

Chapter 727 Storm Brewing

When Elliana saw the location Carlos had sent, a chill ran down her spine, and her heart skipped a beat. He had chosen Skythread Gorge.

The place lay about a hundred kilometers west of Ublento. Its name alone carried a dark reputation. Carved through limestone cliffs that leaned so close together that they nearly touched, Skythread Gorge left only a sliver of sky above—a narrow blue thread between towering walls of rock.

The very thought of that deadly, confined, oppressive place was enough to make her feel suffocated. Choosing such a spot said everything. Carlos—and whoever stood behind him—had no plans for a peaceful talk.

Fear gripped her, and her throat went dry as she turned to Milton.

Milton understood her concerns without a word. He placed a steady hand on her shoulder and said quietly, "I know it looks like a trap. But whatever they're up to, I'll be ready. Trust me."

His calm confidence soothed her, if only a little. Milton wasn't just smart—he was sharp, clever, and fearless. If anyone could handle danger, it was him. Still, worry crept into her voice. "Just... Please, be careful."

Before he could answer, her phone buzzed again. A new message from Carlos appeared. "Milton, remember—only you and your father. If I see anyone else, you'll never hear another word about Rita."

Milton's brow furrowed. He typed one word back—"Fine."

Then, he stood and turned to Elliana. "I have to go. Focus on resting. Don't think too much about it. With a little luck, I'll be back before the babies arrive."

But how could Elliana rest? Skythread Gorge was a death trap, and Carlos had forbidden backup. Fear twisted in her gut. She and Milton knew it was a trap. Yet for Rita's sake, Milton and Arthur had no choice but to walk straight into it.

Elliana's voice trembled as she looked up at Milton. "I'll wait for you both. I'm not having these babies until you are back. I want all of you here when they're born."

It wasn't just her father and brother she meant—it was Cole too. She needed to believe they'd all return safely. She needed them to see her babies arrive.

Milton smiled faintly, brushing a strand of hair from her face before turning to leave.

Once he was gone, her phone became her lifeline. She either held it close or stared at the screen, afraid to blink, afraid to miss a call. Her beloved man. Her father. Her brother. The silence of their absence weighed like a stone on her heart.

Three days crawled by without a word. No messages from Cole. None from Milton or Arthur. Even Carlos had gone quiet.

The silence was suffocating—thick as fog, heavy as lead. She could sense something dark brewing, yet the world stayed eerily still.

By the third sunset, she couldn't bear it anymore. She called Adah into her hospital room. "I need you to go to Delta. Gather the Thorn Rose elites and head to SerpentFang. I have to know if Cole is safe," she said firmly.

Adah's reply was instant and fierce. "No. You could go into labor any second. How can I leave you to chase after a man? I'm not going."

Elliana's voice softened, her eyes pleading. "Adah, he's the man I love—the father of my children. I can't rest not knowing if he's safe. Please, I'm begging you."

Adah's lips curved into a stubborn pout. "Still no. I'd die for you, Elliana, but I won't risk your safety for his."

Elliana sighed, frustration and desperation mixing. She threw back the covers and struggled to rise, her swollen belly making it hard to move. "Fine. If you won't go, I will."

Panic flashed across Adah's face. She hurried to Elliana's side, gently pushing her back onto the bed. "Are you trying to kill me from stress?" she



groaned, half angry, half scared. "Seriously, I can't leave you, not like this."

Elliana met her gaze and took her hand. "Please, Adah. Just check on him. I'll be fine. Jason's here, and I'll have Matthew send more people from Star Society to stand guard. You don't have to worry about me."

The sincerity in Elliana's eyes broke through Adah's defenses. After a long pause, she sighed in defeat. "Fine. I'll go."

Adah called Clifton and the others into the room, her tone turning deadly serious. "While I'm gone, you stay on full alert. Nothing—and I mean nothing—must happen to Elliana or the babies. Do you understand?" Her eyes locked on Clifton. "You're in charge till I get back. Don't fail me."