

Chapter 96 Ostentatious

Obviously, Jaylen was deliberately provoking Isaac! Realizing this, Camila felt a little guilty.

But she didn't know why she felt that way.

All the people Jaylen invited belonged to the highest echelon of society. As guests began to fill up the venue, the art exhibit made for such a grand scene

Generally speaking, only famous painters could hold an art exhibit as lavish as this one.

After all, who would appreciate the art of an unknown artist? Let alone spend money on them.

It didn't take long before the guests noticed that none of the paintings were signed. Someone finally asked, "Jaylen, where did you get these

paintings? There's no signature." Jaylen smirked smugly. "Don't worry. You'll see soon enough."

"You'd better not disappoint us. Although whoever made these paintings

is skilled with the brush, they're worthless if they're not signed."

Jaylen remained unfazed. "Whether the artist becomes famous or not depends on..."

He turned to glance at Isaac meaningfully.

Isaac, on the other hand, didn't even look at him

His eyes were trained on the paintings on the wall.

While he was by no means an art connoisseur, he could still appreciate these works of art.

The paintings were so striking that it almost seemed as though one could jump right into it. When all the guests arrived, Jaylen climbed onstage and smiled at the audience mysteriously. "Today's grand finale includes two paintings. One can be auctioned off, as long as someone's willing to buy it. The second one will become the treasure of the exhibition hall. It won't be for sale."

"Well, don't keep us guessing! Show us already!" someone in the crowd shouted impatiently.

Without further ado, Jaylen pulled down the red veil with flourish.

As the fabric fluttered to the floor slowly, soon the painting behind it was revealed.

"There was a signature on it.

It was the signature of the famous painter, K.

There was a collective gasp in awe when the painting came into view.

It was a portrait of a young lady standing by a window. Her face was partially covered with white organza, and her long skirt terminated just above her ankle. Her belly bulged in a nice round shape. She was pregnant.

While the woman's face was partially covered, it could be seen that she was very beautiful. The motherly love in her eyes shone like the stars in the sky as she stared dotingly at her rounded belly.

The audience fell into deep thought.

Isaac recognized the subject in the painting at a glance.

He turned to look at Camila incredulously.

Yes, it really was Camila in the painting!

He clenched his fists tightly. This was the first time he had seen what Camila looked like pregnant. She was beautiful.

Even with a big belly.

So gentle yet fragile...

The painting captivated Isaac.

His gaze sweeping across the audience, Jaylen cleared his throat to gather their attention. "Although this painting was done by a famous painter, it is the painting's subject that's priceless. If anyone wants it, I'll sell it. The bid starts at 300 million." Indeed, he had commissioned a famous painter to paint the pregnant Camila

When she was imprisoned by Jaylen, she resorted to drawing to kill time. Only then did Jaylen find out that Camila wasn't just a skilled ector} but also a talented artist.

He began to appreciate Camila even more.

And in order to immortalize her pregnant appearance, he decided to have her painted. But he wasn't much of an artist himself, and Camila wasn't confident in making self-portraits.

He considered having her photo taken instead, but mere photography couldn't capture just how beautiful she looked.

In the end, with Camila's consent, he invited the painter K to tackle this project.

Camila wasn't averse to the idea, so she agreed.

Upon hearing the starting bid price, the crowd burst into an uproar. Sure, K was a renowned painter. But none of his works were worth hundreds of millions of dollars. His most expensive piece was only eight million in comparison. But now, Jaylen dared to demand such an exorbitant price. "Jaylen, are you out of your goddamned mind? Who would spend three hundred million dollars on a painting of some pregnant girl?" Jaylen smiled confidently. "You don't know what you're talking about. There are people out there who would pay more for this invaluable painting." As he spoke, his eyes landed on Isaac in the crowd. "How about you, Mr. Johnston? You interested? If you don't like it, I'll hang it on my bedside and look at it before going to bed every night." Camila was horrified. Jaylen was such a pervert! "I'll take it," Isaac declared in a booming voice. "Good for you, Mr. Johnston! But this is still an auction. The painting will go to the highest bidder!" A vicious smile played at the corners of Jaylen's lips. He had suffered a great loss thanks to Isaac. Now, he was determined to take his revenge. "Three hundred and thirty million," someone in the crowd suddenly declared. This bidder was secretly arranged by Jaylen. He was planted to bid against Isaac, forcing the latter to up the price. That way, Jaylen would definitely rip Isaac off! He was a man, and he knew how men worked. It didn't matter whether Isaac had feelings for Camila or not. Isaac would never let someone else keep a painting of his wife. And the painting was also proof that she had cheated on him. After all, Camila's child belonged to another man. This painting was like a painful reminder to Isaac that Camila had gotten pregnant with someone else! Jaylen figured that Isaac would do whatever it took to seize that painting and destroy it. All hell broke loose among the crowd. While it was true that everyone present was rich, they refused to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on a whim. And for what? A simple painting of a pregnant woman? How could such a painting be worth hundreds of millions? They simply couldn't wrap their heads around it. Isaac was famous for never suffering losses in business. But now, he was willing to spend a fortune on this painting, which made everyone do a double take. Isaac saw right through Jaylen's ploy. But he didn't give a damn. It didn't matter how much money he spent. He needed to get that painting at all costs. This painting proved that his child had existed in this world. "Five hundred million," he declared. The crowd gasped. To begin with, nobody thought that this painting was worth three hundred and thirty million, let alone five hundred million. Camila was no exception. She turned her head to look at Isaac in shock and disbelief. "That painting isn't worth that much money!" she hissed. Ignoring her, Isaac pursed his lips and said nothing. Whether it was worth that much or not was subjective. After all, one man's trash is another person's treasure. In the eyes of the crowd, this painting wasn't worth much. But to Isaac, this painting was priceless. And he was willing to spend the money to get it. The corner of Jaylen's eye twitched. Even he was confused by Isaac's boldness. In fact, he had already expected that Isaac would bid on the painting. He even estimated that the winning bid would amount to around four hundred million dollars.

That was why he instructed his bidder to only bid in increments of thirty million, so that Isaac would be lured into bidding higher.

But to Jaylen's surprise, Isaac offered a whopping bid of five hundred million. It was way beyond his expectation.

Was Isaac so ostentatious that he spent a lot of money just to vent his anger?!

Gritting his teeth, he signaled at his man to keep bidding. He would like to see just how much Isaac was willing to pay! "Five hundred and ten million," somebody shouted.

Erring on the side of caution, Jaylen didn't dare to raise the price too much. He was also afraid that he'd fall into his own trap.

Isaac knew what Jaylen was up to, but he still didn't care. "Seven hundred million."

Jaylen's jaw dropped to the ground. Seven hundred million?!

"Are you sure, Mr. Johnston?" he asked in disbelief.

Isaac glanced at him indifferently. "You sell it, and I want to buy it."

After a slight pause, Jaylen said through gritted teeth, "Seven hundred and ten million." He was so agitated that he decided to bid directly!

Jaylen fell silent.

He didn't dare to say anything more. He wasn't sure whether Isaac would continue to bid or not. If Isaac stopped bidding, Jaylen would suffer an incredible loss

Generally speaking, even if Isaac was concerned about his pride, it was impossible for him not to care about his money.

"Deal." Jaylen didn't dare to bid anymore.

Camila felt at a loss. She didn't know what Isaac was doing.

This painting wasn't worth nine hundred million dollars.

But since he insisted on doing things his way, she wouldn't stop him.

However, she couldn't stand the fact that Jaylen was blackmailing Isaac with her picture! Besides, she had a child to raise and a mother to support.

So she made up her mind. She decided to get some money out of Jaylen's pocket.

"Jaylen, this painting is mine, isn't it? Why are you auctioning off something that doesn't belong to you?"