

## Wife Mask 201

Chapter: 201

Elliana didn't lie. "Just grabbing a file I need." She tossed in a winking emoji. "Thought it'd be a smooth job until you showed up."

With his signature dry humor, Jody replied, "Terribly sorry." He added a matching emoji.

That made her grin. Her fingers hovered over the keyboard as she let out a click of the tongue.

Actually, five years ago, she had wanted to spar with Jody properly, to see who would actually emerge as top. But he'd vanished too quickly after the John incident, leaving nothing but polite farewells and an empty chat box behind. Now that Jody resurfaced, the itch returned. That restless curiosity. That pull she couldn't quite ignore. She needed to see just how much Jody had improved over the past five years.

But excitement wrestled with caution. This wasn't about fear, not of losing anyway. The issue was the setting. If she and Jody went full throttle inside this network, there was no way Cole wouldn't find out.

Chapter: 202

"My boss is the big shot. If you stay out of my way, he'll pay whatever you want."

Cole asked, "Your boss got deeper pockets than Cole?"

Elliana froze, stumped. Was she richer than Cole? Not Likely. Cole's wealth was like an ocean-she couldn't swim in that league.

Cole added, "If your boss can't outspend Cole, why would I ditch him for you?"

Elliana stayed quiet.

Chapter: 203

Cole sat motionless in front of his monitor long after Quinn logged off. Something felt off—he couldn't explain the sudden heaviness pressing down on him. Elliana had made it perfectly clear she didn't want him around. Every word, every look from her screamed distance. He hadn't set foot in the Evans estate for days.

Before, he had taken refuge in his office instead. The silence, once comforting, now felt like it was swallowing him whole.

That brief exchange with Quinn earlier had been a rare flicker of interest in an otherwise empty night. But now that the screen had gone dark, boredom crept back in, followed quickly by the familiar sting of loneliness.

He stared at the blinking cursor before finally reaching for his phone. Maybe there was a message waiting. But there wasn't. No missed calls. No texts. Nothing from Elliana. Not even a single emoji.

Paulina had mentioned Elliana was fine-too fine, in fact. Eating without issue. Sleeping like a baby. Not the slightest trace of emotional turmoil. Meanwhile, he was drowning in the silence she'd left behind.

Chapter: 204

The following week passed in a blur of nonstop motion. Each morning, Elliana visited the Henderson estate to continue Charles' treatment. By midday, she'd be at the top floor of the Ublento Hotel, digging into books and records that chronicled the Delta's rise over hundreds of years. Her evenings were spent at the Evans family's estate, but only long enough to rest. Her days allowed no room for anything beyond that.

Throughout those seven days, Cole had never set foot in the Evans family's estate. Not a word from him. No calls. No texts. To Elliana, he seemed to have erased her from his orbit entirely.

When the eighth day arrived, two things aligned. Charles' initial treatment cycle wrapped up successfully, and Elliana finally reached the last page of Delta's historical archives.

But Elliana hadn't forgotten Hailee. Now that her schedule had cleared a little, she picked up the phone and dialed Hailee. She'd assumed Hailee was doing fine. No news usually meant no trouble.

But the voice that came through the receiver shattered that illusion. It trembled with exhaustion, drenched in quiet despair. "Elliana.. I don't understand. No matter what I do, I can't seem to escape this life. I feel like I'm suffocating. Like the world is closing in, and I'm too weak to push back."

Chapter: 205

Right then, the emergency room doors burst open.

Hailee sprang up from her seat and darted toward the doctor leading the team. "How is my boyfriend doing?" she asked, her voice tight with anxiety.

The doctor exhaled wearily. "Ms. Loftus, your boyfriend's situation remains critical. Although we've been able to stabilize him temporarily, his kidneys are failing. Without a transplant soon, his condition could worsen again at any moment."

Hailee's complexion drained of all color, and her head drooped in despair.

At that moment, a group of nurses wheeled a hospital bed out of the emergency room.

Chapter: 206

Inside, Boris's eyelids fluttered open. His voice came out faint, barely more than a breath. "Hailee..."

Hailee instantly clasped his hand, her face alight with relief. "Boris, you're awake! Are you in pain? Is something making you uneasy?"

"I heard what the doctor said," Boris whispered, a note of feigned sorrow in his voice. "You should walk away, Hailee. I don't want to be a burden to you."

Her grip on his hand tightened. "I'm not going anywhere," she said softly, her eyes fierce with conviction. "We're a match, Boris. I can donate one of my kidneys to you."

Boris blinked at her and blurted, "You'd really give me one of your kidneys?"

Chapter: 207

The second the elevator doors slid shut, the lurking figures slinked into Boris's hospital room.

When the elevator hit the ground floor, Elliana turned to Hailee. "I've got something to handle, so I can't keep you company. Let me know how it goes with the surgery money after you talk to Briggs."

"Okay," Hailee said, and they went their separate ways.

Once Hailee was gone, Elliana rode the elevator back up, creeping quietly toward Boris's ward.

Peeking through the cracked door, her gut feeling was spot-on. The shadowy figures were now crowded around Boris, whooping it up like it was New Year's Eve.

#### Chapter: 208

After the injury during the show's recording, Vivien had been laid up in the hospital. Today was her first outing, but her leg was still on the mend, making her limp like a wounded bird.

Paige had shelled out a small fortune to lift Vivien's spirits, hoping to pry out the Hudson family's reaction to her humiliating flop at the Starry Oil Painting Competition.

Vivien, Paige's loyal fangirl, was more than happy to dish the dirt after being showered with perks.

When Paige heard Lenard had pressured Raylan to break off their engagement and pursue Elliana instead, her blood boiled with hatred. Elliana again! It only hardened her resolve to use Merritt to wipe Elliana off the map. Sure, she was still holding out for Cole, but she wasn't about to toss Raylan aside as her backup plan until Cole was locked in.

"Paige, you're too good to me! I'm having the best day!" Vivien gushed, practically bouncing despite her limp.

#### Chapter: 209

The men all wore black masks, hiding their faces, but their eyes glinted with a cold, practiced malice—marks of men who lived by the blade.

Elliana's eyes narrowed, biding her time for the right move. Were these professional hitmen? Or maybe a seasoned mercenary crew, no strangers to spilling blood?

The leader of the black-clad crew zeroed in on Elliana. "Sorry, Mrs. Evans. We're here to nab you and squeeze the Evans family for ransom. Play nice, and you won't get hurt."

Elliana wasn't fazed. So, she was the target. Now it was clear.

Vivien, desperate, shouted, "We don't know her! We're just here for coffee, minding our own business. Let us go!"

#### Chapter: 210

Meanwhile, at the Royal Club, in a lavishly decorated private suite, Cole, Allan, Merlin, and Manley convened for a cash-based card game.

Of the four, Manley was always the first to throw himself into these card games—he relished every match and usually wrangled the others into joining.

But tonight, the invitation hadn't come from Manley. Cole had been the one to call them together, a rare move that sent a ripple of surprise through the group.

As soon as they got Cole's message, everyone had abandoned their plans and hurried over, unable to ignore the unusual summons.

Despite the grand setting, a heavy tension hung in the air, making every breath feel thick and uneasy.