

Chapter 696 Kill Her Or Keep Her

Elliana studied the scar-faced man and the black-clad figures behind him. A single word formed in her mind for the unseen person on the other end of the line—monster. Anyone capable of controlling such advanced AI chip technology, wielding poisons from the legendary Medical Codex, and commanding so many people like pawns could be nothing less.

A low sigh drifted through the speaker. "You have a temperament just like hers."

Her? Elliana's brow lifted slightly, though her thoughts churned. Was he referring to her mother? Did he know her? And if so, how?

As her thoughts swirled, the man's voice, thick with a cruel amusement, cut through the air. "Fiery, clever... Even charming. It's a real shame you have to die today. I'll make sure you don't see another sunrise."

Elliana's eyes narrowed. She had succeeded in pissing him off, while she stayed perfectly cool. Her goal of getting under his skin was to bait him into revealing his secrets, and she wasn't done yet. "What's wrong? Too ashamed to show your face? Not even brave enough to give me your name? If you won't, I'll just call you 'monster.'"

Just as she'd expected, his breath quickened, rough and unsteady, his control clearly fraying.

Elliana's lips curved in a small, satisfied smile. But then, just as quickly, he steadied himself. A harsh laugh burst through the line. "You little bitch. You think a few taunts can trick me into slipping up? Almost fooled me, but not quite. Your childish tricks won't work."

Her smile slipped. She hadn't expected him to recover so quickly. She'd underestimated his self-control. Since he wasn't taking the bait, she cut to the chase. "Who are you, really?"

"You can call me Michael," he answered.

Elliana knew it wasn't his real name, but she didn't press the point. Instead, she struck from another angle. "How did you get Silent Chord, the mute poison recorded in the Medical Codex? And what ties do you have with the Serpent Society?"

The line went dead still.

Elliana couldn't see him and couldn't guess if he was thinking, fuming, or even listening. She had no choice but to wait.

What she didn't know was that Miguel had leapt to his feet on the other side. He stared at her face on the screen, stunned, before sinking slowly back into his seat. She had recognized it. Not just the poison he'd used on Taylor, but the exact name—Silent Chord—from the Medical Codex itself. That meant she hadn't just skimmed the book. She'd studied it. Thoroughly.

Miguel's mind raced. The Medical Codex was split into two parts—the Medical Volume and the Poison Volume. Silent Chord lay buried at the very end of the Poison Volume. For Elliana to know it so well... A shocking realization struck him. Elliana was Milena.

Back when the mysterious Milena first made a name across the globe, Miguel had suspected the Medical Codex's hand in Milena's brilliance and that Milena was Rita's protégé. Therefore, he had created a false Milena to lure out the real one.

But later on, the impostor had been taken by the Evans family. His men had never once glimpsed Milena, let alone captured Milena. And now, the truth was before him—the brilliant Milena was Elliana all along. So, Rita's successor was her own daughter. Before fleeing Ublento, Rita must have passed down everything she knew, entrusting the true Medical Codex to Elliana. The copy donated to the university had been nothing more than a decoy. Elliana, inheriting Rita's remarkable traits, had mastered the Medical Codex on her own, rising to fame as Milena.

Miguel's chest tightened. He needed Elliana's medical skills. Yet, she was the daughter Rita bore with another man. The question tore at him—kill her, or keep her? He sank into bitter conflict.

Although he was a blood descendant of the Griffiths family, the clan was matriarchal. No matter how eager he was to study the Medical Codex, Maxine had never let him so much as glimpse its pages. What

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 +120 Points at most

little he knew came from stolen fragments, whispers caught in passing. Silent Chord itself had been pilfered when he defected years ago, and his supply was almost gone. He craved the Medical Codex. More than that, he needed someone who had truly mastered it.

Far away on a windswept cliff, Elliana stood unaware of his inner storm. His silence stretched, and she pushed again. "Why are you implanting AI chips in people? What's the point of turning them into puppets?"

Her words jolted Miguel from his thoughts. His eyes widened. How could she possibly know? The chip he had slipped into Taylor's brain was the world's most advanced design, a liquid AI that blended in perfectly. No ordinary soul could ever have noticed. Unless...



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