

## Chapter 668 Let Him Stay

Emmanuel broke the silence with the one question that everyone had been thinking about. If someone were to manipulate individuals like Cole and Jason, there had to be a big reason. But what was the point of targeting someone like Taylor, a carefree young man in the showbiz?

"Let's start by looking into Taylor," Elliana said, her tone calm and focused. "Once I figure out the grade of the AI chip inside his head, I can break things down for you more thoroughly."

Without wasting a moment, Lance pushed back his chair and got to his feet. "Got it. I'll check on Taylor now."

Elliana reached for her tablet and added, "I've already given Taylor a sedative without him knowing. He'll be out for a while, so it should be easier for you to run your tests. Just be mindful of what you say near him, or whoever is pulling the strings might catch on."

With a quick nod, Lance headed out of the room.

Nearly an hour passed before Lance came back, holding the test results.

Lance had always been sharp when it came to AI, especially after learning from Elliana herself. His exam was meticulous, and he indeed found something unusual in Taylor's brain.

Elliana grabbed the files from Lance, scanning every page before she spoke. "This is a neural network AI chip, but it's using liquid water molecules as its base."

"Wait, liquid water molecules?" Lance stared at her, stunned. "That's next-level stuff. It completely changes everything we know about building chips. Whoever pulled this off is on a whole other level."

Elliana let out a sigh. "Exactly. Whoever we're up against knows what they're doing. Putting this kind of AI chip in a celebrity feels like overkill. So—"

"Then the real target must be the Evans family," Cole interjected.

Elliana met his gaze. "That's right. They're likely coming after you since you're the family head."

Worry crept into Emmanuel's voice as he spoke up. "Doesn't keeping Taylor here put everyone in danger? If the mastermind decides to use him against you, Cole, things could get out of control fast. Previously, I couldn't figure out why Taylor suddenly came home and stuck around so long. Now it all makes sense—he's back for a reason."

Glancing over at Cole, Lance voiced his concern, "Maybe it's best if Taylor isn't here for now. You'd be safer if we sent him away until this blows over."

Cole shook his head without hesitation. "No, we're not making any sudden moves. The less we react, the more we can find out about what the mastermind is planning. I want to know exactly how they intend to use Taylor against me."

"That's far too risky for you," Emmanuel said, his brow furrowed. "Plus, with that chip in Taylor's head, his life is hanging in the balance. I want to get it out before things get worse."

"That isn't possible right now," Elliana chimed in, her tone calm but firm. "The chip is incredibly advanced. It mimics human brain neurons using liquid molecules, so it's almost invisible and entirely fluid. Right now, Milena is the only one who can take it out without risking permanent damage."

Everyone's eyes shifted to her. After all, she was Milena.

A faint, apologetic smile touched Elliana's lips. "This kind of surgery isn't just risky—it's exhausting. If I slip up for even a second, Taylor may never recover. My health isn't stable enough for such a demanding operation at the moment."

Her pregnancy left her weak and unable to take on anything so dangerous.

With nothing more he could do, Emmanuel let out a resigned sigh.

Cole's decision was clear. "Then we do it my way. Taylor stays. If

something happens, we'll be ready to step in and protect him."

Jason spoke up without hesitation. "I agree with Cole's decision."

With that, the group fell in line behind Cole, each trusting his judgment.

Elliana turned her attention to her own needs, letting Arthur and Milton know about her plans before settling into the Evans family's grand estate. Familiar rooms made her feel at ease, especially since she had called this place home once before.

However, Cole couldn't shake the odd feeling that came with sharing a house, skipping right over the dating stage, and suddenly expecting twins together. Uncertainty crept in, but the idea of embracing this new chapter brought him genuine happiness.

As darkness fell, Cole took care of Elliana with gentle hands, running a warm bath, helping her slip into comfortable pajamas, drying her hair with patience, and finally holding her close as they talked quietly until sleep found them both.

When morning arrived, Cole transformed the study into his own workspace, arranging for every file and document to be sent over so he could work from home and stay by Elliana's side throughout her bed rest.

True to Ruben's word, a team of experienced caregivers arrived, while Paulina came back at Cole's request to make sure Elliana had everything she needed.

Those family members who were aware of the real situation were genuinely happy over Elliana's pregnancy, but the others, left in the dark, whispered behind closed doors about Ruben and Cole losing their minds. To bring peace between the Evans and Campbell families, Ruben had let Cole marry the Campbell heiress—even though she was carrying another man's child. It was a bold move that raised more than a few eyebrows. Cole, who was always proud and aloof, didn't flinch at the thought of raising someone else's child, making his devotion to Lilah all the more obvious.

Of course, Elliana and Cole refused to let the baseless gossip touch them.

Just before noon, Taylor rolled out of bed, got himself ready in a rush, and made a beeline for the study, skipping breakfast so he could talk to

< Chapter 668 Let Him Stay  
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## Chapter 669 Confess His Wrongdoings

Taylor hovered at Cole's door, voice small as he called out to Cole.

Cole glanced up from his paperwork, eyes lifting just enough to see Taylor.

Since childhood, Taylor had been the light-hearted one. He joked a lot and kept the house laughing. He never aimed high and rarely pulled his weight, yet everyone liked him.

Cole had always been fond of Taylor and never felt the need to be guarded in his presence. Who would have guessed Taylor could turn into a threat, forcing him to watch his words and steps?

Still, as the Evans family's current head, Cole was well-seasoned and wouldn't lose his composure just because he discovered a secret scheme involving Taylor. He looked at Taylor as if nothing were wrong and said calmly, "Sit."

Taylor, however, didn't dare to sit and stood awkwardly. After a shaky pause, he blurted, "C-Cole, I—I came to apologize."

Cole let out a soft chuckle, amused. "For challenging me to a duel when you were burning with a fever yesterday?"

Taylor rubbed the back of his neck, embarrassed. "I never really wanted to duel you. I admire you. I don't know why I acted so foolishly yesterday. I..."

"I don't hold a grudge," Cole interrupted.

Taylor blinked, surprised. He had been bracing for a scolding. Cole's easy forgiveness threw him off.

"When you were born, I was already seven," Cole said earnestly. "I watched you grow. I know you well. I won't hold a single outburst



against you. But you're grown now. You must learn to control your temper. Think before you speak or act. It's fine at home, but don't make the Evans name a laughingstock outside."

"I understand, Cole. I promise I'll stop being immature!" Taylor said, nodding fast, touched by Cole's kindness. "I can't believe you're being so forgiving. I'm mortified about what I did yesterday. I could kick myself."

Cole watched Taylor closely, noticing his genuine remorse, with tears welled up in his eyes.

Elliana had told Cole the night before that the AI chip in Taylor's brain was built to mimic neural networks. She suspected whoever planted it wanted the chip to merge with Taylor's mind. If that happened, the chip would fuse with Taylor's brain and control his thoughts and actions.

But the technology wasn't perfect yet. The brain needed time to accept the chip. Since it was newly implanted, Taylor's brain hadn't fully merged with it yet. That explained his split behavior—sometimes he was himself, and other times he obeyed the chip. When he was himself, his choices were his own. When the chip took over, he followed whoever pulled the strings.

In this moment, Taylor's apology seemed real. His eyes held true feelings. He appeared to be himself.

Cole felt a rush of pity. As the family head, he had a duty to protect every family member from harm. But he hadn't realized when such a significant manipulation had been done to Taylor, and guilt prickled him.

Cole's voice softened with sympathy. "You had a fever yesterday. That made you rash and foolish. I'm not blaming you. Let's move past this. You look worn out. Eat something and rest in your room."

With that, he lowered his gaze, ready to continue with his paperwork.

But Taylor stayed, awkward and uneasy. "Cole, I was being foolish even before the fever. I need to confess my wrongdoings to you."

Hearing this, Cole paused in his file sorting and looked up, asking, "What else did you do?"

"I..." Taylor faltered and then held out his phone with both hands. "Cole,



take a look yourself. I'm the one behind the username 'Ice Lilah'."

Cole rarely bothered with the Ublento Medical University forum. He hadn't known Taylor had caused trouble there. He took Taylor's phone and skimmed the posts. Anger instantly flared inside him. If he hadn't known about the chip, he might have thrown Taylor out on the spot.

Still, knowing that Taylor sometimes acted under the chip's control, Cole swallowed his anger and kept his voice calm. "Why would you do things like that?"

"I don't know," Taylor said, face bitter. "It felt like I was under a spell. Yes, Lilah ignores me, and I get annoyed. Sometimes, I complain to let off steam. But I would never go that far on purpose. I can't explain why I did it."