

Chapter 711 Romance

Ever since Cole lost his memory, Hugh hadn't managed to find a single moment alone with Heather. The two of them had barely started something sweet, only for it to be interrupted just as quickly as it had begun.

Left to stew in his own thoughts, Hugh had been afraid that if he and Heather went too long without meeting, she would slip away and find someone else.

That was why, when Cole suddenly mentioned they'd be going to Rosewood Villa and made a point of telling Hugh to dress sharp, Hugh, who usually missed hints, caught on right away. Maybe Cole was trying to help him. Maybe this was an opportunity to see Heather.

Once that hope took hold, Hugh could hardly think straight. He raced through a shower, picked out a new outfit, and even stopped for a haircut before leaving the house. For good measure, he tossed on a bold pink shirt under his black suit, feeling riskier than ever.

The change was night and day. Gone was the clumsy, rough-around-the-edges Hugh. In his place stood a man who almost passed for a heartthrob.

Cole clocked the look and couldn't help but tease, "Dressed like that, are you planning to quit bodyguard duty and go fishing for a rich woman to sponsor you?"

Hugh turned bright red but felt lighter than he had in ages. He didn't care if he looked ridiculous. If it brought him any closer to Heather, he'd wear neon from head to toe. Besides, when he compared himself to Myles and Aron, who were still stuck in that backwater Sundara, he figured he had nothing to complain about.

Cole suddenly recalled Myles, Aron, the driver, Harry—every single one, banished to Sundara because of his own jealous tantrum. He didn't want anyone to know the true reason behind his decision. Even though the guilt gnawed at him, he wouldn't call them back without a solid reason. For

now, he just had to wait until he came up with a plausible excuse.

Nobody would ever guess that behind Cole's unshakable facade lurked someone who could be petty and childish, even a little insecure.

As soon as the group reached Rosewood Villa, the atmosphere changed. Adah and the Four Guardians, who were normally relaxed and noisy around Elliana, adopted a serious demeanor. They hovered by her side as if she were made of glass, watching her every step like nervous hawks. They even insisted on supporting her arm as she walked.

"Do you need to sit down for a bit?"

"Careful now--there's a step up ahead!"

No one paid any attention to Cole. Heather, for her part, completely missed Hugh, even though he'd shown up hoping she would notice his new look.

As Elliana made her way inside, surrounded by her overprotective circle, Cole couldn't help but grin at the sight. Left to fend for himself, he just shrugged and wandered into the villa at his own pace. He reminded himself that this place belonged to his wife, which meant it was his by extension. He didn't see any reason to worry about formalities or who was there to welcome him.

A few steps behind, Hugh quietly tried to muster some courage. He told himself that Heather was simply preoccupied with Elliana and hadn't caught sight of him yet. Once she finally looked over, she'd be floored by his transformation.

If anyone could hear the inner thoughts bouncing around in the heads of these two men, they would probably laugh out loud.

Heather eagerly led Elliana to the dining room, showing off the table crowded with all sorts of delicious food.

"You must be starving," Heather said, piling a bit of everything onto Elliana's plate. "Go on. Try these! I spent days experimenting with new dishes for you. They're supposed to be perfect for the babies."

Elliana felt a little awkward with all the overt care. "You know, I'm only pregnant. You don't have to roll out the royal treatment. I'm starting to

feel like I'm about to be crowned or something."

But as she finished, Elliana noticed Heather freeze, mid-serve.

A glance told Elliana why. Heather's attention had snapped to Hugh, and she was gazing at him with eyes that sparkled like she was seeing her favorite movie star.

Elliana couldn't help but take in the scene. Hugh looked completely out of his depth—blushing bright red, hands hanging awkwardly at his sides.

Now this was a textbook example of two people completely infatuated with each other.

Elliana almost spoke up to tease Heather for ditching her so quickly. But before she could get a word out, Heather set down the serving fork and put on her best innocent voice. "Oh, Elliana, I'm making you uncomfortable? Sorry about that. I'll give you some room."

Heather tossed a playful wink at Hugh and then slipped away without another word.

Hugh's heart practically leaped out of his chest. He turned to Cole, cheeks still flaming, and tried to sound composed. "Uh, Mr. Evans, I should... probably get out of your hair, too."

Hugh didn't stick around to hear a reply. In a heartbeat, he was off, hurrying after Heather.

Watching the whole thing unfold, Elliana and Cole both fought back grins. Meanwhile, Adah, Clifton, Kieran, and Damian exchanged synchronized eye rolls. The room practically buzzed with romance—enough to make anyone feel like they'd walked into a love story. Strangely, the loving couple, Elliana and Cole, were bystanders this time. All the warmth poured off Hugh and Heather, who had stolen the spotlight with their clumsy affection.

Soon enough, attention drifted elsewhere. Hugh and Heather faded into the background, their love story continuing offstage.

After lunch, Elliana and Cole changed their focus. It was time to question their captives, Jules and Katrina.

Given Jules's suspected connection to the Henderson family, Elliana

chose to see him first. She'd already contacted the Hendersons earlier this morning about Jules's capture, arranging for a DNA test to confirm if he really was their missing Cutler.

By the time Elliana and Cole stepped into the drawing room, the Henderson family had arrived at Rosewood Villa, eager for answers. Gatlin, Eloisa, Charles, and Barbara entered together, anticipation lighting up their faces.

Charles was the first to approach, waving a sheet of paper with trembling hands. "It's really him! Cutler is back—he's my brother!"

Gatlin and Eloisa could hardly contain themselves. Tears shimmered in their eyes as they realized the boy they lost so long ago had finally been found.