

Charismatic Lucas Gray Chapter 301

Chapter 301: Brazen

Lucas's pupils constricted abruptly. *Putting up beautiful women for auction? Aren't they selling humans like objects then?*

They were actually brazenly committing such an illegal and immoral act in public. It seemed that they had no regard for the law at all!

Lucas immediately thought of Grace, who had been abducted and brought to Club Splendor. He reckoned that the reason they had done this wasn't simple, and it was very likely that she might be one of the beauties going to be put up for auction tonight!

The moment he thought of this possibility, Lucas was awash with rage and a desire to kill. "How dare the Wallaces do such a thing?!"

Bruce hurriedly shook his head. "The auction venue may belong to the Wallaces, but as far as I know, this auction is held by the Kingstons."

"The Kingstons? Hmph!" With a cold and terrifying gaze in his eyes, Lucas snapped, "It seems I have to teach them a hard lesson this time, or else they might think I'm a pushover!"

Bruce blinked, unsure of what Lucas meant by that. *Is he... referring to the Kingstons? But Lucas and the Kingstons... don't seem to have had any dealings?*

But Jordan, standing behind Lucas, immediately understood what Lucas meant, and his eyes were full of excitement for some action.

The Kingstons indeed didn't seem to have much to do with Lucas, but he knew that the Kingstons were subordinate to the Huttons!

The person who had sneakily taken photos of Lucas and Charlotte at the amusement park back then was sent by the Kingstons.

The person who had spread the news of Lucas being an abandoned member of the Huttons and that the Stardust Corporation had long been disowned by the Huttons was also instigated by the Kingstons.

The Kingstons were also the ones who had secretly incited many families who owned major corporations and enterprises to create trouble for the Stardust Corporation.

They were just following orders given by the Huttons to suppress Lucas and make sure that he would forever be trapped in the doldrums in Orange County while watching the Stardust Corporation, which he valued the most, go bust.

They were on an invisible battlefield because the Kingstons had been doing these things secretly behind the scenes. If not for the conscientious and quick-witted people Jordan had sent, it would have been very difficult to find any evidence against them.

But just because they didn't openly harm him didn't mean that there wasn't any anger.

If Lucas hadn't responded in time on several occasions and resolved their insidious, scheming tricks, they would have probably gotten what they wanted!

Thus, Jordan genuinely detested the Kingstons for their unruly behavior and the fact that they were leveraging the power of the Huttons to be so arrogant.

But at this moment, Lucas thought of another problem.

The auction today was organized by the Kingstons, and women were going to be put up for auction like they were inanimate objects. Moreover, there was also a mysterious organization that regularly supplied beautiful women to the Ocean Bathhouse, which used to be controlled by the Taylors.

Is there a connection between these two matters?

Do the Kingstons play an important role in the supply chain of beautiful women for the illegal business formerly run in the bathhouse?

In fact, ever since Lucas last communicated with Preston and learned that even the Taylors were clueless about the identity of the organization that provided them with the beautiful women for the business, Lucas had actually already developed some suspicions.

The Taylors were one of the four top families of Orange County, and the fact that even they couldn't find any clues about the origin of the mysterious organization they had worked with for so many years just went to show that they probably weren't from this county. Moreover, they were most likely far more powerful than the four most powerful families in Orange County.

The most likely possibility was that they were one of the eight great families in DC or the top families in the state since they could have so much power and carry out the business with so much confidentiality.

However, the businesses of the eight great families were massive, and they had monopolized many key industries. They generated a massive amount of profit every single day, and it would be an understatement to say that they were as rich as a country.

Thus, although providing beautiful women was a profitable industry for most, the profits were paltry in the eyes of the eight great families in the capital. Besides, it was too distasteful, and it would make them the laughing stock of the other

families and cause them to be mocked for being so lowly that they would make such filthy money.

But such a profitable business meant differently to less prestigious families.

Of course, at present, these were just Lucas's conjectures, and there was no point in speculating further without any concrete evidence.

Besides, in addition to these famous prestigious families, there were also some deeply hidden families who kept extremely low profiles. They were possible suspects too, making the range of speculation even wider.

Lucas narrowed his eyes as he looked at the ostentatious decor of the hall and the guests gathered in pairs or groups of threes he saw through the glass windows.

He said softly to Jordan, "Go look for Grace."

Jordan acknowledged the order and immediately got to it. Soon, he disappeared from the hall.

Jordan had previously met Grace at Logan Hale's villa, so Lucas was not at all worried that Jordan would get the wrong person.

Bruce watched carefully from the side, but he remained silent. Being a smart person, he could tell from Lucas's question that the reason Lucas suddenly came to Club Splendor today was not for the auction but for another agenda.

Of course, Bruce had already pledged allegiance to Lucas together with his family, so he naturally wouldn't say anything else. Even if a conflict broke out between Lucas and someone in the club later, he would still stand firmly on Lucas's side.

"How is the relationship between your family and the Wallaces?"

Bruce was shocked to hear his question. Although he didn't know why Lucas asked him this out of the blue, he nevertheless answered conscientiously, "The

Hales and the Wallaces only engage in some ordinary business dealings, and a few distant relatives of the younger generation are married to the Wallaces. But we're not that close to them. It's mostly the same for the four major families. We do have some connections, but we're restrained by the scruples we have for each other, so we tend not to get too close.

"I'm here at the auction today only because I received an invitation from the Kingstons and couldn't think of an appropriate reason to turn them down, so... I-I absolutely have no intention to participate!"

While speaking, Bruce felt that something was amiss, and he immediately broke into a cold sweat.

He knew that Lucas was most disgusted by businesses revolving around vices such as gambling and drugs, as well as prostitution and human trafficking, which he hated the most! If Lucas misunderstood that he was at the auction to buy some beautiful women, Bruce would be in deep trouble!

"Good that you don't!" Lucas finally looked less austere, but he warned again, "You know what my temper is like. I may have handed the businesses of your family back to you to manage, but if I find out one day that you've gotten involved in certain industries I hate, I'll take them back from you immediately!"

Bruce's heart ricocheted, and he hurriedly said, "Rest assured, Mr. Gray. My family and I will eternally remember your admonishments, and we will never get involved in those industries again!"

Lucas finally nodded. "Take me to the auction hall now!"

Chapter 302: Standing Up For You

Soon, Bruce led Lucas to a spacious auction hall situated in the basement floor of Club Splendor.

The auction hall was indeed very secretive. Along the way, they had to pass through several labyrinths of passages and doors guarded by professional security personnel before they finally reached the venue.

Lucas thought, *No wonder the Kingstons chose to hold the auction of beautiful women here in Club Splendor that belongs to the Wallaces. They're probably aware that they should keep their sordid business away from the public eye. No wonder the security at the entrance was so tight.*

If this matter was exposed, the Wallaces and the Kingstons would be in deep trouble!

Although the auction had yet to begin officially, many guests had already gathered in the auction hall. Apart from a small number of people from top families in Orange County whom Lucas had met before, there were many fresh faces.

The eagle-eyed Bruce looked around the hall and then whispered to Lucas, "Apart from some top families of Orange County, many members of wealthy families from other big cities like New York City are among the guests here tonight. Those from families of lower statuses are not even worthy of being invited."

Lucas nodded. *Seems that these fresh faces are members of the top families from other cities.*

In fact, after seeing the fleet of luxury cars worth hundreds of thousands to several million dollars each lined up at the entrance, Lucas already had a rough idea of how wealthy the guests of the auction tonight had to be.

“Hey, Lucas! You’re here too!” At this moment, a familiar voice with a tone of surprise came from behind them.

Lucas turned around and saw Lena strutting toward him gracefully. She was clad in an exquisitely-tailored red fishtail gown with a small and dazzling diamond clutch in hand.

She had some makeup on her face, which was appropriate for a ballroom convention and made her look elegant and dignified. Coupled with a complete set of jewelry consisting of sparkling teardrop-shaped diamond earrings, a necklace, and a headpiece, Lena was particularly ravishing and eye-catching tonight.

She was gazing at Lucas with joy in her big, beautiful eyes. Only when she almost reached him did she realize that Bruce was standing near him.

After taking a look at him, she got a great fright.

The esteemed head of the Hale family was actually standing half a step behind Lucas with his back slightly bent forward, looking somewhat respectful and subservient to Lucas.

In fact, Bruce’s behavior was actually not that obvious, but Lena had studied micro expressions in psychology when she was pursuing her education abroad. So she could tell from Bruce’s subtle expressions and actions that he was deferential and reverent toward Lucas!

This immediately made Lena extremely curious.

“Mr. Hale, you’re here too!” Despite her shock and curiosity, Lena still remembered her manners and etiquette.

She held up the corner of her dress and did a little curtsy to bow to Bruce in an elegant and ladylike manner.

Bruce chuckled. “It’s you, Lena! It’s been some time since we last met, and you’re all grown up now! You’re getting prettier and prettier! Is your father, Ethan, here today?”

Perhaps because Bruce was giving her a compliment in front of Lucas, Lena somehow blushed coyly for a moment before answering with a smile, “My father has gone on a business trip abroad and couldn’t make it back in time. So he asked me to attend the function today on his behalf, and at the same time, get an eye-opener for myself too.”

In fact, Lena had interacted with very few people of this circle because of how overprotective Ethan had been of her. She had lived a carefree life overseas as well.

But since the last time Lena and Ethan had a tiff over the matter of her marriage to Tristan, Ethan reflected for a long time and then decided that he should let Lena socialize more often and brush up on her interpersonal social skills. He wanted her to understand that the lives of wealthy families were not always as glamorous as they seemed to be on the surface and that the heirs and heiresses of such families did not enjoy absolute freedom to do whatever they wanted.

While they were chatting, they unknowingly became the focus of attention of many people in the auction hall.

On the one hand, it was because Lena was a stunning beauty bound to steal the limelight wherever she went. On the other hand, it was naturally because of Bruce, the head of one of the four top families of Orange County.

Most people didn’t know who Lucas was, and there were also many who were curious as to why Lucas could stand next to Bruce. So there were many curious gazes cast on Lucas.

But Tristan, Callum, and Elijah, who came in before them, were not one of those staring at Lucas with harmless curiosity.

Tristan was standing near them and glaring daggers at Lucas and Lena. In particular, when he saw Lena, who had always been harsh to him, beaming with joy and smiling at Lucas, his expression was terrifyingly sinister and gloomy.

“How did that punk get in?” Callum was sullen too. He had previously instructed the security guards at the entrance not to let Lucas in, but now that Lucas was there, it was a clear insult to Callum because his instructions had been defied.

“Hmph, that b*tch must have brought him in! Atrocious!” Tristan gnashed his teeth.

Ever since the previous incident at The Loft where Lena had mercilessly said several times in front of so many people that she wasn’t interested in him and didn’t want to marry him but then went on to stand on Lucas’s side and go against him by calling her bodyguards over to stop him, Tristan had developed a strong resentment and hatred toward Lena as well.

“Bitch? Do you mean Lena, the daughter of the richest man in Orange County, Ethan Sawyer? She’s the one who’s engaged to you but has been refusing to come back from abroad, right? Is she the one in the red gown over there?” Elijah asked in a gossipy manner.

Tristan nodded sullenly. “Yes, it’s her! She’s clearly engaged to me since a long time ago, but she’s been avoiding me like the plague and refusing to see me! Yet she’s so nice to that live-in son-in-law of the Carters, and she even scolded me for him! They’re a pair of adulterers!”

Tristan spat on the ground, and his face, which was usually handsome, twisted into a grimace.

Elijah patted Tristan on his shoulder with some empathy and sympathy. No man would be able to tolerate such a thing.

“Rest assured. I’ll go deal with that punk and stand up for you now!” he said as though they shared a common enemy.

Then Elijah walked toward Lucas.

Chapter 303: Your Rights

“Wait!” Tristan hurriedly grabbed the arm of Callum, who had been his best friend since they were children. Despite feeling aggrieved, he said truthfully, “Don’t underestimate that punk. He has extremely good combat skills. Previously, he sent two of my personal bodyguards flying several meters away with a single kick, and they couldn’t get back up on their feet for a long time. If not because of that, I wouldn’t have suffered such a great loss. Callum, don’t mistake him for a weakling!”

“Huh? Is that punk really that impressive?”

The muscular Callum was skeptical about it because Lucas was much leaner than him, so he doubted Tristan’s claim that Lucas managed to kick Tristan’s bodyguards several meters away and render them immobile.

The bodyguards hired by top families like theirs were not incompetent weaklings but experts hired from professional bodyguard agencies at hefty prices!

Of course, Callum was still mostly surprised and didn’t suspect that Tristan was deliberately putting him down by making Lucas seem impressive.

In that case, it seemed that Lucas Gray was indeed not a simple person!

“Heh, I can make him get lost from here obediently without having to get physical with him!” Elijah sneered and then walked toward Lucas and the others with him.

Since Bruce was an esteemed and prestigious figure, there were naturally many people who kept approaching him to try and strike up a conversation with him.

Irrked by the hypocrisy of the strangers, Lucas couldn’t be bothered to entertain them and went straight to a relatively quiet place with fewer people. Lena naturally followed Lucas.

As soon as they sat down, Elijah walked up to the two of them, pointed at Lucas, and hollered, “I saw you forcing your way in at the entrance without an invitation just now! You’re just the live-in son-in-law of an insignificant family who sponges off of your wife. You’re not qualified to sit here at all! Tell me, how exactly did you manage to sneak in?”

Elijah’s voice was extremely loud and clear, and his tone was aggressive as well, thus immediately attracting the attention of many people in the auction hall.

Due to the special nature of the auction held in Club Splendor today, the invited guests were mostly from wealthy top families of various big cities. Even those who came from slightly inferior families wouldn’t receive an invitation at all, let alone the live-in son-in-law of a small family of Orange County.

Many of them frowned in disdain, especially after seeing the clothes Lucas, whom Elijah was pointing at, was wearing.

All the scions and members of wealthy families present at the auction were clad in designer suits worth at least tens of thousands of dollars each. And they paired them with exorbitantly priced luxury watches to flaunt their wealth and status.

But Lucas was wearing a simple and casual outfit, which was obviously made with cheap fabric and poor workmanship, in their opinion.

They thought that Elijah's accusations were definitely right and that Lucas had to be someone of a lowly status who had somehow managed to sneak into the auction hall.

Many of them had clear displeasure in their eyes. All of them were of noble status, yet they had to breathe the same air and be on an equal footing at the auction with a penniless man who had somehow sneaked in. This made many of them who had a sense of superiority feel extremely offended.

Seeing that Lucas had almost become the public enemy of the audience because of his words, Elijah was naturally extremely smug and was just waiting for the Kingstons, who were the organizers of the auction, to kick Lucas out when they found him to be an eyesore.

But Lena was enraged. She sprung up from her seat to stand in front of Lucas and glowered at Elijah. "It's stated clearly on the invitation card that every invited guest is entitled to bring two more guests with them! He's my guest. Is that not allowed?"

Many people frowned.

There was indeed such a clause stated on the invitation cards. But due to the limited number of invitations, each family would basically receive only one invitation card. But it would seem a little too strict if only one other member from each family was allowed to attend the auction. But if there was no limit on the number of extra guests, the auction would be too crowded. So the organizers had decided to settle on this rule.

Elijah sneered and said confidently, "Of course I'm aware of that clause, but it comes with a restriction. In order to avoid making the auction seem low-class and

prevent just any Ryan, Dick, and Harry from entering, the organizers deliberately specified that the invited guests could only bring members of their own family or a non-family individual whose personal assets exceed fifteen million dollars!”

“Miss Lena Sawyer, this person is obviously not a Sawyer but a live-in son-in-law of a third-rate family that has been on the verge of collapse several times. Therefore, he doesn’t meet the criteria to be your guest. Even though you’re the daughter of the richest man in Orange County, you’re not allowed to bring him in!”

After hearing what Elijah said, many seemed to come to a sudden realization and began to look at Lucas gloatingly with greater contempt, while Lena bit her lower lip tightly with a sullen expression.

Elijah wasn’t making things up because there was indeed such a restriction.

Moreover, if Lucas was really just the live-in son-in-law of a lowly family that had been on the verge of bankruptcy several times, it would indeed be impossible for him to own assets worth fifteen million dollars, much less have the right to be here!

At this moment, Lucas suddenly chuckled. “Are you that certain that I don’t have fifteen million dollars?”

From the moment Elijah came over to confront and accuse him, Lucas had been keeping a straight face and remaining seated as if he was not the person Elijah was trying to chase out. He was acting as though the matter didn’t concern him at all.

At this moment, he finally spoke.

In everyone else’s opinion, Lucas was being overly composed, and some even began to speculate whether he had some unexpected trump cards that gave him such confidence. Of course, there were also some who felt that he was putting up a pretense.

Elijah glanced at Lucas in disdain and said derogatorily, “Do you think we’re talking about monopoly money here? Even many descendants of top families can’t afford to take out so much money!

“You’re just the son-in-law of a family that’s about to face bankruptcy. Oh, I heard that you’ve even been kicked out, so you can’t rely on them anymore. If you can prove that you have fifteen million dollars, I’ll give you my head!

“Also, you’re just a lowly and penniless person. What is your motive for trying so hard to force your way into this auction? The organizers of the auction should do a thorough investigation on this punk and make sure he doesn’t sneak around to cause trouble!”

After saying this loudly, Elijah glanced at Lucas provocatively with eyes full of malice.

Chapter 304: Checking Assets

Elijah actually intended for the Kingstons, the organizers of the auction, to hear his last sentence.

It wasn't Elijah's first time attending such a secretive auction like the one today, so he knew what the greatest taboo for the organizers of such an auction was.

They were naturally afraid that some people with evil intentions might sneak in and expose the sordid business that went on here.

Indeed, soon after Elijah spoke, a man in his fifties dressed in a tuxedo slowly walked out from behind the curtain of the auction hall.

His face was extremely solemn, and he had his lips pressed tightly together, looking dignified and intimidating.

As soon as the guests in the auction hall saw this man, they immediately seemed astonished and began whispering among themselves.

“It's Russell Duncan! I've only seen him in pictures! I heard that he specializes in handling all matters related to the auctions held by the Kingstons, but he usually works behind the scenes and rarely appears in public!”

“Yeah! My father was the one who told me about Russell Duncan. I finally got to see him in person today!”

“It seems the Kingstons really take this auction tonight very seriously. Otherwise, they wouldn't have sent Russell Duncan to personally keep an eye on the situation

here. Hehe, it seems that there must be some valuable beauties up for auction tonight!”

“Mr. Russell Duncan has already intervened. It looks like that lowly and shameless punk is definitely going to get chased out!”

“Hmph, he deserves to be kicked out. He ought to have realized that this isn’t a place for him!”

...

Russell’s sudden appearance immediately caused a huge commotion in the hall.

Elijah looked at Lucas with malicious intentions and suddenly mocked, “Punk, you’re dead meat! Russell Duncan is not to be trifled with. If you can’t give him a valid reason later, the consequences will be far more severe than just getting kicked out. Hehe!”

With a straight face, Lucas glanced at Elijah indifferently and even stood up fearlessly, as if Elijah wasn’t referring to him at all.

Elijah was extremely disappointed and displeased with Lucas’s composed reaction as he cursed under his breath. “Hmph, punk, go on. Keep pretending! Let’s see if you can keep it up later!”

Lena looked rather worried when she saw Russell walking toward them.

Although she usually stayed out of the affairs between those major families, she had heard of Russell’s name before.

In addition to his meticulousness and conscientiousness, another reason that Russell was put in charge of handling all matters related to the Kingstons’ auctions was that he was very resourceful and authoritative. When necessary, he would be ruthless. So he had managed to occupy an important role in the Kingston family for many years.

Keeping his eyes fixed in front, Russell walked toward Lucas and said, “Sir, I’m Russell Duncan, and I’m in charge of this auction tonight. I understand that you indeed entered this venue without an invitation, so please cooperate and provide valid proof of assets.”

Russell’s tone was very polite, and he didn’t get influenced by Elijah’s words and didn’t treat Lucas like someone of a lower class who came to cause trouble.

Of course, if Lucas really couldn’t prove that he had 15 million dollars in assets and was found out to have a questionable motive, Russell wouldn’t be so cordial toward him.

“Uncle Russell, he’s my friend. Can you be a little more accommodating?” Lena put her palms together and pleaded.

Most people would more or less give in to the request of a beautiful girl like Lena, especially since she was the daughter of the richest man in Orange County.

Unfortunately, Russell didn’t waver and simply said expressionlessly, “My apologies, Miss Sawyer, but these are the rules of the auction. Any accompanying guest of an invited guest who does not belong to a first-rate family must undergo an asset eligibility check. Otherwise, I will have to send someone to ask this gentleman to leave immediately.”

Faced with the strict and impartial Russell, Lena could only panic inwardly.

Although she had witnessed Lucas win over 15 million dollars from Tony Zander within just ten minutes in Little Atlantis City, she heard later that there was internal strife in Little Atlantis City and that Tony had died in a power struggle. So she didn’t know if Lucas had obtained that sum of money or not.

Besides, even if Lucas had gotten the money, it had been more than two weeks since that incident, and he might have already spent it. She thought that it was unlikely that he would keep such a large sum of money in his bank account for others to conduct checks on!

Even she, the daughter of the richest man in Orange County, didn't have 15 million dollars sitting in her bank account!

This rule was clearly meant to make things hard for others!

“Uncle Russell, this rule is clearly too overbearing...”

Lena frowned and wanted to continue to say something, but Russell's cold and emotionless voice interrupted her. “Miss Sawyer, this is the rule of the Kingstons' auctions. Please don't interfere with our standard protocol! If you continue to do so, don't blame me for asking you to leave now despite your father's status.”

Russell didn't move his brow at all, but the overbearing dominance in his tone was self-explanatory.

Since Russell already said so, Lena naturally couldn't say anything else. She could only look at Lucas apologetically with some worry in her eyes.

Lucas suddenly developed an interest in Russell, whom he didn't take seriously at first.

Russell was domineering, but he didn't put on airs or compel others by throwing his weight around. Instead, he was unusually austere and strictly went by the book with no room for compromise.

Lucas believed that Russell was not nitpicking on Lena and that even if the Kingstons pleaded with him, he would likewise follow the rules and turn them down.

People like him were rare to come by.

The commotion over here had attracted almost all the guests in the auction hall. Bruce, who was talking to someone at the other side of the hall, naturally saw what was going on here. Feeling a little worried, he hurriedly walked over and reached

his hand out to Russell. “Mr. Duncan, this is Mr. Lucas Gray, who’s also my friend. I’m willing to vouch for him...”

Before Bruce could finish his sentence, Russell raised a hand and interrupted him coldly, “Mr. Hale, like I just said, I’m only following the rules of this auction. If anyone else tries to interfere with my execution of the protocol, I will have to ask you to leave, even if you are the head of the Hale family.”

Bruce originally thought that Russell would do him a favor since they had met on several occasions, but to his surprise, Russell turned him down without any mercy.

Bruce began to look sullen.

Of course, he was not worried that Lucas wouldn’t be able to prove that he had enough money. In fact, even if Lucas needed his help, he wouldn’t hesitate to transfer 15 million dollars to him now.

He just didn’t want to see Lucas become the target of criticism and nitpicking. After all, the Hales had now pledged allegiance to Lucas, so Bruce naturally didn’t want to see him get humiliated by others.

At this moment, the guests standing around also began whispering to each other while looking at Lucas with curiosity and bewilderment.

They were quite confused as to why the daughter of the richest man of Orange County and the head of one of the four most powerful families of Orange County would speak up for Lucas if he was just a nobody as Elijah had said.

Could there be something more to this? They wondered.

Just as Bruce was about to say something else, Lucas sat on a chair and suddenly said, “You want to check my assets? Sure.

“However, if I do meet the criteria, shouldn’t the person who just smeared me and tried to stir trouble by being verbally provocative toward me be punished too?”

Chapter 305: Black Diamond Card

When Elijah heard what Lucas said, his expression changed drastically because Lucas was obviously referring to him.

At first, he merely intended to let the matter blow out of proportion so that the person in charge of the Kingstons' auction would intervene and kick Lucas out. In his opinion, this was the best way he could take revenge for his friend, Tristan.

But it never crossed his mind that if Lucas indeed turned out to be qualified to stay at the auction, all his previous words and actions would be deemed as slander, defamation, and deliberate provocation.

Elijah suddenly began to feel flustered.

Remaining expressionless, Russell nodded. "As long as you meet the qualifying criteria and produce valid proof, it naturally means that you are qualified to stand here. The person who slandered you will be blacklisted immediately for misconduct. He will also be kicked out at once and denied entry for all future auctions I'm in charge of!"

Elijah immediately looked extremely dismayed.

Russell publicly gave Lucas a promise to punish the defamer, should there be one, and the consequences of the punishment were heavy!

Although Russell said that the defamer would only be blacklisted from future auctions that he was in charge of, everyone knew that Russell was in charge of almost all of the somewhat significant large-scale auctions organized by the Kingstons. It would be tantamount to being banned from all of the auctions held by the Kingstons in the future.

At this point, Callum walked to Elijah, patted him on his shoulder, and said softly, “It’s okay. That punk is just pretending. When he fails to produce any proof of owning fifteen million dollars, he will be in deep trouble!”

Hearing this, Elijah finally felt a little relieved, and he glared at Lucas through gritted teeth.

After hearing Russell’s affirmative answer, Lucas took out a black card from his pocket with a faint smile on his face and nonchalantly tossed it onto the table at the side. “Go ahead and check it!”

Russell glanced at the black card, and his usually stern, emotionless, and robot-like expression suddenly changed drastically. He grabbed the black card eagerly and began scrutinizing every detail of the card.

The card was almost entirely black, without any card numbers or bank logos. It looked just like an ordinary magnetic card.

But at the top right corner of the card was a golden mark in the shape of an extremely complicated and beautiful diamond!

This was the very mark that made Russell so shocked that he almost lost his composure.

The others standing nearby were somewhat bewildered and confused by Russell's behavior.

In their opinion, it was just an extremely ordinary card that a bank might not even issue. Does Russell Duncan have to get so worked up? they wondered.

When Bruce saw the black card, his pupils constricted, and he exclaimed in shock, "The Black Diamond Card!"

"Black Diamond Card?"

The guests present were all from the wealthiest families of various cities. When they heard this, they couldn't help looking astonished in great disbelief.

The Black Diamond Card was a legendary card heard of by many but seen by few. There were even fewer who owned one.

Legend had it that individuals could not apply for the Black Diamond Card, which the International Financial Center issued, because it was specially catered for highly influential business tycoons and celebrities worldwide.

There was no credit limit on the Black Diamond Card, but cardholders could withdraw up to five billion dollars at any time from any bank in the world with it.

In addition, the cardholders would also enjoy countless enviable exclusive privileges and services, such as a massive amount of annual membership bonuses, invitations to some internationally renowned and highly exclusive events and various extremely private auctions and gatherings, and so on. The card would even allow the holders to deploy the local armed forces to a small extent.

The Black Diamond Card could be considered the holy grail of everyone's dreams because it was the symbol of supreme status!

Black Diamond Cards were extremely rare, and there were currently less than 200 cardholders in the world. In the whole of the US, the people who owned a Black Diamond Card were few and far between, and there were definitely no more than ten people!

But Lucas managed to pull such a rare card from his pocket, which was precisely the reason for Russell's astonishment.

As long as it was a genuine card, Lucas would definitely be able to produce a billion dollars, let alone fifteen million.

The question now was whether the Black Diamond Card was genuine or not.

After Elijah saw Lucas take out the seemingly low-key but actually out-of-reach Black Diamond Card, he was just as flabbergasted. But he instinctively thought that it wasn't genuine at all!

"He must have fabricated that card! It must be a trick he specifically uses to deceive others!" Elijah yelled with great certainty while pointing at the card.

The other people around were also skeptical. Although they didn't voice their doubts right there and then like Elijah did, they were truly in disbelief, mainly because mega-rich and powerful families like theirs weren't even qualified to be issued a Black Diamond card. What right did Lucas, this young man they had never seen or heard of, have to own such a card?

Without further ado, Russell solemnly handed the Black Diamond Card to a staff member behind him and ordered in a deep voice, "Bring this card for inspection. Do not make any mistakes!"

“Yes!” After receiving the order, the staff member received the card with both hands and hurriedly left the auction hall under the escort of several bodyguards armed with guns.

During the short duration the staff had gone to check the card, almost everyone in the room had their eyes glued to Lucas.

There were all sorts of gazes being cast on Lucas, which would definitely make any other person feel uneasy and jittery by now. But Lucas remained composed in his seat and looked extremely relaxed, as if he wasn't the center of attention but a totally uninvolved bystander.

Even Russell, who had met countless types of people, couldn't help but secretly take a few more glances at Lucas and praise him in his head.

At the side, Lena was gazing at Lucas with joy and surprise in her eyes.

Of course, when Tristan saw this from a short distance away, he was so enraged that he gnashed his teeth and silently cursed them, calling them an adulterous pair.

Soon, the staff member who just left returned. Holding the Black Diamond Card with both hands, he quickly strode to Russell with a look of excitement and whispered eagerly, “It's genuine!”

A trace of shock appeared on Russell's face!

Soon, he picked up the Black Diamond Card very carefully with both hands, walked to Lucas, and said in an extremely respectful manner, “Mr. Gray, you are our most honored and prestigious guest. I would like to offer my strongest apologies to you with utmost sincerity for our disrespectful behavior toward you just now. I hope to seek your forgiveness!”

Then Russell bent forward to apologize to Lucas with a deep bow.

This scene caused a huge uproar because it meant that Lucas's Black Diamond Card was genuine!

"No, this is impossible!" Elijah's expression changed drastically as he looked at this scene in great disbelief. He suddenly blurted without hesitation, "He's just a good-for-nothing live-in son-in-law who was the laughing stock of everyone in Orange County a few years ago. How can he own a Black Diamond Card?!"

"Besides, even if this card is genuine, there's no way it belongs to Lucas Gray! He might have stolen it from someone or picked it up somewhere!"

Chapter 306: Blacklisted

“Shut up!” Russell hollered furiously while glaring at Elijah. “Are you doubting the Kingstons in addition to slandering Mr. Gray?”

He had just instructed one of the staff members working for the Kingstons to bring Lucas’s Black Diamond Card for a check. Apart from verifying the authenticity of the card, he had naturally also checked the name of the account and cardholder, which wasn’t something someone could forge casually.

Elijah finally realized that he had a slip of the tongue and said something wrong in a moment of impatience. Shocked by the sudden realization, he hurriedly explained, “No, no, that’s not what I meant! I...”

Smack!

Callum gave his younger brother a hard slap on his face and said with a stern expression, “Hurry up and apologize to Mr. Duncan!”

Elijah touched his numb face and immediately lowered his head to apologize to Russell. “Mr. Duncan, I’m so sorry. It was a slip of the tongue. I really wasn’t doubting you and the Kingstons!”

Russell snorted coldly and said austere, “You should be apologizing to Mr. Gray instead!”

Elijah's face immediately became extremely gloomy.

He apologized to Russell only because Russell worked for the Kingstons and held great power, so he didn't dare to offend him.

But in his opinion, Lucas was just a nobody. Even though Lucas had an extremely prestigious-looking Black Diamond Card, he had a preconceived prejudice against him. Besides, Lucas was about the same age as him and didn't have the support of a powerful family, so he wasn't afraid of Lucas at all and felt no need to apologize to him.

Overwhelmed with fury and resentment, Elijah glared at Lucas, who was keeping a straight face, and couldn't bring himself to apologize.

When Russell saw his actions, his face turned gloomy too.

At this moment, someone interjected, "Actually, I don't think Elijah has done anything wrong. There's no need for him to apologize to Lucas Gray at all."

In shock, everyone turned to look at the person who spoke up for Elijah. It was Tristan Parker!

Although Tristan knew that by saying this, he would be blatantly contradicting Russell and would likely cause Russell to be displeased, he couldn't care less about this now.

Elijah had insulted Lucas and attempted to get him kicked out of the auction hall only because he was trying to stand up for Tristan. But he ended up offending Russell and landed in a difficult spot.

If Tristan continued to standby quietly without helping Elijah out, he was certain that Callum and Elijah would definitely sever all ties with him once they left the

auction hall today! It might even affect the relationship between the Parkers and the Owens! If that happened, his elders would never spare him!

Therefore, he couldn't care less even though he was temporarily offending Russell.

"What do you mean by that?" Russell's face was sullen as he stared at Tristan, waiting for him to give a reasonable explanation for what he just said.

Tristan pursed his lips while thinking about an excuse to give. After a while, he finally said, "Actually, you can't blame Elijah for questioning Lucas Gray's identity and whether he's qualified to enter this place or not. Well, because he's notorious in Orange County!"

Lena stood up and hollered furiously, "Tristan Parker! Shut up!"

Tristan glanced at Lena sneeringly and completely ignored her. He then continued, "Six years ago, Lucas Gray was just a penniless man who just graduated from college! Later on, he resorted to god-knows-what tricks and managed to seduce Cheyenne Carter, who used to be called the most beautiful girl in Orange County. The two of them got involved in a scandal that spread around the entire country, and in the end, he had no choice but to become the live-in son-in-law of the Carters.

"Lucas Gray is just a penniless good-for-nothing who freeloards off of his wife! So, I think it's completely reasonable for Elijah to have suspicions about Lucas Gray's identity and his motives for coming here. There's no need to apologize for that at all!

"Many of the guests here tonight are from Orange County. Mr. Duncan, you can just ask any of them, and you'll know if what I said is true or not."

Many of the guests present were indeed the local tycoons of Orange County, who started discussing among themselves after hearing what Tristan said.

“Yes, he’s not making things up. Back then, that scandal indeed caused a huge uproar in the county, and almost everyone knew about it. But I didn’t remember the name of the Carters’ live-in son-in-law, and I only found out today that it’s this young man!”

“The Carters were probably just a second-rate family in Orange County at the time. I heard that’s precisely the reason he chose to become their live-in son-in-law. Unfortunately, none of the Carters’ descendants are competent. They ended up offending one of the big shots of the Stardust Corporation not long ago and almost went bankrupt because of it!”

“Yeah, but I also heard that they nevertheless disowned and kicked Lucas Gray’s wife and her family out even though they were on the verge of bankruptcy! I wonder what intolerable thing they did to warrant that. Logically speaking, it’s impossible for someone like him to have a Black Diamond Card.”

“Yeah, there’s something very fishy about this matter... I don’t believe it either!”

...

The local tycoons of Orange County started mentioning the things that they had heard about one after another, immediately making many of the other tycoons of other cities gasp in amazement and also begin gossiping among themselves.

It was Russell’s first time hearing about these things, and he couldn’t help but look at Lucas in surprise.

But what surprised him was that despite being the subject of gossip, Lucas still maintained his composure and was rather indifferent. There were no signs of

shame or anger on his face at all, which was to the amazement of Russell, who admired Lucas's ability to keep his cool.

But regardless of what Lucas had done and who he used to be in the past, it all meant nothing to Russell.

All Russell knew was that Lucas was a holder of a Black Diamond Card that truly belonged to him. This was enough.

"Be quiet!" Russell raised his voice, and everyone in the auction hall soon fell silent.

They understood that there was a final verdict for the matter.

Russell looked at Tristan and asked, "What is your name, and which family are you from?"

His expression was much calmer than when he was sullen.

Seeing that Russell wasn't angry due to his words and was instead being so courteous to him, Tristan was overjoyed and hurriedly said, "Hello, Mr. Duncan! My name is Tristan Parker, and my grandfather is Damon Parker!"

Russell nodded and then turned to ask Elijah. "How about you?"

Elijah was just as delighted as he hurriedly answered, "I am Elijah Owen from LA."

Russell nodded and asked the rest, "What about you?"

"Mr. Duncan, I am Eric Hank from Orange County."

“My name is Larry Harold.”

...

Russell asked eight people for their names, all of whom Russell had heard insult Lucas or speak about him derogatorily just now.

After asking them, Russell said to a staff member behind him, “Have you written down their names?”

“Yes, Mr. Duncan. There are a total of eight of them, and I’ve written down all their names!”

Just as everyone was bewildered and confused, Russell suddenly announced, “From now on, these eight people will not be allowed to enter the venues of all the auctions that I’m in charge of!”

Chapter 307: Obtaining Forgiveness

Russell's words were like a stone leading to a thousand ripples, causing the crowd to be flabbergasted.

Everyone got into an uproar and began discussing among themselves.

The eight people whose names Russell had asked for and thought that Russell had been impressed by them just now each had a drastic change of expression, as they couldn't believe what they heard at all!

Soon, a staff member working for the Kingstons walked toward them and asked them to leave hostilely, "Gentlemen, you are no longer welcome at this auction tonight. Please leave immediately!"

After hearing this, the eight of them finally believed that Russell was really blacklisting them and that they were getting chased out immediately!

Tristan was furious and disgruntled. In a moment of pique, he stood out, pointed at Lucas, and bellowed, "Mr. Duncan, why? Shouldn't he be the one getting kicked out?"

But Russell's expression remained unchanged, and he merely glanced at the staff member behind him. "From now on, all the Parkers will be blacklisted and banned from all auctions that I participate in or am in charge of!"

"...!"

Tristan was so furious that he froze right on the spot. He wanted to say something but couldn't bring himself to. *No, I can't say anything else. If I end up provoking Russell Duncan anymore, he might punish me more severely, and I'll be dead meat!*

All the auctions Russell was in charge of basically included all the important large and medium-sized ones organized by the Kingstons. The point of such auctions was not to really buy something but rather about flaunting your assets and family background. They were also opportunities for building and maintaining close relations with other wealthy families.

For example, only top families would receive an invitation to enter an auction like the one held today. Obviously, their statuses were naturally much higher than those of second-rate families. They might even get to meet new people and form connections with other wealthy tycoons to lay the foundation for the development of the businesses of their respective families.

So after receiving the invitation, the Parkers had decided to send Tristan to represent them because they had groomed him well and believed that he could do a good job.

But he had now messed things up in a fit of anger. Not only did he end up on Russell's blacklist, but he even got his entire family implicated and banned from all future auctions held by the Kingstons. If the Parkers learned about this, they definitely wouldn't spare him!

The more Tristan thought about it, the more frightened he was. Deep down, his heart was full of fear and some regret. He could no longer be bothered about his pride and started pleading to Russell miserably, "Mr. Duncan, I know I was wrong to have said that in a moment of anger! Please give me another chance and rescind your orders! Otherwise, my family will definitely kill me!"

Russell looked at him coldly and remained silent.

Seeing this, many people around them sneered and mocked Tristan.

“Wasn’t he very arrogant and mighty when he contradicted Mr. Duncan just now? Why is he so cowardly now?”

“Exactly! Actually, weren’t they the ones who started this? That young man named Lucas Gray was just sitting there quietly, but those youngsters kicked up a fuss and tried to get him kicked out, leading things to come to this.”

“Hah, their plan to bully others clearly backfired. They brought it upon themselves. They clearly deserve it! At first, they weren’t aware of Mr. Lucas Gray’s identity, but they should have stopped after questioning him a few times. Even after the Kingstons’ staff checked the authenticity of the Black Diamond Card and proved that it belonged to Mr. Lucas Gray, they continued harping on the matter and even insulted him. They really deserve it!”

“Yeah, that’s right! Besides, Mr. Duncan has always been a man of his word. Since he’s already issued those orders, how can he possibly rescind them?”

...

Tristan and Elijah paled when they heard the mockery and remarks of the people around them. Their eyes were even full of despair.

Suddenly, Russell said, “Actually, you haven’t offended me, but Mr. Gray. If you can obtain his forgiveness, I will let you off.”

Everyone was surprised because they just said that Russell wouldn’t change his mind, but his actions now proved otherwise.

Lucas raised his brows and looked at Russell in surprise, only to see the faint smile on his face. Lucas thought about it and soon understood Russell’s intentions.

If Russell let the people who had insulted Lucas off the hook, it would be extremely disrespectful to Lucas.

If he insisted on kicking them out, he would be keeping his promise to Lucas and giving him a fair explanation that no one could nitpick.

But the blacklisted and expelled people would target Lucas and settle scores with him because they wouldn't dare to put the blame on Russell!

If not because of Lucas, they wouldn't have been kicked out. That was the logic most people would believe.

But Russell now gave Lucas the chance to deal with these people.

This way, if Lucas chose to let them off, they would naturally be grateful to him for his kindness. Not only would they not form a feud with him, but they might even have some dealings with him.

Of course, if Lucas was really furious and unwilling to spare them, Russell would also blacklist them as Lucas wished. But Lucas would have to bear the ensuing consequences.

Although Lucas didn't know why Russell was being so kind to him, he nevertheless nodded at him.

Logically speaking, Russell indeed gave him a reasonable solution and mediated the matter appropriately. But this request was unacceptable to Tristan and Elijah.

Begging Lucas for forgiveness was worse than having to die!

"Mr. Gray, I'm sorry. I shouldn't have babbled nonsense and slandered you just now. I hope you'll be kind and magnanimous. Please forgive me!"

"Yes, Mr. Gray. It's all my fault for spouting nonsense despite not knowing the truth. I express my deepest apologies! If you can forgive me, the Harolds will become your cordial partner in the future!"

“Me too! The Hanks are willing to form relations with you. I hope you will forgive us for offending you!”

...

All of a sudden, all six other people besides Elijah and Tristan hurried toward Lucas and apologized to him in a bid to seek his understanding.

Chapter 308: I'll Handle It

After a fierce inner conflict, Tristan finally decided to swallow his pride and apologize to Lucas.

“Lucas, I shouldn’t have misunderstood you and spoke rudely to you. I hope you can forgive me for my imprudent mistake!” Tristan said through clenched teeth, feeling as though a sharp dagger was stabbing his heart. He felt miserable and humiliated! I swear I’ll hire some experts and take revenge on this bastard after today. I must make his life a living hell!

Seeing Tristan lower himself and apologize, Elijah thought of the punishment he might face from his family later and had no choice but to apologize to Lucas reluctantly.

He actually had the same thoughts as Tristan. I have no choice but to bow down to Lucas Gray today due to the compelling circumstances. After today, we’ll definitely take revenge!

Seeing that all eight of them had already apologized to him, Lucas didn’t waste his breath on irrelevant things and simply said, “Since you’ve apologized, I’ll let you off.”

Everyone heaved a sigh of relief, feeling as if a giant rock was lifted off their chests, and they hurriedly thanked him, “Thank you, Mr. Gray! Thank you!”

Tristan and Elijah seemed to be overjoyed. But they looked at each other and saw the resentment and disdain they felt toward Lucas in each other's eyes. Hmph, so what if he has a Black Diamond Card? He still has to obediently forgive us out of fear of offending us scions of top families.

But Lucas suddenly raised his hand and pointed at Tristan and Elijah. "I won't forgive these two."

Elijah's and Tristan's expressions immediately stiffened.

After realizing what Lucas meant, Tristan flew into a rage and hollered furiously, "Lucas Gray, what the hell do you mean by that? Are you deliberately picking on us?"

Elijah rolled up his sleeves angrily and snapped at Lucas, his and Tristan's common enemy, "Lucas Gray, we apologized to you only for the sake of Mr. Duncan. Don't be shameless and take things too far!"

"Shut up!" Callum, at the side, yelled and slapped Elijah hard on his face. "Do not be rude to Mr. Gray again! If you dare to speak so brashly again, I'll make sure you scam back home and get grounded!"

Elijah placed a hand on his burning cheek while feeling an urge to argue and defend himself after being slapped twice in front of so many people. But when he saw the fury in his brother's eyes, he didn't dare to say anything else.

After all, Callum was his brother and the successor of his family's empire, who had considerable authority in the family. Elijah dared not disobey him.

After Callum stopped his brother from continuing with his foolish behavior, he walked up to Lucas, lowered his head, and bowed to him in apology. "I'm sorry, Mr. Gray. I failed to discipline my brother and allowed him to offend you. Please

rest assured. When we get home, I will definitely teach him a good lesson so that he'll never make such a mistake again!"

With that, Callum nodded at Russell and the members of other wealthy families, then dragged the sulky Elijah out from the auction hall.

They had already embarrassed themselves greatly tonight, and Lucas had already explicitly said that he wouldn't forgive them. So instead of shamelessly insisting on staying before eventually getting thrown out, they might as well leave on their own. By doing so, they might get to save themselves from some embarrassment.

It was no wonder that the Owens made Callum the next successor. He was indeed smarter than his younger brother.

Seeing that the Owen brothers had left, Tristan thought that there was no point in staying and continuing to let himself be humiliated further. He stared at Lucas sullenly before turning around to leave as well.

After they left, everyone in the hall looked at Lucas in a different light.

He owned a rare and precious Black Diamond Card, managed to earn the respectful treatment of the person the Kingstons had specifically appointed to take charge of the auction, and even kicked two core members of top families out of the auction mercilessly. What exactly is the origin of this young man? they wondered.

But regardless of what they thought, no one in the hall dared to say anything disrespectful to Lucas now after what happened to Tristan.

"Mr. Gray, are you satisfied with the way we handled things?" Russell asked with a smile.

Lucas nodded and smiled at him too. "Thank you, Mr. Duncan."

Russell took a look at the time and scanned his surroundings in the hall. “The auction tonight is about to begin soon. Dear guests, please return to your seats and get ready. I hope you will all have a great time and successfully acquire the items you take a liking to.”

Then he turned around to leave and returned backstage.

Just as Lucas sat down, Jordan appeared silently beside him and reported very softly, “Lucas, I found Miss Keller, but she’s locked up with many women, and there’s no way to rescue her without alerting others. But I have confirmed that Miss Keller was abducted by the Wallaces and taken here by force. They’re going to auction her off as a finale item!”

Lucas’s eyes were instantly brimming with murderous intent.

He had actually mentally prepared himself for the possibility that Grace might be sold as an auction item. But he was absolutely disgusted by the fact that the Wallaces were trafficking living humans and selling them like they were objects.

“Lucas, do you want me to...” Jordan slid his hand across his neck. Having worked for Lucas for so many years, he was naturally familiar with Lucas’s preferences and habits. Besides, the Wallaces’ unscrupulous practice was not only challenging the bottom line of morality, but it was also against the law.

“No, go back. I’ll take care of the rest,” Lucas said indifferently with a wave of his hand.

Jordan sighed regretfully. “Okay then. I’ll wait for you outside Club Splendor.”

Then he soon vanished from the auction hall.

Sitting near Lucas, Lena had been watching them quietly. After Jordan left, she finally turned her head over slightly and seemed to be deep in thought.

Although it was the first time Lena saw Jordan, she could tell from Jordan's agile movements and light footsteps, as well as his subconscious straightening of his back and the intimidating aura that he was trying to restrain but was still hair-raising, that he was definitely not an ordinary person either. She knew so because she had learned psychology and micro-expressions when pursuing her education abroad.

Besides, it was obvious that he was subordinate to Lucas.

Lena felt that Lucas was like a treasure. The closer she got to him, and the more she learned about him, the more she could feel how impressive and terrifying he was. But at the same time, he was just as attractive! Lucas Gray, what kind of a person are you exactly?

At this moment, Elijah was right outside Club Splendor. Feeling extremely frustrated, he kicked a trash can at the entrance with so much force that it flew away.

"Callum, are you sure you can tolerate this and let that punk humiliate us like that?" Elijah barked furiously and got increasingly enraged as he thought about it.

Callum sneered sinisterly, a stark contrast from the image of a noble gentleman he portrayed in the auction hall just now. "Hah, how can I let him off so easily? No matter who he is, I won't let him off for embarrassing us and humiliating our family in public!"

Chapter 309: Bidding For a Beauty

At this moment, tonight's auction officially began in the hidden basement of Club Splendor.

An elegant and beautiful woman clad in an exquisite red dress appeared on the auction stage at the front. She was the emcee of the auction.

She had a svelte figure and gorgeous good looks. There was a slit at the side of her body-hugging dress that accentuated her curves and alluring long legs.

As soon as she made her entrance, she sparked a small commotion as people started swooning, and some playful guests even began whistling at her before she could speak.

The beauty in red bowed to the guests on the left, middle, and right with a charming smile on her face. She then said enthusiastically in a provocative voice, "Hello, everyone. I'm Megan, the emcee of the auction tonight. This evening, we will be presenting to you some extremely rare treasures. I hope that you will be able to acquire the treasures that you like! Next, I will introduce the rules of this auction!"

Immediately afterward, she announced the usual rules of the auction. Although everyone was already clear about them, it was mandatory to go through them because it was part of the process.

Lucas patiently listened to everything she had to say. Then it was finally time for the emcee to announce the official start of the auction.

The emcee unveiled the curtain to reveal the first auction item and introduced it with great enthusiasm “Next up, we’ll be presenting the first auction item for tonight. It’s an antique porcelain bowl that is fine, exquisite, and in pristine condition... The starting bid for this item is 1.2 million dollars! And the minimum bid increment is 15,000 dollars. Bidding begins now!”

But there was a tinge of disappointment in Lucas’s eyes.

He thought that the beautiful women would be up for bid right after the auction began. But to his surprise, they put up a smokescreen at the start.

“1.5 million dollars!”

“1.7 million!”

“2 million!”

...

“2.8 million!”

“Okay, Mr. Wales here has offered 2.8 million dollars. Is anyone going to offer a higher price?”

“2.8 million dollars, going once!”

“2.8 million dollars, going twice!”

“2.8 million dollars, going thrice! Congratulations to Mr. Wales for winning the auction for this antique porcelain bowl! Congratulations!”

This first item was auctioned off very smoothly for more than twice the starting bid.

Next, there were auctions for some local and foreign antiques, paintings, exorbitant gems, and other precious items.

The distinguished guests invited tonight were from the top families of various major cities and had strong financial power. There were also many who would spend large amounts of money lavishly to flaunt their wealth and power.

Thus, many collection items were auctioned off at staggering prices. And as the auction proceeded, the beautiful emcee, Megan, sounded increasingly excited and enchanting.

With a tinge of impatience in his eyes, Lucas leaned against the back of the chair while propping his head up.

“Hey, aren’t you interested in any of those items?” asked Lena beside him, who suddenly inched closer.

She was actually not very interested in the auction items either, but she casually bought a few random ones for fun. But she was curious about Lucas’s disinterest in them, as evidenced by the fact that he didn’t place a single bid.

Lucas merely shook his head and didn’t say anything.

During the intermission, the emcee took a break for a while before announcing again, “Now, we’ll move on to the second half of the auction that all of you have been looking forward to the most! We’ll now have the staff members bring Beauty No. 10 up onto the stage!”

The guests in the auction hall got into a huge commotion and began clamoring while staring at the stage with glistening eyes. Almost all of them were interested and full of anticipation.

Lucas, who had been leaning against the chair languidly, suddenly sat up straight and kept his eyes glued onto the display case being pushed out from behind the

auction stage by two staff members. The display case was nearly two meters tall and covered with a layer of red satin that concealed the contents inside.

Seeing that Lucas was finally interested but only because the word ‘beauty’ was mentioned, Lena couldn’t help pouting and threatened softly, “How dare you be interested in beautiful women. Watch out. I’ll go back and tell on you to Cheyenne!”

Caught between laughter and tears, Lucas said, “It’s not what you think.”

But he soon stopped talking to Lena because Megan was pulling the red satin cloth away from the display case on the stage. As she did so, she said, “Next, we’ll take a look at what Beauty No. 10 looks like!”

Under the red satin was a glass display case, in which there was a young girl who was scantily clad in clothes that covered only her private areas. She seemed to be only in her twenties, and of course, she was gorgeous.

But at this moment, the girl’s beautiful eyes were full of panic and helplessness. The tears that had been brimming in them rolled down her delicate face.

However, her pitiful appearance not only failed to arouse the sympathy of the guests present, but it made them even more excited as their clamors and whistling got louder.

An intense desire to kill flashed in Lucas’s eyes. *How dare they really put up living people for auction like inanimate objects. They really have a death wish!*

At this moment, the emcee began to announce the physical details of Beauty No. 10. “Beauty No. 10 is 19 this year, 1.7 meters tall, and weighs 52 kilograms. Her bust, waist, and hip measurements are 36-24-35 respectively! And she’s still a virgin!

“The starting bid is 300,000 dollars, and the minimum bid increment is 15,000 dollars. Bidding starts now!”

As soon as the emcee finished speaking, the guests below began bidding.

“380,000 dollars!”

“450,000!”

“550,000!”

“620,000!”

...

Soon, the bidding price of that beautiful girl soared to more than a million dollars.

“1.1 million dollars!”

“Okay, Mr. Chad here has offered 1.1 million dollars. Any higher bids?”

“1.1 million dollars, going once!”

“1.1 million dollars, going twice!”

“1.1 million dollars, going thrice!”

“1.5 million dollars!” Just a second before the emcee was about to knock the gavel, Lucas suddenly raised the sign in his hand and called out his first bid of the auction.

Moreover, the fact that he raised the price by a whopping 400,000 dollars in one go showed how determined he was!

All of a sudden, all eyes were on Lucas, and everyone stopped bidding.

The beautiful emcee Megan was the only one who looked excited. She exclaimed loudly, “Mr. Gray has offered 1.5 million dollars! Is anyone going to offer a higher amount?”

Chapter 310: Beauty No. 1

The current bid for Beauty No. 10 had already quintupled from 300,000 to 1.5 million dollars. It was indeed quite an enormous amount.

Many of the people in the auction hall actually just wanted to buy a beautiful woman and use her as a plaything, but 1.5 million dollars was too expensive in their opinion.

Besides, she was only the first beauty put up for auction, and there were many more to come. Everyone felt that it wouldn't make sense to spend so much money on a woman when they haven't seen the others yet.

So almost everyone gave up and stopped bidding.

"1.5 million dollars, going once!

"1.5 million dollars, going twice!

"1.5 million dollars, going thrice! Sold! Congratulations, Mr. Gray. You have successfully bought Beauty No. 10!"

Symbolic applause filled the air in the hall, but many were looking at Lucas with bizarre gazes, as if mocking him for being a wealthy but foolish dimwit.

Lena, beside Lucas, also looked at him in extreme disbelief. "You actually spent 1.5 million dollars on a beauty! Cheyenne will definitely be upset with you when

she finds out! But that's not the point. What are you going to do to her now that you've bought her? Is she going to be your kept mistress?"

Lucas smiled faintly. "So, are you going to tell Cheyenne about this?"

"Uh..." Lena was stumped after hearing Lucas's righteous tone.

Logically speaking, Lena was Cheyenne's best friend, and now that Lucas had spent so much money to buy a woman, she naturally should tell Cheyenne about it.

But if she really told Cheyenne about it, it would definitely spark a conflict and a heated argument between Lucas and Cheyenne. Worse still, it might even affect their family, which was something that Lena didn't want to see. *What should I do? Should I tell Cheyenne?*

I

While she was feeling conflicted, another beauty, Beauty No. 9, was pushed onto the auction stage, once again sparking a commotion among the guests.

The reason being was that Beauty No. 9 was much more beautiful than Beauty No. 10.

It seemed that the beauties to be auctioned were arranged in ascending order in terms of their beauty and figures. Each beauty was prettier than the one auctioned before her.

In that case, there should be eight more beauties to be put on display.

"The starting bid for Beauty No. 9 is 300,000 dollars, and the minimum bid increment is 15,000 dollars. Bidding starts now!" the emcee once again exclaimed. The starting bid was the same as that for Beauty No. 10, but the bidding was even more intense.

"450,000!"

“620,000!”

“700,000!”

...

“1.2 million!”

“1.5 million!”

When the bid price went above a million dollars, Lucas once again bid 1.5 million dollars.

Everyone once again looked at Lucas, this time with even more displeasure in their gazes.

He had just bought one beauty, but he actually continued to bid for the second one too!

He seemed to be depriving others of a chance to bid for the beauties.

Of course, the emcee on the stage seemed extremely excited. Since it was an auction, the rule of highest bidder wins naturally applied. To them, it would definitely be better if there were more guests like Lucas who generously offered high prices!

Only when there was fierce competition would the bids go higher. As the auctioneer, they would then be able to make a greater profit!

Because the price Lucas offered was too high, no one placed any more bids after him, and he similarly bought Beauty No. 9.

At this moment, Lena glared at Lucas with a hostile gaze.

“Lucas, you actually bought a second girl! What are you trying to do? Are you trying to be like some of the rich and famous who like having orgies?” Lena questioned angrily.

Lucas looked at Lena speechlessly. *Do I seem like such a person?*

But the auction was still in progress, so he couldn't explain much to her at this point. He decided to keep mum and ignore Lena, who glowered at him furiously before turning to the side.

Sitting on the other side of Lucas, Bruce looked at him with various emotions in his gaze.

Bruce was well aware that Lucas was a morally upright person who would never touch anything related to the vices. And in fact, he even abhorred them to the extent that he barred Bruce from operating any vice-related businesses.

Therefore, he knew that Lucas definitely didn't spend three million dollars so far on those two women for the sake of doing business with the Kingstons.

Next, as Bruce guessed, Lucas not only bought the first two girls, but he bought the next seven put up for auction as well.

There were only ten beauties for auction in total, and Lucas had already bought nine of them!

This made countless people who failed to win any exasperated.

During the process, there were also some who were enraged and tried to raise the price to snatch a beauty from Lucas.

But he kept offering a much higher price than each bid they placed, which far exceeded their limit.

After some time, they had no choice but to give up despite being reluctant to do so.

There was nothing else they could do. They were just as hopeless!

In terms of family assets, they did not necessarily have less than Lucas. But during an auction, what mattered was liquid assets! No one could beat Lucas in this aspect.

Lucas had a Black Diamond Card that entitled him to withdraw five billion dollars from any bank. Who would dare to compete with him in terms of the amount of cash they had on hand?

At this point, Lena finally discovered that something was amiss. Regardless of how lascivious Lucas was, it didn't quite make sense for him to buy nine girls at once.

Wouldn't he be afraid of ruining his...? Lena blushed at the thought, but she was relieved too.

Amid the bizarre tension that arose due to the indignation of many guests, the auction progressed towards its end.

“Next, let us welcome the final beauty of the night, Beauty No. 1!”

As the emcee exclaimed loudly, the last glass display case, similarly covered with satin, was slowly pushed toward the middle of the auction stage.

As the emcee introduced the details and measurements of Beauty No. 1, the red satin slowly slipped onto the ground, revealing the ravishing beauty who was gorgeous and ethereal like a fairy who had descended to the mortal world!

Lucas suddenly narrowed his eyes with a cold and menacing gaze.

The ‘auction item’ in the last display case was naturally Lucas’s target, Grace!

Unlike during the previous two occasions where Lucas had met Grace, she was not barefaced and dressed plainly this time. Grace, now placed in a glass display case like an object for sale, had obviously been dolled up meticulously.

She had exquisite makeup on her face that, coupled with her stunning features, made her look like a classic beauty who walked straight out of a painting. With a flustered and timid look on her face, she looked just like a princess in distress at this moment, and she immediately aroused the desire of all the men present!

“The starting bid for our final beauty, Beauty No. 1, is 1.5 million dollars! The minimum bid increment is 80,000 dollars. The bidding starts now!”