

The Consortium's Heir by Benjamin_Jnr Chapter 41

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Chapter 41

Chapter 41 The days flew past with him lazing about. He was enjoying the features of his apartment a little too much. He had never been so relaxed in his life before.

He had watched movies in his private movie theatre, something he didn't usually have the luxury of doing due to his very busy part time works schedule, drank wine while watching various streams on Groove with classical music playing in the background, and ate dinner in his balcony while overseeing the whole of Dragon Estate. Life was truly relaxing these past few days.

He didn't just laze about however. His grandfather had called him several times and reminded him of his duties. Therefore he took some time to study the documents his grandfather sent him about the Reid consortium.

There were also discussions and rumors about his message to attend the charity gala. Despite sending his message to the main chat and informing them about his decision to attend the charity gala, many people still found it unbelievable.

Darius was a well known peasant and the events and embarrassment he went through at the last gala was still fresh in everyone's mind. It was the main reason why they found his decision to attend the gala unbelievable.

Darius of course paid such rumors and discussions no mind, ignoring them completely. He was only focused on the things he deemed important.

Just like that, several days passed and it was the now the day of the gala.

Darius woke up early as usual. He took a quick shower and had a light breakfast. This time around he wasn't dressed in a bathrobe so the waitress who delivered his breakfast to him had a bit of reprieve.

He checked his phone and saw that the time for the charity gala had been fixed for 7 pm. He looked at the time on the antique clock in his bedroom and saw that it was 9 am, which meant that he had over nine hours left before the gala begun.

He sighed. There were some things he needed to do before he could say that he was ready for the gala.

He had to visit the hair salon. His hair was a mess. He couldn't go to the gala with his hair looking rough. He had decided to show up in style therefore he needed to look very classy.

With those thoughts in mind, Darius headed out of his residence. He dressed casually as usual, but this time his steps had a different vibe to it. Maybe it was because he had accepted his identity as the head of a consortium and no longer planned to suppress it, his steps seemed way confident than usual.

He walked confidently to his private garage after exiting his elevator. He contemplated for a few moments on which cars to choose to drive to salon with, and ended up choosing the Lamborghini. He decided to reserve the Bugatti for the charity gala. He got into his Lamborghini and drove out of the garage, entering the main street. He drove speedily to his destination which was the hair salon.

His Lamborghini was naturally a very eye catching and expensive car, so when such a car pulled into the parking lot of the hair salon, everyone instantly focused their attention on the

car.

They were even more shocked when Darius alighted from the car. The owner of the car didn't seem to be older than 20 years of age! How could such a young person afford such an expensive car?!

Darius ignored the stares he got from the onlookers and walked straight to the receptionist behind the counter. There he purchased the membership card meant for VIPs and booked a session with the best hair stylist they had.

The hair stylist was usually very busy and picky with her customers, but when she heard from the receptionist that the customer had arrived in a car worth millions of dollars, she instantly agreed to have a session with the customer.

After a few minutes, Darius was in a private room with the said hair stylist. This time around it took longer for Darius hair to be done. As someone who was always very busy, apart from the basic hair routines he carried out he didn't do anything else to his hair.

After a few hours, the hair stylist was done. When Darius looked into the mirror to observe the changes to his hair, he was rendered speechless by what he saw.

His hair looked so different from before. It was now completely black and had a very nice sheen to it! Not only that, his hair was styled differently from the way he usually styled it. This style accentuated his handsomeness even more!

Darius thanked the hair stylist sincerely for his actions and even gave her a very generous tip, after which he exited the salon.

When he got back to his apartment, there was a delicate wrapped box on the table in his living room. Curious, he picked up the wrapped box and opened it.

Inside the box was an extremely eye catching diamond wristwatch. Beside the wristwatch was a note. Darius brought out the note from the box and read it.

Accept this gift young master Reid. I'm sure that you will need it very much tonight.' – Bruce.

He smiled warmly after reading the note. Bruce was certainly very thoughtful otherwise why would he send him such a wonderful gift?

Darius however underestimated the value of the wristwatch. It was a very rare Rolex wristwatch that Bruce had purchased for at an auction for over 20 million dollars!

If Darius had known how much the wrist watch cost, then he would have surely berated Bruce for buying him such an expensive gift! He took a shower and dressed up. When he took a look at the mirror he was shocked at what he saw. He could barely recognize himself.

The three piece suit he wore was a very classy one which looked magnificent on him, hugging his muscles just in the right places. The shoes that he wore also were a perfect match for the suit, and to top it all his hair had gone through major changes, making him look way more

handsome than he was before. He went straight to his private garage and got into his Bugatti before driving off.

As he drove, there was a cold smile on his face. He was going to give his classmates the shock of their lives.

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Chapter 42 (Sky Golden Hotel; 7:30 pm]

The Sky Golden Hotel, the best hotel in the district was extremely busy. Several people dressed in black and white uniforms walked about busily attending to various tasks inside the hotel.

The hotel was luxuriously decorated, more so than it usually was. Beautiful chandeliers were hung up on the equally luxurious ceilings. The floors of the hotel were polished to perfection, reflecting the light from the chandeliers.

It wasn't only part time staff that could be seen moving about. Several people dressed in very luxurious attires walked about the hotel lobby, taking occasional sips of wine that were served by the waiters and waitresses in the black and white uniform. One didn't need to be told that the people dressed luxuriously were the students and affluent figures who were invited to the gala. Several people dressed luxuriously also gathered just outside the entrance to the hotel lobby. Most of them were just arriving with their equally expensive cars, garnering the attention of the several people who remained outside.

It was during such moments that a sleek black Ferrari LaFerrari drove and came to a stop just in front of the gathering outside.

Naturally, the appearance of the sleek car created discussion among the people in the gathering

"Wow! Isn't that a Ferrari LaFerrari?!"

"Yes it is!"

"I wonder who that car belongs to."

"It belongs to a wealthy person that's for sure!"

One of the valets quickly ran up to the car and opened the door to the driver's seat. When the person who drove the car alighted from the car, everyone's jaw dropped!

The driver of the car was none other than Janet Fox, the number two beauty in Kingston University!

Janet Fox was indeed worthy of being called the number two beauty of Kingston University. She had incredibly beautiful blonde hair, full lips, sexy long legs, attractive blue eyes and to top it all an hourglass figure! That wasn't even the icing on the cake! Janet Fox was also acknowledged as the top ten richest figures in the whole of Kingston University!

If Janet Fox, the beautiful lady they saw was acknowledged as the number two beauty in Kingston University, how beautiful would the number one be?!

Janet Fox handed the keys to the valet who ran up to her before walking straight to the hotel lobby, ignoring the stares she got from people.

A few seconds after she arrived in her Ferrari LaFerrari, another very expensive looking car drove into the clearing.

"Woah! Isn't that the Zenvo TS1 GT!"

“It truly is!”

“Look at that baby! Is this the power of the rich?!”

This time around when the owner of the car alighted from the super vehicle it was the girls who screamed and made all the noise.

The driver of the car was none other than Daniel Lockwood, one of the richest students in Lockwood University and the son of the Dean of Lockwood University itself!

Daniel Lockwood, born to the powerful Lockwood family and heir to the Lockwood fortune was the dream type for many girls. He was tall, handsome, and most importantly he was rich!

He handed his keys to the valet who ran up to him before making his way to the hotel lobby.

By the time two more influential figures arrived and made their way to the hotel lobby with as much fanfare as the ones who came before them.

By this time, the entirety of the garden outside was now filled with several people who were looking forward to seeing wealthier students and figures arrive.

Just like that, several expensive and luxurious cars appeared and stopped before the red carpet; Ferraris, Bugattis, Aston Martins, Rolls–Royces, Bentleys, and several other luxurious cars.

The owners of the cars were well recognized among the people and were treated like celebrities, as they were mainly among the top ten beauties or richest figures such as Harry Adams, Leah Minnie, and many others among Kingston University, Lockwood University and Evergreen University.

A Bentley Mulliner Bacalar car drove into the gathering. The luxurious vehicle instantly garnered everyone’s attention again, turning their attention to the owner of the vehicle. When the owner of the sleek vehicle alighted from the car, everyone, mostly the girls instantly fixed their attention on the owner.

The owner of the vehicle was none other than Chad Materazzo, one of the richest students in Lockwood University. He was tall, handsome and most importantly rich, therefore gaining the admiration of many people. Another female alighted from the vehicle. She was very beautiful and was dressed in a very beautiful red dress that accentuated her hair color, making her even stand out more. Of course she was Chad’s girlfriend, Anna Carrington, and also the number 1 beauty of Lockwood University.

Before everyone could even take in the beauty of Anna Carrington, another expensive sports car arrived at the gathering. Everybody once again directed their attention to the

Porsche Carrera GT sports car that just arrived. When the owner of the vehicle alighted from the vehicle, their gazes were immediately fixed on him.

The owner was of course David Lesley together with his girlfriend and the fifth ranked beauty Sarah Ginn.

The duo immediately sensed the presence of each other and immediately walked up to each other with their girlfriends following them closely, and started glaring wildly at themselves.

“Chad” David said coldly.

“David.” Chad replied just as coldly.

The atmosphere instantly turned incredibly tense from the stare off between the two males. Everywhere was so silent that one could hear if a pin dropped on the floor! A few seconds passed by and just as David was about to break the silence, the sound of another sports car arriving echoed in the gathering.

Everyone instantly turned to face the sports car in hope of recognizing the owner of the car. However when they looked at the car they found out that they had never seen such a car in Kingston University, Lockwood University or Evergreen University!

The sleek car looked very masculine and elegant and at a glance one could tell that it was clearly the most expensive car that had arrived at the gathering so far! There was also the fact that the license plate was customized with only the name ‘REID’ written on it.

Before anyone could get over their shock, the door to the car opened and a very striking figure alighted from the car.

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Everyone instantly turned to look at the figure who alighted from the stylish sports car. The car itself was so intimidating. They immediately knew that the owner was definitely not an average person! When the figure fully alighted from the car, everyone’s jaw instantly dropped. They couldn’t believe what they were seeing.

The figure was very handsome, with masculine features and a very attractive face to boot. His three piece suit was impeccable and so was the diamond Rolex wristwatch on his wrist.

The figure was none other than Darius Reid. "Woah! So handsome!"

"Is he a student in either of the universities?"

"I don't know. Although he looks very familiar, I'm sure that I haven't seen him somewhere before."

"He must be someone very important that's for sure!" While others were still struggling to remember if they had seen or met Darius before, Sarah was studying the new rich newcomer closely. Although she was taken aback by how attractive he looked, she couldn't shrug the feeling of familiarity she felt when she looked at him.

Darius paid everyone who were staring at him no heed. He had arrived in a classy way so it was expected that he was the centre of attention. He was about to walk towards the hotel lobby when he suddenly heard his name being shouted.

"Darius?!"

Darius stopped and turned to face the direction he heard his name. There he saw Sarah his ex girlfriend with her arms linked with David. There were also two people who stood where David and Sarah stood. The male was equally as handsome as David while the lady beside him was also beautiful.

He maintained the cold expression on his face when he saw Sarah's arm linked with David's. After all these while he had finally gotten over his love for Sarah. He no longer wanted to be in a relationship of any sorts with her. She had left him for someone else and had probably moved on. It was time for him to move on too.

The name that Sarah called out wasn't just audible to Darius. It was audible to everyone present as the atmosphere before Darius' arrival was very tense. For that reason they were able to hear when Sarah called out Darius name.

"Darius?" Someone muttered. For some reason the name sounded very familiar to them, just as the newcomer also looked familiar to them.

There was another brief silence, and as if struck by lightning, everyone's eyes suddenly widened as if they had suddenly received a realization.

"Darius? As in Darius Reid?!"

It was unknown who shouted it, but once the person did, everyone instantly focused their wide eyes on Darius.

"Are you kidding me?!"

“My God! It is truly him!”

The rich newcomer who arrived in a very fancy and expensive looking sports car was none other than the well known peasant in the whole of Kingston University, Darius Reid!

Everyone gazed at Darius in disbelief. It was no wonder that they couldn't recognize him at once. He looked completely different from the image they had of him in their minds.

Both David and Sarah looked at Darius with shock visible on their faces. They couldn't believe their eyes.

The Darius they knew was someone who could barely afford a meal of \$50 and was someone who was unable to bring out \$200 to donate to charity. How on earth could someone like that arrive to this charity gala looking very classy and in a very fancy car at that?!

Sarah was the most shocked out of the two. She was someone Darius had courted for over six months therefore she was very sure that Darius was a poor and miserable person. He was someone who could barely feed himself! How on earth did he become someone who was able to drive a very fancy car to the charity gala?! Not only that, he was also twice as handsome as he was before!

Sarah's gaze turned incredibly cold. She glared at Darius with fire burning in her eyes. She couldn't believe that Darius became incredibly rich overnight. Instead she believed that Darius had been rich all the while he courted her and just pretended to be poor so that he could test her loyalty to him. Sarah didn't regret leaving Darius for David. She was very satisfied with her relationship with David. Rather she was very angry at the fact that Darius hid his wealth all these while and pretended to be poor. She thought that he was just playing her. Little did she know that Darius became rich only recently.

Her hatred for Darius grew exponentially. She now hated Darius with every bone in her body. She just wanted to see him miserable and poor just like he was before. She didn't want Darius to be happy at all. She wanted him to suffer.

David and Chad had broken off their stare off because of the newcomer. If they were being truthful to themselves they were slightly intimidated by the newcomer, but they could not show it, otherwise they would be admitting defeat.

Meanwhile Chad's girlfriend Anna Carrington was smitten instantly by Darius. As a student of Lockwood University she had no idea of Darius' past as a poor and miserable student in Kingston University, so when she saw how cool he looked when he arrived in a fancy sports car and how handsome he was she was instantly smitten by him.

When Anna felt Chad's gaze on her, she instantly removed her attention from Darius. Chad looked at her with a frown before making his way to the hotel lobby with Anna

following closely, but not before glaring at Darius. David and Sarah repeated the same gesture as Chad and his girlfriend, making their way to the

hotel lobby but not before glaring at Darius. Darius, obviously, had no idea what they thought of him and didn't care. He handed the key to a valet who had approached him before making his way to the hotel lobby with a cold smile on his face. He was looking forward to the charity gala's main event. It was there he would display the power of a Reid.

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When Darius entered the hotel lobby, it was still as busy as it was before his arrival. Several luxuriously dressed people were still walking about having light discussions and light laughs from the discussions.

Darius attracted a lot of attention as he walked. Many people already heard of his dramatic and classy arrival from their friends who were outside when he arrived so the stares of surprise they gave when they saw him was natural.

The students of Kingston University however were rendered speechless when heard about his arrival. The Darius Reid they knew was poor and could barely afford good clothing, so their shock when they saw him in the hotel lobby dressed very classy was understandable.

"Is that really Darius Reid?" Someone asked, his tone laced with disbelief.

"I'm sure it's him!" Someone replied.

"But he looks so different."

"It's him. I'm in the same Business Management department with him so there's no way I could be mistaken. I'm one hundred percent sure that it's him." The two people weren't the only ones having such conversations. Other people were also stunned by Darius' new look. It felt very surreal to them. Darius paid the discussions and gossips about him no heed. Instead he walked to the stand where cocktails were kept and took a glass of wine for himself. After over thirty minutes had passed, everyone finally arrived to the gala. Pearl Chamberlain, the third ranked beauty in Kingston University was among the people who came late to the gala; therefore she missed the scene where Darius arrived dramatically.

When everyone had arrived and were now waiting in the hotel lobby for the event to start, a middle aged man dressed exquisitely in a white suit clapped his hands loudly, making the chatters in the lobby to die down. When he saw that he had successfully garnered everyone's attention, he spoke. "I thank you all for making the time despite your busy schedules to come to this charity gala. As the name suggests, this is a charity gala aimed to raise money for the less privileged and unfortunate children all around the world."

"This means that any money raised from this gala is for the purpose of charity. I trust we will be kind enough to raise enough money to give these children a better life. Thank you once

again."

Loud claps erupted from the audience when the man finished his speech. Darius himself clapped louder than the rest. He could wholeheartedly empathize with the unfortunate children as he was one of them when he was growing up.

As much as proving his classmates wrong and showing everyone who looked down on him that he was no longer the same as before was satisfying, he also attended this gala for the

purpose of charity. Putting a smile on a sad child's face was a noble deed and he was very glad to be able to perform that noble deed.

Darius was still sipping wine from the glass cup he took from the cocktail counter when a very beautiful lady walked up to him. Darius looked at the lady who walked up to him. She was very beautiful with long black hair that was styled neatly, a very attractive face and an equally attractive body.

As she walked up to Darius she garnered the attention of many people in the hall. Their attention was naturally fixed on Darius so when they saw a lady walking up to him, and a very beautiful one at that they naturally turned their interest to both of them.

Darius felt that the lady was very familiar and that he had encountered her before, but couldn't place where he had seen her.

When the lady was within talking range of Darius, she smiled heartily before speaking up.

"Hello Darius."

Darius took another sip of wine from the glass he held in his hands before replying. "Excuse me, have we met before?"

The lady had a hurt expression on her face, but it was only for a split second before her expression turned to normal.

“You don’t remember me?” the lady asked in a slightly hurt tone. “No I don’t, sorry.” Darius replied. The lady sighed before speaking up. “It’s me, Helen, the girl you saved at the Armani store, remember?”

Darius nearly dropped the glass of wine on the floor when he heard her response.

This beautiful lady was Helen?!

Of course he remembered Helen. However the image he had of her and what he saw now were completely different!

The Helen he saw was definitely not as beautiful as this!

He looked at Helen again and saw that she was staring at him closely. He coughed lightly before speaking up.

“Ah yes. I remember you now. How have you been?”

Helen smiled wholeheartedly again. She was incredibly glad that her prince charming in Darius remembered her. More so, he even asked her how she was doing!

“I’ve been fine thank you.” Together, the two of them made small talks. When everyone saw them talking and conversing with each other, they were shocked.

Helen friends who had come with her were even more shocked than others. They had seen when Darius arrived in a very fancy sports car, so they knew that he was not someone on their level. How then could Helen, the poorest of the lot converse freely with him? Heck they even looked like they were long term friends!

Darius finally ended the conversation with Helen and was once again staying on his own. He took another sip of wine from his glass cup when he heard the man’s announcement.

“Ladies and gentlemen, it is time for the main event of the charity gala, the auction!” the man announced.

The auction was the main event and highlight of every charity gala. During the auction several items like paintings; sculptures and so on would be displayed for the audience to bid on. The highest bidder would then win the item while all the money generated would go to charity.

The man clapped his hand lightly and three men dressed in black and white uniform appeared with an item that was covered with a cloth.

The man signaled the uniformed men to remove the cloth from the item; and when they did so everyone, including Darius sucked in a cold breath.

The item was an abstract painting of nature which was incredibly beautiful! The complexity of the painting gave the artwork so much beauty that they were instantly smitten.

“This is a painting by 11 year old Chekrav Russels. She titled it “The beauty of Nature.’ As you can see, it is an incredible stunning piece. It will be a great addition to your collections.” The man in charge of the auction explained.

Everyone clapped lightly when they heard the man’s information about the artwork. They all looked at the artwork with fire in their gazes. They were determined to get it.

“This artwork is valued at \$30,000 as its starting bid, with increments of no less than \$1,000. Without further ado, we shall proceed with the auctioning of the artwork.”

As soon as the man commenced the auctioning, the bidding war started. “\$31,000!” “\$32,000!” “\$35,000!” Darius smiled when he heard their bidding prices. Didn’t they always look down on him because he was unable to donate \$200 at the last charity gala? This time around it won’t be the

case.

Two minutes passed and by now the bid had risen to \$50,000.

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“\$50,000 going once! Twice! ...” Just as the man was about to announce the third and final confirmation, a loud voice abruptly interrupted him.

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“\$100,000.”

There was a brief silence when everyone heard his voice. They couldn’t believe that someone was bold enough to raise the bid by twice the amount of the previous bid.

Everyone instantly turned to look at the person who raised the bid that high. To their utmost shock it was none other than Darius!

Darius stood still with his left hand in his pocket and a glass of wine in his right hand. His posture and nonchalant stare made him look so handsome and attractive that a few girls had red tints on their cheeks.

Pearl, Janet, David, Sarah, Helen, Chad, Anna and other several wealthy figures looked at Darius with different expression written on their faces.

Pearl and Janet looked closely at Darius. They both accepted that Darius was indeed very attractive, but that wasn't the reason they looked at him. They felt his face to be very familiar.

Janet Fox, the second ranked beauty in Kingston University had no idea, but she had indeed met Darius before. It was when Darius had recently gotten his wealth and purchased the gold membership card to eat in this same hotel the charity gala was hosted.

She had gone to the hotel with two of her friends who were also beautiful, although they were not as beautiful as her. The main reason why she couldn't remember Darius was because he looked so different and twice as handsome as before.

Pearl also thought the same thing as Janet. She had clearly seen Darius before, but she couldn't recall where. Darius appearance had changed too drastically to be easily linked to how he looked before.

Sarah had disdain written on her face. She believed that Darius just wanted to spite her and show her how much richer he was which was the reason he raised the bid by such a ridiculous amount.

David also had a similar thought to Sarah. He hated Darius with all his heart therefore anything that Darius did seemed like an eyesore to him. It was incredibly infuriating to him.

However contrary to their thoughts, Darius didn't raise the bid of the item to spite them or throw his weight about. He just sincerely loved the painting and felt that \$50,000 was too little of a price for the painting. Besides, the amount he used to buy the painting would be given to charity; therefore the more he spent the better. "\$100,000 going once! Twice! And sold!" "The incredible painting 'The beauty of Nature' has been sold to Mr. Darius Reid for a sum of \$ 100,000! Thank you very much Mr. Reid!" The man announced. Everyone instantly burst into loud gossips when they heard who the painting went to. "Darius Reid?!"

"How is this possible?!"

"He was unable to donate \$200 at the last charity gala, so how on earth is he able to afford such a huge amount of money?!"

Their shock was understandable. Not everyone was outside when Darius arrived in a very fancy sports car, so they still had the belief that he wasn't a rich person. However this single feat of acquiring the painting for a \$100,000 had proved them wrong and slapped them in the face! Darius smiled but said nothing. He only raised his glass to the announcer as a sign of acknowledgement.

The next item on display was a sculpture of the Greek goddess Aphrodite. It was carved by a fourteen year old teenager and its starting bid was \$100,000, a far cry from the starting bid of the painting. This time around Darius refrained from bidding. There were still different items to be auctioned and he didn't want to come off as proud and arrogant. He decided that he would bid only on items that he liked, and he would bid a substantial amount of money to acquire the items.

The sculpture was finally auctioned off to Pearl Chamberlain for a high sum of \$210,000. She had gotten into a bidding war with a lady for Evergreen University, but finally came out on top. When the announcer announced her as the winner of the bid there was a huge smile on her face. She was a huge fan of Greek myth and Aphrodite was her favorite Greek god, therefore she instantly fell in love with the sculpture.

The next two items were also items that Darius wasn't interested in, and they sold for \$130,000 and \$190,000 respectively. The fifth item however was something that Darius could not overlook. It wasn't just him, but other people at the gala too.

Darius had fallen in love with wine over the few days he stayed at home. During that period, he had researched intensively on different wines. Therefore you could imagine his shock when he saw a 150 year old wine on display!

The wines that he had in his wine cellar were barely 2 to 3 year old, so he couldn't imagine how good a 150 year old wine would taste! He knew he had to get it at all costs. Darius wasn't the only one with such thoughts. Several people also had similar thoughts. Even those who hadn't bid before were ready to go all out on this one.

Pearl also wanted to bid for the wine. She knew that her father was a huge fan of wine and loved the older wine. Her father had worked incredibly hard for the family to raise them to their current status. Her father's birthday was in a few weeks and without a doubt this wine would be the best birthday gift for father. She made up her mind to get the wine no matter the price.

"As you can see, this is one of the oldest wines in the world at 150 years old. I can assure you that this is surely a delicacy. The starting bid for this wine is \$300,000 with increments of no less than \$10,000."

As soon as the man announced the commencement of the auctioning the whole hall erupted and an intense bidding war started.

"\$310,000!"

“\$350,000!” “\$400,000!” The people who were not wealthy quickly shied away from the bidding war. They accepted that only the wealthy ones would spend so much for a bottle of wine. Even with their withdrawal, the bidding war didn’t end. Instead, the price of the wine kept rising. After a few minutes, just when everyone thought the wine’s price couldn’t be raised any further, a loud voice proved them wrong. (1 million dollars!”