

Shadows 84

Chapter 84 No Way Out Russell clenched his jaw so tightly that his teeth ached . His hatred for Tilda burned hotter . " What do we do now , Dad ? She just showed up . Maybe we should come back another time ... " But Russell cut him off . " No. Her timing's perfect . We settle this once and for all . Your mother couldn't get through to Andy - if I don't try myself , I've got no chance at all . " " You mean Howard trailed off , and he fell silent . He could already guess what Russell intended .

Honestly , with what Howard knew of Tilda , Russell's plan was nothing short of walking into humiliation . But for the sake of the Jenson's reputation , Russell would still go through with it , even if there was only the slimmest chance . Tilda stepped into the elevator . Just before the doors slid shut , she caught sight of Russell and Howard heading her way . She pulled out her phone and fired off a quick message . " Andy , Russell and Howard just showed up at the hotel . Looks like they're here for you . I ran right into them . " Andy typed , " Interesting . Did it turn into a fight yet ?

" 2 Tilda then replied , " Not yet . But trust me , something even better's about to happen . We might as well sit back , grab popcorn , and watch the show . It's way more fun than frying under the sun outside . " " I can't wait to see it ." > After these past days of spending time together , Tilda and Andy had grown close - practically confidants . Their views lined up perfectly . They laughed the same , joked the same , even crashed into the same walls together . And slowly , Andy had started to let go of that flicker of romantic feeling he once held for her .

Andy had accepted the truth in Tilda's words that being her friend was much easier and happier than trying to be her lover . Some things are easier said between friends . Lovers could never say them out loud . Still , he couldn't help the faint sting in his chest . When Tilda reached Andy's hotel room , she deliberately left the door open , like a trap set in plain sight . " You really think Mr. Jenson would humiliate himself enough to walk in here ? " Andy asked , skeptical . He knew Tilda was here . And if he still came looking for Andy , that would be beyond pathetic .

Tilda sneered . " You think they mind being humiliated ? When someone's useful , they'll grovel . The moment you're not , they'll turn cold and kick you to the curb . That's the Jenson's in a nutshell . " Her lips curved into a cold , knowing smile . And sure enough , it wasn't long before Russell and Howard showed up outside Room 502 . Howard glanced at Russell's stiff , stormy expression and couldn't hold back . " Dad , maybe we should just leave and come back tomorrow .

If we walk in and run straight into Tilda- " He stopped himself , but the thought lingered . With her sharp tongue , who knew how badly she'd tear into Russell ? The humiliation would be unbearable . He didn't dare picture it . " We can't leave ! Tilda has already seen us and she knows where Andy is . If he packs up

and checks out now , we'll never track him down again before the trial . That door will be shut for good ! " Russell thought it through and made his decision . Even if it meant humiliation , this was his mess .

Blair had been right that he couldn't expect anyone else to clean it for him . up As head of the family , he had to set the example . 17 17 F # = ,: · | So he pushed forward until he was standing at Andy's room . *** Then , without hesitation , he walked inside . Howard pressed his lips together and followed . Russell had already made up his mind . 12 \$ 4 If he couldn't ease the burden , then at the very least , he could stand beside him . He'd take some of the fire when Tilda inevitably turned her venom on them .

When they stepped into the living room , Tilda and Andy were already there , seated casually on the couch , as if they had been waiting . " Mr. Jenson , you must've walked into the wrong room . This is Andy's room . " Russell's fists clenched so tight his nails dug into his palms . " I didn't walk into the wrong place . You're right , Tilda . I came here to see Andy , " By now , he'd braced himself for her mockery . He knew it was coming . Still , the humiliation burned . Rarely in his life had he been left so powerless , without a single retort .

And every time it happened lately , it was Tilda who forced him into it . He must've owed her something in a past life , because finding this so - called daughter had made his life hell . Tilda let out a low laugh , the contempt in her eyes impossible to hide . To her , he and Howard looked pathetic - like fools who didn't even realize the joke was on them . " Andy , he says he's here to see you . Do you want to humor him ? " Tilda asked , her voice laced with mockery . Andy didn't even blink . " We both know why he came , Mr. Jenson .

When your wife tried to stop me at the airport , I thought I made myself very clear ." His tone sharpened . " What you're doing now - trying to buy off opposing counsel - falls squarely under Section 1873 of the criminal code . In plain terms , that's bribery . And if this gets out , it won't just tarnish your name and the Jensons ' reputation . What could've been settled with an apology and compensation could turn into prison time . " Andy , ever the professional , laid out the stakes in just a few sentences . He made it crystal clear and impossible to ignore .