

Chapter 756 Finally Saw Their Daughter

A wall map showed the base's interior. Everyone bent over it, tracing halls and rooms, and felt the weight of the Griffithses' reach.

The complex climbed five stories and was hidden inside a snowy peak. It was an incredible engineering feat. No one could understand how the Griffithses built such a fortress in that frozen place—or kept it secret.

An alarm cut through the room like a whip.

The security system flagged the breach at once.

Black-clad guards flooded the area from every angle and boxed them in. The leader stepped forward. "State your names," he snapped.

Elliana did not flinch. She held up the two bracelets. "We want to see Maxine."

The bracelets were the Serpent Society's sacred tokens. Recognition hit the leader, who froze and then dispatched someone to sprint off and inform Maxine.

Meanwhile, Maxine sat on a velvet couch, smiling at the infant asleep in the cradle beside her. Since she took the baby from Elliana, something in her had brightened. She had started moving with a younger, lighter air. The baby had filled her hours. At dawn, she checked the cradle; at night, she whispered into the dark.

Maxine was softly humming to coax a smile when a breathless subordinate burst in. "Ms. Griffiths, a group of intruders has breached the base."

Maxine's hand stilled. Her face hardened. "How did they get here?"

This place was a hidden stronghold in the mountains. It shouldn't have been found, much less entered.



The subordinate cued the surveillance. "It's these people. They have the Serpent Society's sacred relics—the male and female serpent bracelets."

Maxine watched the screen. A slow, sharp grin curved her lips. "I didn't expect them to find their way here. Clever of them. Well, bring them up."

The subordinate bowed and left.

Down below, the command was relayed. The lead guard addressed Elliana and Cole with sudden respect, "Ms. Marsh, Mr. Evans, you may proceed to the fifth floor. The others must remain here."

Maxine's willingness for a meet-up signaled room for negotiation. Ordering all the operatives to force their way up would be reckless. Elliana and Cole told their people to wait and rode the elevator up with the lead guard.

The whole top floor was Maxine's private quarters. The reception was plush and expensive. By the time Elliana and Cole were led in, Maxine was already seated on the sofa, waiting for them.

The cradle stood nearby. The baby slept, tiny and calm. The air smelled faintly of milk.

A rush of hope hit Elliana and Cole. That baby was their daughter. They lunged for the cradle.

A glass wall slid down from the ceiling with a quiet hiss, sealing Maxine and the baby in a clear chamber.

The barrier left Cole and Elliana frozen yards away.

The glass was bulletproof and unbreakable by human force.

Through that clear wall, Elliana and Cole could only stare at their daughter. They could not touch her or kiss her.

"Maxine, give me back my daughter!" Elliana screamed, pounding the barrier.

Cole's eyes burned with a raw, murderous rage.

Maxine only smiled. Her voice was slow and taunting. "Elliana, you broke

our promise. The deal was your daughter for your mother's life. Why have you come?"

"That was your deal, not mine! I never agreed to it!" Elliana shot back. "I'll save my mother, and I'll take my daughter back!"

"So greedy," Maxine mocked, lifting the baby from the cradle. She moved to the glass and held the infant up for them to see. "You miss her. Look then."

Elliana's and Cole's eyes were instantly riveted to the baby's face. A month old, her features perfect and fragile, she slept like an angel.

"Beatrice," Elliana whispered, her palm flat against the cold glass. "My Beatrice."

Cole and Elliana had named their children long ago—Felix for a son, Beatrice for a daughter. They'd pictured spoiling Beatrice, but since she was born, they had not held her. Now, she lay inches away and unreachable. The pain was new and sharp.

Cole's voice dropped to a low threat, cold as steel. "Maxine, give me my daughter. Now. Or I'll tear this mountain down and erase the Griffiths name!"

The room chilled as menace rolled off him. "When I'm done, there will be nothing left of your family to rise again. Think carefully."

Maxine had faced kings and warlords, but the killing intent in Cole's eyes froze her blood. Ever since she learned he was the Blaze Wraith, she had never again taken him lightly.

Elliana straightened. Her grief hardened into determination; her eyes were chips of ice. "And I will drag Thorn Rose down on you. I'll burn everything you own to get my daughter back!"

Maxine's composure cracked. Her eyes widened. "Elliana... You're the Death Thorn?"

If Thorn Rose and Blaze Wildfire joined forces, Maxine realized, the Serpent Society wouldn't merely suffer. They could be wiped out.