

## Chapter 562 What Are You Hiding From Me

Cole said quietly, "Grandpa, all of you are acting strangely. The look in your eyes... The way everyone downstairs reacted when I walked in. Something's not right."

Ruben's lips pressed into a thin, firm line. He said nothing. Cole wasn't wrong. Cole was sharp, perceptive. Of course, he'd noticed they were hiding something. The more they tried to hide it, the sharper his suspicion would grow.

But Ruben couldn't tell Cole that this sudden tension, this uneasy air in the house, all came down to one name—Elliana.

"Why?" Cole asked, his tone harder now. "What are you hiding from me, Grandpa? What could be so important that I, as the current family head, have no right to know? If I'm not allowed to know what concerns this family, then what's the point of being the head at all?"

Ruben exhaled softly. In that instant, he settled on a plausible excuse. "It's about Eva."

Cole stopped short, caught off guard. He'd considered countless possibilities, but Eva was the last one he'd expected. In his mind, she didn't hold enough weight in the family to cause such a stir.

Yes, he knew his grandfather and father still resented Eva, but that alone couldn't explain why everyone was acting so oddly. Still, now that Ruben had said so, he didn't push further.

Ruben remarked, his voice heavy, "Your engagement to Wanda troubles me. You've probably heard—Eva's marriage was a disaster. Her relationship with Arthur is nothing but storms and fire, and it's put the Evans and Campbell families in a precarious position."

Cole said nothing. He'd been far too young to understand the details when Eva forced her way into marrying Arthur. And for years afterward,

her name had been buried, banned from conversation. It wasn't until his engagement to Wanda that he began to learn the truth. Now that he did, he could see the root of Ruben's worry.

Ruben continued, "I fear the rift between our families will only widen. I admired Arthur long before he took over Sun Group from his father. I saw the leader he would become. The last thing the Evans family needs is an enemy as formidable as him. When your father and I disowned Eva, it was to calm him, to keep his fury from burning us all. We cast her out completely. But your engagement threatens to stir all that up again."

Pausing for a beat, he added, "If Wanda were the Campbell family's real daughter, maybe it would mend things. But she's not. She's an adopted girl Eva brought in without their consent. Arthur and Milton will never truly see Wanda as one of their own. Your engagement to Wanda won't heal old wounds—it will rip them open and make them worse."

His gaze locked with Cole's. "I fear the fragile peace we bought with Eva's exile will shatter in your generation. If our family and the Campbell family clash, both will fall. There will be no winners."

Cole met his eyes calmly. "You have nothing to worry about, Grandpa. My engagement to Wanda is over."

Ruben froze. "You've broken it off?"

Cole nodded. "Mom insisted I marry the real Campbell heiress, not an adopted girl. The engagement was never valid."

"They have a real daughter?" Ruben asked sharply, leaning forward.

"I only just found out myself." And with that, Cole laid out the whole story for his grandfather.

Ruben's expression hardened with shock. "So Arthur's first wife didn't die ... She ran away pregnant." He shook his head slowly. "But even if there's a true heiress, she could be anywhere—if she's still alive. How would you find her, much less marry her?"

Lilah's face flickered in Cole's mind. A slow, knowing smile curved his lips. "I've already found her, Grandpa."

Ruben's eyes widened. "You have? Where is she? Who is she? What's she

"I can't say yet," Cole said, his tone firm but apologetic. The Campbells hadn't announced her return. He couldn't blurt out such a thing. He owed it to them to respect their family's secrets.

Ruben didn't seem upset—if anything, relief washed over his face. "Good. That's good. As long as it's not Wanda. And if you can truly marry the Campbell family's real daughter, then—"

He stopped mid-sentence, his joy giving way to a thoughtful look. No matter who Cole married, Elliana's shadow would always linger. But he couldn't expect Cole to remain single forever. With Elliana gone, maybe it was a blessing that Cole remembered nothing of her. Marrying the true Campbell heiress could be the perfect answer—a union to finally heal the damage Eva had done. At least, in theory. Yet, the question was... Would the long-lost Campbell daughter even agree to marry Cole?