

Chapter 531 It Was Indeed Him

Ublento Medical University was known for pulling out all the stops at its annual opening ceremony. This year, with Milton on the guest list, everything sparkled with extra care.

The event was held in the university stadium. A grand stage stood at its heart, framed by musical fountains that danced to the rhythm of each performance. Massive screens streamed the show live, so even students in the back rows didn't miss a beat.

Though it was a school event, the glamour felt more like a red-carpet affair.

Elliana opened the night with her performance as the lead dancer.

She was a vision. Her gown was sheer and dazzling, covered in pearls and sequins that glistened under the lights. She looked like a star descending from the heavens. Her hair was braided into an elegant twist, and a soft veil hid the lower half of her face, adding a touch of mystery.

As she stepped forward with her team, the crowd erupted in cheers and whistles.

"Whoa, it's the Masked Beauty! Look at her!"

"She's unreal! No one should be allowed to be that gorgeous!"

"I'd give anything to see what's under that veil."

Trinity and her clique were also among the crowd. They had just returned to campus after a week off to recover.

Normally, Trinity lived for the spotlight. If not for her recent hospital stay, she would have never missed the chance to perform on a stage like this. But the humiliating "feces incident" had robbed her of that chance. Now, all she could do was watch as Lilah soaked up the glory—and it made

her blood boil.

Chloe had earned a seat at Trinity's side by providing some "useful" information.

"That Lilah girl really knows how to hide her flaws. She's even dancing with a veil. Must be terrified people will see that nasty scar on her face." Hearing the cheers for Lilah around her, Chloe curled her lip. "I can't wait to rip off her veil. Just imagine how miserable she'll be when everyone sees her ugly face."

Chloe had never spoken to Eliana. There was no personal grudge—just a desire to win Trinity's favor. And that was enough to turn her into an enemy.

On Trinity's other side, Mindy glared at the stage like she could burn it down with her eyes. Her jaw was tight, her teeth nearly grinding. "Just thinking about how Lilah set us up and made us get drenched in that filth... I swear, I will skin her alive if I ever have the chance!"

Mindy used to feel nothing toward Lilah. Siding with Trinity to bully Lilah had always been about loyalty, not hatred. But after that public humiliation, it became personal. Now, her anger was real—and it burned as hot as Trinity's.

Trinity, though quieter, was no less dangerous. Her calm exterior was just a mask for the venom bubbling underneath. She sat stiffly, eyes locked on the stage, her gaze sharp enough to cut. If stares could kill, Lilah would already be dust. She hated Lilah with every fiber of her being. Hated that Lilah came from wealth. Hated that Lilah had stolen the title of Campus Beauty. Hated Lilah most of all for the toilet-stained disgrace that had put her in a hospital bed. And tonight, Lilah would pay.

Wanda had warned Trinity not to go after Lilah directly, and Trinity wasn't reckless enough to ignore her caution. But there were other ways to play the game. A slow smile curved her lips. She leaned toward Chloe. "Is everything in place?"

Chloe replied without hesitation, "All set. Don't worry. The moment we pull the trigger, the whole school will see Lilah's face—an ugly creature hiding behind a mask."

Chloe grinned, desperate for praise. "I even paid people to kick-start the

buzz online. Once the pictures spread, she'll be finished. No one will look at her the same again. She won't just lose her crown—she'll lose her place at this school."

Trinity nodded in approval and then turned to Mindy. "What about you?"

Mindy's smile was ice-cold. "I've got a dozen guys waiting. The moment she leaves the stage, they'll grab and strip her. They'll take enough compromising pictures to make sure she's ruined. By the next morning, she'll be a scandal. She won't just leave the university—she'll disappear from Ublento altogether."

Trinity's smirk deepened. "Good. Stick to the plan. And make sure no one traces it back to us. I'm not in the mood for another lecture from Wanda."

"Understood," Chloe and Mindy replied in unison.

With their plan in motion, the trio exchanged dark smiles and turned their eyes back to the stage.

By then, Elliana and her team had taken their starting positions. The music hadn't started yet, and the stage had fallen into a hush.

Some dancers shifted nervously, but Elliana stood still, calm and focused. Her eyes quietly scanned the audience below.

Milton, as a VIP, would be seated in front with a prime view. Elliana searched quickly until she found the polished nameplate: Milton Campbell. Her gaze lifted to the man behind it, and her breath hitched.

It was just as the wildest speculation she'd entertained. The man she'd seen that night outside Nightfall—the one who looked so eerily like her mother—was indeed Milton himself.

Chapter 532 Whirlwind Of Questions

It wasn't unusual for ordinary people to look alike. That much was no surprise. But for two strangers to share such rare and striking features? That was something else entirely.

Milton looked so much like Elliana's mother that they had to be related somehow. But how exactly? What connection did he have to her mother? And more importantly, what did her mother have to do with the Campbells?

A storm of questions burst through Elliana's mind, each more confusing than the last. No matter how she tried to make sense of it, the thoughts tangled into knots. The theories spinning in her head felt too strange to accept but too strong to ignore.

Still shaken from seeing Milton so unexpectedly, Elliana let her eyes wander across the front row until they found another familiar face.

Cole sat right next to Milton, and his gaze was fixed on her with an unnerving intensity. The moment their eyes met, the distance between them seemed to vanish.

Though the stage and the audience were separated by several meters, their sharp eyes allowed them to read each other's expressions as if they were standing face-to-face.

Elliana's expression showed nothing but pure surprise. She had no idea Cole would be attending, and his unexpected presence shook her completely.

Cole's expression, though, was full of barely hidden anger mixed with bitter jealousy. He wanted nothing more than to jump onto that stage, grab the woman who had haunted his mind and cost him a whole week of sleep, and lock her away at home. She had led him on, made him hope for something real, but then walked away with harsh words that still echoed in his mind. Worse, she'd already set her sights on someone else.

At first, he'd thought her claims about liking Milton were just a game to make him mad. But seeing her here now, dressed so beautifully and staring at Milton like that, he was convinced she meant it. What else could this be except her trying to win Milton over?

He was certain she had only taken this dance performance because she heard Milton would be here tonight. She had grabbed this chance to perform, all so she could catch Milton's attention and make him notice her.

As these bitter thoughts twisted in his mind, Cole clenched his jaw tightly. That infuriating woman. How could she treat him like a game she could start and stop whenever she liked, as if he were nothing more than a toy for her amusement? Fine. Let her try to charm Milton now—he was ready to see what tricks she had in store. But if she so much as fluttered her eyelashes in Milton's direction, he'd make sure she regretted it.

Whether it was his fury or the dark direction of his thoughts, a cold and violent energy began to surround Cole, aimed directly at Elliana.

When Elliana caught the expression on Cole's face, her lips twitched with irritation. What was wrong with this man? Why was he looking at her like she'd committed a crime? His stare was so intense that she half expected him to accuse her of destroying his life. Seriously, what the hell was his issue?

She bet he had come here just for her, though she couldn't decide whether it was out of anger or something else entirely. Revenge? The thought was ridiculous, but there was no more time to think about it.

The music began to fill the air, and Elliana immediately lost herself in the familiar rhythm.

The dance started gently, with soft, flowing movements that gradually grew stronger and more passionate.

In those opening moments, the melody was sweet and tender, and Elliana's body moved like water, graceful and smooth. As the lead dancer, she transformed into something magical on stage, like a beautiful flower fairy dancing among her fellow performers, captivating everyone who watched.

"Oh my god, Lilah is gorgeous!"

"Ublento Medical University really brought their A-game this year. This Lilah girl is absolutely breathtaking."

"No kidding. Someone with a face like that could walk straight into the film and television industry and make millions without even trying. She's got that kind of natural beauty."

Whispers of amazement spread through the student section like wildfire.

Trinity sat fuming in the crowd. Each word of praise aimed at Lilah was another twist of the knife.

Chloe shot dirty looks at the students around her and let out a harsh laugh. "You're all getting carried away, aren't you? Calling Lilah beautiful when nobody's even seen what she really looks like. For all we know, she could be hideously disfigured under that veil."

Mindy jumped in with a voice full of fake sweetness that barely masked her spite. "That's right! Everyone keeps praising her beauty, but what if she takes off that veil and turns out to be so awful-looking that it makes you sick?"

The people sitting nearby bristled at Chloe's and Mindy's nasty comments, but they couldn't shake the seed of doubt that had been planted. The conversation began to take a different turn.

"They have a point, though. Nobody's actually seen what Lilah looks like under there."

"Come on, though—look at how she moves, how graceful she is. Someone like that can't be completely unfortunate in the looks department, right?"

"Hard to say. Sometimes life's cruel like that. Maybe having such an incredible body means her face didn't get the same treatment."

"That's ridiculous. Plenty of celebrities are gorgeous from head to toe."

"True, but there's really no way to settle this debate. We'd have to see her face to know for sure."

"Speaking of which, why does she always cover up anyway?"

Chloe's eyes lit up—this was exactly the opening she'd been waiting for. She leaned forward with a cruel smile. "Isn't it obvious? She's hiding something terrible! Women always show off their best features and cover up their flaws. If she's too ashamed to let anyone see her face, it's because there's something seriously wrong with it."

Her reasoning was warped, but it caught people off guard, and no one could immediately argue back.

Mindy sensed the moment and pushed harder, adding fuel to the fire. "So basically, Lilah hides behind a mask, basks in all this attention that came with the Campus Beauty title, and everyone just goes along with it? She's playing you all. Open your eyes—she's fooling every one of you."