

## 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 Jensions . 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 forget 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 . 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 Har 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 Jensons or forgive them . He thought she didn't deserve it . Even now , he couldn't understand why the Jensons 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 Jensons , 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 Jensons 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 . ལྟན་པུ་མེད་ 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 ?