

Chapter 721 Pure Force Of Will

Once Cole had helped him to his feet, Victor stood perfectly upright with his hands clasped respectfully in front of him. "Thank you very much, Mr. Evans."

After reading through Sophie's heartfelt letter, Elliana's initial suspicion toward Victor had completely melted away. "Please, come sit down," she said warmly.

Cole even moved to pull out a chair for Victor, but Victor shook his head gently. "I would prefer to remain standing while I deliver the message."

Seeing that Victor wouldn't budge, Cole decided not to push the matter and got straight to the burning question consuming his thoughts. "Where is my mother right now?"

Sophie's letter had only vouched for Victor's loyalty and trustworthiness—nothing beyond that. Any real answers would have to come directly from Victor himself.

Victor released a heavy, sorrowful sigh before beginning his explanation. "This letter... Your mother wrote it many years ago. She gave me specific instructions that if anything terrible ever happened to her, I was to travel to Ublento and bring this letter to you."

Something terrible? The words hit Cole like a punch to the chest. He went completely rigid, his voice barely working as he forced out the question. "Are you saying my mother is—"

"No, no! She's still alive," Victor said quickly, raising his hands. "Please, let me explain everything."

A wave of relief flooded through Cole's entire body. He nodded silently, waiting with desperate patience for Victor to continue his story.

Victor then began sharing what had happened to Sophie after she had

left the Evans family all those years ago.

Just as Elliana and Cole had suspected, Sophie had left Ublento with Rita.

Sophie had made the choice to follow Rita, naturally, because of her debilitating Psychephrenia condition. At that time, Rita hadn't yet managed to develop a complete cure for the illness, but she had successfully created a powerful medication designed to suppress the violent episodes. Staying close to Rita had been the safest possible option for Sophie's survival.

Unfortunately, the suppressant medication had come with terrible, life-altering side effects. Not only had it slowly destroyed Sophie's fertility, but her body had also begun developing a dangerous tolerance to the medication's effects. When the Psychephrenia episodes did break through, they were far more violent and uncontrollable than they had been before treatment. Eventually, even taking the medication exactly on schedule could no longer prevent the illness from taking over Sophie's mind, and the horrifying episodes started occurring more and more frequently.

Every single time Sophie lost her grip on reality, Rita, Sally, and Victor would remain at her side throughout the entire ordeal, desperately trying to calm her down and keep her safe. Each episode had felt like fighting through a nightmarish battle that left everyone emotionally and physically drained.

During one especially severe and violent episode, Sophie had become completely delusional and out of control, lashing out at everything and everyone around her. She'd grabbed a kitchen knife and began cutting her own flesh, and in her frenzy, she'd even stabbed both Rita and Sally.

Even though Rita and Sally fully understood that it was the mental illness controlling Sophie's actions—not Sophie herself making those choices—and they never once blamed her for what happened, Sophie had been absolutely devastated by guilt and self-hatred once she finally regained her senses and realized what she had done.

Rita had already been pushing herself to the breaking point, constantly running and hiding from assassins sent by both Maxine and Miguel, who wanted to capture her. On top of that, she had been working around the clock trying to develop a permanent cure for Psychephrenia, all while



caring for Sophie during her increasingly frequent episodes.

That particular stabbing incident had very nearly ended Rita's life. The blade had plunged deep into her body, missing her heart by less than an inch. It took her many long, painful months to fully recover from those injuries.

Sophie had been tormented by the terror of harming someone she loved ever again. After weeks of agonizing internal debate, she'd made the heartbreaking decision to leave—to find some remote, isolated place where she could quietly disappear from the world, somewhere she could never hurt another living soul.

Once she was absolutely certain that Rita had recovered enough to survive without her care, Sophie had left behind a simple farewell letter and vanished into the night.

Victor had chosen to remain loyal and stayed by Sophie's side through everything. After that departure, they had never encountered Rita or Sally again and had absolutely no information about where the two women might have gone.

Hearing this part of the story, Elliana felt her heart sink with crushing disappointment. She had been desperately hoping that Victor would bring some news about her mother's current location, but now that slim hope had evaporated once again.

Victor continued telling Sophie's tragic story, his voice heavy with old grief.

After parting ways with Rita and Sally, Sophie had traveled to a desolate stretch of coastline. It was there, sitting alone on the empty beach, that she had written the letter Cole was now holding in his hands. She had instructed Victor to carry it back to Ublento and inform her family of her death. She had completely lost her desire to continue living. Her plan was to walk straight into the ocean's depths and let the cold water become her permanent grave.

Even though she had loved Jarrett with every fiber of her being, she couldn't force herself to write him even a single word of goodbye. Her deepest wish was that he would hate her memory—hate her enough to finally let go, find a healthy woman who could make him happy, and build the beautiful life he deserved. She felt nothing but overwhelming guilt for



all the years she believed she had stolen from him, holding him back from true happiness.

After placing the letter in Victor's hands, Sophie had slowly risen to her feet and begun walking steadily toward the rolling waves, each deliberate step bringing her closer to the end she craved.

Victor had dropped to his knees right there on the sand, his voice breaking apart as he desperately pleaded with her, "I understand that the agony of your illness is almost impossible to bear, that living this way feels like endless torture. But please—I'm begging you to think about your mother, imprisoned and suffering in the Griffiths family's dungeons! Think about Cole, who has been waiting all these years for you to finally come home! They're your family. Don't give up now. Please hold on—for them. Endure this pain a little longer, until the miracle you've stopped believing in finally finds you."

His raw, emotional appeal had struck exactly where Sophie was most vulnerable. The reminder of her mother and her son was the only thing powerful enough to reach through her despair, and she immediately abandoned her plan to surrender herself to the sea. Her mother was enduring unimaginable suffering in a dark prison cell—locked away by Maxine's cruelty, sacrificing everything just to keep Sophie safe. Her son, still just a child, had already grown up without knowing a mother's love and protection. How could she possibly destroy their last fragile thread of hope by giving up now?

Sophie had stood there on the windswept shore and broken down completely, her grief pouring out in raw, uncontrollable sobs. But when her tears finally dried, she discovered she had found the strength to keep fighting—to continue living despite everything. Choosing to survive meant declaring all-out war against her Psychephrenia every single day. Like a patient battling a terminal disease with no guaranteed cure, she understood her time might be severely limited, but she held onto each precious day with stubborn determination, clinging to the faint possibility of a miracle.

Sophie had made the decision to establish a new life in Podgend, a rough town located on the very edge of the lawless, dangerous region known as Delta.

Because of Delta's influence and reputation, Podgend had become a natural gathering place for society's misfits and outcasts, making it the

ideal location for someone "different" like her to conceal her true identity and quietly build an existence.

And so Sophie and Victor had made Podgend their permanent home. Together, they had developed a harsh but necessary system for managing her condition. Whenever Sophie sensed the warning signs that an episode was approaching, she would have Victor physically lock her inside their basement. He would slide the massive iron bolt firmly into place and walk away, leaving her completely alone, no matter how violently she thrashed against the door or how desperately she screamed for release, forcing her to endure the terrifying storm raging in her mind without any human contact.

By the time Victor reached this part of the tale, his eyes were bloodshot and glistening, his voice breaking under the weight of memories too heavy to carry. "All these years..." he said, forcing the words out through a tight throat, "she's been battling this disease through nothing but pure force of will. Always trying to master it, or at least find some way to live alongside it without destroying herself. Every single episode takes a terrible toll on her body and spirit... It's a kind of suffering that I don't have adequate words to properly describe."