

Wife Mask 481

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"I'm moving in," Jeff announced without preamble. "For good!"

Elliana gawked at him, stunned into silence. She was gearing up to demand what made him think he could just plant himself in her home like a houseplant when Lance casually chimed in, "Same here. I'm staying."

Her expression twitched, somewhere between a smirk and a scowl. She turned to Jeff first. "This estate is my property now. What on earth makes you think you have squatters rights here? Did your family even agree to your intention of moving in?"

Jeff beamed, baby teeth on full display. "I am willing to do anything it costs just to move in." He puffed out his chest. "And my family? Don't worry about them. I walked out right in front of my grandpa, and he didn't say a word. That means I'm free."

Trying to shut down any upcoming eviction notice, he quickly added, "I'm not leaving. If you try to kick me out, I'll sleep at the gate every night until you give in!"

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At the same time, Elliana's phone buzzed with a fresh notification. She glanced down, a satisfied smile curling her lips. Then, she turned to Jeff. "Lance just paid for a chance to learn from me. He's officially my protégé now. I'll cover his room and board, but you? No freebies."

Quick on the uptake, Jeff didn't hesitate. He whipped out his phone and transferred every last cent of his savings— fifty million dollars—right to Elliana's account.

Elliana checked the alert, her smile widening with genuine pleasure. "Alright then. Both of you can stay, but remember —my rules."

Lance and Jeff nodded, faces the very picture of obedience.

Elliana yawned and stretched, settling into her role effortlessly. "There are plenty of rooms upstairs. Pick any you like—just not the one beside mine. And keep the noise down. Tomorrow, the SAT results come out. I need a good night's sleep to face that."

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The next day dawned with anticipation hanging in the air. SAT results were being released, and families across the country had spent the night holding their breath, ready to check scores at first light.

For Trinity, the tension was no different. Tomorrow was supposed to be her day—her triumphant comeback.

SAT scores usually dropped around 5:00 a.m., but a system glitch pushed the release to 8:00.

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Trinity stiffened. The memory of his rejection rushed back, flooding her with embarrassment.

But Jason was true to his word. He acted like nothing had happened—calm, casual, completely at ease.

His indifference cut deeper than any words. It only confirmed what Trinity already feared—he truly had no feelings for her. Bitterness filled her. She consoled herself that once she was crowned Ublento's top scorer and Milena's star protégé, he would come crawling, and she wouldn't even look his way.

Today was Trinity's day, and everyone made sure to be around her. Jason quietly took a seat nearby.

Irene was just as thrilled as Trinity, eager to see Elliana utterly eclipsed. Even though Elliana was no longer part of the Evans family, the thought of her succeeding was still unbearable.

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But her real intent was obvious to everyone: she wasn't calling to congratulate. She was hunting for ammunition. Still, no one stopped her. The curiosity in the room was palpable. Everyone wanted to know how terribly Elliana had done.

Everyone, except Cole and Emmanuel. Both men wore guarded expressions. They already knew what Elliana was truly capable of—and it wasn't going to be anything close to failure.

The video call connected in seconds. Jeff's round, bald head popped into view. From the elegant decor in the background, it was clear he was in the living room of Regal Grove.

Irene flashed a smile. "Jeff, how many points did Elliana score?"

Jeff let out a long, dramatic sigh, his face clouded with frustration, "She's still asleep! Lance and I were up early, ready to check the results with her, but she just rolled over and went back to bed. It's driving us insane!"

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Cole's attention locked onto the screen. Though he recognized Elliana's brilliance, hunger gnawed at him to witness her exact score.

With the tablet transferred, Elliana pushed herself upright and stretched Languidly. A yawn slipped past her lips as she drifted toward the dining room, her movements unhurried and deliberate.

Jeff's pulse hammered against his ribs as he finally examined the screen. Within seconds, his eyes ballooned wide, blood abandoning his face as though death itself had whispered his name.

Jeff's thunderstruck expression delivered a silent verdict to the Evans family. Elliana had clearly devastated the test. The score must have plummeted so catastrophically that shame would follow her for years.

Trinity's mouth curved into a predatory smile.

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Bertram managed only a slow nod of acknowledgment. "She has indeed."

Louisa whirled on Emmanuel with sudden fury. "Yesterday, you revealed that Lance had become Elliana's protégé. I dismissed it as preposterous—what wisdom could he possibly glean from her? Now the truth blazes before me. You and Lance knew Elliana was brilliant all along, didn't you? You knew she concealed some extraordinary gift and you withheld it from me!"

Unease pierced Emmanuel's chest like a blade. He cleared his throat and remained silent, his wordlessness serving as damning confirmation.

Ruben's curiosity ignited. He fixed Emmanuel with a penetrating stare. "Speak plainly. What manner of secret does Elliana guard?"

Emmanuel summoned a strained smile. "Dad, secrets exist for a purpose. The revelation isn't mine to make. All I can tell you is that Elliana is far more brilliant than any of us knew."

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Amid all the excitement, none of the Evans family spared a thought for Irene or Trinity. Every eye was glued to Elliana through the video call.

Inside Regal Grove, after what felt like a long wait, Elliana finally stepped out of the dining room, casually clutching a piece of bread she had already taken several bites from. She had no idea the admissions officers from Ublento's top universities were already there. The sight of the crowd waiting for her caught her completely off guard.

Dressed in a messy wig with bold temporary tattoos on her face, Elliana looked nothing like anyone expected. Rumors about her rebellious appearance had already reached the admissions officers, and rather than hesitate, they gathered around her, eager to get her attention.

One of them stepped forward with a hopeful grin. "Elliana, I represent Ashford University, and I'd be thrilled if you'd apply. I am ready to help with the application forms and required documents."

Another quickly chimed in, "I'm from Pembroke University. If you come to us, you won't pay a cent for tuition or housing."

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"Thank you, sir," she replied, returning the smile.

And just like that, the dramatic competition among top universities for Ublento's highest scorer finally came to an end.

Elliana politely saw off the admissions officers. Jeff and Lance walked right behind her, while Clifton, Kieran, Heather, and Damian wore proud expressions, beaming like one big family.

Once back in the living room, Elliana stretched with a soft yawn and was just about to head upstairs for a nap when she suddenly heard someone calling her name. She paused and looked around, half-expecting to see Ruben in the room. But he wasn't there.

Then, came Ruben's cheerful voice again. "Elliana, I'm right here—Look at the phone!"

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Murray's voice grew sharp. "That pathetic girl thinks she can become some shining star at Ublento Medical University? Let her try. Ublento Medical University will be the place where she falls flat."

After hanging up, Trinity felt a surge of excitement. Being chosen by Milena was a far more impressive achievement than any SAT score. Once the Evans family found out, Elliana's little moment of fame would vanish. She was eager to march downstairs and proudly tell the entire Evans family that in three days, Milena would hold a banquet to announce to the world that she had become his protégé. But every Evans family member had already scattered, busy with their own routines. Calling them back just to brag would seem desperate.

Then, a better idea struck her—the Evans family group chat. It might not be as dramatic as a face-to-face announcement, but it would reach everyone at once, even the out-of-town relatives. Perfect.

She opened the app and began typing, editing the message several times to keep it humble, even though her heart was practically bursting. "Hey, everyone! Just wanted to share some exciting news—Dr. Atkinson will be arriving in Ublento in three days to officially take me on as his protégé. Can't wait for you all to meet him at the banquet!"

Before Trinity's message appeared, the family group chat had been lively. While the elders kept their comments polite and measured, the younger members were full of excitement over Elliana's perfect SAT score. Jeff had been the most enthusiastic, flooding the chat with praise and going out of his way to highlight how close he and Elliana were.