Chapter 759 Selfishness

Convinced she'd never get out, Sophie didn't respond to Cole's promise. Instead, she helped the frail old woman beside her step forward. "Cole, this is your grandmother."

Aubrie Griffiths looked at Cole, her eyes unfocused and distant.

Time in the cold, wet cell had stripped Aubrie of her youth, though traces of Sophie's face still lingered in her own.

"Grandma." Cole greeted her with warmth and reverence.

Aubrie's eyes shimmered as happy tears began to spill over, "Wonderful ... Truly wonderful. My grandson, you've grown up to be such a remarkable and noble man. All the suffering I went through feels worth it to see you now."

Years back, Aubrie had risked everything to help her daughter escape, only to be thrown into this sunless dungeon by Maxine. She'd given up hope of ever seeing her family again. Now, after years of despair, she was reunited not just with Sophie but also meeting her grandson for the very first time.

The sight of her daughter, scarred and sick from Psychephrenia, cut deep into Aubrie's soul. Yet, there was comfort in knowing her grandson was strong, leading the Evans family, and, most importantly, finally free of the illness that once haunted them. For the first time, she had believed the family's torment had truly come to an end.

And Elliana was the one who had made it happen. If not for Elliana, Aubrie knew the nightmare of Psychephrenia would have kept destroying their family for generations.

That realization made Aubrie's voice tremble with urgency. 'Cole, is Elliana here? I'd love to see her."

Neither Aubrie nor Sophie realized that Elliana had been standing silently beside Cole the whole time. The two had been so caught up in their emotional reunion that they completely overtooked her presence.

The moment Aubrie called her name, Elliana bent down to meet her gaze and introduced herself with respect. "Hello, I'm Elliana."

Both Aubrie and Sophie turned in surprise, instantly struck by Elliana's graceful beauty.

Happiness flooded Sophie, but it mixed with a heavy sense of shame and regret. She remembered how she'd disappeared from Rita's life, thinking it was best to spare her more pain. But years later, in her own panic, she'd placed Rita's daughter in Cole's path, hoping for a miracle cure for Cole's Psychephrenia.

Things had ended well-Elliana and Cole were in love, they'd built a family together, and Elliana had cured Cole just like Sophie once wished -but that didn't change the selfishness at the root of what Sophie had done.

Had Elliana not discovered a cure, everything would have fallen apart, and Sophie would have had to bear the blame for Elliana's pain.

That shame left Sophie without a word to say.

Aubrie couldn't hold back her excitement. "Elliana, your mother was always the cleverest little girl-she grew up to be an extraordinary woman. Honestly, you're even more beautiful than she was back in her prime!"

Elliana hadn't even gotten a word in before Aubrie kept going, 'And I've heard your father is Arthur Campbell, the Sun Group's chairman. Of course, you'd be remarkable. With two incredible parents, how could you not outshine them both? Cole is incredibly fortunate to have you."

Hearing all that praise made Elliana's cheeks go pink.

A growing wave of guilt hit Sophie hard. "Elliana, I need to apologize," she said, her voice trembling. "I know it was wrong for me to secretly register your marriage to Cole. If you're upset, you have every right to blame me. Shout at me if you need to, I'll take it."

Cole's regret matched his mother's. Even though his love for Elliana was real, he couldn't forget how his mother had orchestrated their marriage

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"You really don't need to carry all that guilt," Elliana replied, a gentle smile tugging her lips. "Indeed, what you did wasn't fair, but I get why you did it. You were worried about Cole's future while you were so ill. I can't hold that against you." Her gaze turned warm and grateful. "Honestly, I should be thanking you. You brought Cole into my life, and he means everything to me."

Cole squeezed Elliana's hand, completely overwhelmed by gratitude.

Sophie broke down in tears. "Thank you, Elliana," she managed, her words choked with emotion. "Thank you for forgiving me and for staying by Cole's side. I hope you both find all the happiness in the world... but you have to go now!"

Sophie begged them to get out while they still could. She knew that Maxine already had their daughter and that staying any longer would only make things worse. Her only wish was for Cole and Elliana to get out safely, even if she couldn't escape herself.

Aubrie added urgently, "Exactly! Go! Sophie and I will look out for each other. You need to run now."

Elliana and Cole both understood just how much was at stake, but they refused to abandon the two women.

Suddenly, Maxine's voice crackled over the loudspeakers, cold and composed. 'Elliana. Cole. Think carefully about your next move. Agree to leave your daughter behind, and I'll release Sophie and Aubrie at once. Refuse, and they die here, right before your eyes."

The threat had barely left her lips when the room filled with the unmistakable sound of gun safeties clicking off. A dozen weapons snapped into place, all aimed straight at Sophie and Aubrie.

Cole whirled around to face the camera, his fury blazing. "Maxine! Don't you dare think I won't tear this whole place apart and erase the Griffiths family from history!"

Maxine's answer came without a hint of fear, her tone almost eerily steady compared to Cole's outrage. "I never doubt you mean it," she said. With you and Elliana standing together, the Griffiths family would be

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