

Chapter 723 Left To Find His Mother

The thought of his mother—her fate still uncertain—filled Cole with a desperate urge to rush to Podgend and save her. But one glance at Elliana, heavy with babies and ready to give birth any moment, stopped him cold. He couldn't bring himself to leave her side.

His mother's life hung in the balance, yet his heart ached to witness the birth of his children. The two women who meant the world to him needed him at the same time, and it tore him apart that he couldn't be in two places at once—one part racing to rescue his mother, the other staying beside Elliana.

Seeing the torment on Cole's face, Victor sighed, understanding the impossible choice before Cole. He wouldn't have dared to go against Sophie's orders if it weren't a matter of life and death.

Of the three, only Elliana remained composed. She turned to Cole, her voice calm and sure. "Go to Podgend," she said softly. "My due date's still two weeks away. You'll make it back long before the babies come."

Cole frowned. "But the doctors said you could go into labor at any time."

Elliana smiled, calm and confident. "I'm a doctor too, Cole. I know my own body. Even if it happens early, I can handle it. My father and Milton are here, and Adah and the others are keeping watch around the clock. I'll be perfectly fine."

Cole conceded that she was right. Arthur and Milton had been hovering over her ever since they learned she was pregnant, treating her like delicate glass. With her due date near, they were taking no chances.

Arthur's and Milton's care for Elliana gave Cole some small comfort. But even so, his heart wouldn't rest. As her husband, he felt he should be there when she went into labor. The thought of missing his children's birth filled him with remorse that cut deep.

Sensing his turmoil, Elliana reached for his hand. "I won't hold it against you. Your mother needs you more right now. I don't want you to live the rest of your life regretting that you chose to stay by my side."

Victor stepped in, urgency clear in his tone. "Cole, I know you want to stay for the childbirth, but Elliana has more protection than most fortresses. Yet, your mother has only you. Please... You must go find her."

Cole knew they were right. He nodded to Victor, then turned to Elliana and pressed a tender kiss to her forehead. "I'll come back as soon as I can," he promised.

Elliana squeezed his hand, her eyes steady. "I know you will. And I'll do everything I can to hold on until you return—so none of us will have regrets."

There was no more time to lose. Pushed by Elliana's urging, Cole began preparing for the journey to Podgend. Still, worry gnawed at him. Even with so many people guarding her, the unease wouldn't fade. He secretly sent for Jason.

When Jason arrived, Cole explained everything, his voice low and firm. "This trip to Podgend is dangerous, and I don't know when I'll return. I'm sure Maxine will strike when Elliana goes into labor, and Miguel might see it as his moment for revenge. I'm counting on you to protect Elliana."

Jason's eyes hardened. "Don't worry," he said in a gravelly tone. "I'll guard Elliana and the babies with my life. As long as I breathe, no one will touch them."

It was a vow spoken like a blade's edge—absolute and final.

Grateful, Cole gripped his shoulder and then turned to Paulina. "You too. I'm trusting you to take good care of Elliana."

Despite having arranged all-around protection for Elliana, the thought of leaving her weighed heavy on Cole. His chest tightened with dread he couldn't shake.

Paulina met his gaze, her expression fierce with resolve. "You have my word. As long as I'm alive, nothing will happen to her or the babies."

Cole gave a small nod of gratitude. He double-checked every plan,



handed off every task, and gave out final instructions until there was nothing left undone. Only then did he board his private jet.

Knowing what awaited him in Podgend, he didn't go alone. Myles, Aron, and Hugh went with him, along with an elite squad from Blaze Wildfire. They were his shield—and his blade.

The moment Cole departed, the place felt empty for Elliana. The warmth he carried with him vanished, leaving behind a hollow stillness. Though surrounded by people, she felt the chill of his absence sink deep into her chest. For months, Cole had been her constant companion—sharing her meals, holding her through the nights, never leaving her side. Now, with him gone, the silence felt unbearable.

The once-fearless Death Thorn, who had commanded Delta with an iron will, now found herself longing for her husband after mere moments apart.

But that longing soon turned into something darker—an uneasy dread. A chill crept over her heart, whispering of danger. It felt as though something monstrous was waiting just beyond sight, its jaws open, ready to strike.