

Shadows 85

Chapter 85 The Price of Pride , Andy's words were so clear that even Russell couldn't pretend not to understand . If he tried to bribe Andy in front of Tilda and Andy shot him down , she'd use it against him . The truth about why he was here could never be spoken aloud . But if he said nothing , then this was it . His last chance would slip away . Once they hit the courtroom , against Andy , defeat was guaranteed . Andy's reputation was terrifying for a reason . D 36 % Finished He said evenly , " Mr.

Jenson , you're the chairman of Jenson Group , one of the biggest names in Slosa . Surely you're not senile enough to hand us leverage on a silver platter . " And by the way , barging into someone's suite without permission ? Under Section 192 , that's trespassing . Technically , we could call the police right now and demand a formal apology . So , how exactly do you plan on fixing this ? " અ ર બ (Tilda chimed right in , playing off him like they had rehearsed it . The two of them in sync only made Russell's face grow darker , uglier by the second . " Tilda ...

that's enough ." Howard's hands balled into fists . He had known the moment they stepped inside they'd be targets for her barbs , but this was too much . No matter what had happened , Russell was still her father , the man who had given her life . And this was how she repaid him ? It was inhuman . " Howard , don't , " Russell cut him off . T He might have been cornered , but he was still the chairman who had weathered decades of storms , Clear- headed now , he wasn't as reckless as he'd been in their earlier encounters . He stopped Howard before he made it worse .

Howard finally shut his mouth , though the anger still burned in his eyes . " Mr. Jenson , why won't you let Howard speak ? What he just said - wasn't that always your favorite line to throw at me back in the day ? " Tilda leaned back on the couch , lounging comfortably with her chin propped in one hand . Her gaze was flat and unshaken , taking in both Russell and Howard without a ripple . Her voice was lazy , unhurried , carrying the calm of a cat toying with its prey . Russell drew in a long breath , closed his eyes for a moment , then opened them again . He finally muttered , " ...

I'm sorry . " The apology slipped out so suddenly that Howard stared at Russell in disbelief , convinced he must have misheard . " Andy , did you hear that ? " Tilda tilted her head , feigning confusion . " Sounded like somebody just farted . " Andy smirked and tapped her nose . " No , Tilly . That was Mr. Jenson talking . But he said it so softly , I couldn't quite make it out . " You- ! " Howard's whole body trembled with rage . The humiliation was unbearable . He couldn't hold back any longer . He was about to explode .

" I said I'm sorry . Isn't that enough , Tilda ? " Russell's voice rose in a low growl , his eyes burning with fury as he glared at her . " I know I was wrong . That day , I misunderstood you - and I hurt your classmate . I'll go to her myself , apologize in person , and pay whatever compensation she deserves . I

won't run from it . You wanted an apology - I've given it to you . So can we end this already ? Or do you really want the whole world to watch our family's humiliation - your humiliation as much as mine ? " Never in his life had Russell been forced this low .

Never had he bowed his head to anyone like this . Even with rage boiling in his chest , he had no choice but to swallow it . Every ounce of pride , every bit of hatred - he swallowed it all . The shame was unbearable . And the cruelest part ? The person who had driven him here was Tilda - his own daughter . The child he never thought would have the power to make him kneel in spirit , to strip him of every last defense . Faced with the choice between protecting the Jensions ' honor and clinging to his own dignity , Russell chose the family . Always the family .

As head of the family , Russell wasn't just defending his own pride . He was protecting the family's pride . For years , he had built their legacy like a fortress where the Jensions ' name could shine and where his children could find shelter . He would never allow Tilda to tear it all down . " Dad ... " Howard's voice cracked with disbelief . He stared at Russell , stunned . Never in his life had he expected to see Russell submit to Tilda . The Price of Pride In his memory , his father had never yielded to anyone , except Blair .

Stubborn , proud , unbending - that was Russell . 36 % Finished . Even when he lowered himself to appease his wife , it wasn't a humiliation ; it was a show of devotion . For her , for the woman he loved , he would do anything . That was no weakness ; that was his creed as a man . It was a belief that had shaped the Jensions from the very beginning , leaving its mark on every child who grew up under that roof . At that moment , a surge of emotion rose in Howard's chest , sharp and overwhelming .

God knew what it cost his father to stand there , forced to apologize to his own daughter in front of his son . How much pride did he have to bury ? How much dignity did he have to throw at the feet of the very person he had once dismissed , only to let her trample on it and grind it to dust ? All for one reason - to shield the Jensions . And to keep his children from the sting of gossip and the weight of scandal .