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Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 669

Chapter 669 It's of a Higher Skill Set

Her ancestors sold paintings? She might as well say that her ancestors were tinters. Do I look that easy to fool?

Stephanie fixed Elise with a complicated expression, unable to calm down even after a long time.

The person she had been looking for so long was right in front of her, but she found what she had searched for far and wide by sheer dumb luck.

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When the two of them returned with the painting, everyone had already moved to the villa's hall.

Jonas sat on the main seat of the sofa, his brows still tightly furrowed. His anger didn't seem to have eased much.

Someone had already mentioned Elise's identity to Jonas just now. Besides Alexander, she was also friends with Kenneth. If he openly offended her today, it wouldn't do anyone good. However, he was dissatisfied, as she ruined his beloved treasure just like that.

He thought that if Elise could come up with a fake look genuine to console him, he might as well let it go.

Jonas slowly raised his head upon hearing the sound of footsteps and saw Elise holding a rolled piece of rice paper, thus shattering his hopes.

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"Where's SQ's authentic work?" Jonas asked bluntly, showing no mercy whatsoever.

Elise slapped the rolled-up painting against her palm, then shook it nonchalantly. "Here it is."

Then, she held the middle part and slowly unrolled it, revealing the ink peonies inside.

Jonas opened his mouth in surprise, his eyes gleaming halfway through Elise unrolling the rice paper.

When the painting was wholly unveiled, he couldn't help but walk forward and take the artwork from Elise's hand, fascinated.

Judging from his experience collecting ink paintings, as soon as he touched the rice paper. Obviously, it hadn't been long since she made this painting. It was definitely not the pinnacle work of SQ, but the ink peonies on it were indeed vividly painted. It was captivating, and it was undoubtedly a collectible.

"Mr. Hymer, what are you still doing there in a daze? Since there are experts here, hurry up and ask them to make an appraisal!" Someone called out.

Only then did Jonas recover, bringing the painting over to a few friends who appraised antiques.

The experts placed the painting on an empty table, then formed a circle around the table and began to carefully examine it with a magnifying glass.

After a few minutes, everyone reached an agreement.

The older appraiser said solemnly to Jonas, "This is indeed the work of SQ."

Jonas was thrilled and quietly breathed a sigh of relief.

"But, one thing is strange." The appraiser placed his hand on the rice paper, which was immediately stained with black ink spots. He murmured dubiously to himself, "SQ's 'Ink Peonies' was made a few years ago. Why hasn't the ink dried out yet?"

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“Ahem.” Elise coughed awkwardly when she heard his remarks. “Uh, maybe because it’s been too humid recently, and no special protective measures have been taken. But, this doesn’t affect the authenticity of the painting, right?”

“Of course, it doesn’t.” The appraiser smiled and shook his head. “Not only is this painting the work of SQ, but it’s even at a higher skill set than her previous painting. One can see that although the master has been keeping a low profile over the years, they have constantly been transcending. This spirit is simply commendable!”

Elise cast a triumphant look at Stephanie when she heard this, reckoning that she could now rest assured.

Stephanie slightly pursed her lips, her smile not exactly natural.

Jonas was particularly excited. It was a pity to lose the pinnacle work of SQ, but the appraiser had just said that the painting Elise brought was of a higher skill set and had more collectible value than the previous one. With this luck, he should go and buy a lottery ticket!

However, at this moment, several guests raised objections.

“That’s not right. Since this one is the authentic work of SQ, what about the one just now? Is it possible that both this and the ‘Spring Appreciation’ are real?”

“In my opinion, one of them must be fake. SQ’s student identified the one that was destroyed!” “Isn’t that too narrow of an outlook? Of course, SQ doesn’t have many artworks, but it’s impossible that one can acquire only a few paintings. On the other hand, as the appraiser mentioned, maybe someone has painted a new and better one?”

“The point is that none of us have ever met SQ. Who knows if they actually painted it or not? If it’s fake, wouldn’t Mr. Hymer have no choice but to be a victim and suffer in silence?”

Jonas said nothing but simply frowned slightly and lowered his head.

They weren’t wrong. However, between a ruined genuine painting and a famous painting that may or may not be authentic, he didn’t think it was a loss on his end.

The key to collecting such things depended on whether the collector liked them. The value of the collection came second.

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But now, going with the herd, he couldn't tell the truth from what was false. He couldn't just take their word for it and let the matter slide.

All of a sudden, a voice rang out. "You're all confused, aren't you? SQ's student is right here. Let her tell us if SQ has created any new artworks recently. She will reveal the truth then!"

Tiana was about to run away, but when she heard this, she couldn't help but come to a sudden stop while sorting out her emotions.

Sure enough, someone caught sight of her in the next second.

"Miss Hill! You're here! Come and save everyone from this confusion!"

The corners of Tiana's lips twitched, but she had to bite the bullet and walk into the center of the crowd, standing opposite Elise.

When Elise saw her, she gave a meaningful smile.

Tiana's senses were sharp as she noted the meaningful look in her eyes and guiltily turned her head aside.

Calm down. The one who contacted Elise is an alias that isn't bound to any proof of identity. So Elise won't find out that I'm the one behind SQ's account.

After a little mental preparation, Tiana returned to appearing confident and elegant.

"Miss Hill." Jonas had a lot of respect for SQ's students, so he asked humbly, "Dare I ask, has SQ made another 'Ink Peonies' lately?"

Tiana didn't answer immediately but pretended to be pretentious and walked to the table before studying the painting again.

Finally, she answered thoughtfully, "It is indeed the one made by my teacher a few days ago."

Undoubtedly, there was a reason she said that. Elise had an inexplicable connection with SQ. Since this artwork had passed the appraisal, she could only admit that it was genuine. Even if any problem arose in the future, everyone could place the blame on the appraisers.

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Not to mention, if she weren't on the same page with these people, they would probably ask her to personally contact SQ, which would be troublesome.

Jonas clasped his hands tightly together, and his eyes couldn't hide his joy and excitement. "Thank you, Miss Hill."

"Don't mention it." Tiana pursed her lips.

Elise lowered her gaze when she heard this. So she painted the painting, and solved the dispute, but Tiana was getting all the credit?

"Miss Hill." Elise said meaningfully, "Did you remember it wrong? One of the paintings that SQ let me keep is 'Ink Peonies'. So, they should have painted this one two years ago."

Coollest Girl in Town Chapter 670

Chapter 670 I Will Keep Your Secret for You

Tiana froze.

Elise must be kidding. She had seen those paintings in person before stuffing them into the safe. There wasn't an 'Ink Peonies'.

Could it be that Elise didn't hand over all of SQ's paintings that day but kept a few to herself?

Oh, Elise is cunning. She reckoned Elise was betting on the fact that SQ was old and had a bad memory, so they wouldn't find out even if one or two paintings were missing, so she deliberately kept some to enrich herself.

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However, Tiana pretended to be SQ to take the paintings away since she didn't know how many genuine artworks there were. After everything she had done, it had backfired and Elise was now taking advantage of it.

Tiana found such actions a little distasteful at the thought of it. She had also taken SQ's painting, but she was always worried and did not dare to show the artwork to other people, but Elise was openly using it to win favors.

How shameless. No one rivals her when it comes to this.

However, it had gotten to this point, so she couldn't expose Elise. All she could do was explain with a smile, "SQ has been repeatedly creating the same painting in the past few years, sometimes even painting five to six of the same ones within a year. So, it's really difficult to tell the specific time they created the artwork."

"Oh, it seems like SQ quite values perfection." Elise chuckled mockingly.

She hadn't touched a brush for several years, but such a colossal lie was being told. It was indeed hard for Tiana to make up a new lie now.

Jonas was a clever person too. He sensed that something wasn't right at once, so he quickly stepped forward to mediate the situation.

"Hahaha... If that's the case, then this is the end of the matter today. Thank you, Miss Sinclair and Miss Hill, for solving my predicament today. I'm ecstatic to be able to get a new piece done by SQ. As for the details, there's no need to pursue it anymore.

"Everyone, please continue to drink and enjoy yourselves in the garden. I will immediately frame this 'Ink Peonies' and put it back in place for exhibition. Please look forward to it."

Since the commotion had ended and the host had spoken up, there was no reason for everyone to stay gathered, so they dispersed.

When everyone was almost gone, Jonas took the initiative to walk toward Alexander and apologize.

"Mr. Griffith, if I've offended you today, please don't take it to heart. I will definitely pay you a visit in person some other day."

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"It's okay." Alexander gave him a concise answer.

Jonas knew that he was in the wrong and figured that it was only right for Alexander's attitude to be cold, so he just smiled lightly and didn't continue the conversation.

After a while, Jonas tried to win over Elise again. "Miss Sinclair, judging from the conversation between you and Miss Hill earlier, it seems like you and SQ have quite a friendship. Is that true?"

Elise snorted lightly as she stared at Jonas' shrewd face with an ambiguous expression. When she saw that Tiana hadn't gone far, she simply admitted, "I've indeed been friends with SQ for many years. Mr. Hymer, I wonder why you are asking about this, though."

Beside them, Tiana stopped silently and tried to eavesdrop.

He smiled and went straight to the point. "To be honest, I've long admired SQ and very much hope to meet the figure in person. So, Miss Sinclair, I wonder whether it's inconvenient for you to introduce me."

Elise crossed her arms over her chest, steering clear of his main question. "Tiana is a student of SQ. Wouldn't it be easier for you to ask her about this?"

"Don't mind me saying this, Miss Sinclair, but I've already tried this. However, she'll refuse every time. I've been unable to fulfill this wish, so I'm a little unsatisfied." Jonas sighed in regret.

She squinted her eyes. Did this guy admire her or merely wanted to obtain more of her artworks to earn a profit? Since his purpose was unknown, she certainly wouldn't reveal her identity so easily.

However, in order to create some excitement for Tiana, Elise agreed. "Okay. It just so happens that SQ and I made a pact a few years ago. We'll meet in Tissote in half a year's time. I'll bring it up to her. As for whether or not she wants to meet, it's not up to me."

"Yes, of course!" Jonas was extremely grateful, but he still clearly grasped the critical information. His expression became serious as he leaned over to Elise before asking cautiously, "So, Miss Sinclair, what you mean is that SQ would be visiting Tissote in half a year's time. Is that what you mean?"

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He's pretty smart.

Elise smiled and looked up at Tiana's nervous figure in the distance before deliberately raising her voice to say, "Yes, SQ will make a comeback by then and she will expose all the fakes."

When Tiana heard this, her heart began to race and her mind buzzed. SQ is really still alive and will appear in the public eye in half a year's time.

If that was the case, wouldn't she, a fake student of SQ, be reduced entirely to a laughing stock?

No! That can't happen! I'm an 'It Girl', a genius that all masters compete to learn from. I'm not a fake! I'm not! She murmured to herself in a daze while taking step after step as she slowly left the villa.

Elise shook her head when she saw this. If Tiana were willing to confess now, she would still have a chance to start over. However, if she refused to come to her senses, then it wouldn't be Elise's fault for coming forward to deal with the matter when the time came.

"That's great!" Jonas excitedly grabbed Elise's hand and expressed his determination. "Miss Sinclair, before SQ comes, you must give me a letter of approval. I will solely be responsible for all of her hospitality and ensure that her stay in Tissote will be smooth!"

"Let's talk about this another time." Elise withdrew her hand, neither agreeing nor rejecting his offer.

He, however, took it as a done deal and began to plot how to use SQ as a source of income.

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After the banquet, Stephanie left the villa in Elise's car.

Stephanie and Elise sat in the backseat while Alexander sat in the front passenger seat for what seemed like a silent journey back.

When they were nearing the city center, Stephanie spoke and broke the silence. "Elise." She held Elise's hand and gave her an earnest look. "I will keep your secret for you."

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Elise pretended to be confused and appeared naive. "What are you talking about? I don't understand."

Stephanie pursed her lips and smiled. "You don't need to understand. All you have to know is that I won't tell anyone what happened in the study today."

"That would be great." Elise added by way of a joke, "If you tell anyone, someone will probably sue me."

Stephanie chuckled but didn't continue with the topic. Instead, she turned to the driver and said, "Sir, pull over at the shopping mall in front."

"You want to get off here?" Elise was puzzled. "We can send you home."

"It's okay." Stephanie grinned. "I was so scared at the party that I dared not eat much. So, I have to go and eat some more food. Hehe."

"All right, then." Elise had never been keen on forcing others, so she asked the driver to stop at the mall entrance.

After the driver parked the car on the side of the road, there were many cars on Stephanie's side, so Elise opened the car door and went down to make way for her.