

Chapter 662 Friends

Though Davin spoke with sincerity, Elliana's heart refused to trust him immediately. She couldn't explain why. When she had spoken to Dobbs—just once, and only over the phone—his voice alone had earned her trust. But with Davin sitting across from her, having initiated this meeting, unease clung to her like a shadow.

It was nothing more than instinct, but Elliana had always trusted her gut. The only way to silence her doubt was to test him. She would open the box. If the Medical Codex was real, then Davin's words could be trusted. If it wasn't, then this meeting was nothing but a trap.

Steeling herself, Elliana lifted the box. The lock was the same type her mother had once used on the bracelet box. Drawing from memory, she quickly cracked the code.

Inside lay an old book, its pages faintly yellowed, just as she remembered from her childhood. Time had left gentle marks on it—marks no forger could fake. The sight of it eased the doubt on her chest.

She picked up the codex with care and turned through its brittle pages. Every line confirmed it. This was the book her mother had left behind. Finally, she allowed herself to trust Davin. He was offering her something many people would kill for. That was no act of betrayal. It was loyalty—just as Dobbs had shown her mother.

Placing the book back in its box, Elliana met Davin's eyes, a new warmth in her own. "Mr. Haynes, what do you know about my mother?"

"What specifically are you asking about?" Davin replied.

"Everything. I want to know it all," Elliana replied firmly.

Davin recalled Maxine's instructions and paused in thought. "To keep the Medical Codex safe, your mother told me of her origins—and of this book's history."

Her mother's origins? The history of the Medical Codex? A spark of

excitement ran through Elliana. These were the answers she had been chasing for so long. "Please, Mr. Haynes, tell me everything," she urged.

"Sure."

And so Davin did. He spoke of the Serpent Society, of how the Medical Codex had been guarded by the Griffiths line for generations. He explained how Rita had been adopted by Maxine, only to flee an arranged marriage and turn her back on the Griffiths family completely.

Since Elliana was Maxine's chosen heir, she would learn these truths eventually. Davin saw no point in holding anything back.

Elliana listened, wide-eyed, as long-buried pieces of her life slid into place. Yet, even as mysteries unraveled, new questions rose. "Mr. Haynes, you said my mother was adopted by Maxine. Do you know who her real parents are?" she asked softly.

"Only Maxine knows that," Davin replied.

"And where did my mother go after leaving Ublento? Did the Serpent Society ever catch her?"

"Your mother was never captured by the Serpent Society," Davin answered. "As for where she went, no one knows for sure. She left carrying a wish that was never fulfilled. Perhaps that's the key."

"What wish?"

"She longed to find a cure for Psychephrenia," he responded. "She wanted to heal her friend, Sophie."

Elliana raised an eyebrow. Sophie—Cole's mother—was actually friends with her mother?

Davin hadn't known Sophie was Cole's mother, nor that Sophie and Rita had already contacted each other in Ublento back then.

The facade Davin maintained when speaking of these slightly-altered stories based on Maxine's instructions was flawless, and Elliana found no reason to doubt him.

Following Maxine's instructions, Davin recounted the story of Rita's defection from the Griffiths family. Then, he concluded, "Besides refusing

to marry Miguel, your mother had another important reason for leaving, and that was to search for Sophie and cure her of Psycephrenia."

The sheer volume of information Davin revealed was overwhelming, yet his story was airtight—it practically rang true. Elliana's doubts melted away. Her mother had trusted him enough to share her origins and the history of the Medical Codex. That immense trust said enough. Surely, she shouldn't hide the fact that Sophie was Cole's mother.

Elliana probed, "Did my mother take Cole's mother with her when she left Ublento?"

Davin faltered, caught off guard by the question.

Elliana didn't notice his reaction and continued, "My mother knew she couldn't stay in Ublento anymore, but she was worried about Sophie's illness. She must have taken Sophie with her to depart from Ublento, right?"

In that instant, the pieces clicked into place for Davin. Sophie was Cole's mother. He thought back—after Jarrett's marriage, his wife had never shown her face in public. No one knew who she was. He had never imagined she was Sophie—the woman the Griffiths had hunted for years. And now, Elliana had unknowingly revealed it. This was a surprising finding. Maxine would be overjoyed.

Davin steadied himself and forced a grave look. "Your mother never told me that. But since Sophie suffered from Psycephrenia, there's a very real chance Cole inherited it from her. Being with him is dangerous, Elliana. Those with Psycephrenia can turn violent. In their episodes, they often wound the very people they love most."

Chapter 663 Be Cautious

"I've already cured Cole of his Psycephrenia," Elliana said.

Davin froze, stunned. "You actually cured Psycephrenia?"

"Yes," Elliana replied, her mind already moving elsewhere. "Did my mother ever tell you where the Griffiths family keeps their main base?"

"Your mother once told me," Davin began, "that the Serpent Society—ruled by the Griffiths—has stretched its grip to every corner of the world. Their influence is frightening. But no one knows where their headquarters is. It's their most guarded secret, known only to a chosen few." He leaned closer. "If you want to uncover it, you'll need to find Maxine first. The problem is, she's like smoke—never in one place for long. Tracking her down won't be easy."

Elliana didn't look surprised. Her father and brother had already filled her in on the Griffiths and their Serpent Society this afternoon.

Three centuries ago, the Campbells had nearly crushed the Serpent Society. The Griffiths had barely clung to life, holding on to just a thread of their bloodline. From that day, they had guarded their stronghold with iron fists. If war sparked again between the two families, that hidden base would be the Griffiths family's final refuge.

The tangled history made Elliana's head pound. She pressed her temples, weary of it all. The feud stretched back a thousand years, yet her mother was an adopted Griffiths, her father the Campbell leader, and she loved Cole—a man with Griffiths blood. If she and Cole had children, whose bloodline would they claim? Campbell or Griffiths?

She sighed, rubbing her temples again. It was a knot that couldn't be untied.

Davin had thought the same thing, though his face betrayed nothing. Instead, he asked, "So, what will you do next?"

"I'll keep searching for my mother. And I need to find Maxine. It's time to

put an end to all of this," Elliana said firmly.

Davin gave a slow nod. This was what he and Maxine had foreseen. "If you need my help, I'm here. Your mother was my mentor. Helping you is my duty."

Elliana gave him a grateful nod. "Thank you, Mr. Haynes. If I need you, I'll call."

"One more thing," Davin said, his tone sharpening. "Miguel—the fiancé your mother fled from—was swallowed by hatred. After your mother's escape from their arranged marriage, Miguel had quarreled with Maxine, abandoned the Griffiths, and vanished. Don't take him lightly. He's brilliant, dangerous, and ruthless. When he left, he had sworn he would come back to tear down the Griffiths and claim the Serpent Society himself. He's likely been gathering strength in the shadows ever since. His reach could already be everywhere."

At once, Elliana thought of Carlos. Could he be one of Miguel's men—or Miguel himself?

"The deeper his love for your mother once ran, the more twisted his hatred became. Those assassins who hunted your mother hardest weren't dispatched by the Griffiths—it was Miguel. Maxine only wanted to capture your mother and bring her back. But when Miguel learned your mother had children with Arthur, he lost all reason."

His voice hardened. "You must be cautious. Back when you were behind that ugly-girl disguise, Miguel wouldn't have cared. But now you've reclaimed your place as a Campbell. He's going to turn that malice on you."

Elliana nodded. "I'll be careful. Thank you for the warning."

Davin handed her his contact details. "Eyes could be everywhere," he said in a low voice. "No one must know I gave you the Medical Codex. I should leave now. Call if you need me."

With that, he rose and walked away.

Elliana sat still for a moment, then gathered the Medical Codex and stepped outside.

Once outside the restaurant, Elliana spotted Cole waiting in the car. She opened the passenger door and slid in.

"Did the meeting go well?" Cole asked.

Elliana didn't answer. She just stared at him. It was still hard to accept. The man she loved was actually a descendant of the Griffiths family. A thousand-year war lay between the Griffiths and Campbell families. And she had no idea how he'd react when he learned his origin.

Her steady gaze made him shift uneasily. "What is it? Why are you looking at me like that?"

Elliana said nothing. She reached for his hand to assess his condition. Her relationship with him seemed to boost his spirits and speed up his recovery. Perhaps it was time to tell him about their shared past, those memories he'd forgotten. With their family feud and the tangled relationship, he deserved to know about his mother's real background and make his own choice, one that came from his heart.

But then, a sudden wave of sickness crashed over her. Her stomach twisted, her face turned pale, and she gagged.

"What's wrong?" Cole asked at once, alarm in his voice.

Elliana didn't reply. Instead, she silently analyzed her own condition. After a moment, she looked up at him, dazed. A storm churned inside her—shock, joy, and concern all at once. She was pregnant. And she carried twins.