

Her Seven LBG 361

Chapter 361

Melanie's eyes were blazing as she stared at the phone.

Soon, Josie got a reply.

When she saw the message, she exclaimed, "What?!"

Melanie immediately snatched the phone to see the message for herself, and her eyes widened in shock once she read it. "Jones Enterprise declares bankruptcy, and the entire Jones Family has left Hammond?!"

"How is it possible for him to leave Hammond? Why would Hanson let him get away?" Melanie was doubtful.

Suddenly, a thought struck her, and she turned to Josie. "Mom, look up who Dylan has met in the past few days."

A short while later, Josie handed the information she received to Melanie.

They were both in an uproar as Melanie slammed her hand on the table. "That b*stard! He betrayed me!"

Josie was in disbelief. "I can't believe he chose to give up on the family company. He's a lot more hard-hearted than I thought."

She clasped Melanie's hand and said, "Looks like we'll have to continue using that woman, Bella Godwin."

Melanie's eyes were flashing as she formulated a new plan.

For the next few days, Melanie kept a low profile, so all was well with the world.

It was finally the grand finale of 'The Voice'.

The top ten contestants all rejoined the competition. Two among them were chosen as representatives to battle it out with the finalists, and the battle would lead to a new set of finalists competing for the ultimate victory.

Bella, who had been blacklisted from the entertainment industry, did not rank among the returning contestants.

Even so, she still showed up in Melanie's dressing room. If anyone observed her carefully, they would

notice that her features looked significantly different now. Enough time had elapsed since she went under the knife, and there were no obvious signs of her getting work done.

Melanie had a cold expression on her face as she instructed Bella, "I won't allow any mistakes this time."

"I've already changed my name and appearance so that I can resume working in entertainment once I'm done with this. Why would I make a mistake now?" Bella gritted her teeth.

She had an all-new identity now—Esther Godwin.

As long as she followed today's plan, Melanie would arrange for her to return to the entertainment industry once more, so she was determined to ensure that the plan succeeded.

Melanie glanced at Bella's stiff expression and said, "You need to be able to recite the information I gave you like it's the back of your hand, and you must improvise when necessary, understood?"

Bella's grip tightened around the papers as her gaze hardened. "I've practiced countless times. As long as your part of the plan succeeds, I won't fail."

Melanie stared at her imperiously. "That better be true."

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Vania's thoughts led her to subconsciously gaze at Hanson's face. What's so special about him? Why do so many women fall at his feet?

When he sensed Vania's gaze, Hanson turned to look her in the eye, but all he saw was her bemused expression.

Hanson grew a little exasperated since he could tell what she was thinking. He commented in a gentle voice, "It seems like you're not too happy about the way your man looks."

His voice was alluring enough to make anyone who heard him turn scarlet.

On the other hand, Vania glanced at Kiki instinctively before giving Hanson a warning look. "The program is about to start. Let's go over there now."

Doesn't he know where we are right now? How can he just say such things?

Hanson smirked and nodded agreeably. "Okay."

However, his brilliant smile only served to send an arrow straight through Kiki's heart. She had already been blushing hard from his words earlier, and she could not even lift her head to look at him now.

Her eyes were dazed as she stared after their retreating backs.

Meanwhile, Melanie saw everything that happened and scoffed derisively. Her expression was stormy as she derided, How can an unknown little tryhard even think about Hanson like that? How shameless.

She then strutted over to Kiki.

Kiki was startled to see Melanie staring at her with such a fearsome expression. However, she quickly regained her composure and greeted Melanie with a smile, "Do you need something from me?"

Melanie sneered. "You don't need to put on an act in front of me."

They were all sly foxes here, so there was no point in pretending to be innocent.

Kiki's smile stiffened as she laughed a little unnaturally. "I don't know what you're talking about."

Melanie's expression became even more scornful as she said, "I've seen a ton of fake b*tches like you before, so don't bother trying to act innocent. Whose pity are you trying to get, huh? President Luke's?"

Kiki's eyes widened in alarm as she frantically shook her head. "I'm not, though."

"Do you think I'm blind? Everyone can see the look in your eyes when you stare at Hanson."

Melanie's words cut like a knife, and every word was laced with her utter loathing for Kiki.

Kiki rushed to defend herself. "That's not true! I just came over to thank Ms. Greyson and President Luke."

Melanie scoffed and stared at Kiki derisively. "Hanson has probably grown sick and tired of hearing words like that from women like you."

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Melanie's smile did not reach her eyes. "President Luke is a very distinguished man, and such a man would have countless women desperately trying to get close to him. None of them have ever succeeded, though. My words might have been a bit harsh earlier, but I'm only saying it for your own good."

There was no doubt in her mind that Hanson would not be interested in Kiki. In fact, she could tell from the way he barely paid any attention to her.

Hanson's eyes seemed to sparkle whenever he looked at Vania, but he looked at Kiki the way he looked at Melanie. It was like he saw right through them and was not at all keen to stay in their presence any longer than necessary.

Therefore, Melanie came up with a new idea. Rather than wasting her breath and trying to duke it out with Kiki who had no hope of getting close to Hanson in any way, why not find a way to get Kiki on her

side as an ally against Vania?

"Do you understand what I'm trying to say?" Melanie asked sweetly when she saw that Kiki was still staring at her in confusion.

Kiki looked at her apologetically. "I think you've gotten the wrong idea. President Luke is indeed an incredible man, but I don't have such thoughts about him."

Melanie figured that Kiki was just too stubborn to admit it since she had spotted the admiration in Kiki's eyes when she looked at Hanson earlier.

She chuckled and said, "You don't have to be shy about it. It's not embarrassing to carry a torch for President Luke. Any woman who sees him would naturally develop an attraction toward him. In fact, it'd be weird if she didn't."

Melanie leaned in and advised, "It's fine if you like President Luke, but you should be careful around Vania."

Kiki's expression froze once more as she glanced at Melanie.

The latter continued, "If Vania does anything to you in the future, remember to come and look for me."

She made sound like it was an absolute certainty that it would happen. After patting Kiki on the shoulder, she walked away with a smile, looking like a cat that caught the canary.

Meanwhile, Kiki did not say a word. She looked over at Vania and Hanson, who were engaged in cheerful conversation, and turned to leave with a neutral expression on her face.

Soon, the stage was set for recording to begin.

The host stood on stage as the lights all came on at once, and the venue fell silent.

It was time to start the live broadcast.

Once again, the host introduced the contestants, judges, and guests present at the venue before announcing the theme of today's competition.

The host announced excitedly, "Tonight is the night of 'The Voice's grand finale, and the contestant who is crowned the champion will have the honor of singing the latest creation of the songwriting genius, Lunastella!"

"Whoa! Good luck, everyone!" The audience beneath the stage began to holler and scream their support.

The audience watching the live stream eagerly looked up Lunastella's credentials.

She had shot into fame five years ago.

At first, Lunastella started with a few songs that were published online and sung by small-time singers. While her songs did go viral, she continued to be relatively unknown in the music industry.

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'Even though we can't see Lunastella herself, it's so thrilling that we're going to hear her new song soon!'

'Hurry up and start the finale.'

Amidst the roaring crowd, the host announced, "The grand finale of 'The Voice' begins now! Good luck to all the contestants."

The competition ran smoothly as the contestants sang one after another nervously.

Every precaution possible had been taken to ensure the validity of the votes.

Finally, the first round of the finale came to an end. Melanie was in fifth place, while Kiki maintained her position at the top.

Melanie's eyes darkened as her hatred for Kiki intensified.

The host announced, "Coming up next is the moment that we've all been waiting for!"

"Lunastella! Lunastella..."

It was time for her assistant to come on stage and deliver the most important vote from her.

The host grinned from ear to ear. "That's right! Let us welcome Lunastella's assistant onto the stage right now!"

Bella calmly went up on stage as the crowd cheered in frenzy.

Her gaze was proud as she basked in the thrill of having all eyes on her. She waved at everyone before disguising her voice to say, "Nice to meet you, everyone. I am Lunastella's assistant, Esther Godwin."

The moment Vania spotted the person who went on stage, she shifted in her seat and stared at the stage with an indiscernible expression.

While both the studio audience and the online viewers cheered as well, they were also a little mystified.

Somehow, this assistant looked rather familiar, but they could not identify who it was. There was something odd about her features too.

'Did she get some work done on her face?'

'Why does Lunastella's assistant look so weird? Is this why Lunastella doesn't ever show herself?'

'Why does this person look like the one who got blacklisted, Bella Godwin? Her face is so odd.'

The host was in close proximity to her, so he could naturally spot some traces of the surgery she had gotten done on her face. He was puzzled too, but since he was a professional, he kept a straight face and said, "Welcome, Esther. Thank you for joining us here today, and greetings to Lunastella who is joining us from afar as well."

"Thank you for the love that you have for Lunastella, everyone. Before I came here, she reminded me to thank all of you for the love you have shown to her." Bella sounded completely natural, which proved how much she had practiced this bit.

Excitement was at an all-time high at the venue thanks to her arrival. They were in eager anticipation for the vote she brought with her.

The host asked, "Shall we announce the contestant who has received Lunastella's vote?"

Bella nodded. "Lunastella has followed the competition closely. Before she gives her vote, she would like to ask all the contestants a question."

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The other contestants were stunned by Melanie's action. They could not wait to find out what would happen to those who stepped forward.

No one could have predicted the words that came out of Bella's mouth the moment this happened. Their jaws dropped when they heard her announce, "Lunastella's vote will go to Melanie Greyson."

The audience was dumbstruck.

'What just happened? The vote was placed just like that?'

'Is this some kind of a joke? The vote went to the one who isn't a professional singer.'

'Did the producers plan this segment to lighten the mood?'

'You can see the shock in all the other contestants' eyes too, and even the host is frozen with the microphone half-raised. He probably doesn't know what to say to this either.'

'Hah! I want to know why the vote went to her. What's the logic behind this?'

The crowd was slowly stirring from their shock. Some of the contestants were regretting that they had not stepped forward, while some were indignant about the results, and some were envious of Melanie.

Amidst everyone's uproar, the smile on Vania's face deepened. It seems like it's Melanie's lucky day today.

Melanie had made it a point to choose an outfit befitting a queen today. Now that she stood under the spotlight, she looked every bit like a deserving champion. The only thing missing was her crown.

The host maintained his cool as he continued to interview Bella. "Can you tell us the reason behind Lunastella's vote? I think a lot of the contestants and audience are keen to find out as well."

"Of course." Bella spoke convincingly. "The style of Lunastella's newest song is very different from her past creations, so she wants to find a naturally-gifted singer who has never been molded in any particular way before to sing her song," she said.

As if she were afraid that the others would not get her explanation, she added, "Lunastella believes that it's easier to create a masterpiece on a blank canvas."

The contestants all nodded in agreement as they cursed themselves for not stepping forward earlier. They had let such a wonderful opportunity slip through their hands.

This time, the host turned to Melanie. "Please share your thoughts with us, Melanie."

Melanie accepted the microphone with a smug smile. "I'm very surprised, but also very thrilled. It's an honor to be selected by Lunastella, and I won't let anyone down."

Her words were gracious and very suitable for such an occasion.

Melanie was certain that victory was hers, and she was as proud as a peacock as she carried herself with an air of superiority.

The host went to the center of the stage. His voice trembled slightly in his excitement as he announced, "I will now announce..."

"The winner! Who's the winner?!" The audience was impatient to find out what the results were going to be.

Even though there was a ninety-nine percent chance that the winner would be Melanie, the audience was still waiting to see if there could be an unexpected twist.

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The soundtrack for the awards ceremony began to play and the host announced, "Let us now welcome our four judges on stage, along with Miss Godwin, to present the award to tonight's champion, Melanie Greyson!"

As for the live broadcast online, it was now showing the advertisements for the various program sponsors, which came just before the end of the episode. 'The Voice' would soon be coming to a close.

However, as soon as the judges began to move, Vania picked up a microphone and said, "Stop the music and resume the live broadcast, director. Today's competition will need a little overtime."

Everyone was dumbstruck when they heard what she said. This was even more shocking than the announcement earlier about Melanie winning.

'I don't understand what's going on. Is Vania Greyson trying to protest the results?'

'There's always a twist whenever Melanie Greyson's involved. Let's see what it is this time.'

'Here we go again! This is even more entertaining than the competition itself.'

'What's up with the sound engineers? Too shocked to do their jobs?'

'I wish I could see Melanie Greyson's expression right now.'

Melanie's face was indeed frozen stiff. Her fingers dug into the palm of her hand as she gripped the microphone and held back the urge to hit someone. She had been wondering why Vania stayed silent all this while today. So, you're going to cause a scene at the end, huh? A b*tch will always be a b*tch.

Melanie's blood was boiling as her face contorted into a menacing expression.

On the contrary, Vania seemed perfectly calm and even Hanson looked unaffected by it all. He had absolute faith in Vania, as the woman he loved was no ordinary person.

The host sounded rather awkward. "Was there something you'd like to add, Ms. Greyson?"

"She's a fake. The results are invalid," Vania announced coolly as she gestured toward Bella.

A fake? Everyone's jaws dropped.

Melanie's anger instantly turned to shock and bewilderment.

What did Vania know about this? She was completely certain that no one else knew about her plan.

Everyone had heard about the production team inviting Lunastella's assistant to the competition. All Melanie did was locate the real assistant before sending people to stop her from coming to the filming location, then asked Bella to replace the real assistant. She relied completely on people she trusted to carry this plan out, so where had it gone wrong?

The host gaped for a moment, and when he regained his composure, he looked at Vania and said, "Could you please tell us what you mean?"

No one understood what was happening at all. Vania's words made no sense to them.

Vania threw Bella a derisive look before announcing into the microphone with absolute certainty, "She's a fake."

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Once again, the online viewers began to flood the screen with their comments.

'Vania's pretty tough, huh? She dominated the floor with just that sentence, "You're not worth the effort".'

'Melanie might've dressed like she owns the place, but she looks like a joke next to Vania's actual dominance.'

'Why does Melanie always end up getting exposed? I'm so curious to know what happened.'

'I don't get it. Why is Melanie still allowed to show her face in public? She poisoned her kids, set Vania up with a false accusation of plagiarism, kept trying to get her five minutes of fame by using President Luke, and cheated in the competition! Who on earth is backing her right now?'

'I agree with your comment. Melanie has been exposed numerous times now. Any ordinary person would've been hiding their head somewhere in shame by now, but she's shameless enough to show her face time and time again.'

Melanie's image was tattered thanks to all that she had done, but she still did whatever she wanted, as if getting exposed for everything did not affect her at all.

This time, Melanie spoke up and seemingly addressed everyone's suspicions.

She glared at Vania and said, "I know you don't like me and I don't like you too, but it's an undeniable truth that I have two kids with President Luke. Even if you're in a relationship with President Luke right now, it still won't change this reality."

Her words left everyone else thunderstruck.

They heard about such rumors but never could tell if they were true.

Now that Melanie admitted it herself, everyone came to a realization.

'So Melanie really is the mother of President Luke's two kids, huh? She's that woman who has been hidden for the past five years.'

'It seems like President Luke is already in a relationship with Vania now.'

'I never thought these three people were involved in a love triangle. No wonder Melanie keeps picking a fight with Vania. This has to be why Melanie is still able to show up on stage despite all the negative publicity she's got. It must be thanks to President Luke.'

'Didn't any of you notice that President Luke doesn't seem that fond of Melanie? He has never said anything good about her.'

'I just hope Vania isn't the third party in this.'

'The mess just keeps growing. Didn't President Luke make an announcement about this before? Why is Vania the third party now? I hope President Luke makes a statement about this.'

Meanwhile, Vania did not pay any attention to everyone else's reactions. She scoffed at Melanie and taunted, "No one mentioned anything about this, so why are you bringing it up? You and I are both perfectly aware of who you are, so you don't need to bother announcing it to the world. The matter at hand right now is the validity of her identity."

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'I thought there'd be a twist, but I didn't expect an entire maze of twists...'

Bella trembled so violently that she nearly dropped her microphone.

Her surgery had been done in total secrecy, and she even disguised her voice today, so how did Vania find out about this?

She was stricken with fear and the voice inside her head kept repeating, I'm done for.

Melanie froze as well as a chill ran down her spine. She was on edge as she waited to hear what Vania would say next.

However, Bella's terror somehow made her bolder, albeit taking leave of her senses too. She gritted her teeth and berated Vania, "How dare you call me a fake? What gives you the right?"

She screeched at the top of her lungs until the tiny device she placed inside her mouth to change her voice fell onto the floor without her noticing.

Bella continued to put up a fight. "Where's the evidence to back up your claims that I changed my name?"

Vania raised her brows in amusement and pointed at the device on the ground. "Would that count as evidence?"

Bella glanced at it and her eyes nearly popped out.

Melanie tried her best to catch Bella's attention and warn her not to say anything else, but Bella did not look at her at all.

By now, Bella forgot to keep her act up. Her expression was sinister as she screamed, "You're a b*tch, Vania Greyson! You're just trying to get back at me!"

"Oh? Is there some kind of conflict between us? It seems like you're not Esther Godwin after all," Vania chuckled.

Bella's expression changed when she realized she had dropped the facade, but she could not take it back anymore, so she screamed, "You're just trying to set me up and get back at me because I like President Luke! Hah! I'm going to expose your true colors to the entire world today!"

She turned to the live-feed camera and said behind gritted teeth, "Vania Greyson is an evil and cunning woman! She pretends to be a weak and gentle woman to gain President Luke's trust, and then she uses all sorts of heinous tactics to get rid of any woman who comes near him so that she'll be the only one who stays beside him."

Vania had not said anything, but Bella turned to her and huffed, "Did I miss out on anything?"

Vania's expression was calm as she was not at all concerned by Bella's attempts to besmirch her. "What you're saying has nothing to do with today's competition."

"I don't care if it has nothing to do with the competition. If you don't have the guts to refute me, then it means I'm right! You can't say anything in your defense because it's the truth!" Bella gloated as she believed that she had managed to turn the tables on Vania.

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"However, you'll never be able to file a countersuit."

Bella felt a shiver run down her spine as she saw how confident Vania was. Her heart began pounding. Wasn't she afraid of me earlier? Why is she different now?

Melanie could tell that Bella's future was already a given.

She did not care about losing the help of Bella, but she could not allow Bella to drag her down as well. She frantically tried to formulate a contingency plan.

Just then, Vania turned to the perplexed host and said politely, "I would like you to help me with something."

The host had been at a loss for quite some time now, so now that Vania was willing to take the lead, he nodded at once. "By all means, ask away."

Vania took her phone out. "Help me connect this to the projector. There's something I'd like to share with everyone."

"Of course, just give me a moment." The host called out to the sound engineers and got everything set up for Vania.

Everyone, including the host, turned their gaze toward the giant screen on stage.

Vania swiftly opened the profile page on a music platform.

The Internet connection was a little slow, so it took a while to refresh.

'Why is she showing us this?'

'Isn't this the platform that Lunastella uses? Her songs were first released here.'

'My guess is that the profile page has a picture of her assistant.'

'Could it be that Vania Greyson is Lunastella's assistant?'

There was no way of knowing how the cogs turned in some of the netizens' heads as they came up with the idea that Vania would be an assistant.

To be fair, a lot of the contestants, judges, and members of the audience had the same thought as well.

Right at that moment, the profile page refreshed and displayed the information for all to see.

There were a few key pieces of information.

Artist Name: Lunastella

Legal Name: Vania Greyson

These two lines were followed by several certificates, as well as a detailed record of all her published

works and the awards she won.

There were also platform notices, online comments, and so on. Everything proved that Vania was indeed Lunastella.

Once again, another of Vania's identity was revealed—a songwriting genius with countless awards to her name.

Everyone fell into a state of absolute shock and disbelief.

Melanie clenched her fists at once. It's her again? How many identities does she have? Her gaze was different from everyone else as she scrutinized Vania.

As for Bella, she had broken out in a cold sweat as she chanted to herself, It's all over. It's all over for me.

Chapter 370

"Does this mean the winner's going to be someone else? What are the results now?"

"I want to know what the theme of Lunastella's latest song is!"

The audience called out all the questions they had.

Vania was very patient. She gestured for them to quieten down before speaking into the microphone, "My assistant was attacked while making her way over here."

She emphasized the word "attacked" and the audience shuddered as their thoughts went straight to the worst-case scenario.

Melanie was ashen, and Bella was trembling so hard that she nearly lost her balance.

Even they, the ones who plotted the whole thing, did not know the condition and whereabouts of that assistant right now. Vania had been on-site all along, so how did she find out?

Melanie had a pretty solid plan in mind already. No matter what, she had to place all the blame on Bella for everything.

As everyone grew fraught with anxiety, Vania played an audio recording.

The sound quality was rather poor, but still clear enough to hear the conversation that had been recorded.

It started with a loud screeching sound of someone slamming the brakes on a car, and then a woman

exclaimed in fear, "Who are you guys?! Let go of me!"

Following that, there was a rowdy group of men who began to holler and curse.

The woman's mouth was stuffed with something as her screams turned muffled and indistinct.

At the very end, a man said, "Hey Daggert, I found it. Sandy and I will stay behind to keep an eye on her. You can go ahead and take the documents and credentials to them."

The audio recording ended at that.

Just as a few people moved to question the validity of the audio recording, Vania spoke up first. "I've already reported this to the police, and based on the information I provided to them, they were able to locate my assistant. Thankfully, she only had a few external injuries, nothing serious. As for those three hooligans who kidnapped her, they've been found and taken into police custody."

Melanie and Bella were in a daze to find out that Vania had managed to strike that quickly.

Vania added, "I won't say anything more about this case. The police will report their findings once they finish their investigation."

Even though Vania did not declare who the mastermind was, everyone knew the answer already.

They scoffed at Melanie and Bella with disdain.

The two women were ripped to shreds by the audience.

Melanie's eyes darted around as she tried to find an escape.

Bella was petrified. Her gut was telling her that there was no way she was getting out of it this time.