

Chapter 5

A well-kept secret.

True to his word, Connor Latham arrived punctually at four o'clock. He had seen a few black-and-white plus sepia photos of Treasure, but was unprepared for the stunning redhead who opened the door to his knock.

"Same occupation and business, different name," he answered her politely.

"Ella," Treasure called out, "The lawyer is here. We'll be in the study." Following this, she led the way, walking straight into that room to sit professionally behind.

"Hello, Mr. Latham." With a puzzled expression, she held out her hand to shake his firmly. "I thought I was dealing with Granny's lawyer, who has served her for years." She waited for an explanation.

Her physical attraction to this man staggered her. After meeting and being pandered to by some of the world's most handsome and charismatic men, this was the first time she had felt any inner commotion by a man's appearance and voice. Her heart hammered as she waited for him to inform her of the will's contents and specific importance. Wasn't it a simple matter of her grandmother leaving her estate to her aunt and then her aunt leaving that estate to her? What could be problematic in that?

"Miss Gilroy," he began after holding eye contact for a puzzling time. "First, people in this area know very little about you, aside from the fact that you are Lady Seymour's granddaughter. Your grandparents held a position in this town. Just because your grandfather came from generations of landowners around here was enough. But then your grandmother did significantly well through her nursing experience to improve health conditions, even teaching the area's women. This gave them excellent standing."

Treasure sat with her hands clasped together in her lap, wondering where this was going. He was earnest, which led her to believe she would learn something unpleasant and perhaps even distressing.

“I have the tough job of informing you of certain personal matters, and I am sorry that I, a perfect stranger, am the one to do so.” He bent down to open a case and withdrew something that looked like a letter. Leaning back in his seat, he regarded her with sadness etched on his face. "I want you to know that I will share something with you I have kept in the strictest of confidence and will continue to keep."

Treasure just nodded without speaking. She didn't wish to break his train of thought.

“Miss Gilroy, this is a small town, and your grandparents had a position to uphold. Because of this, what happened to your mother -your birth mother-was always kept from you.

READ THE BOOK TO DISCOVER THE SECRET.