

Chapter 786 Switched At Birth

Edgar stood at the very peak of global influence, a man whose name echoed in every corner of the world. Yet, despite his countless achievements, the story that truly captured hearts was his love story with his wife, Elsie.

Elsie was a wonder of her own—one of the few women in the world to make a name in physics. She was beautiful, brilliant, and bold—so much so that people called her the brightest mind alive. Her discoveries had reshaped modern aerospace, launching humanity into a new age and securing her place among the legends of science.

In his younger days, Edgar had turned down countless admirers. None of them had mattered to him. His eyes had been set only on Elsie—drawn not just to her beauty, but to her dazzling mind. To win her heart, he had thrown himself into her world, learning the language of physics just to stand by her side. Though his accomplishments never matched hers, he had become her loudest supporter and fiercest fan.

When the head of the world's most powerful clan married a brilliant scientist, it had become the wedding of the century. The ceremony had been broadcast across the globe—a living fairy tale for millions to see.

For years, their love had been the gold standard—they were the couple everyone dreamed of becoming.

Throughout their marriage, Edgar had remained faithful—his reputation was spotless, his devotion unshakable. With his love as her anchor, Elsie had continued to make even greater breakthroughs after their marriage.

When Edgar had turned sixty, he had passed his empire to his son, Kaleb. In the years that followed, the couple had faded from the public eye. The world assumed they had chosen peace and privacy. No one knew they had once lost a daughter.

"Eliana, are you sure about this?" Arthur asked, still trying to grasp the thought that his wife might be the lost child of Edgar and Elsie.

Milton frowned. "What if Maxine made it up? If Mom was really a Thompson, wouldn't they have searched the whole world for her? But no one ever said a word."

Cole leaned forward. "I don't think Maxine lied. When Maxine made that offer, she had no reason to. She knew that if Elliana found out she lied, Elliana wouldn't just refuse to take over the Griffiths family—she'd destroy it. Lying would've done Maxine no good."

Elliana nodded in agreement. "Exactly. There's no logic in lying about something that serious."

Arthur and Milton exchanged looks, the weight of it sinking in.

"I've searched everywhere for Mom," Milton said quietly. "I've pulled every string I could think of, but I've never heard even a whisper about the Thompsons searching for a lost daughter. Why? Even if they tried to hide it, someone would've found out."

Arthur sighed. "What if they just didn't care for her? Maybe they didn't bother looking because they didn't want to."

Elliana's brows drew together. A flicker of sadness crossed her face. How could any parent not love someone like her mother—so kind, so brilliant? She shook her head. "No, Dad. That doesn't fit. My grandparents' love story was real. Mom was born out of love. There's no way they wouldn't have adored her."

She took Beatrice gently from Arthur's arms, her voice softening. "It's like me and Cole. Beatrice means more to us than life itself."

Cole smiled faintly and brushed his fingers across Beatrice's tiny hand. He acknowledged Elliana's words. If their daughter ever went missing, he'd move heaven and earth—and give up everything—to bring her home.

Milton's eyes softened as he watched them. "You're right. I get it now."

Arthur sighed, regret creeping into his tone. "I shouldn't have said that. Rita was a gem—everyone loved her. Of course, her parents must have loved her even more." He hesitated and then asked quietly, "But if that's true, why haven't we ever heard a thing about them looking for her?"

Elliana thought for a moment. "There's only one explanation. Maxine

must've erased every trace when she took Mom. Either Maxine made the Thompsons believe my mom was dead... Or she replaced my mom with someone else so they'd never suspect a thing."

It sounded like something straight out of a novel—a "switched at birth" plot come to life.

Cole, Arthur, and Milton exchanged stunned looks. The kind of story people usually mocked in dramas was now part of the Thompson family's reality.