

CHAPTER 85: JAMESON

The chapter opens with Jameson and Zella surviving a perilous situation, with Zella acknowledging her debt to Jameson. In a surprising move, she throws the key they risked their lives for down to Katharine, leaving Jameson stunned. Branford, Jameson's uncle, is furious, and tensions rise as Jameson insists on retrieving the chest.

Branford's anger is palpable, hinting at deeper familial conflicts, particularly with his brother Bowen, who holds leverage over him. Katharine's arrival and her cryptic words—"Ontario. Versace. Selenium"—trigger Branford's compliance, revealing a prearranged code that forces him to hand over the chest.

Katharine's calculated actions dominate the scene as she takes control of the chest, delivering a pointed lesson to Jameson about power and manipulation. She opens the chest to find a silver ballerina, which she removes before discarding the box. Jameson, refusing to accept defeat, frantically searches the empty chest, driven by his relentless need to win. His internal struggle is underscored by memories of his grandfather's teachings and taunts about his worth without the Hawthorne name. Despite Branford and Zella urging him to let go, Jameson remains fixated on uncovering hidden clues, convinced the game isn't over.

The chapter delves into Jameson's psychological state as he recalls his grandfather's lessons about perception and strategy. The silver ballerina triggers a memory of a similar object from a past game, hinting at misdirection and deeper meaning. Jameson's determination to "see" the truth reflects his grandfather's influence, emphasizing the importance of perspective and creativity in solving challenges. His refusal to concede highlights his competitive nature and his fear of being ordinary, a theme central to his character arc.

In the final moments, Jameson closes his eyes, replaying the game's initial instructions and the clues he's gathered. His smile suggests a breakthrough, implying he's pieced

together a solution others overlooked. The chapter ends on a note of anticipation, leaving readers curious about Jameson's next move and whether his insight will turn the tide in his favor. The interplay of family dynamics, power struggles, and intellectual rivalry creates a compelling narrative that drives the story forward.

