

## **News Anchor Was Immediately Fired After THIS...**

News anchors are supposed to deliver the news but sometimes they become the news! From on-air meltdowns to hot mic disasters and shocking scandals, these TV personalities went from prime time to unemployed in the blink of an eye.

Whether it was a jaw-dropping mistake, a heated argument, or an off-screen scandal that ended their run, one thing is certain: these news anchors got FIRED in the most unbelievable ways!

Buckle up, because we're counting down 20 shocking cases of journalists who lost it all. And trust us—some of these firings will leave you speechless!

Let's dive in!

### **20. Matt Lauer's Termination from NBC**

For more than two decades, Matt Lauer was America's trusted morning news anchor, the face of NBC's *Today* show. He was untouchable. Or so it seemed.

That all changed on November 29, 2017, when NBC dropped a bombshell: Matt Lauer had been fired—effective immediately. Viewers were stunned. What could he have done to warrant such a swift and brutal termination?

Then the details started pouring in. A colleague had filed a detailed complaint accusing Lauer of grossly inappropriate workplace behavior, and NBC knew they couldn't bury it. More allegations surfaced and there were lots more. Reports claimed Lauer had a secret button under his desk that could lock his office door from the inside. It was like something out of a horror movie.

NBC wasted no time erasing Lauer's legacy. His face was wiped from promotional materials. His name was scrubbed from the show's history. One day, he was the king of morning television—the next, he was a ghost.

Lauer tried to defend himself, calling some accusations "exaggerated or untrue," but it was too late. His name became synonymous with disgrace, and his career? Dead on arrival.

### **19. Charlie Rose's Firing**

For years, Charlie Rose was the king of serious journalism. His signature interview show ran for 26 years, attracting world leaders, celebrities, and business moguls. But behind the scenes, Rose had a disturbing secret—one that would end his career in a single day. And it did! HE GOT FIRED!

In November 2017, eight women came forward with shocking allegations. They accused Rose of groping, exposing himself, and making inappropriate advances toward female employees. The most disturbing detail? He allegedly walked around **naked** in front of young female staffers while working from home.

The fallout was instant and brutal. CBS and PBS didn't wait. They just fired him immediately. The *Charlie Rose* show, which was once a respected staple of journalism, was canceled on the spot.

Rose tried to apologize and claimed he had acted "insensitively," but no one was buying it. His A-list connections vanished overnight and his career was completely erased. Years later, in 2022, he attempted a comeback interview with Warren Buffett. But the public had already moved on. The legendary journalist was now a disgraced outcast, and his career, reputation, and legacy burned to the ground.

### **18. Piers Morgan's Departure from 'Good Morning Britain'**

Piers Morgan thrives on controversy, but in March 2021, his own mouth finally got him kicked off the air.

It all started with Meghan Markle's bombshell Oprah interview, where she spoke about racism and **suicidal** thoughts. Morgan? He wasn't having it. On *Good Morning Britain*, he flat-out dismissed her claims, saying, "I don't believe a word she says."

The backlash was immediate. The network received over 41,000 complaints—one of them from Meghan Markle herself. But Morgan doubled down. The next morning, co-host Alex Beresford called him out live on air and accused him of having a personal vendetta against Meghan.

That was the final straw. Morgan stormed off the set mid-show and refused to return. Hours later, ITV announced his departure. But if you think Piers took the loss quietly, think again. He called it a "victory for free speech." He refused to apologize and landed another high-profile gig within months. Whether you love him or hate him, one thing is clear—Piers Morgan always gets the last word.

## 17. Don Lemon's Firing from CNN

Don Lemon was one of CNN's biggest stars, holding down the network's primetime slot for 17 years. But in April 2023, he woke up to shocking news—he had been fired. And the worst part? He found out through his agent.

So what went wrong? Some pointed to his tense on-air clash with GOP candidate Vivek Ramaswamy, where Lemon lost his temper and accused him of lying about Black history. Others pointed to his controversial remarks about women when he said Republican candidate Nikki Haley was "past her prime."

Either way, Lemon was furious. He took to Twitter to blast CNN, saying, "After 17 years, I would have thought someone in management would have the decency to tell me directly." But CNN quickly fired back, calling his statement "inaccurate."

For CNN, enough was enough. Lemon had racked up too many controversies, and the network decided it was time to cut ties. Just like that, one of CNN's most recognizable faces was out of a job.

## 16. The Zoom Call That Ended It All

It was supposed to be a normal work meeting. Jeffrey Toobin, CNN's senior legal analyst, joined a Zoom call with colleagues from *The New Yorker* in October 2020. But in a moment of unbelievable recklessness, Toobin did something that left everyone horrified.

During a break in the meeting, Toobin—thinking his camera was off—engaged in an explicit act on camera. His colleagues saw everything. The call was instantly shut down, and the team was shocked. Some couldn't believe what they had just witnessed.

Word spread fast and within hours, Toobin was suspended by *The New Yorker* and placed on leave from CNN. But the damage was done. Weeks later, *The New Yorker* decided there was no coming back from this. Toobin was officially fired after 27 years at the magazine.

CNN, however, hesitated. Eight months later, they quietly brought him back, which was a move that outraged many viewers. Toobin tried to laugh off the incident, saying it was a "stupid mistake," but his credibility never recovered. In 2022, Toobin left CNN for good. Whether he jumped or was pushed remains unclear, but his reputation? Completely shattered.

## 15. Mark Mester Criticizes Station on Air And Instantly Regrets It

When *KTLA* news anchor Lynette Romero was suddenly forced out of the network in September 2022, viewers were furious. But no one was angrier than her co-anchor, Mark Mester. And instead of staying quiet? He went rogue—live on air.

Mester ignored the teleprompter and launched into an angry, unscripted rant about how *KTLA* had treated Romero. He called out the station for not letting her say goodbye to viewers,

accused them of handling her exit poorly, and even played a pre-recorded tribute to her—one that *KTLA* had refused to air.

It was a bold move, but one that sealed his fate. Just days later, Mester was suspended. And then? FIRED.

Sources inside *KTLA* revealed that after his rant, Mester "shouted obscenities at staff" and even stormed out of a meeting with executives. It was clear—there was no coming back from this.

Mester tried to defend himself and claimed he was just standing up for his friend. Fans backed him and slammed *KTLA* for being cold and heartless. But the station didn't budge. Mark Mester was out. For good.

## **14. Natasha Exelby's On-Air Blunder**

Australian news anchor Natasha Exelby had one job: deliver the news smoothly and professionally. But in 2017, she made a mistake that instantly went viral and cost her on-air role.

Exelby was reading the news on ABC24 when the broadcast cut back to her too soon. Instead of looking poised and ready? She was staring at her pen, completely zoned out. When she finally realized the camera was live, her wide-eyed, panicked reaction was comedy gold. Within minutes, the internet exploded. Viewers turned the split-second blunder into memes, GIFs, and even reaction videos. It was harmless fun—or so she thought.

Behind the scenes, ABC executives were not amused. The next day, Exelby was quietly pulled from her regular on-air shifts. The network denied firing her and insisted she was still an employee. But she was never given another newsreading role again.

Exelby fired back and claimed she had been punished unfairly for a harmless mistake. The backlash against ABC was so strong that other Australian journalists started sharing their own on-air bloopers in solidarity. Exelby went on to pursue other opportunities, but her time as a serious news anchor? Officially over.

## **13. Ken Rosato's Hot Mic Nightmare**

Some news anchors get fired for bad reporting. Others get fired for controversial opinions. But Ken Rosato? He got fired for a comment he didn't even know was broadcasted.

Rosato was a longtime morning news anchor at WABC, co-hosting *Eyewitness News This Morning* for 20 years. But in May 2023, his career came to a screeching halt—all because of a hot mic. During what he thought was an off-air moment, Rosato made an offensive comment about a colleague. Exactly what he said remains unknown, but sources claim it was bad enough to get him instantly fired.

WABC wasted zero time. Within hours, Rosato was gone and completely wiped from the station. There was no farewell broadcast, no on-air goodbye. Just like that, 20 years were erased. Rosato's team scrambled for damage control by claiming he "didn't use a racial slur," but even they refused to clarify what he actually said. That only made speculation worse.

Rosato had built a strong reputation over the years, and his viewers were shocked by the sudden firing. But one thing was clear—there was no saving his job. Just like that, another anchor was taken down by a live mic.

## **12. KFYR-TV Affiliate's First and Final Broadcast**

Imagine getting your dream job only to lose it in under 30 seconds. That's exactly what happened to AJ Clemente, whose first day as a news anchor at NBC affiliate KFYR-TV became his last.

It was April 2013, and Clemente was about to introduce himself to viewers for the first time. But just as the show went live, he was caught on a hot mic, mumbling profanity to himself. His words? "*Fing sht.*"

His co-anchor tried to save the moment, but it was too late. Viewers had already heard everything. The video instantly went viral, spreading like wildfire across the internet. Social media had a field day, and clips of Clemente's blunder made it onto national news.

The station had no choice—he was immediately suspended and fired the next day. Even his newscasting was terrible and he stuttered all through. Clemente tried to laugh it off, appearing on *The Today Show* and even *The Late Show with David Letterman*, but the damage was irreversible. News stations need flawless professionalism, and Clemente had blown it on his first try.

Despite his efforts to rebuild his career, he never landed another high-profile anchor job. One mic slip and his career was over before it began.

## **11. Lydia Cumming Gets Carried Away**

In journalism, optics are everything. But Mexican reporter Lydia Cumming learned this the hard way when one embarrassing photo destroyed her credibility—and her job.

In 2017, Cumming was covering severe flooding in Puebla, Mexico. She was supposed to report on how locals were struggling, but instead, she became the story. A now-infamous photo showed two villagers carrying Cumming over floodwaters so her shoes wouldn't get wet. Instead of braving the conditions like other reporters or taking off her shoes, she looked like royalty being lifted by her servants.

The backlash was instant and brutal. Social media erupted with outrage, calling her entitled, privileged, and out of touch. The image was shared thousands of times, with people mocking her lack of professionalism. Her network, TV Azteca, acted fast. Within hours, she was suspended, and shortly after, she was fired.

Cumming tried to defend herself and claimed the villagers had insisted on carrying her, but it didn't matter. The damage was done. In an era where journalists need public trust, she became a symbol of everything wrong with modern reporting. And for TV Azteca? She was too much of a PR nightmare to keep around.

## **10. Rick Sanchez's Career-Ending Radio Rant**

CNN had given Rick Sanchez a platform. He had a daily show, a strong reputation, and millions of viewers. But one interview destroyed everything.

In 2010, Sanchez appeared on a satellite radio show and went completely off-script. He lashed out at Jon Stewart, calling him a bigot, and then made things even worse by ranting about Jewish people controlling the media. It was a career suicide mission.

Sanchez claimed he was just frustrated that CNN didn't take him seriously. But attacking one of the most powerful groups in media? A huge mistake.

CNN acted swiftly by firing him within 24 hours. The fallout was brutal. No major network would touch him after his remarks. Even Jon Stewart took pity, saying he didn't think Sanchez deserved to be fired. But the industry disagreed. Sanchez later apologized, claiming he had been exhausted and wasn't thinking clearly. But it was too late.

From being a primetime host on CNN to completely vanishing from mainstream news, Sanchez destroyed his career in just a few minutes of reckless speech.

## **9. Bob Beckel's Off-Camera Comment That Got Him Axed**

Fox News is known for fiery debates and bold opinions, but even they have a line you can't cross—and Bob Beckel crossed it.

In 2017, Beckel was a co-host on *The Five*, one of Fox's most popular shows. He was known for his outspoken, sometimes controversial takes. But this time, he didn't get fired for something he said on air—he got fired for something he said behind the scenes.

According to reports, Beckel made an insensitive and racially offensive comment to a black colleague. When confronted, he allegedly tried to dismiss it, but the damage was done. Fox News was already facing internal scandals and unwilling to take any risks. They fired Beckel immediately.

This wasn't his first exit from Fox. In 2015, he was fired due to substance abuse issues, only to be rehired in 2017. But this time? There were no second chances. Beckel later tried to defend himself, claiming the incident was blown out of proportion. But for Fox News, the decision was final.

For someone who thrived on controversy, this was one controversy too far—and it cost him everything.

## **8. Ed Schultz's Rant Ends His Career**

Some news anchors lose their cool on air—but Ed Schultz lost his job off air after an explosive, profanity-filled tirade was caught on tape.

Back in his early career, Schultz was working at a St. Louis news station when he had a meltdown like no other. Frustrated over a segment, he launched into a rant throwing around every curse word imaginable.

The problem was that the whole thing was recorded.

Soon, the tape made its way to station executives, and they were not amused. Newsrooms might have their share of behind-the-scenes tension, but Schultz's angry, unhinged outburst was too much. The decision was swift—he was fired immediately.

Schultz would later reinvent himself as a political commentator, landing a high-profile gig at MSNBC, where he became known for his fiery left-wing takes. But even there, controversy followed him. In 2015, he was abruptly let go from MSNBC. He claimed he was fired because he refused to support corporate interests.

Whether it was his temper, his mouth, or his unwillingness to play by the rules, one thing is clear—Schultz's career was a rollercoaster of hirings and firings.

But that first incident? A recorded rant that ended his early TV career in an instant.

## **7. Matt Gutman's Career-Altering Mistake**

When breaking news hits, journalists must get the facts right. But ABC News correspondent Matt Gutman learned the hard way what happens when you don't.

On January 26, 2020, Gutman was covering the tragic helicopter crash that took the life of NBA legend Kobe Bryant. In the rush to report the story, he made a shocking claim—he falsely reported that all four of Bryant's daughters were onboard.

That wasn't true. In reality, only one of Bryant's daughters, Gianna, was among the victims. The false report spread rapidly, adding unnecessary pain to an already heartbreaking situation.

ABC immediately faced backlash for spreading incorrect information about such a sensitive event. They were forced to issue a correction, but the damage had been done. As the face of the report, Gutman took the fall. ABC suspended him indefinitely, citing serious concerns about journalistic integrity.

Though he was later reinstated, the scandal permanently stained his credibility. In 2023, ABC let him go for good, reportedly due to budget cuts. But many suspect his inaccuracy in such a major moment played a role.

For Gutman, one bad report didn't just lead to suspension—it derailed his entire career.

## 6. Alaskan TV reporter Quits on Air With an F-Bomb

Some resignations are quiet and professional—Charlene Egbe's wasn't.

Better known as Charlo Greene, she was an Alaskan TV reporter covering the state's marijuana industry. But in 2014, she was reporting on herself without anyone knowing. During a live broadcast, she revealed a shocking twist. Not only was she covering the Alaska Cannabis Club, she was actually the owner of the business. Then, in a legendary TV moment, she abruptly quit on air, saying, "F\* it, I quit."

The newsroom was stunned. The broadcast cut away immediately, and her station, KTVA, scrambled to do damage control. But for Greene? She was out.

Her bold exit made headlines worldwide. Some praised her for standing up for cannabis legalization, while others blasted her for unethical journalism and reporting on something she personally had a stake in without disclosing it.

Greene became a high-profile marijuana activist, but her troubles didn't end there. In 2016, she was charged with multiple felonies for allegedly running an illegal marijuana business. Her fiery on-air departure may have made her famous, but it also cost her everything—her journalism career, her credibility, and eventually, her legal freedom.

## 5. Liz Wahl's On-Air Resignation Shakes RT News

News anchors rarely break from the script but Liz Wahl did it live on air.

In 2014, Wahl was working for Russia's state-funded network, RT America. But behind the scenes, she was struggling with ethical concerns about the network's pro-Russia bias. Everything came to a head when Russia invaded Crimea. RT's coverage was blatantly one-sided, painting Russia as the hero while ignoring the human suffering in Ukraine. Wahl had enough.

During a live broadcast, she went rogue and called out RT for its misleading narratives before dramatically resigning on air. She ended her segment with a bombshell statement:

"I cannot be part of a network that whitewashes the actions of Putin."

It was a stunning act of defiance. The clip went viral, making Wahl an overnight symbol of journalistic integrity. But quitting like that came at a cost—she was instantly blacklisted from state-run media and received online threats from Russian supporters.

Some critics accused her of staging the moment for personal gain, but Wahl insisted she did it to expose the truth. Whether it was a bold stand or a calculated move, one thing's certain—her on-air resignation ended her RT career in spectacular fashion.

## 4. News Anchor Fired For A Hip-Hop Joke

Sometimes, one sentence is all it takes to end a career.

That's exactly what happened to a white, middle-aged female Mississippi news anchor who thought she was just being playful. During a live talk show segment, the discussion turned to Snoop Dogg, and in an attempt to keep things light, Barbie Bassett jokingly responded with, "For Shizzle, My Nizzle."

The phrase, made famous by Snoop himself, was instantly recognized by viewers and many found it harmless, even hilarious. Some even argued that Snoop Dogg himself would have laughed it off.

But not everyone was laughing. Within hours, the clip spread like wildfire, and the station faced backlash from corporate higher-ups. The anchor was suddenly out of a job, and social media exploded with outrage, not at her but at her firing.

Many saw it as a ridiculous case of "wokeism"—another example of a harmless joke being blown out of proportion. Even fans of hip-hop culture pushed back, insisting there was nothing offensive about what she said.

Despite the controversy, the network stood by its decision, and the anchor never returned to the air. But was it a necessary move or a complete overreaction?

### **3. Shaker Al-Johari's On-Air Brawl**

News debates can get heated but Jordanian journalist Shaker Al-Johari took things to a whole new level. During a live TV discussion, Al-Johari got into a tense argument with another guest over Middle Eastern politics. As the disagreement escalated, both men stood up, pointing fingers and yelling over each other. Then it was chaos.

Al-Johari threw a punch, and suddenly, the TV studio turned into a full-blown wrestling match. The set was destroyed as cameras captured the shocking moment of papers flying, chairs tipping over, and crew members scrambling to intervene. It was one of the most insane on-air fights ever broadcast.

The clip went viral instantly, with viewers in disbelief over what they had just witnessed. Al-Johari was immediately suspended and soon after, he was gone for good. Many saw the outburst as completely unprofessional, while others argued it was just a raw display of passion in a high-stakes debate. Regardless, it ended with one journalist out of a job and one of the wildest live TV moments in history.

### **2. Turkish Newscaster FIRED Over a Starbucks Cup**

Imagine losing your job over a coffee cup. That's exactly what happened to a Turkish newscaster who was caught sipping Starbucks during a live broadcast. At first, it seemed like a harmless, everyday moment. The cup sat on her desk as she delivered the news, barely noticeable.

But viewers noticed. The problem? The war in Gaza had turned Starbucks into a pariah due to controversy. Many in Turkey believed the company was tied to political causes they opposed. The sight of a Starbucks cup on national television was enough to spark outrage. Turkish social media erupted into chaos. Calls for her immediate firing flooded in, and within hours, her fate was sealed. The station caved to the pressure and cut ties with her immediately.

Critics blasted the decision, calling it ridiculous and unfair. After all, was she endorsing Starbucks or just drinking coffee? To this day, her firing remains one of the strangest examples of political sensitivities colliding with journalism.

She may have just wanted caffeine, but what she got was a career-ending controversy.

### **1. Fired For Letting Her Hair Go Gray**

Lisa LaFlamme had everything—a 35-year career, multiple awards, and the trust of an entire nation. But then, in 2022, she was abruptly fired. The reason? Her gray hair.

LaFlamme had embraced her natural silver locks and stopped dyeing her hair during the pandemic. Viewers loved it—but higher-ups at Canada's CTV News allegedly didn't. Reports surfaced that executives wanted a younger look and LaFlamme's decision to go gray might have sealed her fate.

Her dismissal sparked instant outrage. Was this a case of ageism and sexism in the media industry? Many thought so.

LaFlamme had been a respected anchor for decades, covering war zones, major elections, and global crises. Yet, after all that, it seemed her hair color mattered more than her work. CTV denied the decision was about her hair but the public wasn't buying it. Brands like Wendy's even changed their logo to feature a gray-haired Wendy, showing support for LaFlamme.

In the end, she landed on her feet, but the scandal forever changed the conversation around women, aging, and media bias.