

Chapter 728 Water Broke

At Adah's words, Clifton struck his chest with his fist. "You have my word," he vowed firmly. "As long as I'm here, no one will touch Elliana. They'll have to go through me first."

"Same here!" Kieran, Damian, and Heather said together, their voices filled with conviction.

Adah didn't doubt their loyalty or skill, but her repeated cautions came from a place of deep unease.

Enemies like Maxine—the ruthless head of the Serpent Society—and the elusive Miguel were not to be taken lightly. Even with Adah's presence, safety was never absolute. Without her, the risk only grew.

After giving her last instructions, Adah met with Matthew. They discussed every possible scenario, sealing their plans before she finally boarded her flight to Delta.

Her departure left a hollow tension in the air. The team felt the weight of her absence immediately. Every sound made them jump, and vigilance became their second nature.

Clifton, Kieran, Damian, and Heather took turns guarding Elliana's door, their eyes sharp, their senses on edge.

But shortly after Adah's plane took off, Elliana summoned them into her room. "Clifton," she began softly, leaning back against the headboard. "It's been three days since my father and brother left for Skythread Gorge, and there's been no word. I want you to take Kieran, Damian, and Heather to find out what's going on."

Her words left them speechless.

Heather broke the silence first. "Adah made us promise to keep you safe! She's barely gone, and now you want us to leave you alone? What if something happens? How could we face her?"

Elliana's calm gaze met hers. "You'll be following my orders. She can't hold that against you."

Heather frowned. "This isn't about Adah—it's about you! We can't leave you unprotected, especially now."

"She's right," Kieran chimed in quietly.

Damian nodded. "If we go, who'll watch over you?"

Clifton, as always, remained the voice of reason. "Elliana, we understand your concern. But this isn't our mission. Finding them should be left to the Campbell security team. Our duty is to stay by your side."

Elliana's tone softened, patient but firm. "I just returned to the Campbell family. I hardly know who I can trust there. You four are the only ones I have faith in. I know what you're capable of—that's why it must be you."

Heather's voice rose again. "Then let Jason handle it with his people!"

Elliana's eyes steadied on her. "The Evans and Campbell families have been at odds for over twenty years because of Eva. Things have calmed a little since Cole and I got together, but the tension still lingers. Sending men from the Evans side would only stir trouble now."

Heather bit her lip and fell silent, unable to argue.

Clifton, Kieran, and Damian exchanged a long, knowing glance. They understood her reasoning, though it weighed on them heavily.

Elliana's voice trembled slightly. "My father and brother mean everything to me. If anything happens to them, I could never forgive myself. Please ... Go to Skythread Gorge and bring them back."

Her plea broke through their final layer of resistance. To them, Elliana was more than a leader—she was someone they deeply respected. They often teased her lightly, but beneath it was genuine reverence. Seeing her now—pregnant, vulnerable, and humbling herself to beg—made it impossible to refuse.

"Fine," Clifton said finally, his voice thick with emotion. "We'll leave right away. Don't worry. We'll bring them back safely, no matter the cost."

Kieran, Damian, and Heather nodded firmly in agreement.

A small smile curved Elliana's lips. "Thank you. Go, and be careful."

Without another word, Clifton led the team out of the hospital, heading straight for Skythread Gorge.

Elliana tried to shake off the anxiety creeping into her chest. She needed rest more than anything. After dinner, she took a warm bath, read for a bit, and then slipped under the covers, hoping for a peaceful night.

Sleep came slowly, but eventually, it claimed her. She didn't know how long she'd been asleep when a deafening thunderclap split the air. The entire building seemed to shake. Moments later, rain began to lash against the windows in heavy sheets.

Elliana jerked awake and glanced outside. The night sky was a swirl of darkness, lit by blinding streaks of lightning followed by ear-splitting thunder.

It wasn't even summer yet—storms like this were rare and unsettling.

Her heart pounded. The babies inside her stirred restlessly, and then pain shot through her abdomen. A warm rush spread down her legs. Her water had broken.

Biting back the pain, she cried out, "Someone! Help me!"

The door burst open, Paulina rushed in, panic written on her face. "What's wrong?"

Elliana's skin glistened with cold sweat. "My water broke," she gasped. "Call the doctors—now!"