

Love OT 311

Chapter 311 I'm Afraid

Vania expressed her disapproval before fleeing away with the medical kit, whereas Hanson burst into a peal of hearty laughter like a vibrant flower blooming.

After running back to her room, she flopped in bed and covered herself under the blanket for a sense of security.

Living under the same roof with Hanson was undeniably a huge challenge for her. Her coping mechanism was tested day by day.

However, Hanson soon opened the door before she could even center herself. The sight of his beaming face caused her to wrap herself tighter with the blanket. Nervous, she stammered with her words, "Erm... It's late already. What are you doing here? Get out."

Considering that it would be inappropriate of him to be in her room at this hour, she attempted to drive him away.

Nevertheless, the persistent Hanson ignored her words as he sat at the edge of her bed.

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"I'm scared to be alone."

His childish act wasn't over yet, and Vania almost choked on her saliva as she coughed.

Can he at least make up a good excuse? It's not like any kind of excuse will work for a thirty-year-old man. How dare he claim that he's afraid when his kids haven't said something like that before? Besides, it's not like it's his first day staying here. How come he's showing his frailty only now? Ridiculous! Strings of reproach directed to Hanson fledged across her mind.

Glaring at him from the corner of her eyes, she paid no heed to his obvious lies, but Hanson managed to rest his legs on the bed when she wasn't paying attention.

He took a glance at her, who didn't budge at all, before repeating, "I'm really scared."

"Then tell me. What are you afraid of?" Vania was skeptical of his ulterior motives. It seemed like he was testing her limits in order to share the same bed with her.

Staring into her doubtful eyes, Hanson nodded. "It's not like what you think. I'm really scared. I wanna sleep with you."

His direct answer almost shocked her into a daze. Alarmed, she got up from the bed and sat down to refuse properly. "No." She wasn't an easy game and she had her principles.

He chuckled at her adorable reaction. "Just what are you thinking about? I'm not that kind of guy. I'm just afraid."

In contrast to his gentleman remarks, Vania seemed more like the one with a lewd mind.

“If you’re really afraid, you can sleep with your kids. There will be more people in a room there. I’m sure you will feel safe,” retorted Vania coldly.

“But they’re asleep. I shouldn’t disturb them, should I?” He began to act like a good father. “Don’t worry. I won’t do anything to you. I’m a gentleman who keeps his promise.”

“Tough luck. I don’t trust you.” She had learned from her past experience, and would never fall for his tricks anymore.

Hanson kneaded his forehead as words failed him. He had not expected his credibility to be close to zilch. “Should I pledge to you like a soldier?”

Chapter 312 Yields to a Soft Approach

Vania pouted. “This isn’t the olden days where people had to follow whatever you say. So, no means no,” she spoke up righteously.

As soon as Hanson saw the insistent look in Vania’s eyes, he knew that if he proceeded with his actions tonight, there wouldn’t be an outcome.

As such, he reached out and took her into his arms. Subsequently, he dragged her backward as they fell onto the bed.

“Ah...” She was taken by surprise as she exclaimed, “What are you trying to do?” Since when did he get up on my bed?

Vania was held tightly in his arms and she had no way of struggling out of them. She heard him speak up in a weary voice, “Be good and stop making a fuss. I’m really tired, so I won’t do anything to you. I just want to hold you in my arms and have a good night’s sleep.”

His fatigue was evident in his voice and actions, especially since he appeared to be close to falling asleep at any second now.

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After she heard his words, she instantly stopped struggling.

Hanson gave a slight smile and thought, She’s indeed one who only yields to a soft approach.

His lips curled upward into a smile as he pulled her tighter into his arms as a wave of exhaustion hit him.

In fact, Hanson was not lying. He usually had sleep issues and they only worsened when he moved houses and knew that she lived next door. Now that he had the woman of his dreams in his arms, she was like a sleeping pill for him, and he felt extremely at ease. At the same time, there was a wave of exhaustion that he hadn’t experienced for quite some time overwhelming him now.

However, for Vania, it was the exact opposite. She had never been held in any man’s arms before. The warmth from Hanson’s body felt like a burst of sunlight, and she felt uncomfortable with the warmth.

She rolled from left to right repeatedly, but she couldn't seem to find a comfortable position.

Although she tossed and turned, she couldn't seem to be able to get some shut-eye. Furthermore, she couldn't help recalling the fateful night five years ago.

Ever since Hanson appeared by her side, she could not help but picture Hanson's face on that man. It was as if Hanson was the one from that fateful night.

She heaved a silent sigh, and in the darkness, she suddenly heard Hanson's voice out dangerously, "Vania, if you keep moving, I wouldn't mind breaking my word this once."

As soon as Vania heard that, she suddenly froze, as if someone had cast a spell on her.

Perhaps it was too late at night or perhaps because she had him by her side, her stiff body gradually turned silent, and she fell asleep in his arms.

Hanson sensed the even breathing from the person next to him, and he tightened his grip on her before kissing her on the forehead. "Good night, darling."

Subsequently, he fell asleep too.

That night, he had a very restful sleep, and he slept much better than when he took any sleeping pills. He felt comfortably at ease at that moment, and the weariness within him dissipated. Furthermore, he experienced a perfect dream that he never had.

The next morning, dawn had just broken and Hanson woke up invigorated. He glanced at Vania's sleeping look and kissed her gently on her forehead before creeping out of bed. Subsequently, he walked out of the room.

He came back into the room in less than ten minutes. This time, he had a large bag with him, and he crouched over silently. He arranged his regularly used products all over Vania's room, and he seemed intent on taking over the room.

After completing his mission of arranging his stuff around Vania's room, he clapped his hands with a pleased expression.

Once the sun came out, Vania's biological clock was activated and she woke up like clockwork.

She could feel herself being held tightly in someone's arms, and she wriggled uncomfortably. As soon as she opened her eyes, though, she discovered Hanson's face in front of her, and she instantly retreated backward in fright. After she had come back to her senses, she recalled that Hanson had insisted on staying over the night before.

Chapter 313 Confronted by the Kids

Subsequently, Vania examined her clothes and heaved a sigh of relief. Her clothes were intact, so it was obvious that nothing untoward had occurred.

At that moment, Hanson had his eyes shut, and it felt as if he was fast asleep the entire time.

She got up silently, but before she got out of bed, she noticed the item on the ground.

Instantly, she was taken by surprise and her feet hung loosely by the side of the bed. Just then, she felt as if there was no space for her to put down her feet. Aren't these Hanson's belongings? When did he move it over? Did I lose my memory last night? I remember him coming by himself without anything when he entered the room last night.

She blinked and looked at Hanson, who was fast asleep in bed. Subsequently, she glanced at the messy items on the ground, and she rubbed her half-open eyes. She reckoned that she must have gotten up on the wrong side of the bed. It looked like she had to wake up again.

However, she opened her eyes once again and the scene in front of her remained the same.

In actuality, after Hanson had woken up earlier, he could no longer go back to sleep. He sensed Vania's movement, so he pretended to turn in his sleep in a dazed state as he looked at Vania. "What's wrong, darling? Why are you up so early?"

She shuddered as soon as she heard that. She couldn't stand hearing that magnetic voice of his so early in the morning.

In response, she pointed at the items on the ground. "Hanson, you seemed to have sleepwalked."

He pretended he didn't know what was going on as he grunted in response. Subsequently, he looked in the direction of where she pointed and disregarded her sleepwalking comments. "This is just nice, right? It saves us from the effort of moving."

Not only was he unsurprised, but he seemed quite pleased with the outcome.

At that point, Vania instantly knew what was going on. He's so schemeful! He seems to be plotting against me endlessly.

"Since you seem to like this room so much, I'll let you have it. I'll move next door tonight."

He suddenly took her into his arms. "Your man's right here, so where do you think you're going, huh?"

His voice was quite seductive, and Vania's heart thumped frantically as she heard that.

He lowered his head and tried to obtain the first kiss in the morning from her, but before he could do anything, the door was suddenly opened from the outside.

Vania woke up at the same time every day, so the four children were used to that.

However, they didn't see their mommy today, so they popped over together to greet her.

"Mommy..."

As soon as they opened the door, the four of them were instantly shocked, and they remained frozen in the doorway.

They stood there motionless, like wooden puppets.

Meanwhile, Hanson and Vania clearly didn't expect this scene, and they froze too as they sat there like statues.

After quite some time, they finally came back to their senses, and Vania instantly shoved Hanson aside before glancing at her four children. She smiled awkwardly, "Hehe! Darlings, why are you guys up so early today?"

Jack responded, "Mommy, it's actually quite late. We usually wake up at this time of the day."

Subsequently, he turned to look at Hanson, slightly hostile, "Why are you in Mommy's room?"

Hanson voiced out calmly, "I've moved in to stay with your mommy." He twisted the ring on his finger repeatedly, seemingly flaunting it to the four kids.

As soon as Vania heard his frank words, she felt more awkward than ever. She could only chuckle awkwardly as she glanced at her children.

Suddenly, James snorted coldly. "Mommy, did he force you into this?"

"Uhh. Well... He said that he was scared."

Vania had no choice but to say that. Besides, she was actually telling the truth.

The four of them grimaced upon hearing that and thought, Mommy is the only one who would fall for such a lie. They noticed Hanson's action and the ring on their mommy's finger, so they clearly knew what was going on.

Chapter 314 Battle Between Hanson and the Kids

The kids refused to condone Hanson's smugness, so they asked, "It's now daytime, so you shouldn't be afraid anymore, right?"

Jacob piped up too, "You can get out of Mommy's room now."

Hanson pointed to the items on the ground and relayed the fact to the four of them, "From now on, this is our room."

Subsequently, Hanson leaned back in bed, and he looked quite relaxed there.

The four of them looked at Hanson being at ease in the room, and they crossed their arms before jumping into bed too.

James spoke up, "We'll stay here to keep you company."

Jack nodded, "That's right. There are so many of us here, so I'm sure you won't feel afraid with all of us around."

The four of them kept their eyes intently on him, and they were quite wary of him making any over-the-top actions.

Hanson kept his eyes on the four of them as well. The five of them seemed to be channeling a battle.

Meanwhile, Vania looked at the scene in front of her and couldn't help the restless feeling that arose within her.

She quickly went forward and tried to diffuse the situation. "That's enough, darlings. Let's not get upset with a patient."

As soon as the four of them realized that Vania seemed to be trying to stand up for Hanson, they instantly turned to look at Vania with anger on their faces.

Vania felt slightly awkward, so she quickly changed the topic. "I'll go and prepare breakfast for everyone." She quickly fled the battlefield upon saying that.

Although Vania left the room, neither of the four kids nor Hanson wanted to make the first move.

They continued to stare at each other as before. James scrutinized Hanson for quite some time before voicing out solemnly, like a fatherly figure, "Tell me what's the situation between the two of you." As James spoke, he reached out and pointed to the ring around Hanson's finger.

Hanson stretched out his finger smugly and looked at it. He was obviously quite pleased as he spoke, "It's exactly as you guys imagined. I've officially confessed my feelings toward your mommy and we're now in a relationship." As Hanson said that, he generously displayed his ring to the four kids. "How do you find it? It looks great, huh? Your mommy likes it very much."

They snorted without giving their comments.

However, they couldn't help remarking snidely upon seeing his smug expression, "Don't forget that we've still got an ongoing evaluation on you."

Hanson nodded. "Sure, I won't forget about that."

As he spoke, he lamented, "My wife's very blessed to have the four of you."

However, the four of them disregarded his praise, and they spoke up with a grimace, "What did you just say?"

Did he just address Mommy as his wife?! Instantly, anger welled up within the four of them.

He had made the mistake of saying the wrong thing. After all, it was unwise of him to behave affectionately all of a sudden in front of the four jealous little ones.

He quickly voiced out, "Hehe, I'm just getting used to the endearment beforehand."

The four of them snorted coldly once again and glared at him warningly.

James spoke up once again, "How's the progress with your investigation into that matter?"

Evidently, James was referring to the destruction of the house and the adverse effect on Bella.

Hanson's expression reverted to his usual cold look, and he nodded at the four of them. "It's all under control. Right now, we'll just have to wait for the other person to make a move."

As Hanson spoke, there was a ferocious look that flashed across his eyes. "However, there is no need to feel anxious because our goal is to entice the enemy into our trap and then round up all of them once and for all."

James nodded approvingly. "We must make sure that Mommy's kept safe. The same incident must not happen again."

Hanson nodded and ruffled James' hair. "I know what to do."

Chapter 315 Melanie and Bella's Scheme

Just then, Vania opened the door to the room, and she popped her head inside as she spoke, "How's your discussion going? Are you guys ready for breakfast?"

"Sure." All five of them revealed a similar expression, and the current mood was quite relaxed and amicable. This was an indication that they were ready for breakfast.

At that moment, Vania backed off as she realized that the only thing to stop their fight was to entice them with food.

They enjoyed breakfast together amicably.

Hanson and Vania tidied their clothes and then got ready to head to work.

Hanson turned to Vania and said, "Darling, could you help me with my necktie?"

He purposely lifted his injured hand in front of him and looked expectantly at Vania.

She noticed his expression in the mirror and heaved a sigh in her mind. Subsequently, she turned around and grabbed his necktie before tightening it for him forcefully. "Done."

He stuck out his tongue at her exaggeratedly and said, "Darling, this is an attempted murder."

"I noticed that you seem quite good at spouting nonsense, and you seem quite energetic too. You don't look like you're on the brink of death." Vania couldn't help it and tugged on his necktie.

This time, he didn't yelp out but leaned forward on her right away to indicate that he had lost consciousness from the tight grip around his neck.

She lifted both her hands. "Are you trying to blackmail me?"

He snuggled into her arms and chuckled. "Darling, what are you going to do to compensate me?"

"Watch out because I'll get the kids to come over." She threatened him with a smile.

He instantly got up and revealed a fearful look.

Vania knew that he wouldn't let her off the hook so easily if she hadn't brought up the four kids.

However, he was displeased at not gaining anything, so he forced a kiss on her forehead. "Let's go."

She shot a side glance at him and walked ahead.

Meanwhile, he trailed after her with a slight smile. "I'll pick you up tonight."

“Okay.”

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It was the second recording of the program, ‘The Voice’, tonight.

Hanson and Vania arrived at the scene of the shoot according to the time agreed upon with the director.

The production team was quite smart this time, and they placed Hanson and Vania in the same dressing room. Hanson was significantly pleased to see the notice on the door. “This is great. This awesome employee deserves a pay raise.”

As for Vania, everything seemed normal to her. Even if the production team didn’t put them together, he was definitely going to turn up regardless, so she walked into the dressing room calmly to get her makeup done.

Bella had been banned from the show, so her spot on the program had been canceled.

However, Bella turned up at the shooting scene of the production, and she was currently inside Melanie’s dressing room.

Melanie was in the midst of checking out her flawless makeup in the mirror before she sneered coldly at the sight of Bella—seated on the couch—from the reflection in the mirror.

Subsequently, Melanie turned around and her sneer turned into a tender smile as she spoke up, “I hope no one saw you when you walked in.”

Bella shook her head. “I came here with one of your staff, so nobody would have seen me.”

“That’s great. Have you prepared the item?”

Bella took out a little vial from her bag and handed it to Vania before mentioning ferociously, “I prepared this ages ago. I’ve been waiting for this day to arrive.”

Melanie looked at the item in her hand and the smile on her face turned quite terrifying. She gripped the vial tightly in her hand. “Tonight will be showtime for you.”

Bella had a jealous look as she said confidently, “Leave everything to me. Don’t worry. I’ll definitely make her pay the price!”

“Okay. I’m sure that we’ll succeed.” Melanie behaved as if she was a victim, and she cheered on Bella.

Chapter 316 A Ring on His Finger

Subsequently, Melanie put on a friendly front and spoke to Bella, “You have to be careful.”

Bella was consumed with anger, so she didn’t notice the cold look in Melanie’s eyes. Bella clenched her teeth and replied, “Thanks for the reminder.”

Half an hour later, the program officially came to a start.

The first episode had already been broadcast, so there was no need for introductions to be made for the judges or the contestants.

The host recited his lines on stage. "This is the second round of competition for 'The Voice'."

"Ah... Ah..." There was a round of applause, and the audience cheered loudly.

The cameraman filmed a close-up shot of each contestant and the judge to ensure that everyone had a similar chance to get some screen time.

Due to Hanson and Vania's popularity, he purposely filmed several more shots of the duo.

'Ah! Ah! Ah! It's President Luke and Vania!'

'Champion! Champion!'

'Finally! President Luke is here! I'm so excited!'

'This show is only shown once a week. This is not enough for me!'

'He's too handsome!'

However, each time the camera focused on Hanson, he clutched his face with his hand as if he had a toothache. Furthermore, he seemed to freeze in time as he maintained the same movement.

The bulk of the audience in the live stream was watching the program to see Hanson, so everyone commented curiously upon seeing his odd move.

'President Luke, what's wrong? Are you feeling ill? Why do you have your hand on your face the whole time?'

'Perhaps he has a toothache.'

'But judging by his expression, he seems to be smiling. It shouldn't be a toothache.'

'The person before me must be unaware that President Luke is always full of smiles when he's with Vania.'

'I've replayed all of the interviews done on President Luke for the past few years, and he usually has his arms crossed with a cold look on his face. This is the first time ever that I've seen him do this.'

'So, what's President Luke trying to say?'

The netizens responded eagerly on the live stream as they discussed with each other the meaning behind Hanson's action.

Suddenly, someone commented in caps lock.

'LOOK, GUYS. IS THAT A RING ON PRESIDENT LUKE'S FINGER?'

After one of the people online commented that, the audience focused their attention on Hanson's finger.

At the moment, the cameraman played along too, as he coincidentally focused the camera up-close on Hanson.

Instantly, there was an uproar in the chatroom of the live stream.

'I've had a close look and President Luke definitely has a ring on.'

'Ring? Something's going on with President Luke.'

'Am I about to get my heart broken? Ahhhh...'

'Is he about to reveal his relationship? Is he with Vania?'

'Could President Luke be intentionally making this move? Is he trying to show this to us?'

'At that point, there was a moment of silence in the chat room as the crowd was struck speechless.'

'I can't believe that President Luke is such a schemeful guy.'

As the comments in the chat room increased, Hanson's name became the trending topic.

Meanwhile, Larry saw the content on Twitter and ruthlessly made the final move of stoking the flame. Within the next second, he succeeded in pushing the topic of Hanson with a ring to the top of the chart.

After all, he had received explicit instructions from President Luke. Hanson's original words were, 'I want the whole world to know that I have a ring on.'

As Larry scrolled on Twitter, he couldn't help but complain in his mind, I refuse to look at this show of affection, especially if it's from President Luke.

At that moment, on the shooting site, the competition had officially started and the content was exactly the same as the first round.

This time, though, the competition proceeded exceptionally smoothly and there were no unexpected events that arose.

Chapter 317 Dramatic Family Fight Among the Wealthy

One hour had gone by, and Melanie, who was the last contestant, finally went onstage. The song she chose today was similar to her previous choice. It was a love song.

'Suddenly, I'm looking forward to Melanie's performance. After all, as soon as she appears, President Luke will start giving barbed remarks.'

'Is this the start of a dramatic family fight among the wealthy?'

'I'm quite keen to find out what sort of troublemaking antics she's up to today.'

Fortunately for Melanie, her choice of song today was a safe one for her. After she had performed the song, she calmly listened to the judges give their comments.

Jeffrey commented on the professional aspect, "From a professional outlook, there is still room for improvement, so you've got to keep working harder."

Ellie agreed with Jeffrey's opinion, "You've got a huge room for improvement. Thanks."

They gave brief comments and average scores to avoid outright offending her.

In response, Melanie expressed her gratitude, "Thank you, teachers."

As for Vania, there was a gentle smile on her face as she looked at Melanie and commented, "Your current performance isn't as good as your previous one. The song that you performed just now was mainly to express sweet love, but your performance relayed to us the feeling of troubled love."

The host went along with Vania's words and continued, "As such, what's your decision, Ms. Greyson?"

Vania lifted the card in her hand and purposely created some suspense by taking her time to voice out, "I'll give a passing score."

Melanie could only grit her teeth and thank Vania, "Thanks, Ms. Greyson."

However, Melanie was clearly displeased, and she thought, Why does Vania, who's such a pretentious person, get the right to decide whether I get to stay in this competition?

Finally, under the expectant eyes of the crowd, it was Hanson's turn to give his comment. Everyone was keen to find out what Hanson had to say this time.

However, Hanson continued to stroke his chin with his left hand, and he seemed to be engrossed in his thoughts. He was in no rush to speak up as he moved his hand gradually.

At that point, even a person with poor vision could clearly see the ring on his finger.

Onstage, Melanie naturally saw that too, and her expression turned instantly. She clenched her fists tightly as a wave of emotions hit her. Hanson has a ring on his finger. I can't believe that he actually has a ring on! Did he get a similar ring for Vania too?

Melanie's eyes instinctively went toward Vania's hand searchingly, but Vania had her hands placed below the table, so Melanie couldn't see it at all.

Just then, Melanie was in a flustered state as Hanson spoke up coldly, "Why hasn't she been eliminated?" His voice was as cold as an icicle and Melanie remained frozen onstage.

Similarly, the audience watching this program was significantly stunned too.

'President Luke is generally a ruthless man of few words.'

Due to Hanson's comment, Melanie's name appeared on the trending chart on Twitter once again.

Somehow, the thoughts of the people on the Internet were seemingly hard to fathom as their comments suddenly took a turn.

'Could he be trying to increase Melanie's popularity?'

'Each time President Luke gave his comment, the public speculation on Melanie would hit a record high, so this is in fact an advantage for her too.'

'The person before me seems to be quite perceptive.'

The host stood on stage awkwardly, and this was definitely his most troubling moment throughout his professional career.

The awkward sensation in the room grew and he finally spoke up, "So, what's your decision, President Luke?"

Without any consideration, Hanson replied, "Elimination."

The crowd was rendered speechless at that point.

Meanwhile, Melanie tried hard to suppress her tears, and she bowed before leaving the stage.

It was a good thing that everyone's performance had ended; otherwise, it would be quite hard for the competition to proceed successfully.

The host continued the session, "Alright, let's take a break in between for a moment, and we'll be right back after tallying up the results."

The so-called interval was actually just a short break for the judges and the contestants in the same location, and the production crew had arranged for some brief interviews to increase the interaction between the press and the participants of this program.

The contestants and the guests sat in a circle on a round couch. As soon as they took their seats, the backstage crew came forward to serve them some drinks. "Thank you for everyone's hard work. The director has arranged juices for everyone. Best wishes to you all and good luck in achieving great scores."

Chapter 318 You Can Have the Drink

"Wow! Thanks, director!" The contestants clapped and cheered joyfully.

Amongst the crowd, Melanie was the only one who clapped mechanically as a vicious look flashed across her eyes.

At that moment, one of the crew served the juices, and she took the initiative to place a drink in front of each contestant and judge. "Enjoy the drinks, everyone. There are plenty more available backstage, so just holler for me to refill your glasses." The member of the crew's service was impeccable, and she was very enthusiastic.

"Thanks, this is great service from the production team." Each of the contestants expressed their gratitude.

The atmosphere backstage during their break was quite pleasant and it felt very comfortable.

The member of the crew made her way in front of Vania and purposely paused for a moment before putting down the juice she had already held in her hand. She smiled and said, "Oh, this glass of juice here is specially prepared for you, Ms. Greyson."

As the person spoke, she lifted a different glass from her tray and placed it down in front of Vania.

Vania studied the drink that had just been placed down intently, but it looked exactly the same as the other drinks. She had no idea how the staff could tell that this glass was specifically for her.

Vania took the glass of juice in front of her in her hands and twirled the glass as she studied it carefully before turning to look at the staff. With a smile, she asked, “What’s so special about this glass of juice?”

“Well…”

Everyone present clearly didn’t expect this question from Vania, so they focused their sights on that staff member and waited for her response. They were similarly quite curious about what was so special about that glass of juice.

This sudden, unexpected situation caused Melanie to grit her teeth in anger.

Bella’s so bad at planning things! How can that person make such a mistake?! Obviously, everyone would have realized that there was something wrong with the glass of juice when that person switched the two glasses in front of Vania and Hanson! Not only is she poor at completing her job, but she has also caused a mess!

Fortunately, the staff member was quite bright. She paused for a moment to consider before voicing out, with a smile, “What’s so special about this? Well, it’s because I’ve accidentally spilled some of the juice from that glass, so I didn’t want to give my idol the glass with less juice in it.”

The person’s expression as she spoke clearly had an air of innocence and cluelessness. Besides, the excuse that she came up with was plausible.

Subsequently, the staff didn’t wait for the crowd to react. She instantly turned to Hanson—sitting next to Vania—and spoke coyly, “President Luke, please forgive me. Would you be fine with this glass of juice?” As she spoke, she seemed to be trying to flirt with Hanson at the same time.

At that point, the crowd was taken aback. Everyone wondered what was wrong with this person in front of them. How dare she serve President Luke a glass with less juice in it? What’s she trying to do?

The jovial atmosphere from before suddenly turned quite tense, and everyone exchanged awkward looks with each other without uttering anything else.

As for Melanie, she was enraged and felt as if she was about to blow her top. She must be out of her mind! How dare she try to seduce Hanson after messing up? Melanie took a deep breath and temporarily suppressed her simmering anger as she looked at Hanson to check his reaction.

However, Hanson didn’t even bother to cast his eyes on the staff. He continued to twist the ring on his finger and spoke in a cold voice, “Ms. Greyson doesn’t drink anything other than plain water, so you can have her glass of juice.”

What?! Instantly, the expression on that staff member’s face turned ashen. This suggestion from Hanson was clearly outside of her expectations.

At that moment, Melanie was in shock too. Has Hanson found out?

Meanwhile, the staff member was momentarily dazed before finally coming to her senses, and she waved to signal her rejection. “Thanks for the kind offer, President Luke. This is for you and Ms. Greyson, so it would be very impudent of me to drink this!”

Subsequently, the person turned to Vania and said, "Ms. Greyson, please have this drink. I would be so mortified otherwise."

Vania shook her head and smiled as she exchanged a look with Hanson.

Chapter 319 The Spiked Drink

Vania glanced at the staff in front of her and asked, "You've worked hard, so what's wrong with you enjoying this drink here? Take this as a token of appreciation from President Luke and me."

After Vania said that, she handed over the glass of juice in her hand to the staff by placing it in front of that staff member.

Hanson also spoke up coldly by then, "Ms. Greyson's right."

At that point, the staff member was frantic with worry, especially when she saw the smile on Vania's face. She found Vania's smile quite terrifying, so she quickly waved her hand at Vania to brush her off. "President Luke, Ms. Greyson, there is no need to thank me at all. That's way too kind of you guys! I've got other tasks to complete, so I won't disrupt your rest any longer."

As the staff spoke, she turned and bowed to the other judges and contestants before making a dash out of the room with her tray. She was worried that she would not be able to leave the room if she stayed on any further.

Her heart raced as she dashed toward the front door. Finally, she got there and paused in her tracks as she clutched at her chest and panted loudly. Clearly, she was frightened out of her wits. She turned around to check and realized that there was no one chasing after her. Finally, she left the place with a heavy heart.

However, Melanie, who was seated amongst the crowd, was significantly enraged as she thought, That was such a perfect plan, and yet it's been ruined just like that! Seriously!

Meanwhile, Vania placed the glass of juice in her hand back onto the table, and the smile on her face disappeared at that point.

The atmosphere became slightly awkward. Just then, one of the bubbly contestants, Kiki, approached Vania.

Kiki spoke up with a smile, "What's so special about this glass of juice? Why is everyone pushing it to each other but no one wants to try it?" Subsequently, Kiki took the glass of juice that was in front of Vania. "Ms. Greyson, I'll take a sip of this then. Don't be offended by my abruptness."

"No!" Vania exclaimed. However, she didn't expect Kiki to make such a swift move to take a sip.

Kiki seemed to be savoring the juice carefully as she turned to smile at Vania while saying, "It does taste sweeter than mine."

Vania frowned and wondered, That doesn't make sense. Why isn't there any change in her behavior? Instantly after that, Vania noticed that something was wrong.

Kiki's eyes roved the room, and she seemed to be exceptionally excited as she burst into laughter all of a sudden. "Haha... Haha..."

Everyone seemed shocked by her laughter, especially paired with the abnormal expression on her face. She seemed to be in a trance.

"Kiki! Kiki!"

"What's wrong with you?"

Everyone expressed their concern and called out to her to try and make her come to her senses.

Unfortunately, she seemed to be oblivious to everyone's words as she suddenly ran to the free space in the room and twirled around the place repeatedly. "Haha..." She continued to laugh uncontrollably.

At that point, everyone stood up from their chairs in fright and none of them dared to approach her, but they continued to call out her name, "Kiki, can you hear us?"

However, Kiki was oblivious to the crowd's yells, and she continued to twirl around in the same spot. Her laughter gradually grew louder.

At that point, Vania and Hanson exchanged looks with each other. After all, that juice had been intended for Vania. Vania clearly didn't expect them to come up with such a vicious move by drugging her in public.

The situation erupted out of control as Melanie stood amongst the crowd, and she seemed to be out of place. At that moment, she was still bemoaning the fact that everything had gone down the drain. After all, Bella had spent a fortune on that little vial of the drug for it to go to waste just like that.

If things had gone according to plan, they would have succeeded in adding the drug to Vania's drink for her to consume. As such, Vania would end up in a disoriented state and behave recklessly.

They could then make use of Vania's behavior and announce that Vania was involved in illicit substances to ruin Vania's reputation. However, it was clearly beyond their expectations that the staff member would ruin things for them.

Chapter 320 The Swift Action Taken

At that moment, Vania stood up and calmed the scene. She instantly instructed, "Call for medical help and then call the police."

Subsequently, she turned to one of the contestants and said, "Go and get the director."

"Sure, I will do that right now." The contestant ran out of the room in a haste to avoid delaying things any further.

At that point, though, Kiki's behavior seemed to be getting way out of control, and her laughter became louder and louder. She no longer twirled in her original spot, but she started gesturing wildly.

She gestured frantically in the air with both hands while yelling, "Go away! Stay away from me, everyone!" Subsequently, she cackled.

The director rushed into the room and saw the unfolding situation. Instantly, his face turned pale.

“What’s wrong with her?” He walked over to stand in front of Vania and Hanson, “President Luke, Ms. Greyson, what’s going on here?”

One of the contestants standing behind Vania voiced out and told the director the entire situation right from the start.

As soon as the director heard that, his knees buckled and he nearly fell to the ground. He couldn’t believe that such an incident had happened in the area under his watch. Moreover, Vania was the main target. He was aware that he was fully accountable for this matter and that if something had happened to Vania, he would be in hot waters.

Fortunately for him, Vania was unscathed in this incident. He quickly apologized to Vania, “Ms. Greyson, I’m so sorry about this. It’s my fault for the lapse in security, so I really hope you can forgive me for this.”

She brushed him off. “This isn’t your fault. You should investigate this matter and get down to things as soon as possible.”

He nodded. “Yes, you’re right. Ms. Greyson, President Luke, I’ll go along with your instructions.”

Subsequently, the director hesitated before asking, “What should we do about the program?”

Shortly after this, they had to continue with the show as it was a live broadcast. However, with a contestant in such a disorientated state, there was no way she could go back on stage. If she hadn’t gone on stage, the sudden disappearance of a contestant would be quite hard to explain as well.

Vania spoke up calmly and showcased her leadership capabilities. “Director, don’t panic. I’ve figured out the content for the live broadcast later, so you just have to do as I say.”

“Sure, I’ll be sure to follow your instructions.”

At that moment, Hanson lifted his head and looked at the director. There was a dangerous look that flashed across his narrowed eyes. “No one is to reveal a single word about this matter tonight. If the word gets out, I’ll hold you fully accountable for everything.”

The director trembled with fright. This was a tough mission handed over to him, but he could only nod and agree. “I’ll be sure to seal off this news.”

“I need you to do one more thing immediately.”

The director lowered his head. “President Luke, I’m at your beck and call.”

“Shut the main entrance and don’t let a single person out, regardless of their identity.” Hanson’s voice was impactful, and everyone started to panic upon hearing his words.

This was even more evident in Melanie, as everything had gone out of her hands. She could no longer control what would happen next.

Fortunately, even if they launched a thorough investigation into this, she would not be implicated at all. She felt slightly at ease upon realizing this.

The director nodded in response and was about to leave when Vania stopped him. She pointed to the juices on the table and asked, "Did you send someone to bring us all these?"

At that point, there was a dangerous look that flashed in his eyes. "It wasn't arranged by me." Someone was trying to set him up.

He was worried that Vania and Hanson doubted him, so he quickly explained, "I've been busy discussing the issue with the camera positions with the cameraman. If you doubt me..."

Vania interrupted his words. "I do trust your words, so there's no need to overreact."

The director nodded and left immediately after that to make the subsequent arrangements.

As for Kiki, she continued to yell out, but perhaps she was too tired from everything, so she no longer thrashed about as wildly as before. Her voice had also diminished significantly, but there was no sign of her coming back to her senses.

Hanson coldly scanned the entire room and looked at all of the contestants. Finally, his gaze landed on Melanie, and there was a warning look in his eyes.

Melanie's eyes shrunk slightly, and she thought, He has finally set eyes on me, but there's a warning expression on his face. Her heart sank upon noticing that.