

## Shadows 511

Chapter 511 This Is All My Fault Dominic and the others were worried that Wade might lose control and do something reckless , so they ran after him . Downstairs , Kyla was curled up in Blair's arms , wondering about the presents her brothers might have brought her from Endralsia this time . Blair had no idea what was really happening . She just thought Kyla was worried about her sister or wanted to free herself from the guilt she felt toward Tilda . Now , Blair cared for Kyla even more than before .

But Darell and the other brothers , who knew what Kyla was really like , couldn't stand seeing this . They just stood in the living room doorway . Suddenly , they felt sad for this family . Their hearts had changed . They remembered last year's holiday , the Jensons had been full of laughter , everyone together , joking and smiling . That had been the happiest moment they could remember . If only ... If only Kyla could be replaced with Tilda ... If only the sister spending the holiday with them was their biological sister , not Kyla - the fake sister who just acted sweet ...

Wouldn't that be perfect ? Tap , tap , tap . Suddenly , they heard quick footsteps running . " What's going on ? " Before Darell could finish , Wade shot out like an arrow . Darell and the others didn't even have time to ask . " Wade , what are you doing ?! " didn't say a word . He just slipped on his shoes and ran out the door . Dominic and the others hurried after him . " Dominic , what exactly is happening ? " Darell gave Dominic a sharp look , hoping for an explanation .

Earlier , Russell had called Dominic and the others into the study , probably to tell them about Kyla's true colors and how Tilda had been forced to leave . The news must have hit Wade so hard . " Let's just follow him and see what he does , " Dominic said . He worried that Wade might lose control and act recklessly . Or maybe Dominic already had a guess where Wade was headed . " Okay ! " The six brothers quickly followed Wade out of the house . " What's going on ? " Kyla , still caught up in her daydream in the living room , was completely confused .

All she could hear were the sounds of footsteps . Russell came downstairs and watched his sons leave . His hands curled into fists , and a deep ache filled his chest . He couldn't shake the feeling . This is all my fault as a father . All my fault ... " Honey ? What's wrong ? " Russell turned toward Blair , who had no clue , and Kyla , who was still holding on to her . His eyes flickered with a touch of disgust , but he kept it hidden . He said , " Looks like Wade has something important to do .

He didn't say what , but since all the kids went with him , I guess we don't need to worry . " Blair , come over . I need to talk to you . " " Oh , okay . " After being together for so long , Blair could tell Russell was

hiding something . Actually , it wasn't just now - she had noticed it for a while . Nobody knew Russell better than his wife . She understood him well enough to know that if he was keeping a secret , it must be to protect the family or for her sake . If he didn't want to explain , he probably had a good reason .

So she stayed quiet , believing that when the time was right , she would learn the truth . All she had to do was trust whatever he did . As Blair moved to leave , Kyla jumped out , acting worried . " Dad , Mom , what's going on with brothers ? Should I go see them ? " " This is men's business . You're a girl - just wait here until they come back , " Russell said sharply , then walked out with Blair . Kyla was left alone on the living room couch , staring blankly . Wait , something wasn't right . Where were the gifts they promised ? Last year , the whole family had focused on her .

She got presents , flowers , parties - it made her feel like a princess , untouchable and special . So why was she sitting alone in the living room this year ? Everyone else was gone . Her mind started racing . It wasn't just her imagination . Lately , she had noticed a change in how the family acted around her . They hadn't said anything , and she had tried to ignore it . too many things had already happened in the family . Could it be ... That some of her secrets had been exposed ?

If that was true , would she even have a place in the family anymore ? Outside , the sky began to rain . It was already late at night . Because of the winter holiday , many workers in Slosa went on vacation or went home to be with their families . The city had become much quieter .

## Chapter 512

Begging for Forgiveness Not to mention it was a soaked , drizzly night . The rain was not heavy , but in such cold weather , getting soaked could easily bring on a fever . This was not something to joke about . Until ... A figure appeared not far from the entrance to Tilda's apartment building . It was Wade . He stood there without an umbrella , head tilted up , letting the rain wash over him as he stared at the thirty - second floor where Tilda lived . A faint light glowed somewhere up there .

Tilda would now be inside , probably celebrating the holiday with the people she cared about . In her life , those people were her friends . There would be no more Jensons - no more of those brothers . Six brothers stood behind him . Following Wade's gaze , they all saw the same room where Tilda was . A heavy sigh escaped them . Dominic , holding an umbrella , came up beside Wade , forcing down a pain that seemed to tear his heart . " Wade , come back . Don't stand here in the rain or you'll get sick . " Wade said nothing ; he continued to look up . " Don't worry about me , Dominic .

My heart is a mess right now . For the moment , I don't want to go home and look at Kyla . At least I can feel a sliver of peace standing here . " " Get a hold of yourself , Wade , " Dominic said . " We all feel

guilty toward Tilda , but what good does torturing yourself like this do ? " What's done is done . Tilda will never forgive us ! " If you think showing this weak face to Tilda will make her waver even a little, you're dead wrong ! " Dominic ground his teeth and gripped Wade's shoulder , trying to snap him out of it .

As Tilda's former disciple , Dominic knew her well - she would never forgive a traitor . To Tilda , betrayal was equivalent to a death sentence . Not killing Dominic could only be called unexpected mercy . If they thought they could win her forgiveness through this display of contrition , they were deluding themselves . " Dominic , you can say that because you weren't there when it happened . " Wade's voice cut in . " I was there . For Kyla's sake , I said things to Tilda I can't ever take back . " In the end , I'm the utterly wrong one .

I swore I would beg for Tilda's forgiveness if she were innocent . " I've made mistake after mistake and never kept my promise . I'm no man . This time , please let me keep it . " With that , Wade fell to his knees on the wet ground . Right there , in front of Dominic and the others . " Wade ! " The other brothers were anguished ; their hearts ached to see him like that . . . " You don't need to do this .. someone began . " I must . Otherwise , how can I sleep , how can I face tomorrow ? " Wade's voice was steady with a desperate resolve .

" If I have to live with this guilt forever , then I might as well try to do something that eases it , even if it's only a little ! " Wade could not die - there were things in the world that still tied him here : family , dreams ... He comforted himself with the only remedy he knew , however cowardly . He knew what he was doing right now was pathetic , not the behavior of a true man , but he had no other way . Rain pit - pattered on him , drenching him through and through . Dominic's eyes showed a trace of pain .

He looked up at the floor where Tilda lived , then tossed his umbrella aside and - without thinking of status or pride - got down on his knees beside his younger brother . " Dominic ? " Wade , you say you owe Tilda , but who here doesn't feel the same ? As the eldest , I must be strong . I can't set a bad example . " But my debt to Tilda isn't less than yours . It felt like a blade once - piercing my soul . I want just a sliver of redemption !

" Since Wade was on his knees , Dominic allowed himself one selfish , impulsive act : forsaking his position as eldest son and CEO , he dropped down too - an older brother kneeling beside the younger one, begging forgiveness in the deluge . Wade heard in Dominic's words the same despair that weighed on his own heart . He closed his eyes and did not stop him . Even Wade wanted redemption ; who was he to stop the others from asking for it ? " Darell , what do we do now ? The rain may be light , but it's cold - this could ruin their health ! " " Go try to stop them !

" Santiago , worried , turned to Darell - the eldest after Dominic - who stood holding an umbrella . " I ... I don't know what to say . " Darell watched the two men on the ground in the rain , his lips moving with a helpless , weary sound .

### Chapter 513

Seven Figures in the Rain Even with the charm Zorana gave him , Darell was only able to sleep without those strange dreams haunting him . But ever since he learned how much the Jenson's owed Tilda , and how much she had given to them in return , his heart had been heavy and joyless . His sharp instincts told him the charm would not hold forever . One day , the dreams would surely come back - whether they were premonitions or something else entirely . Thud ! Before Darell could think further , Justin suddenly dropped to his knees . " Justin ? " " Truth is ...

Tilda once saved my life , and I never repaid her . Worse , I even mistook someone else as my savior . That's my sin . If staying here like this can ease even a bit of the weight on my chest , then it's a blessing from above . " Hearing Justin's self - mocking words , Kayden stayed silent for a moment , then also sank to his knees . " Heh , back then , I even accused Tilda of being a thief . I said a lot of cruel things to her just to protect Kyla . If I can't even face my mistakes like a man , what right do I have to call myself one ? " Then , Howard also got down on his knees .

Santiago blinked . " What the heck ? " Five of the seven were on the ground now . He turned to Darell with a look of last hope . However , Darell pressed his lips together and lowered himself too . That hope was shattered . Even Darell - who never carried much guilt - was on his knees . 1/3 If Santiago kept standing , he would look out of place . " Ugh , I don't get you guys at all . Why humiliate yourselves like this ?! But fine , since you're all down there , I won't act like I'm above you . I'll get down too !

" He tried to pass it off casually , but the truth was , he too had long felt Tilda's weight on his heart . He had to pretend otherwise , because if he admitted it , life would become as painful as it was for his brothers . That cold , rainy night , the seven sons of the Jenson's stayed on their knees outside Tilda's apartment . No one noticed them . If someone had snapped a photo , it would have exploded across headlines by morning .

The top family of Slosa - the Jenson's - seven extraordinary heirs , each admired , envied , or secretly loved by countless people , were on their knees in the freezing rain like men possessed . It was as if they were begging for a light that might never come , one that could brighten their dark , inescapable world .

Just then , Rain - who had lost a card game - came downstairs with the trash . Clad in slippers , he carried a large black garbage bag with ease , his white hair and blood - red eyes gleaming faintly in the dark .

Ghostlike , unnoticed , he just wanted to toss the trash and hurry back upstairs to keep playing games with his friends . However , his sharp gaze caught the seven figures opposite the apartment . At first , Rain thought they were assassins targeting this place . He almost unleashed his killing intent and wiped them out since they did not look ordinary at all . After watching a little longer , though , he realized they were not assassins . More like lunatics . Who else would be on their knees in the freezing rain - in winter no less - unmoving like statues ? A cult , maybe ?

Rain snapped a photo on his phone and hurried back upstairs . Inside , Tilda and the others were playing board games . " Rain , take my spot . I need the restroom , " said Myst . " Sure ! " 54 Rain had already blended in well with the group after just half a day . Liam was tossing dice while chatting with Dane about treatment plans .

He had been observing Dane's condition for days , and though his research on the lithography machine had delayed him , now that Dane's team was on holiday , he was preparing to start treatment after they all came back . However , before that , Liam had a few reminders . " By the way , Tilda , " Rain said casually , " when I went downstairs to toss the trash , I saw seven people kneeling in the rain not far from here . Their eyes looked fixed on our floor . Felt off to me , so I snapped a photo . If you think they're a problem , I can go take care of them ." He handed his phone to Tilda .

" Seven people ? Kneeling there , watching my unit ? "

Chapter 514 Cursing Ritual Tilda thought they were some kind of lunatics . She furrowed her brow without showing it and took Rain's phone . Zoomed in , the blurry shapes became clearer . Aren't those the seven Jenson brothers ? Tilda's face twisted . " What the hell are they doing ? " " Tilda , you know them ? " Rain asked . " These look like the Jensons . Gross . They're staying out in the rain at almost midnight - right near my building - and they're staring this way . Is this some kind of cult ritual ? " Tilda felt a shudder .

She was not surprised the Jensons could stoop low - she had seen their cruelty before - but this was on another level . Thinking of it as some kind of cult curse ritual was not surprising . However , would the Jensons really kneel outside her apartment in the middle of the night ? Weren't they always obsessed with pride and saving face ? If this photo ever got out , the Jenson Group would be in chaos by tomorrow . Tilda kept a cautious mind about supernatural things . After all , she had been reborn , and she met Zorana , a powerful psychic .

So , her worldview was no longer strictly scientific . When Tilda told the group that the ones in the photo were the Jensons , everyone's faces changed . They all knew what the Jensons meant to her . They knew what the Jensons had once done to her . " Tilda , if they're making you upset , I'll take care of them . " " I'll make it clean . No one will notice . " red eyes flashed with killing intent . He jumped up , grabbed the dagger Dane had given him , and headed for the door . The sudden change in his aura made even Dane and the others stare .

This was top assassin energy - cold and terrifying . " Rain , stay . We'll need them alive for now ." Tilda said quickly . Killing the Jensons sounded simple when you wanted revenge , but it would not heal what she had been through . She wanted the Jensons to fall apart publicly . She wanted them ruined . And the one who'd handed Rain the dagger was the person the Jensons trusted most - Kyla , their cherished daughter . Tilda already had the script laid out . Things were moving into the middle stage just as she hoped . She could not let her temper ruin it now . Rain pouted .

" Tilda , do you want them to just stay there ? " Tilda thought a moment . " You stay here . I'll go handle it ." She stood , ready to leave . " Tilda , are you sure ? " Liam asked , worried . Tilda turned , met his concerned gaze , and smiled faintly . " Don't worry , Liam . They can't ruin a single sliver of my mood . I already have many , many stronger bonds than they ever had . " Liam relaxed . " Good . " Outside , Wade and the others were still on their knees . Their spines were straight . An odd , stubborn belief seemed to hold them in place .

The rain let up a bit , but it was still freezing . Plus , they were soaked , yet not a single one flinched .

Then , a figure approached with an umbrella . At first , Dominic thought he was seeing things . Could it be her ? Hope and fear warred in his chest . He did not want Tilda to see them so pathetic . When the silhouette stepped into the light , it really was Tilda . Every brother recognized her . For a moment , their hearts were a mess of emotions . Tilda looked at the seven men like they were lunatics and sneered . " I didn't expect this ...

It's the 21st century , and you're playing at old curse rituals ? " So the Jensons have sunk this low ? Using superstition to try to curse me to death ? " She made a face . " Do you really think you can kill me with this nonsense ? " She had survived things a thousand times worse than this . So , she was not afraid of their dirty tricks . . . " Dominic rushed to explain . " It's not like that , Tilda ! We ... we just wanted to stay here ... " " Dominic , stop . Take your brothers away and don't act crazy in front of me . It's disgusting . " Who are you kneeling for ? For me ?

So you can perform a weird ceremony and curse me ? " Wow . The heirs of the Jenson Group actually stoop to this just to try to get revenge on a woman . Amazing ." Tilda could not help clapping sarcastically .

Chapter 515 Paparazzi She laughed so hard her stomach started to hurt . " I ... " " Tilda , I know now . It was Kyla who framed you during that trending scandal back then ! " Wade spoke up , still kneeling on the ground . His face was full of guilt as he looked at Tilda . " They are only here because of me . The one who really wronged you was me ! It's me ! I didn't believe you back then . I sided with Kyla and did all those unforgivable things that hurt you . All the blame falls on me ! " " Oh , so you finally figured it out , huh ?

I thought you idiots would stay in the dark for the rest of your lives . " Tilda sneered . " At least you're a little less brain - dead now . But I suggest you all go get your heads checked . Do a CT scan or an X - ray , just in case . Don't say I didn't warn you when your brains rot and you all end up drooling and screaming in the streets . " Faced with her scorn , the Jensons had no choice but to take it in silence . Even Santiago swallowed his pride and stayed quiet despite the harsh words . They knew very well this was their fault .

If they had not been so blindly biased toward Kyla , if they had not been so stupid , things would not have come to this point . Every bit of this was their own doing . No matter how much fury Tilda poured onto them , it was something they had to accept . Staying out here tonight meant they were already throwing away their pride and dignity , hoping - begging - for her forgiveness . But when Tilda saw them silent and stiff like statues , she only thought they were truly insane . Or maybe ... Did they think they could earn her " forgiveness " this way , just to ease their own guilt ? Ha !

Did they really think her death in her previous life was for nothing ? of silent treatment , torment , lies , and slander . Over and over , she went from a flicker of hope to crushing despair . And in the end , she was burned alive , her bones turning to ash - a fate worse than death . In this life ? No matter what the Jensons did , forgiveness was impossible . Whether they regretted it or not made no difference . Her ending for them would never change . She glanced at the time .

It was late , it was freezing , and she had no interest in wasting another second on these people . Wouldn't it be better to go back to her warm apartment and spend time with her friends ? So Tilda turned her back and walked away . Watching her leave , Dominic opened his mouth , wanting to speak . Yet , in the end , he swallowed the words . At this point , what right did they have to speak to her ? All they would earn back was more hatred and more mockery . Staying here begging was their only choice , their only pitiful attempt at redemption .

Seeing Dominic's silence , the rest also stayed quiet . Just then , a few paparazzi sneaked closer . " Boss , do you really believe that so - called tip ? In this weather ? After the rain ? It's freezing out here , and it's already midnight . I was about to crawl into bed with my girlfriend when your call came . Now she thinks I'm cheating on her ! " " Shut your mouths ! If this tip's real , and you keep whining later about me not bringing you fortune , you've only yourselves to blame ! " " Hell , it's almost the holidays . Who wouldn't rather be home with family ?

" When he first got the call , even the leading paparazzi , Bill Bison , did not believe it , He even thought it was a prank call . The seven sons of the Jenson family were on their knees outside some random apartment ?

What a joke . Might as well tell him the sun will rise in the west tomorrow . But the caller had revealed everything about him - his secrets , even his dirty bribes . He could not risk ignoring it . So , he had no choice but to check out this absurd lead . And then ... " Boss , look ! Over there ! Aren't those really seven people ?

" Everyone fell silent . They turned , and sure enough - seven figures were on their knees in the rain , in front of a quiet apartment . The sight was chilling on such a dark and cold night , like a scene out of a horror movie . Bill's breathing turned rapid . " Get the gear ready ! Focus ! Take those photos . This time , we might actually hit the jackpot ! " " Yes , sir ! " Meanwhile , the seven Jenson brothers had no idea that Tilda had set them up . They stayed for three whole hours before finally rising , dragging their nearly numb legs as they left in silence .

Only then did the paparazzi dare show themselves , giddy with excitement . They could already see the money rolling in . At that moment , Bill's phone rang .

Chapter 516 Meaningless Failure It was the very same informant who had given them the lead . Bill picked up the call , his voice full of restrained laughter . " Ah , Miss , this time it's really all thanks to you . We're going to hit the jackpot ! " " Next , just do exactly as I say ... Although Tilda was still using a woman's voice , she had changed the tone completely . No one could possibly connect it to her real voice . After listening to Tilda's plan , Bill felt uneasy . " But it's still the Jenson Group . If we publish this , won't they find out right away ? " " Relax .

That's exactly the point . We want them to find out . Otherwise , how would we get a good price ? " " I'm just worried the Jenson Group will come after us ... 11 " Just ask for this amount . Even after splitting it fifty - fifty , what you'll take home is enough for you to quit this job and live well for a long time . " Right now , with the stock price at stake and it being the holidays , the Jensons won't stir up more trouble . So just relax . " Or would you rather keep those photos rotting in your hands , and continue being a broke paparazzi with no stable income ?

" That last line from Tilda really hit Bill where it hurt . People risk everything for money . And here in their hands was leverage against the Jensons . It was the ultimate golden ticket to wealth . If not now , then when ? " Fine . I'll do exactly as you say ! " After hanging up , Tilda returned to the living room . " Alright ! We've been busy all day . Time to rest . Don't stay up too late . We still have to put up decorations and go buy fresh groceries . "

Okay! " Everyone followed Tilda's lead without question .

" As for the rooms , we'll go with what we decided earlier . Dane and Liam share a room , and the rest of us each get our own . " Rain raised his hand playfully . " Tilda , I want to share a room with you . Is that okay ? " " No ! Way ! " Before Rain even , Myst and Liam spoke in unison , glaring at him. Dane quietly held up his writing board with three bold words . " Absolutely ! No ! Way ! " The message could not be clearer . " Come on , it's just a normal brother - sister bond . Don't get the wrong idea , okay ? " " Even so , the answer's still no ! You're old enough .

Go sleep on your own ! " What a joke . Even they did not have the chance to share a room with Tilda . How could Rain get such a privilege ? No begging or pleading would work here . There was absolutely no compromise on this . " That's right . Be good and sleep in your own room , Rain . " " Fine . " Rain gave in , sulking . Later , Tilda still had things to discuss with Liam . But before heading off , she asked Rain about the task she had given him earlier . " How's the arrangement going ? " Rain shrugged and said , " I'm already here . As long as you want , I can move anytime .

The target's in Slosa , right ? " " Good . Make the arrangements . I trust you . "

With Rain handling it , there was no way Daphne would survive . When Tilda and Liam entered the study , they started talking about Dane's condition . Tilda laid out the full treatment plan she had discussed with a professor , making sure not a single detail was left out . " Your thought process is very clear , Tilda . Your medical skills are strong . " Just by skimming through Tilda's treatment outline , Liam came to that conclusion .

Her approach combined holistic medicine with modern methods , every prescription perfectly balanced . It was exactly the kind of plan Liam himself would have drawn up for such a rare illness . " It's just that I could not heal the person I most wanted to heal . " I wasted two months , and more importantly , I let Dane down . " Even though he never blamed me , I still can't shake the guilt . " Tilda gave a self - mocking smile . She had offered empty hope . She worked so hard , carried expectations in her heart ... Only for everything to collapse into nothingness .

It was the very thing Tilda had once despised the most . " Tilda ... " As a fellow doctor , Liam understood her feelings . Especially since Dane's illness was not a new problem . As a national treasure level scientist , countless top doctors must have already tried treating him . Yet , none had succeeded . The torment Dane went through during those years was not something that could be brushed aside with a few words . Only to spare those around him from guilt or worry , he chose to put on a facade of 3/4 inanerence . " Tilda , don't say that . There's no such thing as a meaningless failure .

Every failure gives us experience and opens up new paths . That's what really matters . " Because of your attempts with Dane , you've already eliminated so many possibilities . That allows me to approach things from a whole new perspective . That itself is success ! "

## Chapter 517

It Was Different Liam comforted Tilda . " Thankfully , we've met you . Dane will be in your care , Liam . " If anyone in this world can cure Dane , I believe it's only you ! " In a way , if Dane could really be cured , then Liam's arrival was not just Dane's salvation . It was also Tilda's . She could finally let go of the guilt weighing on her heart toward him . " Tilda , though I'd love to promise you , all I can say is that I'll give it everything I've got . " This world has so many strange illnesses . I've practiced medicine for years , treated countless .

patients , and I've known many moments of helplessness . " When it comes to Dane , I don't dare speak lightly . I may even need your help again , just like when we worked together to develop the lithography machine for him . " I believe that if one person can't do it , then all of us combining our strength can at least create a sliver of hope . " Of course ! Liam , whatever help you need , just say the word - I'll give it my all ! " Hearing this , Liam smiled faintly and reached out to pat Tilda on the head . " Alright , it's already past midnight . Rest early .

Tomorrow we've got to put up the new decorations , remember ? " I'll check on Dane now . Since there's a bit of free time , I'll give him an examination first . " " Okay ! Go ahead , Liam ! " Over on Tilda's side , the atmosphere was warm and lively . At the Jenson Villa ... < Kyla sat stubbornly in the living room , waiting for her seven brothers to return . The clock chimed . 1

It Was Different It was past midnight . She was all alone . That was something Kyla never could have imagined before .

On nights like this , the whole family would usually gather together , staying up until they were too sleepy to keep their eyes open before finally heading to their rooms . But now , it was different . The

Jensons , once warm , happy , and accepting , felt colder than ever - lonely and empty . Russell had gone upstairs with Blair and had not come back down . Kyla did not know what they were talking about - maybe it was late and they had already gone to rest . However , she knew for sure that this home had changed . Not only because of Tilda .

Maybe also because Kyla had accidentally let something slip . She could feel everyone pulling away from her . Just the thought of it made her panic . What if her family stopped caring for her ? What if , just to please Tilda , they decided to kick her out of the family ? Then everything she had - the love , the enviable status , the wealth - would vanish , never to return . If she had to go back to a poor life , working odd jobs ... Kyla could not even imagine it . Her pride and her instincts would not allow it . Creak !

Just as her heart was filled with unease , Dominic and the others returned . " Dominic ! " At the sound , Kyla quickly ran over . when she saw them drenched from head to toe , she froze . " Dominic , what happened ? Why are you all soaked ? " Hurry and change your clothes . Leanne , come help my brothers change ... " " Kyla , stop talking . " Dominic suddenly cut her off coldly . Kyla was stunned , trembling as she looked at him . " Dominic ? W - what's wrong ? " She stood there like a scolded child , lost and helpless .

If this had been the old Dominic , he would have pulled her into his arms , comforting her softly . But now , thinking of the vicious things Kyla had done to Tilda behind their backs , a sharp disgust flickered in his eyes . What kind of heart could do such things and still put on such an innocent act in front of family ? Remembering Russell's instructions , and for the sake of Blair ... " It's late . Don't disturb the others . We'll change on our own . " Kyla , you should head to bed , too . Don't tire yourself out .

" Dominic forced himself to wear the mask of the " good brother " as he spoke . Then , he walked straight upstairs . The other six brothers also lowered their heads , not even greeting Kyla . Her heart froze to ice . Only when the gentlest of them , Justin , walked past did Kyla snap back , quickly grabbing his arm . " Justin , what happened ? Why are you all like this ? " " There was some trouble . It rained on the way back , and we didn't bother with umbrellas . " Don't worry about it , it's been dealt with . " Even the touch of Kyla's hand now filled Justin with disgust .

But out of the last shred of sibling affection , and for Blair's sake , he forced a smile , patted her

Chapter 518

The Photos Kyla stood there , frozen , watching her brothers head upstairs one by one without sparing her a single glance . " The gifts are gone and my brothers ' attitude toward me ... something must have

happened ! " She bit her lip hard . She had to figure something out ; otherwise , she really would lose everything . The next morning , Russell woke up early . Beside him , Blair was still asleep , her breathing soft and steady . Russell's fingers gently traced her face , outlining her delicate features . His eyes dimmed with sorrow . Kyla's issue could not stay hidden forever .

Even if the whole family kept it from Blair , she would eventually find out . Worse still , if Kyla pulled something nasty again before then , how was he supposed to deal with her ? She was a ticking time bomb . He worried Blair would not be able to handle the truth . For now , all he could do was take it one step at a time . Just then , his phone buzzed . Russell quickly grabbed it and slipped into the bathroom so he would not wake Blair . " Bad news , Sir , " came the urgent voice on the line . Russell's brows twitched . " It's the holidays , and you're bringing me bad news .

What happened ? " As the explanation poured in , his chest tightened . So that's what the seven brats had been up to last night . " Did you stop it ? "

Yes . We rushed PR to intercept the paparazzi who posted the photos . Sir , we're just waiting your orders . " " Do whatever it takes - money , pressure , I don't care . Destroy every copy of those photos . I don't want to see them surface anywhere in public . " " Yes , Sir ! " Meanwhile , Kyla had not slept a wink all night .

The suffocating weight on her chest made it hard to breathe . Every time she closed her eyes , the memory of last night clawed its way back into her mind , leaving her trembling with fear at the thought of losing everything . Kyla got up and went to the bathroom to splash some water on her face . The girl in the mirror looked nothing like before - haggard , worn out , and now even breaking out in pimples . Compared to the graceful , admired beauty she once was , the difference was night and day . Startled , Kyla gasped and staggered back a few steps .

Then her eyes fell on the sink - scattered with strands of hair . Her own hair ! " No ! Impossible . I've been following the doctor's orders , taking care of myself , and taking the medicine . How could this happen again ? " When she reached up and ran her fingers through her hair , clumps came away in her hands . She could not even bring herself to look at her reflection with the bald patches showing . She bolted from the bathroom like she was running from a nightmare . " Quack doctor ! I spent so much money , so much time on his medicine , and he still couldn't fix hair loss !

Now my skin's ruined too ! This is all his fault ! " my Her rage boiled over ; she wanted to tear that doctor to shreds . Just then , her phone lit up with a message . It was from her old crony at Orica

University - Maisie Townsend , the same girl who had once helped her scheme against Tilda . Kyla did not feel like answering , but the moment she glanced at the content , her expression

Kyla , what happened to your brothers ? Why are there pictures of them on their knees floating around online ? " Her heart skipped a beat .

She quickly typed back , " What are you talking about ? " " Look at this . It's gone now , but luckily I screenshotted it in time . " Maisie sent over the photos . Even though Bill had carefully chosen a few pictures , he did not reveal that Dominic and the others had been kneeling outside Tilda's apartment . That was Tilda's condition , so no one would see and decide to bother her . However , once the photos were edited and released , you could still tell that the silhouettes clearly belonged to the Jenson boys . Kyla's heart skipped a beat .

She remembered how her seven brothers had rushed out last night and did not come back for a long time . So they had actually gone to do this ? And judging from the photos , it had been raining too . Who were they doing this to ? " Kyla , what's going on ? Tell me ! " Maisie was practically dying of curiosity . Who would've thought she would get such juicy gossip right before the holidays ? " I don't know . This must be Photoshopped ! Someone's framing my brothers ! " They're not crazy . Why on earth would they do something so absurd ? "

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Kyla insisted to herself . No way , that's impossible ! It had to be Photoshopped ! " I think so too . Kyla , you'd better hurry and tell your brothers . Otherwise , things will just blow up bigger and people will misunderstand . " Right ! When Kyla saw Maisie's message , she smacked her forehead . How could she forget something this important ? She had been fretting over how to find an excuse to patch things up with her brothers . Now she finally had the perfect reason . Ignoring Maisie's message , she rushed into the bathroom .

Half an hour later , after washing up and putting on makeup , she did not even bother to change her clothes before charging out of her room . By then , the Jensons were already downstairs , having breakfast and chatting . Blair , hearing Kyla's footsteps , turned her head with a gentle smile . " Kyla , you're up ? Why not sleep a little longer ? Didn't you wait for your brothers pretty late last night ? " " No , Mom , I've been awake for a while . Waiting is nothing. What matters most is that we stay together . " By the way , brothers , bad news .

When I woke up this morning , a friend sent me a message . Someone Photoshopped pictures of you all on your knees and posted them online . You guys need to be careful ! I'm sure it's some competitor jealous of our family . They are just trying to ruin us with dirty tricks ! " Kyla said it like she was delivering

heroic news . However , Russell only said flatly , " I already know . The company called this morning . We've suppressed the heat and sent PR to handle it . " " Ah ... oh . " Kyla's face fell .

She thought this info would help her rebuild her relationship with them . Turns out , they already knew . So frustrating ! Blair rubbed her temples . " Seriously , we can't have peace even during the holidays ." Clearly , she didn't believe it either . How could her sons suddenly do all that ? And all seven at once , like some cursed lineup ? No way . It had to be some rival's smear tactic against the Jenson's . A fake , through and through . " Cough , cough ! " Santiago suddenly coughed a few times . Blair looked at him , worried .

" Are you okay , Santiago ? Did you catch a cold ? " He lowered his eyes . " Yeah , I got rained on with my brothers last night . Maybe caught a little cold . I already took medicine . Don't worry , Mom . " " Still , go get checked at the hospital . It's the holidays . If a little cold drags on and turns serious , it won't be good . " " Okay . " " Cough , cough ! " This time , Justin and Kayden also coughed a few times . " You three ... Seriously . Where did you even run off to last night ? Out so late and still not back- I was worried sick !

" And another thing , you owe Kyla an apology . She stayed up late waiting for you guys ! " When Blair said that , Kyla immediately jumped in , waving her hands . " Mom , that's not necessary . I'm their little sister . Waiting for them is only natural . I've already received so much love from them . We're a family , so of course we worry about each other . " Then she lowered her head , looking pitiful , like she was waiting to be comforted . Dominic and the others nearly spat out their food in disgust .

How did they not realize before how fake Kyla could act ? No , Darell had already seen through it and even told them . However , they had been blind , siding with this fake sister , and pushing away their real one- Tilda . The more they thought about it , the worse they felt . The warmth of eating breakfast together was completely gone . If only Kyla would get out of the family and vanish from their sight . They no longer dared to hope for Tilda to come back after all the slander and pain she had endured .

Yet , at the very least , they did not want Kyla - the one who made them sick - hanging around in front of them . Kyla waited a while , expecting the usual comfort and pampering . Yet , the apologies never came . Dominic and the others ignored Blair's words completely , just kept their heads down and ate . At that moment , Kyla felt her heart drop with a heavy thud . As if something inside her cracked open and spilled cold liquid , chilling her veins , freezing her whole body . It was like being trapped in a dark snowstorm , lost and directionless . But still ...

Even if her brothers were not on their knees , even if the photos were fake ... Their clothes were completely soaked when they came back last night . It did look a lot like they had been in the rain . No , impossible . How could anyone force all seven golden sons of the Jensions to get down on their knees and grovel ?

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Did She Come Out ? No ... If there really was someone who could make them do that ... It would only be Tilda ! The one the Jensions feel most guilty toward . The true daughter of the family . However , Kyla quickly shook off that thought . Even if they did feel guilty toward Tilda , there's no way they'd do that , right ? It had to be her imagination - just an illusion ! Tilda could not possibly have that kind of influence over the Jensions . If she really did , then where would Kyla still fit in this family ? Her face darkened . She kept her head down , fiddling with her skirt hem .

Unintentionally , she let Blair see her looking so pained and pitiful . She was hoping Blair would take her side and defend her . Blair sensed the heavy air and frowned slightly . " Why is no one talking ? " 竟 Finisher Before she could finish , Darell suddenly said in surprise , " Kyla , what's wrong with your face ? " The words made everyone look at her at once . Kyla froze , then quickly reacted . " I - I don't know . Darell , what's wrong with my face ? " " You're so young , but you're wearing such heavy makeup . That's not good for your skin .

" And you've been breaking out a lot lately , you should cut down on greasy food . " Also , your hair looks thinner than before . Stop staying up so late and take better care of yourself , okay ? " Darell sounded caring , but every sentence hit her like an arrow straight through her most fragile insecurities . " I ... I'm not ... " Kyla , are you alright ? " Blair , prompted by Darell's words , took a closer look . What she saw startled her . Even with the thick makeup , she could still see traces of acne .

And worse , there was a bald patch in the middle of Kyla's long hair . For it to be visible even with long hair , her hair loss must had already been serious . " Mom , I'm fine . Maybe I've just been stressed and not resting well lately . " Sorry for worrying you . " Kyla wanted to crawl into a hole . She lowered her head , making an excuse , and stayed quiet . " It's fine , just rest more and see a doctor if needed . " As a woman , Blair understood well , at Kyla's age , appearance and figure mattered most . Comforting her too much would just rub salt into her wounds .

So Blair kept it brief . That was the kinder choice . And just like that , the moment passed . Dominic and the others secretly gave Darell a thumbs - up . Good thing he was sharp enough to deflect . Otherwise ,

if they had to swallow their pride and apologize to Kyla , they would probably cough up blood from anger . After breakfast , Russell called Dominic alone into the study . His face was grave . " I didn't ask just now since everyone was around and I didn't want your mom to worry . But tell me the truth , what's with those photos ? " Dominic lowered his head , biting his lip .

" It's just like you guessed , Dad . They're real . We have nothing to say . " " Gosh ! " Russell let out a heavy breath . " I know you feel guilty toward Tilda after learning the truth , but did it have to come to this ? " Dominic gave a bitter smile . " Dad , we didn't know how else to deal with the disappointment in ourselves , or the guilt we feel toward Tilda . This was the only way . " " I've already told people to clean up the mess . Don't do something so foolish again .

" Doing all of that would not make Tilda forgive the Jensons . We hurt her too deeply . " It'll only widen the rift between her and us . At this point , I don't even know what to do about her anymore ." He stood in front of the tall window , hands clasped behind his back . Outside , the sky was perfectly clear . The sun was bright , the horizon blue , and even a plane left a silver streak cutting across the clouds . It was the last day of the old year , and the start of the new one . The kind of day that should have felt hopeful

However , none of that warmth reached Russell's battered , frozen heart . " I understand , Dad . " " Good . You've been in the rain for so long , go rest and drink some medicine . Don't let it turn into a bad cold . " " Okay . " Dominic answered softly and turned to leave . Then , Russell's voice came again . " Did she notice you outside of her apartment ? Did she come out ? " Even as he asked , he did not know what he was hoping for . Maybe , just maybe , if she came out , it would mean she still had a little space in her heart for the Jensons .