

Wrath 541

Chapter 541:

"This is shaping up to be quite the spectacle," she scoffed. "We had the 'multi-talented prodigy' arrive first, and now we're joined by the Welch family heiress. The plot thickens."

Aiden's brow furrowed as he sensed the unfolding events were unexpected. Who would have guessed that the Welch family heiress would appear on a dating show?

As he thought back to the previous evening's interactions, it seemed Alissa might have targeted Janice for her visit.

"Now I'm even more eager to see who the third woman will be. Are we in for another shock?" Janice mused, her eyes gleaming with a sharp, cold glint.

Once inside, Alissa noticed Liliana in the kitchen, already wearing an apron.

Liliana expertly cracked eggs and whisked the batter, her movements exuding a natural elegance that starkly contrasted with Daniel's more awkward kitchen efforts.

Even Daniel, typically dismissive of such skills, remained quiet after observing Liliana's adeptness.

Kenneth observed Liliana intently, glimpsing shades of Janice in her once again.

Soon, Liliana presented a plate of pancakes.

With a charming smile, she said, "Everyone, please taste them and let me know what you think."

"Wow, these look fantastic," Maggie said, her eyes sparkling as she beheld the pancakes. "They might even rival Janice's casserole."

“Janice?” Liliana stopped, turning to Maggie with a puzzled expression.

“Janice is one of the guests. She made a delicious casserole yesterday,” Maggie said, her voice filled with dreamy nostalgia. The memory lit up her face with delight, as if she could still taste the rich, comforting flavors.

“It seems this little house holds more surprises than I expected,” Liliana remarked with a smile, though Kenneth noticed that the warmth didn’t quite reach her eyes.

“Here, try this.”

“Okay!” Maggie eagerly grabbed a fork, scooped up a piece of the pancake, and took a bite.

Her eyes sparkled instantly. She stomped in excitement like a child discovering candy for the first time. “Oh my gosh, this is incredible! The pancake is crispy on the outside and tender on the inside. The eggs and other ingredients melt with flavor as you chew. It’s delicious!”

“Is it really that good?” Demi asked, her curiosity getting the better of her as she watched Maggie’s reaction.

“I can get you some,” Carlton offered, ever attentive to Demi’s slightest whims.

Demi’s face lit up as she gave Carlton a grateful look. “Thank you.”

“No problem.” Carlton quickly fetched a pancake and handed it to her.

Demi wasted no time taking a bite, and her expression mirrored Maggie’s. Her eyes were wide with delight as she savored the flavors of the pancake. “Everyone, come and try some!” Maggie called out, gesturing to the others. One by one, the group gathered around to share the pancakes.

Just as Daniel stepped forward, eager to join in, Maggie blocked him with a mischievous grin. “Hold it right there. Didn’t you say your breakfast was a masterpiece? These pancakes are for the rest of us.”

“Maggie!” Daniel’s face turned red with frustration as he stared at her.

Maggie retorted, “What’s the matter? Are you finally admitting your food is terrible?”

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“Absolutely not!” Daniel, too proud to admit defeat, stubbornly refused to concede, even though he knew his food was nearly impossible to swallow. “It might not be tasty, but it’s healthy and packed with plenty of nutrients.”

“Perfect! Then enjoy it all by yourself.” Maggie smirked and turned her attention to Alissa. “Come join us, Alissa.”

Alissa glanced at the pancakes Maggie offered. Her smile remained polite, but a flicker of disdain flashed in her eyes. “No, thank you. I’ve had my breakfast already.”

“What? But these pancakes are so good! You’d be missing out,” Maggie pressed, eager to share the rare treat, but Alissa was uninterested.

“Since you love them so much, you should enjoy more.”

“Oh, you’re too kind, Alissa. I won’t hold back then!”

Alissa nodded, though she scoffed inwardly. Such subpar ingredients were beneath her refined taste. She only dined on eggs from purebred hens and flour milled from the finest wheat.

“Liliana, your cooking is impressive,” Kenneth remarked after savoring the pancake. “Who taught you to cook like this?”

“I learned by myself.”

Kenneth raised an eyebrow, clearly impressed by Liliana's cooking. "Self-taught?"

Liliana nodded and smiled warmly, her confidence understated but magnetic. "Liliana is an absolute genius! She is a fast learner and just learned to cook by reading books. I can't help but wish I had a mind like hers."

"Compared to her, I feel like a total amateur."

"Have you noticed? Liliana reminds me of someone else."

"Who?"

"Ah, the legendary JE!" People say she's a versatile genius. She founded JE in her teens and quickly rose to international fame."

Viewers of the live stream couldn't help but notice the resemblance between JE and Liliana, sparking comparisons between the two.

"Who do you think is more impressive, Liliana or JE?"

"I'd say JE. She's a powerhouse now, while Liliana's just a social media influencer."

"Don't be so quick to judge! Liliana's still young. With time, she might even surpass JE."

The debate quickly intensified, flooding the comment section with passionate opinions and boosting the show's popularity even further. Among the viewers were countless JE fans, fiercely defending their idol, while Liliana's newer supporters struggled to hold their ground.

"So, Maggie, which one is better? My pancake or Janice's casserole?" Liliana asked suddenly.

Maggie froze mid-bite, the pancake dangling comically from her lips.

All eyes shifted to Maggie, waiting for her response.

“Hold on a second!” Daniel cut in, clearly irritated. “Maggie, when did you have a taste of Janice’s casserole? Were you sneaking an extra meal behind our backs yesterday?”

Maggie hastily devoured the pancake, her eyes glinting with defiance. “Janice gives me special privileges. So what? What are you going to do, bite me?”

“Devin, this is unacceptable!” Daniel’s face flushed with indignation. “There’s clear favoritism happening here!”

“Daniel, do you have any concrete evidence to support that claim?”

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“She just admitted it herself!”

Devin’s voice carried its usual composure, though a whisper of exasperation crept in. “Can we perhaps consider that Maggie was speaking in the heat of the moment?”

“What?”

“Enough! Don’t disrupt the recording. We’re live right now.”

The reminder snapped Daniel back to reality, forcing his mouth shut. After yesterday’s fiasco, redemption felt paramount, though in the unforgiving eyes of their vast online audience, his reputation already lay in tatters.

“Maggie, I’m curious about something. Between Janice’s cooking and Liliana’s, which do you prefer?”

Just when Maggie thought she'd dodged the bullet, Alissa's question pulled her back into the crossfire, leaving her visibly uncomfortable. "I think..."

"I don't think they are comparable."

At that precise moment, Janice glided in from outside.

She wore a simple white shirt and jeans with an effortless grace that belied their casualness. Her striking features turned the everyday outfit into something remarkable, radiating a fresh, magnetic presence that commanded attention.

Every eye in the room gravitated toward her naturally charismatic aura.

Liliana's gaze narrowed slightly as she studied the newcomer who had captured everyone's attention, while Alissa's stare carried undertones of frost and subtle mockery.

"Janice looks absolutely ethereal today, just like a fairy!"

"Come on. When doesn't Janice look like a fairy?"

"Keep the compliments coming! Janice is breathtaking!"

The online viewers buzzed with excitement at her appearance, their comments flooding the feed.

"Hold on! Is that Aiden behind her?"

"Oh my gosh! They arrived together. What a feast for the eyes this early in the morning!"

True enough, Aiden stepped in behind her, his entrance reminiscent of a leading man making his debut.

The moment felt so cinematically perfect that viewers could almost hear an imaginary theme song playing, creating an utterly spellbinding scene.

Today, Aiden had traded his usual formal attire for something more casual, his relaxed appearance softening yesterday's stern demeanor.

He and Janice painted a picture of perfect harmony—the kind that made onlookers believe in destiny's hand in bringing two people together.

“Janice, you're back!” Maggie bounded over, wrapping her arms around Janice in an affectionate embrace, joy radiating from her entire being.

Janice's hand found its way to Maggie's head in a gentle pat, her smile warm. “Maggie, you're as adorable as ever.”

Maggie's presence stirred thoughts of Sierra, and Janice found herself wondering about the other young woman's whereabouts.

“Oh, right! Janice, we have two new female guests in our little house.” Maggie eagerly led Janice toward the newcomers.

“I know.” Janice's gaze lifted to meet Liliana's and Alissa's faces. “I watched the live stream on my way back. This is Liliana, and this...” Her eyes lingered on Alissa, her smile dissolving like morning mist. “This is Alissa.”

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“Hi, Janice.” Alissa feigned a first meeting, stepping forward with a passive-aggressive smile. “You, the Edwards family's disowned daughter, have been quite the talk recently. Even in Cloverhill, I've heard about you.” The hostility in her words hung in the air like static before a storm.

“What's with Alissa? Why is she lashing out at Janice from the moment they met?”

“She mentioned Cloverhill. Could she actually be from there?”

“A Cloverhill heiress traveling to Every for a reality show? That’s beyond extravagant!”

The viewers watched with rapt attention as an inexplicable tension crackled between the two women, who were supposedly meeting for the first time. Something about their interaction felt charged with unspoken history, despite appearing to be strangers.

Sharp-eyed viewers noticed Alissa’s gaze repeatedly drifting to Aiden, who stood silently behind Janice.

In that moment, everything clicked into place.

“Oh boy! Alissa must be here for Aiden!”

“Wow! She really journeyed across regions for love? All the way from Cloverhill to Efrery, just to pursue Aiden?”

“That explains Alissa’s hostility towards Janice!”

The audience practically buzzed with satisfaction, feeling like they’d uncovered a juicy secret.

The show had barely begun its second day, yet already a classic love triangle was unfurling before their eyes.

“Love Lab is destined to be this year’s top-rated variety show.”

“We’re only on day two, and we’ve already witnessed so many iconic moments!”

“Right? Yesterday gave us the epic showdown between Kenneth and Aiden, and now we’re watching sparks fly between Alissa and Janice!”

Janice looked at Alissa with a smile, unafraid of the challenge. "Well, I'm quite surprised to hear you're so interested in gossip. It seems you've got a real talent for understanding the common folk."

Alissa frowned. She had expected her words to irritate Janice, but instead, Janice appeared unaffected, and the phrase "common folk" made her uncomfortable.

Was this a subtle poke, implying that she was just as bad as the one spreading rumors?

She was the respected daughter of the Welch family, held in high esteem, and was not someone to be compared with the average person.

"May I say something?" At that moment, Liliana stepped forward. Her smile was still in place, but her eyes briefly showed a trace of chill. Her gaze turned to Janice. "Earlier, you said my pancakes don't hold a candle to your casserole. Could you explain?"

Janice looked at Liliana. At first glance, Liliana might appear friendly, yet there was an underlying arrogance, as if she was eager to establish her superiority. Before Janice could answer, Aiden stepped up, grabbed a pancake from the plate, and popped it into his mouth.

He chewed lazily and, with a slight smile, he commented, "Truly, they're incomparable."

Janice's eyebrow lifted, realizing Aiden was defending her.

Liliana's eyes followed Aiden, filled with curiosity, anticipating his next words.

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"Your pancakes are nice, but they lack something," Aiden continued.

"What?" Liliana's expression hardened, her tone growing sharper. "Please do enlighten me."

"They lack soul," Aiden said, a subtle smile playing on his lips as he wiped his hands with a napkin. "The pancakes you made show your strong will to excel. You focused too much on spices, which drowned out

the natural flavors. But the casserole Janice prepared..." He turned to Janice, his gaze softening as if she was his entire world. "It perfectly melds the spices with the natural tastes, creating a comforting experience for both the body and the spirit."

"Ah!" Maggie exclaimed with a sudden clap of her hands. "That's exactly right!" She blinked, looking back and forth between Janice and Liliana before saying awkwardly, "Liliana's pancakes are indeed tasty, but like Aiden mentioned, they miss the natural..."

Flavors of the ingredients. Meanwhile, in Janice's casserole, you can taste not just the fullness of the eggs but also the soothing richness of the other ingredients. Such flavors really make you feel at home, as if you're immersed in nature itself."

"Stop, you're making me so hungry!"

"Imagine waking up, hungry, and dreaming about this dish?"

"We need the show to set up a taste test so we can experience the cooking of these two culinary artists!"

Aiden's and Maggie's descriptions had many online viewers practically drooling with excitement.

From their comments, it was clear Janice possessed a more profound grasp of the culinary arts.

"Liliana, your pancakes taste great too," Maggie came over, holding Liliana's hand to reassure her. "Everyone has their unique cooking style, which offers its own delightful surprises."

Liliana smiled, then turned to pick up the plate of pancakes from the table. "If there's a flaw, the dish isn't perfect." With that, she threw the pancakes in the trash bin.

"Liliana!" Maggie gasped in surprise. She hadn't expected Liliana to throw out all the pancakes. She still wanted some more.

The others were just as shocked. Their perception of Liliana changed. This youthful and chic woman, dressed in her uniform-inspired attire, didn't seem as friendly as she looked.

Her reaction was so extreme, despite the fact that it was just a mild critique, far from being harsh.

Janice looked at the thrown-out pancakes and sighed, feeling helpless.

"Janice, what do you think?" Liliana asked, her expression steady, as though she was simply discarding poorly cooked food.

"You hold yourself to very high standards," Janice responded. "However, wasting food is not a good habit."

Liliana frowned slightly. "I refuse to eat flawed food. If it's not up to standard, it belongs in the trash. How is that wasteful?"

Janice shook her head, giving Liliana a frosty look. "If you doubt your ability to prepare perfect dishes, why cook at all? If you can't achieve perfection yourself, what gives you the right to judge so harshly?"

The tension between them grew dramatically as Janice's words lingered in the air.

Everyone around them felt a chill. They had just met, yet how could there already be such hatred between them?

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"Liliana blowing things out of proportion? Everyone was just praising her cooking and enjoying it. All Maggie did was say her dish was on par with Janice's, and now she's all worked up?"

"Janice is spot on! Throwing away those pancakes is such a waste."

"But isn't it fine for Liliana to have high standards? She's a chef. Striving for perfection is part of the job. Honestly, I think it's admirable."

“Are you serious? No way! High standards or not, wasting food is just—”

“Exactly! Liliana’s just picking a fight with Janice. And let’s be real—if her standards are so high, why didn’t she nail it the first time?”

The internet was in a frenzy over Liliana’s reaction.

Some thought Liliana was being dramatic—after all, everyone had praised her cooking and eaten plenty. But others believed she was simply a perfectionist, pushing herself to the highest standards. A third camp wasn’t buying her friendly act, claiming it masked a more calculating personality.

Meanwhile, the drama sent the ratings for Love Lab soaring, and Devin was in no rush to step in. He let the tension simmer between Liliana and Janice, knowing it was gold for the show’s popularity.

“Janice, you seem pretty sure of yourself when it comes to your culinary skills.” Liliana stepped forward with purpose, stopping right in front of Janice. “How about a friendly cooking competition to settle who’s the better chef?”

“Not interested,” Janice replied coolly, her tone as unshaken as her demeanor.

“We’re in the middle of filming a show. Let’s stick to the program’s rules.”

“Are you scared you’ll lose?” Liliana taunted, stepping closer, her gaze sharp and full of challenge.

“I find this proposal quite intriguing,” Alissa chimed in with a sly smile, glancing between the two. “Sure, Love Lab is a dating show, but I’m confident the producers wouldn’t mind a little friendly competition between the guests.” She then turned to the camera with a playful grin and called out, “Devin, what’s your take on this?”

Devin frowned, caught in a bind. While he was eager to see the drama unfold for the sake of the show’s excitement, he knew he was walking a fine line with two powerful figures involved.

It was clear that both were leaning in Janice's favor, and if they disagreed, Devin knew he'd be stuck in a tough spot, unable to please everyone.

"Your suggestion is intriguing, but I must decline," Aiden said, his voice firm and unwavering. He stepped forward, his commanding presence filling the space, though the faint traces of pain from his back injury didn't show on his face. "I was injured yesterday, and Janice stayed up all night looking after me. She's exhausted, so there's no need to entertain such a pointless challenge."

Kenneth narrowed his eyes, sensing that Aiden's words were pointed not just at Liliana, but at him too. "I agree," he said, standing up and adjusting his suit with a smooth motion. "We still have a guest who hasn't arrived yet, and we shouldn't make the atmosphere too tense."

"Right!" Maggie added quickly, her eyes sparkling with enthusiasm. "Keeping the peace is always a good move!"

With both Aiden and Kenneth voicing their opinions, Devin knew it was time to speak up. "Aiden and Kenneth are right. We can revisit Liliana's challenge later." He left the door open for future drama but wasn't worried about Alissa pushing the issue further.

Alissa's smile faltered for a moment as she caught Leonidas' gaze, and after a beat, she relaxed. "Alright." She turned to Liliana, taking her hand. "I know you. You won first place in the last culinary competition—your skills are top-tier. Someone's just too scared to accept the challenge."

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Liliana's lips curved into a small, satisfied smile, her eyes gleaming with pride. "I remember..."

A cool voice suddenly interrupted, cutting through the tension. Everyone's gaze turned to Stephen, who had been quietly observing until now. With calm confidence, he continued, "The culinary competition also featured a grand prize."

Janice's eyes sparkled. Could it be that Stephen was stepping in to back her up? Stephen was typically laid-back, staying out of other people's drama, but his words were unmistakably in Janice's corner.

Those who knew Stephen well were taken aback by his unexpected move to step in.

“Did Stephen just stand up for someone? And for Janice, no less?”

“I’m officially shipping Stephen and Janice! Forget all the other pairings, this one’s the real deal!”

“Honestly, Liliana’s a bit too full of herself. Janice was just trying to avoid making a scene by refusing the challenge, but Liliana just couldn’t let it slide.”

Among the online viewers, a few sharp-eyed individuals managed to see through Liliana’s carefully crafted facade.

On the outside, she appeared sweet and harmless, but underneath, she was a fiercely ambitious and competitive young woman.

“What’s the harm in being bold? If I had Liliana’s skills, I’d be even more daring than she is.”

“Exactly! It’s clear that Janice is intimidated. That casserole she made yesterday might have been the best she can do.”

“Maggie was just trying to stay fair, not wanting to upset anyone. Some people think Janice’s cooking doesn’t compare to Liliana’s.”

The online debate grew more intense with each passing minute. Devin felt a blend of excitement and concern. “Watch the comments closely. If things escalate, it could lead to trouble.”

“Got it!” The team managing the platform immediately braced themselves.

“Stephen, it seems you have a lot of knowledge about cooking contests,” Alissa said with a smile. “But I recall that no grand prize was given out at the competition. That made Liliana’s first place the highest distinction.”

“That’s right,” Lilitana added. “I’m not sure why the grand prize was left out, but since it was unclaimed, my first-place win naturally took priority.”

“You’re wrong!” Just then, Aaron entered from outside.

“Aaron, are you here to cook us breakfast?” Demi greeted him with a bright smile.

Aaron rolled his eyes. Sure, he was a chef, but did that mean he always had to cook when he showed up? This woman’s assumption appeared to be somewhat off the mark.

He explained, “I was watching the live-stream and heard you discussing the previous cooking contest. As a contestant, I think I have a right to weigh in.”

Lilitana recognized him and exclaimed happily, “Aaron? I remember seeing you at that contest.”

Aaron nodded, giving a polite but reserved gesture in return. “The grand prize was intentionally left unclaimed in the last cooking competition to honor a mysterious chef who chose not to participate. She has reached the peak of her culinary prowess. The judges regretted her decision to withdraw, but they recognized that she truly deserved the grand prize. To honor her decision, they decided to leave the grand prize vacant as a gesture of respect.” He cast a significant look toward Janice.

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Janice nodded back, her smile calm and certain. She had not anticipated this twist following her withdrawal.

“Are you talking about the masked chef?” Lilitana asked, her eyebrows knitting together, a hint of curiosity in her eyes.

“Indeed!” Aaron confirmed. “Your culinary skills are impressive, and your first-place finish was well-earned. Yet, there remains a difference in skill level compared to the chef.”

Lilitana’s hands balled into fists, and a flash of defiance flickered in her eyes.

She had aimed to surpass that mysterious chef in the competition.

The chef had effortlessly advanced through the rounds, making it to the finals with ease.

Liliana had been eager to challenge her in the final showdown, but the chef had withdrawn at the last moment.

"I beg to differ," Alissa said with a scoff. "Liliana never had the chance to compete against the chef. How can you assume she's not as talented?"

"Because the judges sampled every dish the chef prepared, and none of her dishes matched the chef's."

"Hold on a second!" Maggie interjected, raising her hand. "Are you suggesting that every dish created by the chef during the contest was superior to Liliana's?"

"That's precisely what I'm saying!" Aaron stood confidently, puffing out his chest. "That's precisely why the judges did not award the grand prize to anyone else. The chef alone deserved such distinction."

Janice touched her nose, watching Aaron speak with enthusiasm. As the topic of the conversation, she couldn't help but feel a bit embarrassed.

"Ahem, let's get back on topic." She cleared her throat, breaking the thick silence that hung in the air. "Remember, this is a romantic reality series, not a cooking show."

Devin was snapped back to the moment and quickly announced through the loudspeaker, "Attention, everyone, the last female participant has just arrived. Once everyone is assembled, I'll introduce today's first challenge."

Although Liliana was hesitant, she knew she had to put the matter aside for now.

Alissa gave a knowing smirk, eyeing Janice with curiosity. "Expect a surprise soon."

Janice looked confused, asking, “What surprise?”

Alissa simply offered a mysterious smile and then turned to sit herself on the couch.

Poor Demi and Carlton eyed the thrown-out pancakes in the trash bin, regretting not having taken more. Earlier, they had chosen to be modest, taking only a small serving to preserve their dignity. Now, their appetites were unsatisfied.

At that moment, the doorbell rang again.

Daniel stood up, straightened his posture, and made his way to the door.

“Is Daniel really just playing the role of a doorman? He’s absolutely hilarious!”

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“The funniest thing is, he thinks he’s being charming, trying to impress the female guests, but they haven’t even glanced his way.”

“Who would ever give him a chance? Certainly not me!”

“And not me either!”

Many online viewers found humor in teasing Daniel, which distracted them from the debate over Janice and Liliana.

The door swung open.

A woman stood in the doorway, radiating innocence and vulnerability.

She was dragging a suitcase, her eyes soft, giving off a delicate air. Daniel, seeing this, felt a surge of compassion. "Let me help you with that."

"Thank you."

The familiar voice caught Janice's attention, making her raise an eyebrow and glance toward the door.

When she saw the newcomer, her shock was evident. "How could it possibly be..."

Aiden was just as shocked to see the newcomer. "Delilah?"

Everyone present turned to look at her.

Today, Delilah wore simple clothes, her usual flair and charm missing, which gave her a more vulnerable and innocent appearance.

Kenneth looked at Aiden, his eyes filled with confusion. Delilah was supposed to be in prison, so how had she managed to appear on this show?

"Don't look at me. I'm just as clueless," Aiden responded coldly, noticing Kenneth's confused look.

"Devin, is there some kind of mistake?" Janice demanded, her expression stern.

"Why would the show bring a criminal on as a guest?"

The term "criminal" sent shockwaves through the online audience.

"A criminal? Why is Janice calling this guest a criminal?"

“Hold on! That woman is Delilah, the fake heiress of the Edwards family! She previously embezzled funds from Edwards Group and collaborated with outsiders to plot against her own family. She was caught by Janice and sent to...”

“I don’t get it. How can Delilah be here if she was in prison?”

The details of Delilah’s crimes remained largely unknown, as they involved secrets about Janice that had been kept under wraps.

The audience was generally aware of only the broad details of the story.

However, there was no sympathy for criminals. Almost instantly, the screen filled with comments berating Devin for his foolishness and predicting the show’s downfall.

Seeing the flood of comments, Devin began to sweat nervously. Delilah’s involvement had been arranged by Alissa. He hadn’t dared to question her decisions and had simply followed orders. If these shocking revelations proved accurate, the show was undoubtedly in trouble.

“Janice, what are you talking about?” Daniel asked, frowning in displeasure.

“You can’t just make accusations without proof. That’s slander.”

Janice ignored the clueless man, her gaze cold as she fixed her eyes on Delilah.

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“You’ve really outdone yourself, managing to get out after being imprisoned.”

“Janice...”

“Silence! You’re a swindler, the very reason the Edwards family fell apart. What right do you have to speak to me?”

Hearing Janice's words, even Daniel, who typically took a while to catch on, sensed that something was wrong. "Are you familiar with Janice? Is what she's saying true?" he asked.

Delilah gazed at Daniel with a look of sorrow. "I've been falsely accused. Yes, I made mistakes, but I was manipulated." Her voice trembled, and tears began to stream down her cheeks, painting a convincing picture of innocence.

Both the guests in attendance and the online viewers found themselves moved by her display.

Delilah continued, "My greatest mistake in life was being born as Daryl's daughter. She swapped me with the Edwards family's baby when I was just a newborn, using me as a pawn to grab their wealth. She forced me into committing countless crimes to steal the Edwards family's wealth. Whenever I tried to resist, she threatened to hurt my adoptive parents and siblings. To keep them safe, I felt I had no choice but to follow her commands. Even though the courts have cleared my name, the guilt still haunts me. I'm here on this show to prove that I can change and begin a fresh start."

Her confession was filled with deep emotion and moved everyone who heard it.

Even those who had been criticizing her found it hard to resist feeling a wave of compassion.

Janice was amused and glanced at Alissa, who was observing the unfolding drama.

So, this was Alissa's earlier hint at a surprise.

Indeed, it was quite the revelation.

"Delilah, do you really think playing the victim will earn you everyone's forgiveness and sympathy?" Janice scoffed, her smile filled with sarcasm. "Do you honestly think everyone is a fool?"

"I didn't mean that." Delilah shook her head over and over, her weak state clearly visible.

Daniel immediately came to her defense, glaring at Janice. “Stop it! Janice, how can you be so heartless? She’s confessed to her crimes. Isn’t it time to give her a chance to change?”

Janice let out a sharp, humorless laugh, her voice laced with icy disdain. “Daniel, if you’ve lost your grip on reality, why not shake some sense into yourself instead of putting on this embarrassing display?”

In the past, she wouldn’t have spared this fool a second thought as long as he stayed out of her way. But now, he was standing up for Delilah.

Daniel froze, and his mind went blank with disbelief. He hadn’t anticipated a fierce retort from Janice. Her sharp words left him completely at a loss. The others stared, wide-eyed in shock. Janice, who was known for her composure and rarely raised her voice, had just silenced Daniel with a single cutting remark. It was a testament to how furious she truly was.

“Delilah, you keep claiming you had no choice. Was that the case when you stole someone else’s design drafts? And what about swapping the real Blue Heart with a fake one just to maintain appearances? Were those choices out of your hands too?”