

Shadows 411

Chapter 411 Her Indifference Something seemed to click , and Tilda smirked . So , my piece was stolen and performed right in front of me ? Interesting . " I see ," Blair said , her smile widening . She looked at Genevieve with genuine admiration . At first glance , Blair couldn't spot a single flaw in Genevieve . Honestly , she thought Genevieve and Justin made a great pair . Both were top - tier pianists with worldwide reputations . They matched perfectly in looks , status , and talent . Of course , it was just their first meeting .

Justin hadn't even sorted out his own feelings yet . Blair wasn't planning to play matchmaker . She figured the kids could sort out their own love lives . As long as Genevieve wasn't the type to chase after the Jensions ' power or manipulate Justin's feelings , Blair was fine with it . The two of them laughed and chatted as they headed into the restroom . But suddenly , Blair froze . Because she saw Tilda . For a second , Blair thought her eyes were playing tricks . How could it be such a coincidence that she met Tilda here ? She blinked , making sure she wasn't imagining it .

A rush of emotions hit her - bittersweet , but mostly bitter . Blair had no clue how to face Tilda , so she instinctively looked down . " Mrs. Jenson , are you okay ? " Genevieve stepped closer , slipping her hand around Blair's arm , her voice soft and comforting . Whether it was because of Justin , she was smart enough to tell Blair that her impression of her was positive . Running into Tilda in the women's restroom was shocking . But when Genevieve noticed Blair's discomfort , she realized it was her chance to leave an even better impression .

" I ... I'm fine fine ... " Blair didn't even dare meet Tilda's eyes . After all that had happened , she met Tilda again . She'd told herself to be prepared . She'd even stayed home most of the time just to avoid such a situation . But even though she'd promised Russell and Justin she'd toughen up , she couldn't when it came to Tilda . She'd done so many things that had crushed and humiliated Tilda . As Tilda's birth mother , she had just stood by , cold and distant , while Tilda suffered . She had worried more about how Kyla would feel if her real daughter returned to the Jensions .

And yet , in the end , it was Tilda who saved Blair , Dominic , and so many others . She prevented an international disaster . Now , Tilda was a world champion , the idol " X " adored by millions . She shone so bright that Blair could barely face her . She always reflected on everything she'd done to Tilda . Tilda glanced at Blair , who seemed completely ridiculous now . Her so - called birth mother , who had caused her so much pain , actually knew what shame felt like . Tilda's eyes landed on Blair for a split second before sliding away .

That one glance stabbed into Blair's heart like a needle . Nothing could block the sting . Her whole body shook . Tilda's eyes held no warmth at all . It wasn't just indifference - it was emptiness , like no feelings existed there . It was as if their blood ties had never existed . Tilda wasn't Blair's daughter anymore . She was no longer part of the Jensions . They were further apart than strangers , becoming two lines that would never cross again . Blair's strength left her all at once when she realized that .

She almost collapsed , barely able to stay on her feet . Why did it hurt so much ? Why did she feel so cold ? If Tilda's eyes had carried hate , at least it would have meant she still cared about her family , even a little . But her emotionless eyes , colder than any stranger's , were proof the Jensions had been erased from her heart . That kind of indifference cut deeper than any negative emotion . It was torture . For the first time , Blair truly understood what it meant to feel worse than death . " Ms. Tilda , I know things between you and the Jensions went bad .

" I'm not in a position to say much . I don't know the whole story , but Mrs. Jenson looked shaken after seeing you . " I'll take her outside so she can rest . " Genevieve put on her nice act , gently tugging Blair toward the chairs outside . " No need . I'm leaving , " Tilda replied flatly . She brushed past both of them without looking back .

Chapter 412 A Thief As Tilda walked by , Blair caught a familiar scent . At that moment , old memories came flooding back . She remembered when she first discovered Tilda was her long - lost daughter through the DNA test . Blair had been over the moon , hugging Tilda tightly . Back then , Tilda had trembled in her arms , and Blair had caught that scent . Tilda's scent hadn't changed at all . It felt like it all happened just yesterday . So how had everything fallen apart to the point where they were worse than strangers ? When did it all go wrong ? No , it was on them .

The Jensions had failed Tilda . Right as Tilda was about to step out of the restroom , Genevieve spoke up again . " Ms. Tilda , don't you have anything you want to say to Mrs. Jenson ... your birth mother ? " Blair's chest tightened at those words . " Huh ? " Tilda arched an eyebrow , tilting her head with a meaningful smile . " What did you say ? Sorry , I didn't hear you . Say it again . " Her voice was light , but the edge in it made Genevieve's heart clench . Still wanting to win Blair's favor , Genevieve forced a gentle tone . " I can tell Mrs. Jenson truly misses you .

I don't know what went on between you two- " " If you don't know , then shut your mouth . Ever heard of minding your own business ? Who do you think you are ? " Tilda's sharp words instantly shut Genevieve up . Genevieve froze , not expecting Tilda to act so rudely .

She thought someone from the Jenson bloodline would never speak so crudely . Nineteen years outside must have made Tilda pick up all the worst habits . So , was all that drama just because Tilda lacked the class to fit in ? With that thought , Genevieve turned cold . " Ms.

Tilda , must you be so rude ? Can't you talk properly ? " " This is how I talk . Still beats being a thief . " " A thief ? " Genevieve snapped , her eyes blazing . " If you slander me again , I'll sue you for defamation ! " " Oh , really ? Was that piano piece you just played yours ? " You couldn't even name it , yet you claim you wrote it ? That's a joke . " Tilda hadn't planned to call Genevieve out that soon . But even though the Jensons ' mess had nothing to do with her , she couldn't just let someone steal her original piano piece .

No way was she letting Genevieve pass it off as her own . " You- " Genevieve's pulse jumped . Does Tilda know who wrote that piano piece ? It's not mine ! Damn it ! Blair is right here ! If Justin ever uncovered her lies , everything would collapse . Her dream of marrying into the Jensons and running from her miserable life would be . And if he learned she tricked him with that piano piece , the Jensons would crush her . Just imagining the fallout made Genevieve's whole body shake . She could never admit the truth . " I ... I don't know what you mean . That piano piece was mine .

I wrote it years ago by chance ! " As long as she kept insisting she was the one who uploaded the video , Tilda had no proof. It had been so long , and the song was never made public . There was no evidence of who the real composer was . " Your original work , huh ? Sure . Whatever you say . " Tilda had already decided exactly how she'd tear apart Genevieve's lie . She turned to walk away . That was when Blair finally spoke . " Tilda ... wait . " She yanked her arm free from Genevieve and stumbled to block Tilda's path . " Are you crazy ?

" Tilda's cold eyes pierced straight into Blair's heart . " I know we've had a lot of bad history . I've thought about it a lot . We ... failed you . " But even after everything , you still saved me , Dominic , and the whole family . Even if I can't face you properly , I still have to thank you for what you did . " Blair swallowed the ache in her chest , lowered her head , and bent deeply to Tilda . It was the only thing left she could do . She had to admit her mistakes .

Chapter 413 Shame Blair thought the only way to ease the crushing guilt in her chest was to thank Tilda and beg for forgiveness . If she didn't , every memory of Tilda would haunt her , and that kind of life felt like torture . Blair felt that such a life would lose its color and become meaningless . Tilda lowered her gaze . She stared at her so - called mother , who once carried herself like she was above everyone else , pretending she was being generous . Blair had given her nothing but insults , disgust , cold stares , distance , and endless misunderstandings . And now ?

She was apologizing , tossing away pride like trash , and pleading for mercy . it . Jenson , please don't do this ... " Genevieve stepped forward , trying to help her up , but oved her aside . . Lichtenstein , this is

our family matter . I know you mean well , but please stay out of Hearing how firm Blair sounded , Genevieve felt even more uneasy . Damn it ! Did my plan just fall apart ? Not only had Tilda nailed Genevieve for plagiarism , but now even Blair wasn't as warm as before . It was backfiring hard . " Family matter ? Blair , when did you get this shameless ?

Seriously , do you even know what shame is ? " You used to walk around acting high and mighty , humiliating people with that That's the Blair I remember . " mug face . " Tilda , no matter how harsh you get , I'll take it . I'm the one who did you wrong . " Blair kept her head down , her reddened eyes brimming until tears spilled over . It was her fault to atone for . If it eased Tilda's pain even a little , maybe Blair could finally breathe easier . you wrong me ? Not really . And besides ... " " Did Tilda leaned down close , whispering so only Blair could hear , her voice low and teasing .

Fintstied " Truth is , when that squad saved you , I had told them to arrange an accident to wipe you and Dominic out . " Did you truly think I wanted to save you ? What a joke - I prayed you'd both rot in hell . " I don't know what went wrong , but you sure got lucky . " ... " You what did you just say ?! " Blair looked up in disbelief , like she'd just heard the devil's whispers . It didn't even sound like words Tilda would say . " Believe me or not , that's up to you .

" Tilda hated saying things that made her look bad , but just looking at Blair made her sick to her stomach . If Blair kept pestering Tilda because she thought Tilda gave them hope , it was only wasting Tilda's time . Catching the hopeless look in Blair's eyes , Tilda sneered inwardly . So that was how it was . Even though Blair went on about owing Tilda and saying she was in the wrong , she never trusted Tilda , not even once . That was the real nasty side of the Jensons ! Blair , the real payback isn't from me . Just wait till Kyla's mask comes off and the Jenson Group crashes .

That's when you'll finally get what you deserve ! With that , Tilda pushed Blair aside and walked away . The truth hit Blair so hard that she couldn't even stop Tilda . She staggered and nearly fell . " Mrs. Jenson ! " Genevieve caught her just in time . " Are you alright ? " " She does hate me that much . " Blair's face went pale as she forced out a bitter , self - mocking smile . If Tilda had wanted Blair and Dominic dead in that accident , it wouldn't have been strange . She never owed the Jensons anything , and honestly , she had every reason to hate them .

Blair just didn't expect hearing Tilda admit it straight out would hurt that much . Tilda , you're so ruthless . You can just throw away your family like we're nothing ? Meanwhile , Russell and Justin were still at their seats . Russell glanced at his watch , starting to worry . " She's been gone too long . Why isn't she

back yet ? What's happening ? " Justin tried to calm him down . " Dad , chill . This is Starlight Dining . Mom will be fine . " " No , I've got a bad feeling . I'm going to find her ! " Once bitten , twice shy .

After what happened before , Blair's safety mattered most to him . If she hadn't gone to the restroom , he never would've let her leave alone . " Dad , wait ... Mom ? " Justin suddenly spotted Blair walking over with Genevieve . He jumped up and rushed over . " Mom , why are you with Ms. Lichtenstein ? " " It's nothing . We just happened to meet in the restroom . "

Chapter 414 She's Performing Blair lifted her eyes , looking drained . Genevieve gave Justin a soft smile . " Mrs. Jenson wasn't feeling too great , so I walked her over . " " Thanks , Ms. Lichtenstein . " Justin's impression of Genevieve instantly improved . Russell hurried up , pulling Blair into his arms , his voice full of worry . " Darling , are you okay ? Why are you suddenly not feeling well ? Did the food here upset your stomach ? " " I'm fine . I just ... ran into Tilda in the restroom . " After thinking for a bit , Blair decided it was better to say it out loud .

Russell stiffened . " What ?! Tilda ? So you- " Before he could ask for details , the lights dropped again . The crowd began whispering . " What's going on ? Another show ? " " Don't they usually perform once an hour ? It hasn't even been 40 minutes . " " Maybe the system is glitching ? " The manager's voice came over the mic , " Ladies and gentlemen , please stay calm . " We have a surprise show for you tonight . " This wasn't planned , but you won't want to miss this young lady . " Next up , let's welcome the world champion , the artist X - Tilda Jenson ! " Tilda ?!

She's performing here at Starlight Dining ?! Everyone went silent in shock . Only Genevieve felt a sinking feeling in her gut . No way . Is Tilda truly going to do that ?! After making the announcement , the manager slipped offstage . He dabbed his forehead with a handkerchief and threw Theo an okay sign . Normally , nothing off - script was allowed . It was Starlight Dining's trial run , and the place was full of VIPs from Slosa . Any mistake could ruin not only Starlight Dining but Sky Dining as well . Nobody could bear that responsibility .

But Theo , the boss ' son , kept backing Tilda up , and she insisted on playing the piano . The manager had no choice but to let it happen . If it had just been her , he could've refused . But with Theo giving the order , he didn't dare . If something failed , Theo would take the blame . But if the manager upset Theo , and Theo tattled to the chairman , his career would be over . " All ready , Queen. Just as you asked . Go for it . " Theo was clueless about what went on while Tilda was in the restroom . But if she wanted to play piano on stage , he would back her up as her loyal sidekick .

He'd make it happen . He'd never heard her play before . Maybe it would sound like heaven itself . The Comet Squad all watched her with eager eyes . Tilda folded her arms , then let them drop . She pressed her lips together and walked toward the stage . Her calm , deep eyes reflected the pale moonlight spilling across the stage . Right then , she seemed wrapped in an almost sacred glow . Her beauty was breathtaking . Everyone was stunned , staring at her as she took the stage . Her skin looked flawless , and her clothes were casual .

With one flick of her long hair , she exuded a carefree confidence no one else could imitate . She tilted her delicate face slightly upward , a faint smile playing on her lips . Her eyes seemed to draw anyone in , yet radiated a cold , dangerous edge , She was so young , gorgeous , and captivating . Under the spotlight , she owned the stage . All eyes were on her . She was born for the center . Once their eyes found her , they couldn't look away . The Comet Squad sat there in awe when they looked at Tilda .

They already knew their captain was incredible . But they never imagined she could glow like that on stage . In the lights , she looked brilliant and irresistible . That was nothing like the Tilda who had led them through cyber battles . The one they saw before was the queen of the dark web . But now ? She was queen of the stage . The Jensons never expected Tilda to appear that way when she walked on stage and took her seat at the piano . It was beyond words . Even Justin , a world - famous pianist , had never experienced something like that on stage .

The shock Tilda delivered was on a whole different level . It felt like the piano spirit itself had chosen her . When her hands flew across the keys , she turned into a cold , commanding queen .

Chapter 415 She's Unbeatable Genevieve's chest tightened , her heart racing . No way ! She never expected Tilda , who'd lived at the bottom of society before , could fit into the spotlight so perfectly . Every little thing Tilda did carried a natural charm . If she hadn't been born with it , how long did she take to build that kind of presence ? Genevieve knew she could never pull it off . Worse , if Tilda played that piano piece here and now , Justin might start doubting Genevieve's story . " Uh , I just remembered I need to tell you all something important . Can we step aside ?

" Genevieve blurted it out , trying to pull attention her way . But the Jensons ignored her completely . Even Justin didn't notice . He was already lost in Tilda's presence on stage . It felt like a knife to his chest - sharp , painful , yet awakening something inside him . He'd seen that scene before . But when ? The piano music began . The melody itself seemed to answer the questions crowding his mind . The second he heard those familiar notes , his thoughts jumped back to the very first time he'd watched that old video . That was when he first heard this incredible piece .

The rhythm , the style , and the way her fingers floated over the keys were alive . The blurry memories spinning in Justin's head suddenly snapped into focus . But it didn't make sense . Why was Tilda playing

this song ? Did she memorize it after hearing it once ? Or ... had she always known how to play it ? Her music hit Justin deeper than Genevieve's ever had . The first time he heard Genevieve perform this piece , it only felt a little familiar . Paired with her explanation , he simply assumed she had been the one in that video .

But Tilda was different . She just sat there , and the music poured out of her . The music felt like words that cut straight to the soul , echoing deep within . 66 Justin was dragged back to his darkest years - the hopeless nights when nightmares strangled him . The very first time he heard this piece , it had been like a rainbow breaking through a storm . It shone through his window , lighting up his path forward . It gave him hope again . And now Tilda's music was making him feel that same miracle . Could it mean ... Justin's face darkened as the thought struck him .

Tilda closed her eyes , leaning into the white piano like it was a part of her . Her hands glided across the keys , smooth and swift , like moonlit water flowing . When the final note landed , no one could snap out of it for a long time . Genevieve's If every pianist in the world were ranked , Tilda's version would crush Genevieve's . It wasn't that Genevieve lacked skill . She had international awards to her name - her talent was real . But people were all different , and that was even more true in an artistic profession .

Someone with no expertise might miss the difference , But everyone here was Slosa's elite , raised on art since birth , used to the best art . To them , Tilda's performance was on another level . Genevieve gritted her teeth so hard that she nearly broke them . How could she play that well ?! No , something is wrong . How could Tilda , who'd been missing from the Jensons for 19 years , outshine a genius like me ?! As the final echoes faded , Tilda stood up . " Hope you all liked it . And I've got a little message for a certain stray .

" This piece is called ' Echoes of a Rose . ' 66 " Not every mutt gets to claim it as theirs . Especially not a thief who stole someone else's work . " She tossed out the words like nothing , then stepped off the stage . Her words hit like ice water , jolting everyone back to their senses . Applause erupted . " Unbelievable ! That was insane ! It's the best piano performance I've ever heard ! " " I can't believe Tilda , the world champion and artist , can play piano too ! How many talents does she have ? " " X truly lives up to the name ! I've been her fan for years !

She can do anything ! She's unbeatable ! " " Bet the Jensons regret cutting ties with a genius like her . " " Keep it down ! Mr. and Mrs. Jenson are right there . Do you want to get targeted ? " The place buzzed with excitement . Tilda walked back to her teammates . " Queen , that was stunning ! " Theo and the others cheered without holding back . Was that truly their captain ? She looked unreal .

Chapter 416 Get the Truth They looked at Tilda like she was some kind of thousand - year monster . How could one person be good at everything ? It was enough to make anyone jealous . Tilda stretched and yawned . " I'm full . I'm heading out . I need to catch up on some sleep ." She'd been pushing herself nonstop to meet Benedict's standards , barely catching any rest . " Huh ? Queen , you're leaving already ? I still have places I wanna check out ! " " Nope . Dinner is enough for me . You guys are young and full of energy - always running around , never tired .

Impressive , but not me . You go . I'm out . " After that piano performance , Tilda reached her goal . Anyone with ears could tell what was up . Genevieve was the fraud who stole someone else's identity . She was a plagiarist . After that , Tilda walked off first . The Comet Squad sat frozen for a beat before it hit them . Tilda just reached 20. She was younger than them ! How was she already that amazing ? She could even work with entire nations and be respected . Compared to her , their 20s felt like a total joke . Right then , they made another silent vow . They'd never abandon Queen .

" Wait up , Queen ! " Genevieve was cracking inside . She kept trying to think of something to convince Justin . He couldn't find out she had been lying .

If she didn't marry into the Jensions , she'd never escape her nightmare . Just as she was about to speak , Justin bolted out . " Justin ? " Even Tilda and Russell calling after him didn't stop him . Justin looked more tense than ever . He only wanted to catch Tilda and get the truth . That meant everything to him . Genevieve saw his expression and knew it was over .

No matter how Tilda answered , her plan was wrecked . She needed a place to think and figure out how to fix this mess . Tilda stepped out of Starlight Dining . The Comet Squad wanted to follow , but she told them she was heading home to sleep and would call a cab . Dragging them along would only cut into her sleep . She was seriously worn out . January in Slosa was still cold . Tilda pulled her puffer jacket tighter . Next month was the winter holiday . She planned to see Dane and Mystro and celebrate together . But she wasn't sure if Liam would make it out .

Lately , she'd been sneaking looks at the underground base's cameras . Liam was still down there , pushing himself day and night on that treatment project . He kept tweaking , reworking , and never giving up . He spent a long stretch trapped underground . He had no freedom , his life constantly hanging by a thread .

But Liam was extremely excited . His eyes burned with passion every time he made progress . That gave Tilda peace of mind . Liam was just like the legends said .

With that kind of drive , he'd beat that strange illness and walk out of that underground base one day ! Tilda hadn't brought a car . She came with three others in a rideshare . Since Starlight Dining was way off the main road , she figured she'd walk to the street before calling a cab . Out of nowhere , someone came running hard . " Hold up , Tilda ! " Justin's voice sounded anxious . When she turned , she saw him sprinting so fast and yelling so loud that he tripped and slammed straight into the ground . Smack . The sound of bones snapping was clear .

It looked like his shoulder popped out of place . The pain hit him instantly . Tilda was speechless . What the hell is this ? A skit ? Some kind of slapstick show ? She instantly regretted even pausing for him . She spun around , ready to keep walking . " Tilda , don't go ! I need to talk to you about something serious ! " Even hurting like crazy , Justin dragged himself in front of her , blocking her way . " You want me to beat you up ? " Tilda was beyond sick of the Jensons .

They never stopped chasing people who couldn't care less .

Had she been wrong back then for craving family too much ? If she'd acted this coldly earlier , maybe they would've clung to her even tighter . Forget it - what a bunch of weirdos ! Justin , already used to her sharp tongue , clenched his jaw and asked , " That piano piece you played earlier ... Where'd you learn it ? " " It's none of your business . " " It's important to me ! Please , Tilda , just tell me ! "

Chapter 417 The Truth " Important to you ? Please . Getting dragged into your family's drama is the last thing I want . What a complete waste of time . " Also , I didn't learn that piece from anyone - it's mine ! That copycat Genevieve stole it and pretended to be me ! " Justin felt like lightning had cracked right through his brain . His head spun so hard that he could barely process it . Tilda didn't care how stunned he looked . She just turned and left . She had no idea that the very video she posted years ago was what saved Justin's life .

Genevieve stole her work just to worm her way close to the Jensons ' power . If Tilda had known , maybe things would've been different . But there was no turning back . By the time Blair and Russell's voices snapped him out of it , Tilda was already gone . " Justin , what's going on ? Are you alright ? Why did you run out after Tilda ? You didn't look good . " " Dad , Mom ... I may have ... misunderstood something important ... Bitterness filled him . His eyes were full of despair . How could he mistake the girl who once saved his life ? How could he say he'd missed Tilda all these years ?

Fate sure had a cruel sense of humor . Why did it have to be Tilda ? That piano piece wasn't just anyone's - it was his sister's ! That was the darkest moment in Justin's life . " 1 Not only had he been lied to , but now the one person he'd been searching for his whole life felt unreachable . At Jenson Villa , Russell and Blair basically dragged Justin inside . He looked spaced out . They kept asking what happened on the way back , but he stayed silent . He looked half - dead , like all the life had been drained out of him .

His parents were freaking out with worry . As soon as Justin got home , he went straight upstairs and slammed his door . He even brushed past Kyla , who tried to greet him in the hallway . Her heart jumped . Out of everyone in the family , Justin had always spoiled her the most . She'd been looking forward to Starlight Dining . After all , it was the second branch of Sky Dining , still in trial runs , sitting right in the middle of the lake at Slosa's biggest park . Justin had promised to take her after he went with their parents .

He'd even patted her head and said something sweet before they left . Why did he come home acting like a stranger , ignoring her completely ? Did something happen at Starlight Dining ? If even Justin was ignoring her , Kyla felt she had no place in this family . Downstairs , Blair and Russell sat in silence , worry written all over their faces . " Honey , do you know what's wrong with Justin ? " Why did he rush after Tilda after hearing her play piano ? And now he's like this ? " Blair was so upset that she completely forgot about her run - in with Tilda at Starlight Dining .

She wasn't about to tell anyone either . Just let me bear the pain of being hurt by my daughter alone . She couldn't let anyone in the Jensons , especially Dominic , know what Tilda had said . If Dominic found out Tilda not only turned her back on them but even wanted them dead in that accident , he'd lose it . " I ... I don't know either . " " It's always the same . Every time Tilda shows up , one of the kids ends up a mess . " Russell let out a heavy sigh . This time , there was no anger , no hate toward Tilda - only regret .

Ever since meeting her again six months ago , he'd been replaying everything he did to her . Now , all he felt was guilt . And the investigators he hired had already told him the scandal was most likely cooked up by Kyla herself . If he'd dropped his bias against Tilda and his blind favoritism toward Kyla , he should've seen the truth a mile away . Back then , Tilda had cleared her name . Who had the most to gain from those staged photos ? It was Kyla . But Russell refused to see it and chose to protect her anyway .

Even after he realized the truth , he still treated Tilda unfairly while standing by Kyla . Nobody would have guessed the sweet , gentle girl they treated as their real daughter could do such a thing .

Chapter 418 Let Me Handle This After Tilda returned to the Jensons for half a month , Kyla had done all kinds of scheming toward her . No wonder Tilda finally broke down and cut ties . Who wouldn't ? Later , Russell kept misunderstanding Tilda . He even tried to slap her , choosing to hurt and insult her instead of asking for the truth . She even dragged him to court , but he still whined like he was cursed with such a terrible daughter . But honestly , all of it was on him . Tilda hadn't done anything wrong .

And yet , without knowing the full story , he still shamelessly tried to make peace . He acted like they could just drop it all and move on . He was way too naive and dumb . If it were that easy , then he'd never owe her anything in the first place . So how were the Jensions ever going to pay for the slanders and the damage they'd dumped on her ? Whatever debt she supposedly owed for being born was already erased by their mistakes . There was nothing left to talk about . Blair saw Russell suffering and could barely hold it together herself . Her heart felt like it was being ripped apart .

She remembered what Tilda whispered in the restroom that she wanted Blair and Dominic dead . It stabbed her chest again and again . The pain was unbearable . But she couldn't share it with anyone . She had to bear it alone . Russell was already drowning in guilt because of Tilda . Why add more to his pain ? God , what did we even do wrong ? If Blair had known searching for Tilda would only bring misery and chaos , maybe she would've listened and stopped . Maybe she would've never looked for her at all .

Then , maybe both the Jensions and Tilda would've had brighter , happier lives . But it was too late for that . " Dad , Mom , why are you still in the living room ? Where's Justin ? " Kayden walked in with Wade right behind him . Wade had just his degree at Orica University . He was planning to head to Endralia in a few days to help Dominic with the business and hoped to be back in time for winter holiday . Kayden , on the other hand , was more into music , not business - same as Justin . So they stayed behind to look after their parents .

They were also waiting for Darell , who was wrapping up his filming and might snag another Best Actor award . Maybe then the family could finally sit down together . Well , everyone except Tilda . " He ... " Russell wanted to explain , but when the moment came , the words stuck in his throat . He was sure Tilda had said something to Justin . That was why his son looked so shaken . But what exactly ? Nobody knew . " Dad , Mom ... 11 Just then , Kyla walked into the living room , her eyes swollen from crying .

For some reason , the way she called him " Dad " this time made Russell's skin prickle . Goosebumps ran down his arms . That had never happened before . Normally , the moment he saw Kyla's teary eyes and pitiful face , he'd rush to comfort her and ask what was wrong . But now , after learning she was behind that scandal that ruined Tilda , everything felt different . " What's wrong , Kyla ? " Blair , still in the dark , hurried over and held her , her chest tightening at the sight of her daughter crying . The family had been on edge for weeks .

Everyone was tangled up with Tilda in some way . Blair worried about Kyla's feelings . But with all they owed Tilda , she barely had the energy to focus on her . " Mom , I just saw Justin . He looked terrifying , and I think he hurt his shoulder . " I tried asking what was wrong , but he just ran to his room . He never

acted like this before . " Mom , did I do something wrong ? Did I make him mad ? I'll fix it . I swear I'll never upset him again . " Her tears soaked Blair's hand . Blair didn't know what to say , so she just comforted her . " Kyla , don't overthink it .

Justin's mood has nothing to do with you . He just ... has some problems right now . " Then , she gave Russell a quick look and led Kyla away to calm her down . Once they left , Russell told Kayden and Wade what had happened . Kayden's chest tightened . Could it be ... Starting to realize the truth , Kayden pursed his lips . " Dad , let me handle this . I'll talk to Justin . " " I'm counting on you . Out of all the kids , you and Justin are the closest . You two share the same interests and work in the same field . "

Chapter 419 Get Some Rest Russell sighed . " Go see Justin . We asked about his shoulder on the way back , but he just stayed quiet and acted off . " " 1 ... Alright , Dad . I'll check on him now . " Kayden turned toward the stairs and walked up to the third floor . He paused outside Justin's room , drew in a deep breath , and knocked lightly on the door . " Justin , it's me , Kayden . " No response from inside . Kayden hesitated , then tried again

" Justin , is it because you figured out that Tilda was the girl from that old piano clip you've been chasing after for years ? " A few seconds later , the door creaked open . Justin looked like life had drained out of him overnight . His eyes were dull , and his dislocated shoulder only made things worse . " Justin , your shoulder ... " " I'm fine . This pain doesn't matter anymore . " Justin didn't bother talking to anyone but Kayden . He was the only one who understood what had changed him . The rest of the family had no clue . Kayden sighed . " I brought the first aid kit .

Let me fix you up , then we can talk about Tilda . " He walked inside without waiting for an answer . Justin's room was plain - just a table , a piano , a desk , some chairs , and a case showing off his piano trophies . On the desk were scattered photos of Justin at competitions and traveling , usually with family by his side . In those photos , he was bright and smiling .

Compared to now ? It was like looking at a different person . Kayden had studied first aid and was certified . In fact , every Jensen kid had to learn it .

They'd been taught since they were kids . If something bad happened , and they didn't know what to do , it could cost a life . Kayden reset Justin's shoulder . " Hiss ! " Justin sucked in a breath , his face tight from the pain . But the relief came quickly after . Kayden carefully treated the shoulder and wrapped it . " Good thing it wasn't your fingers . That would've ended your career . " For a pianist , hands were everything . If he got any injury , he could end his career for good , no matter how talented he was . Even so , a dislocated shoulder was brutal .

" Justin , get some rest tonight . Tomorrow , you need to get a full checkup at the hospital . " I know you're hurting , but avoiding it won't help . You need to face it . " ... Yeah , I know . " After a while , Justin calmed down a little . He was sitting on the bed with his knees pulled up , his head full of heavy thoughts . " Justin , so that girl was Tilda ? Not Ms. Lichtenstein ? You're sure ? " Yeah , I'm sure . It was Tilda . Her playing touched me in a way Genevieve never could . " There's something in the original performance nobody can copy ... Damn it , she saved me .

How could I mistake her for someone else ?! " Justin slammed his fist against his head in anger . " Justin ! Stop ! " Kayden grabbed Justin's arm to keep him from hurting himself . " This isn't on you . " " No , Kayden , it is ! I screwed up . How could I have been so wrong ? Damn it ! " voice cracked , tears building up . " You don't understand ... Tilda means everything to me . " If she hadn't been there , I wouldn't even be who I am today . " I'd probably be lost , trapped in my own head . " Her piano saved me .

She meant more than anything , and still , I mistook her for the wrong person ... Kayden had never seen Justin so broken with guilt . It was even worse than when he lost Tilda before . For once , Kayden had no words to make things better . He just waited quietly for Justin to calm down . " So , Genevieve only got close to you because of your status and our family's power . She lied to you on purpose . " That bitch ! I'll never forgive her ! " Kayden's fists clenched hard . He had never hated a woman so much in his life . Genevieve was supposed to be a top - tier pianist .

But just to get close to the Jensions , she lied to Justin and twisted the truth .

Chapter 420 Face Reality That debt wasn't something that could just disappear . " Yeah , she lied . But the real fool is me . I couldn't even see through Genevieve . " You're sharper than me , Kayden . You warned me plenty of times , but I wouldn't listen . I just kept thinking I finally found ... " The more Justin spoke , the heavier his guilt grew , until he couldn't forgive himself at all . It felt like thorny vines wrapped around his chest , stabbing him over and over . No blood , but the pain was worse than anything else

Justin , there's something I've been hiding from you . I'm sorry . " Kayden had no choice now . He had to explain what happened when he went to Motrar . " My perfect pitch and gut told me Tilda's tone and style back then matched the girl you always talked about . " But you know how things stand between her and us . I asked , but she refused to say anything . " I never heard the original piece , so I couldn't be 100 % sure . That's why I doubted when you thought it was Genevieve . " you , " Kayden , I'll pull myself together . Tomorrow I'll get my shoulder checked . I'm exhausted .

Go get some rest . " " Justin , don't shut me out . I'm seriously worried . " Kayden bit his lip and held onto Justin's hand Justin gave a small , forced smile . " Don't worry . You're right . We have to deal with the

truth and the future . If I keep acting like this , Tilda will just look down on me even more . " Before , if Tilda despised him , Justin could blame it on the family feud and let it go . It didn't bother him much . But now ? Even if the whole world thought he was worthless , he couldn't stand her looking down on him . Because she mattered more than anyone .

She wasn't only his younger sister .

She was the girl who saved him, the one he had chased after for years . And even now , nothing had changed . " ... Got it . " After Kayden left the room and shut the door , Russell and the others hurried over . " So ? What did Justin say ? " Kayden forced a calm smile . " I treated his shoulder . He'll go to the hospital tomorrow , so relax . " " That's good . You always handle things well . " Russell and the rest finally felt like a load had been lifted . Only Wade still looked uneasy .

He knew whatever broke Justin had to do with Tilda . That wasn't a small matter . But Wade didn't know what was going on . Since both Kayden and Justin kept silent , Wade couldn't dig for answers . The next morning , Kyla got a strange text . It came from an unknown number . " I need your help . Do it , and you can name your price . " Last night , Kyla faked tears and pretended to cry herself to sleep in Blair's arms . Blair had no choice but to stay with her . Kyla kept pretending to have nightmares and cried nonstop , leaving Blair feeling awful and comforting her again and again .

Only when she'd had enough did she let Blair finally sleep . By the time Kyla woke , Blair was already gone . No matter how much she cried , Blair wouldn't spill anything about Justin . Kyla was certain it was Tilda again . Damn it ! Why is Tilda always around , always messing with the people closest to me ? She was the girl who saved him , the one he had chased after for years . And even now , nothing had changed . " ... Got it . " After Kayden left the room and shut the door , Russell and the others hurried over . " So ?

What did Justin say ? " Kayden forced a calm smile . " I treated his shoulder . He'll go to the hospital tomorrow , so relax . " " That's good . You always handle things well . " Russell and the rest finally felt like a load had been lifted . Only Wade still looked uneasy . He knew whatever broke Justin had to do with Tilda . That wasn't a small matter . But Wade didn't know what was going on . Since both Kayden and Justin kept silent , Wade couldn't dig for answers . The next morning , Kyla got a strange text . It came from an unknown number . " I need your help .

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Why is Tilda always around , always messing with the people closest to me ?

That devil ! Why isn't she gone yet ? Why ?! So when Kyla saw the text , she didn't pay it much attention . It was just a random number . Probably a scam . If she answered , she'd probably end up hacked . Meanwhile , Genevieve was staring at her phone . la still hadn't replied . amn it ! Genevieve couldn't risk calling directly . She had no idea what Kyla was truly like .

If Kyla was as straight - laced and kind as everyone said , Genevieve would be the second she tried anything . After all , Kyla might rat her out to the Jensions . Genevieve checked the text she'd sent Justin , but it was like it had vanished . She knew he wasn't going to believe her again . He knew she had lied and used him from the start . Now she needed to leave quickly . There was no way she could handle the Jensions ' revenge . Night fell . Nightingale Bar , second floor , riverside seats . " Cheers ! " Tilda clinked her glass against Una's . Una took a sip .

Feeling the icy - blue cocktail sliding across her lips , she shivered . " Wow ! This new drink looks amazing and tastes even better . I'm obsessed . " " Yeah , no wonder it's the hottest bar in Slosa . "