

INT. MERLIN'S SUITE - CONTINUOUS

Eli sits in the center of the group, just having started recounting how he found them. We pull in mid story, but Eli's clearly got that kind of storytelling disposition that makes you want to listen, and pulls you in right from the first smile.

ELI

So, my buddies are still up in the room, hungover to high hell, but I figure I'll be a good guy and go pick up some coffee for the groom-to-be, you know? We all went pretty hard last night, but that guy, well, you know that phrase, "he can drink with the best of them?" He's the opposite of that. He can drink himself to feeling like he got run over by a bus, and we've got two more days here. But on my way down the strip, the Bellagio water show starts going *crazy*. Like, normally it's all Claire De Lune and Ocean's Eleven, real pretty, real cinematic, you know? But this thing starts spraying like an elephant at a water park. And I figure it's just a malfunction, or something, but it's enough to get me to stop. The strips pretty dead that early, and *most* people were smart enough to run away from the splash zone.

He laughs and runs the towel Merlin gave him through his wet hair.

ELI (CONT'D)

Thanks again for the towel, man.

MERLIN

Don't mention it.

ELI

You're nothing like she said you'd be?

MERLIN

Excuse me?

ARTHUR

Wait, stick to the story. We still don't know who you are, or how you got Merlin's room number.

ELI

Right, sorry. Hate to leave a story half told. Anyways, the fountains start going crazy, people start dashing away, but I swear I can hear something under all the music and splashing, so I go closer. And once I got close enough, I could hear this woman whispering my name. She actually - this might sound crazy, but she kinda sounded like that reality star? Viva?

Merlin lets out a low, irritated noise.

ELI (CONT'D)

Okay, not a fan, I take it. But I get a bit closer, and then I'm definitely certain I'm hearing my name, but then I'm also kind of certain that someone slipped me something last night, and I'm *tripping balls*, because I swear to god, a woman forms out of the spray.

MERLIN

*Nessie.*

ELI

Oh - yeah. She said you might call her that, but she hated the name. Lady of the Lake, she said. But the lake was, you know, the Bellagio water show. Hence me being certain I'd been drugged. She starts yammering on about destiny and knowing who I am underneath this modern skin and I am *freaking* the fuck out, so I start to back up, but then she tells me I just have to *drink*.

LANCE

So you just... did?

ELI

I dunno, man. You've only got one life to live, right? So when something extraordinary happens, I like to dive in.