

Wife Mask 161

Chapter: 161

Collective sighs of disappointment permeated the atmosphere as resolution seemed increasingly unattainable.

Ruben addressed Paulina purposefully, "Paulina, how long till Cole's back? Instruct him to exploit every available connection to secure a Venacure pill, regardless of cost!"

"Understood, initiating contact immediately."

As Paulina extracted her communication device, Elliana interjected, "Such elaborate measures are unnecessary. Barbara's condition cannot withstand protracted delay. Even if Cole successfully procures a pill, transportation logistics would render it ineffective for her salvation."

Paulina suspended her actions.

Chapter: 162

Off to the side, Trinity was fuming. Elliana had once again taken the spotlight-this time by giving up something as rare as Venacure. Trinity's stomach twisted with envy. She wouldn't just stand by and let Elliana bask in all the praise.

"Elliana.." Trinity forced a concerned tone. "You're not a doctor. What if Venacure doesn't work on Barbara? She's already gone. Trying to reverse that is unnecessary. And frankly, it might be disrespectful."

But Elliana didn't flinch. She knew exactly what Trinity was trying to do. Instead of engaging, she turned to Eloisa. "Mrs. Henderson, are you willing to give it a shot?"

Eloisa didn't hesitate for a second. "I trust you."

Then, Eloisa turned to Trinity with a glare sharp enough to cut steel. "I trust Mrs. Evans completely. Those with twisted hearts can keep their opinions to themselves."

Chapter: 163

"Elliana, would you kindly cease this preposterous speculation?" Trinity orchestrated a performance of genuine worry. "I understand your desperate need to validate yourself and capture Cole's

attention, but death remains irreversible. Regardless of Venacure's exceptional properties, it cannot resurrect the departed. If such a pharmaceutical miracle existed, society would descend into chaos!"

With an exaggerated exhale, Trinity concluded, "Elliana, this fabrication stretches beyond all credibility!"

Elliana observed Trinity's theatrical display in contemplative silence, detecting the same calculating undertones she'd previously sensed from Paige. She reflected that manipulative women seemed to materialize wherever she turned.

During her time with the Jones family, Paige had been her adversary, while now, within the Evans household, Trinity assumed that role. She considered herself an unfortunate attractor of such melodrama.

"Trinity, I never suggested Venacure could resurrect the deceased," Elliana countered, a knowing smile playing at the corners of her mouth.

Chapter: 164

Initially, Trinity had approached the task nervously, concerned Elliana might have orchestrated some deception. After thorough assessment, however, her apprehension subsided. Her medical proficiency perhaps fell short of her proclaimed excellence, but she certainly possessed the ability to differentiate between life and death. Furthermore, with official hospital documentation confirming Barbara's death, she harbored no doubts regarding Barbara's condition.

Everyone observed the proceedings in absolute stillness.

Trinity completed her evaluation and regarded Elliana with condescending sympathy. "Elliana, this charade must conclude. Barbara has expired. Allow her peaceful transition."

The Hendersons, already emotionally fraught, experienced deepening despair, their collective attention shifting toward Elliana.

Without verbal commentary, Elliana extracted a slender medical instrument and inserted it precisely into Barbara's chest.

Chapter: 165

The Henderson family acknowledged her guidance with repeated nods.

"Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Barbara requires absolute tranquility now. Please discontinue this confrontation at the Evans residence. Transport Barbara home for recovery, and I shall conduct a follow-up examination at your dwelling tomorrow. Would this arrangement be acceptable?" Elliana proposed.

Although Barbara had miraculously returned from death's threshold, Jeff's transgressions against the Henderson family remained irreparable. Gatlin and Eloisa harbored lingering resentment, yet their gratitude toward Elliana prevented any discourteous response.

"Agreed, we shall return Barbara home immediately for recuperation." Gatlin conceded.

Eloisa addressed Ruben, "Mr. Evans, we sincerely apologize for today's disruption."

Chapter: 166

Today, though, the trio looked just as wrecked as their boss. Pale faces. Wrinkled suits. Hair like it had lost a fight with the wind. Even their dark under-eye circles matched Cole's, like they were part of some team uniform.

There was no doubt in Elliana's mind-the trio hadn't slept a minute either. Whatever happened last night had hit all of them hard.

And now Elliana had even more questions. What in the world had the four gotten themselves into? Had they spent the whole night being chased through the city by a gang of wild dogs? The image was so ridiculous that it nearly made her laugh out loud. She managed to keep it together.

Others in the room were equally stunned by Cole's appearance. He had always been known for being a neat freak. But today, he left everyone stunned and questioning their perception of him.

Even so, the attention in the room didn't stay on Cole's messy appearance for long. Most of the focus had shifted to the chaos caused by the Henderson family, who had arrived at the Evans estate with a coffin and stirred up a storm.

Chapter: 167

"Elliana, this is no accident. You're clearly doing this on purpose. Why are you pretending to be all sweet and harmless?" Lance snapped.

Right then, tears sprang to Elliana's eyes as if on cue. "If you won't forgive me, then I guess you just don't want me to live here with the Evans family anymore. That's fine. I'll go pack my bags and leave. That way, you won't have to say it out loud."

"You!" Frustration boiled over as Lance clenched his teeth. "When did I ever say I wanted you gone? You're twisting everything! Are you seriously trying to fool everyone with this little act?"

Hearing this, Elliana swiped at her tears in a dramatic flourish and then gave him a wicked smile before heading up the stairs.

Lance stood frozen, something clicking in his mind a moment too late. Embarrassment crept over him as he turned his head toward Trinity.

Chapter: 168

Cole understood the anger in his grandfather's words, though he couldn't offer a proper explanation. All he could do was soften his tone as he said, "Grandpa, that was never my intention."

Ruben narrowed his eyes at Cole and, after a pause, lifted his cane and brought it down on Cole's leg. "You ungrateful brat! You abandoned Elliana without a second thought. And yet, she's the one who stood up and saved the Evans family when we needed it most!"

Cole stood there in silence, quietly brooding over how unfair the scolding felt. This wasn't about him abandoning Elliana. She had rejected him-twice. But he couldn't say that out loud.

"Elliana sacrificed her treasured Venacure, a keepsake from her mother, to help the Evans family through this crisis. Venacure was priceless and held deep sentimental value for her. Do you understand the magnitude of her sacrifice?" Ruben raised his cane and struck Cole again. "Do you have any sense of gratitude?"

Cole lifted an eyebrow, his frustration barely contained. He wasn't blind to what Elliana had done. He understood it all. But knowing didn't change the fact that she didn't want anything to do with him.

Chapter: 169

After hitting send, she stuffed the rest of the sandwich into her mouth, cheeks puffed out like a little chipmunk, and downed the last of the milk in a single gulp. She stood up, ready to head out.

At that exact moment, Cole opened the door and walked in.

Elliana froze on the spot, not expecting to be alone with him. Memories of the previous night rushed back—how things had gone from intimate to explosive in no time. The awkward tension made her uncomfortable, so she turned around and flopped back down on the sofa.

Cole, standing with a relaxed posture, had both hands tucked into the pockets of his crisp slacks. He looked at her chipmunk-like cheeks and let out a light chuckle. "Wow, a chipmunk there?"

He'd never met a girl who ate with such little grace.

Chapter: 170

Cole kept his gaze locked on her, a spark of triumph flickering in his eyes like he'd stumbled onto buried gold. It hit him—Elliana had a weakness for mango candy. Nailing it by chance sent a jolt of giddy satisfaction straight through him. The find cheered him up in an instant.

To Cole, Elliana was laughably easy to win over. One piece of candy, and she lit up like a kid at Christmas. He made a mental note to always keep a few on hand for the next time she threw a tantrum.

Picturing more moments like this, Cole grinned, the curve of his lips and that effortlessly handsome face radiating charm.

Cole broke the silence, his smile widening. "Well, honey, first you're a design hotshot under the name Rosa, now you're flexing medical know-how? What other surprises are you hiding?"

Elliana, savoring the last trace of sweetness on her tongue, froze. She cracked one eye open and shot him a frosty side glance. Did he truly believe a piece of candy could magically wipe away his rudeness? Did he take her for someone that easy to win over? A single piece of candy to smooth over how he'd treated her last night, and now he dared to use that tone, like they were suddenly cozy again? The audacity of it made her blood boil.