

Chapter 660 Big Fish

Eva frowned, a thoughtful crease forming between her brows as she thought about Mr. Griffiths. "Honestly, I don't have any clue about Mr. Griffiths' true identity."

Wanda stood motionless. Her surprise was written all over her face.

"Mr. Griffiths reached out to me," Eva said, dropping her voice. "He's always been a mystery—never revealing anything about his true identity."

Wanda's shoulders slumped for a moment, but then her expression shifted. Shy anticipation flickered in her eyes. Mr. Griffiths' real identity hardly mattered, as long as he fit the fantasy she'd always carried in her mind—wealthy, noble, and powerful. He matched the image of the man she'd always hoped to be with.

A sudden rumble overhead made them glance up.

The noise grew louder as a sleek helicopter descended from the sky, settling on a clearing nearby.

Before either Wanda or Eva could react, the helicopter door slid open and several men in black suits jumped out, marching right toward them.

The man in the lead bowed respectfully. "Mr. Griffiths asked us to come get you. We're here to bring you to him."

Eva and Wanda stared at each other, wide-eyed and breathless. They never expected Mr. Griffiths' men to arrive so quickly, let alone in a private helicopter. He was every bit as impressive and influential as they'd hoped.

A wave of anticipation swept through Eva and Wanda. They brushed themselves off and hurried to follow the men onto the helicopter. In no time, the aircraft lifted off and carried them away from the mountain.

Meanwhile, in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, Elliana tracked their departure through a pair of binoculars. A small smile touched her lips as

the helicopter vanished from sight. Clearly, Eva and Wanda weren't defeated after all. They still had an ace up their sleeve. She would bide her time and see just what card they'd play next.

Milton, standing beside her, took it all in. "Well, Elliana, it looks like you've finally lured the big fish out from behind the curtain. I think things are about to get a lot more interesting."

They exchanged a knowing look before heading for the elevator that would take them up to the fourth floor.

All through the uproar outside, Cole and Arthur pretended to focus on chess, but their sharp eyes missed nothing.

By the time Elliana walked in, Cole and Arthur were still sitting across from each other, the game stalled mid-play.

Sitting between them felt like stepping into the quiet eye of a storm—two masterminds, locked in a duel that could easily last all night.

With a soft thump, Elliana dropped onto the sofa and stretched her arms. "I'm starving. Someone please tell me there's food."

The same woman who had coolly directed chaos downstairs now looked almost sweet and harmless, her tough exterior giving way to a playful charm.

Milton lounged in the doorway, watching his sister swap personas, an amused smirk tugging at his lips.

At once, Cole and Arthur left their game behind. Both turned to Elliana with unwavering focus.

Arthur's tone was gentle as he asked, "Did all the action wear you out?"

Cole reached for her hand, his fingers moving in slow circles across her skin, hoping his massage would ease her sore muscles. "Let me know if your hand hurts. I can get you something for it."

Grinning, Elliana beamed at them both. "Let's have lunch."

Arthur tousled her hair. "Come on. Let's go. I've already had the kitchen prepare a feast for you."

Together, the four of them strolled to the dining room. All tactically avoided bringing up Eva.

Laughter and easy conversation filled the air as they shared their meal.

Once everyone was full, Arthur addressed Elliana with a reassuring smile, "The first and second floors are under renovation, so for now, you'll stay in the room next to Milton's. Once everything's ready, you'll have the whole second floor to yourself."

"That sounds perfect," Elliana replied with a nod, her tone light and content. Now that her identity as a Campbell was known, it was only natural that she would live in the family home. Just the idea of sharing a roof with her father and brother brought a quiet happiness that lingered all morning.

Across the room, Cole observed Lilah with a gentle smile. Though he kept his thoughts to himself, his mind was already at work, mapping out a future where their lives intertwined completely. He yearned to see her become his wife and dreamed of a home filled with laughter, comfort, and privacy—a world built for just the two of them.

The sheer number of properties under his name was impressive, but he had never asked what kind of home Lilah truly wanted. It hardly mattered; he'd give her anything she desired. If she wished for something he didn't already own, he would buy a new one, no questions asked.

Then, his thoughts drifted to Regal Grove. He treasured that estate more than anything. He had poured his heart into every inch of it, from the way the bricks lined the path to the way the grass bent in the wind. He had shaped it all with his own hands, built it with his own effort. If she loved it as much as he did, then it would be the perfect place for them. He made a mental note to take her there soon.

Arthur, of course, had no inkling of Cole's plans. He had merely consented to them dating, while marriage was a conversation for the distant future.

Breaking the companionable silence, Arthur probed, "Elliana, have you got anything planned for this afternoon?"

There was nothing on Elliana's agenda.

Cole was just about to suggest taking her back to his family's estate when her phone buzzed. An unknown number flashed on the screen.

Elliana quickly recalled that she'd used this number for her exam registration. Maybe the call had something to do with that. She pressed answer. "Hello?"

A gentle, elderly voice greeted her. "Elliana, this is Davin Haynes. I was hoping we could sit down for a chat."

Davin Haynes? That name sent a jolt through her. Elliana Davin, the founder of the Enlightenment Institute, was the one who had handled the procedure when her mother donated the Medical Codex. Now, he was reaching out to her.

Chapter 661 Rita's Student

Since Elliana took the call right there in the room, Cole, Arthur, and Milton overheard every word of the conversation. The moment the three men heard the name "Davin," they instantly became alert, their relaxed demeanor shifting to something much more serious and focused.

What struck the trio as unusual was the warm, almost affectionate tone Davin used to address Elliana. Logically speaking, Elliana and Davin were just strangers to each other. Something seemed off.

"Mr. Haynes, where would you prefer to meet?" Elliana asked, maintaining her politeness.

"I've made a reservation at Harbor Hearth," Davin replied smoothly. "It's a peaceful place, ideal for the kind of conversation we need to have. Would you be able to join me there now?"

"I'll head over immediately," Elliana responded without any hesitation. When someone as important as Davin personally requested a meeting, she would rearrange her entire schedule to make it happen, even if she was completely booked.

"Perfect. I'll be waiting for you," Davin said with gentle warmth before ending the call.

Elliana was on her feet in an instant, ready to leave.

Cole immediately got to his feet as well. "I'll give you a ride there."

Milton, who had been on the verge of offering to go with her, stopped short. Now that his sister had a serious boyfriend, his role as her protective older brother seemed to carry less weight. If he insisted on going, with Cole's presence, he would just end up feeling like an unwelcome third wheel.

Elliana didn't catch the brief flash of disappointment that crossed Milton's face. She accepted Cole's offer without giving it much thought. "That sounds great!"

Cole and Elliana made their way down the winding mountain road together, leaving Arthur and Milton to wonder about the true nature of this sudden meeting that Davin had requested.

Harbor Hearth was an exclusive seafront restaurant with a stellar reputation, located about an hour's drive from Harmony Estate.

During the drive, Cole kept stealing glances at Lilah, as if he had something important to say but couldn't quite find the right words. Several times, he opened his mouth to speak, but then seemed to think better of it.

Finally, noticing his obvious internal struggle, Elliana decided to break the tension. "What's on your mind?"

"Would it be all right if I called you Elliana?" Cole asked carefully.

She tilted her head, studying his expression with curiosity. "Why the change from Lilah?"

Cole was refreshingly direct in his answer. "I'm not entirely sure how to explain it. Calling you Elliana just feels more natural somehow—warmer and more genuine."

A gentle smile played at the corners of Elliana's lips. Of course, it felt "genuine." In their most intimate moments from their shared time, he had whispered that exact name against her skin countless times.

"I'd like that very much," she said warmly, "but you'll need to promise me something. You can only use that name when we're alone together. Around other people, it still needs to be Lilah."

Cole didn't question her reasoning or hesitate for even a second. "Absolutely. I promise."

The instant she gave her permission, he couldn't resist trying it out. "Elliana."

"Yes?" she responded naturally, the reply flowing out of her without conscious thought.

A brilliant smile lit up Cole's entire face, and he felt an unexpected surge of pure joy fill his chest. Simply saying her real name brought him

happiness.

Elliana smiled back at him, understanding exactly why he looked so happy. That contentment came from memories buried deep in his heart.

An hour later, their car pulled up to the elegant entrance of Harbor Hearth.

"I should go in by myself," Elliana said as she prepared to get out. "If you have other things to take care of, you don't have to wait around for me."

Cole looked at her with steady eyes. "I'll be waiting right here. Call me if you need anything at all. And... Would you consider coming to my family's home tonight?"

She had actually been planning to visit Ruben soon anyway, so she agreed readily. "I'd like that."

With that settled, she stepped out of the car and walked through the restaurant's impressive entrance alone.

The restaurant's interior was an oasis of calm elegance. A well-dressed server led Elliana through the hushed dining room to a table positioned perfectly by a large window. There, a distinguished man with silver-white hair sat gazing thoughtfully out at the sea view.

At the sound of approaching footsteps, the man turned toward her with a welcoming expression.

Elliana took a moment to observe him carefully before speaking. "Mr. Haynes, I presume?"

Davin's entire face lit up with a warm, welcoming smile. "Yes, that's me," he said, rising slightly from his chair and gesturing enthusiastically toward the empty seat across from him. "Elliana, I'm so glad you could make it! Please, make yourself comfortable."

Elliana moved gracefully around the table and settled into the plush velvet chair, taking in the carefully arranged setting before her.

The table had already been set with an artfully displayed selection of fresh seasonal fruits and crystal glasses filled with what appeared to be freshly squeezed juice.

Still beaming with pleasure, Davin personally poured a glass of fresh juice for her. "The drive here must have been tiring," he said with considerate warmth. "Please, have something refreshing."

Elliana took a courteous sip before placing the glass back on the table. Her expression grew more focused and serious. "Mr. Haynes, I have to ask—how do you know my real name is Elliana?"

"Because I was privileged to be your mother's student, Elliana," Davin replied, his tone filled with apparent respect. "Before she made the difficult decision to leave Ublento, she placed the Medical Codex in my care for safekeeping. She also specifically asked me to keep watch over you as you grew up. Therefore, I've been aware of your true identity all along."

Elliana felt her eyes widen in complete shock. "You were my mother's student?"

She studied him more carefully now, taking in every detail from his snow-white hair to the deep lines etched around his kind eyes to his hands that showed the weathering of many decades. He had to be approaching eighty years old, which would make him at least thirty years older than her mother could have been when she was in Ublento. The mathematics of it simply didn't add up in any logical way.

Davin seemed to anticipate her confusion and let out a gentle, understanding chuckle. "Many years ago, your mother arrived in Ublento completely alone and managed to cure Dobbs of what everyone believed was terminal cancer. I witnessed her incredible medical abilities with my own eyes and practically begged her to accept me as her apprentice. Fortunately for me, she was generous enough to look past my age and agree."

The mention of Dobbs confirmed something important for Elliana. Dobbs definitely knew details that only someone truly connected to her mother could know. She continued to observe him intently, searching his face for any signs of deception.

Davin reached into his jacket and carefully withdrew an ornate box, placing it deliberately on the table between them. "Before your mother left Ublento, she made two very specific arrangements. First, she had Dobbs secure those essential medical formulas from Jones Pharmaceuticals, ensuring that the family business would be able to

provide financial support for your future. Second, she entrusted the Medical Codex to my care, with explicit instructions to return it to you once you had reached maturity."

Elliana's attention immediately fixed on the mysterious box. It was remarkably similar to the container that Dobbs had used to store her mother's bracelet—covered with intricate, ancient-looking engravings but equipped with a sophisticated modern combination lock. The design represented a fascinating blend of historical craftsmanship and cutting-edge security technology. Opening it would require considerable technical skill and knowledge.

"And now," Davin said, his voice becoming softer and more ceremonial, "the time has finally come to return the Medical Codex to the person it rightfully belongs to."