

Chapter 590 You Only Slowed Me Down

Matthew served as the Star Society's second-in-command, Elliana's most dependable lieutenant, and he was always prepared to act the instant she called on him.

The moment Elliana placed the call, Matthew picked up without hesitation. "Lexi," he said, his tone sharp and businesslike, just as it always was.

Elliana spoke quickly, not wasting a second. "Take a team yourself and head to room 1306 at the Starlight Hotel. The target's name is Carlos Gomez. If he's gone, I need to know when he checked in, when he left, and whether he plans to return. Keep everything quiet. Don't alert him until you're certain you can capture him."

"Got it. I'll move now," Matthew replied without hesitation.

When the call ended, Elliana placed her phone aside and turned her eyes toward Cole, who was still fast asleep in the passenger seat. The color had begun returning to his face, and his breathing had grown steady.

Thanks to her quick action, she had managed to stop Psycephrenia from taking hold of him again. Ever since he woke up after leaving the island, his recovery had been progressing well. With enough time, he could regain full health, and remembering anything tied to Psycephrenia would no longer be a threat.

Wanting to give Cole more rest, Elliana drove slowly, circling the area several times before pulling over on a quiet road shaded by trees near Rosewood Villa.

The autumn night carried a cool breeze, and crickets sang endlessly in the grass along the roadside.

The car rested beneath a towering plane tree. Elliana remained still in the driver's seat, while Cole continued to sleep deeply beside her.

After some time, Cole stirred and blinked his eyes open.

Elliana's hypnosis had erased the memory of the serpent mark he had glimpsed. The only thing he recalled was her being attacked in a shadowed alley, his attempt to help her, and the sudden fainting that followed.

When his eyes opened, Elliana turned toward him and asked softly, "You're awake? Do you feel uncomfortable anywhere?"

Cole woke without the slightest trace of discomfort. The long rest had left him refreshed, his head clear and his body at ease. "No," he replied simply.

He frowned and asked, "What happened after that? We were in the middle of a fight, so why did I black out all of a sudden?"

"Mr. Evans, someone with no real combat training should know better than to jump into a fight," Elliana said with a teasing smile. "I know you wanted to help, but you only slowed me down. If you hadn't fainted like that, I'd have caught those men and questioned them a few times already."

She gave a casual shrug. "Now they've gotten away, and I'm stuck here babysitting you instead."

Her words left Cole deeply embarrassed. He couldn't help but think back to the way she had faced down the attackers with such confidence and strength. She wasn't wrong—he had only gotten in the way. She probably could have handled everything without him.

It was almost laughable that he, the dreaded Blaze Wraith of the Delta region, had humiliated himself like this. He had set out to help her finish off those thugs, yet instead, he had collapsed without warning and ended up dragging her down. She had earned the right to poke fun at him.

"I'm sorry," Cole said, his tone earnest.

Elliana's lips curved into a smile as she held out her hand playfully. "Pay up."

Cole chuckled and said, "Miss Campbell, you're really greedy. You want me to pay just because I got in your way while trying to help?"



"It's not a fee for wasting my time. It's for the medicine," Elliana answered, her tone sharp, like a hard-nosed merchant closing a deal.

"For the medicine?" Cole muttered to himself, still unsure what she meant.

"Mr. Evans, you may have been a hindrance, but I do recognize your effort," Elliana said, twisting the logic to suit herself. "Against such a dangerous crowd, your stepping in showed you cared about me. Demanding payment for that would be ungrateful. But I used rare medicine to save you, and covering its cost is the least you could do, don't you think?"

Cole paused to consider and then asked, "What kind of medicine are you talking about? And how much is it worth?"

Without batting an eye, Elliana said, "It was VoxSalutis, a creation of Milena. Surely you've heard of it, Mr. Evans. When you collapsed and nearly died from that crushing headache, I used VoxSalutis to keep you alive."

Her words were not a lie. VoxSalutis was so rare that money alone could never guarantee its purchase.

Even though Cole hadn't witnessed her administering it, he decided to take her word. He didn't question where she had obtained it. Instead, he simply accepted her claim and agreed to pay the price.

"Then tell me, how much?" Cole asked in a low voice.

Keeping her tone measured, Elliana said, "You know VoxSalutis is priceless. Even with endless money, it's nearly impossible to obtain. It took me great effort just to secure one dose..."

"Would a hundred million dollars cover it?" Cole asked without hesitation.

Elliana blinked, caught off guard by his generosity. She hadn't expected him to open with such an extravagant sum. Seeing how eager he was to flaunt his wealth, she chose to play along. A slow smile tugged at her lips as she answered, "No."