

CHAPTER 88: JAMESON

Jameson enters Vantage with a newfound sense of ownership, feeling it truly belongs to him for the first time. Despite growing up in luxury, he reflects that nothing has ever been solely his until now. His companions, Zella and Rohan, observe him, but Jameson is too absorbed in the moment to acknowledge them. Branford, his uncle, interrupts with a stern demeanor, demanding a private conversation. The tension is palpable as Branford's sharp gaze hints at unresolved familial conflicts, setting the stage for a pivotal confrontation.

At the top of the staircase, Branford confronts Jameson about his reckless behavior, accusing him of having a death wish. Jameson denies this, revealing that his perspective on mortality has shifted, particularly because of Avery. Branford's scolding takes on a paternal tone, a dynamic Jameson resists but subtly acknowledges. The uncle's frustration stems from concern, not just anger, as he critiques Jameson's impulsive actions during the recent game. The exchange highlights Branford's deeper investment in Jameson's well-being, contrasting with Ian's neglect.

Branford reveals his intention to break the cycle of enabling Ian's behavior, declaring that the family's tolerance ends with Jameson. He assures Jameson that Vantage is rightfully his, won through honor rather than manipulation. Jameson, still defiant, questions Branford's earlier criticism of his methods, but Branford clarifies that Jameson's choice to prioritize Zella's safety over winning demonstrated integrity. This moment of recognition underscores Branford's respect for Jameson's character, despite their differences.

The chapter concludes with Branford affirming Jameson's ownership of Vantage, promising to protect his claim against any challenges, including from Ian. Jameson is moved by his uncle's unexpected support, realizing the significance of being treated as family. The storm brewing outside mirrors the emotional turbulence within, as

Jameson grapples with his newfound legacy and the weight of Branford's approval. The scene sets the foundation for Jameson's evolving role within the family and his future at Vantage.

