## Chapter 694 Mission Failed

The Serpent Society assassins moved like deadly shadows, lunging forward with lethal precision. The Evans family bodyguards rushed to meet them head-on, and in an instant, the night exploded into violent chaos. Steel clashed against steel as the two forces collided with devastating force.

Jason remained perfectly still in the center of the storm. His calm presence was like an unmovable mountain while the battle raged around him. His eyes never left Katrina's face, watching her every move with predatory focus.

Katrina's heart was pounding so hard that she could hear it in her ears, but she forced herself to think clearly. She had to reach Elliana before Cole's private jet disappeared into the sky. Time was running out with every passing second.

Katrina clenched her teeth, raised her curved scimitar high above her head, and charged straight at Jason. He moved like lightning to block her attack. Their weapons met with a ringing crash that echoed across the battlefield.

The Evans family and the Serpent Society had never been enemies before this night. They had no history of conflict, no old grudges to settle. Yet here they were, fighting each other with the kind of brutal intensity usually reserved for blood feuds. Every strike was meant to kill.

While the battle raged, Elliana and Cole walked calmly up the steps of the private jet. They settled into their seats as if nothing unusual was happening. The engines roared to life, and within moments, they were lifting off into the dark sky.

The group that was holding Taylor prisoner had made its rules crystal clear. Cole and Elliana had to come alone. No backup, no additional security, no exceptions. Since they couldn't bring a pilot, Cole had taken the controls himself. He guided the sleek aircraft toward their destination at Beakcliff.

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Elliana sat in the co-pilot's seat beside him. She had known for years that Blaze Wraith was an excellent pilot, so his skill didn't surprise her in the least. She had learned to fly planes herself during her training, so she understood every move he made.

The jet soared directly over the battlefield below them. Its engines created a thunderous roar that momentarily drowned out the sounds of fighting.

In the middle of her fierce duel with Jason, Katrina suddenly stumbled backward. She took more than a dozen unsteady steps before she could regain her balance. The moment she looked up, she saw the private jet's lights disappearing into the darkness above. Pure rage exploded through her entire body. She stamped her foot against the ground so hard that it sent shockwaves up her leg. Elliana had left. The mission had ended in complete failure.

Katrina had controlled the Serpent Society for more than a month. She had made detailed plans, gathered intelligence, and prepared for every possible scenario. Yet despite all of her efforts, she hadn't even managed to get close to her target. If she returned to Maxine with this pathetic result, she would be called every terrible name in the book. Stupid. Worthless. Incompetent.

The more Katrina thought about facing Maxine's wrath, the more her fury consumed her. She began swinging her scimitar in wild, vicious arcs. The blade sliced through several small trees, sending them crashing to the ground in pieces.

Jason watched her violent outburst in complete silence. He was prepared for her to attack him again at any moment. But instead, she suddenly screamed at the top of her lungs, "Everyone retreat! We're pulling back now!"

Katrina had made the difficult decision to abandon the fight. Looking at the current situation with clear eyes, she could see that it would be nearly impossible for the Serpent Society assassins to defeat the Evans bodyguards. The two groups were too evenly matched. She had brought the very best killers the Serpent Society had to offer. But Jason's men were clearly the elite fighters of the Evans family. When two forces of this caliber collided, the most likely outcome was mutual destruction.

It was better to withdraw now while she still had fighters left than to let

both sides bleed until there was nothing remaining. Maxine was definitely going to punish her harshly for failing to eliminate Elliana. If she also lost the Serpent Society's top assassination squad in the process, Maxine might very well kill her just to release some of her anger. Retreating was the only smart choice left.

The assassins dressed in black were struggling against their opponents. When they heard Katrina's command, they quickly began falling back toward her position. They were ready to escape into the night.

But just as they started to move, Jason's voice cut through the air like a blade of ice. "Did you honestly think you could just walk away from here?"

Before his words had even finished echoing, more of the Evans family's bodyguards began emerging from the shadows around them. They moved with silent efficiency, completely cutting off every possible escape route.

Earlier in the evening, Jason had been forced to quickly assemble a security team from Ublento. He needed enough fighters to control a crowd of over twenty thousand people. To save precious time, he had called in nearly every top-level combatant from Moonveil. These were not ordinary bodyguards. They were some of the most dangerous fighters money could buy. Now they stepped out of the darkness like ghosts materializing from thin air.

In just a few heartbeats, Katrina and her assassins found themselves completely surrounded.

Katrina stared at the solid wall of hostile faces pressing in around her. Her heart began hammering against her ribs like a caged bird trying to escape. She spun around to face Jason directly, and the words came tumbling out of her mouth. "What exactly do you want?"

A harsh laugh broke from Jason's throat. "You came here tonight to murder Elliana. What do you honestly think I want from you now?"

He didn't waste another second on words. His body moved like a striking snake as he launched himself forward with deadly intent.

The Evans family bodyguards followed Jason's example instantly. They surged toward the trapped assassins like a powerful wave crashing against the shore. The peaceful clearing transformed into a war zone

once again, filled with the sounds of clashing weapons and desperate fighting.

High above the violent chaos below, Cole guided the private jet through the night sky with the skill of a master pilot. Within just a few minutes, they had reached the airspace directly above the towering cliffs of Beakcliff.

Elliana pressed her face against the small cabin window and peered down at the rocky landscape far beneath them. Another sleek private jet sat parked on the flat surface of the cliff like a sleeping metal bird. A small group of men dressed entirely in black stood in a tight formation beside the aircraft. At the very edge of the cliff, where the rock dropped away into empty darkness, a lone figure stood perfectly still. It was Taylor. He stood there like a broken marionette, his eyes staring blankly into the endless night.

When the roar of Cole's jet engines echoed across the clifftop, every man on the ground turned their face upward. Their expressions were wary and suspicious as they watched the aircraft circle above them.

Elliana pulled out her phone and started a video call to Taylor's number. She knew he wouldn't be the one to answer, but she needed to make contact with his captors.

The call connected immediately. Instead of Taylor's familiar face, the phone screen filled with the image of a stranger. This was clearly the leader of the group that had taken Taylor prisoner.

The man appeared to be around thirty years old, but his face told the story of a much harder life. A jagged scar ran across his features from temple to jaw, marking him as someone who had survived serious violence.

To prove that she and Cole had followed the kidnappers' instructions exactly, Elliana slowly turned her phone in a complete circle around the small cabin. The camera captured every corner of the interior, showing that no additional people were hiding anywhere. "You can see for yourself that it's just the two of us here," she said in a calm, clear voice. "We've done exactly what you asked. We're ready to land now."

The scar-faced man studied the video feed carefully for several long moments. When he was satisfied that Elliana was telling the truth, his

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expression relaxed slightly. A cold, mocking smile spread across his lips. "So you actually kept your word after all. That's smart of you." His voice was rough and harsh, like gravel being scraped against stone. "Go ahead and bring that plane down. We'll be waiting for you." With those final words, he abruptly ended the video call.

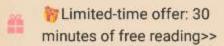
The phone screen went black in Elliana's hands. She immediately looked out the window again to observe what was happening on the ground. The men in black were moving with quick efficiency, spreading out across the clifftop to clear a safe landing area for the incoming aircraft.

Elliana studied the rocky terrain below them. She analyzed the wind direction, the size of the available space, and the potential obstacles they would need to avoid. After a few moments of careful consideration, she pointed toward a relatively flat section of the cliff. "That spot right there would be our best option. Set us down in that area."

Cole had complete faith in Elliana's judgment. Without hesitation, he adjusted their flight path according to her guidance. He brought the jet down in a slow, controlled descent. The landing was smooth and gentle, barely causing a bump as the wheels touched down on the rocky surface.

The moment the aircraft came to a complete stop, Cole was already moving. He quickly unbuckled his safety harness and jumped down from the cockpit onto the solid ground below. He turned back toward the cabin and reached up with both arms extended. His movements were incredibly careful and gentle as he helped Elliana climb down from the aircraft.

At four months into her pregnancy, Elliana had become the most precious thing in Cole's entire world. Every protective instinct he possessed had been magnified a hundredfold since learning about her pregnancy. Even in the middle of this dangerous situation, his first concern was making sure she was completely safe and comfortable.



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