

## Chapter 681 Bitterness

The moment Stellara appeared, the atmosphere of the venue transformed. What had been anger and restlessness only minutes ago erupted into wild excitement. The earlier disasters were forgotten as the audience drowned in euphoria.

The few agitators who had been trying to storm the stage suddenly found themselves abandoned, their "crowd support" vanishing into thin air. They stood there like fools, caught between advancing and retreating.

Jason immediately recognized this perfect moment and quickly gestured to his security team to move in and quietly remove the stranded agitators.

With every single person in the venue completely mesmerized by Stellara's presence, the swift takedown went entirely unnoticed.

Hidden behind her mysterious veil, Elliana owned the stage with an effortless, magnetic authority that transformed her into the absolute focal point of everyone's attention.

But Cole, standing mere inches away from her, felt like his world had just turned upside down. They had been sharing the same home, the same bed, for the past month. Even with her face now concealed behind that delicate fabric, he recognized her instantly the moment she drew near.

The singer that this audience was going absolutely wild for—that legendary Stellara—was actually Elliana? How was this even possible? Was his mind playing tricks on him? Had he somehow misunderstood what he was witnessing?

Cole had always known Elliana was incredibly talented, but this discovery shattered every assumption he'd ever made about the limits of her ability.

She was Rosa, the artist whose paintings and jewelry had conquered galleries. She was Milena, the medical genius who had unlocked the ancient mysteries of the Medical Codex. She was River, the



technological mastermind behind revolutionary artificial intelligence. She was Death Thorn, the legendary operative whose name was whispered with reverence across Delta.

Any single one of these accomplishments would represent the crowning achievement of an entire lifetime for most people.

He had never even suspected that Elliana's extraordinary gifts extended into the realm of music as well. The realization struck him with the force of a thunderclap.

Stellara—the artist her devoted fans described as a "free spirit who moves like the wind through music." Unlike every other performer in the industry who monetized their creativity, she made all her music freely available to anyone in the world—to listen to, to perform, and to enjoy without restriction.

Stellara created and released songs purely for the joy of sharing her artistic vision with humanity, never seeking financial gain or public recognition. Her millions of passionate followers spanning every continent weren't just captivated by her otherworldly musical talent—songs that resonated the deepest emotions of music lovers everywhere—but also by her untethered, carefree spirit.

Despite never revealing her identity or engaging with her fanbase, she had become a genuine global icon.

Taylor, who considered himself a major celebrity, was nothing more than an amateur compared to Stellara's legendary status.

As Elliana's enchanting voice continued to flow through the arena, Cole stared at her silhouette in complete amazement, his fingers intertwining with hers and gripping tightly as though she might disappear like a mirage. Was there anything in this world that Elliana couldn't master?

Everyone always said that fortune had smiled upon him throughout his life, but it seemed like the universe itself had laid out a golden path for Elliana to walk. He was beginning to wonder if she might actually be some kind of celestial being who had somehow fallen to earth. And this magnificent, otherworldly angel—somehow, impossibly, he had been blessed enough to win her heart. He couldn't bear the thought of ever letting her slip away.

Sensing the intensity of his grip, Elliana turned to catch his gaze, her lips curving into a smile beneath the gossamer veil as the melody built toward its powerful climax.

She pivoted to face the massive audience, pouring every ounce of her soul into the soaring chorus.

The song was "Brilliant Stars," Stellara's very first release and the track that had catapulted her to international fame. It had created a worldwide cultural phenomenon, achieving popularity that defied all expectations. Devoted fans across the globe had created versions in hundreds of different languages, and it remained a beloved anthem to this day.

The instantly recognizable melody awakened something primal in the audience. Starting with just a few voices, then building into a massive choir, they began joining their voices with Elliana's.

The invisible wall between performer and audience completely dissolved, the entire stadium becoming one unified celebration of music. The earlier chaos orchestrated by the agitators vanished entirely, replaced by a transcendent shared experience that made everyone forget the long, agonizing wait.

Concealed in the shadows, Jason watched Cole and Elliana's clasped hands with mixed feelings. He had identified Elliana the instant she stepped into the spotlight. His mask successfully hid his facial expression, but his eyes took on a soft, tender quality as her voice filled his heart with warmth.

Yet, beneath that warmth ran a sharp current of bitterness. He cursed the cruel timing that had brought her into his life so late. If fate had allowed them to meet before Cole entered the picture, would he be the one standing beside her now, holding her hand in front of thousands?

His love for her was profound and all-consuming, but he could never give voice to those feelings. For the remainder of his existence, he was condemned to watch her from a distance—silently, secretly—keeping his devotion locked away in the deepest chambers of his heart.

Behind the stage, the technical crew stood frozen before their monitors, barely able to process what they were witnessing.



"This can't be real... The actual Stellara is here saving this concert!"

"The musical deity we've all been worshipping from afar... She's been living among us as Lilah this whole time!"

"This feels like hitting the ultimate jackpot! We're actually witnessing Stellara perform live with our own eyes!"

The entire staff was buzzing with electric excitement.

The manager stared at the screen in pure disbelief and then delivered a sharp pinch to his own arm. The pain confirmed this wasn't some elaborate dream. Suddenly, he erupted into wild, hysterical laughter. "Unbelievable! Stellara has stepped up to salvage the disaster!"

Emmanuel and Lance stood equally transfixed by the miraculous scene unfolding before them.

"Cole has to be the most fortunate man who ever lived to call a woman like her his woman," Emmanuel whispered with genuine envy.

A dopey, star-struck expression spread across Lance's face. "Elliana is a living legend walking among mortals," he breathed with absolute reverence.

But among everyone backstage, Taylor was experiencing the most intense emotional reaction of all.