

Wife Mask 431

Chapter: 431

"Sounds good." Elliana agreed. She didn't want to run into Allan and Manley, who could unravel her carefully maintained disguise.

Thirty minutes marked the extent of their aquatic therapy. When Elliana emerged, her artificial ugliness had dissolved completely, replaced by a pristine white dress that transformed her into something celestial. Her movements created poetry—long hair and flowing fabric dancing together like captured moonbeams.

Adah had abandoned her crimson leather armor for an elegant gown, though she maintained her signature scarlet like a warrior's banner.

Hand in hand, they crossed the lobby toward freedom.

Allan and Manley, concealed within their booth like predators in tall grass, absorbed every detail as their targets glided past the revolving door and vanished into the world beyond.

Chapter: 432

Manley's knuckles whitened around his phone. "Cole's in serious trouble, and Myles is asking for our help. We need to move now!"

Allan's gaze flicked once more toward Adah's car, torn between desire and his friend's safety, before he yanked the wheel hard left and accelerated back toward Cole's place. Cole commanded respect as one of their most lethal operatives, backed by Myles, Aron, Hugh, and an entire squadron of elite bodyguards, with Jason personally supervising operations. For Myles to sound this desperate meant they faced something truly catastrophic.

Meanwhile, Elliana and Adah returned to their mansion, where the Four Guardians waited with welcoming smiles.

They four approached, clearly hoping for conversation, but Elliana's mood had darkened beyond social pleasantries. She fixed them with a sharp stare. "I'm battling serious anxiety right now and need absolute silence. Stay vigilant, but don't interrupt me."

Without waiting for acknowledgment, she climbed the stairs with measured steps.

Chapter: 433

"Cole!" Elliana shot upright, gasping for air as she jolted awake from the nightmare. Her body was soaked in cold sweat, her heart hammering in her chest.

The door creaked open, and Adah stepped inside, her eyes filled with concern. "Elliana, are you alright? I heard you shouting Cole's name."

Elliana blinked, her mind still caught between the dream and waking reality. It took her a moment to realize-it had only been a nightmare. But why had it felt so real? Cole had always been her rock-strong, steady, never fragile. Seeing him hurt, even in a dream, was unsettling. Was it just her imagination, or was her heart sensing something her mind couldn't explain? Was that why he'd asked for a divorce-so suddenly? Maybe he was trying to protect her. Her eyes widened. She had to find him.

Without saying a word, Elliana threw the covers aside and rushed out of the room.

Adah quickly followed her.

Chapter: 434

Adah stepped in behind her and gently said, "Elliana, I think you're overthinking this. He's probably fine. Maybe he just moved, maybe to avoid you."

Elliana didn't respond, though the explanation seemed plausible. The estate showed no signs of struggle—no overturned furniture, no broken glass. It looked like a deliberate departure. Everything important had been taken.

This estate had long been managed by a butler and servants. Before Cole stayed last night, he had given them a few days off for privacy reasons. It was possible that, in light of some shift in his business dealings, he had temporarily relocated.

With this thought in mind, Elliana let out a _ small, sarcastic smirk. Men really could be that cold. When Cole had been enamored with her, he would have done anything for her, even risked his life. But now, when he no longer cared, she meant nothing to him. And yes, she was capable, but had he never once considered the dangers she might face on her own in Podgend? Not even a hint of concern for her well- being?

Sadness surged within her, sharp and painful, as_ she swallowed the Lump in her throat. Was that how easily she had become nothing to him?

Chapter: 435

Upon arrival, they adhered to Crown Auction protocols, passed rigorous security, and boarded the yacht.

Many attendees concealed their true selves, and Elliana was no exception. Clad in simple black with a mask, she veiled her infamous identity as Death Thorn.

Adah and the Four Guardians also wore masks, silent and unobtrusive.

Seated in the auction hall, they appeared relaxed but vigilantly scanned the crowd, hoping to spot Blaze Wraith amid the cloaked faces. Blaze Wraith was their main rival.

Other factions mattered little.

Chapter: 436

Silence. He asked again. And again. Still, no one spoke.

The auctioneer lifted his gavel. "Going once... Going twice..."

Before he could bring it down, Elliana's voice rang out. "1.1 billion!"

A spark ignited in the auctioneer's eyes. "Do I hear a bid higher than 1.1 billion?" he called out eagerly.

He repeated the question three times, but the silence held firm. At last, with finality, he declared, "Sold—for 1.1 billion!"

Chapter: 437

Elliana's voice cut through the room like a blade. "Until that paper is signed and sealed—he's still mine to protect."

Noticing Elliana's unwavering determination, the group changed swiftly into uniforms bearing the Thorn Rose emblem and set out for Riverbend.

The Phantom Mercenaries' commanders had reputations forged in blood-ruthless and shrewd, leading a unit famed for lethal efficiency. Anyone marked by this organization faced a nightmare with no easy escape.

While the Thorn Rose name inspired dread throughout Delta, its leaders never picked fights carelessly. Even for them, it was wise to steer clear of the Phantom Mercenaries.

With Blaze Wildfire already locked in a bitter fight against Thorn Rose, it was not a wise call for Thorn Rose to clash with Phantom Mercenaries, because if Blaze Wildfire and Phantom Mercenaries ever decided to join forces, Thorn Rose would be crushed in their jaws.

Chapter: 438

The shock had left everyone frozen in place, but there was no time to process it—they scrambled to rush Cole to the nearest hospital.

Unfortunately, Podgend's medical center was nowhere near equipped for a crisis like this. They had barely managed to stem the bleeding, but couldn't do the lifesaving surgery Cole needed.

Desperate, the group had bundled Cole onto the private jet, racing to get him back to Ublento for real treatment. But halfway there, the plane sputtered and broke down, forcing them into a rough emergency landing in Riverbend.

As if fate hadn't dealt them enough blows, now the Phantom Mercenaries had marked them for death.

Earlier that evening, the Phantom Mercenaries had only hemmed them in, but as midnight pressed on, their true assault began. Jamming equipment had snuffed out every phone signal, isolating the group completely. There'd be no backup, no way to call for help—just a suffocating silence as they waited in the dark.

Chapter: 439

The object detonated with a thunderous boom, flooding the darkness with brilliant light.

It was just a flare.

Relief barely touched Jason's face before it vanished. Figures in black—operatives of Phantom Mercenaries—had already closed in, weapons raised and ready. They wasted no time. Anyone who so much as twitched was staring down the barrel of a rifle.

The showdown Jason had braced himself for came to a halt out before anyone could even react. With one side battered and injured, and the other fully armed for battle, there was no doubt who had the upper hand.

But defeat didn't sit well with Jason. He rose to his feet, eyes as cold as steel, and shot a mocking glare at the leader of those operatives. "So what is it you want from us?"

Chapter: 440

Aron followed with a cold, dismissive snort. "You'll have to get through me before you even touch Cole!"

Words were unnecessary for Myles. His sharp gaze, glinting behind his glasses, spelled out his determination as clearly as any declaration.

That display of defiance made Daniel lift an eyebrow, surprised. "Rumor has it Cole's got three loyal dogs who won't run from a storm. Seeing you all stand firm today, I believe every word of it. I'll give credit where it's due— you've all got grit."

Turning back to Jason, Daniel's tone shifted, almost conversational. "Those three are ready to go down swinging, loyal to the end, and that's rare. Still, let's be honest, their lives don't weigh much in the balance. You, on the other hand, carry the Evans blood. If Cole disappears, you're next up. Is this really the hill you want to die on?"

The scoff that came from Jason dripped with contempt. Fury lit up in his eyes. His fists were clenched so tightly that his knuckles whitened, rage radiating from every part of him. "The Evans family doesn't raise cowards. I carry that name, and you think I'd turn and run?"