

Wrath 131

Chapter 131:

Janice was like a fiend, maliciously aggravating her emotional wounds, sprinkling salt and then dousing them with acid.

Overwhelmed, Nellie could think of only one thing. She wanted to rip Janice's mouth apart. Her hand lifted, poised to strike Janice.

Janice quickly seized Nellie's wrist, her tone cold and sharp as she said, "Haven't you made a fool of yourself enough? I used to think you were a shrewd businesswoman, but now it seems you're just wildly in love, filled with nothing but romantic delusions. Alright, if you insist on being irrational, I'll snap you out of it."

"No, don't!" Kenneth realized what Janice intended to do, but before he could intervene, Janice pulled Nellie into the pool.

"Ah!" Nellie screamed, and like Janice earlier, she was now drenched.

The pool area, previously quiet, suddenly became the center of attention as the disturbance drew a crowd. Onlookers were shocked to see Nellie struggling in the water. "I can't swim. Help!" Nellie cried, gulping down water in her panic.

Surprisingly, Kenneth didn't rush to her aid immediately. He paused for a moment before finally diving in. Fortunately, he reached Nellie in time to prevent a worse outcome; she could have drowned. As it happened, she only choked on some water.

"Nellie!" At that moment, Leonie and Sierra rushed to the poolside. Seeing Nellie sprawled on the ground, coughing up water, they were both shocked.

After ensuring Nellie was merely choking and not seriously harmed, Leonie's initial concern gave way to fury as she scanned the crowd. "Who's responsible for this?" Her daunting presence quickly silenced everyone around. "Who dared to push my daughter into the pool? Are you looking to cause trouble?"

"It was Janice," someone suddenly blurted out.

Leonie attempted to pinpoint the speaker, but the person seemed to vanish right after speaking, clearly avoiding further conflict.

Janice and Aiden looked at each other. They hadn't seen who had accused her, but they recognized the voice. It seemed that Bart was using Leonie to deal with her. Janice shot Aiden a look of reassurance, signaling that she could handle the situation on her own.

Aiden nodded, crossing his arms and settling back to see how the events would unfold.

"Janice!" Leonie stood up, her glare intense. "You've got some nerve, assaulting my daughter. Are you looking to make an enemy of the Ramirez family?"

The mood immediately grew heavy with tension. The bystanders remained silent, their eyes glued to the escalating confrontation.

"Mom, this might be a misunderstanding. Let's not jump to conclusions," Sierra interjected, gripping Leonie's hand. "I don't believe Janice would do something like this on purpose."

"And when did you two become so close?" Leonie shot back sharply at Sierra. "Your sister is here suffering, and you're taking Janice's side? Are you trying to upset Nellie?"

"I..." Sierra stammered, clearly overwhelmed and struggling to find the right words. "Janice, could you please explain to my mom what happened?"

"I was the one who pushed Nellie in."

Sierra was taken aback, her eyes widening in shock at Janice's confession.

"You dare to admit it?" Leonie sneered.

“So what?” Janice shrugged, a naughty smirk playing on her lips. “I take responsibility for what I do. If there’s a score to settle, I won’t put it off until tomorrow.”

Chapter 132:

Her voice was resolute and unwavering, catching Leonie off guard. Did Janice really understand the implications of her actions? Did she believe that having the Green family’s support gave her the freedom to do whatever she wanted?

“Mrs. Ramirez, your daughter pushed me into the pool first. I merely reciprocated. Tit for tat. That seems fair, right?” Janice said with a smile.

Only then did everyone notice that Janice was completely soaked. Her wet hair stuck to her face, and her drenched dress hugged her contours, lending her a striking presence.

“You say that, but who can verify it?” Leonie snapped back. “I think you’re just here to stir up trouble. You, a reject from the Edwards family, caused a spectacle at the entrance earlier, and now you’re causing a scene at my charity gala. You’re nothing but trouble.”

“Leonie Ramirez, how dare you humiliate my daughter-in-law like that?”

A chilling voice cut through the air, pulling Leonie back to reality.

Nina stepped closer to Janice, fixing Leonie with a sharp glare.

“We might get along, but if you dare to humiliate my daughter-in-law again, we’re done!”

Leonie regained some composure. Her kind deeds were only for show. If she argued with Nina here, in front of everyone, she’d ruin her own image. However, Nellie had been humiliated by Janice, and the Ramirez family’s honor was on the line.

“Nina...” Leonie started.

"We're not that close anymore," Nina cut her off, her cold expression making it clear that she didn't see Leonie as a friend anymore.

Janice blinked, a wave of warmth spreading in her chest. This must be what it felt like to have family stand up for her. A soft sigh escaped her. From her own mother, all she had ever felt was coldness and detachment. Yet from Nina, her unexpectedly kind mother-in-law, she felt the warmth she had always craved from family.

"Regardless of the details, it's a fact that Janice pushed Nellie into the water and nearly drowned her," Leonie said firmly, taking a deep breath. "She must apologize publicly to restore the Ramirez family's dignity."

"Mrs. Ramirez, didn't you hear me earlier?" Janice said with a sigh. "Your daughter shoved me first, and I only pushed her back. Doesn't that make us even?"

"Who do you think you are to compare yourself to my daughter?" Leonie snapped.

"Then what makes your daughter worthy of comparing to my daughter-in-law?" Nina shot back, her voice sharp and unwavering. Her fiery gaze showed no concern for Leonie's feelings.

Caught between her family and her friend, Sierra's anxiety grew. She worried her mother might sever ties with the Green family completely. At the same time, she knew her mother's pride wouldn't let her back down without regaining her dignity.

Sierra turned to Aiden with a desperate look, silently begging for help. But he ignored her, his indifferent gaze fixed solely on Janice. She turned to Kenneth, but he shook his head slightly, signaling that he couldn't get involved either. Sierra's eyes brimmed with tears, her frustration threatening to spill over.

"Don't let this upset you, Nina," Janice said softly, casting a glance at Sierra before holding Nina's hand. "You have such a high status. There's no need for you to step into this mess."

"Janice, don't worry about me. I've told you before. You're the daughter-in-law I recognize, and I won't let anyone bully you, no matter who they are."

Her fiery resolve made Janice smile, both amused and a little helpless. "But you have to let me deal with it myself. Otherwise, people will think I'm just hiding behind your influence."

Chapter 133:

Nina paused, considering her words. "That actually makes sense."

"Yes, yes, let me handle it," Janice said quickly, her smile brightening. "I've got this."

"Alright, but if you can't handle it, I'll step in," Nina said as she moved to stand beside Aiden.

Janice faced Leonie, whose face had turned pale, and said calmly, "Mrs. Ramirez, you should be grateful to your younger daughter. If not for her, I would have slapped you already." Leonie's face darkened as she raised a trembling finger at Janice. "You wouldn't dare!"

"You know I would," Janice replied, her eyes narrowing. The sharp glint in them was enough to make even someone as tough as Leonie hesitate. Deep down, she knew Janice wasn't bluffing.

"How did your eldest daughter end up with such poor manners?" Janice said, casting a disdainful glance at Nellie, who lay pretending to be unconscious on the ground. If Nellie were truly awake, she'd only be conscious enough to endure the humiliation.

"She confessed her feelings to my husband and got rejected. Then she got angry and shoved me into the pool. Is this what you call the upbringing of your family?"

"You're lying!" Leonie shouted, her voice trembling with anger.

"Mrs. Ramirez," Aiden said, moving his wheelchair forward. "I'm sorry, but I'm the one your daughter confessed to. I also saw Nellie push my wife into the pool with my own eyes."

Leonie's expression teetered between outrage and utter defeat. Before a crowd of onlookers, not only had she failed to restore her dignity, but Janice had also laid bare Nellie's most humiliating secrets. It felt

as though the carefully curated image Leonie had cultivated over the years was unraveling thread by thread.

“Since you failed to educate your daughter properly, I took the liberty of doing it for you. Of course, there’s no need to thank me. And don’t worry, I don’t charge for services rendered. Slapping sense into people is something I happen to enjoy—and I always make sure to do it right.”

Janice’s words carried a biting elegance, her confidence radiating with every syllable. Even in the face of Leonie’s sternness and domineering presence, she remained unfazed. It was truly impressive.

Though Sierra worried about her mother’s rising frustration, she couldn’t help but feel a newfound admiration for Janice. This was the first time she had seen her formidable mother so flustered.

Kenneth, watching from the sidelines, found a slow smile tugging at his lips. There was something utterly fascinating about Janice. Now he understood why Aiden held her in such high regard. A fearless and independent woman like Janice was a rare gem in all of Efrery.

Suddenly, Kenneth froze as he felt a pair of piercing eyes boring into him. Looking up, he locked gazes with Aiden. He couldn’t help but wonder if Aiden knew he was thinking about Janice.

“Mrs. Ramirez, you should hurry and take your daughter home. If she stays lying here, she’s bound to catch a cold,” Janice said smoothly, her eyes turning to Nellie, still sprawled on the ground. “I imagine Miss Ramirez is eager to leave now. After all, she’s lost face in public today.”

Aiden couldn’t suppress a laugh. Even Nina struggled to keep her composure, covering her mouth as her shoulders shook. Their reactions seemed to set the tone, and others in the crowd began stifling their laughter, their faces reddening from the effort.

The ripple of restrained humor only deepened Leonie’s humiliation. Her face darkened as she clenched her teeth, turned on her heel, and barked an order. “Take Nellie back.” Without another word, she shot Sierra a scathing glare before marching inside.

Chapter 134:

Witnessing Leonie's retreat, the crowd instinctively scattered. None dared linger, mindful of the potential consequences of staying too long. The events that had just unfolded were bound to dominate conversations in high society for weeks to come. Leonie's dramatic fall from grace would ensure her absence from the public eye for quite some time.

This opulent charity gala might have broken fundraising records, but for Leonie, it was nothing short of a social disaster. The humiliation she endured tonight eclipsed anything she had faced at previous events.

In a shadowed corner, Bart observed the chaos, his eyes narrowing when Janice fell into the water. What caught his attention most was Aiden's reaction.

"Isn't Aiden supposed to be disabled? Why did he..." Bart muttered under his breath, his brow furrowing in confusion. It seemed Aiden had been about to rise, only for Kenneth's timely interference to force him back into his seat.

"No, I must confirm this," Bart murmured, his voice laced with unease. His gaze sharpened as realization dawned. "If Aiden isn't truly disabled, the position of Green family head might slip out of my grasp."

He glanced to Aiden and Janice, who were quietly leaving the gala.

The moment Delilah returned, she retreated to her room. Despite Laurie's attempts to console her, Delilah refused to leave her room. The weight of humiliation was too much to bear.

Tonight's charity gala was meant to be her shining moment, her grand entrance into high society's spotlight. But everything had changed the moment Janice arrived, effortlessly stealing the show and tilting all the attention in her favor.

Delilah had worn the most exquisite gown, paired with dazzling jewelry worth a fortune, ensuring she looked every bit the queen of the evening. Yet, before she could even truly make her entrance, she was humiliated, driven to retreat in disgrace.

Seated on her bed, her face clouded with resentment, Delilah scrolled through her phone. Her heart sank as she stumbled upon a video of herself kneeling and singing to Janice, the clip already going viral. Social media was buzzing with ridicule.

“This is pure gold! She’s dressed like royalty but acts like the court jester. I wonder if she’ll even sleep tonight!” one comment read.

“Embarrassment doesn’t even begin to cover it! And that woman in the black dress? Absolutely stunning. She’s the real star of the night!”

“Someone needs to turn this into a meme—it’d be hilarious!”

“Ah!” Delilah screamed, her frustration boiling over as she hurled her phone across the room.

Her face oscillated between flushed and pale, the sting of the harsh online comments replaying in her mind. Each word was another reminder of her humiliation.

“Janice, you won’t get away with this!” Delilah fumed with anger. However, given her current lack of resources, it seemed almost impossible to take Janice down. Additionally, the Edwards family’s demeanor towards her had only deteriorated.

Fortunately, Laurie had recovered tonight and was now harboring a deep resentment towards Janice, offering Delilah considerable support. A notification sounded.

Delilah picked up her phone, her expression serious.

She noticed a new friend request. “Who could this be?” With a frown, she tapped on the message. “Nellie? What does she want with me?”

Although puzzled, she accepted the friend request and soon received a message from Nellie.

Chapter 135:

“Delilah, I believe we need to have a discussion.”

“About what?” Delilah responded, curiosity piqued.

“About Janice. Perhaps we can collaborate.”

Delilah’s eyes brightened. Could it be that Janice and Nellie had gotten into a confrontation today? She remembered hearing about Nellie’s interest in Aiden, and now that Janice was married to Aiden, Nellie must surely resent her.

Delilah’s lips twisted into a devious smile, and she quickly agreed.

“It looks like luck is on my side. With Nellie’s assistance, handling Janice should be much simpler.”

“Mom!”

A strained call came from outside.

Delilah was momentarily startled. It sounded like Carman.

Why was he back?

At this hour, he was supposed to be at the recording studio.

Carman was the most handsome of the three Edwards brothers. His pretty features and perfectly proportioned physique had made him a heartthrob, a beloved singer known for his romantic ballads that enchanted countless fans.

“Mom, where’s Delilah?” Carman burst into the house, his tone filled with urgency. “The internet is blowing up with criticisms of Delilah. What happened tonight?”

“What?” Laurie’s expression changed dramatically. “Carman, tell me exactly why Delilah is being attacked online?”

“Look at this.” Carman pulled out his phone and showed her a video.

Laurie was shocked upon viewing the video. “How did this get online? How will Delilah ever face the public again?”

“Mom, don’t panic. I’ve contacted our PR team to manage the situation. But it’s gaining a lot of traction, and it may be difficult to contain,” Carman explained as he sat down, rubbing his temples.

“Carman, you’re the only one who can look out for Delilah now. You have to protect her and make sure no one hurts her again,” Laurie said with grave concern.

“Mom, weren’t you and Delilah supposed to be at a charity gala? How did you end up running into Janice and find yourselves in such an embarrassing situation?” Carman asked, his brow furrowed. “Also, where is the Blue Heart necklace I lent Delilah? My friend is asking for it back. If we don’t return it soon, I might lose some major endorsements.”

“What?” Laurie’s expression darkened. She hesitated to reveal the truth to Carman—that the fake Blue Heart necklace had been taken away by Janice.

Seeing Laurie’s troubled look, Carman felt a surge of worry.

“Mom, please don’t tell me the Blue Heart necklace is gone?”

“Carman!” Delilah made her way down the stairs.

Her complexion was ghostly pale, her eyes hollow and tinged with red, suggesting recent tears. Her apparent vulnerability resonated deeply, pulling at the heartstrings of anyone who saw her.

“Delilah, what’s happened?” Seeing Delilah in such a fragile state, Carman was filled with concern and hurried to her side. “Did Janice cause you trouble again?”

Delilah hung her head and suddenly sank to her knees with a heavy thud.

Taken aback, Carman quickly helped her back to her feet. "Delilah, what are you doing? Get up."

Chapter 136:

Laurie also grew anxious. "Delilah, if something's bothering you, just tell us. Carman will surely help."

"Carman, I'm so sorry." Delilah looked up, her eyes swimming with tears. "The Blue Heart necklace you lent me was taken by Janice. She declared mine was a fake and shamed me publicly. I was in disbelief. I was certain the necklace you gave me was genuine. But Janice showed proof that left me speechless. Nevertheless, I trust you wouldn't give me a fake. Janice must have developed some false evidence."

Seeing Delilah's steadfast belief in him, Carman's concerns about the necklace faded, replaced by a swell of fury.

"How could Janice do this?" Carman's face turned a fiery red with rage. "The necklace is a collector's piece from a reputable friend. There's no way it could be a counterfeit. It's got to be Janice manipulating the facts under Aiden's influence."

Delilah gripped Carman's hand and pleaded, "Carman, now everyone thinks I was wearing a counterfeit. What do I do? I can't face anyone now."

"Don't worry, I've got this." Carman took a deep breath and squeezed Delilah's hand reassuringly. "I know people in the entertainment industry. A few calls should help smooth things over."

On the outside, Delilah appeared devastatingly vulnerable, but internally, she exhaled a sigh of relief. With Carman's connections, she felt confident this issue could be resolved. Additionally, with the earlier commotion, Carman had neglected to follow up on the Blue Heart necklace.

"What are you going to do, Carman?" Laurie wrung her hands, visibly anxious. "Janice isn't the underdog she once was. She's got the Green family behind her now, and she's become quite arrogant. Plus, she works at the same company as Delilah. I'm worried..."

“She works at the same company as Delilah?” Carman knew Delilah had started working at Delgado Jewelry, but he hadn’t realized Janice was also employed there.

“Yes. I suspect she joined Delgado Jewelry specifically to target Delilah.” Laurie sighed, her expression souring. “Ever since she got back, she’s been targeting Delilah nonstop.”

She paused, her mind replaying Janice’s dismissive look and sharp remarks, causing a tight sensation in her chest. But she quickly shook off the feeling, pushing down the resentment. “With all the industries the Green family controls, she chose Delgado Jewelry. That can’t be a coincidence.”

“Alright, if she wants to play dirty, I’ll take this public. I’ll do a live stream tomorrow to clear Delilah’s name.” Carman’s eyes narrowed, his stare turning cold. “I want her to publicly apologize to Delilah, on her knees.”

Delilah felt a surge of excitement. With Carman’s influence and his fan base behind her, she was confident they would support her unconditionally, regardless of the actual facts.

At that point, Janice would become the focus of public criticism, and even the Green family’s influence wouldn’t be enough to silence the public outcry.

“Hey, Yvonne, set up a live stream for me tomorrow,” Carman promptly called his agent, Yvonne Byrd, his voice commanding. “I want it across all platforms to clear my sister’s name. Yes, spare no expense; this stream has to go ahead.”

After ending the call, he turned to Delilah with an affectionate smile. “Delilah, just wait. I’ll ensure justice is served for everything you’ve endured today.”

“Carman, you’re the best.”

Delilah instinctively hugged Carman.

Carman was caught off guard, his cheeks flushing red, uncertain how to handle the situation.

Chapter 137:

Laurie observed from the side, her brow furrowing as she remembered the close bond Lowell and Delilah shared. When they were kids, their closeness was normal, but now as adults, with Delilah being an adopted member of the family without biological ties, it seemed somewhat inappropriate.

“Ahem!” Laurie cleared her throat, signaling Carman, who hesitantly stepped back from Delilah.

“By the way, where’s Lowell?” Carman looked around, puzzled. “Shouldn’t Lowell and Dad be here by now? Why haven’t I seen them?”

“Lowell was really upset after losing a bid. He’s locked himself in his room since he got back,” Delilah said with concern.

Carman frowned. “Lowell usually wins his bids. What went wrong this time?”

“It’s...” Delilah hesitated, struggling to find the words.

Carman, quick to catch on, pressed further. “Did Janice stir up trouble again?”

Delilah nodded, then added, “Lowell told me that Janice also bid and won the project, while his proposal was heavily criticized.”

“Is she purposely making things difficult for the Edwards family?” Carman’s anger reignited as he turned to Laurie. “Mom, why did you and Dad bring her back in the first place? Ever since her return, our family has been in chaos. She’s been nothing but a source of trouble, always plotting against Delilah, trying to drive her out with her schemes. She’s a curse.”

Laurie opened her mouth to respond but remained silent.

Delilah took Carman’s hand, giving him a reassuring smile. “Carman, don’t be upset. Mom and Dad only brought her back because they didn’t want me to marry Aiden.”

Carman took a moment to reflect on the reason behind it all. Had Janice simply stepped in to marry Aiden in Delilah's place, things might have been different.

Instead, she tried to take over as the heiress of the Edwards family, consistently targeting Delilah and stirring up trouble at home. Even after leaving, she continued to disrupt their peace.

He resolved that he would expose Janice in a live broadcast tomorrow.

His loyal fans would follow his lead; with just a word from him, they would likely unleash a torrent of online harassment against Janice. As for the consequences, Carman was indifferent. In his view, Janice didn't warrant any sympathy.

Laurie watched Delilah and Carman, her face etched with a mix of emotions, choosing to remain silent. She felt trapped on a path from which there was no turning back, knowing it was morally dubious yet seeing no alternative.

"Dad, you're back." At that moment, Delilah spotted Connor making his way back home, his body clearly weary.

Connor glanced around at those gathered, acknowledging them with a weary nod.

"Dad, what's going on?" Carman asked, his brow furrowed with worry. "Is there trouble at work? I heard Janice caused Edwards Group to lose a crucial project..."

"Enough," Connor interjected sharply. "You're rarely home, so let's not dwell on such grim topics."

Earlier, Connor had lowered himself to request that Greg share part of the project with him, but Greg had been merciless. Greg even boasted that he secured the project only because Janice had facilitated it.

To please Janice, he would strike Edwards Group when they were vulnerable, never extending a helping hand.

Chapter 138:

Connor was livid and ready to confront Greg, but Greg was well-prepared, with several security guards on standby to handle him. These guards were sly, targeting his body while sparing his face, betting on him to suffer in silence to maintain his pride.

“Laurie, you...” Connor hesitated, glancing at Laurie with a touch of embarrassment. “Perhaps we should set up a meeting with Janice? I could talk to her personally. That project is vital for Edwards Group. It will shape the future of our company.”

Laurie paused, looking at Connor with surprise. “What did you just say?”

Connor struggled to find his words. Reflecting on past events, he began to reconsider his previous actions towards Janice. He realized that Janice hadn’t really been at fault often, and at times she even attempted to make him happy. Yet, he had consistently misinterpreted her good deeds as hidden agendas, responding with either harsh criticism or outright hostility. “I think there are misunderstandings that we need to resolve. We owe her an apology.”

The phrase “an apology” was difficult for him to express. After all, when they had agreed to sever ties, he had been full of bravado and disdain, even cautioning Janice not to regret her decision. But now, it was he who harbored regrets, a fact that stung his pride.

Delilah’s expression changed as she observed Connor’s troubled demeanor, her look turning icy and calculating. Was he beginning to appreciate Janice’s true value now? No way! Janice had to remain the enemy of the Edwards family. If they recognized the truth, how would she continue to deceive these fools?

Before Delilah could speak, Laurie cut in. Her expression was stern, her tone grave. “Connor, since you’ve already cast Janice out, there’s no going back. The moment she left this house, she became independent, and we remained who we are. You can’t just seek reconciliation with her because of your own failure, can you?”

Laurie sneered. “If you only recognize your mistakes now, can you still stand as the head of this family?”

“Laurie...” Connor’s heart raced, and he stared at Laurie, bewildered. She had shown some regret regarding Janice before and had expressed a desire to make amends, but now her stance seemed

drastically changed. It was as if she had definitively drawn a line, cutting off any possibility of reconnecting with Janice.

“Connor, wake up,” Laurie said, her expression one of resigned sorrow. “We’ve made our bed, and now we must lie in it. You wouldn’t want to admit that the Edwards family’s prominence today has something to do with that ‘good-for-nothing’ person, would you?”

“Impossible!” Connor reacted vehemently, his teeth clenched. “The rise of the Edwards family as one of the top families is due to my hard work and Lowell’s. What does she have to do with our success? Laurie, you’re right! I shouldn’t entertain such unrealistic thoughts. We’ll overcome this setback in another way.”

Laurie simply nodded, choosing to remain silent.

Delilah exhaled in relief, giving Laurie a surprised look, sensing her stance on Janice was firmer than ever.

“What?” Just then, Carman exclaimed, his hand shaking as he held his phone. “You mean to say tomorrow’s live stream is cancelled, and Vernon wants to cancel all my endorsements? How could this be?”

Carman felt his world starting to crumble.

Vernon Lopez was a giant in the fashion industry, revered as Leah’s student and possessing extensive fashion connections. Carman had worked hard to build a strong relationship with Vernon, eventually securing several high-quality endorsements. With these successes, his future appeared promising. But now, Vernon had suddenly pulled out of all agreements with Carman.

Chapter 139:

“Yvonne, why is this happening?” Carman asked, his voice tinged with desperation. “Is it because of the Blue Heart necklace? Tell him I’ll make sure it’s returned.”

But before Carman could get a response, the call ended abruptly.

“Damn it!!” Carman yelled, hurling his phone onto the floor. His usually charming face, adored by legions of fans, was now contorted in fury. “Yvonne Byrd, who do you think you are, hanging up on me!”

“Carman, what’s going on?” Delilah asked cautiously.

Carman looked at Delilah, managing to calm his rage. “Yvonne has backed out of the live stream scheduled for tomorrow, and Vernon has terminated my endorsements.”

“Vernon? Leah Sugden’s student?” Laurie furrowed her brows as she realized the situation was more complex than it appeared. “He’s a major figure in the fashion industry. How did YOU manage to upset him?”

“I have no idea,” Carman responded with a resigned smile. “I borrowed the Blue Heart necklace from him. Initially, he was fine with it, but then he abruptly demanded it back and canceled my endorsements.”

Both Delilah and Laurie were struck by a sudden insight. They seemed to reach the same conclusion at the same time. If Janice’s Blue Heart was authentic, then the one Carman borrowed from Vernon must be fake.

The potential exposure of Vernon’s fake Blue Heart could damage his reputation and also alarm Leah, who was not just the CEO of Freak Design but also a titan in the fashion industry. Vernon’s decision to distance himself from Carman, likely fearing repercussions from Leah, made sense.

Yet, the two women chose to keep their thoughts to themselves. “I need to confront Vernon and get some answers,” Carman said determinedly, before quickly exiting the house.

Meanwhile, in an elegantly decorated room, dim lighting and a subtle scent set a relaxed mood, with soft music enhancing the intimate setting. Moonlight poured through a large window, casting a glow on a strikingly beautiful woman, making the scene even more enchanting.

Vernon, despite his status as a mogul in fashion, knelt on the floor with a nervous demeanor, facing the woman. He pressed his lips together, anxious and careful not to interrupt her phone conversation.

“Janice, what do you want to do about this?” Leah, leaning casually against the window, spoke in a slow, almost seductive tone. “Should we send Costello to rough him up, or maybe let a few tough women handle him?”

On the other end of the line, Janice massaged her temples.

“Leah, you’re such a beautiful woman. Why must you be so fierce?”

“Because that blind fool dared to cause such trouble for you.” Leah shot a sidelong glance at Vernon, her piercing gaze sending a chill down his spine.

“I apologize, I was mistaken!” Vernon blurted out, his expression laden with remorse. “To make it right, I’ve already withdrawn all of Carman’s endorsements and warned him against going live to discuss any of this. If that’s not enough, just give the word, and I’ll do whatever you say.” Internally, he was fuming.

He had assumed Carman needed the Blue Heart necklace for a new music video, and figured everything would be fine as long as it was returned on time.

But unexpectedly, Carman had passed it to Delilah, sparking a major scandal.

Initially, Vernon had so admired Leah that he secretly made a copy of the Blue Heart necklace as a keepsake. But he had never imagined that his replica would clash with the real one, causing such madness.

When the truth came out, Leah had already tracked him down. Leah approached slowly, each step measured and graceful. Dressed in a silk nightgown, her striking silhouette was undeniable. Yet, Vernon could only look at her with a mix of awe and fear, his eyes wide with worry.

Chapter 140:

Leah bent down, gently lifting Vernon’s chin with her finger, her lips curling into an enigmatic smile. “I’ve known about your copy of my Blue Heart necklace for some time. If you had kept it to yourself, I

wouldn't have minded. But lending it out, especially to someone from the Edwards family, was incredibly foolish."

"I truly didn't intend for any of this to happen," Vernon explained quickly. "Carman only asked to borrow it for a video shoot, so I lent it to him. I had no idea he'd pass it to his sister, and then..." He stopped abruptly, his eyes widening as he pieced together a daunting realization.

Could the person wearing the real Blue Heart necklace be the legendary JE, Leah's teacher?

"You should keep certain things to yourself," Leah warned sternly. "If you say even one word, I won't hesitate to toss you into the sea as shark food."

"Got it," Vernon replied, nodding repeatedly.

His heart raced with shock. The person Leah had just spoken to on the phone was JE. This meant that once he identified who wore the real Blue Heart necklace tonight, he could finally learn who JE was.

Vernon held back his excitement. He had waited so long to meet her, but she was so elusive that even as Leah's student, he never got the chance. Now, with her secret about to be uncovered, how could he not feel excited?

Leah stood up, listening to the instructions on the phone. She nodded. "Get up. She has forgiven you. But she said that since you're with us now, you must cut ties with Carman. As for the fake Blue Heart necklace, she doesn't care to take it back. Take it as a lesson."

"Thank you. And thank JE for me."

The once powerful icon of the fashion world now appeared as timid as a kitten, all because the true authority was standing before him. "Leave now."

Vernon, as if pardoned, quickly rushed out of the room.

Once outside, his expression darkened. The frustration and anger he had held in burst forth. "Carman Edwards, just wait and see."

Leah reclined on the sofa with a relaxed air. "Janice, it seems like you've been enjoying yourself lately."

"Not too bad," Janice replied, leaning against the floor-to-ceiling window as she gazed at the full moon. "The Edwards family is nothing. Watching them fume helplessly is pretty entertaining."

"With your skills, bringing down the Edwards family would be easy. Do you really need to go through all this hassle?" Leah asked, sounding a bit exasperated.

"I enjoy the process."

Leah said nothing.

At the orphanage, Janice had worked tirelessly to stand out, craving recognition. She eventually achieved greatness that most could only dream of. But when she reunited with her family, they hurt her before she could even share her success.

Now, she had cut all ties and treated life like a game. Maybe one day, when Leah reached Janice's level, she too would see life as just a game.

"Janice, Costello will pick you up tomorrow at noon," Leah said, steering the conversation. "He'll take you to the hospital where Glenn is. I've ensured your identity stays hidden to keep things discreet."

"Alright. Get some rest." Janice ended the call, a slight smirk forming as she stared at the full moon. "The Edwards family must be scrambling to fix Delilah's mess. I wonder if Carman can still write a hit song without me."