The Legendary Man Chapter 167

Chapter 167 Tricked

"Weren't you wearing it this morning and staunchly refused to return it to Jonathan? Don't you remember?" Josephine couldn't help feeling a tad suspicious at the panicked expression on Margaret's face.

"Oh, you're referring to that watch?" It was as though something suddenly occurred to Margaret. "I took it off this morning before leaving home and placed it on the table!"

"You placed it on the table?" Josephine swept a gaze over the table in bewilderment, but there was only an empty box there.

Huh? There's no watch there.

Upon glimpsing the dubious look in her eyes, Margaret uneasily changed her tune. "Perhaps I took it off when I took a shower but forgot where I put it. I'll look for it when I'm free."

"You're not lying to me, are you, Mom?" Josephine regarded her skeptically.

She took it off but forgot where she put it? After so many years, I know her all too well! She would never bear to take off a watch worth over ten million. Instead, she would probably flaunt it everywhere, afraid that people wouldn't know that she was wearing such an expensive watch!

Hearing that, Margaret snorted and retorted, "Why would I do so? It's just a worthless watch, no? Did you think I sold it off secretly?"

"That's not what I meant, Mom-"

Surprise flooded Josephine at Margaret's intense reaction.

I was merely asking about it, so why did she react so strongly?

"Okay, stop talking about that! It's merely a worthless watch, isn't it? I'll just pay him back if I misplaced it!" Margaret harrumphed, cutting Josephine off mid-utterance and giving her no chance to speak.

"Mom, I—" Josephine wanted to speak further, but Margaret threw her a hard glare.

Having no other choice, she could only heave a sigh.

A few minutes later, she put down her fork and got to her feet before heading to the study.

She still had a ton of unfinished work regarding the construction site, so she naturally hadn't the time to keep interrogating Margaret about the watch.

When she left, Jonathan also made to stand up. Unexpectedly, Margaret called him back no sooner had he done so.

"Jonathan!"

"Yes?" Jonathan turned back around.

"Did your watch really cost over ten million?" Margaret eyed him dubiously as though she didn't believe that a watch could be worth more than ten million.

"Why would I lie to you?" Jonathan wasn't in the mood to bandy words with her. If Josephine weren't her daughter, I wouldn't even deign to spare her a single glance!

"Then why did I hear that it's merely an imitation, a knock-off? Not only that, but it's even a cheap imitation!" Margaret's brows drew together.

"Who said that?" Jonathan likewise frowned slightly.

Don't tell me she took the watch to some expert and had it appraised?

"A friend of mine..." With a grim expression on her face, Margaret continued, "She even said that such cheap imitations are so common in the market that it's not even worth a hundred grand, much less ten million. At most, it's only worth fifty grand!"

"You've been tricked!" Jonathan cut straight to the chase with her.

Would Vacheron Constantin be so daring that they would sell a knock-off at their own store and even price it at over ten million? If someone were to sue them, even a hundred million wouldn't suffice for the compensation they'd have to pay, let alone ten million!

Upon hearing that, Margaret instantly rebutted forcefully, "That's impossible! She's..."

"What were you going to say?" Jonathan demanded, arching an eyebrow.

"N-Nothing!" Seemingly having realized that she had had a slip of the tongue, Margaret hastily clapped a hand over her mouth.

"All right, that's enough. Just drop the act! You sold that watch, didn't you? I was simply restraining myself from exposing you when Josephine was here earlier." Jonathan exposed her when he saw her panicked and flustered look.

Hah! She even claimed to have taken it off and forgotten where she placed it. Did she take me for a gullible three-year-old kid?

"What nonsense are you spouting, Jonathan? When did I sell that watch off? Don't you slander me!" Margaret became even more emotional, acting as though she had truly been accused wrongly.

"You're saying that I'm slandering you? Fine, then tell me where the watch is!" Jonathan spat since he couldn't be bothered to waste his breath with her.

Then, he warned, "Don't tell me that you took it off and forgot where you placed it. Even a three-year-old kid won't believe such a lie! If all else fails, I can ask for the surveillance footage right now and see whether the watch was on your hand when you left the house this morning."

"N-No! Don't ask for the surveillance footage! I'll tell you! I'll talk, okay?" Margaret flew into a tizzy the second she heard that he was going to get the surveillance footage.

"So, where's the watch?" Jonathan questioned coldly.

She's really stubborn and would act dumb until the very last moment! If I hadn't threatened to ask for the surveillance footage, she would've probably denied it to the bitter end!

"I lost it!" Margaret admitted in a mutter.

"You lost it?" Frowning, Jonathan queried, "You lost over ten million?"

Rolling her eyes, Margaret retorted, "Of course not! I only lost fifty or sixty thousand! They said the watch was a knock-off and was only worth forty to fifty thousand. I had no money, so I gave them the watch!"

From the looks of her right then, she was all righteous as though she hadn't done anything wrong.

In fact, she even wore a nonchalant and indifferent expression.

"Why did you gamble such a huge sum when you had no money?" Jonathan threw her a chilly look. She knew that she had no money, yet she dared to lose a whopping fifty to sixty thousand?

"I don't usually bet that much!" Scoffing, Margaret continued, "I happened to wear that watch today, and they kept complimenting it. Thus, I told them that Josephine gifted it to me, and it cost over ten million! They didn't believe me and even snubbed me about how I was usually very stingy when I played with them that I don't even dare place a huge bet. In a fit of pique, I started staking a hundred or two every round. Who would've known that I would be so unlucky as to lose close to sixty thousand in an afternoon?"

At that, she groused, "Later on, I really hadn't that much money, so I had no choice but to use the watch to cover my debt. But at that time, they said that the watch was an imitation and was only worth fifty thousand! Argh! I'm so pissed off! That watch should've been good for a hundred grand at least since it was so beautiful!"

Even now, she didn't believe that the watch was worth more than ten million. In her opinion, it was already amazing that a watch could fetch about a hundred thousand.

Besides, can a deadbeat like him afford to buy a watch over ten million? That's downright absurd!

"You gave the watch that costs more than ten million away just to pay off a debt of fifty grand?" Jonathan sneered.

It's plain as day that it was a trap they dug for her! They first tricked her into placing larger bets before lying that the watch was a knock-off. And in the end, they duped her into giving away the watch that cost more than ten million to cover a debt of fifty thousand. That's a lousy trick to fool children, yet she actually fell for it despite being nearly fifty years old?

The Legendary Man Chapter 168

Chapter 168 The Foolish Woman

"Stop trying to dupe me, Jonathan! How could that worthless watch be worth over ten million?" Margaret didn't believe Jonathan in the slightest.

Could a dud like him be willing to buy a watch costing more than ten million? What a lie!

"It's your choice whether you believe me or otherwise, but the receipt is in the box. If you don't believe me, you can go and take a look for yourself!" Jonathan was not in the mood to continue talking with her.

"Who knows whether your receipt is genuine or fake?" Margaret rolled her eyes, but still, she couldn't resist opening the box.

The moment she saw that the receipt indeed indicated thirty-six million, her eyes abruptly went wide. "Have you lost your mind, Jonathan, you wastrel? You spent more than thirty million to buy two worthless watches?"

She gaped at him as though he was a nutcase.

There were plenty of things he could've bought with over thirty million, yet he bought two worthless watches? He must be a sandwich short of a picnic!

"I don't think how much I spend has anything to do with you!" Jonathan threw her a chilly look.

"Who said it has nothing to do with me?" Puffing up her chest, Margaret asserted, "Your money is Josephine's money, no? And she's my daughter, so it has something to do with me!"

Before she could launch into her spiel, Jonathan interrupted, "My money is indeed hers, but her money isn't necessarily yours! All right, stop trying to sell me your nonsense! If you've got so much time to prattle, you'd be better served to figure out an idea to get the watch back!"

"How am I going to get it back when I've already given it to them to clear my debt?" Margaret couldn't help rolling her eyes once more.

"Just get it back in the same manner you gave it to them! Do you need me to teach you even that?" At this point, Jonathan was thoroughly fed up with this foolish woman.

"I've got no money!" Margaret answered curtly.

So what if the watch cost over ten million? I wasn't the one who bought it anyway. So be it if it's gone! No way am I going to fork out fifty thousand to buy it back!

"I'll give you the money!" Jonathan snapped impatiently. If it weren't for Josephine's sake, I wouldn't even bother with this brainless woman!

"Really?"

When Margaret heard that he was volunteering to shell out money from his own pocket to get the watch back, all her worries vanished into thin air.

"What do you think?" Having had enough of her, Jonathan got up to leave. But just when he was about to do so, she called him back again. "Wait a moment!"

Jonathan jerked his head back with impatience written all over his face.

"What if they refuse to give me the watch after I've given them the money?" That possibility occurred to Margaret out of the blue.

Since they've already got the watch from me by trickery, would they still return it to me?

"Lodge a police report, then!" Jonathan replied with a frown.

It goes without saying that they definitely wouldn't give the watch back to her so easily after having set her up and tricked it from her!

Curling her lips, Margaret grumbled, "Will that do me any good? Their husbands are either police chiefs or secretaries-general of the city council! Would they fear the police?"

"What do you think?"

Truly at the end of his patience, Jonathan whirled around and stalked off.

Even if the mayor of Jadeborough dared to steal from me, he would have to obediently return it, not to mention mere police chiefs and secretaries-general!

"Hah! He's acting as though he's some big shot!" Margaret sneered at the man's back in disdain.

Then, she snagged a bottle of nail polish and started painting her nails as though the entire matter had nothing to do with her.

And in truth, it was indeed no concern of hers.

Everything is good as long as he gives me money. What has it got to do with me whether they'll be willing to return the watch? So what if they refuse to do so? In that case, I'll even be getting fifty thousand for nothing!

...

Meanwhile, the light in the study remained brightly lit.

Josephine had her head lowered with a pencil in her hand, not at all affected by the fiasco in the living room. At that very moment, she was amending something or other on the paper with a pencil from time to time. As the faint light hit her face, it reflected a trace of weariness.

At that moment, she had finally put away her usual icy expression that rendered her unapproachable.

Instead, she even appeared a touch gentle that one would unwittingly have a surge of affection for her.

However, she seemed particularly engrossed with her head lowered that she didn't even realize it when Jonathan strolled to her back.

"Are you tired, Darling?" Only when his voice sounded from behind her did she jolt back to reality. "Jonathan? When did you come in?"

"Just a while ago." Jonathan massaged her shoulders and murmured, "Go to bed earlier if you're tired."

"I'm not tired." Josephine shook her head before she took off the black-rimmed glasses perched on her nose bridge, seemingly inclined to get to her feet. "I'm going to seek Mom out. She must have hidden the watch!"

As her daughter, I know better than anyone what my mother is like. That watch is definitely still in her hands, but she hid it because she didn't want to give it back to Jonathan!

Jonathan pressed her back into her seat just when she was getting up. "There's no need to do so. The watch isn't in her possession."

"It's not?" A glimmer of surprise flickered in Josephine's eyes. But no sooner had she said that than Jonathan continued, "She lost it in a game of cards."

"What?" Hearing that, Josephine shot to her feet at once. "She lost it in a game of cards? Who did she lose it to?"

She was so livid that her face flushed bright red.

That watch cost over ten million, yet she actually lost it to someone else? Does she know how exorbitant it was? How much did she bet that she lost more than ten million in a single afternoon?

"They set a trap for her, and she jumped right in. Don't worry about this matter. I'll resolve it," Jonathan reassured mildly.

"No! I've got to confront her!" Josephine's expression was exceedingly grim.

The watch was worth over ten million, but she lost it just like that?

However, Jonathan stopped her. "It's no use confronting her. She's already lost it anyway, so what's the point of doing so?"

"What should we do, then? We can't just let it be, can we?" Josephine fretted, distraught marring her face. Never mind if it were my money, but that was his money!

"Of course not! Trust me. I can resolve it!" Jonathan maintained with a smile.

I'm no fool that my things are so easily stolen away by trickery!

"But—" Josephine was going to argue further when Jonathan cut her off, "There are no buts!"

Chuckling, Jonathan reached out and patted her head. At that, Josephine reflexively dodged, only to be gathered into his arms.

"W-What are you doing, Jonathan?" In a flash, panic manifested on her face.

Never have I been in so close proximity with him that I can even hear his heartbeat loud and clear!

"What do you think?" Dipping his head, Jonathan slowly closed the gap between them. Alas, the urgent ringing of a phone abruptly interrupted him.

In an instant, his expression turned as black as thunder.

The Legendary Man Chapter 169

Chapter 169 The Turner Family

What the hell! Who's trying to reach me at all times?

Jonathan reached for his phone with his face scrunched up in irritation. When he was about to pick up the call, Josephine stopped him.

She announced while glaring at him, "It's mine!"

After inching away from Jonathan, she asked the moment she picked up the phone, "Hello?"

The man on the other end of the phone greeted with a hoarse voice, "Josephine, I must've underestimated you, huh? Randall's presence is quite a surprise, but it's not really a big deal because he's not capable of putting much of a fight as well! Why don't you go ahead and ask if he has the guts to poke his nose into my business?"

Shortly after the man finished his rhetorical question, he sneered, indicating he wasn't intimidated by Randall's presence at all.

"What do you want from me?" Josephine's face puckered when she heard the man's sneer of despise. She disliked others threatening her the most. However, the man on the other end wouldn't stop pushing his luck.

He guffawed and asked in return. "What else apart from the downfall of the Smith family? I thought a warning was more than enough to drive you and the rest of your family away from the development of the ecological park, but I guess it was very wrong of me. Hence, I'm going to do you and the rest of your family a favor by taking everyone out."

Then, he continued, "Speaking of which, can you do me a favor and tell your beloved husband to try his best to keep me at the bay? I can't wait to see if he's affiliated with someone capable of stopping me! Tell him to stop holding back and make use of every trump card he has hidden up his sleeves."

The man thought it wasn't much of a challenge for him to take out the members of the Smith family. All it would take was a call from him.

Jonathan was of the same idea because he thought the seemingly influential figure was nothing more than a self-proclaimed influential figure.

He was not amused.

What kind of joke is this? I don't recall appointing a vice-governor when setting up the hierarchical structure in Jazona! The mayor and the governor were the only ones I appointed!

When Josephine heard the mysterious man on the other hand talking about Jonathan, she asked while gaping in disbelief, "Who the hell are you?"

She felt a chill running down her spine because she wasn't even aware of the man's identity. On the contrary, the man was well aware of the details of the ones around her.

"Hasn't your beloved husband mentioned anything about me? If that's the case, allow me to introduce myself—I'm Timothy, a member of the Turner family! We're one of the most, if not the most prominent family of Jazona! Titus is my grandfather!" the mysterious man introduced himself shortly after he finished his rhetorical question.

Colors started draining from Josephine's face when she heard the man introducing himself through the phone.

Titus? The head of the Turner family of Jazona?

"Y-You're a member of the Turner family?" Josephine repeated after the man with her voice quivering against her will.

Timothy announced with his head held high, "It seems like you've heard of us, huh? If that's the case, I'm sure you're well aware of the consequences of offending the members of the family, aren't you? You can't blame me for whatever's awaiting the rest of the Smith family because I've warned you to stay out of our way for more than once!"

He hung up the call shortly after he made himself clear he wouldn't hold back against Josephine and the rest of her family.

Meanwhile, Josephine remained standing with a pale and haggard look. Once she returned to her senses, she turned around and asked Jonathan, "Have you long figured out the person on the other end is a member of the Turner family?"

Staring at Josephine in the eyes, Jonathan assured her with a grin while caressing her back to console the seemingly heartbroken woman, "I wasn't made aware of the person's identity until you hung up the call. You need to stop sulking because he's not much of a big deal. If any of them have the guts to pick on you, I'll wipe them out of existence."

He wouldn't even have to show up if he seriously wished to wipe the Turner family out of existence. A call from him was all it would take care of the seemingly influential Turner family.

With that being said, he had no intention of doing so since it was such a great opportunity to wipe out the ones pulling the strings from behind the scenes, including the vice-governor.

It's time to teach those proclaiming themselves as the ones in charge a lesson because I'm pretty sure I've never appointed anyone of that sort for such a role in Jazona!

"Jonathan, are you even aware of the things the members of the Turner family are capable of? How are we supposed to defend ourselves against such an influential family when not even the four most prominent families of Jadeborough can defy them even if they team up as one?" Josephine turned pale and there was a hint of despair in her eyes as she added.

A few seconds of pause later, she slurred after letting out a long sigh, "If he truly wishes to wipe out the members of the Smith family, there's nothing much we can do to stop him! Are you even aware of the things awaiting us?"

As a local, Josephine thought Jonathan, who did not hail from Jazona, wasn't aware of the Turner family's actual power and influences.

Even the governor and the officials have to take the opinion of the Turner family into consideration as well! Otherwise, the officials are as good as gone if the Turner family make up their mind to revolt against them! In short, we're destined to be doomed since we've offended the Turner family!

Jonathan wrapped his arms around her and repeated himself, "Actually, they're not as horrifying as you think, Josephine! Have you forgotten I'll always be here for you? I'll never allow others to pick on you as long as I'm here with you, even if we're talking about a member of the Turner family!"

"Jonathan, you don't get it! Their influences are something beyond our imagination!" Josephine shook her head as she knew not even the mayor of Jadeborough could defy the instructions of the Turner family, let alone a veteran affiliated with the King of War.

Apart from the governor of Jazona, Kingstone, the King of War, Zachary, was the only one capable of keeping the members of the Turner family at bay.

It's impossible for them to do Jonathan such a huge favor when a majority of the members of the Turner family are high-rank officials affiliated with the governor and the King of War!

It's an elephant in the room most of us in Jazona are aware of! There's no way they're going to take Jonathan's contribution into consideration when the Turner family is involved!

"Well, I'm not really sure of the things they're capable of, but I'm pretty sure they're going to regret their actions when they figure out the things I've hidden up my sleeves!" Jonathan answered with a smirk.

I will not show them any mercy since they're trying to pick on the woman I hold dear! They're nothing more than a nobody!

Josephine paid no heed to Jonathan's words of reassurance and ended up bringing up something else. "I think it's time to give up on the ecological park project!"

"Seriously? Are you going to give up?" Jonathan was taken aback by the things she brought up.

"It's not worth it! I can't afford to put the lives of the rest of the family at stake for the sake of something tangible! I stand more to lose than I stand to gain!" Josephine's disappointment was written all over her face.

We're talking about the Turner family! If they truly think we're a nuisance, they're not going to hesitate to take us out! There's no way I'm going to challenge them unless I have some sort of death wish!

The Legendary Man Chapter 170

Chapter 170 A Death Wish

"You're nothing similar to the strong and capable woman I know!" Jonathan made a look when he recalled the time Josephine braced herself through countless challenges in spite of others' disagreement. She wouldn't even listen to Margaret once she made up her mind on something.

"What do you mean? Have you always thought that I'm a strong and capable woman?"

She looked at him in the eyes and added, "You don't think I'm going to put everything at stake and pick on the Turner family over something as trivial as such, do you?"

After pausing for a few seconds, she murmured while shaking her head, "You've always been the selfish one! Have you ever thought of the days I spent without you over the past three years? You disappeared into thin air over the night without telling me anything!"

"I do!" Jonathan assured in a serious tone because she was the only one he truly cared about when he was away throughout the years.

If it weren't because of her, he would never give up the honor of the almighty Asura and return to her. She was the sole reason he had been spending most of his time idle. He thought nothing else mattered apart from his future with Josephine.

To his surprise, the doubtful Josephine rebuked, "No! Stop lying! The only one you regard highly is yourself! You think of no one else but you!"

She refused to listen to him and recalled the time she spent in isolation throughout the years. Never had he taken the initiative to get in touch with her even once when he was nowhere to be seen.

"Your gains are the only things motivating you in life! You don't care about the people around you even if your action brings nothing but misery upon them!"

Josephine got increasingly agitated as soon as she recalled the days she spent in isolation after the man disappeared into thin air over the night three years ago. No one, not even Jonathan, was aware of the things she had to brace herself through in the three years.

"Josephine, calm down and listen to me-" Jonathan inched over in an attempt to console the seemingly upset Josephine. When he was about to reach her, she slapped his hand off and warned him, "Stay away from me!"

"Josephine-" Josephine interrupted him when he was about to say something. She asked in return, "Jonathan, have you any idea of the things I have to go through over the years because of you? Mom asked me to get married to someone else because others wouldn't make fun of me and continued calling me a widow!

As much as she despised Jonathan for being a useless man, she had never thought of marrying another man. Hence, she had no choice but to brace herself through the humiliations others threw upon her throughout the past three years.

"I-I'm so sorry, Josephine!" Jonathan let out a long sigh. He was almost certain it was Margaret's doing again. His mother-in-law would try everything at her disposal to force Josephine into another marriage with a wealthy man.

Similarly, others would definitely mock Josephine for being a fool, wasting her time with a wimp who might have turned his back against her over the night.

He had returned to prove everyone wrong—never would he allow anyone to pick on or make fun of Josephine as long as he was around to keep her safe.

Staring at him in the eyes, she repeated herself, "I'm sure it's merely a bluff of yours! Otherwise, there's no way you're going to stop me from surrendering the rights of the project over to Timothy!"

She glanced at him and shook her head. "You don't even care about the safety of the family including yours. That is the sole reason I'm surrendering everything to someone else! It's fine if it's only my life that's at stake! However, that's not the case! The lives of the members of the Smith family might be at stake depending on my next best course of action! When will you learn to read the situation, Jonathan?"

If it weren't because I wasn't given much of a choice, I would never surrender the rights of the project over to others when I've just been appointed the person in charge of the family!

Jonathan was certain it felt awful for Josephine, a proud woman, to admit defeat in front of others.

He felt a strong urge to hold her in his arms, assuring her she had nothing to worry about because there was no way the members of the Turner family could put on a fight against the almighty Asura.

He couldn't wait to reveal his identity as the nation's most fearsome figure. However, he knew it wouldn't be wise as she would never take him seriously. On top of that, she might think something was wrong with him.

As he lost himself in a train of thought, she turned around and sighed wearily after she took another peek at him.

She let out a sigh. "You still don't get it, do you? I guess it's my fault for bringing up something like this in front of you! It's not like it's any of your business!"

Josephine considered it a waste of her time to share the rationale of her decisions with Jonathan as he might not even understand.

"Jonathan, can you do me a favor and leave me alone for a short while?" The lonely woman turned around and walked towards the window, basking herself in the moonlight as if she couldn't rely on anyone to resolve the issues.

Jonathan felt his heart sinking to the bottom of his stomach. "Josephine-"

She stopped him from finishing his sentence and insisted without even turning her head, "Just go out! Please!"

Unwilling to get on the nerves of the already infuriated woman, Jonathan remarked, "Alright, I'll leave once I make myself clear. It's not necessary for you to surrender the rights of the ecological park project to others. No one's life will be at stake as well. The members of the Turner family don't have what it takes to threaten my wife. If there is, I'll make sure they're no longer a threat."

As soon as he finished, he walked out of the room and left Josephine alone as requested.

How dare the members of the Turner family pick on the woman I hold dear in mind? It seems like they have a death wish! If that's the case, I'll do them a favor and send them to hell!

Seconds after he walked out of the room, he made a call. Zachary, who was on the other end, picked it up and greeted in a hoarse voice a few seconds after the call was made, "Mr. Goldstein."

Instead of explaining himself, he instructed the moment he heard Zachary, "Gather the information of the Turner family on my behalf in ten minutes!"

Zachary was confused by the things Jonathan brought up out of the blue. Thus, he stammered in return, "T-The Turner family?"

"Am I supposed to repeat myself?" Jonathan remarked with a sneer, "Have you heard of another family announcing their residence as the vice-governor office?"

"The vice-governor?" Zachary finally linked the missing pieces of puzzles together. He asked in return, "M-Mr. Goldstein, are you talking about the most prominent family amongst the rest of the families in Jazona?"

"Who else could it be? I want you to gather every intel in ten minutes, including the members of the family in the ranks of the governor's office as well as the number of spies the so-called vice-governor has sent to infiltrate the King of War Division!"

"Yes, Mr. Goldstein!"

Zachary could vividly feel Jonathan's wrath when it was nothing more than a phone call. Hence, he thought it wouldn't be wise to question Jonathan's decision and hung up the call shortly after he took note of Jonathan's instructions.

On the other hand, Jonathan muttered to himself in the middle of nowhere with his eyes glinting once he hung up the call, "So you are the Turner family, right? Since you have the guts to pick on my wife, you need to bear the consequences of your actions as well!"