

## Chapter 552 Her Mission

Elliana reached into her bag and withdrew two jade bracelets, their surfaces gleaming with an ancient luster.

The bracelets took the form of serpents—one feminine, one masculine—their bodies adorned with patterns so intricate that they seemed to whisper secrets from forgotten ages.

Elliana cradled the bracelets in her palm and turned toward Arthur and Milton. "Dad, Milton, have you ever laid eyes on these jade pieces?"

Arthur and Milton, astute as they were, understood Elliana wouldn't produce such items without purpose. They leaned forward, studying the bracelets with careful attention. After several moments, both men lifted their heads and shook them in unison. "Never seen them before."

Surprise flickered across Elliana's features as she extended the female serpent bracelet toward them. "You've truly never encountered this piece?"

"No," they answered together, their heads moving in the same negative motion.

Elliana's puzzlement deepened. "This bracelet was left by Mom. Have you never seen it with her?"

The revelation struck like lightning. Upon learning that Rita had owned the female serpent bracelet, Arthur's and Milton's eyes widened with shock, and they immediately seized the piece for closer examination.

Milton shook his head after his inspection. "I swear I never saw Mom with anything like this."

Arthur's brow creased as he lost himself in thought, weighing memories against the evidence before him. "Your mother never revealed this bracelet to me. Yet, she harbored countless secrets—mysteries I dared not probe. Perhaps this bracelet numbered among them."

Arthur's gaze found Elliana's face. "Tell me, where did you come by this

bracelet?"

Having confirmed beyond doubt that these men were indeed her father and brother, Elliana felt no need for concealment. Trust flowed freely from her heart. She recounted how Dobbs had safeguarded the bracelet for her mother, returning it to her before death claimed him, along with Rita's final words that he had faithfully preserved. The bracelet represented Rita's legacy to Elliana.

Rita had secured the bracelet within a box protected by an elaborate code, declaring that if Elliana could unlock its mystery, the bracelet would become hers to guide her choices. Should the code prove insurmountable, Rita wished only for Elliana to embrace happiness in an ordinary life.

Elliana had risen to meet her mother's challenge. She had cracked the code, opened the box, and claimed the bracelet as her inheritance.

Arthur's frown deepened as Elliana's story unfolded, his gaze boring into the bracelet with renewed intensity. "Your mother entrusted this to you and left those specific words. She clearly harbored tremendous expectations for you."

Yet, the nature of those expectations remained shrouded in mystery.

Elliana nodded, having wrestled with the same conclusion. The bracelet surely concealed profound secrets. Her mother had hoped she would unearth them, and only then would her path forward become clear.

Her mother had counseled her to honor her instincts and pursue what felt right, free from the weight of imposed duty. Essentially, her mother had placed great faith in her while refusing to burden her with obligation, allowing her to proceed at her chosen pace with safety and joy as her priorities.

"I can't grasp why Mom didn't pass the bracelet to me," Milton said, his brow furrowing with confusion. "I'm the eldest son. I had already reached six years when Mom departed—old enough to comprehend important matters. If Mom required us to fulfill some purpose, logic dictated she should have considered me first, placing this responsibility in my hands. Why bestow it upon Elliana instead?"

The same question had plagued Elliana's thoughts. The siblings found



themselves at an impasse and turned toward Arthur for guidance.

Arthur continued his study of the bracelet, turning it slowly in his palm. After an extended silence, he spoke with measured analysis. "This piece appears remarkably ancient—likely descended from an era lost to memory. If it truly represents an artifact from those distant times, its original purpose was woven into its very creation."

Elliana and Milton, both blessed with exceptional intellect, immediately grasped the implications behind Arthur's observation and shared a meaningful glance.

"Ancient traditions often dictated that certain treasures passed through daughters rather than sons. Though such customs strike modern minds as peculiar, they carried immense significance in their time." Arthur paused, his voice taking on a thoughtful cadence. "I suspect the female serpent bracelet your mother left was always destined for a daughter's hand, never a son's. Whoever claims ownership of this piece inherits a mission that no man can accomplish."

Elliana and Milton found themselves nodding in agreement with Arthur's reasoning.

Milton's attention shifted to the male serpent bracelet resting in Elliana's other hand. "What of this masculine piece? Elliana, how did it come into your possession?"

"This one..." Elliana's gaze dropped to the male bracelet in her palm. Cole's mother had left it as his inheritance. The bracelet connected to the Evans family's secrets and matters concerning Cole's mother—territory she couldn't traverse without careful consideration.

Arthur, ever observant, caught the hesitation that colored Elliana's expression and asked gently, "Is there something you feel you cannot share with us?"

