Chapter 798 Finally Seeing Mom

A breathtakingly beautiful woman entered the dining room, but Elliana paid her little mind, offering only a sidelong glance as she assumed it was just another flawless servant in the crisp uniform.

The next second, Elliana froze as something struck her. Her breath caught. Her thoughts vanished. For five long seconds, the world blurred into nothing. By the time she blinked back to reality, the woman was standing before her.

"Good evening, Dr. Atkinson," the woman said softly, her voice smooth and respectful. "I am Bexley Rogers. Mr. Kaleb Thompson has instructed me to attend to your daily needs. If there is anything you require, please let me know."

Elliana felt the ground tilt. Bexley? No way! That voice! That face! It was her mother, Rita.

Elliana narrowed her eyes as she observed Bexley, drinking in every feature with desperate intensity, searching for proof of what her racing heart already knew.

Under Elliana's intense scrutiny, Bexley merely bowed her head slightly, a gentle smile touching her lips. Even in a plain servant's uniform, she carried an effortless grace, a quiet nobility that could not be ignored.

Mom. The word lodged in Elliana's throat, silent but deafening. A second, deeper look erased all doubt. The woman standing before her was unmistakably her mother, Rita.

Rita had left when Elliana was only five. Years apart had stretched the distance between them, yet recognition was instant. Elliana was relieved to find her mother still stunning as ever.

Age had not dimmed Rita's beauty. If anything, it had refined it, layering her with a mature elegance that made her even more captivating than

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Elliana remembered.

Elliana was slightly overwhelmed. She had spent countless sleepless nights imagining this moment, worried whether she would recognize her mother the moment they met. After watching Sophie waste away under illness and hardship, a fear had taken hold of her—what if her mother had become frail, withered, and unrecognizable? The devastation of that possibility was unbearable.

To come across Rita after all these years in this place was a shock so profound that it eclipsed even Elliana's wildest dreams.

As Elliana's joy peaked, questions popped into her mind. Why was her mother inside the Thompson estate, of all places? And why dressed as a servant?

Instinct screamed at Elliana to launch herself into her mother's arms, to close the yawning years with one tight embrace. Every part of her strained toward that impulse. But she couldn't. Not now. Not here. This was the Thompson family's turf, and she was under the disguise of a man. One careless move could doom them both. No, she would have to bury the instinct, hold steady, and wait.

Elliana forced calm over herself like armor, smothering the chaos roaring inside. Her expression cooled into polite neutrality. When she finally spoke, her tone was warm and casual. "Bexley, I was hoping you could help me with something. I'm not familiar with the smart devices in my room. Would you mind coming upstairs to show me how they work?"

"Of course. It would be my pleasure," Rita answered smoothly, every inch the obedient attendant.

The need to be alone with Rita was almost a physical ache. Elliana set her silverware down and rose from her chair with controlled precision. "Excellent. Then let's go now," she said, turning toward the staircase before anyone else could think to question it.

Levi watched Elliana leave, confusion knitting his brows. "You've barely eaten," he said, calling after her. "Why not finish your meal first? I'm sure Bexley can show you the devices later."

"It's okay. I'm full," Elliana replied without turning, already halfway up the stairs.

Rita offered Levi a courteous bow and quietly followed after Elliana.

Levi watched them go, his frown deepening. He had known Elliana for years. The idea that she would be stumped by a few simple smart devices was absurd. She was River, the prodigy who had rewritten AI protocols and built systems more advanced than anything in the Thompson household. Whatever tech the Thompson family had here would've been child's play to her. That excuse was paper-thin. She wanted to be alone with Bexley. That much was obvious. But why?

Levi's mind raced. Bexley had served the Thompsons for a decade, living in near-total isolation from the outside world. There was no logical way Elliana could have ever crossed paths with Bexley before today. This sudden interest made no sense. Then, he replayed Elliana's expression when Bexley first walked in. The frozen stare and the flash of raw shock before Elliana recovered. Had something about Bexley triggered that reaction?

Levi pulled out his phone and fired off a quick message to Elliana. "Want to know about Bexley's background?"

Elliana's phone buzzed just as she stepped onto the landing. One glance at the screen and her pulse spiked. Levi had seen straight through her façade. There was no point denying it. She sent her response. "Yes, I need details."

The reply came almost instantly. "Her history isn't very straightforward. Ten years ago, Edgar and Elsie pulled her out of the sea, barely alive. She'd been drifting for who knows how long. Woke up with no memory at all. Total amnesia. They liked her, thought she was beautiful and intelligent, so they brought her back and gave her a new name, Bexley."

Elliana reached the top of the stairs just as she read the last sentence. She stopped cold. The phone suddenly felt heavy in her grip. Slowly, she turned, looking back at the woman following silently behind her.