

## **Wrath 1291**

### Chapter 1291:

Janice felt a surge of emotion. She turned to him and placed a soft kiss on his cheek.

Aiden's pupils dilated, his throat tightened, and desire flared within him. But remembering that Janice was pregnant and still in the early stages, he fought to hold back.

Sensing his internal struggle, Janice tenderly cupped his face in her hands. "There's no rush. We have all the time in the world. Let's take it slow tonight."

"Yes, we have all the time ahead of us." Aiden knelt before her, his hand gently caressing Janice's belly. "Little one, whether you're a boy or a girl, take care of your mom, okay? Don't make things too tough for her."

"The baby isn't even formed yet. They can't hear you." Janice chuckled.

"I don't care. Any child of mine will take care of you," Aiden replied with a smile.

Janice's eyes softened with tenderness as she stroked her belly. "Yes, this is your baby."

In the soft glow of the dimly lit room, the two of them savored a rare moment of peace. They didn't need to do anything, simply reveling in the quiet intimacy they shared.

They spoke late into the night, reminiscing about everything from childhood to the present, as if reliving their entire journey together. With each word, their souls grew ever closer.

The following morning, Aiden headed to work as usual, his routine unchanged.

With Janice now expecting, she was strongly encouraged to take an extended break from her business. Leah and her team were overseeing operations at the company, and with everything running smoothly, there was nothing to worry about.

As for the three ambitious goals Janice had set, Today's Trends had already surpassed a hundred million daily active users, the new app Snapshots was in its final stages, and the smart driving project was advancing rapidly on all fronts. Once these projects were fully launched, the market value of White Group was expected to soar to a trillion dollars within three years.

An astonishing figure, all thanks to their vast control over online influence. In today's world, online power meant everything. Whoever wielded it was already halfway to success.

"Janice, it's time for breakfast." Nina brought a tray and set it in front of Janice. "The nutritionist ensured this breakfast has all the essentials for a healthy pregnancy."

"Thank you, Nina," Janice said with a gentle smile. "But you really don't have to go overboard. Sometimes, keeping it simple is actually healthier."

"Not a chance! Others may not have the resources, but we do, so we should make sure everything is perfect." Nina's face was earnest. "My only wish now is for you and the baby to be safe and healthy."

Feeling the depth of Nina's care, Janice couldn't bring herself to turn down her kindness. "Alright, I'll listen to you."

"That's my girl!" Nina beamed, her happiness evident, before heading off to instruct the housekeeper to prepare some nourishing soup for Janice.

Alcott glanced at his own breakfast, then at Janice's, and sighed. "Nina really spoils you. The last time she was this happy was when she was pregnant with Aiden."

"Alcott, are you jealous of me?" Janice teased, a playful glint in her eyes.

Alcott shook his head. "I'm just feeling grateful. I've made my mistakes, but I feel incredibly lucky to be here now, having breakfast with you and Nina."

Chapter 1292:

"You were tricked back then. It's all in the past now, so don't blame yourself. We all need to look ahead," Janice comforted him.

"That's right! And looking ahead, I'm here to help you and Nina with the baby."

"I don't think that's a good idea," Janice said, shaking her head. Her sudden seriousness caught Alcott off guard.

"Janice, you're not saying you don't want me around, are you?" Alcott asked.

"How could that be?" Janice blinked in surprise, momentarily at a loss for words, before it dawned on her that Alcott had misunderstood her. "I mean—you and Nina have worked tirelessly for years. Now it's time for both of you to savor life. You can still spend time with the kid, but let Aiden handle the daily parenting. Go ahead, relax, and enjoy yourselves."

Alcott froze, taken aback.

In that instant, a wave of emotion flooded over him. Had he remained stubborn in his ways back then, he would have missed out on the happiness he now felt.

He understood then that life could be simple and fulfilling, free from petty betrayals and family turmoil. His mind drifted to other wealthy families, constantly embroiled in battles over money and inheritance, turning siblings into enemies. In contrast, the Green family had no such worries. Their fortune was far beyond what they could ever use, and now they were searching for something deeper, something more fulfilling in life.

After breakfast, Janice set off to find Orson and Glenn.

The two lived at Cloudridge Villa, and although Janice supported the decision, she couldn't shake the bitter feeling that their days there were numbered.

"Janice, you should take it easy and focus on your pregnancy. There's no need to be running around," Glenn advised. "Orson and I can manage just fine. Plus, Gerda has moved in to help look after us."

“Glenn, I’m only a few months along. A little exercise is actually good for the baby. Besides, I’ve been so busy lately, I feel bad for not spending more time with you before,” Janice said with a smile. “Now that Nellie and Aiden are insisting I focus on my pregnancy and put work on hold, I finally have the chance to spend more time with you and Grandpa.”

Glenn’s weathered face softened, his expression turning tender with reassurance.

“Glenn, you got to watch Janice grow up, and I have to admit, I’m a bit envious,” Orson sighed, shaking his head. “As her grandfather, I only get to see her a handful of times now.”

“Well, that’s just the unique bond we share!” Glenn responded, his voice filled with pride.

“Seeing that smug grin on your face really gets under my skin. Come on, let’s keep playing chess. This time, I’m going to crush you—no mercy!” Orson said, pretending to be annoyed.

“Bring it on! And just so you know, I’m the one who’s going to wipe the floor with you!” Glenn shot back, refusing to admit defeat.

The two of them set up the chessboard in the courtyard, getting lost in their playful rivalry. Janice brewed coffee for the two old men.

Watching the joy light up their faces, she couldn’t help but feel a warm happiness herself. Both Glenn and Orson had endured so much in their lives. Glenn, in particular, had poured so much of himself into keeping the orphanage afloat—more than anyone could truly express.

If not for his relentless determination, the orphanage would have vanished long ago, leaving those children without a home. Janice couldn’t fathom just how much effort Glenn had invested in keeping the orphanage alive all these years.

Chapter 1293:

Orson, however, had once experienced true love. But as part of the Welch family, the weight of his clan's expectations became too much to bear. To safeguard the woman he cherished, he chose the agonizing path of separation and returned to the family.

Despite the Welch family's immense power and his own ascent to the top, an emptiness always lingered within him, a void that nothing seemed to fill. And it was this very emptiness that eventually swallowed the Welch family.

If only his three children had been more rational, less consumed by fame and wealth, and hadn't torn apart the White family, perhaps the Welch family could have had a different, better fate. But in the end, their insatiable greed destroyed the last shred of kindness Orson had left.

Janice could feel that beneath Orson's smile lay a deep sorrow, guilt for his lost love, and bitterness toward the Welch family. Without his two grandchildren, he might have completely given up.

Just then, the sharp ring of a phone pulled Janice out of her reverie. She glanced at the caller ID—Sierra.

"Sierra, what's going on?"

"Janice, could I ask for a favor?" Sierra's voice carried an edge of anxiety and helplessness.

"Go ahead. What is it?"

"Janice, can we meet face-to-face? It's a bit complicated, and it involves both the Delgado family and the Ramirez family."

Janice froze, her face flickering with concern. The Ramirez and Delgado families? But the Ramirez family had crumbled long ago, and Leonie and Chuck were still missing. What could this be about?

"Alright, I'll head over right away."

After ending the call, Janice bid the two old men goodbye and set off for the spot she and Sierra had arranged to meet.

When she arrived, she spotted Sierra—and another face, one she hadn't seen in ages. It was Maggie.

"Janice, over here!" Sierra called out the moment she saw her.

"Sierra, why is Maggie here too?" Janice asked as she walked over, her curiosity piqued by Maggie's presence.

"Janice, it's been a while," Maggie said, offering an awkward smile.

"Actually, this is about Kenneth, which is why I decided to come along."

"Kenneth?" Janice's eyes sparked with surprise as a wild thought crossed her mind. "Hold on, are you saying Nellie and Kenneth are together now?"

Sierra and Maggie shared a glance, both offering her a sheepish smile.

She actually figured it out.

Janice sighed, the weight of the situation settling heavily on her. In the past, Nellie's mother had tried to set up a marriage between her and Kenneth. However, Kenneth wasn't interested, and Nellie understood she wasn't the one for him, so they kept their distance. Yet now, these two had ended up together?

"Let me process this for a second," Janice said, furrowing her brow. "So, Nellie and Kenneth are a couple, but his father doesn't approve, right?"

"Janice, how did you know?" Maggie's eyes widened in shock.

“My dad found out about them and totally flipped out. He even threatened to strip my brother of his position as head of the family if he didn’t obey.”

Chapter 1294:

“Are they serious about each other?” Janice asked, her curiosity piqued.

Sierra flashed a wry smile and nodded her head. “I thought the same at first. But when I saw them together, I noticed the same chemistry between them that I see with you and Aiden.”

At that moment, Janice understood. “I get it. And I’ll handle it. You two don’t need to stress.”

“Really?”

Both girls’ eyes sparkled with excitement as they looked at Janice.

“I knew you’d help, Janice! There’s still hope for Kenneth after all!” Maggie exclaimed, her dramatic expression making Janice laugh.

“Maggie, it’s honestly not a big deal. Even if I didn’t step in, I believe Kenneth would find his own way. But...” Her expression turned serious. “Sierra, you’re my best friend. Of course, I’ll stand up for your sister.”

Sierra’s eyes welled up with emotion, and she threw herself into Janice’s arms. “Janice, you’re so good to me.”

She knew Janice had always been kind to her, but she never imagined Janice would also look out for her sister, especially after all that had happened.

“It’s because you’re a good person, Sierra. That’s why you’re worth it,” Janice said, pulling Sierra into a comforting hug, her eyes filled with warmth.

Kenneth knelt in the living room, encircled by his family, with Cayson Delgado, his father, standing at the front. Their expressions were grim, filled with disappointment, and Kenneth's heart ached under the weight of their judgment.

The leadership of the Delgado family had once been passed to Kenneth, but now Cayson had taken it back, fearing his son's actions would tarnish their name.

"Isn't this enough, Cayson?" Lesly's face was filled with worry as she grasped his hand, trying to reason with him. "Kenneth is our son. He must understand his mistake by now. Let him rise."

Cayson remained unyielding, dismissing Lesly's plea. Instead, he fixed his gaze on Kenneth, asking, "Are you still going to hold on to this?"

Kenneth met Cayson's gaze, his eyes brimming with resolute determination. "Yes, I won't change my decision."

"You fool!" Cayson struck the table, his fury evident. "Why can't you understand? Nellie is a woman with a stained reputation. Being with her will only bring scandal. If it were just about you, I wouldn't care. But you're tarnishing the family's name."

"So what?" Kenneth scowled, clearly unimpressed by Cayson's reasoning. "If it's necessary, I'll cut ties with the Delgado family, so it won't damage the family name."

"You're driving me to the edge!" Cayson's face flushed with rage, his breath coming in short, sharp bursts.

Kenneth's uncles, unable to remain silent, joined in, trying to reason with the defiant young man.

"Kenneth, you are the future of the Delgado family. Whether we rise to greater success depends on your choices."

"For a woman, and one with such a troubled past, why are you willing to throw everything away for her?"

“Kenneth, just acknowledge your mistake to your father. He’s not strong enough to bear this kind of pressure.”

Kenneth shut his eyes for a moment, then snapped them open, glaring. “Enough! Nellie is my only choice. If you speak against her again, don’t blame me for walking away from all of you.”

Chapter 1295:

His defiant words only fueled the fury of his father and uncles. “You ungrateful son, stay here and think about your actions!” Cayson stormed out, while Kenneth’s uncles exchanged disappointed glances. How could such a promising young man fall so far?

Kenneth had been carefully cultivated, excelling in both intellect and the art of decision-making. Under Kenneth’s leadership, the Delgado family had flourished, showing clear signs of growth. With more time, they were confident the family would soar to even greater heights. Unfortunately, Kenneth had become inexplicably captivated by Nellie, a woman burdened by a troubled history.

Had the Ramirez family remained as powerful as they once were, they wouldn’t have batted an eye. But with the fall of the Ramirez family and Nellie’s damaged reputation, how could she possibly deserve someone like Kenneth?

“Kenneth, just admit you’re wrong,” Lesly said gently, stepping closer to him. “Your father is furious this time. He won’t accept Nellie as his daughter-in-law.”

“Mom, there’s no need to convince me,” Kenneth replied, shaking his head. His resolve was unwavering. “Once I’ve chosen Nellie, there’s no turning back.”

“But didn’t you once have feelings for Janice?” Lesly blurted out, then caught herself, her expression flustered.

Kenneth stayed composed. “Yes, I once had feelings for Janice, but now I realize it was more about admiring her strength and the need to outdo Aiden. Back then, I worked tirelessly to prove my worth, taking power from my father. I believed that if I became strong enough, I could get closer to Janice.” At this point, Kenneth let out a bitter chuckle. “But in the end, I only distanced myself further.”

Hearing Kenneth's words and sensing his inner turmoil, Lesly's heart ached with sympathy for him. To Kenneth, Janice was an unreachable ideal, someone beyond his grasp, no matter how hard he reached. They came from entirely separate worlds.

"Later, I worked with White Group, and it was Nellie I worked closely with." Kenneth's expression softened. "In her, I saw both strength and light. Despite the hardships she's endured, she remains positive, and she's grown into a far better person than she once was. Then, at Janice and Aiden's wedding, I saw Nellie in a white dress, her hair softly tousled by the sea breeze, radiant and untouched. In that instant, I knew she was my guiding star, someone I could truly connect with."

Lesly sighed, seeing how utterly captivated her son was.

She had come to know Nellie as a bright and positive young woman. Despite her past, she refused to let it define her, taking control of her own destiny.

"Son, if I can't change your mind, then... I'll support you." Lesly gave Kenneth a reassuring pat on the shoulder before standing up and walking out.

Kenneth remained kneeling on the floor, his stance unmoving in the empty living room, silently resisting the entire Delgado family. Lesly glanced back, observing Kenneth's figure as a thought began to form. Perhaps only Janice could help Kenneth.

The Ramirez family's house had been auctioned off, leaving Nellie unable to repurchase it for the time being. While Janice could have helped, Nellie was resolute in her desire to reclaim the property on her own.

Many were eager to place bids on the house, but they were aware that Nellie and Sierra were under Janice's protection. As a result, they dared not interfere, watching from the sidelines with envy but no courage to act.

At that moment, Nellie stepped out of the hotel and bumped into Janice, Sierra, and Maggie.

"Nellie, where are you headed?" Sierra rushed over and grasped Nellie's hand. "You're not intending to visit the Delgado family, are you?"

Chapter 1296:

"Nellie, you really shouldn't go." Maggie sighed heavily, her face clouded with bitterness. "Kenneth is being questioned by our father and uncles right now. I'm afraid things don't look good."

Nellie's face shifted, her earlier hesitation giving way to determination. "I was unsure before, but now, I must go."

"Nellie, can we have a word before you leave?" Janice approached with a gentle smile. Perhaps due to her pregnancy, she appeared softer than usual, her sharpness having dulled. "Don't worry, Kenneth is resilient. He won't be easily beaten."

Nellie paused for a moment before finally nodding, then followed Janice to a café. Sierra and Maggie seated themselves at a separate table, allowing Janice and Nellie the privacy for their discussion.

"So, how did you and Kenneth end up together?" Janice asked, ordering a glass of milk. Being pregnant, she had to pay extra attention to her diet, and though coffee tempted her, she held back for the sake of her baby.

Nellie stirred her coffee slowly, her gaze far away, as if lost in thought.

Janice remained quiet, patiently waiting for Nellie to start.

"To be honest, I always thought I would never find someone to love in this life. After everything that happened, after all the chaos, I had completely given up on that idea."

A bitter smile tugged at the corners of Nellie's mouth as she spoke.

"But life has a funny way of working. The people you never thought you'd be with somehow make their way into your heart."

Nellie looked up at Janice. "I was in charge of the promotion for Today's Trends, and by chance, I crossed paths with Kenneth. At first, we just had casual interactions, but as we spent more time together, I began to see sides of him I had never noticed before. He was a man who craved love but was bound by his family's expectations and pressures, unable to make decisions for himself. I thought someone like him would be forced into a marriage with a woman he didn't love, chosen by his family. But when he finally confessed his feelings and opened up, all my assumptions about him came crashing down."

Nellie sighed, her grip on the spoon tightening. "But how could I be worthy of him? So, I turned him down. Over time, Kenneth started to pursue me. His sincerity and kindness were like a gentle, nurturing force, slowly working their way into my heart. My heart, once empty, began to fill."

Janice raised an eyebrow. From what she knew of Kenneth, he was indeed thoughtful and considerate. For someone as sensitive as Nellie, it was impossible not to be touched by him.

"Actually, he spoke of you to me," Nellie changed the subject with a smile. "He said pursuing you felt like chasing an impossible dream. You were the object of his obsession, but now that he's released it, he feels a weight lifted off his shoulders. It was only by releasing his obsession that he began to see more clearly, like finding someone as dazzling as I am. His words held a certain romantic charm, yet they were unmistakably Kenneth's. It was hard to imagine that someone so absorbed in his work could express such tenderness."

"So, you've fallen for him," Janice said softly, taking a sip of her milk. "But you should understand, the Delgado family is deeply traditional. They won't accept you easily. Being together won't be without its struggles."

"I know," Nellie replied, her smile tinged with bitterness. "I've considered walking away, but Kenneth hasn't given me a single reason to."

Janice couldn't help but sigh internally. Nellie had once been so filled with self-doubt, always feeling undeserving of others' attention and burying herself in work to avoid facing those emotions. Yet Kenneth's influence had helped her recognize her true value. Despite her difficult past, it no longer seemed to matter. Her future still held infinite possibilities.

Chapter 1297:

Janice had endured a lot, especially with Aiden. Those trials had taught her that genuine love was about mutual growth and support.

Kenneth helped Nellie confront her insecurities and embrace her potential, while Nellie helped Kenneth release his obsessive tendencies and live more freely. This was what true growth in love looked like.

“So, what are your plans from here?” Janice asked.

Nellie paused to think for a moment, her eyes resolute. “I want to work by his side. Whatever happens, at least we won’t have any regrets.”

“That’s amazing!” Janice smiled warmly. “You’re truly incredible now—just like Kenneth said, a shining light that can’t be overlooked.”

“Janice!” At that moment, Sierra walked over, glancing uncomfortably toward the door. “Kenneth’s mother is here.”

Janice raised an eyebrow, her gaze landing on the poised figure outside. Even in her fifties, Lesly radiated a youthful charm that many younger women envied.

“Mrs. Delgado, are you here to see me, or is it Nellie you’re after?” Janice asked.

Upon hearing this, Lesly glanced at Nellie standing beside Janice, her expression turning surprised. “I came to see you, but since Nellie is here as well, we might as well discuss everything together.”

“Did something happen to Kenneth?” Nellie asked, concern evident in her voice.

Lesly sighed heavily. “Kenneth has had a major falling-out with the family because of you. His father is punishing him. Given Kenneth’s stubborn nature, he will accept the punishment willingly. I’m afraid he might get hurt.”

Nellie’s heart tightened with worry, and she stood up quickly. “I’ll go find him right now.”

“Wait, don’t rush!” Lesly quickly pulled Nellie back down into her seat. “What good will it do to go? You likely won’t even be able to get in.”

“But...”

“Don’t worry.” Lesly sighed. “I’m here to help him. No matter what you’ve faced, as long as this is Kenneth’s choice, I will stand by him as his mother.”

“Thank you,” Nellie said, her voice thick with emotion.

She hadn’t anticipated that Lesly would support Kenneth’s decision to be with her. It was clear that Lesly truly loved her son.

“Janice, I’ll get straight to the point,” Lesly said, her gaze sharpening. “I’ve come to ask for your help in bringing them together.”

“Mrs. Delgado, even if you hadn’t asked, I would’ve done it,” Janice replied. “Nellie and I had our disagreements in the past, but that’s all behind us now. Nellie is doing well at White Group, and as Sierra’s sister, she’s like family to me.”

Lesly’s eyes brightened at Janice’s words. They carried significant meaning.

Janice’s stance was clear—she would support Nellie.

Kenneth had been kneeling for an entire day and night.

Throughout that time, Lesly tried to convince him to take a break, drink some water, or eat something, but he refused.

Lesly’s heart ached, but her son’s stubbornness prevailed. He was determined to hold his ground against his father.

At this moment, Kenneth's face was ashen, his body swaying with exhaustion. His legs felt numb, useless.

Chapter 1298:

"Have you thought this through?" Cayson approached, looking at Kenneth.

Kenneth lifted his head to meet Cayson's gaze, his eyes steady. "I still choose Nellie, just like I did before."

"You rebellious son!" Cayson bellowed in fury, kicking Kenneth to the floor.

Kenneth couldn't rise; his body was drained, especially his knees, which throbbed with excruciating pain, making him feel as if he might collapse.

"How did I end up with such a disgraceful son?" Cayson's voice seethed with anger. "You're the heir to the Delgado family, with a name that commands respect. You could have any woman, yet you choose someone unworthy. Do you truly believe in love? That woman only wants your power, dreaming of wealth and comfort through you."

"Shut up!" Kenneth gritted his teeth, bearing the agony in his body. "Nellie isn't like that. For her, I would give up everything the Delgado family offers."

"Fine, very well!" Cayson sneered, grabbing a whip. "Today, I'll beat some sense into you."

"No!" At that moment, Nellie rushed forward, lifting Kenneth's fallen body into her arms.

"Nellie, what are you doing here?" Kenneth looked at her in shock.

"You need to leave. My father will hurt you."

"I'm not leaving." Nellie shook her head, tears streaming down her cheeks as she gazed at Kenneth's pale face. "Since I've chosen you, I'll stand by you through everything and face whatever comes together." With that, she turned to Cayson, her voice unwavering. "Mr. Delgado, if you must hit someone, then hit me."

Cayson's pupils shrank, his grip on the whip so fierce that his knuckles turned ghostly white, barely holding back a storm of uncontrollable rage.

"Dad, please don't act out! If you need to hit someone, hit me instead—but leave Nellie alone." Kenneth struggled to shield Nellie with his own body.

Cayson drew a slow, chilling breath, his eyes turning to ice. "How touching. Since you're so devoted, you can suffer the consequences side by side."

"Mr. Delgado, lay a finger on her, and I'll make sure your family disappears from the face of the earth." A voice, cold and commanding, sliced through the air just as Cayson raised the whip.

Janice stepped in at a measured pace, her face serene, her presence radiating a quiet, bone-deep authority. Though she looked fragile, she made Cayson's chest seize with invisible pressure, freezing him where he stood.

"This is my family's business. Aren't you overstepping?" Cayson narrowed his eyes, catching sight of Maggie lurking behind Janice, and shot her a venomous glare. His daughter was siding with outsiders. Maggie shriveled under his glare, clutching Sierra's arm and shrinking back into the shadows.

Sierra, on the other hand, stood tall. With Janice present, she felt untouchable.

Janice sank into a chair, her posture lazy yet exuding effortless grace, making Cayson frown slightly. But he kept silent, well aware of the terrifying power she commanded. She had even crushed the mighty Welch family with a flick of her wrist. He couldn't afford to offend her.

Even a single word from Aiden could erase the Delgado family from existence—and no one would question it. Aiden's devotion to his wife ran so deep that even a flicker of Janice's dislike toward the Delgado family could be enough to spell their ruin.

Chapter 1299:

“Mr. Delgado, it seems you still don’t understand your position.” Janice smoothed her sleeve with practiced ease. “Nellie works for me. She’s been wronged. Now, you tell me—should I just stand by and watch?”

Cayson froze for a heartbeat before letting out a cold sneer. “Sure, Nellie works for you, but getting involved in her private matters seems like overstepping, doesn’t it?”

Janice’s eyes narrowed, her chilling stare making Cayson shift uncomfortably. “No wonder the Delgado family’s been stuck in the same pit for years. The rot starts at the top.”

“What are you implying?” Cayson barked, his face burning with anger as he glared at Janice.

But Janice didn’t even spare him a glance. She lazily beckoned Sierra over to massage her shoulders, the nagging aches of early pregnancy making her crave comfort.

Watching Sierra move to Janice’s side, Maggie hurried to the other, her hands instinctively beginning to massage Janice’s opposite shoulder. Seeing his daughter fuss over someone else, Cayson’s blood boiled. He barked, “Maggie, get over here this instant!”

Maggie flinched but stood her ground, ignoring his outburst. “Dad, I’m fine right here with Janice. Plus, I’m signed under White Whale Entertainment. Serving my boss makes perfect sense, doesn’t it?”

“What?” Cayson thundered, almost trembling with rage.

His son had turned against him, and now even his daughter. Cayson seethed, convinced they were conspiring just to humiliate him.

“Mr. Delgado, let me make myself crystal clear.” Janice’s voice stayed gentle but carried an unshakable weight. “Nellie isn’t just my employee. She’s family. What concerns her concerns me. And let me remind you—even if Nellie endured hardships before, that doesn’t give you the license to slander her.”

The weight of her words hung heavy, making Cayson feel that a single insult toward Nellie could lead to his complete downfall.

Janice shifted her gaze to Kenneth. Her voice was calm and unwavering. “Do you really love Nellie?”

“Yes!” Kenneth nodded firmly, his eyes burning with determination. “I love her so much I’d give up everything just to be with her.”

“Good! I can see your resolve. You deserve to be with Nellie.” Janice lifted her chin and stared at Cayson.

Cayson stood frozen, struck as if by a bolt of lightning.

Had she really said Kenneth deserved Nellie, and not that Nellie was lucky to have him? It turned his entire belief upside down.

“Mr. Delgado, if you feel slighted, let’s test whose name carries more weight—yours or mine.” Janice rose from her seat, each step toward Cayson heavy with authority.

Her authority stirred a wave of anxiety deep inside him. “From where I stand, your family gains by being tied to Nellie. Feel wronged if you must, but keep it buried—unless you truly believe you have what it takes to go up against me. You might think I’m misusing power. I absolutely am using it—to crush and belittle you.”

Sierra’s and Maggie’s eyes lit up as they gazed at Janice’s back, their hearts surging with awe. Janice was simply too cool, too breathtaking. Though Maggie felt a flicker of guilt for admiring someone while defying her father, she couldn’t help it—Janice blazed like a star, impossible not to idolize.

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Had she really said Kenneth deserved Nellie, and not that Nellie was lucky to have him? It turned his entire belief upside down.

“Mr. Delgado, if you feel slighted, let’s test whose name carries more weight—yours or mine.” Janice rose from her seat, each step toward Cayson heavy with authority.

Her authority stirred a wave of anxiety deep inside him. “From where I stand, your family gains by being tied to Nellie. Feel wronged if you must, but keep it buried—unless you truly believe you have what it takes to go up against me. You might think I’m misusing power. I absolutely am using it—to crush and belittle you.”

Sierra’s and Maggie’s eyes lit up as they gazed at Janice’s back, their hearts surging with awe. Janice was simply too cool, too breathtaking. Though Maggie felt a flicker of guilt for admiring someone while defying her father, she couldn’t help it—Janice blazed like a star, impossible not to idolize.