

## Chapter 16 Just His Wife

Alicia had been playing cards for two hours and was starting to get bored.

She decided to switch to a different card game, hoping for a change of pace.

Her luck improved right away. She won the first two rounds without any trouble.

During the third round, a tall figure appeared behind her. The presence was strong and impossible to miss.

Alicia didn't even need to look for her to know that it was Caden behind her.

Caden walked past her and sat down, replacing the player across from her.

Alicia picked up her cards and gave him a light smile. "Mr. Ward, are you finally done with your busy schedule?"

Once Caden was settled on the seat, he picked up each card with grace.

He had an air of refinement about him. Still, he fit into the casual environment without seeming out of place.

"I wasn't busy. I just didn't feel like seeing you," he replied calmly.

Alicia's lips twitched in response.

Neither of them brought up the theme song right away.

"What happened to Lilliana's face?" Caden asked, as if it was nothing of importance.

Alicia kept the explanation brief, given that there were people around them.

Caden lifted his gaze and stared at her. His voice dropped as he said, "Miss Bennett, I played a five."

Unfazed, Alicia responded, "So what? Is it bigger than four twos?"

The silence that followed was deafening, leaving the other player feeling visibly uncomfortable.

Caden flicked his card onto the table and passed his turn.

Alicia threw down a three.

Caden responded with a ten, trying to keep the game moving.

Alicia placed her cards down, smirking as she declared, "I've got four of a kind."

The player next to her leaned in and whispered, "Uh... Miss, you just threw down a Four of a Kind. And aren't I supposed to be your common enemy?"

Calmly, Alicia responded, "I'm aware of that."

Well...

The player glanced between Caden and Alicia, feeling awkward. "What a strange way to flirt," he muttered under his breath.

Alicia's mouth twitched, but she didn't respond to him directly.

Turning to Caden, she said, "Let's keep it simple. Whoever finishes their cards first wins."

Caden understood that Alicia wasn't focused on the card game itself.

Thus, he played another card, signaling his agreement to her terms.

Alicia quickly laid down her best cards, barely managing to win the round.

She clapped her hands together and said, "So, the song-writing deal is done then."

Caden gave her a half-smile before flipping his cards face down on the table.

The player looked confused and asked, "What cards did you have? She barely had anything left, and you still couldn't beat her?"

When the cards were revealed, the player stared in shock. "A straight flush? Why didn't you play it?"

Alicia didn't know how to respond.

She had been quietly pleased with her win, only to realize that Caden had let her have it.

Suddenly, the victory felt meaningless.

After the player left, a waiter came to clear the table and served two cups of coffee.

Alicia lifted her cup and looked directly at Caden.

"Why did you let me win on purpose?" she asked.

Alicia assumed that Caden's long silence meant he wasn't interested in replying.

Then, Caden's lips curved into a slight smile. "Even if you beat me, it doesn't mean you can beat Lilliana."

Casually and sharply, Alicia replied, "Mr. Ward, you seem quite proud of her."

"She has earned my pride," he replied calmly.

"Oh, so it's her abilities that impress you," Alicia said with a hint of sarcasm in her voice. "I thought you were only buying her company to get back at Joshua."

Caden raised an eyebrow, unfazed by her remark.

He accepted her words with ease and responded slowly, "Both."

Alicia was caught off guard by his honesty.

"Have you been sleeping with his mistress?" she asked.

"For now, just his wife," Caden replied without hesitation.

A strange feeling stirred inside Alicia. She quickly told him, "I'm no longer his wife. We're divorced."

Alicia attempted to change the subject, but her blushing ears gave her away.

She couldn't erase the memory of that night, no matter how hard she tried.

Caden noticed the small reactions she made. A slight smile tugged at his lips as he observed her.

She blushed so easily, and yet she had the nerve to lie about something as bold as a hymen repair.

The irony brought him some amusement. "Why the sudden divorce? Weren't you just making a big deal over that cheap ten-dollar ring a few days ago?" he asked.

Alicia found herself at a loss for words.

His remark cut deep.

That ring had been nothing more than a cheap token. It was barely worth ten dollars. Now, it was just a sad reminder of her failed marriage.

Lowering her eyes, she spoke softly. "Since we've wrapped up business, I'm leaving."

Caden's eyes followed her as she stood up to go.

Just then, he caught sight of Joshua's car arriving outside.

Caden uncrossed his legs and stood up. Without a word, he made his way outside.

Joshua came to pick up Lilliana after work.

When he spotted Alicia leaving the cafe, he deliberately drove over to the entrance.

His initial plan was to simply offer her a ride.

However, the moment he rolled down the passenger window, Lilliana reacted first. She hurled her cup of coffee straight at Alicia.

The entire cup splashed over Alicia's chest, drenching her thin clothes and leaving her looking completely disheveled.

Joshua's expression darkened as he took in the scene.

Lilliana sneered, "Oops, my mistake, Miss Bennett. I thought you were the trash can."

The tone of her voice displayed her malice.

Alicia frowned and attempted to clean herself up, but the effort was useless.

Joshua gripped the car door handle, ready to get out. However, he stopped when he noticed Caden walking toward them.



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 +120 Points at most

Caden approached Alicia.

He took off his coat and placed it over her shoulders, covering the soaked area entirely. ⓘ



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