

Wrath 441

Chapter 441:

Kenneth's participation in the show was undoubtedly tied to Janice. Otherwise, someone of his stature would never have considered appearing on a variety program like this.

Aiden's presence, on the other hand, made more sense. He was there to chase after Janice, tagging along on the show to stay close to her.

But now, with Aiden and Kenneth squaring off, the air was thick with tension, and a confrontation seemed inevitable.

"Stephen, Daniel, and Carlton..." Nina glanced around, recognizing the others, and couldn't shake the feeling that everything was becoming more tangled and chaotic. "This show is guaranteed to blow up."

"It already has!" Sierra exclaimed, her eyes sparkling with excitement. "Just look at the number of viewers in the live stream!"

The viewer count had already skyrocketed to a hundred thousand.

Within minutes of the broadcast starting, an astonishing number of viewers had already poured in.

Most of the viewers had been lured by Janice and Aiden. Some were just curious souls who'd clicked on the stream by chance, only to be caught in its grip, unable to tear themselves away.

"Oh my! Who is that ethereal beauty?" a viewer commented. "She's dressed so casually but looks like a fairy. Stunning! Hands down, she's the most gorgeous guest in all of Love Lab's seasons."

"And the man beside her is calm, collected, and ridiculously handsome."

"Wait, who are they? Why don't I recognize any of them? They don't look like the typical celebrities this show invites."

Many viewers were captivated by Janice's and Aiden's striking looks. Their screens flooded with comments and praise, as admiration poured in from all sides.

"Why do they give off such a couple vibe? The woman exudes confidence, beauty, and grace, while the man carries an air of calm, composure, and authority. They seem like the perfect pair, straight out of a novel!"

"I feel the same way. If we're talking about the classic love story, the sunny, handsome guy beside them must be the second male lead, right?"

"Oh no, I tuned in to see Stephen, but now that I've seen these two stars, Stephen isn't that stunning anymore."

"This episode of Love Lab is absolutely incredible. They not only brought in some amazing guests, but they also launched a live broadcast mode. This strategy is truly groundbreaking."

The number of viewers in the live stream kept skyrocketing.

Devin's heart raced as he watched the staggering surge in popularity. He had anticipated the live stream would do well, but he never imagined it would explode like this. In a short while, the viewer count had soared to two hundred thousand, with an endless stream of virtual gifts flooding in. This was a game-changing moment for reality TV.

"Capitalize on the momentum!" Devin's brows furrowed as his expression turned serious. "Let's dive into the first segment and crank up the engagement in the live stream."

Inside the villa, the guests were oblivious to their skyrocketing live stream popularity. All eyes were on Devin's voice as it echoed through the speakers.

"Ladies and gentlemen, it's task time!" Devin announced. "Since it's nearly lunchtime, we're kicking things off with a talent showcase. You'll have to showcase your skills if you want a delicious meal. We'll move into the self-introduction segment next. However, this introduction will be unique. You're to demonstrate your talents to leave a lasting impression on one another. Plus, our production team will

arrange lunch based on the viewers' votes, with the one receiving the most support enjoying the most extravagant meal."

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Devin's words instantly sparked excitement among the guests.

"What do you mean by an extravagant meal?" Daniel frowned, turning to the camera with an air of defiance. "We can't see the support rate or the number of votes. Isn't it all in your hands? And what exactly do you mean by an extravagant meal? I hope this doesn't mean you'll throw us a couple of eggs and call it a feast."

"Doesn't this guy seem a little full of himself?"

"Honestly, the first time I saw him, I thought he came off as quite arrogant, like he thinks the world revolves around him."

"Exactly! Everyone else stayed quiet, but he just had to speak up, acting all dissatisfied with the production team's setup. Why did he even bother joining the show if he's so unhappy?"

Daniel had no idea his remarks had rubbed many viewers the wrong way. To them, he came across as a bit pretentious. The production team hadn't even finished explaining the rules, yet he was already eager to express himself. Was he really that aggrieved and anxious?

Daniel remained completely unaware of the negative impression he was making. In his mind, voicing his opinions early would only draw more attention to himself.

Janice let out a sigh. Despite his prestigious Chadwick lineage, Daniel seemed to lack basic common sense. In a live broadcast where every word and action was magnified to countless viewers, his impulsive remarks were undoubtedly harming his public image.

She cast a quick glance at Stephen, who wore his usual calm smile and seemed content to patiently listen as the production team outlined the rules. His calm and composed demeanor garnered him a fair share of goodwill from both the audience and his fellow participants.

In this regard, Daniel couldn't even hold a candle to Demi. Though her expression subtly betrayed her displeasure with the production team's arrangements, she still managed to maintain a smile and kept her thoughts to herself.

"Mr. Chadwick, please be patient." Devin's voice cut through Daniel's protest.

Devin continued, "We will display the support ratings on the TV screen. Additionally, our professional chef team has prepared a special lunch for everyone." As he spoke, a team of chefs entered the room. "Ladies and gentlemen, I am your chef for today. I will be preparing your lunch."

Daniel raised an eyebrow at the elaborate setup and smiled with satisfaction. "Ah, now that's more like it! Only such a professional team is fitting for my status."

"Sir, there seems to be a misunderstanding," the chef replied calmly. "We serve the team with the highest support rating. The rest of you will have these." He gestured toward a table with several covered plates. As the covers were removed, the contents underneath were revealed.

"The producers do have a sense of humor! Second place gets steak, third place gets eggs, but what's with the empty plate for fourth?"

"Nothing at all! Really, production team, you're too much."

The viewers were taken aback by the food arrangement, especially by the plate that simply read "Nothing."

"Wait a minute! Aren't there nine guests? Why are there only four meals?"

It was then that the viewers noticed the discrepancy in the number of meals. Could it be that five people wouldn't get to eat?

Including the 'Nothing' dish, that meant six people wouldn't eat.

“I’m guessing this is a team task! Remember, this is a romance show.”

With that comment, everything clicked for the viewers. A romance show involved pairing up, so lunch must be shared between two people.

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“Ha! The producers really know how to keep us entertained!”

“I’m really looking forward to seeing which two will end up eating ‘Nothing.’”

“Wait a minute! If it’s two per team, there’s still one extra person. Does this mean someone will be left out?”

The viewers were puzzled.

Some speculated that the producers had a big twist planned for these nine guests.

Janice and Aiden exchanged knowing glances, aware of the producers’ plans. However, they also realized that with an odd number of guests, forming pairs would be challenging.

“Everyone, I’m sure you’ve anticipated this. The introductions will be done in pairs, and each pair will also perform in a talent show. As for how the pairs will be formed, let’s leave it to destiny and see who ends up together.”

With that, the chef brought out two boxes, one blue and one red, presenting them to the group.

“Here are two boxes. The blue one is for the men, and the red one for the women. Please come forward and draw a lot. Those who draw matching numbers will be paired.”

“I’ll go first!” Daniel declared confidently, striding towards the blue box.

He withdrew his hand, revealing a ball marked with the number 3.

"I've got number 3," he said with a smirk, waving it for all to see. "I wonder which lucky lady will join me?" His eyes briefly met Janice's, but Aiden's frosty glare made him avert his gaze quickly.

Damn it! Was a simple look worth such hostility? Besides, if destiny paired him with Janice, there wasn't much Aiden could do about it.

With that thought, Daniel's anticipation grew. Not only could he deflate Aiden's pride, but he could also win the favor of such an alluring woman. It was an ideal scenario.

"I'll go second," Kenneth said, approaching the blue box. His charming appearance and tall stature elicited cheers from the live stream audience.

"He's so handsome! I'm in love!"

"He's exactly my type! Ah! Kenneth, I want to have your babies."

Amid the swooning viewers, Kenneth drew his lot.

Number 4.

Kenneth smiled and sauntered back to his seat, twirling the ball in his hand, his eyes on Janice.

"Janice, do you think destiny will pair us together?"

"Well, I think I heard destiny whisper two words to you."

Aiden cut in sharply. "Keep dreaming."

Kenneth raised an eyebrow, unfazed by Aiden's hostility.

"I do keep dreaming, and I'm quite confident my dreams will come true."

Aiden narrowed his eyes as Kenneth remained unaffected, rendering his verbal jabs futile.

"Kenneth, you've been dreaming for years, but how many of those dreams have actually materialized?"

Kenneth's pupils tightened slightly, and a flicker of emotion crossed his usually composed face. For years, he had been juxtaposed with Aiden, and despite his best efforts, he often found himself a step behind.

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Aiden, despite his own setbacks, maintained a formidable reputation. Kenneth had long aspired to outshine him but consistently fell just short.

Sensing the growing tension, Janice quietly sipped her water, opting to stay clear of the fray.

"Wow! The show just started, and there's already jealousy brewing?"

"One is the brooding type, the other is the sunny type. It's like a classic showdown—perfect for the show."

"I think it's quite normal for them to vie for this beauty's attention. I'd join the fray too if I were on the show."

"Someone give him a reality check."

Many viewers quickly noticed the subtle tension between Aiden and Kenneth. Both were competing for Janice's attention, creating a dramatic spectacle that captivated the audience.

Next to draw lots were Stephen, Leonidas, Aiden, and Carlton. They pulled numbers 1, 2, 5, and 6, respectively.

It was clear there would be an extra man. Who would it be, and how would the producers manage this? The suspense was building.

“Alright, the men have finished drawing. Now it’s the women’s turn.” The chef gestured, motioning for the women to come forward.

Demi, eager to stand out, was the first to reach into the red box. Who would be her ideal match? Any pairing seemed favorable, except with Daniel.

Despite his wealth, Daniel’s reputation as a playboy was well-known, and rumors swirled that he was on the show to find a girlfriend. Being paired with him could attract negative attention. Yet, the more she hoped to avoid him, the more likely it seemed she would pick his number.

“Number 3?” Demi looked at the ball in her hand, dismayed. “How could I be so unlucky?”

“What did you just say?” Daniel caught her muttering and immediately took offense. “Being paired with me is a stroke of luck! How dare you call it bad luck? I’m the unlucky one here.”

Daniel’s blunt response put Demi in an awkward spot.

“Mr. Chadwick, what are you talking about? I didn’t say anything,” she replied, forcing a smile, trying to defuse the situation. However, Daniel’s temper made this difficult.

“Oh, you think I’m deaf and didn’t hear you?” he retorted.

“No, no!”

“Devin, I strongly suggest letting her draw again. Since she dislikes me so much, there’s no point in forcing this.”

Devin rolled his eyes and picked up the microphone. “Sorry, but there’s only one draw per person. No do-overs. The fact that you drew the same number means fate has spoken. Despite your differences, this is destiny.”

He seized the moment to promote the show. “Love Lab is all about authenticity—no scripts, no gimmicks.”

“Ha-ha! Devin is too cute! Why the sudden commercial break?”

“I used to think Love Lab was scripted, but this time, I can tell it’s genuine. The guests’ reactions are too authentic.”

“Why do I find myself rooting for these two? As they say, fate brings unlikely pairs together.”

Viewers commended Devin’s wit and began to support the unexpected pairing of Demi and Daniel.

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Feeling defeated, Demi returned to where Carlton was standing. Her visibly upset demeanor tugged at Carlton’s heartstrings.

“Demi, don’t let Daniel get to you,” Carlton reassured her. “I actually hoped to be paired with you, but alas...”

Demi sighed, her despondent expression striking a chord with Carlton.

For her, the outcome was set. Nothing could change the pairing, so she decided to win Carlton’s favor.

“Next time, I’m sure we’ll be teamed up.”

“Yeah!”

At that moment, Maggie stepped forward. She was nervous, hoping she wouldn’t draw Aiden’s number. If she ended up with that stern man, his mere glance might be too much for her.

“Ah!” Maggie screamed as she drew her lot, tossing the ball away as if it were cursed.

“What the heck! Isn’t this just a number draw? Why does it feel like she’s pulling from a horror box?”

“So funny! Who did she draw to be so terrified?”

“I think it was number 5.”

“Number 5? Isn’t that the brooding guy?”

It dawned on everyone that Maggie had feared being paired with the brooding guy from the beginning.

Maggie was close to tears. Why had she been so unlucky to end up paired with Aiden?

Aiden’s gaze was dark and intense. Even with her back turned, she could feel his piercing stare.

“Aiden, it seems luck isn’t on your side!” Kenneth said with a casual shrug. “I’m not sure if I’ll end up with Janice, but one thing’s certain—you won’t.”

Aiden’s eyes narrowed, his glare sharp. “Don’t celebrate too early. If I can’t, you won’t either.”

“That’s not a guarantee,” Kenneth replied, a sly smirk forming as his gaze softened, landing on Janice. “I have a feeling Janice will draw number 4.”

“Ahem!” Janice stood quickly to defuse the tension. “I’ll go draw my number now.”

The room’s focus turned to her as everyone watched intently, eager to see if she would draw number 4.

As all eyes watched, Janice reached into the red box and drew a numbered ball.

The room fell silent, everyone’s eyes locked on the ball, the number concealed by Janice’s hand.

“This is so nerve-wracking! Who would have thought drawing lots could create such suspense?”

“Why can’t we see the number? Show us already! This is unnerving!”

“Come on! Please show it quickly! Everyone’s anxious!”

Janice drew a lot of attention, not only because of her striking looks but also because she was accompanied by two attractive men, making her the topic of conversation. Many viewers online were keen to see who Janice would end up pairing with, and regardless of the outcome, she seemed destined for a desirable match.

Janice peeked at the number on the ball and raised an eyebrow.

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By some twist of fate—it was him.

“Janice, please, show us the number,” the chef said, motioning with impatience.

Janice nodded and opened her hand, displaying the number.

The audience gasped in surprise; the number was entirely unexpected.

“Well, it looks like my luck isn’t the best,” Kenneth exclaimed, shaking his head while managing a smile tinged with defeat but also a playful undertone. “At least you’re not the one paired with Janice. That’s a small consolation for me.”

At Kenneth’s teasing, Aiden’s expression soured. His gaze remained intently on the number in Janice’s hand, wishing it would magically turn into number 5. Why was it number 1? And the number 1 was none other than Stephen.

Even though Aiden knew that Janice had joined the show primarily to watch Stephen closely and understand his true character, he still couldn’t shake off a surge of jealousy, a bitter feeling brewing inside him.

At that moment, Stephen glanced at Janice, his face showing his surprise at the pairing.

Janice turned to him and offered a warm, friendly smile that seemed unusually genuine.

Stephen was briefly taken by surprise, as if he recognized that smile from somewhere else. Who else but Janice could offer such a sincere and heartfelt smile?

Unlike Wendy or Leonie, whose smiles always seemed to hold an ulterior motive, Janice’s smile was as genuine as those from his own family.

“Stephen, I’m glad to be paired with you.” Janice stepped forward and greeted him warmly.

Coming back to his senses, Stephen nodded. “I feel the same way.”

Their exchange remained polite and brief, with both keeping a respectful distance as Stephen’s fans cheered wildly.

“Stephen is such a gentleman! Most men would seize the chance to talk more with such a beauty, but Stephen knows where to draw the line. He never oversteps.”

“Do you think Stephen just got his fame from acting alone? His interpersonal skills play a big part too. Such high honors are not easily achieved.”

“Have you noticed how similar Stephen and this young woman look? They both have striking features, but oddly enough, they could pass for siblings.”

“Absolutely! I had the exact same thought!”

Leah saw the online chatter. She and Prescott exchanged looks, both noting the surprise in the other’s expression. It was evident that Janice had come on the show specifically because of Stephen.

“Leah, Janice once had me look into the White family. Now, Stephen shares that last name. Could it mean...?” Prescott speculated.

“Let’s not leap to conclusions. There must be a reason Janice hasn’t shared more with us. We’ll see how things unfold.”

“Understood.”

Leah’s gaze then turned to Leonidas.

If Leonidas discovered the connection between Stephen and Janice, he might target Stephen. And that would leave Janice exposed. Even though she might handle Leonidas, having this vulnerability could cause her to waver.

“Prescott, I need you to dig deep into Stephen’s background.”

“Will do!”

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As the draw at the villa wrapped up, each guest found their assigned partner.

“Let’s confirm the pairings,” the chef announced, reviewing the list. “Stephen with Janice, Aiden with Maggie, Daniel with Demi, and the last group—Carlton, Leonidas, and Kenneth.”

The announced pairings stunned many who were following online.

“I never thought they would arrange it like this! They actually paired up three guys in the end.”

“Wow, Love Lab, you’ve totally surprised me this time. Are you trying to set a new precedent for same-sex relationships?”

“It’s quite the spectacle! Putting three guys together has made things unexpectedly entertaining.”

“Right? I thought the last three guys would end up without partners, but they matched them together instead.”

Everyone’s initial predictions were completely overturned by the current outcome. They had assumed that a shortage of female participants would leave some men without partners, but the show decided to pair three men together instead.

In reality, this arrangement had been made as a last-minute decision by the production team. The original casting was intended for traditional male-female pairings, but due to unforeseen external influences, last-minute adjustments were necessary. Devin had to come up with this temporary solution to keep the show running smoothly.

Carlton, Kenneth, and Leonidas sat together, deliberately keeping their distance and avoiding eye contact. They were cautious, knowing that even a fleeting glance could become fodder for screenshots and embarrassing internet memes.

On the other side, Daniel and Demi were paired up. Demi wore a constant smile, while Daniel tilted his chin, clearly looking down on the woman beside him. His arrogant attitude rubbed many viewers the wrong way.

“Daniel is so arrogant! Demi is such a sweet and lovely girl, and yet he treats her with such hatred.”

“Seriously, it’s a live show. Can’t Daniel manage his expressions a little better?”

“Ha, I actually find Daniel’s blunt attitude refreshing. It’s so real that it makes me want to punch him.”

Unbeknownst to Daniel, he had become the focal point of ridicule and criticism from the audience.

Some people believed that wealth or a prestigious background granted them superiority, leading them to behave arrogantly. Ironically, their every move was scrutinized and mocked online.

Daniel’s future career prospects now looked uncertain. This was no longer just about money determining everything; he had managed to alienate the very people who once supported him—his own fan base, the internet trolls.

His manager was on edge, wanting to guide Daniel but unable to intervene during the live broadcast without risking further damage to his reputation.

Meanwhile, Janice and Stephen made a striking pair, their serene and elegant demeanor enhancing their visual appeal.

Then there were Aiden and Maggie, whose interaction was proving to be comedic gold for the audience.

“Are Maggie’s legs shaking? Is she intimidated by the man next to her? She’s absolutely endearing!”

“Aiden hasn’t even spoken yet, and Maggie’s already nervous. This is hilarious!”

“You have to admit, they’ve got a unique dynamic! The shy beauty and the assertive leader, perfect for each other!”

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Just then, a viewer's comment drew widespread attention.

"Everyone, pay attention! All the participants in this episode come from significant backgrounds!"

"Tell us more! Who are these people?"

"That cold, handsome guy is Aiden, leader of the Green family. The cheerful one is Kenneth, soon-to-be head of the Delgado family. And then there's Daniel, the young heir of the Chadwick family."

As each participant's prestigious identity was disclosed, the audience was left in awe, their previous perceptions challenged by these revelations.

"Wow, I tuned in for a dating show and it morphed into high-society drama!"

"Even though that elegant lady was ousted from the Edwards family, she still maintains a prestigious standing and is buddies with JE. Quite impressive."

"Do these elites get tired of their lavish lives and crave some normalcy?"

Leah scowled as she scrolled through these comments. Previously, the PR team had managed to keep Janice's and Aiden's appearances low-key. Even when recognized, it rarely caused much impact.

However, the specificity of this particular viewer's comments suggested something more orchestrated, possibly by Leonidas.

Leah squinted, a growing suspicion forming in her mind—that Leonidas could be the one behind this. His unexpected involvement in the show seemed like a deliberate move to gradually reveal Janice's hidden identities, one by one.

"Leah, what's our next step?" Prescott asked, his tone filled with worry. "If public opinion keeps growing, Janice's identity could end up fully exposed."

Leah bit her nails nervously as she watched Janice on the screen, her calm and composed demeanor standing out. She was certain that, with Janice's sharp mind, she had already figured out Leonidas' intentions.

Despite the potential exposure, Janice's composed expression suggested she wasn't concerned about her privacy being compromised.

"Let's hold off," Leah instructed Prescott. "Filter out any comments that attack Janice, but leave the others untouched. I believe Janice has a strategy of her own."

"Understood."

The atmosphere inside the villa was awkward and somewhat stifling. Despite being sorted into four groups, they found it difficult to start a conversation.

It was the chef who finally broke the silence. "Team one, please step forward for your introductions and talent showcase."

The room's TV screen flickered to life, revealing a ranking board that commanded everyone's attention.

"As you can see, this leaderboard shows your support rates. If your talent show impresses the online audience and gains their support, you'll have the chance to enjoy a gourmet lunch. And this lavish meal will be personally prepared by me. I guarantee you'll eat well."

A comment read, "I know him! He's the culinary virtuoso from Bengal Hotel, bearer of three Michelin stars! His word is gospel in the kitchen!"

"The production team must have poured gold into this show! They actually hired such a top-tier chef!"

"It's not surprising. Look at the big shots on this show! If the production team didn't go all out, they could offend the guests."

“I’m super curious now—who will end up with nothing?”

The online spectators had already forgotten about crowning a winner; they were captivated by the prospect of watching some distinguished figure leave hungry.

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“Stephen, shall we go up?”

Janice rose with natural grace. She turned to Stephen, her smile radiant as she extended her hand—a gesture that carried effortless elegance.

“Of course! Though, what’s your vision for the talent portion? I can go along with you,” Stephen offered politely.

Janice smiled slightly. “You decide. I can go along with you.”

Stephen’s expression darkened, an unexpected wave of offense washing over him. Was she somehow looking down on him?

Noticing his change in demeanor, Janice quickly added, “Please don’t misunderstand. I meant no disrespect. I have various skills. Though I’m not particularly exceptional, I can adapt as needed.”

Meeting her sincere gaze, Stephen felt his tension ease. “How about I take the piano and you dance? Or perhaps you’d prefer to sing while I play the piano?”

“Dance? Sing?” Janice’s brow furrowed in thought. She was proficient in both, yet the choice weighed on her mind.

Stephen, misreading her hesitation as uncertainty, felt awkwardness creep in. “If those options are challenging for you, I could sing instead, and you could play the piano?”

“No, no, I think there’s a misunderstanding.” Janice snapped out of her reverie, waving her hands gently in protest. “I was just torn between singing and dancing.”

“You mean you can do both?”

“Yes! I’ve learned a bit of both.”

Nearby, Leah couldn’t help but roll her eyes at Janice’s understated response. She knew that if Janice ever pursued a singing career, her mesmerizing voice would effortlessly eclipse most professional artists.

As for dancing, Janice had once graced the stage of the nation’s most prestigious theater. Her performance that night had been nothing short of magical, holding the audience spellbound with every graceful movement.

Yet she had appeared only as a masked favor to a friend, leaving behind a legacy of mystery. To this day, admirers still searched for the identity of that enigmatic dancer who had captured their hearts.

Leah’s mind drifted to a conversation she once had with Janice.

“How does your brain work? How do you master so many different skills?”

Janice paused thoughtfully before delivering a response that would forever echo in Leah’s memory.

“Is learning really that hard?”

Those five simple words had struck Prescott like lightning, reducing him to tears for hours.

Though lauded as a young prodigy, he felt diminished in Janice’s shadow. Her casual comment had shaken him to his core.

Yet paradoxically, that same comment had sparked a fire within him, propelling him to become one of the world's top ten hackers.

"Hey, have you two reached a decision yet?" Daniel's impatient voice cut through the air, interrupting Janice and Stephen's ongoing discussion. "If you're still undecided, let us go first. We know exactly what we're doing."

"What?" Demi's eyes widened in genuine surprise at Daniel's bold claim. She had been sitting quietly throughout, completely unaware of any decision being made. Moreover, she didn't know what to perform.

"Why are you giving me that look?" Daniel's features twisted into an irritated scowl as he glared at Demi. "Did we even discuss this before?"

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"I said we did, so we did. Got a problem with that? It's just a simple talent show. You're an artist. Surely belting out a few notes isn't beyond your capabilities?"

Demi felt her throat tighten, tears threatening to spill. The unfairness of being paired with such an arrogant jerk felt like cosmic retribution for some unknown sin.

"Daniel, treat the ladies with respect." Carlton's stern voice cut through the tension like a blade. He'd reached his limit watching this unfold. "This is being broadcast live. You might not care about your reputation, but others have careers to protect."

Daniel glanced at Carlton, ready to fight back, yet the reality of being on a livestream held him back. He was well aware that any outburst could spark a backlash online.

So, he clenched his teeth and kept his anger in check.

Seeing this, his manager finally sighed with relief.

Fortunately, Daniel wasn't completely impulsive and understood the importance of self-control. A confrontation with Carlton might have escalated quickly.

"Stephen, since Daniel is in such a hurry, let's give him the opportunity," Janice said, her voice tinged with amusement.

"No problem."

Janice looked to the chef, seeking confirmation. "Would it be okay for them to start?"

"No problem," the chef confirmed with a nod.

Daniel raised an eyebrow as he glanced at Janice with an egoistic, self-satisfied look. Clearly, he hadn't lost his touch. Otherwise, why would she so readily give up the spotlight to him? He believed she seemed unable to resist his charm regardless of her beauty.

"Demi, stop dragging your feet! What's your act?" Daniel asked.

"I'll sing," Demi finally answered.

"Excellent!" Daniel straightened his clothes and walked confidently toward the chef.

His presence triggered a strong reaction among viewers, many expressing their dislike openly online.

"Does he not see how unpleasant his behavior is? Or does he actually believe he's that charming?"

"My appetite was fine, but Daniel's behavior completely ruined it."

"Seriously! Shouldn't these wealthy families consist of high-quality people? How did this buffoon get through?"

Unaware of the online backlash, Daniel was lost in dreams of charming the audience. In his eyes, few men could match his looks and self-confidence.

While Daniel was oblivious, his company and manager were fully aware of the growing dissatisfaction from the audience.

“Karl, contact Daniel now. Instruct him to be quiet and stop showing off. He’s about to become universally hated! If this keeps up, not even the Chadwick family will be able to save him.”

“But the broadcast is live. How can I reach him?”

“I don’t care. Just make it happen. If you can’t stop Daniel, then consider yourself jobless.”

Under the pressure of his boss’s rage, panic swept over Karl. But what could he do to deliver the message now? Daniel’s phone had already been confiscated by the production crew before the livestream began.