

Chapter 602 The Serpent Society

Cameron was Gatlin's father. To open Cameron's tomb and retrieve the book, Gatlin's consent was required.

Neither Eloisa nor Charles spoke at first. Both turned their eyes to Gatlin, waiting for his decision.

Elliana had expected resistance or at least hesitation, yet to her surprise, Gatlin agreed at once. "That's no problem!"

A quiet breath of relief escaped Elliana. "I appreciate your trust, Mr. Henderson."

"There's no need for thanks, Ms. Marsh," Gatlin answered firmly. "You've already done more for this family than we could ever repay. If that book leads us closer to Cutler, then my father would bless this choice—even from beyond the grave."

When Gatlin finished, he checked the clock.

The hands read three a.m. Outside, the darkness of night still pressed heavily against the windows.

Rising abruptly, Gatlin turned to Eloisa. "See that Ms. Marsh has a room where she can rest." Next, he faced Charles. "Come with me to the cemetery—we'll fetch the book."

"All right," Charles replied, standing immediately.

At last, Gatlin addressed Elliana, "Please be patient, Ms. Marsh. I will have the book in your hands before dawn."

Elliana inclined her head. "Appreciate it, Mr. Henderson."

Without wasting time, Gatlin and Charles left the house and drove into the night.

Under Eloisa's arrangements, Elliana entered a guest room.

So complete was the Henderson family's trust that Elliana allowed herself to drop her guard. Weary beyond measure, she drifted into sleep moments after lying down.

By the time she opened her eyes again, morning light had already filled the room. A quick look at her phone told her it was already seven o'clock.

Rising at once, Elliana pulled the door open and stepped into the hallway.

Waiting just outside was the butler, who greeted her with a warm smile. "Ms. Marsh, good morning. Mr. Gatlin Henderson, Mrs. Henderson, and Mr. Charles Henderson are all waiting for you downstairs."

Elliana gave a courteous nod before making her way down the staircase.

Down in the living room, Gatlin and Charles looked drained, as though they had only recently come back.

As soon as Elliana appeared, Gatlin offered her a book with great respect. "Ms. Marsh, here is the book."

Elliana took the book with eagerness and immediately began leafing through its pages.

Charles's account proved true—the book was indeed nothing more than a storybook. Its pages told a love story set in Delta, weaving together the tale of a girl named Max Bates and a boy named Henry Simpson.

Beyond their romance, the book unveiled strange anecdotes and hidden secrets of Delta, things far beyond what ordinary people could fathom.

With remarkable speed, Elliana absorbed every word, and within half an hour, she had finished the entire book. Closing the cover, she concluded quietly to herself that Max and Henry's tale was a tragedy.

Max emerged in the story as a mysterious girl of Delta—strikingly beautiful, gifted in martial arts, versed in medicine, and brimming with energy.

Henry was handsome, wealthy, refined, and endlessly curious, a man with a love for travel. He wasn't from Delta at all, but while he studied

abroad, a friend had unwittingly led him there.

Delta was a mystery to Henry, a land he had never even heard of, and its culture and customs, so different from the modern world, opened an entirely new horizon in his eyes.

With excitement, he roamed the land, recording each curious and wondrous discovery in his notebook. Enchanted by the wonders of Delta, he failed to realize the hidden dangers lurking beneath its beauty.

One morning, he opened his eyes to find himself encircled by thugs, their intentions anything but kind. With no quarrel or justification, they chose him as prey for their amusement. In a place without law or protection, there was no one to stop them.

Delta was a land ruled by factions, where strength dictated survival and weakness meant certain suffering.

Henry learned this brutal truth when he found himself bound and pinned to a butcher's table, convinced his end had come.

At the very moment Henry braced for slaughter, Max burst onto the scene. Alone, she cut down the thugs and pulled him back from the jaws of death.

Her rescue, however, came with a price: he was to serve her or be thrown back into the hands of those men. Left with no other path, he submitted to her terms.

From that day forward, Henry followed Max wherever her journeys across Delta took her. Over time, companionship gave way to affection, and affection grew into love.

For Max, Henry's refined manners and irresistible charm stood in stark contrast to the brutish men of Delta, whose lives revolved around violence.

For Henry, Max seemed like an angel incarnate, capable of anything and everything. Before meeting her, his wanderings in Delta had been clumsy and directionless, like stumbling in the dark. With Max at his side, however, the land unfolded its secrets, and its wonders revealed themselves. Beyond that, her countless secrets, wrapped in mystery, only deepened his fascination with her.

When their bond grew strong enough, Max unveiled her origins—she was born into a mysterious family that held dominion over an ancient and powerful group known as the Serpent Society.



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