

Chapter 516 Gathered For Her Supposed Death

Inside a private room at Nightfall, Allan, Merlin, and Manley had arrived. Cole, however, had yet to show up.

Merlin had brought Hailee along. Since he hired her as his personal secretary, he'd often taken her to oversee work at overseas branches. They rarely returned to Ublento. His real goal was to help her break away from that toxic environment and slowly heal from Boris's shadow.

The new surroundings and demanding work schedule had indeed given Hailee little time to dwell on the past. Her mood had gradually lifted, and the pain Boris left behind had begun to fade.

Things had been looking up—until the shocking news of Elliana's sudden "death" arrived.

Hailee had been devastated. Grief had swallowed her whole, and she'd found herself unable to focus as tears always came without warning. Elliana had been her first real friend. Elliana had pulled her out of a dark place, saving her from a life weighed down by cruelty and chaos. To her, Elliana was more than a friend—she was a savior. The news of Elliana's untimely passing felt too cruel to believe.

Within days, Hailee's appearance had become visibly haggard.

Worried her sorrow might ruin her health, Merlin had dropped everything and flown her back to Ublento. He had arranged this meeting to know if there was more story of Elliana's supposed death.

"What exactly happened?" Merlin asked quickly as he stepped into the room. "Is it true? Is Elliana really dead?"

"It's hard to say," Allan replied with a shrug.

Manley chimed in, "Most people don't know what Elliana's capable of. But we do. It's unlikely for someone like her to perish so easily. However,

without any news of her, we can't be certain."

Hailee stood silently behind Merlin, listening closely. Every part of her hoped to hear something—anything—that would prove Elliana was still alive. She had seen Elliana's strength on Merritt's cruise. It didn't make sense that someone like Elliana could fall so easily. She hoped Allan and Manley would bring good news that Elliana was still breathing somewhere.

Hailee's eyes were red and swollen from crying. Her skin had lost its glow after days of barely sleeping or eating.

Merlin, heart aching for her, patted the seat beside him. "Hailee, take a seat."

Hailee looked at him and gently shook her head. "Thank you, Mr. Blakely, but I'm fine standing."

Though Merlin never made any romantic advances, Hailee wasn't blind. She saw the way he looked at her. She knew he was waiting, simply giving her time to forget Boris. Sooner or later, he would make his intentions clear. He wanted her to become his woman.

But she couldn't bring herself to accept any man again. Especially not someone like Merlin—wealthy, powerful, charming. That was why she kept her distance. She constantly reminded herself not to let him get too close, not even for a moment.

Merlin could feel her quiet resistance. It left him at a loss. He didn't want to force her or scare her away. If he pushed too hard, he might lose the chance to see her again.

After a long glance at Hailee, Merlin turned back to Allan and Manley. "What about Cole? What does he think?"

Allan and Manley exchanged looks, unsure how to begin.

"Did something happen to Cole too?" Merlin asked, frowning. "He cared about Elliana more than anyone. Is he okay?"

"How come you haven't heard about it?" Allan asked.

Merlin raised a brow. "Heard what?" He had just returned from overseas. There was a lot he hadn't caught up on.

Allan let out a quiet sigh. "Cole doesn't remember Elliana anymore. He's engaged now—to the daughter of the Campbell family. As far as he's concerned, Elliana is just a stranger. Naturally, he's not bothered by a stranger's fate."

Merlin and Hailee both froze in shock.

Hailee stepped forward. "Why did Mr. Evans forget about Elliana?"

Everyone knew Merlin's feelings for Hailee, so Allan and Manley didn't treat her like an outsider.

Allan looked at her and explained, "We're not clear on the details, but he got into a car accident. When he woke up, he couldn't remember her."

Manley nodded. "Yeah. He remembers everyone else, just not Elliana. Maybe she couldn't take it. She sold Regal Grove, took the money, and left the country. Then, something happened to her abroad."

What neither Manley nor Allan knew was that Cole had once suffered from Psychephrenia. It was a well-kept secret, hidden even from most of the Evans family. The information Allan and Manley had gathered wasn't entirely accurate.

Hailee frowned deeply, unsure what to say.

The love Elliana and Cole once shared had been real. Now, he was engaged to someone else and had no memory of Elliana. Meanwhile, Elliana was missing and possibly dead. It was tragic. And Hailee couldn't do a thing about it.

Merlin glanced at her, reading her expression, and then turned to Allan and Manley. "Shouldn't we do something about this?"