

Wrath 531

Chapter 531:

“Explain what? Your people just harmed my man! What kind of cooperation is this?”

Leonidas’ expression grew stern. Without letting go of Alissa’s hand, he looked back at Delilah and kicked her hard.

“Ah!” Delilah yelped as her back crashed heavily onto the sofa behind her. Terror etched her features as she coughed. “Please don’t kill me.”

“You’re scared now? I didn’t get you out of prison to act foolish. You disobeyed my orders and attacked Janice! Are you asking for death?”

“I did it because I hate Janice so much. Seeing her happy fueled the anger within me. I wanted so badly to tear that smile off her face, so I went after her!” There was no remorse on Delilah’s face, only unbridled rage.

Leonidas narrowed his eyes and walked over, grabbing her chin. “If it weren’t for your hatred towards Janice and the fact that you’re still useful to me, you’d already be dead.”

He dropped Delilah’s chin and turned to Alissa. “Do you see now why I can’t let you kill her?”

Alissa put the ashtray down, looking a little less enraged, but her tone remained sharp as she said, “I can spare her life, but you need to convince me of her use in this cooperation. Otherwise, you’ll die with her. And make no mistake—I won’t hesitate. Killing you both will be as easy as squashing ants with my fingers.”

Her words were followed by an ominous smirk spreading across her pretty face.

Leonidas’ eyes narrowed as a peculiar smile curled his lips. Suddenly, he found Alissa to his liking, recognizing in her a reflection of his own nature—twisted, dark, and cruel.

The following day, Maggie was the first to wake up among the other guests in the Love Lab villa.

Dressed in pajamas with cute cartoon prints, she made her way to the kitchen, yawning as she looked for something to eat.

But when she opened the fridge, it was the same as yesterday—empty. “Seriously? Is the production team trying to starve us?” Maggie’s eyes widened in disbelief. The emptiness before her effectively banished the drowsiness in her system.

“Wake up, everyone! It’s a new day!”

Devin’s voice blared through the speakers, startling Maggie.

“Today’s recording will have a major change. I need everyone gathered in the living room ASAP!”

A major change?

Maggie frowned, her curiosity piqued.

Could the change have something to do with what happened with Aiden and Janice last night?

Devin’s announcement roused the others.

Everyone else seemed half asleep, except for Stephen, who was already out of his pajamas and sitting on the living room sofa, waiting for Devin’s next instructions.

Maggie glanced at him. Though he appeared lively and wide awake, she noticed a trace of weariness in his eyes.

"It's still so early!" Daniel grumbled, draped in his luxurious silk pajamas. Devin would have bled his ears if he were present to hear Daniel's complaints. "And what is this major change going to be? Is it more important than my beauty sleep?"

"Will you just shut the fuck up, Daniel?" Carlton scowled, annoyed by Daniel's incessant chatter so early in the morning.

Chapter 532:

Daniel grimaced, facing Carlton. "Who do you think you are to tell me to shut up? Do you think I'm afraid—"

"Great! Everyone's here. I have an important announcement!" Devin's voice blared through the speakers once more, cutting off Daniel's tirade against Carlton.

"Today, our show will welcome three new female guests. I hope everyone will form good relationships over the upcoming days," announced Devin, causing a wave of astonishment to sweep through the room.

The shock among the existing guests was evident. It was only their second day of filming, and the addition of three women seemed rushed.

The original plan, as assumed by the guests, was to allow some time for existing relationships to develop before strategically bringing in new participants to stir dynamics and generate excitement. Yet, this new strategy seemed illogical.

"Kenneth, do you think these new women are here to balance things out?" Maggie murmured. "With six men and only three women now, the numbers seem off."

Kenneth smiled. "Ever since you arrived, I've braced for surprises."

"What?" Maggie responded, her face a mixture of confusion and surprise.

Kenneth chuckled at Maggie's charmingly bewildered expression. "Consider this—our show is promoted as a romantic quest, yet siblings like us are participating together. Isn't that peculiar?"

"Oh, indeed!" Realization dawned on Maggie, her eyes lighting up with clarity. "That explains the odd vibe I was picking up!"

"Let's not view this as a typical dating show. Think of it more as a playful game and just enjoy yourself."

Maggie responded enthusiastically with a thumbs up. "You've got such a sharp insight, Kenneth."

Kenneth laughed softly, yet his expression soon took on a more serious tone. Even though he had just suggested they view the show unconventionally, he couldn't shake the suspicion that the sudden introduction of three new female guests had ulterior motives.

Why was the announcement not made yesterday if it was merely to even out the gender ratio? What was the reason for delaying until today?

It appeared to be a hasty decision, almost as if Devin had been compelled to introduce precisely three women, hinting at some strategy to manipulate the numbers.

"Our villa sure is becoming more vibrant," Leonidas commented nonchalantly, the corners of his mouth lifting subtly.

Kenneth sensed an underlying message in his casual statement, as if Leonidas might have been privy to the plans all along.

Leonidas had been absent the previous evening. Where had he been? Kenneth worried that the recent accident involving Janice and Aiden might have been orchestrated by Leonidas. After all, Leonidas harbored hatred toward Janice.

"Is that all?" Daniel frowned, clearly unhappy. "Devin, what's the big deal about bringing in three more women all of a sudden? Just serve us breakfast already. I usually have boiled chicken breast and a veggie salad. And don't forget to add the protein powder."

“Daniel, do you think you’re at home?” Maggie retorted. “Asking for protein powder? You might as well ask them to cook you a steak.”

Daniel turned to retort to Maggie, but hesitated upon seeing Kenneth next to her and held back his words.

“Please, let’s not argue. I’m confident the crew won’t let us starve,” Demi chimed in, attempting to smooth things over as the peacemaker. As Carlton watched Demi, his eyes softened.

Chapter 533:

Demi’s genuine kindness shone through, even when she was hungry, displaying a level of composure that was rarely seen.

Initially, Carlton had participated in the show merely to elevate his profile for an upcoming debut. Now, however, he found himself pondering the possibility of real love.

Despite her outward smiles, Demi wrestled with frustration internally. The competition had been fierce before, and with three new female guests, it only intensified, making her feel crowded out.

Determined, she resolved to make her presence felt.

She worried, however, that the prominence of the new guests might cause her to blend into the background.

When Demi turned around, her eyes met Carlton’s warm gaze.

She realized then that she could deepen her connection with Carlton. Perhaps generating some buzz together would help her gain more attention on the show.

“Carlton, how was your sleep last night?”

“It was quite well.”

A slight frown crossed Demi’s face, hinting at her distress. “I had a rough night.”

“Why’s that?” Carlton leaned in closer, his face lined with concern.

“I kept hearing weird noises throughout the night,” Demi replied, a note of frustration in her voice. “The villa is meant to be soundproof, yet I was disturbed by these subtle, unclear sounds.”

Demi paused, her cheeks flushing as she stopped short of providing further details.

Carlton’s look turned grave. “I’ll bring this up with the crew.”

“You’re always so thoughtful, Carlton,” Demi responded, her smile sweet and appreciative.

Neither of them noticed Stephen’s awkward expression as Demi recounted the strange noises.

“Everyone, we haven’t prepared breakfast for you.”

Devin’s voice echoed through the speakers again, startling the group.

“Devin, are you serious right now? Are you actually trying to starve me to death?” Daniel exploded, his voice filled with fury. “Trust me—my family will destroy your career for this.”

“Daniel, watch your words and behavior,” Devin responded, his tone stern. “The live broadcast starts soon, so I suggest you all get yourselves in order.”

Prompted by Devin’s reminder, the guests composed themselves and began to organize.

Daniel clenched his jaw, swallowing his frustration. The fiery retort on the tip of his tongue faded away. His tarnished reputation online weighed heavily on him. Last night's flood of brutal comments had kept him awake, and he had argued back with netizens using a fake account.

If he wanted to salvage his image, he needed to tread carefully.

The company and his manager had repeatedly cautioned him to watch his words and actions, warning that a single misstep could cost him his place in the entertainment industry.

"Although there's no breakfast, we've provided ingredients."

A group of staff members wheeled in trays laden with various food items.

The guests exchanged confused glances.

Chapter 534:

"Wait, does this mean yesterday's chef is returning to cook for us?" Demi's face lit up.

"Nope."

Devin dashed Demi's hopes with a single word.

"These ingredients are for you to prepare your own breakfast. This marks the first task of today's show."

Devin's intention was clear. If they wanted breakfast, they'd have to cook it themselves.

"In ten minutes, we'll go live. You should discuss who will be responsible for breakfast today."

The kitchen was a place to foster relationships and spark romantic vibes. Devin hoped that making breakfast would ignite some chemistry among the male and female guests.

“Wait a second!” Demi frowned, glancing around the room. “Where are Aiden and Janice? They’re not here!”

“Oh, I almost forgot,” Devin added. “Aiden and Janice had an incident during their date last night. They’re still at the hospital, but I’ve been told they’re fine and should return soon.”

“What?” Demi’s eyes widened in shock. “An accident on their date? Or did they find out the schedule and use this as an excuse?”

“Demi, shut up!” Maggie’s sharp tone cut through the air. “Devin already explained. Why do you always have to wrongly accuse others?”

“Maggie, there’s no need to be so harsh. Demi was just concerned,” Carlton stepped forward to support Demi.

Demi wasted no time slipping behind him, appearing wronged. “I was genuinely worried about them. Maybe I didn’t phrase it right. I’m sorry.” In reality, she had been hoping Janice would cook breakfast for them. Janice had wowed everyone with her cooking skills the day before, and Demi eagerly anticipated another taste of her delicious casserole. But with Janice nowhere to be found, Demi was irritated.

“This is so frustrating. Carlton must be out of his mind. Demi blamed Janice and Aiden, but Carlton actually believed she was concerned about them. Love has made him totally blind!” Maggie flopped into a chair, fuming.

Kenneth glanced at Carlton and said flatly, “It’s no surprise the Patterson family is declining. If everyone in the Patterson family had Carlton’s mindset, bankruptcy would be the least of their worries.”

Meanwhile, Daniel had wandered over to the kitchen. Surveying the ingredients, he cracked a confident smile. “Guys, I’ll take care of breakfast today.”

“No, please don’t.” Still fuming over Demi’s antics, Maggie blinked in surprise at Daniel’s unexpected offer. “I don’t want to wind up in the hospital.”

Daniel shot her an icy glare, clutching an onion like a weapon. "What are you talking about? You don't think I can cook?"

Maggie shrugged, clearly unconvinced. "A spoiled playboy like you? Not a chance."

"I'm into fitness and know my way around nutrition. So yeah, I can cook," Daniel defended himself, rolling up his sleeves with exaggerated determination. "Just watch, I'll prove you all wrong."

Before Maggie could fire back, a loud chime announced the start of the live broadcast.

Chapter 535:

Everyone immediately prepared themselves, quickly getting into the zone.

"Wow, the stream started early today!"

"What's happening? Why are they all in pajamas? Am I supposed to be seeing this?"

"Stephen's the only one dressed in his signature formal attire, exuding his usual composed demeanor."

As the live stream began, viewers started flooding in immediately.

The excitement from yesterday's episode had attracted a crowd, causing the number of viewers to exceed ten thousand in no time.

Devin couldn't help but feel thrilled by the turnout. It seemed like a revival in his career was almost within reach.

"Daniel and Maggie will be preparing today's breakfast," Devin announced, leaving no chance for objections from the others.

Daniel's eyes widened in shock as he glanced at Maggie, who shared his surprise.

"Devin, are you for real?" Maggie forced a tight smile for the camera, doing her best to appear friendly while her anger bubbled just beneath the surface.

"Absolutely!" said Devin, putting on a courageous face. "You two are in charge of breakfast today."

"Hey, come help me out," Daniel said with a smirk. "I'm going to impress you today with my cooking!"

"Oh, I'm sure I'll be amazed by how terrible it is!" Maggie replied, rolling her eyes and mocking Daniel without a hint of politeness.

The others looked at each other with concern, their enthusiasm for breakfast declining. Could a meal prepared by those two possibly send them to the hospital?

"Oh my gosh! How did Maggie and Daniel end up as a team? Yet, there's a weird appeal to their love-hate dynamic!"

"Exactly! I'm rooting for them now. They truly are the perfect example of a love-hate relationship that's just meant to be, aren't they?"

"No way! Daniel, that annoying guy, doesn't deserve Maggie."

The live chat was buzzing as fans debated the unlikely pairing, with some in favor and others against it. The negative impression Daniel had left from the day before still lingered, while Maggie's charm and beauty made many believe he wasn't worthy of her.

"Maggie, do you even know how to wash vegetables? Look, there are caterpillars!"

"Daniel, can you actually chop vegetables? These slices of potato are all over the place. Some chef you claim to be!"

“Be quiet! You’re supposed to be helping, not irritating me.”

“Sorry! Irritating you is precisely why I’m here.”

The kitchen turned into an active war zone, with Daniel and Maggie at odds like water and oil, unable to agree on anything. Everyone had lost faith in the breakfast, just hoping it wouldn’t lead to food poisoning.

Soon after, Daniel proudly presented several dishes.

“Everyone, here’s the breakfast I’ve carefully put together. Please enjoy it.”

Kenneth glanced at the dishes before turning his gaze to Daniel, studying him closely. “Everything was boiled?”

“Boiling is the healthiest option!” Daniel answered quickly, setting a special sauce to the side. “Try dipping it in this magical sauce. It’ll have you coming back for more.”

Chapter 536:

“Wait, is the chicken breast overcooked?” Demi asked, observing the pale chicken with a skeptical expression as she poked it with her fork. “I watch my diet closely, so I know my way around a boiled chicken breast. This is really overcooked.”

Daniel’s face tensed as he held back his frustration. “Overcooked? Not at all. I intentionally cooked it a bit more to give your teeth a workout. As a fitness enthusiast, I know what I’m doing.”

The live-stream viewers were entertained by his foolish excuses.

“Daniel is such a joker! He just forgot to mind the stove and burnt the chicken. Now he’s saying it was to give us a dental workout.”

“I’ve heard some crazy things, but this is the craziest of them all.”

“Poor Maggie, handling the ingredients and doing all the work, while Daniel takes all the credit.”

“Maggie isn’t even interested in this kind of fame.”

The meal was entirely boiled and bland. How tasty could it really be? Even the sauce couldn’t save it.

“Go on. Give it a try.” Daniel gestured towards the food, urging everyone to help themselves. Despite their hesitance, Stephen was the first to take the plunge and grabbed some salad.

At the same time, Janice and Aiden were making their way back to the set. Janice checked the time, realizing the Love Lab live-stream was about to begin.

She then logged into the live-stream and tuned in just as Stephen was sampling the breakfast prepared by Daniel. Janice instinctively wanted to warn him but remembered it was a live-stream and sighed in hopelessness.

“What’s the matter?” Aiden noticed her concerned look and asked curiously.

“Daniel’s breakfast is going to be a disaster for everyone,” Janice responded with a dry laugh, shaking her head. “The chicken breast is as tough as rubber, and even the salad is barely edible.”

“Is that so?” Aiden glanced at the live-stream, observing the salad. It looked fresh with a simple dressing. Could it really be that bad?

“The vegetables are clean and fresh, but the dressing is a disaster. He mixed soy sauce with balsamic vinegar and put salt instead of sugar. What do you think it would taste like?” Janice had an eye for detail.

Even through the screen, she could tell what ingredients Daniel had used. Sure enough, Stephen's face twisted after having a bite of the salad. He tried to hold it in, but the taste was so bad that he spat the salad out in the end.

"What the hell, Stephen?" Daniel scowled, visibly offended. "Are you trying to mess with me? You're going too far with that reaction."

Coughing, Stephen shoved the salad bowl back towards him. "Try it yourself."

"Fine." Daniel speared a forkful of the salad and brought it to his mouth, munching aggressively. "See? I ate it, and it's not that..."

Before he could finish his words, his face twisted, and with a loud gag, he spluttered out the salad. "Why is it so bitter and salty?"

Stephen shook his head, still coughing up the disgusting taste in his mouth. "Of course, it's salty and bitter. You put salt instead of sugar and poured in balsamic vinegar when it wasn't necessary."

"LMAO! Daniel's cooking skills are as bad as his personality."

"Is he for real? Was he cast just to torture the others? I've never seen anyone make a salad this disgusting. Daniel has to be the first, and it's hilarious."

Chapter 537:

"Dude, who in their sane mind would put half a cup of balsamic vinegar in a salad dressing? It's supposed to be just a drizzle for flavor. Otherwise, it'll be too bitter!"

The online viewers weren't only disappointed but also utterly horrified by Daniel's cooking skills.

Many started to doubt his credibility as a fitness guru and called him a sham. He probably had picked up a few lines from an actual nutritionist and then called himself an expert.

Janice looked truly worried about Stephen.

Aiden couldn't help but feel a pang of jealousy, even though he knew the two were siblings.

He would have wanted to stay longer in the hospital to spend more time with her, but she insisted they rush back to check on Stephen because of the dream she had the night before. That dream made her feel uneasy.

"Stephen seems to be doing just fine. Maybe we don't have to rush back," Aiden stated.

Janice flicked her gaze at him. "Do you think I'm in such a hurry to go back only to check on Stephen?"

Aiden furrowed his brows. "Is it not?"

Janice shook her head and glanced at the livestream, her expression indifferent. "Leah told me there will be three new female guests joining the show today, and I'm curious about them. Don't you think it's a bit too coincidental? It's only the second day, and there's already a major change in the casting. Why bring in new guests now instead of introducing them with the rest of us yesterday? Clearly, someone is pulling the strings behind the scenes."

Aiden's expression grew serious. He was contemplating the matter when the sound of the doorbell rang from the livestream.

He exchanged a look with Janice, and they both knew it was the arrival of the new female guests.

"I'll get the door!" Daniel jogged to the door, his eyes lighting up in excitement. But he stopped midway, realizing he was still in his pajamas—far from his most dashing self.

"On second thought, Maggie, you open it," he said, pivoting to his room to change into his best outfit.

"What's wrong with that guy? Volunteering, then backing out at the last minute?" Maggie grunted.

“I’ll do it,” Stephen said, standing up to get the door.

The other male guests were hesitant to step in, as the gesture might cause a misunderstanding and undermine their own agendas.

Kenneth had his sights set on Janice, Carlton didn’t want to leave Demi’s side, and Leonidas was too preoccupied with scheming against Janice to be bothered about the new guests.

Stephen was the only one without a particular interest in the matchmaking.

With a twist of the knob, the door opened.

Looking at the girl before him, Stephen was momentarily taken aback. She looked familiar, but he couldn’t remember where he had seen her before.

“Hi!” The girl smiled, her big eyes sparkling as they met his. She was dressed like a student, making her look more youthful and charming.

“Hello. Please come in.” Stephen stepped aside to let her in.

Chapter 538:

The camera zoomed in on the girl’s face, and the livestream’s comments section blew up.

“Wait! Isn’t that Liliana Harvey? She’s been really popular lately!”

“She’s famous? But I haven’t heard of her.”

“It’s Liliana, the multi-talented prodigy! She’s competed and won in so many contests, but they were mostly academic. I never thought she would participate in a dating reality show!”

“Gosh, I freaking love her! She completed five sketches in ten minutes during her last competition, which was insane! She’s so damn cool!”

The attractive girl caught Janice’s attention, and then her gaze shifted to the live stream’s chat introduction, a flicker of confusion crossing her face. Her arrival had been completely unexpected.

“If someone’s pulling strings behind the scenes, why would they choose to involve her?”

“They chose her because of you,” Aiden answered.

Taken aback, Janice glanced at Aiden, clearly unsure of what he meant.

“Do you understand what ‘multi-talented prodigy’ really implies?” Aiden asked, locking eyes with her.

Janice paused for a moment. Then, as if a light bulb went off, her eyes lit up with realization. “Now that you mention it, she really is here to challenge me.” Her gaze sharpened as she refocused on the live stream, tracking Liliana’s every move through the camera.

Liliana seemed so soft and obedient, it was hard to imagine she could truly be the multi-talented genius she was described as.

Janice couldn’t shake the feeling that Leonidas was using Liliana to beat her. Ever since she was a child, Janice had been hailed as a genius by the adults at the orphanage. Now, this “multi-talented prodigy” had appeared, clearly designed to rival her.

“I’m feeling kind of excited,” Janice said, her smile wide with eagerness. “It’s been years since I’ve come across anyone worth my time. But now that Leonidas has set this up, she’s got to have something special.”

Aiden, by then, had already gathered some information on Liliana. “She’s not someone to underestimate. She has explored several fields, and her results are remarkable.”

Janice glanced at the information, her eyebrows lifting in mild surprise. Just like her, Liliana was multi-talented, excelling in nearly everything she had mastered.

Some of the information was too vague to look into. However, Liliana's credentials were enough to spark Janice's interest.

"Hello, everyone!" Liliana entered the living room with a bright, polite greeting. "I'm Liliana Harvey, and today is my first day here. I hope we can be friends." Her gentle demeanor made everyone's expression soften as they looked at her more warmly.

"Hello, pretty lady!" Daniel called out as he emerged from his room.

He had slipped into a snug outfit that accentuated his muscles, opted for a crew cut hairstyle, and donned sunglasses, all of which lent him a sleek, cool look.

"I'm Daniel Chadwick. Nice to meet you."

With what he considered a handsome stance, Daniel extended his hand towards Liliana.

Liliana maintained her smile, shaking his hand with grace.

Daniel lifted an eyebrow and slid off his sunglasses to unveil his eyes. "Since I'm the only charming guy here, allow me to introduce you to everyone."

Chapter 539:

"That's enough! This irritating man acts as if he owns the place—utterly shameless! And to declare himself the only charming guy here? Ugh, disgusting!"

"Really! Does he actually believe he looks cool in that outfit? Isn't it uncomfortable for him?"

“Liliana is clearly embarrassed and just wants to leave, yet there’s Daniel, still eagerly introducing her to other guests. It’s truly too much.”

The audience found Daniel’s arrogant behavior bothersome.

Even as Daniel tried to moderate his demeanor, his inherent arrogance shone through; he was unable to fully hide it.

The audience now preferred to see Liliana interact with others, hoping Daniel would just step aside.

“Lili, you haven’t eaten breakfast yet, right?” Daniel became excessively warm.

“I’ve made some breakfast. Would you care for some?”

Liliana looked at the spread on the table, her eyebrows lifting subtly.

“Stop it, Daniel!” Maggie lost her patience and intervened, pulling Liliana away. “Will you ever stop talking nonstop? Do you imagine yourself as the owner of this place? And claiming to be the only charming guy—who exactly are you trying to impress?”

“Well done, Maggie!”

“Incredible! We’re with you!”

“Maggie intervened at the perfect moment, rescuing Liliana from an awkward situation.”

The audience felt a wave of satisfaction from Maggie’s blunt response to Daniel, as if she were voicing their own thoughts.

“Besides, Liliana has only just arrived. Are you two even that close? Calling her ‘Lili’? It makes me sick.”

Daniel's expression twisted, his muscles tightening. Had it not been for his desire to preserve his cool demeanor in front of Liliana, he would have already begun to argue.

Maggie continued, "Ignore him, Liliana. He's not in his right mind and thinks he's more significant than he is. Also, this breakfast is completely inedible. It could seriously kill someone."

"That's enough, Maggie!" Daniel finally lost his composure and burst out. "I'm merely trying to foster a closer bond. Is there an issue with that? And I put effort into preparing this meal. Even though it might not taste great, it's certainly not deadly."

If the live stream hadn't been on, his words could have been much more severe. The other guests wisely remained quiet, choosing not to involve themselves in the conflict unfolding between the two.

"Perhaps I should prepare breakfast for everyone?" Liliana interrupted, her words cutting through the tense atmosphere between the two.

"Liliana, do you know how to cook?" Maggie asked, visibly surprised as she observed Liliana.

Liliana nodded. "Just a little."

"Liliana, you're downplaying your skills. That's not very honest," Leonidas interjected, capturing the group's attention.

"Leonidas, are you familiar with Liliana?" Maggie inquired, turning to him in surprise.

Chapter 540:

With a secretive smile, Leonidas lounged back on the sofa and said casually, "She's known as the multi-talented prodigy online. She's adept at everything. Last year, she entered a cooking contest and beat several famous chefs to clinch the top spot."

Everyone was taken aback by his revelation.

"I'm not that exceptional." Liliana offered a modest smile, her calmness leaving Kenneth spellbound.

To Kenneth, Liliana was reminiscent of Janice. Both women exuded a natural confidence and grace.

Demi twisted her hands, her expression becoming somber as she regarded Liliana. With Janice already causing her distress, the emergence of this multi-talented prodigy was troubling. Was Liliana going to captivate all the male guests?

"Demi, is everything alright?" Carlton asked, noticing her concern.

Demi, caught off guard, managed a forced smile. "I suddenly feel so inadequate, like I'm lacking in everything. I fear others might look down on me."

"Not at all!" Carlton responded with a reassuring smile. "I can't speak for everyone, but to me, your kindness is invaluable."

"How do you always manage to cheer people up, Carlton?" Demi's eyes lit up, pleasing Carlton and softening his expression further.

But she had no other option. If it weren't for this, she wouldn't have settled for being paired with Carlton.

"Liliana, I'm relying on you," Maggie said, her voice filled with hope as she looked at Liliana earnestly. "My poor stomach has been yearning for a good meal all morning."

"Absolutely!" Liliana made her way to the kitchen. After reviewing what was available, she chose some eggs, a variety of vegetables, and flour. "Given what we have here, I'll make some simple pancakes for us all."

"I'm a big fan of pancakes," Maggie's eyes lit up, eagerly anticipating Liliana's culinary efforts.

Ding!

The sound of the doorbell echoed once more.

A knowing look passed between everyone, signaling the arrival of the next female guest.

“I’ve got it!” Daniel rushed to the door. He quickly fixed his hair and was about to strike a pose as he opened the door, but he stopped short, his eyes going wide at the sight of the visitor. “Alissa?”

At that moment, all the greetings Daniel had rehearsed slipped from his memory, leaving behind a mix of confusion, shock, and apprehension.

“Daniel, aren’t you going to invite me in?” Alissa asked with a smile that seemed gentle, though Daniel perceived her more as a wolf in sheep’s clothing.

“Of course, please come inside.”

“Who is she? Why does Daniel look so nervous all of a sudden?”

“I’m not sure. However, given how Daniel reacted, she clearly holds some significance.”

“Does anyone recognize this mysterious guest?”

Alissa was not well-known among the online viewers.

The Welch family from Cloverhill held a notable reputation and were very private, which explained why the viewers were unfamiliar with Alissa. However, the moment Alissa entered, Janice’s face fell.