

Chapter 637 Insecurity

Cole's expression transformed with startling gravity, catching Elliana completely off guard as she struggled to decipher what profound statement he expected her to remember. His sudden solemnity dissolved her playful smile, drawing her into watchful attention.

His gaze held hers with unwavering intensity as he spoke. "In this lifetime, it can only ever be you leaving me, never the other way around. Love doesn't come easily to my guarded heart, but once it takes root, it becomes eternal—a sacred bond that binds us through life and beyond death itself. Do you understand?"

These words struck Elliana like lightning, leaving her momentarily breathless. She had never anticipated such declarations from Cole's lips. Their romance had barely begun to bloom, yet here he stood, making vows that most couples reserved for wedding altars, not on the first day of dating. But Cole had chosen to bare his soul in precisely this manner. Men like Cole existed as rare treasures in this world—perhaps the only one of his kind.

Had Elliana not been with him before and known nothing of his true character, she might have dismissed his words as sweet talk designed to charm, not to be taken seriously. From any other man's mouth, such promises would have crumbled like autumn leaves. Yet, hearing Cole speak these sacred words, belief flowed through her without question. She knew him as a man whose promises carried the weight of mountains—never spoken carelessly, always honored completely.

She had never imagined Cole would surrender his heart again with such breathtaking speed. Their relationship had barely taken its first tentative steps, yet he dared pledge eternity itself. Warmth bloomed like spring flowers throughout her chest. No woman could resist a man's complete devotion, and she certainly proved no exception to this universal truth.

She could survive without love's embrace, but once tasted, she craved nothing less than perfection. Cole had offered her precisely that—an answer that satisfied her deepest longings. Her heart overflowed with

such sweetness that a natural smile curved her lips skyward.

Then, without warning, she pursed her lips and released a soft snort, her internal thoughts churning with frustration directed squarely at Cole. Though he possessed genuine sincerity and spoke with authentic passion, his honeyed words couldn't entirely escape suspicion. He had just sworn never to leave her. Yet, his past actions painted a different picture—him refusing to share his burdens of being plagued by the illness, demanding divorce with cold determination, ultimately making that devastating separation a reality.

Elliana had not yet forgiven him for those wounds. As her dear friend Adah frequently declared, trusting men completely was like expecting pigs to sprout wings and dance across clouds.

Perhaps Elliana's internal grumbling burned too intensely, for she lost control of her facial expression. Her lips twisted into sardonic curves while her eyes regarded Cole with unmistakable displeasure.

Cole was baffled by her look. He couldn't fathom why his heartfelt love confession had earned such scathing disdain. What had sparked Elliana's displeasure now? Had his devotion appeared too desperate, too pathetic in her discerning eyes? Had his easy surrender made him less valuable, less worthy of treasuring?

These thoughts sent waves of distress crashing through his chest. "Here's something else requiring your complete attention—you ignited this flame between us. Once lit, extinguishing becomes impossible. In this existence, you belong to me through every breath and beyond the grave!"

His fingers suddenly grasped her chin, his voice carrying a stern warning. "Should you dare attempt to dump me, I'll shatter your legs and imprison you within my walls, never again to taste freedom. Are we perfectly clear?"

Elliana found herself utterly speechless. How could Cole's emotions shift like storm clouds racing across turbulent skies? Sweet declarations had flowed from his lips mere moments ago, and now, he threatened bodily harm. He was absolutely moody...

Elliana angrily slapped his restraining hand away, her voice sharp with rebuke. "Immature fool!"

Though his hand stung from her slap, he paid it no mind. His eyes stayed locked on her face, noting her casual dismissal of his words. Suddenly, he felt like their relationship was as fragile as spun glass, ready to shatter at her slightest whim.

Anxiety clawed at his composure as fear whispered that she might declare their bond finished without warning. He desperately craved permanence in their connection.

His hand darted forward again, recapturing her chin with renewed determination. "Did you take what I said seriously, hmm? I meant every syllable I spoke."

Elliana regarded him with an elaborate eye roll. She offered neither resistance nor response, curious to see how far he'd push her.

Her razor-sharp, mocking gaze made Cole squirm with awkwardness and wounded feelings. He simply wanted her investment in their relationship to match his own consuming passion. Was such equality truly impossible?

"Say you love me. Promise you'll never leave me!" he commanded. Though structured as an order, his tone betrayed underlying vulnerability and desperate insecurity.

Witnessing these complex emotions warring across his features, Elliana couldn't help but laugh. She relented. She had decided to indulge him, so she would continue this path.

She lifted her face toward his, blessing him with a tender kiss before speaking with genuine warmth. "I love you completely and will never leave your side."

At last, the grievance and fury burning in Cole's eyes diminished significantly, replaced by the faintest smile. Yet, complete peace still eluded him, so he fixed her with another intense stare. "Swear it."

Once again, Elliana was rendered speechless. Why should she swear?