

Chapter 652 Her Thoughtfulness

Even though Milton had promised Elliana he wouldn't show Cole any hostility, he couldn't shake the bitter resentment he felt when he thought about his precious sister being infatuated with this annoying Cole.

Milton had no desire to speak to Cole at all, and if he absolutely had to say something, he certainly didn't want it to be anything pleasant. Every time he opened his mouth, he felt the overwhelming urge to unleash a barrage of cutting remarks. But remembering the promise he'd made to Elliana, he forced himself to swallow the harsh words that kept rising in his throat.

Cole was perceptive enough to pick up on Milton's conflicted feelings toward him, but following his strategy of humble charm to win over his future bride's family, he greeted Milton with careful politeness.

His courteous behavior only made Milton feel more uncomfortable and on edge.

It was a strange twist of fate that the two men happened to be exactly the same age and even shared the same birthday.

However, Cole had been born one hour before Milton, which technically made him the older of the two.

Since Milton was Elliana's protective big brother, Cole made sure to treat Milton with the respect that position deserved.

Milton, who already disliked Cole, finally saw an opportunity to assert some dominance. He sneered, "Even though you might be older than me by an hour, I'm Lilah's elder brother. Showing me proper respect shouldn't be too difficult for you, should it?"

Who could have imagined that the famously sophisticated and brilliant heir to the Sun Group empire could act so childish in some matters?

Cole responded with an indulgent chuckle, clearly amused rather than offended, "Not at all. It's absolutely the right thing to do."

Seeing Cole set aside his notorious pride and make a genuine effort to be humble, Milton felt a surge of satisfaction. Cole suddenly seemed much more tolerable, which significantly improved Milton's own mood and softened his attitude.

"Please, come inside," Milton said with newfound graciousness, gesturing toward the spacious living room.

Cole gave a respectful nod and walked forward.

Milton politely accompanied Cole, playing the role of gracious host. Even though the Evans family had formally disowned Eva as a public apology and Cole had clearly chosen to side with Elliana, Milton still carried some lingering resentment against the Evans family.

However, watching Cole's humble approach and genuine respect, the anger in Milton's heart began to slowly dissolve.

If Elliana and Cole's relationship continued to grow stronger and more stable, the bitter feud between the Evans and Campbell families would eventually heal, returning them to their previous state of mutual respect and cooperation. In that case, Milton realized he shouldn't cling to old grievances that would only create problems for his sister's happiness.

With that mature perspective in mind, Milton glanced over at Cole thoughtfully.

Just as they reached the entrance to the elegant living room, Cole happened to look in his direction.

Milton allowed his lips to curve into a genuinely friendly smile.

Cole was intelligent enough to recognize Milton's gesture of goodwill, and he responded with an equally warm and friendly smile of his own.

The two men exchanged these meaningful looks and walked into the living room together, their relationship subtly transformed.

Inside, they found Arthur sitting beside Elliana, carefully opening various packages of snacks and treats.

Elliana was comfortably settled on the plush sofa, happily munching on the delicious offerings with obvious contentment. The table in front of her was completely covered with an impressive mountain of different snacks and sweets.

Taking in this scene, Milton quickly moved to pour her a tall glass of water. "All those snacks are going to make you thirsty," he said. "Drink some water to help wash everything down and soothe your throat."

Elliana accepted the glass gratefully and took a refreshing sip of the cool water.

In the presence of her father and older brother, she was being treated like absolute royalty, with both men eager to satisfy her every need.

Cole observed silently as his beloved woman received such devoted attention from the two most important men in her life. He pushed down the flicker of jealousy that rose in his chest and turned to greet Arthur with respect. "Mr. Campbell."

Arthur paused for a moment, as if he'd almost forgotten Cole was even here. His first instinct was clearly to respond with some degree of coldness or hostility. But before he could let that reaction show, Elliana looked at him with an expression that clearly conveyed her message, "Please don't be rude to the man I've chosen to be with."

The surge of protective anger that had been building in Arthur immediately melted away under his daughter's gentle but firm gaze. His stern features softened into a genuinely kind smile, and his voice became warm and welcoming. "Cole, please make yourself comfortable."

Cole didn't miss the silent communication that had just passed between father and daughter. He understood perfectly that it was Lilah's protective intervention that had earned him this courteous treatment from Arthur. His heart filled with overwhelming tenderness at her thoughtfulness and care for him. A joyful smile spread across his face as he responded with sincere gratitude, "Thank you so much, Mr. Campbell."

With that, Cole settled into the comfortable spot on the sofa next to them.

The atmosphere in the room became genuinely pleasant, and Cole found

himself drawn into an engaging conversation with both Arthur and Milton. All three men were exceptionally intelligent and accomplished, and as they talked, they discovered they genuinely enjoyed each other's perspectives and insights. The subtle tensions that had existed between them gradually began to fade away.

Elliana sat quietly nearby, contentedly enjoying her snacks while listening to their discussion. Watching their relationships finally start moving in such a positive direction filled her with deep satisfaction and happiness.

Then, without warning, Cole shifted the conversation in a more serious direction. "Mr. Campbell, there's something I'd really like to ask you about."

"Of course, go ahead," Arthur replied casually, lifting his cup of coffee.

Cole didn't beat around the bush. "Why did you suddenly decide to declare war on Blaze Wildfire, and exactly how far are you planning to take this conflict?"

Arthur had been about to take another sip of his coffee, but he stopped mid-motion and carefully set the cup back down on the table.

Given the enormous influence and power that both the Campbell family and Blaze Wildfire wielded in their respective spheres, the Campbell family's public declaration of war had naturally attracted massive attention and speculation. Arthur wasn't the least bit surprised that Cole would want to know more about the situation.

"If it's at all possible, my intention is to destroy Blaze Wildfire," Arthur stated with calm but unmistakable determination. "As for my specific reasons, those aren't something I want to disclose."

Cole's eyebrows rose slightly in surprise. His future father-in-law actually wanted to obliterate his organization entirely. He decided to press a little further for information. "Would you mind telling me how exactly Blaze Wildfire managed to offend you, Mr. Campbell?"