

Chapter 553 I Am Milena

"Yes." Elliana's nod carried the weight of unspoken complexities. Her gaze swept between Arthur and Milton, touched with genuine regret. "Dad, Milton, forgive me, but the story behind this male serpent bracelet must remain untold—at least for now."

Arthur and Milton exchanged understanding smiles, their faces radiating warmth rather than disappointment. They wouldn't demand answers she wasn't prepared to give.

Relief washed over Elliana at their gracious acceptance. "Dad, Milton, I believe these jade pieces hold the key to Mom's hidden past. If we can unlock their mysteries, we might discover not only where she came from, but perhaps even where she vanished to."

"My thoughts exactly." Milton agreed, his voice carrying conviction.

Arthur's enthusiasm blazed as he interjected, "I'll mobilize every resource the Campbell family possesses to trace these bracelets' origins. You'll hear of any discoveries the moment they surface."

Elliana's smile bloomed with genuine relief at his words. Her own research through countless ancient texts had yielded nothing about the jade pieces—a testament to their extraordinary origin. It seemed no scholar had ever documented their existence, making their history frustratingly elusive. Her solitary efforts had reached their limits, but with her father channeling the Campbell family's considerable influence, their prospects brightened considerably.

Arthur took a picture of the bracelet before returning it to Elliana's care. "This treasure passed from your mother's hands to yours—guard it with your life."

"I will, Dad." Elliana tucked the bracelets away with reverent care.

Today should have sparkled with celebration—Elliana's homecoming deserved nothing less. Yet, their conversation had drifted inevitably toward Rita's memory, casting shadows over what should have been

pure joy.

Arthur felt the sting of paternal inadequacy pierce his heart. He had sworn countless oaths that if fate ever returned his daughter to him, he would transform her into the world's most cherished girl. Instead, her first day home found him empty-handed and burdened with weighty discussions. As her father, he should serve as her sanctuary, seeking only to kindle happiness in her eyes.

With that resolve burning within him, Arthur buried his anguish over his missing partner beneath a radiant smile. "Elliana, after years of wandering in exile, you've finally found your way home. I want to host a magnificent celebration and proclaim to the world that the rightful heiress of this family has returned!"

Milton's enthusiasm matched his father's fervor. "Absolutely! Elliana stands as the sole legitimate heiress of the Campbell dynasty, her status beyond question. We must orchestrate a formal homecoming celebration so everyone recognizes we possess such an extraordinary girl."

More than anything, Milton yearned to showcase his sister's remarkable talents and natural beauty—a radiance that needed no enhancement to captivate hearts. Having her as his sister filled him with endless pride.

However, Elliana shattered their s with practical wisdom. "The time hasn't come to announce my return to the Campbell legacy. Secrecy serves us better for now."

"But why?" Milton's confusion colored his question.

Elliana's explanation carried the ring of hard-earned insight. "Mom exercised extraordinary caution in concealing her identity—such measures don't arise without compelling reasons. Until we illuminate her hidden past, publicity becomes our enemy. Besides, I carry an urgent responsibility that demands attention."

"What responsibility?" Arthur pressed gently.

Elliana's honesty painted her response. "A mysterious caller reached me from overseas recently. This person claimed knowledge of Mom's secrets and proposed an exchange—information of Mom's background for the 'Medical Codex.'"

She lifted her gaze to meet Arthur's and Milton's eyes. "Have either of you encountered the 'Medical Codex' before?"

Both men shook their heads in synchronized denial.

Surprise flickered across Elliana's features. Their lack of knowledge of the 'Medical Codex' suggested her mother had intended it exclusively for her possession. The female serpent bracelet passed only to daughters, and now the 'Medical Codex' followed the same pattern? What drove her mother to embrace such selective traditions?

"The 'Medical Codex' represents another treasure Mom left in my care," Elliana revealed.

Milton's curiosity sparked. "What exactly is this 'Medical Codex'?"

Elliana's explanation unfolded like a map of ancient wisdom. "The 'Medical Codex' stands as a singular medical tome, preserved from antiquity—much like the two jade bracelets. It is divided into two sacred volumes: 'The Medical Volume' and 'The Poison Volume.' The first chronicles legendary healing arts and miraculous prescriptions, while the second catalogs deadly poisons of mythical potency. Anyone mastering both volumes ascends to become a true master of life and death."

A master wielding both salvation and destruction? The description conjured one name in both Arthur's and Milton's minds—Milena.

"Someone like Milena Atkinson, the legendary healer?" Milton ventured.

Arthur's voice carried wonder as he chimed in, "Your mother certainly commanded both healing and poison with equal mastery. I never knew she possessed such a remarkable tome as the 'Medical Codex.'" He paused, his thoughts turning contemplative. "I've heard whispers that Milena is a master of both healing and poisons. I wonder where she acquired such knowledge, and how her abilities compare to your mother's gifts."

Elliana's smile carried the warmth of long-held secrets finally ready for revelation. The moment had arrived to unveil her hidden identity as Milena—otherwise, continuing their discussion of the "Medical Codex" would prove impossible. She drew a breath and confessed, "Dad, Milton, I am Milena. Every healing technique and poison mastery I possess flows from the wisdom contained within the 'Medical Codex.'"