

## Chapter 569 Terribly Strong Obsession

Taylor jabbed a finger at Lilah's image on his phone screen, his voice defiant. "Just because I said I wanted to pursue her, Cole and Jason have delivered severe warnings. I'm not taking their advice! Then Mom and Dad got mad, too. Grandpa, you have to stand up for me!"

A sharp smack split the air. Ruben's palm landed squarely across Taylor's face.

Taylor yelped in pain, frozen.

Everyone else stared in disbelief. From the way Ruben usually treated Taylor, no one expected this. They thought Ruben would scold Emmanuel and Louisa after hearing Taylor's complaint. But instead, he hit Taylor himself.

"Grandpa, did you hit the wrong person?" Taylor asked, stunned.

Ruben's hand came down again, another crisp slap. "I hit exactly who I meant to!"

Taylor was too shocked to be angry. Had he just crossed some unspoken family line? "Why?"

Ruben snorted, pointing at the phone screen. "Your cousins are right. This girl isn't someone you should be dreaming about. Get your head straight! Go to your room and take a good look at yourself—do you really think you're a match for her?"

Without waiting for an answer, Ruben waved Taylor off. "Go back to your room and reflect on this. Don't stay here and get on my nerves!"

Taylor was dumbfounded. He couldn't understand why the whole family had suddenly turned against him. Even Ruben, who had always spoiled him, was now mad at him. Afraid of another slap, he hurried upstairs.

Once Taylor was gone, Ruben ignored the curious stares and went upstairs, his expression unusually eager.

Once inside his room, Ruben pulled out his phone and called Cole.

The line connected quickly.

"Grandpa, is something wrong?" Cole asked.

Ruben got straight to the point. "Cole, I don't agree with you marrying the Campbell family's heiress."

Since Elliana was alive and back in Ublento, Ruben felt Cole couldn't marry anyone else without treating Elliana unjustly.

"Why?" Cole asked, confused.

Ruben couldn't tell Cole the truth yet, so he resorted to ambiguous words. "The ties between our families are too tangled. Don't rush this. Wait until you've fully recovered before deciding anything."

Ruben figured that maybe once Cole's memory wasn't so jumbled after some time, he would reclaim his memories of Elliana. And whatever happened next would be the positive result. But if Cole married the Campbell heiress now and then remembered Elliana later, it would be a disaster.

Ruben knew he needed to meet Elliana and talk. In the meantime, Cole had to avoid any emotional mess with the Campbell girl.

Cole didn't understand Ruben's worry. To him, Lilah was so attractive to men that if he didn't make his move and win her heart soon, she might be whisked away by another man at any moment. But he wouldn't say that to Ruben, so he simply replied, "Alright, Grandpa."

Ruben doubted Cole would actually let go of that Campbell family's real daughter just like that. His voice turned firm. "Cole, this is serious. If you ignore my words, don't say I didn't warn you when trouble comes."

Cole was driving, and Ruben's words made him pull over. "Grandpa, what are you hiding from me?"

Unable to explain, Ruben ended the call.

Cole stared at the screen, his brow furrowing. Soon, it went dark, showing his lock screen—a photo of Lilah on stage, her face revealed. He had just downloaded it.

Her beauty made his heart ache. There was no way he could give her up. Even if it ended badly, he had to keep her. If another man took her, he'd lose his mind. Yes—he'd go mad. It was strange. He had just met her, yet it felt like he had known her forever. She had to be his. The strength of that desire scared even him.

No one knew how deeply and quickly Cole's obsession with Lilah had sunk.

Meanwhile, Jason returned to his room and stood before the mirror. Slowly, he removed the mask from his face. A handsome, sharply defined face stared back at him.

His lips curved into a smile. The girl he had longed for day and night was finally in Ublento. Death Thorn, whose activities were largely in Delta, was actually Lilah, the Campus Beauty of Ublento Medical University. Her face revealed, living like an ordinary girl. She must have done it all for him.