

Chapter 767 A Promise

Elliana dropped her eyes, pretending to mull it over before lifting her chin and meeting Miguel's gaze. "Alright, let's hear what you have in mind."

Miguel's shoulders eased a bit, glad Elliana was at least willing to talk. "If you let me leave here today, I'll set Quentin free as soon as I'm back at the base of the Evernight Alliance."

A dry, mocking laugh slipped out as Elliana studied him. "Do you honestly expect me to trust you, Miguel? Who's to say you won't go back on your promise? If I let you walk out now, what's stopping you from killing him just out of spite?"

She paused, her stare growing colder. "Or maybe he's already dead and you're just tricking me with a lie."

"Quentin is still alive, I swear it!" Miguel's voice came out desperate, rising with every word. "When he turned on me, I really wanted to end his life right then. But I held back. He has got a gift, and I have always admired that kind of talent. I don't let go of exceptional people. You know that as well as anyone."

Bitterness crept into his eyes as his words shifted. "Your mother humiliated me when she broke off our engagement. When she ran off and even had a child with someone else, I was filled with nothing but hatred. I made a vow to get rid of her child. I nearly convinced myself to go through with it. But then, I found out you were the genius behind 'Dr. Atkinson' and 'River.' That changed everything for me. All my anger disappeared. Now, all I want is to have you by my side."

To back up his claim, Miguel whipped out his phone and initiated a video call. "I'll let you see Quentin for yourself."

Elliana kept her face calm and gave nothing away.

The screen flashed as the call connected, and a respectful voice answered, "Mr. Griffiths, how could I help you?"



Miguel didn't waste a second. "Put Quentin on. Now."

"Of course."

A slight movement on the other end brought Quentin's face into view, filling the screen with the unmistakable look of someone caught between hope and dread.

Miguel tilted the phone so Elliana could see everything. "Take a look. He's alive and well. Go ahead and talk to him if you want."

Elliana didn't get a word out before Quentin's voice broke through, thick with emotion. "Elliana, are you okay?"

Hearing his voice reminded her just how much she owed him, though she masked her true feelings behind a steady, measured tone. "I'm alright. Thanks for letting my brother and father go. I owe you one."

Oblivious to her true emotions, Quentin caught only the chill in her response. That hurt more than he'd expected. A wry, almost resigned smile tugged at his lips. He'd been in love with her for as long as he could remember. All those years, he'd pictured her standing by his side, hoping for a chance that never came. Her heart belonged to someone else now, and there was no turning back. Wanting her happiness had become his only wish, even if it meant letting go.

"Elliana, I chose this. You don't owe me anything. Don't make a deal with him for my sake," Quentin begged, his voice rough and urgent. "He's dangerous. Don't trust a single thing he says."

She held firm, her eyes revealing nothing. "You may not want anything in return, but I don't like owing people, even if you say it was your choice."

Miguel didn't wait for any more back and forth. The call ended abruptly, the screen going dark before Quentin could say more.

Elliana didn't entertain the idea of learning much from this call. She already had a plan.

Miguel's lips curved into a thin smile as he studied her. "Well, Elliana, do you trust me now?"

Elliana's expression revealed nothing. "You weren't lying about Quentin—"



he's alive. But tell me, what guarantee do I have that you'll actually let him go once you safely return to the base of the Evernight Alliance?"

Miguel's reply was steady. "I promise you, I'll release him. Quentin never learned anything vital about the Evernight Alliance. I made sure he was blindfolded every time he came near my base. He has no idea where it is, so letting him walk free doesn't threaten me. But I need your promise in return."

She arched an eyebrow. "A promise?"

A small nod followed. "That's right. I know you wouldn't buy it if I said I'd give up my ambitions and leave you in peace. I won't pretend. Sooner or later, I'll come after you again. When that day comes, it'll be you and me. No distractions. No outside help."

A ghost of a smile crossed Elliana's face. "You're quite honest."

Miguel pulled himself off the ground, dabbing away the blood on his lip. "When we meet again, I want your word that neither of us will hide behind others. If I win, you answer to me, no arguments. If you defeat me, I'll submit and let you decide my fate. That's the deal I'm offering. Do you agree?"

Cole couldn't hold back anymore. "Are you insane? You don't get to make such a ridiculous demand! If you think you're walking off this mountain, you're dreaming! I'll put you down right here and now!"

His anger flared as he charged forward, but Elliana held out a hand, stopping him with a firm grip. "Cole, stand down. This is my fight. I'll deal with him myself."

Turning to Miguel, her words were cold and certain. "You have a deal."