

Chapter 824 To Settle Every Debt

Finally, Elliana had managed to track down Rita and bring her home safely. The weight that had been squeezing her heart for days finally slid off her chest.

Yet, a deeper worry remained, anchoring itself in Elliana's chest. Sally was still out there, somewhere beyond reach.

Adah ached for reunion with Sally, the longing consuming her days and haunting her nights. Elliana couldn't turn away from that suffering, not even now that her own family stood whole again.

Adah and Elliana had grown up side by side, their lives braided together through the years. Adah's pain became Elliana's pain. Her hopes lived in Elliana's heart as well.

Years had passed since Sally fled Ublento alongside Rita. The two women had stayed together after parting from Sophie, but then Miguel had cornered Rita, forcing her to leap into the sea's cold embrace out of desperation and losing her memory afterward. After that moment, Sally had vanished as if the earth had swallowed her whole.

Rita's memory remained locked away, leaving Elliana with no path forward. For now, Elliana could only pour her energy into helping Rita reclaim her lost memories, praying those recovered memories would reveal where Sally had gone.

During their time with the Thompson family, Elliana had already arranged for Rita's medical examination and learned the truth—a head injury had erased her past. Restoring Rita's memory would require two things: medication and constant exposure to the places and objects that had once filled her life, triggers to awaken what lay dormant.

Elliana prepared the prescriptions herself and encouraged her father to take Rita through the landscape of her former existence.

Though the family had departed Yruzias together, their paths split in different directions.

Elliana and Cole returned to Ublento. Milton caught a flight to Sun Group headquarters to manage pressing business matters, while Arthur guided Rita on her journey back through memory.

Once home in Ublento, Elliana saw her children first, then made her way to Rosewood Villa and recounted everything that had unfolded in Yruzias to Adah.

Joy flooded Adah's face when she heard that Elliana had finally found Rita, but learning Sally remained missing crushed that brightness, leaving behind only grief and despair.

"Adah, don't lose hope. I'll do everything within my power to bring Sally back to you," Elliana vowed, squeezing Adah's hands firmly.

"I know you will. I trust you'll search until she's found," Adah whispered, tears pooling in her eyes. "I just miss Mom so much. I don't know if she's still breathing somewhere in this world, or if we'll ever stand face to face again in this lifetime."

"Sally is alive and safe, wherever she may be!" Elliana gripped Adah's hand harder. "Don't speak as though all hope is gone. You and Sally will find each other again, and when you do, nothing will tear you apart a second time."

At Elliana's words, Adah quickly brushed away her tears and summoned a smile. "You're right, Elliana. Mom and I will meet again. We have to." But then, her smile faded a bit. "My father has taken another wife now. When Mom comes home, I'll live with her and sever all ties with the Norris family."

Elliana fell silent, unsure what comfort she could offer. Adah's father, Leonel, had truly loved Sally once, but his mother, Gia, had never welcomed Sally and never stopped making her life unbearable. Trapped between his wife and his mother, Leonel could never satisfy either woman's demands.

Years ago, when everyone believed Sally had perished in that fire, Leonel had sworn he would never marry again and dedicated himself to raising Adah alone. But Gia had insisted on banishing Adah to a backwater town

and demanded Leonel take a new wife. Though Leonel had resisted at first, he had eventually surrendered and remarried.

Sally had loved Leonel with her whole heart, and their marriage had once flourished with mutual respect and tenderness. If Sally returned one day and discovered her husband bound to another woman, their bond shattered beyond repair, wouldn't her heart break all over again?

"Still, before I find Mom, I need to return to the Norris family residence," Adah announced suddenly.

Elliana's brow furrowed in confusion. "If you've already decided to cut yourself free from them, why walk back into that house at all?"

Previously, when Raymond had insisted on honoring the arranged engagement, the Norris family had retrieved Adah from the backwater town. After the engagement dissolved, Adah had spent most of her time on missions with Elliana, rarely setting foot in the Norris home, and they'd hardly paid her any attention. Now, if Adah returned, she would face nothing but cold stares. Her relatives wouldn't offer her a shred of genuine warmth.

"If that place isn't truly home, why go back and let those people poison your peace?" Elliana asked.

Adah laughed, the sound carrying a sharp edge. "Are you worried I will be mistreated?"

Elliana laughed. "Well, with your abilities, no one could lay a hand on you. I just don't understand why you'd abandon a perfectly peaceful life to entangle yourself with them again."

Adah's expression hardened, and she let out a cold laugh, her lips twisting with contempt. "Because I intend to settle every debt they owe. Whatever they inflicted on Mom and me, I'll return to them in full measure. And every piece of wealth they stole from Mom—I'll reclaim it all, down to the last copper coin."

Elliana nodded, understanding dawning in her eyes, and chose not to stand in her way.

"Oh, right—" Elliana remembered something suddenly. "Cole mentioned that Allan has been tearing through the city searching for you—or rather, for that Ava he's fixated on. Since you're staying in Ublento for a while,

have you given any thought to how you'll deal with him?"

"Ha!" Adah scoffed, her lip curling with undisguised contempt. "The engagement ended. Why would I waste another second thinking about a man that shallow?"



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