

Shadows 561

Chapter 561 Kyla's Breaking Point . AG " Blair ... what the hell am I supposed to do ? Things with Kyla can never go back to the way they were , but I can't tell you the truth either . One day you'll find out , and when you do , will you be able to accept what kind of person Kyla really is ? How can I keep that truth from destroying you ? " Meanwhile , Justin walked Kyla back to her ward . After reminding the nurse to keep an eye on her , he was ready to leave . Kyla's voice was soft , pitiful . " Justin , it hurts so much ... can you please stay with me a little longer ?

" He avoided her gaze . Every time he looked at her , all he could see were the lies she had spun in the past . He couldn't get past them . " I need to get the doctor , to make sure your wounds are treated . " " The nurse can do that . There's a phone here to call the doctor if we need him . Please , Justin . I'm really scared . None of you even came to see me . Tell me the truth . Are you all really thinking about cutting me off , like Tilda said ? " That caught Justin off guard . " Tilda ... she told you that ? " Kyla's heart twisted , and this time she didn't even need to fake the grief .

It poured out of her . " Yeah ... so now I'm terrified . What if it's true ? " " Don't overthink it . Nobody's planning to push you away . It's just - you and Mom got caught up in such a mess , and we haven't had time to process any of it . Everyone's still reeling . " He had barely explaining when his phone buzzed . It was Dominic calling . Justin answered , exchanged a few words , then sighed . " Sorry , Kyla . You'll need to hang tight for a while . The doctor will be here soon . Dominic needs me . Something urgent came up . " " What ?

Justin- " b But before she could stop him , he bolted from the room like he was running for his life . Left alone , Kyla's fingers dug into the blanket over her lap . The nurse in the corner said nothing , though the whole scene left her feeling uneasy . Sure , Blair had been through a crisis too . But she was awake now , with people crowding around her bedside . Meanwhile , Kyla was left to sit here by herself . : The nurse thought about speaking up , but this was a wealthy family's business . One wrong word could ruin her . " Ms.

Kyla , I'll get a doctor in here to check those wounds . They still need treatment . " " Fine . " Her reply was flat . Head bowed , she gave nothing away . The nurse let out a sigh , quietly shut the door , and left Kyla alone . The moment the room was silent , Kyla's nails dug into her palms . " Perfect . Just perfect . The mighty Jensions really think they can strip me down , humiliate me , and I'll just take it ? Do they really believe I'm that spineless ? " I gave you all chance after chance . Even after Tilda told me the ugly truth , I still held back .

But clearly , none of you care about me anymore . " You turned your back on me first . So don't blame me for hitting back . " She needed to plan her next move . The Jensons knew who she really was now , and they were cutting her out piece by piece . Kyla could pretty much guess why they hadn't come to confront her - it had to be because of Blair . As long as Blair was around , Kyla still had a shield - a bargaining chip that kept the family in check . She still got to live it up as their precious daughter, bathing in all the wealth and privilege that came with it .

Blair was even willing to sacrifice herself to drive Tilda out . " Should I come clean , flip the script , and try to win back the Jensons ' favor ? No. Too risky . If Mom found out the truth and turned on me the way the Jensons did , I'd be completely on my own in that house . " There was no way I could stay with them forever . The trick was to grab whatever I could while I still had the chance . " Even if they kicked her out , Kyla knew she'd still have the means to run off and live a life of luxury , burning through cash without a care .

The real key was money - enough to secure a lifetime of wealth , cover every surgery and round of upkeep her face would need , and keep her status intact . By her count , she had to bleed at least a billion out of the Jensons . Anything less would be a loss . And there was only one person who could make that happen . A shadowy figure flickered across her mind . It had to be him . Tobias ! But in her current state ... Kyla remembered the way Tobias used to look at her , eyes full of tenderness and longing .

Would he still look at her like that now , knowing her face was ruined ? If his gaze shifted into disgust , she would lose her mind . And yet , without Tobias's help , who else could she possibly turn to ?
Meanwhile ...

Chapter 562 Breaking Away : Justin found Dominic in the hospital's smoking area . " Dominc , you needed me ? " " No ... * Dominic stubbed out his cigarette and spoke evenly . " If I hadn't called , Kyla would've dragged you into staying , wouldn't she ? I just gave you an excuse to get out . " Justin let out a weary smile . " You saw right through me , Dominic . Honestly , that phone call saved my life . " " Is it really that dramatic ? " Dominic's craving stirred again as he pulled out another cigarette .

Seeing this , Justin quickly reached over to stop him . " Come on , one's enough when you're upset . Too many will tear your body apart . " " I know all that , " Dominic said . " But sometimes a cigarette , a drink ... they're the only things that take the edge off . Nothing else even comes close . " In the end , Dominic put the pack away . " You never used to smoke ... " Justin murmured . " You know that was before , " Dominic said flatly . " Before we found Tilda , before everything that happened . Back then , I didn't need it . Now ? If I don't , the pressure eats me alive .

" Justin lowered his eyes in silence . Dominic went on , " Every time I see Kyla , I'm reminded of what she did to Tilda . And of the damage we , as a family , caused her . I thought I could pretend it didn't tear me up inside , but I can't . Things with Kyla will never go back to the way they were . " And just now , seeing Tilda , hearing Mom speak to her without knowing the truth ... I don't even want to imagine what'll happen the day she finally learns everything . " " One step at a time . We can't change the future , but we also can't keep letting Kyla run wild .

She probably already senses the distance between us . If she keeps pushing it no one will be able to save her . " A cold glint of killing intent flickered in Dominic's eyes . It made Justin's chest tighten 1/3 This time , Dominic meant it . Because they had trusted Kyla , because of her lies , they had ended up hurting Tilda . Now that the truth was out , the reason they hadn't thrown Kyla out of the family immediately wasn't just because of Blair .

It was also because of 18 years of living under the same roof , the last shred of sibling bonds that still lingered . The Jenson family had already done more than enough for Kyla . She better not let them down again . A week slipped by in the blink of an eye . The New Year had passed . Tilda stood at the airport , sending off her seniors and Rain . " Time flew by so fast . I don't want to leave you , Tilda ... " Rain whined , his voice edged with a childish pout . " Why don't I just stay a little longer to keep you company ? " Tilda reached out , ruffling his silver hair with a smile .

" Come on , the two organizations just merged . You can't dump everything on your people . You're the boss of both Skin and R Organizations now . You've got responsibilities . I'll come visit when I get the chance . " Rain's eyes lit up instantly . " Really ? You promise ? You can't lie to me ! " " You little brat , " Tilda teased . " After all this time , have I ever lied to you ? Don't push it . " With that , she playfully mussed his hair until it became messy . " Ahh , Tilda , stop ! My hair's gonna fall out ! " " Alright , enough . Your flight's about to board . We should leave .

" " Okay ... " Rain replied . Tilda hugged each of her seniors one by one . " Take care of yourselves . I'll come visit when I can . And you're always welcome to come back to Slosa to see me . " For sure ! " She watched their figures fade into the airport entrance . 67 Liam had put all his work aside for now , choosing to stay with Dane and help him through his treatments .

Dane , on the other hand , had no choice but to head straight to the front lines of lithography machine production , offering critical guidance and overseeing progress . It was a matter of national importance - one that couldn't afford mistakes . Moving to a different rhythm altogether , Mystro also had to return home . With Motrar and Cetherland celebrating the winter holiday in their own ways , he needed time

to prepare for his latest art exhibition - one that would push his career into even higher circles . When Tilda finally returned to her apartment , the silence hit her .

The once lively living room stood empty . For a fleeting second , she could almost see it once was - everyone crowded around the table , playing board and mobile games , cracking sunflower seeds , sipping bubble tea , laughter echoing off the walls . " Everyone's got their own goals . And they're all moving forward without hesitation . " The New Year might have passed , and the festive air still lingered . But to her , it already felt a little lonely . She drew in a deep breath . It was time for her to commit to her own path and step toward something new .

Without wasting another moment , Tilda picked up her phone and dialed Benedict . The call connected almost immediately . " Well , this is a rare surprise . Happy New Year , Tilda . " " Happy New Year , Mr. Benedict . I wanted to ask about the office you promised Comet Squad , and the visit to headquarters . When might you have time to arrange that ? " " You do realize it's still the holiday , right ? Why the sudden urgency ? Did something happen ? "

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Out of the Shadows Tilda's Brilliant Second Life " No ... I just feel like I need to find a new direction , a new path . With Comet Squad's current Level One clearance , we can tap into the country's servers and access information we never had before . " I want to use this chance to broaden my horizons . Besides , I still haven't received the access key from you yet , Mr. Benedict . " Benedict laughed heartily . " So that's what this is about . Fine . Let's set it for next month .

Bring your team to headquarters , I'll make the introductions , and I'll personally hand you the access key . " " Thank you , Mr. Benedict . " On the other side of town , Blair and Kyla were undergoing their final checkups . Blair , nearly back to her usual self , kept reminding everyone about medication schedules and rehab exercises . Meanwhile , the doctor pulled Dominic aside into his office . " Mr. Dominic , although it will be difficult for Mrs. Jenson to fully return to her condition before the accident , we'll do everything we can to help her stand again and get through this .

" The rehabilitation process will take a long time . It requires tremendous patience and strong willpower from the patient . " She can be discharged today . Once she's home in a familiar environment , her spirits will lift . Her immunity and recovery rate are promising - I have full confidence she can stand again . But it's crucial that she believes in herself . That's where her family comes in . She'll need constant encouragement . " " Thank you , doctor . During my mother's stay , you've done so much , always attentive , always present . We'll be counting on you again moving forward .

" After a few more polite words , Dominic left the office with an easy smile . Behind him , Darell pushed Blair's wheelchair down the hall . The others , having heard she was being discharged , had already gone home ahead of time to prepare the house . The doctor gave Blair a few more final reminders before excusing himself . 7/3 22:14 Fri , Oct 3 She couldn't even begin to imagine how many layers of makeup it would take to cover them all . And then her mind betrayed her, conjuring up Tilda's pure , radiant face - so flawless , so breathtaking . The gap between them was only growing wider . It infuriated her . Once , Tilda had been nothing more than someone she toyed with , crushed under her heel . Now ... Kyla tore her gaze from the mirror , her voice unsteady .

" Doctor , if I keep cooperating with treatment , how much of my face can actually recover ? " The doctor hesitated before answering . " These three surgeries have already done most of the reconstruction . With continued procedures and proper care , you might regain another 10 percent . " But the time , money , and energy it will take ... Ms. Kyla , I'm sorry . We've already done everything possible . " ... I understand . " Kyla lowered her head , hiding the storm of thoughts raging inside her . Watching from the side , Russell felt it was already more than enough .

He remembered the photos of her right after the disfigurement - images that had nearly given him nightmares . To have come this far was nothing short of a miracle . He turned to the doctors with genuine gratitude . " You've worked hard . Truly . This is nothing less than a master's touch . " The doctor shifted uncomfortably before speaking again . " To be frank , given Ms. Kyla's current condition , we don't recommend discharging her yet . With facial surgery , there's always the risk of rejection . We'd prefer to keep her under observation a while longer . "

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" Kyla , since the doctor's recommends it , maybe you should stay in the hospital a little longer . It'll be better for your recovery . " Russell almost hoped Kyla would never leave the hospital . He didn't care how much it cost , he'd gladly pay it . In fact , the best outcome would be for her to stay here for the rest of her life . If she weren't in the house , the whole atmosphere would be lighter . Kyla shook her head . " No , Dad . I've been stuck in this hospital long enough . It's taken a real toll on me .

Honestly , I'm just glad I've recovered this much already . If I stay here any longer , I'm afraid my mood will sink even lower , and that might hurt my recovery . " When she , she dropped her gaze again , her whole expression sinking into gloom . Russell could only sigh under his breath . " Doctor , if we bring in a professional caretaker for her at home , that should be fine , right ? " " Of course . As long as she's monitored carefully , it won't be a problem . I'm only being cautious here . If anything unexpected comes up , call me immediately .

I'll assess whether she needs to come back for corrective treatment . " " Thank you , doctor . " Just then , Blair and the others arrived . Catching sight of Blair , Russell's face lit up with relief as he hurried forward . " Darling ! Everything went well with your checkup ? " " Same as before . Nothing major , but I have to keep up with the rehab . It's going to be a long journey . " " Honey , what about Kyla ... ? " Blair's gaze fell on Kyla , and she could immediately sense the unhappiness in her face .

" The doctor said there's no real problem - she can be discharged , " Russell explained quickly . " In that case , let's head home . Justin and the others have been waiting for a while . They even messaged me earlier asking if everything was yet . " " That's good ... Kyla , come here . Let me take a proper look at you . " " Mom ... Kyla stepped closer . Blair's eyes softened with a flash of sorrow as she studied Kyla's face .

57 2 Praile Once , Kyla might not have matched Tilda's icy , untouchable beauty , but she had still been dazzling - every smile , every glance could light up a room . Now , the surgical scars stood out clearly , the lingering swelling reducing her features to something plain , almost ordinary . Blair knew how much Kyla's pride and confidence had been tied to her looks . Every woman loved beauty , but for someone who had once worn it so effortlessly , losing it was cruel . " You've already come a long way . Don't let this crush you .

If the best surgeons here can only do so much , we'll go abroad . There are world - renowned specialists who can take it further . " Trust modern medicine , and trust me . I'll do everything I can to help restore your beauty . You just have to stay strong - and stay with me in this fight . Okay ? " " Mom ... thank you . " Kyla couldn't hold back any longer . Her eyes welled up , and she dropped to the floor , burying herself in Blair's arms . Silent tears streamed down her face . All Blair could do was stroke Kyla's hair gently , soothing her the only way she knew how .

Behind them , Russell exchanged a glance with his two sons . The look in their eyes mirrored his own - helpless , weary . The car pulled into the Jenson Villa . Justin and the others rushed out to greet them . " Mom , welcome home ! " " I'm back ... " Blair answered softly . Seeing her children gathered together , something inside her finally eased . The shadow of her crippled leg , the weight of that pain , seemed to fade just a little . For the first time in a long while , a genuine smile touched her lips . No matter what , life had to go on .

Through pain , through grief - still , it moved forward . 8578 ear At least they were alive . At least they could still sit together , speak to one another , breathe the same air , feel the earth's warmth , and hear

the steady rhythm of their own hearts . Kyla forced herself to stay close to Blair , pretending to share in the warmth . But the truth hit her hard . Every eye , every word of comfort , every flicker of attention was fixed on Blair . She might as well have been invisible . No one looked at her . Not even in passing .

And in that moment , for the first time in 18 years of living under the Jenson family roof , Kyla tasted what it truly meant to be ignored . It was the same taste of humiliation Tilda had once endured - being treated like a joke , ignored and unseen . Then , Kyla excused herself , claiming she wasn't feeling well and wanted to rest . She slipped back to her room . Blair didn't press . After all , Kyla had just gone through an enormous blow . Her heavy mood was inevitable . Pushing too hard right now would only backfire . Better to let her work through it on her own .

" By the way , Russell , " Blair said suddenly , her tone even . " I asked you to check on Daphne's situation . What did you find out ? " Her words hit like a gut punch , leaving everyone stunned for a moment . Russell cleared his throat . " ... The hospitals here couldn't handle Daphne's condition . Ryan had her sent overseas for treatment . So far , there's been no word . " That was the version of events Ryan had released to the public .

Everyone who knew about Daphne's death was silenced by Ryan through various means .

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So Kyla answered Tobias . She kept it casual and told him the basics about what had happened . He replied right away , " Thank God you're fine . I've been so worried - I thought something bad happened !

" I didn't dare visit the hospital because I thought you wouldn't want to see me . Now that you're out , I can finally relax ! " Reading those heartfelt words from the guy she liked , Kyla felt her nose tingle and nearly burst into tears again . Even a random outsider cared more than the Jensons . How ridiculous was that ? " Why is life so cruel to me ? What did I do wrong ? " My face is ruined , I can't see the guy I like , and my family turned away . Why couldn't this happen to Tilda ? She has everything , while I get nothing ! " Kyla hated how unfair it felt .

After talking to Tobias , she felt a little better . He texted , " Kyla , can we meet soon ? I just want to see you and make sure you're fine . " Her heart jumped . Then , she said no without hesitation , " My family is dealing with stuff , and I'm injured . I need to rest . Let's meet later . " " Alright , Kyla . I'll always wait for you . " Kyla's chest hurt worse . She couldn't hold it in anymore . She jumped up , walked into the bathroom , and glared at her scarred , dull face in the mirror . She snatched the cup off the sink and smashed it straight at the glass .

From the cracked mirror , her twisted reflection glared back at her . How could Tobias ever look at such a face ?! He was handsome and elegant . If he saw her like that , his love and affection would disappear . He might not even want to be near her again . If that day came , she'd rather be dead . Just then , her phone buzzed with a new message . Thinking it was Tobias , Kyla quickly grabbed it . But the text was from some random number she didn't know . " I'm here to help you deal with Tilda . If you believe me , reply .

" That same stranger had been bugging her for months . At first , Kyla ignored it , assuming it was just another scam .

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She paused , then typed back , " If you won't tell me who you are , I'm not taking you seriously . Who are you ? " She knew she was rolling the dice . Kyla had always wanted to crush Tilda - just once would be enough . Another message showed up . " I'm Genevieve Lichtenstein . I used to date Justin . You probably know me . " Genevieve ?! Kyla remembered hearing that name . Genevieve was that piano prodigy who was making waves on the international stage .

Then , because she lied to Justin about something , she disappeared completely . But what does she have against Tilda ? Even after discovering who the sender was , Kyla didn't immediately trust her . She kept Genevieve's name in mind . She'd look into it later . Time flew , and a whole month passed . One day , when Tilda was sleeping , her phone suddenly went crazy with calls and woke her up . It was Una . " Tilda ! I just heard from Professor Manning that you got early graduation approval . Is that true ? " " Yep , you've got some sharp ears . " Tilda hadn't told Una about it .

1/3 22:14 Fri , Oct 3 " Of course ! I'm just like Orica University's walking news feed ... Wait ! How could you not tell me ? And if you already graduated , why are you still hanging around ? " " Hehe , hanging with you and living the easy campus life isn't so bad . " " You truly love playing dumb , huh ? Ugh !

Having a genius best friend is both a blessing and a curse . I can't even figure out that game software you gave me , and you're already done with your studies , living the dream . You make the rest of us look hopeless! " " Alright , I've got a flight with friends coming up . Catch you later . Go whine by yourself . " " Tilda , that's cruel ! You've got new friends now , so I'm old news ! " Tilda tuned out Una's complaints , got ready fast , and stepped out . She was at the Comet Squad base . Outside , Jarrett , Theo , Astrid , and Zach were already waiting with their bags .

" Morning , Queen . We've got three hours till takeoff . You still have time to nap . " " You're all awake already , so how could I stay in bed ? Grab your gear . Let's move . " Theo , is the plane good to go ? " " Of course , Queen . I even asked my brother to set us up with a Sky Dining chef . We'll be eating Flonche cuisine on board . " They all left together for the Woodward Group's private airstrip . On the plane , Tilda sipped her wine after eating . She leaned on her hand and looked at the four excited faces , clearly entertained .

Taking another slow sip , she reminded them , " Remember what I told you before we land ? " The group instantly went serious . " Of course . We're ready , Queen . " She'd told them they were now part of the National Cyber Security Center as official government staff . If they wanted to do side projects , they'd have to juggle carefully and think about their future Even with their contract under Benedict , the Comet Squad operated on its own . They had full freedom .

But if a mission matched the country's interests or promoted peace , they would take it without hesitation . Jarrett , Theo , and Zach were pretty much jobless wanderers . Even if their families wanted them in the business , they weren't interested . Besides , there were better people to run things . They didn't feel any pressure . Their dream was simple - serve the people and stick with Tilda . Naturally , their eyes turned to Astrid . Since returning to Slosa , Astrid hadn't leaned on her family name .

She relied on her skills and determination to become the CEO of a mid - sized company at a young age . No doubt , business ran in the Jenson's ' blood , and she was no different . Astrid put her glass down , meeting their eyes . " I've already submitted my resignation . " Theo was stunned . " What ?! Astrid , Queen just said we should learn to balance both . You worked so hard for that position . Why throw it away ? "

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" I didn't use my family name when I came back . I wanted to climb on my own and test my limits . I wanted to see how far I could push myself and gain experiences I'd never find while hiding in a bubble . " I know I can't reach the top on my own . Only by following Queen can I see the bigger world . With the future wide open and a chance to give everything to my country , why would I ever say no ? " " Thanks for trusting me , Astrid . I can't guarantee you everything , but if you join me and this squad , you'll gain way more than you ever did running a company .

" Astrid lifted the 1907 Heidsieck Champagne , The Silent Ship , from the table , poured herself a glass , and tapped it against Tilda's . " Queen , I've always trusted you completely . " Honestly , I trust you even more than I trust myself . Only you can take us to places we never even dared to dream about ! The plane touched down . A luxury car arranged by Benedict was already waiting for Tilda and her team .

They headed straight for the edge of Jeselton . Jarrett whispered , " Queen was right . That Jeselton landmark is nothing but a front for the real network center . " " Of course .

It's just bait . So many countries are on edge about Cetherland's rapid growth , watching every move and doing whatever it takes to steal secrets through cyber attacks . The battlefield of the future is the internet - silent but deadly , with no smoke , only invisible wounds everywhere . " " And it won't be limited to this site . There are likely backup servers scattered across the country with different clearance levels . We only have Level One access - there's no way they'd give us the full picture . " While they talked , the car rolled to a stop . They had arrived at a deserted factory .

The place looked old and ready to collapse . Stepping out , Theo frowned . " Uh ... are we sure this is it ? " 1/3 22:15 Fri , Oct 3 After greetings and handshakes , Benedict cheerfully guided them to the elevator , chatting along the way .

Wesley stayed silent with a cold face the whole time . Theo leaned in and whispered , " Um ... Mr. Benedict , did we mess up ? Mr. Wesley looks super mad . " " You'll get used to him . He's always like that - tough on the outside , but warmer than anyone once you get close . You'll see , he's a good guy . Right , bro ? " Wesley shot Benedict a look that clearly said , You're an idiot . The elevator stopped . When the doors opened , Tilda and the squad were greeted by only five people . A plain banner hung overhead , reading , " Welcome Comet Squad to Bluewing .

" But that wasn't the thing that truly caught their attention .

Chapter 568 New Mission The base looked like something straight out of a high - tech movie - rows of supercomputers , glowing screens full of code , and constant surveillance feeds . Jarrett and the others couldn't wait to explore . No matter how solid their own setup was , it could never match what an entire country could build with unlimited cash and resources . That was the most powerful supercomputer in all of Cetherland ! " Alright , bro , show the newbies around . Get them used to the place and their new offices . I need a private word with Tilda .

I'm dumping the tough job on you . " Wesley said nothing . He just walked up to Jarrett and the others and muttered , " Let's go . " " Oh ... sure . " Wow , this guy truly doesn't waste words . After they left , Benedict grabbed a cold coffee and handed it to Tilda . " Want one ? " " Yeah . " She took it , cracked it open , had a sip , and looked around . " Not many people here , huh ? " " That's out of my control . Not

everyone is a genius like you . When I started running this place , it was just me and two people . It took a lot of work to even add five more .

" This database covers all of Cetherland and connects worldwide . It even stores stuff that some advanced countries like Lucien don't have . Only rare talent gets in , and they all go through loyalty checks . " Jeselton HQ is lucky to have five people . Other branches survive with only two . " Tilda chuckled . " I can tell those five who welcomed us earlier have some attitude . " They probably showed up because Benedict made them . They weren't exactly happy about newbies dropping in out of nowhere . With Tilda's sharp eyes , she definitely caught their stares .

" Nobody here gets a free ride . If you want respect , you'll have to earn it . " With Comet Squad's skills , climbing the ranks won't be tough as long as you put in the effort . And hey , the fact that all five of you showed up together is a big help ! " Other branches keep whining that they don't have enough people and can't keep up . If you guys pull through , I can send more folks their way . " " Since you're counting on us , we'll make sure not to disappoint . " After a brief chat , Jarrett and the others came back .

" Whoa , Tilda , I gotta say - the setup here crushes our base . " " Seriously . I thought our internet speed and response time were solid , but this place is like ten times faster ! " Benedict said , " Even if your base has money behind it , that's still just private stuff . This is Jeselton , the center of Cetherland's network tech . The government pumps way more into this place than you'd believe . " So , what do you think ? Your office is ready whenever . You could move in today .

It's super handy , though traveling back to Slosa might be a drag . " He sounded like a villain trying to lure kids with candy . He sure knew how to talk . Honestly , the gear here was unbeatable . Jarrett and the others couldn't help feeling tempted . They instinctively glanced at Tilda . She shrugged . " Not for me . Even if I'm not here , I can still give remote support . You all decide what you want . " Tilda's vision for the future wasn't tied down to just this place . Being stuck here felt limiting . As long as she had access , she could grab whatever leads and info she needed .

" No need to rush . Take your time . First , get used to how these systems run . " " Alright . " Three hours slipped by fast . Tilda and her squad already had a solid grasp on the new features . Wesley walked up . " All set ? A new mission just came in . " Tilda raised an eyebrow . " What is it ? " " The details are uploaded to your computers from the main database . If you think you're ready , head back to your office . The best way to learn is to jump in . We're seriously short on people .

Since you signed those agreements , it's time to deliver . " With that , Wesley left again . " Does Mr. Wesley only talk when he's tossing out missions ? " " You'll get used to it . So , want to take this on ? You'll score some points with this one . " Tilda glanced at Jarrett and the rest . " Think you can handle it ? " " Hell yeah ! " When Tilda and her team reached their office , the mission was already waiting on the server . After checking it , Jarrett blew up and swore , " Damn ! Who the hell runs this trash group ?!

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Human trafficking , organ deals , drugs , phone scams ... Those crooks had their hands in everything dirty ! And the amount of cash and people tied up in it ? Totally insane . * Pearls Jarrett and the others had seen some crazy stuff on the dark web before , but this was on a next level . " Got beef ? Then take it out on them . Show the world what Comet Squad can do ! " You've been back home for the holidays so long . Hope you didn't lose your edge . " " No way, Queen . Just give the word ! " At the same time , the five Bluewing members noticed the central system's newest update .

Comet Squad had accepted the mission . They started to get a little suspicious . " This target has been underground forever . Their servers are hard as hell to break , and it's super risky to get exposed . Is Mr. Benedict seriously okay letting the newbies handle this big mission ? " If the mission failed , the enemy would move all their data in minutes . Tracking down the new server could take forever . On top of that , Comet Squad was brand new and still learning how Bluewing worked .

Even the top talents who'd been here two years wouldn't touch that mission without the Lamb brothers guiding them . " Wanna bet ? Let's see if this new team has got the chops . " " Mr. Benedict and Mr. Wesley clearly trust them . Even if the work's rough , maybe they'll pull it off . " " So , what do you say ? Wanna bet how long they'll need ? " " Half a month , at least . " " Half a month then ! " " What's with all the chatter over here ? " Benedict's voice cut in out of nowhere . Everyone froze . " M - Mr . Benedict ?

" " I heard talk about betting . Sounds entertaining . Wanna loop me in ? " " Uh ... " They all looked at each other nervously , like kids caught sneaking candy . They might doubt Comet Squad , but they didn't dare disrespect Benedict . " I know you don't believe them . But I handpicked that squad . Gimme a little faith , yeah ? " " Mr. Benedict , we didn't doubt your judgment . It's just that this mission is insane . We were just saying maybe Comet Squad would need half a month- " " Hey ! " One of them realized he'd already spilled too much . " Seeing is believing , right ?

You all said Comet Squad would need at least two weeks . " I'll bet they wrap it up today . Whoever wins takes a month's pay from the others . If I lose , I'll hand over mine . Deal ? " " What ?! Mr. Benedict , we were just fooling around . " " Relax . It's only a harmless bet . I'm not gonna hold it against you . Why so nervous ? " " 11 ... Fine then , Mr. Benedict . But no weaseling out if you lose ! " " Bullshit ! When have I

ever ditched a bet ? " Benedict rolled his eyes and walked off . The rest just traded shrugs . None of them truly needed the cash anymore .

But if Benedict wanted to throw money away , they wouldn't complain . Twelve hours slipped by . Comet Squad still hadn't left their office once . Someone passed by and ran into Benedict .

It's been half a day already . They're working themselves to death . Maybe you should check if they've eaten , Mr. Benedict . " Benedict leaned back with a cup of tea , looking every bit the lazy middle - aged guy . " I messaged them - no reply . I knocked , but the door was locked . They're just locked in and focused .

Youngsters don't burn out like us old - timers . They can grind forever . Guess the new generation does outdo us . " Wesley strolled past with his laptop and roasted him on the spot . " You're barely in your 40s . Stop acting like an old man . " " Aw , come on , Wesley . You're my brother . Why so cruel ? " " Scram . You're only a few minutes older . At least I'm not as ridiculous as you . " " You brat ! Talking to your big brother like that ? You're breaking my heart ! " The others saw the brothers bickering again and immediately wanted to bolt . Once they got going , they never shut up .

Click ! Just then , the mechanical door to Comet Squad's office slid open . Tilda stepped out first , blinking at the people gathered outside . " Whoa , what's with the crowd ? Word spreads fast , huh ? "

Chapter 570

Out of the Shadows : Tilda's Brilliant Second Life " Mission is done . Files are already on the main server . This drive is the backup . I was heading over to give it to you . " Tilda tossed the USB to Benedict . He caught it , eyes flashing . " Wait , you didn't even work a full day yet . How the hell did you wrap up so fast ? " it " I told them to grab food and rest . But once we dug into that organization , we saw too much sick stuff . They were furious . Nobody cared about breaks - we just wanted to crush those bastards .

Adrenaline carried us through . " Her eyes grew gentle as she watched her four teammates who were fast asleep , scattered across the office . Even after everything they'd seen in this messed - up world as hackers , they still fought with pure passion . Tilda felt a rush of gratitude . Building this squad and finding people like them was pure luck . They had skill , energy , followed orders , and never betrayed anyone . But the real deal was their heart . They genuinely cared about people . In a place so rotten , they were like shining gems untouched by the dirt . That was what mattered most .

Staying decent in a place like that and still being good at the job ? Nearly impossible . Most folks spent their whole lives hoping to find teammates like that , and Tilda just happened to land them . She felt like her team was a straight - up gift from above . Benedict grinned widely . " Hah ! Looks like I win this round ! " " No way . You guys broke into their system in less than a day ? That's insane ... " " Now , it was everyone else's turn to be floored . Nobody thought that Comet Squad would not only pull it off but do it that quickly .

Weren't they worried about getting caught or screwing up ? And hacking that fast ? Even the so - called geniuses who lived on computers had to admit they " You live , come with me to the office . Let's check what the Comet Squad dug up . " Wesley tossed out the order and walked off with his laptop . The rest snapped out of their daze and rushed after him . " Wait for us , Mr. Wesley ! " Benedict shot Tilda a huge thumbs - up . " You totally made me shine this time . " € 15.000 Tilda squinted with a dangerous spark .

" So you bet on whether we'd nail it or not , didn't you ? " " Come on , no way . You're my handpicked squad of clites . If you messed up , it'd drag me down too . " Your effort is my pride and my peace of mind . Keep it up ! " He patted her shoulder , laughed it off , and slipped out fast . All she could do was rub her temples in frustration . What was it like having a boss who was a complete goofball ? Honestly , every day felt like an adventure . Meanwhile , the Bluewing Base crew trailed Wesley to his office .

When they opened the files , they thought the data had just been slapped together to finish the job . Finishing something that huge so fast ? No normal person could ever manage it . But once Wesley went through the files with them , they were floored . " Holy crap , this is nuts ! Mr. Wesley , the people you and Mr. Benedict brought in are straight - up superhuman ! " Even those so - called geniuses had to admit defeat . Most of them had barely respected anyone in their whole careers . Now , suddenly , there were five people they truly looked up to .

But seeing all that info also made their blood boil . They'd seen shady stuff before . But this stuff ? The photos and files were beyond anything they'd imagined .

Wesley's expression stayed calm . " Now that you get it , show them the respect they deserve . Everything clicked for the others . " So that's why ... You gave Comet Squad such a brutal mission to prove their worth , right ? " " You think I'd joke about something like this ? Respect here only comes from strength . I gave them that job because I trust them !

" Wesley stared at them like they were clueless Got it ! " Time slipped by fast . Tilda and her squad stayed at Bluewing Base for a full week . Like sponges soaking up water , they grabbed every lesson and

bit of experience they could , making the most of every day . One morning , Tilda went to see Benedict before leaving . " Why are you rushing off ? Is life here too boring ? Not enjoying yourself ? "