

## Chapter 638 The Other Woman

Eliana noted that Cole, after his memory faltered, turned into a complete worrywart. It was strange—he had never been like this before. Back then, when she said their relationship was moving too fast and threw hurdle after hurdle in his way, he had taken things slow. He'd never pressed, only waited, patient as ever, step by step, until she was ready. Yet now, he pressed her for a commitment.

Eliana found it somewhat amusing. He seemed so insecure these days. From the way he acted, it almost seemed like he had suffered heartbreak after heartbreak, and thus this insecurity.

Eliana couldn't resist a jab. "You're the richest man in Ublento, a titan in global finance. Why act like some poor soul who's suffered heartbreak many times? Are you really that insecure?"

Cole's face flushed with embarrassment. He pressed his lips together and muttered, "It's only with you. You're too good at playing with men and then slipping away without a care. How could I feel secure in our relationship?"

And it was true. With her, his confidence faltered. With business, with rivals, with money—nothing shook him. Even if he lost a billion-dollar deal, he wouldn't bat an eye. But she was different. She was cunning, enchanting, impossible to hold onto. She had him wrapped around her finger. The prospect of losing her terrified him, as if he had already lost her once and carried the scar. That was why he had to hold her so tightly, as he had been feeling insecure.

Eliana finally understood. Love that deep came with fear just as deep. But vows? She would never make them. She had never promised eternal loyalty to any man, and she wouldn't start now.

Seeing her hold back, Cole thought she was still wavering about their relationship. His jaw tensed, a scowl forming, when his phone rang. It was Eva calling.

News of Cole and Lilah had spread like wildfire. Naturally, Eva had seen it—and she was furious. His sudden break from Wanda had already been a heavy blow to her. But when he declared his intent to marry the true Campbell heiress, she hadn't dared object. She dared not overstep in matters related to Arthur.

Since then, Eva had been quietly waiting for the real Campbell heiress to appear and for Cole to marry her. She even dreamed that, once he did, the feud she herself had sparked between the Evans and Campbell families might finally ease. Maybe her relationship with Arthur would improve. Who would have thought that Cole would suddenly establish a relationship with Lilah, the foreign girl at Ublento Medical University?

Eva felt she had been played by Cole. She was his aunt, and she would never swallow such a slight. So she called him, furious.

Cole glanced at the screen. His first instinct was to ignore her. But Eva was Arthur's wife, and that made things tricky. After a pause, he stepped out of the car, shut the door, and answered.

Elliana caught sight of the name on the screen. She said nothing. She hated Eva with all her heart, but she knew she could never erase the bond between Eva and Cole. Watching Cole step out to take the call, her heart ached for a moment.

Until now, she had only thought about rekindling things with Cole. She had never stopped to think deeper. But Eva's call struck her like a stone. Was being with Cole a betrayal of her mother? Eva had done so many things to make her mother's life difficult. And now she was with Eva's nephew. Didn't that make her guilty, too?

Restlessness welled up inside Elliana. To calm it, she picked up her phone and scrolled aimlessly. But peace was nowhere to be found. The headlines about her and Cole were everywhere. As soon as she went online, she was bombarded with eye-catching headlines.

Most of the comments painted their romance like a fairy tale. A match made in heaven. Thousands were envious. But amidst the praise was a storm waiting to break.

"Wasn't Cole engaged to the Campbell heiress? Why is he suddenly with Lilah?"

"Maybe Lilah chased after him and stole him away?"

"So, doesn't that make her the other woman who ruined an engagement?"

Right now, the comments about branding Lilah as the other woman were overshadowed by the envious voices of the perfect match.

But Elliana knew how these things worked. Envy faded, gossip stuck. And if Wanda or Trinity fanned the flames, the story would twist until her name was dragged through the mud. Her love story with Cole would carry a stain she could never wash away.

Thinking of this, Elliana narrowed her eyes and then turned to look at Cole outside the car.