

Chapter 523 Purred To Another Man In Front Of Him

"Juice for her," Cole said nonchalantly. It was as if Lilah were his wife and he'd decided for her hundreds of times.

The room went still. Every head swiveled in his direction.

Allan let out a low chuckle. "Cole, don't you think Miss Briggs can speak for herself?"

Cole blinked, startled by his own words. Those words had tumbled out unfiltered and automatically. A quiet warning bell had simply gone off inside him, telling him alcohol and Lilah were a risky mix, even though he couldn't put his finger on exactly why.

Elliana studied Cole, a subtle crease forming between her brows. Did he remember her tendency to sleepwalk when drunk? Did that mean he hadn't completely forgotten her?

But then Cole added dryly, "Miss Briggs tends to get a little too friendly with handsome strangers. Alcohol might only encourage that."


And just like that, whatever hope had flickered in Elliana's chest fizzled out. He had no recollection of her at all. He was just looking for a chance to mock her. Was he essentially calling her a flirt? Unbelievable. She might as well show him what being a flirt truly meant.

Elliana gave Cole a sly side-eye, but said nothing.

Adah, however, wasn't having it. She turned to Allan. "Isn't your friend being a bit presumptuous? Miss Briggs just stepped into the wrong car today, but that's not a crime, and certainly not an invitation for character assassination."

Allan laughed awkwardly, trying to keep the air light.

Adah turned to Cole, her tone laced with mockery. "Oh, don't flatter

< Chapter 523 Purred To Another Man In Fron...  +120 Points at most

yourself. Miss Briggs has no interest in men already spoken for. She prefers flirting with hot, available bachelors." She caught sight of a young waiter nearby and pointed at him. "Like that one."

Both Cole and Allan instinctively followed her finger, spotting the fresh-faced waiter. Boyishly charming and probably a college student earning extra cash.

Adah gave Elliana a sly nudge. "Am I right, Miss Briggs?"

With her best friend rallying to her side, Elliana played along. She raised her hand with a flirtatious wave. "Hey there, handsome! Come here a sec!"

The waiter, unaware of the undercurrents, hurried over. "Yes, miss? How can I help you?"

Elliana gave him her most dazzling smile. "Tell me, how old are you, handsome?"

"Twenty," he replied, standing a little taller.

Her eyes lit up. "Same as me! Ever had a girlfriend? Are you still single?"

The waiter flushed slightly. "Still single. My family's not well-off, so I've been focused on working. Haven't had time or money for romance."

"Oh, what a promising young man!" Elliana beamed. "A hardworking young man with his priorities in order. How refreshing!" She slipped a fat tip of ten thousand dollars without blinking. "I admire ambition. I'll be visiting Nightfall more often. I'd like to support a hard-working young man like you."

The waiter blinked, stunned. "Th-thank you, miss! Really, thank you! If you need anything, anything at all, just call me!"

After exchanging a few more playful words, Elliana dismissed him with a graceful nod.

By now, Cole's expression was dark, thunderclouds brewing in his eyes. The tension around his jaw made his irritation obvious.

Adah, watching him simmer, grinned with open satisfaction.

Allan rubbed his temples, silently admitting that these two women were

clearly something else.

Just then, Adah gave Allan a swift kick under the table. "Weren't you offering to buy us drinks? What's the holdup?"

Drawn to Adah's brazen charm, Allan was more amused than annoyed by her kick. He gave a quick nod and raised a hand for service.

To no one's surprise, it was the same waiter Elliana had generously tipped who showed up again. His manager had clearly sent him back, assuming he'd struck gold with this table.

As the waiter approached, he gave Elliana a bright smile. "Hello again, miss."

Cole's expression turned thunderous.

Sensing the storm clouds rolling in, Allan wasted no time placing the order.

Soon, a bottle of red wine, a glass of juice, and an array of light snacks were being delivered, with the waiter bustling attentively.

"Hey, handsome," Elliana called out sweetly.

The waiter perked up immediately. "Yes, miss! My name's Ian. Anything you need?"

Elliana rewarded him with another radiant smile and slipped him a second ten-thousand-dollar tip. "Thank you for the wonderful service, Ian."

Ian Walker stood there momentarily stunned, clutching the money like a sacred relic. "T-Thank you, miss! Really, thank you so much!"

He scurried off, his grin nearly splitting his face in half. Meanwhile, the booth's energy shifted. The air was thick with jealousy as Cole was seething, barely holding himself together. Everyone could see it: his clenched jaw, the silent fury in his eyes.

Allan hadn't anticipated things escalating like this.

Adah, the architect of chaos, sipped her drink with barely disguised amusement, her eyes sparkling with mischief.

< Chapter 523 Purred To Another Man In...



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Elliana gave Cole one fleeting glance and then calmly lifted her glass of juice, sipping it like nothing in the world could touch her.



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Chapter 524 I Don't Want You Anymore

Cole kept his eyes fixed on Lilah and suddenly asked, "Is the juice good?"

Ian had been the one to recommend this juice to Lilah. Back when Allan asked her about what juice she'd like, she'd decided to get under Cole's skin by seeking Ian's opinion.

Ian had started off complimenting Lilah's looks, then went on about the health benefits, and finally said, "Apple juice is packed with vitamins, great for your complexion, and has a gentle taste. It's perfect for someone as lovely as you."

Of course, Lilah had taken his advice without hesitation.

Now, as Lilah sipped the apple juice, Cole's glare was so sharp that it seemed the glass might shatter just from his stare.

With Cole clearly ready to snap, Elliana decided not to push her luck and answered quietly, "It's alright."

She thought she had softened her response enough for him to let it go, but his temper flared all the same.

Without warning, Cole snatched the glass from her hand and tossed it straight into the trash. Before she could even react, he pulled the straw from her lips and threw it away as well.

Allan and Adah stared in shock. Elliana sat frozen, surprised by how quickly things had escalated.

Unbothered by everyone's reactions, Cole shoved a glass of water toward Lilah. "Forget about apple juice. What you need right now is a clear head. Drink some water!"

Elliana could only look at him in disbelief.

Just then, a sweet voice chimed in, "Cole!"

Elliana glanced up to see Paige standing there. She had not seen Paige for ages. The last time they met, Paige looked frail and ill. Today, however, Paige wore designer clothes and flawless makeup, looking like a different person altogether. Had Paige made a full recovery?

Paige drew near, her eyes lingering fondly on Cole. "Cole, what are the odds of running into you here?"

Cole gave Paige a cool, distant look before dropping his eyes, offering no reply.

Though he stayed silent, Elliana could see in his expression that he hadn't forgotten Paige and still remembered their past engagement. The irony stung. He recalled his ex-fiancée Paige, yet he seemed to forget about her, his ex-wife.

Jealousy crept up on Elliana, sharper than she wanted to admit.

Meanwhile, Paige's attention was still fixed entirely on Cole, unaware of the others seated at the table. Realizing Cole was ignoring her, she finally looked around.

Only then did Paige spot the two beautiful women across from Cole. She quickly figured out that Allan took an interest in the woman opposite her, and there was something subtle between Cole and the woman in white—Lilah.

Immediately, Paige marked Lilah as a rival. She was not about to give up on Cole. However, as Raylan's fiancée, she could not say anything outright.

After throwing Lilah a warning glare, Paige turned to Cole with a bright, cheerful smile. "Cole, thank you for signing me with Twinkle Entertainment and promising to make me a star. I'm thrilled!"

Elliana snapped her head up. Twinkle Entertainment was an entertainment company under the Evans Group. Paige had always dreamed of fame, but after Merritt passed away and his support vanished, her career had stalled out.

Elliana never expected Cole to sign Paige under his company and

promise to launch her career. What reason did he have for helping Paige? Didn't he always dislike her?

A thousand questions spun in Elliana's mind.

Cole broke the silence just then. "You saved my life once, and I promised you three favors. Signing you under Twinkle Entertainment has fulfilled the last. We're even now, so stop bothering me."

Cole didn't spare Paige a glance, his indifference evident.

Paige realized she could not push any further. Her voice faltered as she said, "I—I'll leave now. I won't disturb you."

With that, Paige turned and left, her mood clearly downcast.

Elliana found no comfort in watching Cole treat Paige so coldly. Instead, a wave of sadness crashed over her, almost bringing tears to her eyes. Cole once disliked Paige so much, but he still remembered her and honored his promise, even helping her out of a tough situation.

Yet Elliana, his ex-wife, the woman he once swore he loved, was nothing but a forgotten shadow in his life. This left her doubting if he had ever really wanted to keep her in his memory at all, or if he saw the treatment for Psycephrenia as an excuse to erase her from his life for good.

The realization made Elliana's heart ache. Remembering his commitment to fulfill his mother's dying wish of marrying the real Campbell heiress, she suddenly felt completely defeated. Perhaps he had chosen to forget her to fulfill his mother's wish while sparing himself the guilt. If that was true, then she was done fighting for him.

A cold laugh escaped Elliana's lips. She lifted her head, locked her gaze on Cole, and said with resolve, "Cole, I don't want you anymore..."