

Chapter 749 Quentin's Mother

Sunny's declaration struck Cole with the force of ice-cold reality—he and Elliana had never actually obtained their marriage certificate.

Cole and Elliana had gone through a wedding ceremony once before, followed by a divorce, but all documentation of their union in Podgend had been thoroughly erased from existence. According to the law, they'd never officially been married at all.

Here they sat, parents to two children, yet without any legal recognition of their relationship. The awareness of this oversight made Cole's cheeks burn with humiliation. He'd become so absorbed in simply being by Elliana's side, so satisfied with their life together, that the thought of filing for a proper marriage certificate had completely slipped his mind. Now, with Sunny's pointed comment rubbing salt in the wound, remorse flooded through him.

A flicker of irritation crossed Cole's features.

Catching his expression from the corner of her eye, Elliana immediately understood the direction of his thoughts, and a subtle, amused smile curved her lips. The marriage certificate hadn't slipped her mind, but since Cole never brought it up, she'd decided not to push the issue. That official document had never held much significance for her anyway.

To break through the uncomfortable atmosphere settling over the room, Elliana decided to change the subject entirely. "Donovan," she said, shifting her focus toward him, "I need to understand something. What kind of connection did you have with my mother?"

Done with the secrecy, Donovan laid out the complete history for Elliana, leaving nothing out.

As the story unfolded, everything began making sense in Elliana's mind, and she gave an acknowledging nod.

Seth jumped in next. "Elliana, we overheard you mention Quentin earlier. I think you should know the story about his mother."

Quentin's mother, Rosemarie Watson, had been only twenty-eight years old—absolutely in her prime—when she became the wife of fifty-six-year-old Lenard. She'd been an extraordinarily beautiful woman, intelligent and gifted, who eventually bore Quentin.

Though plenty of gossip had branded Rosemarie a shameless fortune hunter, Elliana had never bought into that narrative.

Rosemarie had carried herself with quiet grace and modesty. Within the Hudson household, she had never competed for influence or social standing and had never inserted herself into family business matters. Throughout the years, she'd remained a devoted and unwavering companion to Lenard.

Elliana conjured a mental image of Rosemarie before redirecting her attention to Seth. "Are you saying Rosemarie has her own complicated history?"

"She certainly does," Seth confirmed. "And without it, her son Quentin would never have become one of Miguel's targets. Rosemarie used to command an organization back in Delta. Just like us, Miguel defeated her forces, left her badly wounded, and she barely managed to flee to Ublento after suffering tremendously. Your mother was the one who had saved her from death."

Everything suddenly clicked into perfect clarity for Elliana. That explained why Rosemarie had always shown her such genuine warmth and affection—it stemmed from Rosemarie's gratitude toward Rita. It also finally made sense why Lenard had shown her such careful attention and kindness. He'd been fulfilling Rosemarie's heartfelt requests.

As Elliana worked through these interconnected relationships, she released a deep breath. Her mother might have left her behind in Ublento, but her mother had carefully positioned a network of protectors to keep watch over her. Her mother had gone to remarkable lengths to ensure her safety.

"Unfortunately, Rosemarie's situation wasn't as favorable as what Donovan and I experienced," Seth continued. "Your mother managed to heal our injuries completely, and we successfully avoided Miguel's detection, adopted new identities, and created fresh starts. But Rosemarie's wounds ran far too deep. Even your mother's exceptional

medical skills couldn't repair all the damage. She ended up with a persistent, crippling condition that drastically narrowed her available paths forward. Becoming Lenard's wife represented her sole option for finding security and maintaining a peaceful existence."

Elliana blinked. So that was how it had really unfolded. The rumor mill had been relentless in claiming that Rosemarie had married a man old enough to be her father purely for financial gain, but the reality was far simpler—she'd married him because she had no other way to stay alive.

Even so, Lenard had cherished Rosemarie deeply. Despite their significant age difference, she'd actually found herself in a loving marriage.

"So what came after that?" Elliana urged. "How did Quentin end up becoming involved with Miguel?"

Seth picked up the story. "Once Rosemarie married Lenard, she desperately wanted nothing more than a peaceful, low-profile existence. But Miguel tracked her down anyway. When he discovered her ties to Rita, his rage was explosive, and he planned to eliminate her immediately. However, he eventually recognized Quentin's exceptional abilities and decided to let Rosemarie live—but only under one condition: Quentin had to work for him."

Elliana felt her breath catch in shock. "Wait—did Miguel transform Quentin into one of those AI-controlled humans as well?"

Seth gave a negative shake of his head. "Miguel chose not to implant any chip in Quentin's brain. His method was different—he deliberately infected Quentin with a dangerous pathogen. Quentin must receive a neutralizing medicine from Miguel at regular intervals, otherwise the infection becomes active and subjects him to unbearable suffering."

Donovan interjected, "Miguel recognized Quentin's brilliant intellect. He wanted that razor-sharp mind working in his favor, which is precisely why he avoided the chip approach. Put simply, Quentin isn't some mindless robot. He's more like a hostage, kept under control through blackmail and threats. Miguel maintains an enormous laboratory full of scientists who are working to engineer a devastating super-pathogen. His ultimate goal is to weaponize it for global domination and bring all of humanity under his authority."

Donovan's revelation sent an icy wave of dread coursing through Elliana's veins. The pieces suddenly fell into place—now she grasped exactly why Miguel was so obsessed with obtaining the Medical Codex. He intended to exploit its secrets to engineer an unstoppable biological weapon.

If someone as dangerously unhinged as Miguel gained possession of Medical Codex, the resulting catastrophe would be beyond imagination.

That terrifying realization made her whip around to face Milton urgently. "Please tell me you didn't hand the Medical Codex over to Miguel's operatives?"

"I didn't," Milton responded, retrieving the ancient Medical Codex and placing it securely back in her possession.

"I believe Quentin orchestrated everything very deliberately," he elaborated. "When we came face to face at Skythread Gorge, he never once demanded we surrender the Medical Codex. Rather, he prioritized telling us about my mom's situation first, claiming he wanted us to 'understand the reason for our deaths.' Once he'd finished his explanation, he commanded his soldiers to launch their assault—but at the critical moment, he purposely left an escape route open for Dad and me to break through their formation."

Watching the precious Medical Codex now resting safely in her grasp, Elliana exhaled deeply with overwhelming relief. She redirected her attention back to Milton with urgent curiosity. "What information did Quentin share with you about Mom?"