

Wrath 581

Chapter 581:

He'd never admit that he'd stayed on as a part-time host just to be closer to his idol. No one else knew that Janice was the mysterious chef who had withdrawn yet still claimed the grand prize back then, and Aaron took quiet pride in being the only one who knew the truth.

Janice reached into the box and drew a ball, the number five peeking through her fingers.

"Janice picks number five!"

Aaron's voice boomed through the room as he announced the number Janice had drawn. "Next, please!"

"I'll go." Kenneth stepped forward with a confident stride and threw a sly glance at Aiden. "I've got a feeling this time—it's my turn to be paired with Janice."

Aiden let out a derisive snort. "Confidence is admirable, Kenneth, but overconfidence? That's a recipe for embarrassment."

Kenneth didn't so much as flinch. His smirk deepened as he approached the blue box, dipping his hand inside to draw a number ball.

In the live stream chat, the virtual crowd erupted. "Ahh! I'm so nervous! Please let it be Kenneth and Janice!"

"Kenneth and Janice are perfect together—they have to pair up!"

"No way! It's Aiden and Janice or nothing!"

The online audience held their breath, eyes glued to the screen as Kenneth slowly revealed the number in his hand.

Aaron's voice rang out again, sharp with excitement. "Kenneth has drawn number five! Congratulations, Kenneth! You've been successfully paired with Janice."

Kenneth's face lit up with triumph. "Looks like my gut feeling was right after all." He turned back to Aiden, tossing the numbered ball lightly in his hand as if to underscore his victory. "Luck is on my side."

Aiden's expression darkened, his jaw tightening as his fists curled at his sides. He should have gone before Kenneth. The possibility of Janice being paired with another contestant had crossed his mind, but Kenneth? That stung.

In the background, Alissa watched the scene unfold with quiet satisfaction. She barely concealed the smug curve of her lips as her gaze flicked towards Aiden. This outcome wasn't left to chance—it was her doing.

No matter who stepped forward first, Kenneth and Janice were always going to end up paired. She had made sure of it. Her eyes lingered on Janice, a shadow of cold amusement flashing in them. Kenneth was infatuated with Janice, and if they grew closer, it would clear the way for her own plans with Aiden.

Meanwhile, the live stream chat exploded again. "Yes! My prayers have been answered!"

"OMG! Kenneth and Janice! Finally, we'll get some sweet moments!"

"Don't blow this, Kenneth! Show us what you've got!"

Janice and Aiden had unmatched chemistry on the show, and if Kenneth wanted to win over the audience—and Janice—he had his work cut out for him.

"Janice!" Kenneth strode toward her, the numbered ball rolling lightly in his palm. "It's an honor to be paired with you this time."

Chapter 582:

“Kenneth, you’re overplaying it. The pairing is random—I could’ve ended up with anyone. There’s nothing honorable about that.” Janice’s lips curved into a faint smile, polite yet distant, as though she were granting him only a sliver of her attention.

For a moment, Kenneth’s heart sank, but he quickly masked the disappointment.

Maybe, if they spent more time together, she’d notice the qualities he believed made him stand out.

“I’ll do my best to win this match,” he said with quiet determination, hoping it came off as charming.

“Good luck, then.”

Nearby, Aiden observed the exchange in silence, his sharp eyes catching every fleeting expression. He couldn’t hear their conversation, but their shared smiles gnawed at him.

Something raw twisted in his chest, and almost instinctively, he placed a hand over his heart. What is this? Jealousy?

He exhaled a bitter chuckle. How ridiculous. He was losing grip on the composed version of himself he had always prided himself on being—or perhaps, he mused, since Janice’s arrival, he’d been unraveling piece by piece.

Janice wasn’t just a presence—she was a consuming force. An addiction he didn’t want to quit.

Meanwhile, the live chat was blowing up.

“Look at Aiden over there. He looks like he’s nursing a broken heart.”

“Can you blame him? Watching the girl you adore team up with someone else? That’s gotta hurt.”

“People say Aiden’s like ice, but look at him now. Guess true love can thaw even the coldest of hearts.”

The next pairings continued without a hitch, just as Alissa had meticulously planned.

She, of course, had been paired with Aiden. Elsewhere, Liliana and Leonidas formed a team, Maggie was partnered with Daniel, and Delilah found herself paired with Carlton. Meanwhile, Demi, much to her surprise and delight, ended up with Stephen.

Demi was practically bubbling over with excitement. She had been worried about losing Carlton's favor and fading into obscurity, but luck had smiled on her today. Landing Stephen as her partner felt like a jackpot.

"I'm looking forward to working with you, Stephen," Demi said, her smile perfectly calibrated to charm. "I'll give my all in the swimming duel to create opportunities for you."

"You seem to have misunderstood." Stephen unscrewed the lid of his thermos and took a sip.

"Huh?" Demi blinked, puzzled. "Misunderstood? What do you mean?"

Before Stephen could respond, Devin's voice rang out again. "Everyone, the pairings are complete. I trust you're all satisfied with your partners."

"Not even close!" Maggie snapped, her hands planted on her hips. "Teamed up with Daniel? That's basically a guaranteed loss!"

Chapter 583:

"Hey, hey, hey!" Daniel exclaimed, clearly upset. "What do you mean by 'a guaranteed loss'? I'm almost a professional when it comes to swimming! I've never been intimidated by anyone except Olympic swimmers!"

"Anyone can claim to be good!" Maggie said, rolling her eyes and poking Daniel's muscles with a mocking expression. "With those huge muscles, there's no way you're fast in the water!"

“Maggie, that’s insulting! What do you mean my big muscles can’t swim? I’ll prove to you that I’m a force to be reckoned with in the pool soon enough!” Daniel responded, overflowing with confidence and ready to demonstrate his prowess. He was resolved to prove to everyone that his muscular build was an advantage.

“Ahem!” Devin interjected, his voice cutting through their argument. “I am confident that Daniel will give his best effort to win the race. However, let me inform you of a unique circumstance. Due to an injury, Stephen will be unable to participate in the water activities. Therefore, he and his partner will serve as referees, watching the event from the sidelines.”

“What?” Demi reacted, shocked. “Devin, are you sure about that?”

“Yes, I’m sure. You and Stephen will be the referees for this contest.”

Demi swayed slightly as she fully grasped the meaning of Stephen’s earlier words. In the upcoming contest, she wouldn’t even have a chance to compete. She would only be there to watch.

“LMAO, Demi had been excited to be paired with Stephen, but now that she understood the situation, she was likely furious inside.”

“I hadn’t realized that Demi was such a manipulator. She falsely accused Alissa before, and now she’s trying to use Stephen to salvage her own reputation. It’s quite shameless.”

“Ah, I’ve always said, she’s the type to play with many partners.”

The observant online audience quickly picked up on Demi’s actions, seeing the cleverness hidden beneath her cheerful appearance.

Carlton looked over at Demi, his expression hinting with a touch of sympathy.

Just then, Delilah approached him, offering a sweet smile. “Carlton, I’m counting on you to look after me later. I’m not great at sports, but I’ll try my best to support you.”

Carlton was momentarily surprised. Delilah's smile was genuinely charming, and her voice was calming, offering a sense of comfort. "Just do your best." Delilah nodded, then threw a brief, sneering glance at Demi.

Demi's petty tricks seemed childish in comparison to her own strategies. Yet, Delilah wasn't really there to fight with Demi—she had a different objective in mind. She cast a cold glance toward Janice.

Devin then announced, "Everyone, the competition's first round is about to start. Aiden and Alissa, Carlton and Delilah, Maggie and Daniel, please line up at the start."

"Aiden, let's go."

Alissa reached out to take Aiden's hand, but he smoothly dodged her touch. "Sorry, I'm allergic."

"What?" Alissa looked at Aiden, confused. "Allergic to what? I'll get you the best doctor right away."

Chapter 584:

Aiden gave a soft laugh, looking at Alissa with an indifferent expression. "I'm allergic to you."

Alissa's face stiffened, her hand frozen in the air as anger rose inside her.

However, Aiden paid her no attention and headed straight for the starting line. "Aiden, you should feel flattered that I'm showing interest in you, yet you respond to me like this," Alissa spun around, clenching her teeth as she glared at Aiden's back.

Aiden seemed to sense her gaze and paused briefly, though he didn't turn back. Out of her sight, he secretly gave her the finger.

Alissa's eyes narrowed, remembering how Janice had gestured rudely at Leonidas earlier. Aiden and Janice seemed to share a unique bond between the two of them, one that was hard to explain.

The more he resisted, the more she felt driven to conquer him.

Even if Aiden disliked her, she was determined to break him down. She believed that achieving this would be satisfying.

All three teams lined up at the starting point.

Daniel was flaunting his muscles excessively, as though worried they might go unnoticed. However, not many spectators were fans of such a display. Carlton stood calmly, his eyes clear and free from a burning need to win.

Aiden's eyes narrowed as he stared at Janice. He was determined to prevent Kenneth and Janice from going on a date. Winning this competition was essential to that plan.

"Carlton, good luck," Delilah cheered, her sweet smile spreading enthusiasm and happiness. Her cheerful demeanor even captivated the live-stream viewers.

"I think Delilah truly wants to turn things around for good. Her smile seems genuine."

"But no amount of genuineness can erase her past errors. Ladies, stay alert, and don't be tricked!"

"Exactly! Isn't Delilah just trying to improve her public image?"

While some clear-headed online viewers remained doubtful of Delilah's intentions, many others felt sympathy for her, exactly as she had hoped. Although her support was limited now, having even a small group of advocates could eventually play a role in restoring her reputation.

"Maggie, you should be supporting me a bit more since we're partners," Daniel said as he turned to face Maggie.

Maggie gave him an eye roll. "All I have to say is 'yeah, right.'"

“What’s that supposed to mean? Oh, I see. You’re using sarcasm to push me, so I tap into my full potential and win this, right?”

“That’s not it, no...” Maggie replied, taken aback, staring at Daniel in disbelief. How had he interpreted her simple dismissal as a complex psychological tactic to inspire victory? That was certainly not her aim.

“Just watch me, Maggie! I’ll prove to you that I’m a true champion in the pool!” Daniel’s excitement grew, his eyes sparkling with determination.

“On your marks, get set!” Aaron started to give the race commands.

Daniel bent down immediately, his focus laser-sharp on the water ahead, muscles tensed in anticipation.

Chapter 585:

“Yaaah!” Daniel leaped into the water, creating a large splash.

He sneered at the onlookers, viewing them as nothing more than naive spectators, unable to grasp the true extent of his abilities.

While Daniel was lost in his thoughts, he suddenly sensed something was off. Out of the corner of his eye, he saw two competitors swiftly pass him, their movements fluid and fast.

“What?” Daniel exclaimed, his expression one of complete confusion. “No way, how are you so fast? You can’t be better than me! Maggie, toss some water balloons at them! Distract them!”

A water balloon soared through the air with a whoosh. It landed squarely on Daniel’s head with a loud splat.

“Maggie, have you lost your mind? Why are you targeting me? Aim for them! I’m on your team.”

“Take this, and this, and this!” Maggie ignored him, her teeth clenched as she rapidly threw water balloons at Daniel as if firing from a machine gun.

“Aaaah! Maggie!” Daniel was hit with so many water balloons that he struggled to keep swimming. And that was just the start—another storm of balloons flew toward him from every direction.

“Wait, why are you all throwing at me too?” In despair, Daniel looked around at Delilah and Alissa.

“Sorry, I saw Maggie having so much fun, and I just couldn’t resist,” Delilah admitted with a sheepish grin. However, she didn’t stop bombarding Daniel with water balloons.

Alissa simply found Daniel irritating and was using this as an opportunity to release her pent-up frustration from her earlier encounter with Aiden. The situation became ridiculous as all three women guests focused their water balloon attacks on Daniel.

In the water, Daniel was suffering. Diving under meant he would soon run out of air; rising to the surface meant bracing for a storm of water balloons. “Alissa, shouldn’t you be going after Carlton? Please, stop hitting me!” Daniel begged.

Alissa responded with a chilly laugh and glanced over at Aiden. He was well ahead of the competition, with Carlton far behind. Clearly, Aiden didn’t require her help.

“Just deal with it, Daniel.”

Daniel was crushed. He had predicted this swimming contest as his moment to shine, but it had turned into a personal disaster.

“Ha! Without our comedian Daniel, this show would lose its funniest element.”

“Daniel’s here to give us a good laugh!”

“They should rename the show to The Trials of Daniel.”

Online viewers laughed so hard at Daniel's difficult situation that they were left gasping for breath.

Even Devin, previously annoyed by Daniel's ego and constant showing off of his muscles, found himself laughing. Daniel's misfortune was undeniably entertaining for the viewers.

Meanwhile, seeing Daniel's humiliating trial, his agent and company gave up any attempts to restore his serious image.

Chapter 586:

"Quick, let's shift gears and promote Daniel as a comedy act."

"Yes, exactly! This could be his opportunity to completely change his image. Forget being a fitness expert or a romantic idol, let's promote him as the funny guy."

Daniel never would have guessed that, following this episode, his own company and agent would turn against him, recasting him merely as a comic figure.

"Aiden wins!" Aaron announced, marking the end of the first round with Aiden's victory.

Aiden stepped out of the pool, the water dripping from his hair and running down his chiseled muscles, captivating the online audience.

"Wow, what a breathtaking scene!"

"Quick, take a screenshot! I want this as my phone background."

"Aiden's build and those alluring eyes are absolutely stunning!"

Aiden lifted his hands, sweeping his hair back, and the crowd cheered enthusiastically once again.

Kenneth looked over at Janice, noticing that her attention was fixed on Aiden, her eyes slightly clouded yet her smile still in place.

“Janice, if Aiden went public, he’d surely become a national heartthrob.”

“Definitely,” Janice responded, her gaze still fixed on Aiden. “He’s perfectly built, and those abs are flawless. And those abs...” She bit her lip, wondering what it would be like to actually touch them.

Kenneth studied his reflection, his gaze trailing down to his well-defined chest and abs with a mixture of pride and confusion. The fact that Janice hadn’t spared them a single glance left him puzzled. With mounting frustration simmering beneath his composed exterior, Kenneth positioned himself strategically in front of Janice.

“It’s our turn next. Let’s go warm up.”

Janice glanced up at Kenneth, completely oblivious to the electric crackling in the air around them. “Alright, give it your all out there. Leave the rest to me.”

“I trust you completely,” Kenneth replied, a subtle smile playing across his features before he turned his attention to Aiden.

As if drawn by magnetic force, Aiden’s eyes were already fixed in their direction, originally seeking Janice but finding his view blocked by Kenneth’s imposing figure. In a deliberate display of challenge, Aiden raised his hand, flashing a thumbs-up before dragging it across his neck in an unmistakably threatening gesture. Kenneth’s response was nothing more than a ghost of a smile tugging at the corner of his mouth.

Turning back to Janice, Kenneth bent slightly and extended his hand with practiced grace. She hesitated for a heartbeat before accepting it, rising from the lounge chair with his assistance.

“How did you know my legs had fallen asleep?” Janice asked, withdrawing her hand and giving her leg a gentle shake.

Kenneth's smile froze in place. She had taken his hand merely because of pins and needles? Yet, a spark of satisfaction remained; Aiden had witnessed their contact, and that alone would be enough to set his blood boiling.

"Wow, this is a real powder keg of tension! Even though Aiden and Kenneth haven't exchanged words, you could cut the atmosphere with a knife!"

Chapter 587:

"What an electrifying standoff! Kenneth just countered Aiden's provocation by taking Janice's hand. The drama is absolutely riveting!"

"Have you noticed? Janice seems completely blind to the storm brewing between these two."

"Ladies and gentlemen, the second round is about to commence. Kenneth and Janice, Leonidas and Liliana, please make your way to the starting line." The pairs converged at the starting line, with Janice and Kenneth arriving just as Leonidas and Liliana took their positions.

The impending clash between these two teams crackled with an intensity that dwarfed the previous three groups. The rivalry between Liliana and Janice had been simmering since the beginning, and spectators held their breath for what promised to be an explosive confrontation.

"Janice, what a coincidence," Leonidas drawled, his smile dripping with false warmth. "I didn't expect we'd face off here."

"Wasn't this your arrangement?" Janice's pointed question pierced the air, causing Leonidas to falter momentarily. That split-second reaction told her everything she needed to know. She had only intended to test Leonidas, but his reaction gave him away. Leonidas was Liliana's puppet master, brought in to target her. He had been orchestrating this entire showdown from behind the scenes.

Kenneth caught the undercurrent of tension in their exchange, his attention shifting to Janice. His eyes narrowed as they settled on Leonidas, their usual warmth replaced by glacial calculation. "I look forward to your performance."

Leonidas snapped from his momentary discomfort with a cold, harsh laugh. "My performance will be in defeating you."

"Well, I'm looking forward to it," Kenneth replied with a smile, then glanced at Janice, his gaze gentle yet determined, as if to say he would win this match. The gathered crowd leaned forward in their seats, the air thick with anticipation for the impending showdown.

"Stephen, although we can't participate in this match, I'm glad to be teamed up with you." Demi's voice carried a forced cheerfulness as she attempted to engage Stephen, masking her frustration with the situation. But Stephen remained unmoved by her attempt, taking a measured sip from his thermos. His eyes never wavered from Janice, his composed expression betraying only the slightest hint of expectation and concern.

Demi's lips tightened into a frown as Stephen's continued indifference stung. Her gaze drifted to Carlton, and a plan began to form in her mind. Though they were no longer partners, perhaps she could weave a tale of unrequited love. It might be enough, she reasoned, to keep some connection between them alive. "Carlton, you did well earlier. Even though Aiden claimed victory, I saw how much heart you put into the match."

"Thank you," Carlton responded, his eyes meeting hers with an unreadable expression.

"Carlton, I was..."

"Carlton, I'm sorry," Delilah cut through Demi's words with practiced innocence, gliding closer to the pair. "If I had pushed myself harder, perhaps I could have turned the tide and secured your victory."

A gentle smile crossed Carlton's features as he regarded her. "You did your best. Aiden's strength is undeniable, and I accept my defeat with honor. Please don't shoulder any blame."

Chapter 588:

Rage flickered in Demi's eyes as she shot daggers at Delilah. The calculated timing of this interruption was no coincidence. She realized Delilah was methodically keeping her and Carlton apart. Earlier in the match, Delilah's water balloons had suspiciously all found their mark on Daniel instead of interfering with Aiden.

Carlton, consumed by the intensity of the competition, had missed Delilah's subtle manipulations. Now here she was, playing the role of the remorseful partner to perfection, fishing for his sympathy.

"Carlton, I clearly saw..." Demi was determined to expose the truth.

"Demi, it would be best if you returned to Stephen's side. This is a live stream, and your actions could upset his fans," Delilah interrupted again, her timing impeccable. "Stephen has a huge following, and if Carlton gets caught up in this because of you, it wouldn't be fair to him."

Demi stared at Delilah, her eyes wide in utter disbelief. Even Carlton's expression changed at that moment. "Demi, it's best you return to Stephen's side. This is an important moment in the competition; we wouldn't want to complicate things."

Demi's fists tightened in frustration, her anger bubbling up inside, but she realized that making a scene now would only make things worse for her. "Carlton, I'm sorry, I didn't think this through," she apologized, her voice tinged with defeat as she walked back to Stephen's side.

Delilah couldn't help but chuckle to herself. Demi was truly pathetic, trying to pretend innocence in front of her. She was simply too inexperienced. When Janice first came back to the Edwards family, Delilah had complete control over her. But something had changed, and Janice had turned into someone who was always one step ahead—quick-witted and sharp.

Delilah's thoughts turned to Janice, and she shot her a glare filled with resentment. She silently vowed to herself that she'd settle the score, piece by piece, making sure that every grievance—old and new—would be addressed in due time.

"Devin, I think the competition format could use a change," Liliana suddenly proposed just as the competition was about to start.

Leonidas' face hardened as he shot her a glare, but Liliana paid him no mind, her eyes locked on Janice instead.

Devin thought for a moment before asking, "What do you suggest? Please, go ahead."

“Why should the men be the only ones competing while the women stand on the sidelines tossing water balloons? I propose we switch things up for this round.”

Liliana’s suggestion immediately caught the online audience’s attention.

“Looks like Liliana is really taking on Janice!”

“Seriously? Does she have to challenge Janice in everything?”

“Liliana is probably doing this on purpose! She’s been in swimming competitions before and even won some awards. It looks like she’s trying to steal the spotlight from Janice.”

Many viewers online quickly figured out Liliana’s intentions. Still, they didn’t know about Janice’s swimming skills and couldn’t help but feel anxious.

“Janice, are you brave enough to compete with me?” Liliana sneered, stepping forward with a challenging stance. “I know you’re good at many things, so swimming should be easy for you. Besides, you wouldn’t want to always come second to men, would you?”

Chapter 589:

The tension in the air intensified, and everyone found themselves holding their breath, feeling nervous for Janice. But Janice stayed composed, a small smile tugging at her lips, her beautiful eyes glinting with a touch of amusement. “Liliana, I don’t remember crossing any lines with you.”

“No, you haven’t. I simply want to compete with you.”

Janice shot a playful glance at Leonidas, noticing the dark look on his face. She realized that Liliana was part of his plan, but now it was clear—Liliana had slipped out of his grasp. For someone like Leonidas, the fact that he couldn’t control her was probably driving him mad with frustration.

“Alright, I’ll take you up on that,” Janice said with a casual shrug. “Honestly, I could use some exercise. It’s a bit chilly standing here in these skimpy clothes. But whether or not we change the competition format is up to Devin, of course.”

Devin’s eyes widened in surprise as he saw the live stream’s viewership soar. The dramatic clash between these two was boosting the numbers rapidly.

“Devin, you have to agree! We want to see the women splashing in the water while the men throw water balloons from the shore.”

“Why didn’t I think of this before? It’s way more exciting than just having the men swim and the women throw water balloons.”

“Imagine Janice in a swimsuit, splashing around in the water—she’d look stunning, right? I can’t wait to see it!”

“Devin, looks like the audience is all in favor!” A staff member, appearing a little flustered, glanced at Devin.

Devin took a deep breath and grabbed the microphone with a confident grip. “I have an announcement. The format for the second round will be changing. This time, the female guests will compete in the water, while the male guests will have the challenging task of throwing water balloons from the shore to interfere.”

“Devin, you’re incredible!”

“Devin, you’re my hero! You’re the one who’s making all my dreams come true!”

“Devin, if you don’t take home the Best Director award this year, I’ll be lodging complaints with the judges.”

The online audience erupted with excitement, eagerly awaiting the upcoming face-off between Janice and Liliana.

Suddenly, Leonidas burst into manic laughter.

“Interesting, truly interesting,” he said, his eyes gleaming with mockery and provocation as he stared at Janice. “I was initially worried, but now, I’m quite pleased with this outcome.”

He then glanced at Liliana, a flicker of disdain in his gaze. “Liliana, collaborate effectively to win this duel.”

Liliana remained silent, her aloof demeanor indicating her disregard for him. Despite Leonidas having leverage over her, it did little to tame her rebellious spirit.

Leonidas found her intriguing; she reminded him of Janice, likely due to growing up under her influence.

“Why do I feel like Leonidas is a bit unhinged?”

“Oh my gosh. His sudden laughter startled me. He seems a bit crazy!”

Chapter 590:

“Well, ‘crazy’ might not be the right word; there’s a dark allure about him. I actually find this type—exciting and slightly mad—quite appealing.”

Online opinions about Leonidas’ behavior varied.

Some found his unpredictability thrilling, while others viewed him as potentially dangerous and unstable.

However, the main focus remained on the upcoming duel, which promised excitement with its unique challenge: men throwing water balloons from the shore while women competed in the water.

Ignoring Leonidas' taunts, Janice maintained her composure and turned to Kenneth. "Kenneth, can I trust you?"

"Absolutely," Kenneth responded with conviction, his eyes burning with fierce determination as if he wanted to prove his loyalty. "With me here, Leonidas won't be a problem!"

"Excellent!" Janice then turned and announced, "Aaron, we're ready to begin."

Instantly, the crowd's attention turned to the impending swimming duel. Aiden furrowed his brow, his concern palpable. He knew Leonidas well enough to know he wouldn't hold back.

Given Leonidas' resentment towards Janice, those water balloons were sure to be thrown with vigor. Though not lethal, they would definitely sting.

"Aiden, may I ask you something?" Maggie approached quietly, her voice a whisper. "Why would you divorce someone as remarkable as Janice?"

Aiden paused, his expression chilling. The seemingly innocent question cut deep, feeling like a sharp jab to his heart. "That's why I regret it."

Maggie seemed less intimidated by Aiden now, possibly because he appeared more approachable, shedding some of the stern, unsmiling demeanor he was known for.

"Well, you'd better step it up then," Maggie sighed, casting a glance at Kenneth. "My brother has grown quite fond of Janice. Plus, he has an edge over you. He understands how to care for and cherish someone."

"Huh? Are you advocating for Kenneth?" Aiden sneered.

"Absolutely!" Maggie lifted her chin proudly. "My brother has always been attentive and caring towards me. With such qualities, he's far more adept at winning a woman's heart than you. So, you might be wasting your efforts."

Aiden shook his head and abruptly stepped closer, his presence imposing. "What gives you the right to speak to me like this?"

His imposing demeanor instantly filled the space, sending a chill down Maggie's spine.

She looked up at him with wide eyes, a realization dawning on her.

While Aiden had shown a softer side to Janice, to everyone else, he remained the daunting figure he always was.

She had just dared to suggest he concede to Kenneth regarding Janice. Was she out of her mind?

Aiden leaned in, his expression cold and unyielding. "Knowing how to care and cherish someone?" he scoffed. "Is that supposed to be difficult? Anything Kenneth can offer, I can match. But what I bring to the table, he'll never have."

"How could that be?" Despite her fear, Maggie found the courage to stand up for her brother. "My brother is talented and quick to learn. He'll surpass you one day."