? " Tilda ignored their insults. She calmly took a seat across from Harry, smiling slightly. Her words had a chill that could freeze anyone. " King, everyone says I'm not a worthy opponent. What do you think?

" I ... I won't lose this time ! Let's start ! " Harry gritted his teeth . He knew she was serious and dangerous . Even he didn't want to mess with her . But the crowd was hyped . If he backed down now , he'd be a laughingstock and never be able to show up at The Eighteenth Hell again . " What ?! King lost to her before ?! No way ! " " Something must've gone wrong ! " " But this girl is tough . My buddy said she took out six thugs in ten seconds - total victory ! " " Damn ! Can she fight that well ? But I guess it makes sense .

If a girl like her couldn't handle herself , she'd be in trouble in a place like this . " Once the crowd realized King had faced Tilda before and that she could truly fight , their attitude shifted . Everyone was now buzzing to see who would win . Harry's eyes darted as he said , " First to five wins takes it . " He wasn't underestimating her anymore . He knew her gaming skills were amazing . She could mimic his moves almost instantly . The only shot he had at beating her was to set the rules before she got comfortable with the game or figured out his strategies .

If he could pull off a win early , he'd come out on top . That way , he wouldn't get embarrassed losing to her again . " And whoever wins , the loser has to do one favor for the winner . Deal ? " No bet , no fun , " he said . Harry wasn't truly into gambling or bets . But he noticed Santiago and his brothers seemed pretty interested in Tilda . Santiago kept saying he hated her for betraying his family . But as his best friend , Harry could tell Santiago still wanted to patch things up with his sister . After all , she'd been missing for 19 years .

Harry didn't know what had happened between Tilda and the Jensons . That was their business . Still , he owed a lot to Santiago and finally saw a way to help him out . But then- " Sure . " Tilda agreed without hesitation . Now Harry was completely dumbfounded . All the explanations he'd prepared were useless . Why wasn't Tilda playing by the script ?

Chapter 353 Loser Harry expected Tilda to try haggling , but she instantly said yes . Was that some kind of trap ? " What ? I already said yes . Are you gonna start or not ? " " I ... I'm starting now ! " Calm down , Harry . Everything is still going as planned . Just don't let her figure out your moves . If I can win five rounds . I'll come out as the winner and finally get my revenge ! Last time at the amusement park , Tilda only beat him after learning his strategies over a dozen rounds . But this time , she utterly crushed him . He was just her punching bag .

He didn't win a single round out of five . She beat him completely . Harry couldn't believe it . The entire arcade went silent . No one saw that coming . Everyone expected a close fight . They thought it'd be impossible to tell who'd win until the end . No one thought King would get crushed so badly . It looked like King was right . Tilda did beat him before . There was always someone better out there . " This ... this can't be ! How do you know all these combos ? " Harry stared at Tilda in disbelief . " Because I've played this game by now .

Back when we played ' Rogue Fighters ' , it was my first time . " Damn ! I completely misjudged this ! Harry's skills were no match for hers , yet he'd gone and challenged Tilda in a game she already mastered . He'd thought of everything - except that she wasn't a newbie ! Regret hit him like a punch in the gut . " Fine , I lost . I admit it ! Tell me what you want me to do . " Harry looked ready to face his fate . A real man kept his word . Otherwise , he'd never be able to show himself around here again . Relax . I'm not gonna make you suffer .

" Today at the arcade , I just want you to play all kinds of games with me . " " ... That's it ? " Harry eyed Tilda suspiciously. He was worried there was a trap somewhere . If he wasn't careful , she'd outplay him so completely that there'd be nothing left of him . " Yep . Even if I wanted to mess with you , what could you do ? You're already the loser . " . Harry was completely shut down . With his skills falling short , he could say nothing . All he could do was swallow his pride and admit defeat . Tilda picked games she'd never played before .

She played , took photos , and made notes . It wasn't just for Una's dream - Tilda loved gaming as well . In her previous life , she'd given up so much for the Jensions . She even thought about teaming up with Una if she never found her family . They could chase the dream together to become esports players . Or maybe she could design games , creating wild , fun stuff she loved . Now , Tilda still didn't know what she wanted in the future . Besides working at Lab Seven in Cetherland with Dane , there were many things she wanted to try . She'd just to take it slow , one step at a time .

Harry peeked at her notes . " Are you ... thinking of designing games ? Looking for ideas ? " Tilda didn't even glance up . " Maybe . " " You could ask Santiago . He designed ' Rogue Fighters .' Harry blurted it out and immediately regretted it . He wasn't even part of the Jensions . Why did he have to get dragged into that ? What if Tilda got mad and took it out on him ? " My dear slave , I've told you that I'm done with the Jensions . What do you mean by saying that ? " Tilda squinted , looking dangerous . Harry immediately caved . " I just ... slipped ! Just forgot the nonsense I said !

Then hurry up and explain the rules for this game . " " Yes , miss ! " ** Meanwhile , Santiago strolled into The Eighteenth Hell , hands in his pockets . The local thugs were stunned when they saw him and started whispering . " Is that him ? Are you sure ? " " Yes . Even though he hasn't been here in a month , there's no mistake - he's King's mentor ! " " Why's he here ? Did King call him for revenge ? " " It could be . King was unbeatable here , but he lost to a girl and now he's her slave .

There's no way his mentor would just let that go . "

Chapter 354 Why Are You Two Here ? " Well , this is gonna be interesting . " Santiago frowned as he listened to the whispers around him . The arcade was way too loud to make out what anyone was saying . But it was obvious that they were all staring at him and talking about him . He wasn't new to The Eighteenth Hell . Starting as a gaming hobbyist and later becoming a natural - born game designer had made him familiar with the place . Not to mention that Harry loved coming here as " King " to crush beginners .

The funny thing was that Santiago was the one who had brought Harry here for inspiration in the first place . Today , Wade and Kayden had wandered off somewhere , leaving Santiago alone . He felt a bit lonely and decided to go find Harry . Santiago tried calling , but there was no signal . So , he confirmed that Harry was in this underground arcade . With nothing better to do , he headed over . Just then , he saw something . For a second , he thought he was imagining things . He rubbed his eyes just to be sure . Then , he blurted out in shock , " Why are you two here ?

" Harry and Tilda both instantly turned around . Harry's heart skipped a beat when he saw Santiago . He glanced nervously at Tilda . " I - I didn't tell Santiago ! I swear ! I had no clue he'd show up ! It's a total coincidence ! " Tilda replied calmly , " I know . There's no signal down here . " " Oh , thank God . " Harry exhaled in relief , but then he realized something was off . Why was he so nervous ? Even if he had told Santiago , Tilda wouldn't hurt him . But after spending time with her , Harry always felt a strange , overwhelming vibe from her .

It was like she could devour him whole . That freaked him out . " What are you and Tilda doing here ? " Santiago asked , gritting his teeth . He felt Harry had betrayed him . Harry recoiled . " I ... I lost a game to Tilda . She asked me to give her a tour of the games here . " Damn , why do I sound guilty like I owe Santiago a million bucks ? I'm supposed to be a badass ! And here I am , acting like a scared bunny ! I'm so pathetic ! " You lost to Tilda ? " Santiago squinted .

He knew how skilled Harry was - he'd trained him himself . Harry's gaming talent was top - notch . Being called " King " and famous among gamers said it all . And now , Tilda had actually beaten him . Santiago looked at Tilda . " Alright , since we ran into each other , how about a round ? Pick any game . " He'd already lost to her in racing and skiing . But when it came to gaming , the one he excelled at , there was no way he'd lose . It was his chance to avenge his previous shame ! Holy crap ! Harry's heart jumped .

He'd dreamed of such a showdown a million times , and now it was happening . Tilda versus Santiago - a full - on gaming showdown ! Even Harry couldn't guess the winner . Santiago was his mentor and a genius game designer . Tilda , on the other hand , was calm , collected , and crazy talented , always

improving . Harry swallowed nervously . That was going to be epic . But how would Tilda react ? " I refuse , " Tilda said bluntly , as always . Both Harry and Santiago froze . " You ... you refuse ? Why ? Are you chicken , Tilda ? " Tilda said coldly , " Are you dumb ?

Just because you want a match , I have to say yes ? Who do you think you are ? " Her view of Santiago hadn't changed . He was just an arrogant idiot . He was full of himself , thinking everyone should give him what he wanted . She had no time to babysit some egomaniac's requests . If Santiago hadn't been born into the Jensons , protected by Russell and Blair , he probably would've gotten his butt kicked plenty of times by now . Tilda couldn't believe she ever tried to patch things up with him . It made her want to smack her head .

She'd been so foolish in her previous life . Santiago was speechless , completely shut down . Even Harry went quiet . ٹھک Neither expected Tilda , who usually loved challenges , to say no . But she always agreed to play against Harry without hesitation . Harry groaned inside . Is she actually scared of Santiago ? Seriously ? Do I look that weak and easy to crush ? Ugh , damn it .

Chapter 355 A Bet All eyes were glued to Tilda and Santiago . Everyone was screaming silently in their heads . Fight , fight , fight ! A little drama always made things more exciting . And if someone could benefit from the chaos , even better . " I ... I'm Harry's mentor ! The one who taught him how to play ! " You beat my student , so I'm here to get revenge . Isn't that reason enough ? " Tilda felt that talking to Santiago was a total waste of time . For once , she didn't feel disgust toward the Jensons . She just felt frustrated that she had to deal with an idiot .

Without hesitation , she started to walk away . Seeing her leave , Santiago quickly tried to provoke her . " Tilda , are you scared ?! Afraid you can't handle losing to me ? " " Say whatever you want . I'll just treat you like a barking dog . " Hey , slave . Why are you still standing there ? We haven't testing the games yet . " " I ... I'm coming ! " Harry snapped out of it and instinctively followed Tilda . Wait , that's not right ! It felt like he'd become Tilda's sidekick , even though she was younger than him . " You ... you ... " Santiago fumed .

Tilda wouldn't even take his challenge . And she even dared to compare him to a dog ! That was intolerable ! But truthfully , Santiago had no way to force her into a match . Trash talk , provocation - nothing worked . After thinking it over , all he could do was trail silently behind Tilda and Harry . He'd just wait and see . Maybe he'd find a way to get her to play . He needed a chance to redeem himself after those two embarrassing losses . As he followed , Santiago suddenly blurted out , " Are you trying to design a game ?

" " Are you a stray dog ? Get lost ! Why are you still following us ? " Tilda didn't even hide her disgust .
3." You ... Tilda , watch your mouth ! You have noble Jenson blood ! " How can you curse like that ?
You're embarrassing our family ! " " Scram ! " Without hesitation , Tilda kicked Santiago hard in the
stomach . " Ugh ! " The kick was sudden , precise , and hit his weak spot . He never saw it coming . His
eyes went wide . He bent over , clutching his stomach and grimacing in pain . A low groan escaped him .
" Santiago ! " Harry panicked and rushed to help Santiago up .

" You mutt , you ruined my day . So troublesome . Forget it . I'm done wasting time on you two . " Hands
in her pockets , Tilda headed for the exit . " Hey , Tilda ! That's too much ! No matter what , Santiago is
your real brother ! How could you go that hard on him ?! " Panicking , Harry yelled at Tilda's back . But
then , he regretted it . He'd forgotten that Tilda and Santiago had cut ties long ago . " Brother ? You two
are completely out of your minds . " When was I ever his sister ? That's ridiculous . " Tilda didn't even
look back as she walked off even faster . " Wait ! Tilda !

" Santiago shook off Harry and got to his feet . " What ? Want another beating ? I can give you a few
more kicks . " " Tilda , let's have a match . But this time , let's make a bet . " If you win , I'll give you the
game design software I've spent years creating . You've been here looking for inspiration , right ?"
Santiago grabbed his stomach , gritting through the pain , yet his mind stayed sharp . Harry couldn't
believe it . " What ?! Santiago , are you serious ? You put so much effort into that software !

" " Harry , stay out of this . Tilda , that's my offer . Do you want it or not ? " Santiago stared at Tilda , his
eyes burning with determination . No matter what , he had to beat her in a game . He'd do whatever it
took . Otherwise , the shame would never leave him . " I don't care about your silly software . " But if
you add another bet , maybe I'll spend some time on your boring little game . " " What kind of bet ? " "
Simple . Transfer the software's patent to me . If you lose , you can never use it again . " If you do , I'll
take you to court and make you pay . " Whoa !

Harry couldn't help but gasp .

Chapter 356 Pick Any Game " Tilda , you've gone way too far . Do you even know how much Santiago
put into that game design software ? He poured his heart into it ! " This bet isn't fair ! Santiago , you
don't have to go through with this ! " Harry jumped in , trying to talk some sense into Santiago . Most
people wouldn't understand , but Harry did . He'd seen how much Santiago had sacrificed for that
software . " I accept ! " Santiago said without hesitation . Harry nearly lost it . " Santiago , are you insane
?!

You're seriously agreeing to this crazy bet ? " " As long as I win , nothing else matters , " Santiago said
confidently . When it came to gaming , he was untouchable . He'd played every game in The Eighteenth
Hell , studying them inside and out . That was his territory ! Even if Tilda could beat Harry , there was no

way she could take Santiago down . He was certain of that . " You ... Ugh ! " Harry let out a long , helpless sigh . Honestly , he couldn't predict the outcome between Santiago and Tilda . But deep down , he felt Santiago had the edge .

Santiago's gaming instincts and skills were just on another level - right up there with Tilda's . Santiago had one more advantage . He was the one who brought Harry to The Eighteenth Hell first . He'd already mastered every game here before Tilda even started . In terms of experience and raw talent , he definitely had her beat . Yet Harry couldn't shake the uneasy feeling gnawing at him . He had no idea where that feeling came from . Tilda clapped twice . " I gotta admit you've got guts . Fine , I'll waste a little of my precious time and play with you , mutt ." 1/3 11:23 Wed , Sep 17 OM .

Santiago gritted his teeth . " Can you watch your damn mouth ? " " Sorry , that's just how I talk . Want me to be nicer ? Beat me first . " In the game or in a fight , if you win , I'll even get down on my knees and beg for mercy . " But ... do you truly have what it takes ? " Tilda shot him a look full of contempt , dripping with arrogance . Everyone around swallowed hard . Now that was what they called arrogant . Back then , they thought their actions were flashy , arrogant , and impressive .

But compared to Tilda's trash talk , they realized what they did before was just downright lame ! Now that was pure trash talk , full - on teasing , and top - level provocation ! Nobody could stand that kind of humiliation . " Fight ! Fight ! Fight ! " The crowd cheered , hyped up , and egged them on . How could they not when it was so entertaining ? Or they would lose the fun ! " In fighting , maybe you beat Howard . Fine , I'll give you that . But in gaming ? I've never lost ! Pick any game here , and I'll take you on ! " " Oh , you look so confident . Fine .

Let's play a live - action fighting game . " This is the game I used to beat your precious apprentice . As his mentor , isn't this the perfect chance to reclaim some pride ? " " Fine ! Let's settle it with this game ! " Harry's heart skipped a beat . Santiago was fired up and impossible to talk down . All Harry could do was pray for him . If it were any other game , Santiago would surely win . But the live - action fighting game was the one Harry had lost to Tilda before . Tilda's skills were insane . She was at least platinum level .

She knew the game so well that it was like her second nature . Santiago also knew the game well , but that didn't give him much advantage . He'd already given up too much ground . Even if he was confident , losing now would be humiliating and awkward . When Santiago and Tilda sat down at the arcade machine , the crowd quickly formed a circle around them . They kept a respectful distance , not wanting to distract the players . After all , a tense match like that needed full focus to be exciting .

Before the game started , Santiago said coldly , " You've told me what you want if you win . Now it's time to discuss what happens if you lose . " " Go ahead , " Tilda replied , short and casual . She looked completely at ease , like the outcome didn't matter at all . Seeing her so calm , Santiago felt a sharp sting in his chest , like a thorn had been driven right in .

Chapter 357 Who's the Winner ? That kind of easy confidence should've been his . Tilda , enjoy it while you can . Soon , I'll use my skills to tear your smug mask apart ! " If you lose , you have to listen to your brothers ! No disobedience ! " Santiago didn't demand Tilda return to the Jensions or forgive them . He thought she didn't deserve it . Even now , he couldn't understand why the Jensions cared so much about a traitor like Tilda . Sure , they'd made mistakes . But he thought Tilda was being petty , always scheming for revenge . Without the Jensions , she wouldn't even exist !

Since he ran into her , he just wanted to go head - to - head and see who came out on top . Listening to the brothers ? That was just for Kayden and Wade . They cared about Tilda . As their brother , he'd help them out . Fine . " Tilda was speechless . The Jensions were ridiculous . Listening to her brothers ? No disobedience ? It was disgusting . When she listened to them , they all looked down on her . Now that she fought back , they suddenly acted like good siblings . " We'll use the same rules as when I played with your apprentice . First to five wins takes the championship .

Got it ? " " Sure . Don't say I didn't warn you . Five wins ? You'll probably lose before you even get close ! " Tilda didn't bother answering and hit the start button . The character selection screen appeared . She chose a female character built for speed and agility . Meanwhile , Santiago picked a male character focused on power and critical hits . Those were two totally different styles . Harry stared nervously at the screen . He didn't dare blink , not even once . He held his breath during the intense moments .

For once , the usually noisy arcade was dead silent . After the first round , the word " Victory " flashed across the screen . Santiago won ! " Yes ! " Harry clenched his fists , full of excitement . The match had been intense . Several times , Santiago's health points dropped so low that a single combo from Tilda could've ended it . But in the end , he pulled through . It wasn't like when Harry had been completely crushed by her . Santiago raised an eyebrow and shot Tilda a proud glance . Honestly , his palms were sweaty .

Very few people had ever pushed him that hard in a fighting game . He'd almost forgotten what it felt like to be that focused and exhilarated . Today , such a feeling was back . And the one giving him that thrill ? It was the little sister he'd always looked down on . Tilda stayed calm . Round two began , and she quickly won . She barely edged Santiago out , lowering his health points first . Everyone gasped . It was

one - to - one . That was way too exciting . They finally knew what a pro - level face - off looked like . Santiago's expression fell . He thought he was imagining things .

The second round felt way tougher than the first . The worst part ? He lost . Harry was on edge . He knew Tilda had started learning Santiago's moves . Little by little , she was making his strategies her own . She'd pick the smart moves and ignore the weak ones . Back in " Rogue Fighters " , when Tilda had never played that game before , Harry lost the same way . What happened next shocked everyone . In the next four rounds , Santiago didn't win a single match . The gap kept growing .

By the fifth win , Tilda still had half her health bar left . She completely defeated Santiago . His face went pale , his hand on the joystick limp . Tilda had noticed all his habits over the course of the games . Those were moves that nobody else would catch , but she did . Like a spider weaving a web , she lured Santiago into her trap step by step . When Santiago thought he had the upper hand , he didn't even realize he was walking straight into her plan . There was no way out . " I won . According to our bet , hand over the software and delete it yourself .

It's not yours anymore . " I'll file for a patent change . Since you always talk about the Jensons ' honor , I trust you won't your word . " go back on Of course , Tilda had already recorded their conversation just in case . If Santiago tried anything shady , she'd make sure he got ruined . Then , the Jensons would pay for his mistakes .

Chapter 358 She's Back Tilda just walked off . Santiago couldn't even find the words to stop her . After that match , he'd learned a brutal lesson about losing . Even his proudest gaming skills weren't enough to beat Tilda . She was seriously terrifying . " Santiago , are you ... okay ? " Harry didn't know how to comfort Santiago . Even though Harry had lost to Tilda before and knew she was insanely strong , he never expected Santiago to get wiped out like that . It was so dramatic . " ... Losing is losing . What else can I say ? " Santiago muttered bitterly .

He got to his feet and headed for the exit . Harry was worried , so he hurried after him . He dared not take his eyes off Santiago .. Once Tilda and the others left , the rest of the crowd finally came back to reality . " Holy crap ! Isn't she basically the queen of The Eighteenth Hell now ? " " She just defeated both King and his mentor ! Who the hell is she ? A pro gamer or something ? " " No way . Pros don't hang out in places like this . She could get banned from tournaments if anyone recognized her ! " " Hey , did anyone record this ?

If we post it online , it'll blow up for sure . " " Damn ! I totally forgot ! What a waste ! " The next day . After getting Santiago's game design software and registering the patent , Tilda caught an afternoon flight back to Slosa . Stepping off the plane and breathing the familiar air , she felt instantly refreshed . " Tilda ! " Una ran over , throwing herself into Tilda's arms with tears . " It's been forever ! How could you

leave me so long ? You're the worst ! " Tilda ruffled Una's hair . " Why make it sound like I ditched you like a jerk ?

If you wanted to see me , why didn't you just come to Fairville ? " " Not everyone is like you , traveling for glory and having legit reasons to go abroad ! Finals at Orica University are coming up . " If I fail , I'm screwed ! You're so lucky to skip all that and pass with perfect scores . I'm so jealous ! " Advanced math has been killing me lately . I'm losing so much hair ! I'm basically going bald ! " She pointed to her hair , looking totally miserable . Then she glanced at Tilda's shiny , thick hair . Why is Tilda so smart ?

She thought about many things , yet her hair stayed perfect and full. It never falls out ! She's already a genius ! Comparing myself to her is just frustrating ! " Tilda , tell me what shampoo you use . I don't want to end up bald and ugly ! " I just use Pantene . I never truly cared about it . " Una felt like she'd just been hit hard . Pantene ? Seriously ? All the fancy shampoos and conditioners she'd bought suddenly seemed useless . Yep , it's my fate to be bald ! People meant to be gorgeous never have baldness in their lives . Tilda smiled .

" Alright , let me pat your head and pray you keep your hair . " So , now that I'm back , is there a welcome party ? " " Of course ! There's a new cajun boil shop that's amazing ! It's freezing , so it's perfect . " I already got a reservation . With the New Year coming , tables are impossible . You'd better praise me ! " " Yeah , you're amazing . " Tilda and Una got in the car , laughing and chatting as they headed to the cajun boil shop . Just then , Tilda's phone buzzed . It was a message from Jude . Tilda made a quiet gesture . " Una , let me handle this reply for a sec . " " Okay ...

Hmm ? " Una squinted at the screen . It seemed to be a message from Jude ! Oh wow ! Could they truly end up together ? He was basically Slosa's top economic power ! For a moment , Una didn't know whether to be jealous that Jude could openly chase Tilda or to worry that Tilda might fall for him . The Bells were ruthless and ultra - wealthy . Would Tilda be happy living with them ? She'd just escaped a family that hurt her and finally found freedom .

Now she might be stepping into another strict , high - pressure world that could crush her spirit . Una felt nervous just thinking about it . Tilda , however , hadn't noticed Una's worries . Jude asked , " Did you land ? " Tilda replied , " Yup , just got here safe and sound . What's up ? Something important ? " Chapter 359 Be Careful Jude was at the Nightingale Bar when Tilda's message popped up . He lowered his gaze , trying to hide the flutter in his chest . " Can't I just message you even if it's nothing important ? " " Before I got on the plane , you kept me talking forever . And I already told you I'd meet up with Una

tonight first . You're not the type to bug people for attention , are you ? " " Well , you're kinda wrong . Honestly , I'm a little selfish - I just want you to notice me . " There it was again - the smile emoji !

Thinking about that impulsive kiss on Christmas night , Tilda couldn't help but blush . She typed back , " It's flattering to hear that from you . Bet plenty of women would be insanely jealous . " " Don't care what anyone thinks . Compared to you , they're not even worth a strand of your hair . " Those words came straight from Jude's heart . After that Christmas in Motrar , things between him and Tilda had changed . F < 5 D Sometimes , it felt like sparks flew between them , almost like a couple . Every time Jude caught those small changes , he felt ecstatic .

It was like finally figuring out the hardest puzzle in the world . Tilda replied , " Thanks for the compliment . That makes me happy ." He replied , " Uncle Ryan went to Hetsa again . He got solid info and tracked down where Rebecca is hiding . " That video you posted about her went viral . The Bells noticed . " Grandpa said they'll handle it after the New Year . For now , Uncle Ryan's family is cleaning up the mess . " He's fighting for his spot , so Rebecca is done for this time . Tilda , watch out . Looks like Uncle Marcus is showing interest in you . " Jude's eldest uncle ?

Tilda pursed her lips , thinking back over everything she knew about the Bells . Marcus was a cunning man . Before Jude appeared out of nowhere , everyone assumed Marcus would become the head of the Bells and DY Group . Abram was the previous head . As his eldest son , Marcus had seemed like the perfect choice for DY Group and the Bells . Leonard , the third son , was laid - back . He loved traveling and avoided drama , so he wasn't a threat . Devin , Jude's father , had been talented as well , rivaling Marcus .

Rumor had it that when Abram retired , the new leader would be either Marcus or Devin . People were obsessed with choosing sides . Devin married young , deeply in love with his childhood sweetheart - Jude's mother . But she died in childbirth . After that , Devin fell apart and never recovered . Ryan , the second son , was even less capable than Preston . His dream of beating Jude and reclaiming DY Group was just wishful thinking . Ryan was more competitive than their third and fourth brothers , yet Marcus never saw him as a threat .

Of course , Marcus was capable , but he didn't match up to a true prodigy . That was why Abram ignored everyone's objections and made Jude the new head of the Bells at a young age . Once Jude proved himself , any opposition vanished . Because he crushed them all . °እኔኝ When the decision was announced , everyone figured Marcus would lose it . How could he just let a position that seemed

rightfully his be taken by his nephew ? Surprisingly , Marcus stayed calm , not a hint of anger . Ryan , though , threw a huge fit . But honestly , he was no match - Jude shut him down in minutes .

Tilda asked , " Jude , what's your take on your eldest uncle ? Is he an ally or an enemy ? " Jude replied , " Not exactly an enemy , but he's definitely not an ally ." They were smart people . That answer immediately helped Tilda size up Marcus . She said , " Yep , he's a clever old fox . He only cares about his interests . That's the kind of person who survives in business . Got it . Don't worry . " Jude asked , " When can we hang out again ? If you want some Omega - style food , I can bring it over . " Tilda replied , " Sure . We could also enjoy some good wine . And ...

if things get heated , maybe we can repeat that Christmas kiss ? " Thump ! Jude didn't expect that . His heart skipped a beat . His fingers shook as he stared at the screen , taking a while to type back . " Su ... sure ! " " Haha , Jude , you're adorable ! " He couldn't stop himself from swallowing hard .

Chapter 360 Are You Dating Him ? When Jude's Adam's apple bobbed , he felt like he was on fire . His blood felt like it was boiling . He grabbed his whiskey filled with ice and downed it in one gulp . didn't help . He was burning up inside . He needed even more ice to cool down ! If it were the old Jude , he never would've believed it . Just one simple line from a woman , and his brain was fried - his whole world turned upside down ! He used to think having feelings was the dumbest nonsense .

3.Watching Alfie change girlfriends like outfits , Jude always thought Alfie was hopeless - doomed to get tangled in some woman's drama . But now ? His perspective flipped completely . Right now , Maurice and Alfie were hanging out with Jude , They were playing League of Legends , but they kept sneaking glances at him , completely distracted . Their gameplay was falling apart . They kept losing team fights , even though that was supposed to be their big push for the top rank . But the real entertainment was watching Jude . Usually composed , Jude now looked totally spaced out .

They both immediately stopped playing and just stared at him with great interest . If they weren't scared of him noticing , they'd have pulled out their phones to snap a picture of his face . A moment like that was too rare to pass up ! Jude dumped more ice into his drink , but it still wasn't enough . Suddenly , he stood up . His deep , magnetic voice was slightly slurred from alcohol . I'm gonna hit the restroom . " Alfie and Maurice answered in unison , " Oh ! " And just like that , Jude slipped away . Alfie and Maurice couldn't hold it in anymore . They grinned at each other .

" The only person who could make him act like that has to be Tilda , " Maurice said , leaning back with his wine , swirling it lazily . As he said it , Una's stubborn , baby - faced image popped into his mind .

Damn it . She wasn't some knockout , just an immature girl . Maurice had seen all types - beautiful , seductive , pure , innocent , and so on . Plenty threw themselves at him , and he never cared . Yet for some reason , Una wouldn't leave his mind : Anyone who knew what he was thinking would say he'd lost it - just like Jude .

¶ ¶ , - " Ugh ! I wish I could see Jude and Tilda's chat ! What did she say to make him run to the restroom to relieve himself ? " " Alfie , if Jude hears you say that , you're done for . Don't come crying to me , " Maurice said , shaking his head . Alfie always pushed Jude's buttons , and Maurice had to handle the fallout . " I'd only dare say this when Jude isn't around . Maurice , I'm not stupid . If Jude were here , I'd keep my mouth shut . I don't want to die young ! " Alfie pinched his neck for emphasis . " But do you think Jude truly went to the restroom to calm down ?

" . Maurice actually thought about that possibility seriously . He and Alfie exchanged a look , tempted to sneak a peek . The thought of Jude doing something like that was just too wild to imagine . It made them both want to risk everything just to see it . Tilda and Una arrived at the cajun boil shop . They found their reserved table amid the busy crowd . Tilda took a deep breath . " Mmm ... just the smell is making my mouth water . That spicy aroma is incredible ! " There was a saying that if a restaurant was packed , the food must be amazing . The new cajun boil shop was buzzing .

Luckily , it didn't feel too cramped . The tables were spaced out perfectly , so it wasn't crowded at all . Jude had once mentioned that people with Omega - type genes would eventually lose their sense of taste . Then , they had to eat some weird , lab - made black food . Tilda figured she'd better enjoy real , good food while she still could . She soon sat down with Una . After they ordered , Una kept sneaking glances at Tilda , like she was trying to say something . " Una , just say it . We're close , right ?

No need to tiptoe around it . That's not you , " Tilda said , seeing right through her . Una hesitated for a second , then smiled . " Well , I just thought you'd praise me for picking such an awesome cajun boil place . " " The food isn't even here yet , and you want compliments ? Come on , just spit it out , or I'll mess up your hair and make you go bald for real ! " Tilda ruffled Una's hair playfully . Una pouted , looked around nervously , and finally asked carefully , " Tilda , are you dating Mr. Bell ?