

## Chapter 591 Mutual Fondness

Cole arched an eyebrow, the corners of his mouth curving into an amused smirk. Lilah said a hundred million for a single dose was still not enough, as if that amount was pocket change. She was clearly baiting him, playing her own clever game.

Elliana watched Cole closely. The absence of annoyance on his face left her feeling oddly satisfied. She was daring him, recklessly pushing the boundaries between them.

It was there in his gaze, in the subtle way he moved, even with his memories muddled, he was already starting to be drawn to her again. What she couldn't tell was just how far those feelings went. She needed to know if he could still love her with that same obsessive intensity as before.

Though Cole couldn't remember their history, he recognized her little tests and found himself surprisingly amused. If she was searching for proof of his affection, he had no problem showing just how much he cared. Tired of trading words, he quietly pulled out a blank check, scribbled his signature, and offered it to her. "Ms. Campbell," he said, his tone gentle and inviting. "Write down any amount you think is fair."

Elliana accepted the check, real surprise flashing across her face. She didn't reach for a pen. Instead, she looked him right in the eye. "You're saying I can write any amount I want?"

"Absolutely," Cole replied, nodding with an easy smile.

She asked further, "And you won't be upset? Even if I add a number that's over the top?"

Cole's grin only grew, a glint of challenge flickering in his eyes. "Then try me."

Elliana hesitated, thoughts spinning. She tried to decipher his limit, but his expression gave nothing away. With the old Cole, she would've dared anything. His love for her was boundless. He would have tolerated any

transgression, save for infidelity.

But things weren't the same anymore. He now lost memories of their shared past. The fear gnawed at her; one wrong move, and she could lose him forever. Even so, the urge to test him, to see exactly how much he'd tolerate, was impossible to ignore. She clung to memories of the old Cole, longing for proof that his current self could love her just as fiercely.

After wrestling with herself, Elliana finally made her choice. She would push his patience as far as it could go. She reached for the pen, composed herself, and calmly wrote "one billion" on the blank check.

That number meant more to her than anyone realized. Before, Cole never gave anything less than a billion. She couldn't help but wonder if he now would still hold himself to that standard.

When she finished writing, a wave of anxiety hit her hard. She quickly glanced up at Cole, holding out the check. "Here it is," she said, keeping her voice as even as possible. "Take a look. Any complaints?"

Cole's eyes fell to the amount she'd written. He had to admit, it caught him off guard. Her audacity stunned him—a billion dollars for just one pill. It seemed she viewed him as nothing more than a bottomless bank account.

In Cole's mind, only three kinds of women would dare ask for that much. First, she truly believed the man's love for her knew no bounds and that she could get away with anything. Second, she was a gambler, fully aware she might anger him, but betting big in hopes of an even bigger payoff. And third, she just thought he was a clueless fool with too much money, and it would be a waste not to cash in.

He couldn't quite put his finger on which one Lilah was. The money didn't matter to him. He was perfectly willing to spend any amount on someone he cared about—a billion, ten billion, it made no difference. What fascinated him was her reasoning. He wanted to know what was running through her mind when she boldly wrote out that figure.

Instead of voicing any complaint, he looked up and asked, "May I ask what was going through your head when you settled on this number?"

Elliana kept her gaze locked on him, searching for even the slightest change in his features.

The two of them had once shared an intense love, holding nothing back and understanding each other completely—so she could read him like an open book.

Even behind his composed exterior, she could sense the whirlwind of thoughts racing through his mind. She was certain he was analyzing every reason behind her boldness, weighing each possibility in his mind.

And because he clearly wanted answers, she chose to lay everything bare and tell him exactly what was on her mind. A slow, teasing smile spread across her lips. "I wanted to find out just how much you care about me."

Her words made Cole freeze. He raised his eyes to hers, his tone unusually gentle. "You think I care for you?"

Unfazed, Elliana matched his gaze. "Am I wrong?"

Cole pressed his lips together, offering no answer.

Their eyes held, the air between them warming. Gradually, that shared look softened, turning tender and lingering.

Neither needed to speak, as the truth was clear in their eyes that the mutual fondness between them couldn't be denied.