

Wrath 591

Chapter 591:

“Oh, really?” Aiden smirked, straightening up, his confidence unshaken. “Can he claim that Janice was once his wife?”

Maggie’s expression faltered, her response caught in her throat. “That’s not what I meant. You’re being unreasonable.”

Aiden turned away, dismissing a flustered Maggie with a nonchalant wave, his attention returning to Janice.

The connection he shared with Janice was irreplaceable.

No matter how much effort Kenneth put forth, he could not surpass him or capture Janice’s heart. In this, he was certain.

“Take your positions!” Aaron’s command echoed, and both teams readied themselves, buzzing with anticipation.

“Ready!”

Bang! The starting pistol fired.

Janice and Liliana dove into the water almost in unison.

As Liliana hit the water, she moved with swift, fluid strokes, slicing through the water effortlessly.

“Wow, she’s fast! No wonder Liliana has won swimming competitions—her speed is unbelievable.”

“Could Liliana make it to the national team with that pace?”

“Wait a minute, where’s Janice?”

Observers online then realized that while Liliana powered forward, Janice was out of sight.

Suddenly, through the churn of water, a figure emerged, moving rapidly beneath the surface, advancing swiftly.

“Incredible! Is Janice swimming underwater the entire way?”

“Is she planning to reach the finish without surfacing for air?”

“Janice’s underwater pace is amazing! She’s already ahead of Liliana by a body length.”

“Quick as she is, there’s no way she can maintain this without coming up for air. Once she does, Liliana is likely to catch her.”

Underwater, Janice maneuvered with the agility and grace of a marine creature, her speed unmatchable.

Whoosh!

The air split with a swift sound.

The crowd watched as a water balloon soared through the air.

Only then did it dawn on them that the competition involved more than just swimming; two men on the shore were targeting the racers.

They thought Leonidas would take it easy on the competitors, but the ferocity of his thrown water balloon suggested otherwise.

Just then, another balloon was launched—not at Liliana, but intercepting Leonidas’s balloon.

With a splash, both balloons exploded, sending droplets flying.

Chapter 592:

“Kenneth, are you out of your mind?” Leonidas frowned, his gaze icy. “Your target is Liliana.”

Kenneth nonchalantly juggled another water balloon, eyeing Leonidas. “I’m betting on Janice to win. My job is to keep you from messing with her.” Leonidas’ eyes narrowed, his smirk growing.

“Then try me.” With that challenge, he hurled another water balloon towards Janice.

But just as quickly, Kenneth launched his own, precisely knocking Leonidas’ balloon off course once again.

The sky above them filled with another burst of water droplets.

Leonidas’ eyes narrowed slightly as he began hurling water balloons at Janice in rapid succession.

Yet Kenneth’s aim and speed were impeccable, countering each of Leonidas’ throws with precision.

For a moment, it seemed as if it were raining water droplets above the pool, soaking the spectators.

Stephen, eager for a closer view of Janice’s race, moved forward and found himself drenched by the water droplets.

He glanced at his wetsuit and sighed inwardly, appreciating why Janice had insisted on him wearing it—to prevent just such a soaking.

Stephen watched the pool, where Janice had already covered two-thirds of the distance, with Liliana close behind.

“Unbelievable! This competition is so intense! The battle in the water is fierce, and the showdown on the shore is just as wild.”

“Kenneth is making me emotional! Doesn’t he seem like a knight defending his queen, as if saying, ‘If you want to harm her, you’ll have to go through me first’?”

“This is getting exciting! Who would’ve thought this seemingly playful contest would feel like watching an epic battle?”

“Look, Janice is reaching the end and is about to turn back.”

As Janice reached the pool’s edge, she executed a swift turn, her feet pushing off the wall to propel her forward once more.

At that moment, as she surged forward, Janice overtook Liliana.

Liliana caught a glimpse of Janice passing her and felt a mix of incredulity and challenge.

All along, Liliana had been driven by the goal of surpassing JE, pushing herself relentlessly to one day be on equal footing with her idol.

She had honed many skills and participated in numerous competitions, almost always clinching first place, making it seem as if everyone but JE was beneath her.

But Janice’s commanding presence reignited her fear of failure.

She couldn't lose.

She was determined to catch up to JE. How could she let herself be outpaced by an underdog?

Liliana's eyes narrowed, and she gathered all her strength, unleashing an impressive burst of energy.

Chapter 593:

As soon as she touched the pool's edge, she executed a swift turn, pushing off the wall with a powerful thrust to propel herself forward.

"Liliana's speed has just surged! It seems she's recognized Janice's prowess and is now giving it her all."

"This is incredible, truly a spectacle."

"Despite Liliana's increased speed, Janice has maintained a body-length lead. Catching up might be out of reach."

Yet, Liliana's potential was undeniably impressive.

As she tapped into her remarkable energy, she moved with composed synchrony with the water, significantly boosting her speed.

With a splash, Janice emerged from the water, gasping for air.

"See? I knew Janice couldn't complete a full lap without coming up for air."

"Oh no, she's definitely at a disadvantage now! That breath could disrupt her stamina and rhythm."

"No, look! Janice's movements are still fluid, like a fish effortlessly slicing through the water."

If Liliana was akin to a shark, powerful and relentless in pursuit, Janice resembled a graceful sailfish, seamlessly merging with the water's flow.

"Hmm?"

Suddenly, Janice paused, noticing several water balloons flying toward her. She quickly dodged, allowing the balloons to burst into splashes on the water's surface.

"Alissa, what do you think you're doing?" Kenneth's expression hardened as he glared at Alissa.

Just moments before, Alissa had rallied others to disrupt Janice's race.

Soon, Delilah, Demi, Alissa, and Leonidas were all launching attacks on Janice.

"Devin did say we could use whatever it takes to throw off our opponents," Alissa smirked, her face exuding arrogant pride. "Now that Leonidas has enlisted our help, it's within the rules, isn't it?"

Kenneth's eyes narrowed, realizing that Devin's emphasis on using any means was a loophole Alissa had been waiting to exploit to target Janice.

"Demi, Delilah, throw those balloons! I'll give you a hundred thousand for each one that hits her," Alissa demanded, her smile cold and calculating.

In an instant, Delilah and Demi grabbed more water balloons and hurled them at Janice.

Kenneth retaliated swiftly, but he was outnumbered and struggled to intercept all the incoming attacks.

"This is too much! It's not a fair fight; it's a complete ambush!"

"Alissa is despicable! Thinking she can do whatever she wants just because she has money? Hiring outside help, really?"

“This is an outrage! This isn’t a duel; it’s outright harassment.” The live stream chat exploded with comments.

Devin, observing the chaos, trembled with apprehension.

Chapter 594:

The rules of the game were indeed being manipulated to favor Alissa’s vendetta. To avoid upsetting her, Devin could only feign ignorance and wait for the match to conclude.

“These guys are too much! I have to intervene! Otherwise, my brother and Janice will lose.” Seeing Alissa’s tactics, Maggie was poised to jump in and assist Kenneth.

Just as she was about to step forward, a sudden scream halted Maggie. “Kenneth, are you out of your mind?” Delilah, struck by a water balloon, glared at Aiden in confusion. “Why did you hit me?”

Aiden squinted, his expression chilling, a cold smile curling his lips. “When you abandon shame, why should I maintain respect?”

Stunned, Delilah could only watch as Aiden lobbed another balloon her way.

“Ah!” The balloon struck Delilah, its icy splash stinging her.

“Kenneth, you fool. Do you want Janice to get hurt?” Aiden called out across the field, his eyes cold and contemptuous. “Do you really think you’re capable of protecting her?”

Kenneth’s pupils narrowed, his resolve tightening.

Janice had placed her trust in him; he couldn’t fail her.

He shifted from defense to a more aggressive stance. One after another, his water balloons found their marks on Demi, Alissa, and Delilah.

Leonidas, poised to take advantage of the chaos to target Janice, was stopped short by Aiden's piercing gaze. At the same moment, a balloon launched from Aiden's hand.

With a resounding splash, it hit Leonidas squarely.

Aiden toyed with him, leaving him no room to retaliate.

While Kenneth was careful not to cause real harm, Aiden had no such qualms. Anyone threatening Janice was met with his full fury.

If those balloons were cannonballs, Aiden would have wrought complete devastation.

"Daniel, get over here and help!" Alissa, overwhelmed by the barrage, shouted for Daniel.

Daniel, already notorious online, hesitated. Helping Alissa would only tarnish his image further.

"Daniel, do you want me to call your mother?"

At her threat, Daniel shivered and reached for a balloon to throw at Janice. But before he could act, he too was struck.

"Ah! Who hit me?"

"Me!" Maggie, armed with two balloons, confronted Daniel. "Did you check with me before targeting Janice?"

"Maggie, you..."

“Show me what you’ve got!”

Maggie unleashed a rapid barrage of water balloons, echoing their earlier encounter, relentlessly targeting Daniel.

Poor Daniel, still reeling from the previous onslaught, now found himself the target of another furious attack.

Chapter 595:

Stephen glanced at the water balloon in his hand and impulsively tossed it at Daniel.

“Stephen, why did you throw it at me too?” Daniel yelled.

“Sorry, it slipped!” Stephen replied, his expression neutral, his tone indifferent as if merely stating a fact.

The live stream chat erupted with comments.

“Stephen is such a prankster. He obviously did that on purpose and then claimed it slipped!”

“Oh no, can someone tell me—Is this supposed to be a romance show or a comedy? Now even Stephen is joining in the fun.”

“Ha-ha, forget romance. This water balloon fight is a blast! Let’s go wild!”

What was intended as a romance-themed show, designed to cultivate connections among the guests, had devolved into a chaotic water balloon fight.

Even Carlton got involved, not by attacking anyone, but by quietly protecting Demi and Delilah, shielding them from the barrage of water balloons.

For a moment, water balloons zipped through the air above the pool.

Devin stood frozen, utterly astonished by the unfolding chaos.

“Game over!”

At Aaron’s loud command, the wild skirmish finally ceased. All eyes turned to the pool, where Janice and Liliana were both leaning against the edge, making it unclear who had reached the finish line first.

“Oh no, I was so caught up in the water balloon fight that I didn’t see who got there first!” asked an online viewer.

“Did anyone keep track of the race between Janice and Liliana? Speak up! Who won the race?” another asked.

“Ladies and gentlemen, due to the earlier chaos, it’s unclear who reached the finish line first. Let’s watch the replay!” Devin announced over the loudspeaker as two staff members quickly set up a screen to replay the footage.

In the video, Janice was seen swimming across half the pool with impressive speed.

However, the sudden barrage of water balloons disrupted her rhythm, slowing her pace. Seizing the moment, Liliana surged forward with renewed determination, closing the gap between them. Yet, there was still a slight distance—a fist’s length—between them. As long as Janice maintained her pace, she was poised to win. But just as she neared the finish line, Janice unexpectedly faltered, allowing Liliana to overtake her and touch the wall first.

Seeing this outcome, everyone looked puzzled. In the replay, it was evident Janice had every opportunity to win. Why did she suddenly falter at the end?

“Janice lost. Such a pity!” one person commented.

“Really? No way! Janice could have won. Why did she suddenly falter?”

“Humph, she probably just ran out of energy. Anyway, Liliana won this round. Janice isn’t all that.”

“Tsk, challenging Liliana in swimming was a fool’s errand,” one of Liliana’s fans mocked.

Despite their frustration, Janice’s supporters were left speechless.

Chapter 596:

“Aaron, what are you waiting for? Announce the result!” Alissa said, feeling a sense of triumph. Janice’s defeat made enduring all those water balloons worthwhile.

“Liliana...” Aaron was about to announce that Liliana was the winner when he was interrupted.

“Just wait a minute!” Liliana, who had just climbed out of the pool, stared coldly at Janice.

“What’s wrong?” Janice asked, grabbing a towel and wiping herself off. Her expression was calm, betraying no signs of defeat.

“Why?” Water dripped from Liliana’s hair, but her puzzled gaze was unmistakable. “You could have won. Why did you do that?”

Janice casually tossed the towel aside and smiled. “I was exhausted and simply ran out of strength. So, you won.”

Liliana suddenly laughed derisively. “Janice, do you think I can’t see through this? You’re humiliating me.”

Janice was slightly taken aback. Liliana turned to Aaron and said, “I lost this round.”

The crowd was puzzled by her statement, unsure of what had transpired.

What had happened during that final sprint? The curiosity grew among the onlookers about why Janice had wavered earlier. Perhaps that was the key.

Leonidas took Liliana's hand. "What nonsense is this? Janice is the one who lost." His gaze was sharp, as if warning Liliana not to stir trouble.

But Liliana ignored his warning. "If it weren't for Janice, I could have been seriously hurt."

The crowd was confused by her words.

"What exactly happened? Liliana, tell us!" Maggie urged.

Liliana ignored Maggie and looked at Janice instead. "I was so focused on winning that I used all my strength for the final push. But because I was too focused, I couldn't stop in time. It was Janice who pulled me back at the crucial moment. If she hadn't, I would have crashed."

Janice's fans were thrilled. "I knew Janice couldn't have lost! She sacrificed her win to save Liliana!"

"I love Janice even more now. She sacrificed her win to save Liliana."

"Liliana's fans, speak up! Janice saved your idol!"

Janice's fans finally felt a sense of vindication. The outcome had become secondary; Janice's worthiness of admiration was what truly mattered now. While victory and defeat held significance, the value of human life transcended them.

"Janice, I can't accept this result," Liliana declared, wiping her face with resolve shining in her eyes. "You've won this round."

Janice raised an eyebrow, her perception of Liliana altering subtly. The woman before her, a fierce competitor, always striving to surpass others, was also principled.

Taking a step forward, Liliana locked eyes with Janice. "Next time, I will defeat you fair and square."

Chapter 597:

"Alright," Janice responded, her nod accompanied by a soft smile.

"I disagree!" Alissa interjected abruptly, her pretty face contorted in anger. "A loss is a loss, fair and square. How can you concede her victory? Aaron, quickly declare Liliana the winner!"

Aiden looked over, his expression one of contempt. "If the main participant is untroubled, why are you? Or perhaps the water balloons didn't hit you hard enough earlier?"

"Aiden, I'm on your team!" Alissa protested. "You sided with Janice and targeted me with those water balloons. That's betrayal!"

Aiden scoffed. "Teammate?" His gaze slid towards Alissa, his smile devoid of warmth, his voice frosty. "If not for the show, do you think you'd even stand beside me?"

Alissa's expression paled suddenly. Accustomed to looking down on others, she found herself the subject of Aiden's scorn.

Aiden then faced the camera, his cold stare sending shivers down Devin's spine as he watched the broadcast live. "Devin, announce the result. Let's end this drama."

Devin hastened to grab the loudspeaker. "The winners of this round are Janice and Kenneth."

His announcement was timely, forestalling any pursuit from Alissa and sparing him from potential reproach from Aiden.

“Janice, are you alright?” Kenneth asked, approaching her with evident concern.

Janice nodded. “I’m fine, thanks to your protection. The water balloons missed.”

Kenneth paused, slightly surprised. His solo efforts to shield Janice would have been a proud moment. But earlier, he had hesitated, nearly causing Janice to be hit. If not for Aiden’s quick reminder, he might not have shielded her effectively.

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“We owe Aiden a lot,” Kenneth admitted, nodding toward him. “I couldn’t have blocked so many water balloons without his assistance.”

Janice turned to look at Aiden. His typically stoic expression warmed into a gentle smile as their eyes met. Maggie, observing from the sidelines, couldn’t help but express her astonishment. It seemed only Janice could thaw Aiden’s icy demeanor; to others, he remained as cold as ever.

Kenneth observed their exchange, feeling oddly excluded, as if this moment was meant solely for them.

“Janice, why did you defend Liliana earlier?” Kenneth asked, his tone tinged with jealousy, hoping to recapture her attention.

Her response came thoughtfully. “Despite her fierce competitiveness and high self-esteem, Liliana isn’t inherently bad. She likely has some deal with Leonidas.” It was apparent from their earlier interactions that Liliana wasn’t completely subservient to Leonidas. Leonidas must possess something Liliana needs, compelling her to comply with certain demands, yet her pride prevents her from being completely dominated.

“Kenneth, your next challenge is against Aiden. Do you feel prepared?”

Caught off guard, Kenneth realized the competition was drawing to a close. “Absolutely,” he responded, his smile brimming with confidence. “While I’m not an expert swimmer, I believe my skills match up well against Aiden’s.”

Chapter 598:

“Then go for it,” Janice encouraged, her fist clenched in solidarity.

A fire of determination lit in Kenneth’s eyes; he was resolved to put his all into securing their evening together.

Meanwhile, Leonidas pulled Liliana aside. “Don’t you want to know Aiden’s true identity?” His eyes conveyed a mixture of threat and intrigue.

“Leonidas, I’m curious about who JE is, but don’t use that to threaten me,” Liliana responded coolly. “You expect me to challenge Janice, and I’ll keep my word. But I intend to win fairly, not by deceit.”

Leonidas was momentarily taken aback, then his expression darkened. “You and JE are quite similar, both stubbornly principled.”

Liliana’s pupils narrowed. She was ready to respond, but Leonidas cut her off. “If you want to uncover JE’s true identity, you must defeat Janice at least once. Otherwise, our deal is off.”

“I can agree to those terms, but as I’ve stated, the competition must be fair and square, or our partnership serves no purpose.”

Leonidas felt a surge of irritation, finding Liliana increasingly difficult. He regretted involving her. Liliana was starting to remind him more and more of Janice.

The ultimate swimming showdown was set to begin. Janice and Kenneth versus Aiden and Alissa.

Yet, the online audience overwhelmingly supported Janice and Kenneth as a couple, feeling no connection between Aiden and Alissa. Together, Aiden and Alissa appeared distinctly distant, an unspoken gap hanging between them.

An online viewer commented, "Alissa's quite thick-skinned. Despite Aiden's apparent disdain towards her, she still pairs up with him. I would have given up long ago if I were her."

"Well, she is from the powerful Welch family. She must have thick skin."

"Ha-ha! Was that a subtle jab?"

"So, who do you think will take the victory?"

This ultimate battle would deviate from the last round's format. It would revert to men racing in the water while the women launched water balloons. "Last round, Kenneth didn't unleash his full potential, so it's uncertain. But I'd wager on Aiden. His technique was flawless, truly professional."

"I'm putting my money on Kenneth! Given his excellent physique, swimming should come easily to him."

"Come on! Let's not compare. Just enjoy the show."

Suddenly, the women in the live chat came to a realization. Did the outcome really matter?

It didn't stop them from appreciating the two handsome men.

"On your marks!"

Aaron's voice echoed, signaling the commencement of the final showdown.

Bang!

The starting gun cracked through the air, and in the blink of an eye, two swift figures dove into the shimmering water below.

Kenneth surged forward like an arrow shot from a bowstring, slicing through the water with raw determination. He propelled himself with astonishing speed, each stroke a testament to his resolve. This wasn't just about impressing Janice; this was his moment to prove his worth—to himself and the world.

Chapter 599:

He was determined to show that he could triumph over Aiden, to finally step out of his shadow and claim a victory of his own. He was certain of it. His resolve was unshakable.

Fueled by sheer willpower, Kenneth pushed himself harder, his mind chanting a relentless mantra: faster! Just a little faster!

He longed to surpass every limit, to outshine himself, and finally leave Aiden trailing in his wake.

But then, a sudden shift in the water startled him. A surge of energy rippled beside him, and with a sideways glance, he caught sight of Aiden, gliding ahead with breathtaking ease.

Aiden moved like a dolphin, his body cutting through the water with a speed that seemed otherworldly.

Kenneth's confidence shattered like glass. His thoughts screeched to a halt, his mind going blank as if struck by a bolt of lightning.

He had believed his speed was unmatched, that he had shattered his own limits. Yet, what unfolded before his eyes defied belief. Aiden had surged ahead with the grace and swiftness of a dolphin, his unmatched speed leaving Kenneth completely behind.

Despair crashed over Kenneth like a tidal wave. No matter how hard he tried, in every arena—work, sports, or anything else—Aiden always outshone him. The gap between them felt insurmountable.

"Oh my goodness! Aiden is a total beast in the water!"

"He was holding back earlier, wasn't he? Now he's just unstoppable, like an Olympic swimmer!"

“Poor Kenneth, though. He gave it his all, but against Aiden? It’s like destiny isn’t on his side.”

The online audience buzzed with admiration for Aiden’s unparalleled athleticism, but there was also sympathy for Kenneth.

Without Aiden casting his shadow, Kenneth would have been the star of the show—a hero in his own right. But with Aiden around, Kenneth’s brilliance was eclipsed.

“Aiden takes the win!” Aaron’s booming announcement snapped everyone back to the moment. The competition was over.

“Wait, hold on—weren’t the female guests supposed to throw water balloons?”

“Seriously, they’re all friends, you know? It’s not easy to make a move like that! And honestly, was it even necessary? Aiden was just too quick. He was ridiculously fast. By the time the female guests had a chance to do anything, the race was already over.”

Kenneth climbed out of the pool, his shoulders slumped with defeat. He was met by an unexpected gesture—a towel, offered by a delicate hand.

Looking up, he met Janice’s warm, encouraging gaze. Her bright eyes held no judgment, only understanding.

“I’m sorry I let you down,” Kenneth murmured, his voice tinged with guilt.

“You didn’t let anyone down.” Janice’s soft smile carried a quiet reassurance. “Aiden’s on a whole different level. Losing to him doesn’t make you any less impressive.”

Chapter 600:

Kenneth let out a dry chuckle, but the weight in his chest remained. Did her words mean he’d never stand a chance against Aiden?

Reaching for the towel, Kenneth's fingers stopped short as it was snatched away at the last moment.

His head jerked up, and his eyes locked with Aiden's sharp, mocking stare.

"Only the winner gets the reward," Aiden said smoothly, his tone dripping with smugness.

Kenneth's jaw tightened, anger bubbling beneath the surface. It wasn't just about the towel—Aiden's words were a slap, a subtle reminder of who stood victorious and who didn't measure up.

The tension between the two men was palpable, crackling like static electricity. The live stream audience ate it up.

"OMG, Aiden and Kenneth are at it again! Poor Janice must be caught in the crossfire!"

"Let them duke it out! We're here for the drama!"

"Hey, cameraman! Zoom in! We need to appreciate these Greek-god physiques properly!"

Aiden stood there, droplets of water glistening on his bronzed skin as they traced the sharp contours of his muscles. His presence was magnetic, impossible to ignore, as though the world itself had conspired to make him the center of attention.

Though Kenneth's physique was impressive, it couldn't quite measure up to Aiden's.

Aiden's muscles were sculpted, radiating raw strength and an almost untamed energy.

His perfect form was enough to leave anyone in awe. Well, almost anyone. Daniel's face twisted into a sneer. "Sure, it looks good, but it's nothing compared to mine. My muscles are on a whole different level."

Maggie couldn't help but roll her eyes at his remark. She admired Daniel's audacity. Did he have any concept of self-awareness?

"Aiden, you were absolutely amazing out there!" Alissa approached eagerly, a towel in hand, but Aiden didn't spare her a glance. His eyes were locked on Janice.

Alissa hesitated, her grip tightening on the towel, a flicker of disdain crossing her face. She believed Aiden was playing hard-to-get. Otherwise, why go all out to win if it wasn't to secure a date with her tonight? Men were always so predictable.

"Janice, your hair's still damp. You'll catch a cold," said Aiden.

"Huh?"

Janice was taken off guard, not fully processing his words when Aiden gently placed the towel over her head.

With a soft, tender touch, he massaged her hair through the fabric, the gesture brimming with warmth and care. The fans watching couldn't get enough—his actions had them swooning, caught up in the charm of the couple they adored.

The online audience was buzzing with excitement. "I never thought Aiden had such a thoughtful side. He's definitely climbing up in my eyes."