

Shadows 461

Chapter461 The Charm Against Dreams Silva raised both hands like she was surrendering . " Fine , I give up ." " Told you , Silva . Why can't you just believe me ? I really said the same thing to Darell . " You look like you're close to Darell . If you don't believe me , ask him yourself . " Right then , Silva's phone buzzed . She glanced at the screen and shook her head at Tilda . " Well , speak of the devil Look - Darell just texted me . " " You two go ahead and talk , " Tilda said , standing up . " I promised my friends I'd hang out with them today .

Don't want my good mood ruined by seeing him ." Silva smiled slyly , testing the waters . " I have met you . Do you mind if I share this with Darell ? " Tilda dabbed her lips with a napkin , rose from her seat , and smirked . " Go ahead . I don't mind ." Darell walked into the hotel buffet . Silva was waiting . He sat down , ignoring the stares that followed him , and spoke in a low voice , " Sorry to keep you waiting . " Silva said , " I didn't wait for a long time . I just ran into Tilda . " "I know . She's staying at this hotel . " At her name , the air grew heavy .

Silva's eyes flicked to the dark circles around Darell's eye . " You had the dream again , didn't you ? " " This time it was different . Not the fire . I dreamed Tilda died . Someone set up a memorial . photo for her . Then my brother smashed it ." Darell explained flatly , his words short and sharp . Silva rubbed her chin . " Sounds like a soap opera .. interesting . " " Damn it , my head hurts . Ms. Silva , do you have a way to make these dreams stop ? They're just dreams . None of this will ever happen .

Tilda's alive and well . Nobody could take her down even if they tried ." Darell clenched his jaw . He didn't care where the dreams came from anymore . He only wanted them gone . Tilda knew something , but she wasn't talking Why should I suffer alone ? " I might have a way , " Silva sighed . She pulled a charm from her pocket and set it on the table . " This is a Nomari charm , an offering to the spirit of dreams . Wear it around your neck before you sleep . It should cut down the number of dreams you have . " Darell stared at the little charm , with red string wrapped tight around it .

His eyes were conflicted . " You knew I'd ask for this ? Funny , isn't it ? I never believed in this stuff before . And now , I'm pinning all my hope on a trinket . " He paused , then asked , " Did Tilda mention meeting me last night ? " " She did . She also said she has no idea about your dreams . " No idea ? Darell's gut told him Tilda was lying . " No matter what , if this charm can stop those strange dreams , I don't want to dig into it any further . Without hesitation , Darell hung the charm Silva gave him around his neck . " Thank you , Ms. Silva . I owe you a huge favor for this .

If you ever need my help , I swear on my name - I'll do everything I can . " With that , Darell turned to leave . " Mr. Jenson , I know you don't like this topic , " Silva said calmly . " But your abilities are awakening . Your sensitivity to these things is far stronger than mine . One day this charm won't be able to hold back your dreams . When that time comes , it'll be up to you how to face it . " " I'll keep that in mind ." Darell replied .

" And I may have found another way to end

nightmares for good ." E Fimched He had already booked his flight back to Slosa for today . At first , he had planned to stay in Jeselton a bit longer to handle something . But now he knew there was no point . He had to return to the Jensions right away - uncover what really happened between Tilda and his family during the last few months . If he could trace the source , maybe he could put an end to these twisted dreams once and for all .

At eleven in the morning , Tilda and Una finally set out to meet Andy for lunch . " I'm so sleepy , Tilda , " Una whined , curling up against her in the back seat , eyes already shut . " You only have yourself to blame , " Tilda teased , tugging at Una's hair . " You stayed up partying until Tive in the morning . No wonder you're exhausted . " " Ow , ow , sorry , Tilda ! " Una pouted . " I already regret messing up my sleep schedule . Let me nap a little now , so I'll have the energy to enjoy the day with you and Andy .

" To escape Tilda's scolding , Una buried her face in Tilda's arms and kept acting spoiled . The driver glanced at them through the rearview mirror with a puzzled look , half - wondering if the two girls were actually a couple .

Chapter 462 The Tail in the Rearview Theo beautiful girls together . Well , it was kind of nice to look at . Just then , out of the corner of her eye , Tilda caught a reflection in the car's rearview mirror . Her heart sank . That car ... Had it been following us the whole time ? She remembered the plate number clearly . JA0983E8 . Ever since they left the hotel , the car had been trailing behind . Tilda's instincts , sharpened by years as Queen of the Dark Web , screamed danger .

Even if there was no proof , even if it was just a hunch , anything that felt like a threat had to be cut off at the root . That was the rule to survive in the underground world . When you had enemies everywhere , you didn't gamble with your life . She glanced at Una , who was smiling without a clue about the danger . Pulling out her phone , Tilda sent Andy a quick text . " Andy , I've got a problem . Check this plate number , JA0983ES . " The reply came fast . " Someone tailing you ? " " I can feel it . " " Got it . " Andy had been her closest partner in the Dark Web for years .

Their trust and understanding ran so deep , a single word or look was enough . It didn't take Andy long to dig up the record . " Chevy . The car owner checks out normal . " Then another line followed . " But if someone from the Dark Web is on you , they'd have their car perfectly covered . " Tilda ... Don't tell me

you've been exposed ." The thought chilled him . Even the Queen herself would face ruin if her true identity leaked . Tilda typed back calmly . " I checked . No sign my data's been cracked .

So it's not one of on the Web . That possibility crossed off , she frowned . " Then who could it be ? " my rivals " Leaving the Dark Web aside , there are plenty of people in the real world who'd like to see me dead . The only question is - who ? The Bells ? Or the Jensons ? " The people Tilda had offended mainly came from these two powerful families . Both had the money and connections to hire killers , track her down , and erase every trace of her existence . " Do you have a plan ? " she asked . " I've got an idea , but I'll need your help , Andy . " " You don't need to ask .

Just tell me what you need . I'll listen . " " Alright ." Tilda acted as if she didn't know someone was following her . She brought Una and Andy to the meeting spot . " Tilda , Una . " Andy waved , a backpack in hand . " Here . Everything you asked me to prepare is ready . " He gave Tilda a quick look , then handed her the bag . " Thanks , Andy . " " What's in there ? " Una asked curiously . Tilda grinned . " Surprise . Can't tell you yet . "

Una just sighed . Once again , she was the only one left out of the secret .

That day , the three of them went to the biggest amusement park in Jeselton . They laughed , played , and tried to forget themselves in the fun . But Tilda never stopped checking the shadow trailing behind them . One glance at Andy , and they exchanged an unspoken signal . Suddenly , Tilda clutched her stomach and frowned uneasily . " I don't feel good . I need the restroom . " " Tilda , was it something we ate for lunch ? Andy and I are fine , though ." Una's face filled with concern . " Do you need to see a doctor ? " Una had no idea what Tilda was planning .

She only looked at her with concern . " Nature calls , Una . Why don't you and Andy go thank the park manager ? He gave us these tickets . It's polite to show some gratitude ." " But Tilda- " You two go . I might be a while . I'll find you when I'm done ." Since Tilda wouldn't change her mind , Una finally gave up and left with Andy . The moment they were gone , Tilda rushed into the nearest women's restroom . The man tailing her hesitated . As a man , walking into the ladies ' room would draw too much attention . If Tilda caught on , the whole plan would backfire . So he waited outside .

Inside , Tilda made sure he hadn't followed . She slipped into an empty stall , locked the door , and opened Andy's backpack . In seconds , she pulled out the gear . A wig , makeup , a change of clothes - everything she needed . After finishing her disguise , Tilda moved quickly . She swung herself up and climbed out through the vent window above the women's restroom . The reason she had chosen this

restroom and faked a stomachache was simple - she had studied the park map earlier . She knew the vent here was just wide enough for her body to slip through .

Resumes Circling around , she came back to the front of the restroom : A0 Now , in full disguise , even Una wouldn't recognize her . Tilda looked like a completely different person .

Chapter 463 The Bugged Mission The man that followed her around didn't recognize her . He stayed put , holding a magazine , sitting on a bench . On the surface , he looked like he was reading . In truth , his eyes never left the women's restroom entrance . Tilda walked by with a cup of coffee , acting casual . As she passed him , she stumbled on purpose . " Darn it ! " she blurted , The coffee splashed all over him . " Oh , I'm so sorry , " she said quickly . Her voice changed , speaking in a fluent foreign accent . " Hey ! Hands off ! " The man shot back , startled .

He answered in a foreign language and hurriedly put a distance between them . He told Tilda not to worry about this and hurried away without making a scene . Tilda's lips curled into a cold smile . She went into the restroom , changed her look in the mirror , and pulled out her phone . She opened an app . Perfect . The bug is in place . She clipped on a pair of wireless earbuds . Through them , she could hear the tiny device attached to the man . He was fumbling with his clothes now , checking for odd things . He'd feel safer after a quick once - over .

This man had no idea the bug was Tilda's own creation . A nano - sized mechanical device .

The Bugged Mission- Once activated , it latched onto a target and crawled directly onto their skin . No one could find it just by searching their clothes . As a hacker , building and upgrading devices like this was one of Tilda's hobbies . BEW After perfecting the design , she handed the method to Andy , who managed to produce a few more . The hardest part wasn't the coding but finding the rare parts . Even Andy didn't have many .

The device was good enough to pass the security scans of Bloodveil , the top assassin network on the Dark Web . Their systems couldn't detect it . Only the highest - level government - grade body scanner could . In Cetherland , there was exactly one machine like that . It had cost billions , built with rare electronic materials and years of work from top scientists . If someone really had access to that scanner and still wanted to go after Tilda , she'd almost feel flattered .

Through her earbuds , she listened to the man shuffling his clothes , clearly searching himself for anything strange . He came up empty . Tilda left the restroom and headed to the meeting point Andy had sent her . Andy gave a small smile . " All done ? " " Yeah . Taken care of , " Tilda said , pointing to her

earbuds . Una pouted . " What are you two whispering about ? " Tilda ruffled her hair and said , " Just saying you look beautiful . " " Hmph . Don't think sweet talk could fool me . Hey , that feels nice . Don't stop . " : Night fell . Una had played all day and was tired .

She went back to the hotel to take a shower .

That left Tilda and Andy alone . Ac 8630 They borrowed a hotel meeting room , locked the door , and shut down the cameras - leaving no trace behind . They'd left the amusement park around five in the afternoon . The car had stopped following them and drove off . Tilda kept listening to the tail through her carpiece , but she learned nothing new . Using the bug's signal , they traced the follower's location . Andy tapped the map on his laptop .

" He's staying at a no - ID motel off the third beltway , " he said . " The kind that doesn't ask for papers . " " Just like we thought , " Tilda replied . " But if he's been following us all day , why hasn't he checked in with whoever hired him ? " " Maybe he hasn't found anything worth reporting yet , " Andy guessed . " No need to call it in . " They ran more guesses while Tilda hacked into the motel's nearby cameras . " No cameras inside the room , " she said . " The only feed points at the window . You can't see anyone in there .

" " For now , our advantage is that he hasn't found the bug I planted , " Tilda added . She pressed her lips together . " We need a chance to get into his room and plant a hidden camera . And he must not notice . " " Leave that to me , " Andy said . " Jeselton's my turf . I've got people for this . " " Thanks , Andy , " Tilda said . Just then they heard a faint rustling sound . The laptop speakers amplified it into a low , rhythmic hum . Andy scowled . " What is that ? Morse code ? No - doesn't sound right . " " They're using a Morse - like code , " she said .

" Some kind of custom reporting pattern they created . " She recorded the sound and fed it into the search database she'd built .

Chapter 464 The Spider's Web Because she had earned the trust of Benedict and Wesley , Tilda now had clearance to use Cetherland's top - level database . She ran the search across both systems , tracing the source of the strange audio clip . " It looks like the people watching you are no small players . " Even their reports are handled in secret . But too bad for them ... Anyone who targeted the Queen of the Dark Web was doomed . Like a fly that had fallen into a spider's web - wrapped tight in the silk before it even knew it was caught . There was no escape .

The real danger was Tilda's identity as Queen would be exposed . But now she wasn't fighting alone anymore . She had officially joined Cetherland's Cyber Security Center , which meant she had the protection of the government . It was a lot safer than the days when she worked solo . Soon , the database search was complete . When Tilda saw the result , her eyes narrowed , sharp and dangerous .

Andy asked , " This is the fifth - ranked killer group on the Dark Web - Skin ? " Tilda , did someone on the Dark Web figure out who you really are and send Skin to hunt you down ?

" " Too little information to be sure . But honestly , do they think this is enough ? They're underestimating me . They know who I am and only send the fifth - ranked group after me ? " Tilda gave a cold laugh . She had kept a low profile on the Dark Web for too long . Did they really think just anyone could take her out ? " Andy , I need a favor . " " I know . It's about Una's safety , right ? Don't worry . I'll handle it . "

Tilda stood and moved past him to the window , her eyes dark as the night outside . " Una is too innocent .

She shouldn't be dragged into this mess . Jeselton is dangerous now . Send her back to Slosa . I'll have Comet Squad protect her on the way . " Andy agreed right away . " I'll take care of it . My team isn't weak . Like you said , sending just the fifth - ranked killers to block us ? What a joke . " He pulled out his phone and began setting up the arrangements for tomorrow . Tonight would be a sleepless one for Tilda . But at least she now knew which group was behind this . Once she broke into their servers , she could uncover the real reason they were after her .

Groups like Skin always recorded their deals and payments . If her identity as Queen had really leaked , their database would definitely show it . Meanwhile , Darell's plane had just landed . " Darell ! " " Darell ! " The family had already gotten the news and was waiting for him at the airport . Dragging his suitcase , Darell stepped out alone . Russell and the others hurried to meet him . Blair scolded gently . " Why are you coming out by yourself ? No bodyguards at all ? You're a superstar . What if fans mobbed you ? " " I didn't announce my flight . No one knew .

The company protects my information well , " Darell said calmly . Then , with a softer look that only family ever saw , he added , " I've been in this business a long time , Mom . I know how to handle myself . Don't worry ." Russell stepped forward , laid a hand on his son's shoulder , and said with emotion , " It's good enough that you're back . We haven't seen you for days . You've lost weight . Shooting on closed sets and traveling all over the world must've been hard on you ." Darell smiled faintly . " It's fine , Dad . This is the path I chose , the honor I'm chasing .

No matter how tough it gets , I'll endure . Because I know - after the struggle , when I finally get what I've worked for - the achievement is worth more than anything ." Russell laughed proudly . " Well said ! That's my son . " Darell looked past his parents toward Justin and Kayden . " Hey , guys . It's been a while

. " " Darell ! " they called out in unison . But Darell didn't miss the faint bruises near their eyes . They smiled , happy to see him , but the bruises told another story . Something had happened at home .

Both of his younger siblings carried the weight of it . Finally , Darell's gaze stopped on Kyla . ~~W~~ Finisher Kyla seized her chance and put up her performance . " Darell , it's really been so long . I've missed you so much , " she said sweetly , lowering her head like a girl waiting for affection . Everyone else watched with warm , approving smiles , as if this moment between Darell and Kyla was the perfect family scene . Darell almost reached out , ready to pat her head in response . But then - he remembered the dream .

In that dream , he heard Kyla's fake , syrupy voice calling out , " Daddy ! Mommy ! "

Chapter 465 The Broken Memorial Frame The memory of Tilda's memorial frame shattering on the floor froze Darell's hand in midair . For reasons he couldn't explain , he didn't want to touch Kyla . Not at all . He pulled his hand back and said , stiffly , " Kyla . Long time no see . " Kyla flushed with awkwardness . She stood there , humiliated , wishing she could disappear . Her face had gone pale . " Hmm ... yeah , Darell . Long time no see , " she managed . Kyla knew Darell had always kept her at arm's length . Any affection he had shown before was merely a facade to appease the family .

Still , of all her brothers , Kyla liked Darell the most . It wasn't just because he was handsome and aloof . Darell was in show business . He had won the award she had always dreamed of . Because Darell barely noticed her , Kyla's competitive streak flared , making her want his attention all the more . She had won over the whole family , making them dote on her without ever noticing her flaws . But with Darell it didn't work . Kyla's perfect act - and her pride - wouldn't allow her to fail like this . Even after all these years , Darell was still against her .

Kyla herself didn't know what she'd done wrong . Everyone else was caught up in the joyful moment and didn't notice Kyla's odd reaction . They helped Darell into the car and drove straight home . On the ride , Darell fought down his curiosity . He didn't ask about Tilda . His gut told him Tilda had become a wound for his family . Only after they reached home did Darell roughly explain what had happened to him over the last half year .

After that , he turned to his parents with a serious look .

" Dad , Mom , " he said , " I rushed back from filming in Jeselton because I need to know what happened between Tilda and our family The room fell silent the moment he said Tilda's name . Justin and Kayden had expected Darell to ask about her - just not so soon . As soon as someone brought up Tilda , the two

brothers felt a pain they couldn't put into words . They had tried so hard to forget her , but they couldn't . It sat in their chests like a deep thorn , stabbing now and then . No remedy could ease it .

Whenever they tried to pretend the wound wasn't there , someone would mention her by accident . The scar would tear open again . It would never fade - impossible to forget , even in a lifetime . Russell and Blair's faces darkened . But the one shaken the most was Kyla . She lowered her head , fists clenched so tightly that her nails dug into her palms . She used the pain to keep herself awake and steady . Her chest burned with fury . In her mind , all she could see was Tilda's smug smile - a smile she longed to slash away with a blade . Russell let out a heavy sigh .

" Darell , you just got back from Jeselton . After such a long flight , you must be exhausted . Why don't we talk about Tilda tomorrow ? " " Dad , I know Tilda has shaken our family . But the reason I rushed back was because of her . I saw her in Jeselton and I also saw things I never thought were real . Things I still can't understand . I need to know what really happened between Tilda and our family , or I'll never have peace of mind . " " You you saw her in Jeselton ? She's there ? " ... Their eyes widened in disbelief . None of them had expected it . Jeselton was such a huge city .

Frame How could Darell and Tilda have crossed paths ? " It's fate - bad fate , " Russell groaned . His chest ached with grief . " What did we do in another life to deserve this kind of punishment now ? " Russell clutched his chest , his face twisting with pain and sorrow . He was convinced they must have owed Tilda something far worse than a single life . And now , in this lifetime , they were trapped , tangled deeper and deeper in her shadow, unable to escape .

Blair's mind flashed back to that day in the restaurant restroom , when Tilda coldly admitted she never intended to save Blair or Dominic . She had even thought about paying someone to kill them in secret . Even now , hearing Tilda's name , Blair couldn't stop herself from asking , her voice trembling . " When did you see her ? Did she say anything ? Is she doing okay ? " Her heart quivered with those questions . Tilda hated them . She hated Blair , hated Dominic , and hated everything tied to this family . And at the root of it all , it was Blair's cold indifference years ago .

That blind favoritism toward Kyla . Even though Tilda had saved Blair and her eldest son's lives , Blair couldn't forget . Every day back in Slosa , the memory haunted her . What mistake had she made that brought them to this point ? At last , she came to one conclusion . She had never been a good mother .

Chapter 466 A Painful Truth Finisher The whole mess had driven Tilda to the edge . She cut all ties with the Jenson's , walked away from them . Everything that followed was Blair's doing . She was the one who had ruined their family . Tilda wanted them gone . Blair could understand that kind of rage . And yet , even with all that anger in her heart , Tilda still saved them and helped the country . That kind of

strength and vision shook Blair to her core . She couldn't help but feel pride in Tilda . Tilda was incredible . Even crises the government couldn't solve , Tilda had handled with ease .

" She's doing fine , " Russell said quietly . " But her hatred for us is impossible to mend . In her eyes we don't exist . She doesn't care about us anymore ." He pictured Tilda in Jeselton , laughing and having fun with her friends . Then he thought of the way she had treated Darell - shaming him , even hitting him . Darell still felt the dull ache in his stomach . Just thinking about that day in the hotel , when Tilda had kicked him , made it throb all the worse . Seeing her again had been worse than not seeing her at all .

Not only had he been kicked , but he also hadn't gotten the answers he wanted . Tilda was living well . Hearing Darell admit it cut deeper than anyone had expected . Even though Russell and the others had braced themselves , his words landed like a knife to the heart . It didn't draw blood . But it hurt more than any wound .

So this was the truth : Tilda had torn the family apart , leaving everyone in misery , while she herself enjoyed her life with friends .

They once thought that even if she severed ties with the family , she might still feel a trace of longing . But they had been fooling themselves . They were the only ones left with guilt . " I get it . I'll tell you everything , " Russell said at last . He kept his words short , but he shared enough of what had happened between Tilda and the family . If he tried to tell it all , it would take ten days and nights and still not be . When Darell finally heard everything , he fell silent . He had expected things to be bad .

But he had never imagined so much could happen in just six months and that he had been kept in the dark the whole time . Blair hurried to explain , " Son , don't blame your dad ; this was my idea . While you were holed up working , we couldn't let you get distracted . " Justin added , " They also kept us in the dark . We only found out when we came home . " " I know you were only trying to help . I just didn't expect- " Darell had just learned that Tilda had saved Blair and Dominic's lives . She'd done things even Endralsia couldn't manage .

Seeing Tilda now , he would never have guessed she had that kind of power . In a real sense , she had saved the family . It was a lot to take in . Darell felt his head spinning . If everything that had happened was the same as in his dream ... was it real ? They would never kill Tilda . They would never smash her memorial frame . about the future Maybe , as Silva had said , there was another possibility . It was a dream from a parallel world .

Damn it !

Darell , who had always clung to science , was starting to believe in impossible things . The thought made him feel sick . " I'm sorry ! " Suddenly Kyla couldn't hold it in any longer . She collapsed to the floor , sobbing . She covered her face as tears rolled down . Everyone jumped . " Kyla , what's wrong ? " " I know how important Tilda is to everyone . If it weren't for me . If it weren't for what I did- " She choked on the words . " Tilda probably would have forgiven everyone and come home . But she's avoiding me . That's why she won't come back to Mom and Dad ! " I'm not even blood .

Everything I have - being treated like a princess - that's all because everyone's kindness . It's a miracle . " Mom , Dad , I want to leave this house . I want to go far away . If I'm gone , maybe Tilda will forgive you and come back . " With that , Kyla ran out of the living room . " Kyla ! " they called after her . No one had expected such an outburst . Everyone was shocked . Blair hurried after her to soothe her . Justin and Kayden followed . Kyla slammed her door shut . " Kyla , open the door . Don't make me worry ! " Blair shouted . " Yeah , Kyla . We didn't mean that !

" " You're the same as Tilda , " Justin called . " You're one of us . You're our sister ! "

They kept knocking on her door , calling out to her . " Thank you all for trying ; I appreciate your kindness , " Kyla said from behind the door . " But my mind is made up . I know if I don't leave , Tilda will never come back ."

Chapter 467 A Daughter's Despair " For this family to go back to the happy place it used to be , full of laughter , I have to leave ! I have to go ! " Kyla sobbed so hard her voice broke . Her words tore at Blair's heart and left everyone else shaken . This was the very thing they feared most . Day to day , they rarely mentioned Tilda . Everyone worried that Kyla would think too much about how their attitude toward Tilda had changed . " Kyla , don't be so foolish . As long as I'm alive , you will always be a Jensons . You will always be my daughter ! " Blair's voice trembled .

" No one has the right to drive you out of this family . Kyla , please open the door . Don't scare me . You know my health hasn't been good lately . " Her voice cracked , tears filling her eyes . " If you leave me too , how will I go on ? I wouldn't have the strength to keep living . " As Blair spoke , her eyes filled with tears . Her voice trembled , and then she broke into a fit of violent coughing . " Mom ? " " Mom ! " Kyla finally pulled open the door . Her face was streaked with tears and snot , her eyes swollen red . She rushed into Blair's arms , clinging to her . " Mom , I'm sorry .

I didn't mean to worry you . But I feel so useless . I can't help with anything . Because of me , Tilda hates us too much to come home . I don't even know why I should stay in this house anymore . " I know everyone wants Tilda to come home . I - I just don't belong here . I can leave . Tilda is so much better than me . She's stronger , smarter , everything I'm not . Mom , you should bring her back . I don't

deserve to be your daughter ." " Enough , Kyla . Don't say another word ! " Blair cried , cutting her off . " Tilda has already cut ties with us .

I've lost my real daughter - I can't lose the only one I have left ! " Despair She pressed her hand over Kyla's mouth , hugging her so tightly that her own shoulders shook . Blair's eyes shut , tears running down her face . Kyla broke down completely in her arms , crying out loud . The sight was heartbreakin . Kayden and Justin stood nearby , lowering their heads . Their noses stung , and their eyes blurred with tears . Dear God , what had they done to deserve this ? Why couldn't there be a way to have both ? Tilda was their beloved sister . But so was Kyla .

Why couldn't Tilda forgive them , return to the family , and accept Kyla's place in it ? Only Russell and Darell stayed in the living room . From upstairs came the sound of sobbing . Neither of them moved . Darell raised his brows in surprise . " Dad , aren't you going to check on them ? " In the past , if Blair or Kyla cried like that , Russell would have rushed up right away . His heart torn apart , desperate to comfort Kyla before anyone else . But now Russell pressed his lips tightly together . " What's the point ?

Your mom and your brothers are already with her ." He couldn't bring himself to say the real reason . Because Russell knew the truth . Back then , his misunderstanding about Tilda had driven her leave the family . Kyla was the mastermind behind the scheme . Even if the investigation wasn't completely confirmed yet , the thought alone chilled him to the bone . Behind that sweet , innocent face of the girl he thought was pure and kind lurked a heart darker than anyone imagined . A daughter's Despair Russell shuddered at the thought .

For the first time , he felt real fear of Kyla , My God , all these years , how had none of them seen through her ? He had always thought Blair understood Kyla better , but he had raised her , spoiled her , and watched her grow . Russell thought he knew his daughter . But after learning the truth of what she had done , he couldn't escape the thought . He had failed as a father . Russell had never truly understood his beloved daughter . And worse , he had misunderstood about his real daughter and driven her away .

Speaking of seeing through Kyla as who she was , maybe Darell had always seen what the rest of them refused to . Russell's gaze slid toward Darell . " Darell , " Russell said slowly , " I know you've never liked Kyla . You treated her kindly only for our sake . Why is that ? Why don't you like her ? " Darell froze , startled by the question . He had not expected it from his father . Darell studied his father carefully . " Dad , did you find out something ? " Russell opened his mouth . But in the end , he couldn't say it . Russell couldn't reveal that Kyla had plotted against Tilda .

" I don't know , " he murmured instead . " I want to hear your answer ." Deep down , he still clung to a shred of hope . He hoped the investigators he had sent were wrong . Somehow , there was still a chance to set things right . Darell hesitated . " Dad , I never wanted to say this . Because if I do , you'll probably be furious with me . "

Chapter 468 Doubts About Kyla 10 " It's fine . Just tell me how you really feel about Kyla . No matter what you say , I won't blame you With Russell's promise , Darell noticed his father's attitude toward Kyla had changed . That could only mean Russell had sensed something . After a pause , Darell decided to finally speak his mind . " Dad , you know acting is my greatest passion . For that reason , I can read people better than most . I can tell when someone is pretending . " When I'm around Kyla , when I see her smile , I often feel like she's putting on an act .

It doesn't always feel real . " Of course , sometimes she is sincere . But other times , I feel like she's only playing the role of the perfect sister , the daughter everyone adores in this family . " As for the real Kyla , she hides herself deep inside , never letting us see it . " Everyone has secrets , even family . I understand that . But I believe Kyla is hiding more than w ever imagined . " For the first time , Darell let out the thoughts he had carried for years .

In the past , if he had said this to anyone in the family , they would've thought he'd lost his mind How could he doubt Kyla - the sweet , innocent sister they all trusted ? But this time , Russell wore a strange look on his face after he listened . " Dad , what happened ? If this were before , you would've scolded me right away . " Now Darell was certain - Russell must have discovered some of Kyla's secrets . Russell sighed . " I don't have solid proof yet . Give me some time . When I know for sure , I'll tell you . " Just as he , Russell's phone rang .

He pulled it out , glanced at the caller ID , and his heart thudded . Russell was so anxious that he nearly dropped the phone . It was Kol Field , the very man Russell had once sent to investigate how the scandal of his daughter being switched at birth went viral .

" Dad ? " Darell stepped forward . Russell quickly raised a hand , stopping him . " I need to take this call . " He drew in a deep breath , turned his back to Darell , and pressed the button to answer . " Hello ?

Kol , calling me at this hour , does it mean you've found the answer to what I asked you to investigate ? " " Yes , Mr. Jenson . Are you able to take a video call now ? After I found him and heard the truth , I knew I had to report to you right away . " The urgency in Kol's voice made Russell's heart sink . Something bad had to have happened . He already had a guess , but he still sighed quietly . " Alright , connect the call . "

When the screen switched to video , Russell saw Kol standing with a man trembling on his knees behind him - Stan . Russell's voice was icy . " Mr.

Read , long time no see . " " M - Mr . Jenson ! " Stan looked like a terrified rat , shaking all over . " Please , don't kill me ! Don't kill me ! I was wrong ! I was wrong . I should never have helped Ms. Kyla to frame Ms. Tilda ! Please don't silence me . Spare my life ! I swear on all my family - I won't tell anyone . I'll keep my mouth shut ! " What ?! Even though Russell had already braced himself , hearing Stan confess still hit like a hammer . It was Kyla . She was the one who had set it all up . She made everyone believe lies about Tilda , dragging Tilda's name through the mud .

Russell had a hard time accepting the truth . His chest filled with grief , guilt , and unbearable pain . How could she ?

Doubts About Kyla Kyla was his daughter ! They had never treated her poorly . Fistation Why would she stoop to such a cruel and dirty trick ? Why destroy Tilda , making Russell believe the lies , forcing Tilda to leave in despair ? Russell thought of that day , when Kyla had cried her heart out , screaming with guilt . Not a trace of it had seemed fake . The memory now sent an icy chill through him .

A cold dread surged up from the depths of his heart . The chill sank so deep , it froze him from the inside out , reaching all the way to his bones . Terrifying ! This girl is terrifying . The Kyla everyone thought was innocent , kind , and pure had fooled them for years . Nobody had seen her true face . Russell had been too blind , too naïve . He had never really known this daughter - not once . Instead , he had thought he'd adopted an angel who had saved their family . Disgusting ! He felt sick with himself , ashamed to the point of tears .

Behind him , Darell caught pieces of the conversation . He couldn't hear it all , but one word stood out clear as day - Kyla .

Chapter 469 The Truth About Kyla Darell frowned but didn't interrupt . He waited until the video call ended . " Mr. Jenson , " Kol said , " when I found Stan , he looked completely broken . He wasn't living like someone who had taken the money and disappeared overseas . That's why it took me so long to track him down . I only managed it with help from an informant . He's been hiding in a small town in Motrar , doing under - the - table jobs . The pay was terrible . He was crammed into a damp , tiny shack just to survive . " Russell's voice turned cold . " What happened ? " Stan froze .

" Wasn't it you Wasn't it you who sent people to kill me ? " Russell refused to accept the baseless blame . He asked , " I sent people to hunt you down ? That's impossible ! What really happened ? Speak ! " " It wasn't you ? " Stan's face twisted with rage . " Then it had to be Kyla ! That bitch had tricked me ! " . His words spilled out in fury . " I always thought it was you who wanted me silenced . I never imagined it

was Kyla . When everything fell apart , she knew I framed Ms. Tilda . She secretly gave me a lot of cash and told me to take my family and run overseas . I did as she said .

We went to Motrar , and I planned to buy fake IDs so we could start over . But the boat we took sank My family drowned . I was the only one who made it out alive . And since then , people have been hunting me down . To stay alive , I've been hiding here ." The only person who could pull off something like this was none other than Russell , the chairman of the Jenson Group . At first , Stan never suspected Kyla . She was only a freshman in college back then - young , innocent - looking , with an angel's face . Nobody would think she had the heart to murder his entire family .

Her methods felt more like something Russell would do - cutting off loose ends to protect the family reputation . Stan had no idea that Russell knew nothing about it . That left only one possibility . The person who stood to gain the most was Kyla .

After Russell took in Stan's hateful words , he stood frozen . Kyla ? She killed so many people ? But his daughter was only eighteen . She always looked so sweet , so kind . Yet behind her harmless smile , she had done something this cruel ? All while living in their home , pressed close to them every day ?

The thought alone sent a chill straight through him . Russell's stomach churned so hard he thought he might throw up . This was the girl he had trusted and cherished for so many years - his daughter . And yet , behind that innocent smile , she was rotten to the core . Is Kol noticed that Russell's expression seemed off . He asked quietly , " Mr. Jenson , what should we do with this man ? " Russell didn't answer right away . His face was grim , twisted with pain . After waiting for a moment , Kol pressed again . " Mr.

Jenson , just give the order ." Russell drew in a long breath , forcing himself to steady . " Keep him alive . Take him in and don't let him die . He may be useful later . " " Yes , Mr. Jenson . " " Mr. Jenson ! Please - you have to save me ! " Stan's desperate voice broke in . " You must help me to get revenge ! She killed a whole boat of people - my wife , my children ! She's a monster ! A monster ! If you let Kyla go on like this , one day she'll destroy your entire family ! " Russell couldn't bear to hear another word . He ended the call .

The living room fell into a heavy , deathly silence .

Darell looked at his father , unsure where to even begin . Then Russell slammed his fist against the table with a thunderous bang , " Dad ! " Darell rushed forward . " What's wrong with you ? " " Damn it ! Why ? Why would she do this ? " Russell's jaw clenched so tight he thought his teeth might shatter . His eyes

burned , close to tears of blood . The pain in his hand was nothing compared to the pain in his heart . He had always prided himself on reading people , on his sharp judgment .

And yet he hadn't seen through a girl . A seasoned man like him had fallen right into her trap - again and again . He had doubted Tilda , blamed Tilda , and driven her to despair until she cut ties with the Jensons . And still , he had the audacity to stand in front of her , mocking her , humiliating her , and throwing every bit of the bad things that happened to the family onto her shoulders . Ignorant . Blind . Stupid . Russell had never felt like such a fool in his entire life . If only he had been decisive earlier .

He could have caught the flaws in Kyla's lies and stopped her schemes before now . If only it hadn't come to this . Tilda had already proven her innocence . Russell had even sensed , back then , that maybe Kyla had staged the whole thing herself . But deep down , he still favored Kyla . To him , Tilda - his real daughter - always felt like a stranger , someone distant . And because of that . Russell had refused to face the truth .

Chapter 470 Shattered Illusions If they hadn't investigated , they never would have known If Tilda hadn't reminded them , and if Russell hadn't finally changed his view of her , he never would have dug deeper . He once promised he would give Tilda an explanation . But in the end , what ruined the family was Russell's arrogance , his blind favoritism , and his refusal to see the truth . " Dad , you have to calm down . Let me take care of your hand ." Darell's voice trembled . He was terrified his father might hurt himself again .

Russell's hand was already swollen and red , clearly from pounding too hard in a fit of rage . " No , leave it . Only this pain keeps me from losing control . Without it , I'd already be storming upstairs to confront Kyla ! " The throbbing in his hand was the only thing stopping him . Otherwise , Russell would have rushed straight to Kyla's room , demanding answers . Why had she hidden her true self for so many years ? Why had she framed Tilda , turning them all against her ? They had never mistreated Kyla .

On the contrary , she had been spoiled with more love , more care , and more gifts - far more than Tilda ever received . Why wasn't it enough ? Why deceive them , manipulate them , and make them look like fools ? And still - Kyla played the victim . She cried in everyone's arms , claiming she wanted to leave the family , pretending to make room for Tilda . Russell couldn't believe it . He couldn't see past her act . Those tears , those sobs , those heartbroken pleas , were they all fake ? If those were lies , then how much of the time she spent with them was real ? " Dad ?

" Darell pressed carefully . " What happened ? Why did you change so much after that phone call ? Was it ... about Kyla ? " Russell stayed silent for a long moment . He took the time to comb his thoughts . Russell fought to control the fire in his chest and the crushing guilt that came with it . Finally , gritting his teeth , he told Darell everything Kyla had done . When Darell heard it , he froze as if lightning had struck him . His whole body stiffened . His mind went blank . It took him a long time to process everything . He had always sensed Kyla was pretending .

Instinct kept him from getting too close to her . But he had never imagined this . She was only eighteen . A college freshman , adored and protected all her life . Yet her heart was that cruel . That girl actually hired a killer to take people out ! Framing Tilda . Scheming to destroy her . And that was only what they had found out . How many other secrets had Kyla buried ? How much more had she hidden from them ? Darell swallowed hard , his throat dry . It took him a long time to find his voice . " Dad , should w tell Mom about this ?

" " Ever since Tilda saved your mom , she hasn't been the same , " Russell said quietly . " She feels guilty about everything . It's not just her . Dominic and I ... all of us feel the same . " She didn't just save your mom and Dominic . She saved this entire family . And now , knowing what Kyla really did - and how blind I was back then - it tears me apart inside . " If I see Tilda again , I honestly don't know how to face her . The guilt would drown me . And if your mom finds out ... Darell , she's already fragile . It would break her .

" For now , don't tell your mother about any of this . " " But , Dad , Mom treasures Kyla so much . If Kyla ever tries to use Mom- " " I'll make her regret she was ever born ! " Russell cut him off . his voice sharp . The hostility and hatred pouring off him hit Darell like a wave . Darell froze , stunned . He had never seen his father like this . At home , Russell was always the kind , easygoing parent . But in the business world , he was the man who had built Jenson Group from the ground up- fighting through rivals , carving his way forward until Slosa saw him as untouchable .

Now , he had turned the same ruthlessness against Kyla . But underneath it was also disappointment in her , fierce protectiveness toward his wife , and crushing guilt toward Tilda . " I understand , Dad , " Darell said quickly . " For Mom's sake , we can't let her know about Kyla . But what about my brothers ? " " Call Justin and Kayden . Tell them to come down . And make sure they don't alarm or Kyla . " Russell's voice was filled with rage every time he said Kyla's name . He couldn't even bring himself to acknowledge Kyla as his daughter . To him , she no longer deserved their family name .

Someone this vile didn't deserve to be part of their family . your mother The one who truly carried their blood - the girl who should have been their cherished little princess - had been driven away by their foolish choices . Tilda had cut all ties , leaving nothing behind . The thought made Russell's chest seize

with pain . His heart ached all over again . " I understand , " Darell said softly , bracing himself for what was to come .