

Chapter 751 Paige Laid Out The Truth

Furious, Raylan tore the check into shreds and flung the pieces directly into Paige's face. "You think a million dollars can erase everything I've done for you? What am I to you—some kind of beggar?"

Paige's hand immediately dove into her purse, retrieving a small compact mirror. Her first concern wasn't the insult but whether her makeup had smudged in the chaos. She examined her reflection carefully, confirmed her appearance remained flawless, and then put away the compact mirror. When she looked back at Raylan, her contempt had deepened into something colder. "So a million isn't enough for you? Fine. Tell me your number. What will it cost to make you disappear from my life?"

"You—" A sharp pain seized Raylan's chest, and his entire body shook with barely contained fury.

Their argument spiraled into something vicious and venomous, the hatred between them so consuming that neither noticed Elliana standing in the shadows, absorbing every word.

Then, Vivien appeared.

Raylan and Paige both turned toward her, their battle temporarily suspended.

Vivien's memory of Paige remained tinted by the cruise ship incident, where Paige had supposedly been injured while rescuing her. The gratitude she felt toward Paige was overwhelming.

She glanced between Raylan and Paige and then ventured, "Paige, I understand Raylan might not be what you are looking for right now, but people can grow. He can become better—just give him some time to prove it."

Vivien had anticipated the same warmth Paige had once shown her, but



this time, Paige's gaze swept past her as though she were furniture.

The instant Vivien finished speaking, Paige released a cold, cutting laugh, her voice laced with pure contempt. "And who exactly do you think you are? Stay out of things that don't concern you."

Vivien froze, the disdain in those words hitting her like a physical blow. It took several stunned seconds for her to process what she'd just heard. "Paige, what's happened to you? You were never like this before! On the cruise ship, you were seriously injured trying to save me!"

"Ha-ha..." Paige doubled over with laughter, as though Vivien had delivered the most absurd punchline imaginable. When she finally straightened, she regarded Vivien with the kind of pity reserved for particularly dim children.

Determined to sever every thread connecting her to Raylan and burn every bridge to the Hudson family, Paige held nothing back. "Vivien, you really are dense, aren't you?" she said, her tone almost casual in its cruelty. "I value my own life above everything else in this world. Did you actually convince yourself I'd risk it for someone like you?"

Then, Paige laid out the truth—every calculated detail of what had really happened on that cruise ship.

When Paige finished, Raylan and Vivien could only stare, their expressions frozen in disbelief.

The entire Hudson family had been grateful toward Paige because of that kidnapping. It had been the sole reason Lenard had agreed to Paige's engagement with Raylan. Now, the truth was exposed. Paige had orchestrated everything alongside Merritt. Vivien had been drugged and knocked unconscious? Paige had given the order herself. The only reason Vivien had survived wasn't Paige's mercy—it was Elliana's intervention. The same Elliana they'd spent months tearing down.

Vivien stared at Paige, shaking her head in denial. "No... You're lying, right? This has to be a joke! Tell me you're joking!"

"I literally just called you dense." Paige's voice carried no heat, just matter-of-fact cruelty. "I've handed you the truth on a silver platter, and you're still clinging to some fantasy version of me? Let me be exceedingly clear—I never saw you as anything but a tool. Every second



in your presence made me want to scrub my skin raw. The only reason I smiled through it was to use the Hudson family's influence to get ahead!"

Everything Vivien thought she knew splintered apart. The friendship she'd protected, defended, cherished—it had never existed at all. A sound escaped her throat, broken and raw. Her legs gave out beneath her, and she collapsed, sobbing into her hands.

Pain twisted through Raylan's chest. He clenched his jaw until it ached, his voice dropping to something dangerous. "So everything from the start—you approaching me, the engagement—was all calculated. How dare you treat me this way? You'll regret this, Paige! I'll make sure of it."

Paige examined her nails with theatrical indifference. "I'm signed with the Evans Group now. Cole personally backs my career. So go ahead—tell me what you plan to do to me."

The fight bled out of Raylan instantly. His shoulders sagged. He wouldn't cross Cole even if his life depended on it. No one would.

After a suffocating stretch of silence, he grasped at one final thread. "The kidnapping—you were involved. Aren't you afraid I would call the police right now?"

"Evidence." Paige smiled, sharp and dismissive. "And what proof do you have?"

Raylan opened his mouth. Nothing came out. She was right—he had nothing.

Elliana had seen enough. She stepped out of the shadows, her voice cutting through the wreckage with deliberate calm. "Are you done arguing?"

Only then did the three register Elliana's presence.

Vivien's sobs caught in her throat. She dragged herself up from the ground, her limbs heavy, and found she couldn't meet Elliana's eyes. She had stood shoulder to shoulder with Paige, bullying Elliana more times than she could count. Public humiliation had been their favorite sport. Now Paige's own confession echoed in her skull—Elliana had saved her life. The words "thank you" formed in her mind but died somewhere between her brain and her mouth, strangled by pride that wouldn't bend.

Raylan stared at Elliana, his thoughts spinning violently out of control. The last time he'd laid eyes on her was at the Evans family banquet. Back then, with that wild afro wig and the tattoos covering her face, she'd repulsed him so thoroughly that he'd made sure everyone within earshot knew it. He'd mocked her viciously and treated her like something that had crawled out from under a rock.

He hadn't seen Elliana since, but the rumors had reached him anyway. At Ubleto Medical University, Elliana had stripped away the disguise and shown her real face. She'd never been disfigured or ugly. She was exactly as stunning as she'd been in childhood—the girl he'd once imagined spending his life with, before everything fell apart.

Seeing her now, standing there with her beauty undisguised, sent something electric and humiliating cascading through his chest. Excitement tangled with shame until he couldn't distinguish one from the other. His mouth opened, then closed. Words existed somewhere, but he couldn't find a single one that didn't feel like ashes on his tongue.