

Chapter 755 Hidden Entrance

The intricate designs etched into the two bracelets concealed a secret map—and through deciphering it, Elliana and Cole discovered the Griffiths family's most secretive stronghold nestled deep within Delta's frozen mountain peaks.

Delta had consistently represented a territory of dramatic extremes. Its eastern territory, consisting of low-elevation coastal lands, enjoyed mild and agreeable weather conditions. Traveling westward, though, the landscape steadily ascended, reaching its peak in a towering mountain range dominating the far western frontier, eternally blanketed in ice and completely uninhabitable.

As a result, Delta's eastern and middle territories housed the overwhelming majority of the region's population and organizational headquarters, leaving the western frozen peaks essentially abandoned and unexplored.

The Griffiths family had constructed a brilliant strategy for their continued existence—concealing their most vital headquarters within this barren, isolated wilderness. The location offered absolute secrecy. This central stronghold served as their ultimate sanctuary, designed to protect them should they ever confront another threat of annihilation.

Elliana and Cole's expedition to the hidden fortress required absolute discretion. They informed no one of their plans, concerned about potential unexpected obstacles.

Their operation encompassed four critical goals: reclaim their kidnapped daughter, extract Sophie from captivity, liberate Sophie's imprisoned mother from the dungeon cells, and finally expose the mysteries surrounding Rita's true heritage.

The fortress would undoubtedly present countless hazards, and defeating Maxine would prove extraordinarily challenging. A single error could result not only in mission failure but in their deaths.

Prior to departure, the pair conducted exhaustive planning. Elliana

activated the complete operational capacity of Thorn Rose, while Cole simultaneously mobilized the entire strength of Blaze Wildfire.

Previously fierce adversaries, Thorn Rose and Blaze Wildfire members had maintained constant hostility toward each other. This marked the inaugural occasion when both organizations had actually joined forces.

Following the map's guidance precisely, Elliana and Cole positioned their combined troops at strategic locations encircling the base perimeter. Eventually, they personally led their most exceptional fighters to the supposed entrance, only to discover absolutely nothing present. Only an enormous, eerily quiet landscape of pristine white snow stretched before them.

Adah couldn't suppress her skepticism and asked, "Elliana, are you completely certain about these coordinates? This doesn't remotely resemble an entrance to any kind of installation!"

Seeds of doubt began taking root in everyone's minds. Elliana's brow furrowed deeply as she pulled out the bracelets once more, studying the intricate map pattern etched into their surfaces. After several minutes of intense examination, she raised her head and nodded with conviction. "I'm positive. This has to be the right location."

"The entrance is definitely here," Cole agreed firmly. "It's just been concealed with extraordinary skill. Everyone needs to spread out and search every inch of this area. Look for anything that seems even slightly out of place."

The assembled teams immediately began systematically searching for any irregularities or anomalies.

During this process, Elliana stood gazing at the towering frozen mountain rising before her, lost in thought. After several contemplative moments, she said to Cole, "Look—doesn't the snow accumulated at this mountain's base appear distinctly different from the snow covering other areas?"

Cole directed his attention where she indicated, observing the terrain with careful scrutiny before agreeing. "You're absolutely correct. The snow blanketing every other location appears completely organic and natural, but at the base... It appears as though someone deliberately positioned it there."

They exchanged a look of mutual understanding, advancing together to carefully sweep away the questionable snow accumulation.

Once the artificial snow layer had been removed, a massive stone entrance materialized—and it became instantly obvious that something significant remained concealed behind it.

The door displayed identical characteristics to the one they'd previously encountered in the forest underground chamber, including two precisely carved indentations on its surface—perfect counterparts for their bracelets.

Already experienced with this mechanism, they coordinated their movements with practiced efficiency. Each inserted their bracelet into its designated receptacle, and seconds later, the massive stone barrier began grinding open with ancient mechanical sounds.

"Now I understand why Miguel invested such tremendous effort pursuing these bracelets," Elliana observed thoughtfully. "They function as literal keys to the family's central stronghold. Whoever possesses them controls the initial advantage for dominating the entire Griffiths family."

Cole acknowledged this with a nod. "That's likely why our mothers entrusted the bracelets to us. The bracelets provide access to every secret."

While speaking these words, their fingers naturally gravitated toward each other, their hands interlocking firmly.

After enduring years of chaos and suffering, countless setbacks and heartbreaks, they were finally standing at the very threshold of the truth they'd been seeking. Every mystery, every hidden answer, would be laid bare the moment they crossed through that doorway.

They drew in a long, synchronized breath and, maintaining their joined hands, advanced through the entrance. Their companions swiftly followed behind.

The instant everyone had passed inside, the massive stone barrier groaned closed behind them. Snow tumbled downward from the mountainside above, completely covering the entrance again, erasing any indication that an opening had ever existed there.

The engineering was remarkably ingenious, constructed specifically to remain invisible to anyone except the most observant individuals.

Just as the final snowflakes finished concealing the entrance, movement stirred in the shadows near a cluster of large rocks. A group of figures emerged from their hiding place, stepping cautiously into the open. Leading them was Miguel himself.

An unsettling, predatory expression curved Miguel's mouth as he observed the entrance concealed from sight. "I invested years of my life and spent an absolute fortune searching everywhere for those bracelets, all with the singular goal of locating this base," he reflected aloud. "And remarkably, Elliana and Cole have accomplished the task on my behalf."

"Mr. Griffiths, should we detonate the stone entrance immediately?" one of his operatives inquired.

"No rush," Miguel responded, his voice carrying calculated cunning. "If we blow that entrance now, the explosion will alert everyone inside to our presence. That could trigger all sorts of unpredictable complications that might ruin everything. We're going to be patient. We'll wait here while Elliana and Cole engage Maxine in what will undoubtedly be a brutal confrontation. Let them tear each other apart until they're exhausted and bleeding. Then, when they're at their weakest, we'll sweep in and claim everything for ourselves."

Completely oblivious to the dangerous predator lurking outside, Elliana and Cole concentrated exclusively on tracking down Maxine.

They navigated through a confined passageway that abruptly expanded into an enormous underground chamber. The surroundings were breathtakingly advanced and modern, featuring smooth architectural elements and illuminated control panels, as though they'd been transported directly into the setting of a science fiction film.