

Chapter 729 Preparing For The Worst Outcome

Hearing Elliana's words, Paulina's eyes darted to the growing wet patch beneath Elliana. Elliana's water had indeed broken. Her face drained of color. Without a word, she spun around and dashed out to call the medical team.

Within moments, doctors and nurses rushed into the room.

After a quick examination, the lead doctor's voice rang out, tense and sharp. "There are signs of fetal distress! Prep her for surgery, immediately!"

At once, the team leapt into motion. They lifted Elliana onto a gurney and pushed her out of her hospital room toward the operating room.

Elliana didn't argue. She already knew the doctor was right. Her body told her what her mind feared—a difficult delivery was coming, made worse by the storm of anxiety she'd carried for days.

These days, she had barely slept, her thoughts tangled with worry for Cole, who was far away in Podgend, and for her father and brother, missing since their trip to Skythread Gorge. No matter how she tried to calm herself, dread had clung to her like a shadow. Now, that fear had finally taken its toll on her and on the babies she carried.

If natural birth was impossible, surgery was her only choice. Even as Dr. Atkinson, the world-renowned surgeon, she was now simply a woman in labor—forced to trust her life, and her children's, to others.

Tension rippled through the hospital's corridors. Two security groups guarded the place—the Evans family's team led by Jason, and the Star Society members under Matthew.

Elliana had never wanted Star Society involved. Before sending Adah and the Four Guardians away, she had planned to keep them out. Her other identity as Lexi made her and Jason sworn enemies, and she had no wish

to reignite old grudges. But with Adah and the Four Guardians gone, security was thin. She had no choice but to ask Matthew to bring Star Society members in.

When Jason learned that Elliana was Lexi, the shock had nearly floored him. He couldn't believe the woman he loved from afar was the same one who had once left him badly wounded.

All this time, he'd always worn a special mask whenever he appeared as Sombra, fully convinced his identity was safely hidden away as a secret. But then, as memories came rushing back, a painful truth hit him—Elliana had long seen through his disguise. That was why, after injuring him at the Star Society headquarters, she had gone to Regal Grove to treat his wounds. Her actions, once confusing, suddenly made sense—it had all been for Cole.

Realizing this, Jason had wished the ground would open and swallow him whole. Why had things unfolded like this? He had loved Death Thorn deeply and hated Lexi with equal intensity, only to find they were one and the same.

When the truth settled in, he'd withdrawn to a quiet corner, drowning in the bitter irony of it all. He didn't dwell on whether he should love or hate Elliana, though. It was too late for that. No matter what masks she wore, he couldn't escape her pull. One look at her back in Podgend had sealed his fate—his heart belonged to her.

What had troubled him was how to face Elliana. So he'd avoided her and Matthew altogether, keeping to the shadows ever since Star Society arrived. However, he knew he couldn't hide forever.

When word spread that Elliana was in labor—and struggling—Jason forgot everything else. He ran straight to her hospital room.

Matthew arrived at the same time.

Their eyes met outside the door. They exchanged a short nod, heavy with unspoken tension. This wasn't the time for grudges. Elliana's life came first.

Just then, the doors burst open. The medical team wheeled Elliana out on the gurney. Her face was pale, her forehead glistened with sweat, but her eyes were sharp, her will unbroken. Even in pain, she didn't cry out.

She bit through it, fierce as ever.

She spotted Jason and Matthew and lifted a trembling hand. "Please... Stop for a moment."

The medical team immediately halted the gurney.

Jason and Matthew rushed to her side, leaning in close.

Elliana turned to Matthew first. "Matthew, if something happens to me, you'll lead the Star Society. And if Donovan returns, tell him I'm sorry. He treated me kindly, and I never repaid him. If there's another life, I'll make it up to him a hundredfold."

Matthew's throat tightened. "Don't say that. You'll make it through this."

Elliana gave a faint, tired smile. "I'm just preparing for the worst outcome. But I'll fight with all I have."

He nodded quickly, swallowing hard. "I promise. I'll take care of everything."

Then, her gaze shifted to Jason.

His eyes were red, his expression a maelstrom of conflicting emotions. Hearing her speak like that tore through him like a blade. His heart felt as if it might split open. She was the first woman he had ever truly loved—and he knew she would be the last. Even if he couldn't have her, even if he could never confess his romantic feelings toward her, all he wished for was her safety.

And Elliana wasn't blind. She had long seen the emotion he tried to hide each time they locked eyes. She saw it clearly—but chose to pretend she didn't.