

Chapter 511 Meeting Paulina

The thought that Lilah might be a true heiress of a powerful family gnawed at Wanda's pride. Jealousy rose in her chest like a bitter tide. Her voice took on a sharp edge. "We still don't know which prestigious family Lilah belongs to. We need to be careful—not just for our sake, but to avoid a public scandal."

It made sense. For all the Campbells' power and boldness, their reputation mattered. They guarded it like treasure.

Trinity nodded quickly. "I understand, Wanda. I'll do whatever you say."

Wanda's anger finally began to cool. Seeing Trinity so obedient helped settle the storm in her chest. "For now, stay away from Lilah. Don't cross her and never confront her head-on. I'll handle her myself when the time comes."

Wanda had made up her mind—when the opportunity arose, she would ruin Lilah completely.

Meanwhile, after leaving Ublento Medical University, Elliana returned to Rosewood Villa. Thoughts of her time in Cole's car lingered in her mind—amusing and irritating all at once, with a flicker of bitterness beneath it all. Cole had recovered, almost fully. But he'd forgotten her, and now Wanda was glued to his side.

Elliana didn't know how to bring Cole back to her world again. Sighing, she locked herself in the study and immersed herself in ancient texts, searching for any record about the pair of jade bracelets.

Cole had moved on, but she hadn't. She still carried the weight of their mission—finding their mothers. She couldn't afford to stop, not even for a second.

Victor had once been her best lead, but after his escape from Podgend, he'd vanished. Her network hadn't picked up a single trace of him since. Now, all her hope was pinned on the jade bracelets.

She sat surrounded by thick books, flipping page after page, when a knock broke her focus.

Heather stepped inside. "Elliana, there's a woman outside. She's wrapped up tight and won't give her name. Just said she's here to see Ms. Marsh."

Elliana raised her eyebrow. Ms. Marsh? Someone knew her true identity.

Elliana checked the surveillance. The moment she saw the woman draped in a shawl, a small smile curved her lips. "Let her in."

"Alright," Heather replied, curiosity piqued. "Who is she?"

Elliana gave her a meaningful glance. "She's Paulina—Hugh's older sister."

Heather froze. She had never met Paulina, but the name carried weight as the matriarch-in-waiting of the Fletcher family. If she ever hoped to be with Hugh—much less marry him—she'd have to pass Paulina's test.

Elliana chuckled at her awkward expression. "You? Nervous now? You're usually fearless."

Heather shifted uncomfortably and then asked shyly, "Do I look okay? Do you think Hugh's sister will like me?"

Elliana gave her a once-over. "You look like a maid right now, which is perfectly appropriate since Paulina prefers a traditional, graceful, and well-mannered sister-in-law."

Heather's current look had been transformed by Elliana herself—neat, formal, and stripped of her usual wild charm.

Relieved, Heather gave a sheepish grin and straightened her uniform before heading downstairs. She went to escort Paulina inside and politely guided Paulina upstairs.

Adah, Clifton, and the others secretly peeked from around the corners, wide-eyed. They could hardly believe their eyes. Heather—the same Heather from Delta, wild and headstrong—was now acting like a polished, respectful maid. It was downright unsettling.

Heather thought she had hidden her real self well. But just as she reached the door to Elliana's study, ready to open it for Paulina, she

heard Paulina ask, "You're Ms. Heather Byrd, aren't you?"

Heather froze. Slowly, she looked up, at a loss for words. She offered a shy smile, completely exposed. It was too embarrassing. She had tried so hard to act proper and make a good impression, only to have her wild persona exposed.

There was no point pretending anymore. Heather stood straight and braced herself for Paulina's disapproval.

Apparently, the Fletchers had strict expectations. Their daughters-in-law were meant to be calm, poised, and refined. Heather knew she was none of those things.

But to Heather's surprise, Paulina removed her shawl and smiled warmly. "Ms. Byrd, you're beautiful, confident, and genuine. I like you very much. Thank you for your hospitality."

"Really?" Heather blinked, shocked.

Paulina nodded. "Of course. From the moment I saw you, I was impressed. Ms. Marsh is a remarkable woman, and those she chooses to work with are clearly just as exceptional. I truly admire you."

Heather's heart soared. Without thinking, she blurted, "Then... Are you okay for me to become your sister-in-law?"

Paulina looked startled. "What?"

Heather took a breath and then asked again, this time with more courage, "Do you think Hugh and I are a good match?"

Chapter 512 He's Drawn To Her

Heather's words hung in the air. For a moment, Paulina just stared, caught off guard. Then, she shook her head with a firm smile. "No, I don't think so."

Heather's smile faded instantly. She knew it. All those compliments had just been polite formalities. Deep down, Paulina didn't approve of her at all. The idea of marrying Hugh was out of the question.

As Heather quietly weighed her next move—perhaps eloping with Hugh if it came to that—Paulina suddenly added with a bright smile, "But if you're serious about joining the Fletcher family through marriage, I fully support it!"

Heather blinked in surprise.

Paulina laughed softly. "Just don't pick Hugh. That boy's clumsy and slow. He's not a match for you. You'd do better with Myles, his older brother. He's smart, polished, and well-read—far more your type."

Heather had already cracked open the study door. Inside the study, Elliana had heard everything and couldn't help but laugh out loud.

Hearing her, Paulina pushed the door open and greeted her with a cheerful nod. "Ms. Marsh."

Elliana smiled and gestured to the sofa. "Paulina, please—have a seat."

Despite knowing Elliana well, Paulina remained respectful and chose to stand. It was a habit she'd developed in the Evans family, where formality was second nature. In contrast, Adah and the Four Guardians were far more relaxed around Elliana.

Elliana didn't insist and instead motioned for Heather to leave.

Heather obeyed at once, closing the door behind her.



As Heather walked away, she couldn't help but pout to herself. Paulina was completely wrong—Hugh was a hundred times better than Myles. To Heather, Myles was too stiff and pretentious. Hugh, on the other hand, was sincere and sweet.

Paulina had no idea what Heather truly felt. She had just been teasing Heather a little, not realizing that Heather and Hugh were already in love. And soon, she forgot about the whole exchange.

Once the door shut, Paulina got straight to the point. "Ms. Marsh, Mr. Evans asked me to look into your background. What should I report to him?"

Elliana beamed at Paulina. Paulina was Cole's personal assistant, someone who'd grown up by his side. Yet, Paulina now stood firmly on her side, trusting her completely.

Paulina went on with a smile. "Also, I noticed something today. Since meeting you, Mr. Evans has seemed... Different. Even with his memory loss, it's clear he's drawn to you."

Elliana believed it. She knew Cole well. If he wasn't interested, he wouldn't even spare a glance, let alone dig into someone's background. The fact that he hadn't kicked her out of his car said enough. He didn't dislike her. That alone gave her comfort.

Still, the thought of his upcoming engagement to Wanda, and the way he personally escorted Wanda to work, disheartened Elliana.

"Cole cares about his fiancée, and in the meantime, he's curious about a woman who just walked into his life. Who knew he could be so fickle after his recovery, huh?" Elliana said with a bitter smile.

Paulina gave a knowing grin. "He's indeed interested in you, but he does not care about Wanda—not even a little."

Elliana looked up. "Then why does he escort her to and from work every day? Isn't that care?"

"He had intended to go to the Enlightenment Institute for business, which was unrelated to Wanda. Honestly, he doesn't like her at all. And they will not be engaged," Paulina replied simply.

Elliana frowned. "But he woke up declaring he wanted to marry the

Campbell family's heiress. He even went to propose. Why wouldn't there be any engagement?"

She had always assumed Cole and Wanda had grown up together and that his feelings had started long ago.

Paulina answered honestly, "When he woke up, the one thing he remembered clearly was his mother telling him to marry the Campbell family's heiress. He's doing this to honor what he believes was her dying wish."

Elliana immediately understood. With his memories jumbled, Cole had probably thought his mother had passed away with her final request for him to marry Wanda. Naturally, he would do everything he could to fulfill it.

Knowing this, Elliana's anger subsided considerably. "Did his mother really make that request?"

Paulina said firmly, "She did. She told him many times. I once heard it myself."

"But why? Why would she insist he marry the Campbell family's heiress?" Elliana asked, brows furrowed.

Paulina shook her head. "That part, I don't know. But she was serious."

Elliana sat in silence, deep in thought. What could possibly lead a mother to decide her son's future bride so early—and so firmly? It was strange. And unsettling.

"If Cole is so determined to honor her wish and marry Wanda, why is the engagement suddenly off?" Elliana inquired.

Paulina answered, "Because Mr. Evans recently found out the truth—there's a real Campbell heiress out there, and Wanda is just the adopted one."