

Chapter 522 Met Again

Cheers erupted as Elliana and Adah stepped off the stage, swallowed by a surge of the crowd.

Voices overlapped in a chaotic chorus from admirers eager to gush, socialites elbowing for face time, and talent scouts circling like hawks, contracts nearly trembling in their hands. The air was electric. It was a glamorous frenzy that left little room to breathe.

Watching from the edge, Allan stood still, untouched by the chaos. He didn't shove, nor did he shout. It wasn't his style. His gaze narrowed, lips pressed into a grim line. Pivoting on his heel, he strode straight to Nightfall's manager and quietly ordered the club emptied, reserving it exclusively for the rest of the night.

The Shaw family ranked among Ublento's four dominant powerhouses, and Nightfall knew better than to risk offending them. The manager jumped into action the moment Allan's request was made.

There were murmurs of protest from the crowd, but those quickly withered the instant Allan Shaw's name was mentioned. Within minutes, the first-floor hall stood vacant. The thundering beat that once filled the room gave way to a soft, melodic tune that washed over the space, stripping it of its earlier chaos.

Elliana and Adah exhaled at last, the tension easing from their shoulders. They hadn't come out to be the center of a frenzy—they just wanted a night of fun. And in a way, the sudden power play had done them a huge favor.

They were just turning to leave when they spotted Allan, cutting across the now-empty floor, heading straight toward them.

Elliana bumped Adah's arm, her smirk unmistakable. "Well, look who's coming—your ex-fiancé."

Adah's expression hardened. She'd chosen Nightfall precisely because Allan was known to haunt the Royal Club. The odds of running into him in

Nightfall were supposed to be nonexistent. And yet, here he was. Nevertheless. It didn't matter. She wasn't disguised as that ugly hick anymore. He wouldn't recognize her, and she'd just treat him like a stranger. Nothing more.

"Pay him no mind. Let's go," Adah said coolly, brushing off the sight of him like lint on silk.

But Elliana remained rooted, gaze locked on Allan's approaching figure. "He's definitely coming for you. Are you sure he hasn't figured out you'd tricked him?"

Adah mentally rewound their entire history in a heartbeat. Her jaw set. "Not a chance."

Adah took Elliana's hand and strode forward, determined to pass Allan without a word.

But before they could slip by, Allan stepped into their path with a smirk on his face. "We meet again."

Again? Adah halted mid-step, her pulse skipping. Then, her mind flashed back to their brief meeting in Podgend. He was the one who had rear-ended her car. She'd taken his million-dollar watch as compensation. Was he still nursing a grudge over that?

Her face darkening, Adah shifted into defense mode, deciding offense was the best strategy. "What? You want to settle a score? You crashed into my car, and I took your watch to cover the damages. Case closed. Is there a problem?"

She braced herself for an angry reaction, but Allan's smile remained steady with no hint of irritation.

"Yes, I did rear-end your car," Allan replied smoothly, his voice like silk. "And you took my watch as compensation. Fair trade, really."

Adah was stunned. "Then why are you blocking my path?"

Allan motioned toward a nearby sofa booth. "I was hoping to buy you ladies a drink. Would you do me the honor?"

Adah's eyes followed his gesture to the plush seating, and the absurdity of the moment struck her. Was he trying to hit on her? The idea was so

ridiculous that she nearly burst out laughing. He'd just spent three billion to sever their engagement, and now, suddenly, he was trying to win her back?

Elliana was ready to poke fun at Adah, amused by the absurdity, when a sudden sight stopped her breath. Cole was striding toward them. Before she could even blink, he was standing before her.

"We meet again," he said, his tone cold and razor-sharp.

When Allan had spoken those words to Adah, they carried a flicker of excitement at seeing her after the relentless search. But from Cole, they sliced through the air, heavy with scorn and icy contempt.

A fiery wave of frustration surged inside Elliana, tightening her chest. She'd only agreed to come to Nightfall because she was certain Cole would never darken a place like this. And yet, what a coincidence. And judging by the sour scowl twisting his face, he was still stewing over whatever had gone down earlier. What a petty thing to hold onto.

Still, Elliana had been itching for a chance to win him over. Since he'd practically handed himself over on a silver platter, why not seize the chance? With a sly grin, she nudged Adah toward the booth. "Well, with this gentleman's generosity, how can we possibly say no? Let's go!"

Adah, however, wanted nothing to do with Allan. She shot Elliana a sharp glare, muttering under her breath, "You're unbelievable. Using me to get to Cole—you are such a boy-crazy traitor."

"Oh, please," Elliana whispered back with a smirk. "Playing along for your bestie once won't kill you."

Though their voices were low, Cole caught every single word. He watched Lilah press Adah down on the seat, a faint sneer playing at his mouth. She was desperate, so much so that she dragged her best friend over just for the chance to get close to him. But beneath his sneering facade, a secret part of him reveled in it. He might mock her as a heartbreaker, yet he couldn't deny the thrill of being the focus of her attention.

Allan, seeing right through Cole's act, simply smiled. "Come on. Let's take a seat."

Allan settled in first, sliding into the chair across from Adah.

Cole paused briefly and then strode over to sit opposite Elliana.

"What would you ladies like to drink?" Allan asked, his grin broadening.

Adah wasted no time. "The finest, most expensive red wine you've got."

She figured that since he wanted to chase her, he should pay for the privilege. Maybe an eye-watering bill would be just the thing to kill his interest.

"Alright," Allan said smoothly, unfazed. Then, he turned to Elliana. "And for you?"

Before Elliana could answer, Cole cut in.