

Chapter 625 She Was His

A sharp gasp rippled through the crowd. "What?"

To the crowd, Cole's words landed like a thunderclap. So he hadn't shown up to catch Lilah in the act at all—he was here to make things official with her. Was the most untouchable man in the city really this easy to win over? One confession of love, and he even came to her school just to accept it. It felt almost unreal.

A few bystanders couldn't help but feel a sting of envy.

"I always thought Cole was ice-cold, the kind of man who froze any woman who got too close. Even seeing him from afar used to make my knees tremble. But he's actually so easy to win over!"

"Same here! I can't believe I trusted all those rumors. If I'd known he was this easy to win, I would've tried yesterday. If I'd just gotten to him before Lilah, would he be my boyfriend now?"

"Oh, please. Wake up! Cole isn't 'easy.' He's only soft for the woman he wants."

"Exactly! Look at Lilah—she's stunning. And then there's you... Well, let's just say there's no competition."

"Stop daydreaming. The real question is, what will Lilah do?"

"Right! I can't wait to see. Cole rejected her yesterday, so she probably gave up and started cozying up to that guy today. Now that he's suddenly saying yes, will she be thrilled or completely embarrassed?"

The whispers swirled like wildfire.

Elliana heard every word, finding the whole situation utterly hilarious. Was this the effect Cole had been going for? To throw her into the storm of public opinion, leaving her trapped no matter what she chose? If she looked happy and agreed, they'd call her fickle. If she looked embarrassed, they'd laugh at her "mistake."

Seeing through Cole's little game, Elliana kept calm. No joy, no embarrassment, no panic. Only a quiet realization—she had never known he could be so petty. Her motto had always been simple: an eye for an eye. If someone came after her, she hit back. But with Cole, she couldn't bring herself to do it. He had spoiled her once, giving her everything she wanted. Now, even with his memory gone, he had fallen for her all over again. This time, she decided, it was her turn. She would be the one to spoil him.

With that thought, Elliana gently slipped her arm from Quentin's grasp. Turning to Cole, a soft smile touched her lips. "So, does this mean we're a couple now?"

Cole stared at her, torn between two voices in his head. One sneered, "She played with you. Don't let her off the hook so easily! Push her—see how far she'll go." But the other roared louder, "Don't push too hard! She's stubborn. Piss her off, and you'll lose her for good."

Then, the memory of that day at Nightfall stabbed at him—her cold voice saying she was done with him. She had meant it. After that, she had shut him out completely, turning away without a second glance. He couldn't risk that again.

Cole silenced the taunting voice in his head. So what if she was a handful? He still wanted her, and he'd have to deal with it. From now on, he'd simply keep her close and never let another man get the chance to look her way.

In a heartbeat, Cole closed the distance between him and Lilah. His arm shot out, pulling her flush against his chest. He tilted his head and captured her lips in a hard, claiming kiss. Fierce, possessive, and undeniable—it was his answer to her question and a warning to everyone watching. She was his. And anyone foolish enough to covet her would regret it.

"Whoa!" Gasps erupted, voices rising in shock.

"Holy crap! Cole kissed her!"

"Oh my! My heart almost stopped!"

"This is the headline of the year! Somebody record this!"

Phones lit up the scene in a frenzy. Within seconds, pictures and videos hit the Ublento Medical University forum. Breaking news was born.

Off to the side, Trinity stood frozen, utterly stunned. What was going on? This wasn't how she'd expected the situation to unfold. Cole was supposed to disgrace Lilah—not kiss her!

But in that moment, all eyes were locked on Cole and Elliana. Trinity had vanished into the background.

The sudden embrace had caught Elliana completely by surprise, and the fierce, claiming kiss stole the air from her lungs. Her first instinct was to push Cole away, her hands pressing to his chest. But then, she paused. If he wanted the world to know she was his, she would let him.

Her resistance melted like snow under the sun. Tilting her head, she deepened the kiss, her arms slipping around his waist, pulling him closer.