

Wrath 431

Chapter 431:

“All done.” As Demi was lost in thought, Carlton finished treating her hands.

She snapped back to reality, looking at her hands with a wry smile. “I’ve really made a fool of myself. Already causing trouble on the first day.”

“What are you talking about?” Carlton asked, his tone soothing. “You didn’t hurt yourself on purpose. You were just trying to help me.”

“Carlton, don’t be so modest. A handsome and thoughtful guy like you must be popular, right?”

At this sudden shift in the conversation, Janice, who had been reading, couldn’t help but smirk to herself. Demi’s motives were clear. Aware of the cameras, she was pulling every string to make an impact. Her thirst for attention was palpable.

Carlton, naive to Demi’s ploys, responded earnestly, “I’ve been single for over twenty years. If I weren’t, I wouldn’t be on this show.”

“No way! I can’t believe it.” Demi gasped, covering her mouth in mock surprise. “You’re such a catch, yet you’ve never been in a relationship? Unbelievable.”

“I’m serious.”

As they talked, the space between them shrank. Demi’s eager gaze was so intense that even Carlton, usually so oblivious, felt the pull of her interest. He didn’t dismiss her flirtations.

Meanwhile, Janice grew increasingly impatient, wondering about the delay of the fourth participant. Could they be stuck in traffic?

Just then, the door swung open.

A striking figure entered. Demi, deep in conversation with Carlton, paused mid-sentence as she caught sight of the newcomer.

What a handsome man!

He was breathtakingly handsome!

While Carlton was undoubtedly attractive, this man seemed to be from another realm entirely.

The man exuded nobility, elegance, and a distinct charm. His eyes held a subtle aloofness, and his tall stature enhanced his commanding presence.

Janice was stunned, unable to believe her eyes.

Just then, the man glanced over, and the aloofness in his eyes gave way to a fiery intensity.

Following his gaze, Demi's expression momentarily cooled.

Was he interested in Janice?

Despite her beauty, Janice had been distant since her arrival, lounging on the sofa with her book, seemingly indifferent to her surroundings.

Why would such a standoffish woman catch the eye of this striking newcomer?

"The shoe cabinet's right over there. Ladies' slippers are on the second shelf, and gents' are on the first." Demi moved quickly toward the newcomer, ready to lend a hand. Her bright energy practically bubbled over as she reached for a pair of slippers.

Carlton watched her with quiet amusement. Her eagerness was unmistakable, and to him, it spoke volumes about her sociable nature—a definite feather in her cap, as far as he was concerned.

But the man in question didn't share Carlton's appreciation. Without so much as a glance at Demi's effort, he kicked off his leather shoes and strode straight toward Janice.

Demi froze, slippers in hand, feeling the heat of awkwardness creep up her face. The man had brushed past her as if she were invisible.

Chapter 432:

"Aiden, what on earth are you doing here?" Janice asked, her voice hushed and laced with irritation as Aiden drew near.

"How could I stay away if you're here?" Without missing a beat, Aiden plopped himself down beside Janice. Every move he made seemed to radiate his affection for her, almost as if they were old flames reunited, though it was supposedly day one. His intensity hung in the air like perfume—overwhelming and impossible to ignore.

"Devin, care to explain why Aiden is here?" Leah asked the moment she spotted Aiden. Her sharp tone cut through the room like a knife. "I don't recall seeing his name on the original guest list."

"He insisted on joining. What was I supposed to do? Tell him to scram and risk the show going belly-up?" Devin sighed, throwing up his hands in mock surrender. His bitter smile barely masked his frustration. "If he's keen to throw his weight—and his wallet—behind the production, I've got to make room for him."

Leah sank into her chair, her eyes glued to the monitor.

Aiden and Janice chatted like long-lost confidants, blissfully oblivious to everyone else.

"Believe me, I wasn't thrilled when I saw his name pop up on the list either," Devin confessed, his tone tinged with desperation. "It's not just Aiden. Honestly, this entire cast feels like a powder keg ready to blow. The only ones who seem normal are Demi and Carlton. Everyone else? Either they've got some serious clout or they are the clout. I'm just trying to keep the wheels turning without this thing going up in smoke."

Leah shook her head, grasping Devin's reservations instantly. Janice's current status remained under wraps, yet with her influence in play, Devin knew better than to take her lightly.

Then there was Aiden, head of the illustrious Green family and practically the puppet master of Efrery. Freak Design, for all its power, was still an outsider, dwarfed by Aiden's formidable presence.

And Stephen, the golden boy of the silver screen. With the Chadwick family backing him and his accolades as the best actor, he was a force to be reckoned with. On top of that, Daniel was also a Chadwick.

"Who are the remaining two?" Leah asked Devin suddenly, her curiosity piqued. "Are they also riding the wave of capital backing?"

"Look, here he comes," Devin said, nodding toward the screen.

Leah turned to the video. Her face paled, and she sprang to her feet like she'd been electrocuted.

"What on earth? Why is he here?"

Leah's reaction wasn't unique—Janice and even Aiden looked visibly taken aback by this unexpected guest.

"Leonidas?" Janice hissed, her eyes narrowing as they fixed on the newcomer. Her gaze was as sharp as a dagger, her tone colder than the wind on a winter's night. Today, Leonidas seemed oddly restrained, more like a scholarly gentleman than his usual unhinged self. The facade almost made him seem approachable, but anyone who fell for it was bound to regret it—Leonidas was a master of manipulation.

Meanwhile, Demi's eyes lit up like sparklers at the sight of him. She was awestruck. What was happening this season on Love Lab? The caliber of guests was through the roof!

She kicked herself for pairing up with Carlton so hastily. If she'd known such fascinating men would show up, she would have played her cards closer to her chest.

Chapter 433:

Leonidas wasn't as striking as Aiden, but there was a quiet allure about him. His delicate features and introspective demeanor gave off a vulnerable charm that had an undeniable pull on women.

Demi's mind raced with plans. She had to make a move and leave a good impression on him.

But to her chagrin, Leonidas didn't even glance in her direction. Instead, he made a beeline straight for Janice. As Demi watched, her cheeks burned with frustration. What was this? Love Lab or Janice's fan club? Two out of three male contestants were orbiting Janice, leaving her fuming.

"Leonidas, care to explain yourself?" Janice's expression darkened like a brewing storm as she leveled a piercing glare at him. Her eyes burned with a fire that could scorch anyone who dared cross her.

But Leonidas? He was as unruffled as a summer lake, his smirk practically oozing mischief. "How could I resist such a fascinating spectacle? You see, this little show—it's our playground now."

His words made both Janice and Aiden shift uneasily. He planned to turn the entire show into his personal chessboard.

"Relax," Leonidas said, his chuckle smooth and disarming as he settled into his seat like he owned the place. "I may have chosen this show as our stage, but don't fret. I won't go moving the goalposts willy-nilly."

"And just what's your game here?" Janice demanded, her tone sharp enough to cut glass. She disliked this feeling of losing control.

What had started as a straightforward mission to uncover more about Stephen was now spiraling into something far more chaotic, thanks to Leonidas and his maddening antics.

Leonidas leaned back, crossing his legs comfortably while observing Janice and Aiden with keen interest. He took pleasure in their unease, a clear indication they could not disregard his presence.

“Janice, think of me as just another person eager to join and savor this show,” he said.

“Do you honestly expect me to believe that?”

Leonidas gave a nonchalant shrug. “It doesn’t matter if you believe it or not, I’m already here. Or, are you thinking about doing something about it now, and then...” He stopped speaking, his gaze drifting toward the door just as a man walked in.

That man was Stephen.

Today, he was dressed in casual sportswear, his appearance clean and fresh. His attractive features seemed naturally designed to charm anyone, regardless of his attire. Once more, Demi’s heart skipped a beat, regretting her earlier rash decision. She silently cursed the program’s team. Why did they persist in bringing on such charming and notable male guests one after another?

Stephen had recently won the Best Actor award. If she could stir up some controversy with him, wouldn’t that guarantee her enough attention?

“Stephen, I’m a fan of yours,” Demi said, boldly approaching him.

Stephen responded with a simple smile, then selected a pair of slippers and slipped them on before entering the room.

“Janice, Aiden, just relax and join the game,” Leonidas suggested with a playful look, his eyes flicking back and forth between Janice and Aiden. “After all, it’s not like you have much choice.”

Mixed emotions flickered across Janice’s face as she glanced at Stephen. Without him, Leonidas would not be a threat.

Chapter 434:

However, Leonidas was skilled at manipulating people, certain that Janice wouldn't ignore Stephen, her brother, thereby putting herself in a disadvantageous position.

A wave of warmth radiated from her palm.

Janice turned to Aiden, who was sitting next to her. He remained silent, but his eyes said it all. He would stand by her side no matter the circumstances. Janice nodded in response, restraining her emotions. Then, she resumed her usual poised and collected manner, catching Leonidas off guard.

It was no surprise she was his biggest rival. The way she adapted so quickly revealed her exceptionally strong mindset.

And Aiden was tough in his own right. But with Janice as his vulnerability, it made him less intimidating to Leonidas, similar to a tiger without its teeth.

"Janice, what brings you to this program?" Stephen asked, surprised to find Janice in the living room as he entered.

Demi observed this interaction, her frustration building inside. Why did Stephen have ties to Janice as well? The more she dwelled on it, the more her frustration grew, visibly aggrieved.

Carlton caught sight of her troubled expression and felt a pinch of compassion. "Are you alright, Demi?"

"I'm fine," Demi replied with a forced smile, taking a deep breath to boost her spirits. "Perhaps it's just that we're strangers to each other, which makes them so distant. I'm quite resilient. Don't worry about me."

Her words left a positive impression on Carlton, softening his expression into a gentle, warm smile.

Demi was surprised. She hadn't failed to charm the three men, yet she had unintentionally won Carlton's approval, which wasn't a poor result.

Meanwhile, Janice had already begun talking to Stephen.

“What if I told you I’m here to learn from you? Would that seem believable?”

Stephen paused for a moment, a bit surprised, before offering a helpless smile.

“You must be joking. Other than acting, what could you possibly want to learn from me? Are you thinking about entering the entertainment industry?”

“Why not?” Janice answered with a subtle smile. “The entertainment industry is quite fascinating.”

Stephen sighed, a hint of defeat in his gaze. While he wasn’t sure of Janice’s true motives, he liked her and felt a strange familiarity with her.

“The entertainment world is complex and chaotic. You don’t need to get tangled in this chaos.”

“Is that so? Are you speaking from experience?” Janice asked, gazing at Stephen, who merely shook his head gently, opting not to dig further into the subject.

Janice wisely decided to drop the topic, knowing they were on camera. Talking too much about the inner workings of the entertainment industry could negatively impact Stephen.

The mood momentarily turned awkward.

Janice and Aiden sat together, while Leonidas remained by himself. His eyes moved over the others, occasionally shooting cold, unsettling glances that made them feel a chill run down their spines.

On the other hand, Demi and Carlton were deeply engaged in an enthusiastic conversation.

The development was progressing smoothly, much to the surprise of the production team. They confirmed that Demi and Carlton were emerging as the most promising duo, thus they were given ample screen time.

Chapter 435:

Click!

At that moment, the door sounded again.

Everyone automatically turned to the noise, only to see a charismatic and charming man enter.

“Kenneth?” Janice’s eyes widened in shock as she took in the sight of the newcomer.

The variety show, she realized, felt less like a quest for romance and more like a gathering of friends. How else could she explain the familiarity of everyone here? Where were the A-list celebrities they had been promised? Apart from Demi and Stephen, the others hardly seemed part of the entertainment industry.

Meanwhile, Aiden’s expression turned frosty, as if he were gearing up for a confrontation. Kenneth, aware of Aiden’s intense gaze, chose to ignore it and walked over to Janice.

“Surprised?”

“No, more like shocked!” Janice blinked in astonishment, staring at Kenneth. “Shouldn’t you be at work? What brings you here?”

“Delgado Jewelry just formed a strategic partnership with Freak Design. Everything is running smoothly, and with Stella and the team in charge, my presence isn’t necessary. I’m here to unwind and perhaps pick up a few tips from you.”

“Learn a thing or two from me?” Janice pointed to herself, her voice tinged with disbelief. She had just said similar words to Stephen, and now here was Kenneth, using her own words against her. The irony brought a faint smile to her face.

“Absolutely,” Kenneth responded with a courteous smile, continuing to disregard Aiden’s glare. “Your design skills are exceptional. Maybe by spending time with you, I can uncover the secret to your talent.”

His explanation was seamless, rendering Janice speechless.

“Don’t you have anything better to do?” Aiden interjected with a sneer, stepping closer to Janice in a clear display of possessiveness.

Kenneth raised an eyebrow, his gaze sharp. “Do you ever pause to reflect before speaking? Or is impulsiveness a habit of yours?”

Aiden’s eyes narrowed, his demeanor chilly, but Kenneth remained composed, maintaining his smile.

The tension between the two men was tangible, suffocating the air.

Leonidas observed the exchange with a mischievous grin, his interest piqued, though his thoughts were inscrutable.

Nearby, Demi seemed engaged in conversation with Carlton, yet her focus was clearly on the drama unfolding before her. The sight of both Aiden and Kenneth competing for Janice’s attention visibly irked her. She had thought she would be the star of the show, only to find Janice unexpectedly in the limelight.

What made Janice so captivating? Sure, she was attractive and had an impressive figure, but what more was there?

“Hey, another guest has arrived,” Carlton said, nodding toward the entrance where a woman in a sporty outfit approached, her presence adding a burst of energy to the room.

“Hello, everyone!” she said with a bright smile as she entered.

“Maggie? What are you doing here?” Kenneth exclaimed in surprise upon seeing the woman.

Maggie Delgado, just as stunned to see Kenneth, responded, “Kenneth, shouldn’t I be asking you that?” The two exchanged bewildered looks, clearly taken aback by each other’s presence.

Chapter 436:

Janice observed the interaction, noting the resemblance between Kenneth and Maggie. Kenneth seemed more reserved and mature, while Maggie radiated youthful exuberance.

“Is this your younger sister who’s supposed to be studying abroad?”

“Yes, she is,” Kenneth replied, his tone turning serious. “She’s supposed to be overseas, not here.”

Maggie rubbed her nose, glanced at Janice, then at Kenneth, and quickly sat next to Janice, wrapping her arm around hers with a friendly grin.

“You must be my future sister-in-law, right? Kenneth, you have excellent taste. She’s absolutely stunning.”

Kenneth opened his mouth to reprimand Maggie but found himself at a loss for words. He couldn’t help but admire his sister’s knack for steering the conversation.

“Who said you could sit there?” Aiden interjected with a frosty stare that made Maggie feel as if a predator had fixed its gaze on her.

“Aiden? You’re here too?” Maggie’s eyes widened, a mix of recognition and alarm filling her expression.

Her manager had downplayed the show, mentioning it wasn’t very popular and lacked major celebrities. Although the current guests weren’t high-profile celebrities, they were recognizable figures, including one who had haunted her nightmares since childhood.

Aiden was a name Maggie had known since childhood; he was a prodigy who had always overshadowed her brother.

Rumors had always painted Aiden as a ruthless tactician, even suggesting he'd dispose of rivals by nefarious means. Maggie often had nightmares where Aiden, embodying her fears, bound her and threw her into a river.

Facing him in reality, on her very first reality show, was more than unsettling. How could she not be unnerved?

"Aiden, please have a seat." Maggie leapt up instantly, a broad smile lighting up her face. Her overt eagerness made Kenneth frown, puzzled by his sister's apparent dread of Aiden.

Janice, too, was intrigued by Maggie's exaggerated fear. "Aiden, did you scare her somehow?" she asked.

Aiden's frown deepened, and he shot Janice a look of mild offense. "Do you really think I'd do something to scare her?"

Janice shrugged. "Who knows? With your reputation, it's possible she's been having nightmares about you since she was a kid."

Maggie, overhearing this, nodded vigorously, her eyes wide with admiration toward Janice. Janice truly understood her.

Maggie's reaction amused Janice. Maggie reminded her of Sierra and Leah—similar yet distinct. Maggie was particularly timid, turning pale at just a glance from Aiden. Sierra, though cautious around Aiden, wasn't as skittish, and Leah was outright defiant, able to hold his gaze.

Meanwhile, Leah was monitoring this exchange via camera, massaging her temples in annoyance. "Janice is smitten with her."

“Leah, you know Janice has a soft spot for coquettish girls,” Prescott said, his tone a mix of jest and envy. “If only I were a girl, I’d charm Janice in no time.”

Leah gave him a look. “I could send you to gender reassignment surgeries. You’d be quite the looker.”

“Hey! I’m just joking. Don’t get any ideas!” Prescott quickly covered himself, eyeing Leah warily. Given her audacity, he wasn’t taking any chances.

Chapter 437:

“Devin, the guests you’ve invited for this reality show are quite the characters,” Leah said, turning to Devin with a slight roll of her eyes. “They’re all so distinct, with remarkable backgrounds or eccentric traits. It’s fascinating.”

Devin managed a nervous chuckle, at a loss for words. Truth be told, the guests he initially wanted couldn’t attend, leaving room for these prominent figures to take their places. He felt somewhat powerless about it.

“By the way, who’s the last guest?” Leah asked, her interest piqued. The previous guests were all known entities, so she was curious about this mystery arrival.

“It’s Daniel Chadwick.”

“Oh, right!” Leah raised an eyebrow, remembering the name from a list she had seen earlier.

“He’s the third son of the Chadwick family, quite the playboy. They bought his way into the show.” Devin looked frustrated as he shared this. It was all due to capital manipulation; none of the guests were his personal choices. Even Carlton and Demi were involved because of such tactics. Carlton was new to the entertainment industry, looking for exposure, while Demi hoped to garner more resources through the show.

Leah walked over and patted Devin on the shoulder.

“Look on the bright side! That’s just how the world works. Either you manipulate the game, or you play along.”

“Ms. Sugden, can I align with you then?” Devin asked, half-jokingly.

“Uh...” Leah quickly withdrew her hand, shifting her focus to the video screen.

If Devin were younger and more attractive, she might have considered a different response, much like Vernon, who, with his striking looks, became her subordinate and rose to prominence with her guidance.

“Hey, Daniel has finally arrived,” Leah said, spotting a figure on the video.

A fashionably dressed man appeared, exuding arrogance as if he owned the world.

Daniel took off his sunglasses, his face marked by a look of haughty disdain.

“Mr. Chadwick, it seems we’re a bit late. The other guests are probably already here,” his manager said awkwardly.

“So what?” Daniel casually cleaned his sunglasses. “They’re nobodies. Even if one is an award-winning actor, wasn’t he just boosted by my mother? If our family withdraws support, his career is over.”

His tone dripped with disdain, dismissive of everyone, particularly Stephen.

The manager, maintaining a polite smile, knew better than to upset the powerful Chadwick heir.

“If it weren’t for the attractive female guests last time, I wouldn’t bother with this trivial show,” Daniel said disdainfully, his eyes revealing a flicker of desire.

The manager saw this but remained silent. While others joined the show for exposure, Daniel was there for romance, confident his status would easily attract the female guests.

"Karl, you're dismissed. I've got the rest covered," Daniel said, waving him off.

"If you say so." With a curt nod, the manager turned on his heel and strode away.

Sliding on his sunglasses with practiced precision, Daniel grabbed his suitcase and sauntered toward the villa, exuding unwarranted confidence.

His knuckles rapped lightly on the wooden door, but he made no move to open it himself. In his mind, someone of his caliber deserved nothing less than a lavish welcome, complete with fawning admiration from the staff.

Chapter 438:

The seconds stretched uncomfortably, and his polished expression faltered as silence answered his knock. "What's going on here? Guests should be bustling in by now. Where's my grand reception?"

Huffing, he adjusted his posture and rapped again, louder this time.

At last, the door creaked open, framing a poised woman whose beauty seemed to shine effortlessly.

"You must be the last male guest." Demi's gaze lingered on Daniel, her expression as steady as calm waters.

The lack of reaction prickled at Daniel's pride. After all, he'd spent hours perfecting every detail of his appearance; surely any woman should be dazzled.

Instead, she seemed utterly indifferent.

"That's correct. My name is Daniel Chadwick."

“A pleasure to meet you, Mr. Chadwick.”

Something about her response unsettled Daniel. He had made his prestigious lineage known, yet Demi remained unmoved, her demeanor betraying no trace of awe or surprise.

Determined to elicit the reaction he deserved, Daniel removed his sunglasses and said, “Perhaps you didn’t hear me clearly—I am Daniel Chadwick.”

“I did,” Demi replied, offering a faint, unbothered smile as she stepped aside. “Hurry in. You’re the last to arrive, and the next phase won’t begin until you’re here.”

Daniel’s brow furrowed in irritation, his patience wearing thin. Could it be that this woman was oblivious to the prestige of the Chadwick family, or had she somehow failed to appreciate his striking features? Why did she act so nonchalantly? The admiration he was accustomed to was nowhere to be found.

Stalling himself with a long, measured breath, Daniel chalked up Demi’s indifference to ignorance—a forgivable flaw. Surely, the women waiting inside the villa would recognize his stature and react with the awe he deserved.

“Apologies for being late.” Daniel stepped inside, exchanging his polished shoes for house slippers with an air of practiced elegance. Keeping his gaze aloof, he entered the living room and, with deliberate flair, removed his sunglasses before striking a pose meant to greet and gain attention.

But when his eyes landed on the guests in the room, his expression froze. Why did their faces seem so familiar to him? That radiant, confident man could only be Kenneth. The cheerful young woman sitting next to him looked exactly like Kenneth’s sister, Maggie. And the breathtaking woman, with a beauty that seemed almost otherworldly, stood beside a man whose sharp presence reminded him of that devil, Aiden.

As Daniel stood there in stunned silence, struggling to regain his composure, Aiden and Kenneth had already fixed their piercing gazes on him, their presence filling the room with oppressive intensity.

“Daniel, I must say, your entrance was truly unforgettable.”

“Quite right. Aiden and I arrived far earlier, yet somehow, you’ve managed to make us look unremarkable.”

With just a few casual words from Aiden and Kenneth, Daniel’s legs started to tremble. Why were they here? Wasn’t this supposed to be a dating show? How could these two powerful figures end up in such a setting? In their presence, the Chadwick family seemed insignificant, like a mere speck of dust.

The realization struck him suddenly, making everything clear. Demi’s calm reaction made sense now. After meeting such influential people, why would she waste her energy being impressed by him?

Chapter 439:

“Please don’t misunderstand! I was just stuck in traffic and arrived later than expected.” Daniel quickly regained his composure and forced a smile. “Sorry.”

He hastily grabbed a glass from the table and drank it to calm down.

“Actually, that was mine,” Carlton said in a helpless tone. He had tried to stop Daniel, but the latter’s speed left no room for intervention.

“It’s fine; no harm done,” Daniel said with a strained grin, his gaze turning to Carlton. “Excuse me, have we met before? You seem very familiar.”

“My name is Carlton Patterson.”

Carlton Patterson? The second son of the Patterson family?

Daniel’s face froze, his confidence crumbling. Though the Patterson family had fallen from the ranks of the top four, they still wielded enough power to rival the Chadwick family.

He felt a lump in his throat, almost ready to cry.

Remembering his earlier boast to his manager, shame crept over him. This wasn't just a dating show; it was a gathering of elite powerhouses.

He had hoped to impress others with his wealth and status, but now he realized the tables had turned. In the presence of Aiden and Kenneth, it was he who should be awestruck. These were the true titans.

"Everyone, now that all the guests are here, let's officially begin the show," Devin's voice echoed through the speakers. "This season of our program will be broadcast live. From this moment on, every move you make will be visible to the public online."

The revelation caught everyone off guard, their faces a mix of shock and confusion.

It turned out to be a live broadcast, completely overturning their expectations of the show.

Janice's brow furrowed as her eyes landed on Leonidas, who wore a knowing smirk. Could it be that Leonidas was behind this entire arrangement?

Leonidas noticed Janice's gaze and raised an eyebrow, seemingly confirming that this was indeed his arrangement.

Janice was momentarily taken aback but soon regained her poise with a smile, showing no sign of disturbance from Leonidas' maneuvers.

Her composed reaction surprised Leonidas. He stroked his chin, pondering the implications of Janice's smile.

His initial plan had been to publicly unmask Janice, revealing her multiple hidden identities gradually, leaving her no place to hide.

Over the years, Janice had maintained a low profile despite holding several influential roles, her most covert being the presidency of JE Consortium.

If Janice wasn't concerned about her exposure, the game would lose its thrill.

"Janice, what's going on?" Aiden asked, his voice tinged with concern.

"Nothing," Janice replied, picking up a glass of water from the table and taking a sip. "I think I've figured out Leonidas' motive for this stunt."

"And what is it?"

"You're aware that I have many identities, right?" Janice asked.

"Yes." Aiden nodded. He was aware of several identities Janice had publicly assumed, and he had suspicions about a few others. But Janice's sudden mention of this left him wondering how it connected to their current predicament.

"Leonidas is a complex character with a morbid sense of humor," Janice said, setting down her glass with a dry laugh. "He wasn't wrong in saying this show is like a game. His plan is to expose my identities one by one during the broadcast."

Chapter 440:

Aiden's expression hardened as he glanced at Leonidas, a chill passing through his gaze. "What does he hope to gain by doing this?"

From Aiden's understanding, while exposing her might inconvenience Janice, it wouldn't lead to significant repercussions.

"It's simple. He knows I prefer to remain hidden, so he aims to expose me. This man just wants to challenge me." Their rivalry had begun back at the Generous Lives Orphanage.

Despite Leonidas' schemes, Janice was far from defenseless. Her resilience had rendered many of his attempts futile.

“So what will you do now?”

“I’ll play along,” Janice responded with a smirk, her expression one of casual defiance.

She crossed her arms and legs, adopting a relaxed yet defiant posture, as if daring Leonidas. “I’m curious to see what tricks he has up his sleeve. It’s been a while since I’ve sparred with this lunatic, and I’m actually eager to see if he’s improved.”

Aiden frowned. While Janice appeared completely unfazed by Leonidas, Aiden couldn’t help but worry. Leonidas was unpredictable, and his actions were anyone’s guess.

Sensing Aiden’s concern, Janice reached out and gently patted his hand.

“I’ll keep an eye on Leonidas. If he tries anything too drastic against you, I’ll step in, no matter the consequences,” she promised.

“Alright.” Janice nodded, maintaining her composure, but internally, she felt a surge of warmth.

“Ladies and gentlemen, the live broadcast has started. Your every move is now under the scrutiny of countless viewers, so please be mindful of your words and actions.” Devin’s voice echoed the reminder. The guests immediately straightened up, especially Demi, who adjusted her attire and struck a poised pose.

The others remained casual, with no apparent concerns. Meanwhile, Nina had invited Sierra over for a chat.

Though reluctant, Sierra had no real grounds to object, particularly since Nina had extended the invitation herself.

Sierra and Nina enjoyed a lively conversation over coffee.

“Hey, what’s this?”

Sierra glanced at her phone as a notification announced the live broadcast of Love Lab.

“Oh, right, Janice is on that show.” She recalled and promptly tapped in. But upon witnessing the unfolding drama on the stream, she was taken aback.

“What’s that look for, Sierra?” Nina was amused by her astonished expression. “You know Janice. Why such surprise?”

“Just look at this.” Sierra turned the phone toward Nina, somewhat bewildered.

“Let me see...” Nina took a leisurely sip of her coffee and peered at the screen. But the moment she caught sight of the live broadcast, she nearly spit out her drink.

“Wow, your timing with that coffee was impeccable!” Sierra joked, grabbing a tissue to dab at the splashes on her face.

“Uh, sorry! I didn’t expect such a shocking scene,” Nina replied, her astonishment evident. “I thought Janice was just there to have fun, but seeing Aiden involved too, and even the Delgado siblings? That’s unexpected.”

Nina sighed inwardly, marveling at the escalating drama. From what she’d gathered, Kenneth appeared to have a soft spot for Janice.