

Chapter 615 The Web Weaving Around Her

Maxine had sent Katrina after Elliana—fully expecting Elliana to kill Katrina.

This struck Davin like a blow, leaving him momentarily speechless. Katrina might not have been Maxine's blood, but she was still a Griffiths. Years ago, Maxine had handpicked Katrina as heir, raised her, and groomed her. And now, this same woman was not only willing to cast Katrina aside like a broken toy but seemed utterly indifferent to her fate. Maxine was merciless.

Davin had always understood that the Griffiths matriarchs were ruthless by necessity, but Maxine was in a league of her own. She was colder and more calculating than any of her predecessors.

Davin could still remember the stories about Maxine in her younger days—tales of a sweet, gentle girl with a kind heart. But then came those mysterious three years she'd spent overseas. When she finally returned home, that innocent girl had vanished completely, replaced by the calculating woman sitting across from him now. Whatever had happened during those three years had transformed her beyond recognition, and what had transpired at that time remained buried in shadows.

Davin's shock over Maxine's ruthlessness ran so deep that silence clung to him for what felt like an eternity.

Finally, Maxine's voice broke it. Her gaze slid lazily toward him, her tone smooth as glass. "Does my decision astonish you so much, Davin?"

"Yes," he answered honestly, his voice rough with disbelief. "I don't understand your reasoning at all. If you give up on Katrina, why not simply strip her of her role? Why create this elaborate death trap?"

Before she could respond, he pushed forward with his questions. "And if you value Elliana as highly as you claim—if you genuinely want her to carry the next generation of Griffiths—then sending Katrina to hunt her

down seems completely counterproductive. You've put the entire Serpent Society at Katrina's disposal. No matter how skilled Elliana might be, how can she possibly survive against an entire organization? What happens if Katrina actually manages to kill her?"

A soft, chilling laugh escaped from Maxine's lips, the sound as cold as winter wind through dead leaves. "It seems you underestimate Elliana just as much as everyone else does, Davin. I suppose we'll find out soon enough."

Her eyes gleamed with something that might have been anticipation. "The Serpent Society is indeed a powerful weapon, but even the sharpest sword is worthless when wielded by incompetent hands. This will serve as a trial for both of them—a final test for Katrina to prove her worth and a baptism of fire for Elliana to show her true strength." She paused, her smile growing even more unsettling. "I don't particularly care which one of them survives this encounter. I only care about the victor."

Her expression shifted dramatically, the casual amusement melting away to reveal something far more dangerous. In its place burned a fierce, calculating ambition that made the air around her feel colder. "I will create an heir capable of leading the Griffiths family to absolute power across the globe," she declared with unwavering conviction. "Only when that mission is complete will I allow myself to rest."

These weren't hollow words. Maxine meant every syllable. Despite being nearly seventy years old, she would likely walk this earth for decades to come. Perhaps even centuries.

Every matriarch who had ruled the Griffiths family served as guardian of the Medical Codex, an ancient text filled with secrets of extending human life far beyond its natural limits. They spent their entire reigns studying its mysteries, unlocking knowledge that granted them extraordinary longevity.

These days, Maxine favored flowing black gowns that reached the floor, always paired with dark veils that completely obscured her features. But if anyone were brave enough to lift that veil, they would refuse to believe the woman beneath it was approaching her seventieth year. Her skin remained as smooth and flawless as it had been when she was thirty. Her body still moved with the deadly grace of a trained killer, her fighting abilities undiminished by the passage of time.

Extended lifespans had always been a hallmark of Griffiths' leadership. Unless they met violent ends through accidents or assassinations, most matriarchs lived well beyond their hundredth year. According to family records, the longest-lived ancestor had reached the remarkable age of two hundred and six. The family harbored elderly matriarchs whose true ages would shock the outside world. This was one of their most closely guarded secrets.

Unlike traditional monarchs who clung to power until death claimed them, previous Griffiths matriarchs had chosen to step down voluntarily. When they felt ready, they would pass their authority to the next generation and retreat into peaceful isolation for their remaining centuries.

By Griffiths' standards, Maxine was practically still in her youth.

Davin had served the Griffiths family faithfully for his entire adult life, earning Maxine's complete trust and access to their deepest secrets. He understood that for generations, the Griffiths' philosophy had centered on careful survival and gradual power accumulation, always staying hidden from public scrutiny. Wasn't Maxine's hunger for worldwide domination a dangerous break from that careful tradition? But he knew better than to voice such concerns openly. He kept his doubts to himself.

After several moments of heavy silence, Davin finally spoke with careful restraint. "You mentioned having a specific task for me, something involving Elliana. What exactly do you need me to do?"

The fierce ambition in Maxine's eyes gradually cooled back to her usual calculating calm. She reached into an ornate box beside her chair and withdrew the Medical Codex itself. "I want you to hand this to Elliana."

Davin couldn't hide his shock. "But she hasn't sworn loyalty to the Griffiths family yet. Why would you hand over something so precious?"

A meaningful smile curved Maxine's lips beneath her veil. "Elliana has already mastered everything in this book. She has no real reason to be at Ublento Medical University except to reclaim this specific book. So I'll simply give her what she's after. Then we'll see exactly what she does when she has what she came for." She leaned back in her chair with satisfaction. "She is my chosen heir, after all. The Medical Codex will belong to her eventually anyway. I'm simply moving up the schedule."

Understanding began to dawn on Davin. "And how should I approach her?"

What story do I tell?"

"You'll present yourself as Rita's former student," Maxine explained, her smile becoming more mysterious. "Dobbs was once Rita's patient, and Rita's successful treatment earned his eternal gratitude and loyalty. Back when Rita left Ublento behind, she entrusted Dobbs with all the Jones Pharmaceuticals' research and formulas. For fifteen long years, he's honored that trust without question. Elliana has a weakness for that kind of unwavering loyalty. Model yourself after Dobbs, Davin. Use this story to earn her trust and then guide her carefully into the web I've been weaving around her."