

The Legendary Man Chapter 431 -

Chapter 431 The Auction

The night passed by in the blink of an eye.

At eight o'clock the next night, Logan knocked on the door to Jonathan's room punctually.

"Mr. Goldstein, it's time. We should get going!" Logan's voice sounded outside the door.

"Let's go." Jonathan opened the door and walked out of the hotel with Logan.

At the hotel entrance, a black car had been waiting for quite some time.

"Commander!"

The moment Jonathan came downstairs, the soldier waiting by the car immediately straightened his back and wanted to salute Jonathan subconsciously.

Although he was only a driver at that moment and did not wear a military uniform, the reflexes of a soldier engraved in his bones still made his fingers tremble.

"Don't call me 'Commander' here. There's no commander around—only Mr. Goldstein is here,"

Jonathan reminded in a low voice. Upon hearing his words, the soldier immediately snapped back to his senses and opened the car door for Jonathan. "Please, Mr. Goldstein!"

"Okay." Jonathan nodded, then got into the car.

Half an hour later, the car came to a stop in front of an extravagantly designed hotel, and at the entrance of the hotel, there were already countless guards in black suits standing there.

One could tell at a glance that there were at least a hundred of them.

Each of them was armed and wore an earpiece in their ears. It looked just like a scene straight out of a major motion picture.

Some of them even had a bulge in their waists, seemingly carrying guns on them.

Nevertheless, this was understandable because every guest who attended the auction that day was a prominent and distinguished figure in Durbaine. There were even bigshots, who had flown a long distance from abroad, to attend this event.

Every one of them had a net worth of at least a hundred million, and that figure was the smallest number among the elites.

If anything were to happen to any of those attendees, the organizer of the auction would have to bear unimaginable consequences.

"Mr. Goldstein, this way!" Logan led the way. His face itself was the best pass. With Logan around, no one had the guts to check their invitation cards.

This was a very high-class private auction. No one could enter without an invitation, and no one was allowed to take pictures or record a video.

To ensure that no information about the auction would be leaked, one had to hand in one's phone and camera before entering the venue.

"There are many people here," Jonathan remarked casually.

As he walked inside, he encountered about a hundred people.

All of them were potbellied and had a group of bodyguards following after them.

Occasionally, Jonathan would catch sight of a few familiar celebrities.

Needless to say, there would be superstars at an event like this. Even though they might not be able to afford to buy anything at the auction, at least they could get to know the bigwigs here. Those female celebrities, especially, who dreamed of getting married into a wealthy family, could even find themselves a rich husband at the auction.

"Yes. I heard that there are about five to six hundred attendees," Logan responded in a soft voice.

Just as he said that, a sensual voice with a hint of suggestiveness sounded in the hall. "Commander Griffin, you're here!"

A sultry young lady clad in a green figure-hugging dress sauntered toward the two men smilingly, her curvy figure highlighted by her dress.

She was ample and slim in all the right places. Her slender waist, especially, could arouse the infinite desire of a man to possess and conquer her as his own from behind with his hands on that inviting waist.

"Just call me 'Mr. Griffin.' You don't need to call me 'Commander Griffin' here today," Logan reminded in a whisper. With Jonathan beside him, Logan's identity as the commander-in-chief of the garrison in Durbaine was nothing compared to Jonathan's.

Since Jonathan wished to keep a low profile, Logan naturally had to follow his order.

"Okay, Mr. Griffin. You prefer to do things in a low-profile manner." The sultry young lady chuckled.

Then her eyes drifted toward Jonathan. "Mr. Griffin, this is..."

"He's Mr. Goldstein, my friend from the mainland." Logan didn't introduce much of Jonathan. He turned toward Jonathan and said, "Mr. Goldstein, this is Ms. Haberly. Her family, the Haberly family, is the organizer of this auction."

"Oh."

Jonathan simply nodded.

Hearing Logan's words, the sultry young lady became even more enthusiastic. "Mr. Goldstein, I didn't expect you to be able to make friends with Commander Griffin at such a young age. Rumor has it that Commander Griffin is very picky with his friends. Even now, I haven't even become a friend of Commander Griffin."

Having said that, she deliberately let out a sigh.

However, her attitude wouldn't make people feel annoyed. Instead, some might even find it adorable.

"Commander Griffin, I've prepared a private room for you. It's Room 9 at the most secluded corner.

What do you think?" the sultry young lady continued, looking straight at Logan with an amorous glance.

If he were an ordinary man, he would have succumbed to the temptation. However, Logan didn't spare her a glance as he turned toward Jonathan and inquired, "Mr. Goldstein, what do you think?"

"No problem."

The sultry young lady flashed a smile. "Let's go, then? I'll lead the way."

With that, she walked ahead of them, swaying her hips. As she ambled forward, she said, "Commander Griffin, both of you are too humble. With your identity and status, no one can stop you from getting Room 0, the best VIP room."

"Mr. Goldstein doesn't like attracting much attention," Logan said. The sultry young lady instantly nodded in reply.

After a few minutes, the three of them reached Room 9 located at the most remote corner of the venue.

Although its location was secluded, it was much better than the ones in the main hall on the first floor. Besides, the decoration inside Room 9 was much more luxurious. The few bottles of red wine placed on the table cost at least one million.

“Commander Griffin, Mr. Goldstein, are you both satisfied with this private room?” The sultry young lady didn’t leave. Instead, she sat down nonchalantly and even opened a bottle of red wine for them. “If not, I can help both of you to change the room at any time.”

“There’s no need for that. It looks good here.” Jonathan was not particularly hard to please, as he had come here mainly because of the dragon-patterned jade pendant.

“That’s great.” After the sultry young lady poured them a glass of wine with a smile, she raised her glass. “Commander Griffin, Mr. Goldstein, let me give you a toast! It’s a great honor for my family to have both of you here today. Tonight, I won’t attend to other guests as I will stay here to serve you, our two distinguished guests, in Room 9!”

As soon as she said that, she downed the glass of wine.

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Chapter 432 One Hundred Million

It was undeniable that the sultry young lady was impeccable in terms of her looks, speech, and way of handling matters.

She was the eldest daughter of the Haberly family. The last sentence she had spoken a moment ago sounded inviting to any man’s ear.

On top of that, she was hot and attractive.

Jonathan took a sip of the wine and rejected her in a casual tone, “No, thanks. You can attend to your matter. I’ll be fine here.”

I’m here in Durbaine for the jade pendant, not to meet the heiress of the Haberly family. Even though she’s hot, it has nothing to do with me. I, Jonathan Goldstein, am not a man who forgets how to walk upon seeing a pretty lady. And I certainly would not want to do the deed with whichever pretty lady I meet.

“That won’t do.” The sultry young lady beamed. “What if you and Commander Griffin have some needs that need to be fulfilled?”

Her words were ambiguous. One could misunderstand what she was implying.

However, Jonathan acted as though he didn’t catch on to what she was secretly suggesting. He merely waved his hand in dismissal and said, “I’ll let the server know if we need you.”

The sultry young lady was about to say something when Logan cut her off, “Do what Mr. Goldstein said!”

“Sure. I’ll take my leave, then. If both of you need anything, you can ask for me.” There was no trace of embarrassment on her face as she left. She even winked at Logan before she went out of the room, but the moment she stepped out, the look in her eyes changed drastically.

She felt dejected and somewhat aggrieved.

As the eldest daughter of the Haberly family, she had never offered herself to other men.

There are countless men pursuing me, and yet, I was chased out of the room by Mr. Goldstein.

If it wasn’t for the happening just now, she wouldn’t have believed that she, Sandra Haberly, would get kicked out of a room.

“Ms. Haberly!” Just as her gaze turned cold, a server came over to her and said in a hushed tone, “Ms. Haberly, your brother is here.”

“Ask him to behave well and don’t make any trouble. If he does, I’ll make him a cripple!” When Sandra heard the server mentioning her younger brother, her face became frosty.

My brother is absolutely useless! Other than causing trouble, the only thing he’s good at is being a playboy! If it weren’t for the fact that we are related by blood, I’d have kicked this prodigal out of the family long ago. The Haberly family doesn’t need a loser.

“Yes, Ms. Haberly,” the server replied. He was ready to leave, but when he was about to turn around, Sandra stopped him. “Wait! Tonight, you’ll stand guard at the door to Room 9, and you’re not allowed to go anywhere else. Also, call over a few good-looking waitresses as well. No matter what the guests in Room 9 ask for, you and the waitresses have to cater to their needs. If they’re dissatisfied, you’ll be fired by the Haberly family. Do you hear me?”

Sandra’s tone turned frighteningly cold when she uttered the last few words.

“Y-Yes, Ms. Haberly.” After getting yelled at by Sandra, the server wheeled around and left.

After the server was gone, the cold look on Sandra’s face subsided as she put on a smile and headed toward Room 0.

Room 0 had a guest who had a status second only to Logan’s.

Half an hour later, most of the guests had arrived at the venue, and the auction would soon begin.

In the hall, countless people began to take their seats. Except for some people with higher status who could stay in the private rooms, the rest could only be in the hall. But even if they were arranged to sit in the hall, the net worth of each of the guests there was at least one hundred million.

A net worth of one hundred million was just the minimum requirement to participate in this auction.

Sitting on the couch, Jonathan lit a cigarette and watched the screen in Room 9.

On the screen, an attractive auctioneer, who was scantily clad, could be seen walking onto the stage with a microphone in her hand. Under the dazzling lights, her voluptuous figure was even more apparent, and her leopard print swing dress caused a stir among the crowd.

“Welcome, everyone. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to attend the auction organized by the Haberly family in Durbaine. I’m your host, Wendy! I heard that there are plenty of guests who came from abroad for the auction tonight. Our boss has told me that I must not disappoint anyone tonight! Otherwise, I’ll be put up for auction.”

With just a few sentences, she instantly created a lively atmosphere in the hall. She continued, “For all the items sold tonight, we will donate one percent of the money to children in poverty-stricken mountainous areas. Without further ado, let us enjoy the first item for tonight. It’s The King’s Portrait by Drake Walde! The opening bid for this item is fifty million, and the minimum bid increment must not be less than ten million!”

The first item for the auction was The King’s Portrait, which was a famous painting by a renowned ancient painter, Drake Walde. It was said that the price of this painting on the black market was about one hundred million. Although people had named their prices to buy the painting, no one had gotten it yet, which meant that being loaded did not guarantee that one could get to own the painting.

As expected, once the bidding price was announced, someone shouted, “Sixty million!”

“Seventy million!”

Within a few seconds, the price of The King’s Portrait had soared to seventy million, and it was just the beginning of the competitive bidding, for the ones who had placed a bid just now were the people sitting

in the hall, not the ones in the private rooms.
It was obvious that their purpose that night was not to buy paintings.

In other words, the paintings were not worthy enough for them to place a bid.
Even if it was a real painting of the famous ancient painter, Drake, it failed to attract their attention.
“One hundred million!” After someone placed a bid of seventy million, another person bid one hundred million in a heartbeat.

Immediately afterward, an individual shouted, “One hundred and thirty million!”
“One hundred and fifty million!”

“Two hundred million!”
In less than ten minutes, the bid for The King’s Portrait increased to two hundred million, and when that bid was placed, the entire hall fell silent.

Although the painting was indeed popular, two hundred million was a cost that almost reached the maximum price for this painting.
One would suffer a loss if one increased the bid again.
“This gentleman’s bid two hundred million. Is there a higher bid than two hundred million?” Wendy held the microphone and looked around at the guests in the hall.

Obviously, the thought of having the first item sold at two hundred million ignited her enthusiasm.

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Chapter 433 Jade Pendant

“Two hundred million going once!
“Two hundred million going twice!
“Two hundred million going trice!

“Sold!”

When that word was uttered, the auctioneer raised his gavel and slammed it to the table. This signified that the guest in Room 9 now owned The King’s Portrait, having offered two hundred million for it. Logan’s eyes widened when he saw the figures flashing brightly on the LCD screen. The King’s Portrait was valued at a whopping two hundred million!

Shocked, he turned around and asked, “Mr. Goldstein, is this painting really worth that much?”
Although he was the commander-in-chief of the Durbaine Special Forces, his yearly salary was only in the millions.
After tax deductions, he was only left with a few hundred thousand.

He used two hundred million! All of that just to buy a painting? Wouldn’t it be better if he dropped all this cash on raising a few hundred more troops?
“Two hundred million is nothing, really,” said Jonathan coolly. “Drake has a similar painting that fetched five hundred million on the black market abroad. There’s a price for this kind of thing, but it’s not necessarily something money can buy even if you have that much lying around.”
“Surely, this is ridiculous!” Logan was flabbergasted. He scratched his head, unable to imagine how a silly painting could be worth hundreds of millions. With this amount, he could’ve easily bought a brand new helicopter.

“That can’t be helped. There are too many rich people around,” Jonathan said. “Also, the painting isn’t the important thing here. Haven’t you heard?”
Jonathan cleared his throat. With a flourish, he continued, “The best way to launder money is by purchasing antiques and dealing in art! But it’s too complicated to explain. I can’t possibly tell you everything in such a short period of time.”
Jonathan could sense that Logan wanted to continue asking questions, so he stopped the latter immediately by saying those words. He was barely interested in paintings and antiques, nor was he interested in explaining the finer details of money laundering. Even if he explained anything, Logan would most likely not understand.

“How nice it is to have money!” said Logan, breaking the silence. After hearing what Logan said, Jonathan burst out laughing. “Have you fallen victim to capitalistic thinking? Speaking of which, I noticed that Ms. Haberly seemed to be quite interested in you. How about you consider marrying into the family?”
“Forget it!” Logan immediately shook his head. “I want nothing to do with them. Besides, why would she be interested in someone like me? It’s obvious she’s interested in my station as the commander-in-chief of the Special Forces. Aren’t they just going to use my rank as an excuse to expand their territory? I’m not dumb enough to fall for their schemes!”

Logan paused before continuing, “If you got rid of me, their family would kick me out without a second thought.”

“You may not look the part, but I guess you have brains after all!” Jonathan couldn’t help but laugh when he heard Logan’s outburst. “Why don’t we test out that theory? I’ll pretend to fire you, and we’ll see if they actually kick you out of the very seat you’re occupying!”
“Please don’t, Mr. Goldstein. I don’t think we should tempt fate.” Logan broke out in a cold sweat at Jonathan’s suggestion.

“Just kidding. Let’s watch the auction!”

Jonathan waved his hand and decided to stop joking with Logan.
In the blink of an eye, the action was already in full swing. Given how intense the bidding of The King’s Portrait went, one could say that the auction was going to be even more exciting.

The starting price for each lot was not lower than a hundred million.
There was also a blue and white porcelain piece priced at more than five hundred million. This came as a shock to Logan, who could not fathom how a mere vase could be more expensive than a gunship.
“These rich people really know how to throw money around!”

Halfway through the auction, Logan was seething.
Having fought enemies on the battlefield for half his life, he did not even know what the true value of ten million was. Yet somehow, there were rich people here spending up to five hundred million on a silly porcelain artifact.
What was the point of this?

Logan huffed and lit his cigarette angrily. Just then, a tray covered in red cloth made its way to the stage.
When the tray was handed to the auctioneer, it seemed obvious that she was trembling.
“Behold, our penultimate lot for tonight! It’s a dragon-patterned jade pendant!”

The moment this was announced, the red cloth was lifted.
Under the silver tray, a crystal clear, dazzling red jade pendant suddenly appeared in front of

everyone's eyes.

The jade pendant was a deep red as if it had been stained by blood.

On the body of the jade pendant was a lifelike carving of a giant dragon hovering above the clouds.

Jonathan's eyes lit up when he saw the dragon pattern jade pendant.

His moment had come.

He attended this auction because he had been eyeing this pendant.

"I think you must all be wondering why the pendant is the penultimate lot for the auction tonight. To be honest, I'm just as clueless as you are. All I was told is that its origins are shrouded in mystery, and it is deeply rooted in myths and legends. However, what secrets it holds, nobody is certain.

"I only know that the starting price of this jade pendant is a hundred million. Every consecutive bid cannot be less than the starting amount."

When the auctioneer said this, the audience became restless. Some people could also be heard yelling in disbelief.

What on earth is this?

How could a measly pendant be worth this much? On top of that, each bid has to be at least a hundred million? Why?

Even The King's Portrait, painted by the famed Drake Walde, had a starting price of a hundred million.

But this obscure pendant that is not dated and has an unknown purpose deserves to have the same starting price? This seems outrageous.

"Even if this jade pendant looks good, surely it's not worth a hundred million?"

"Do they take us all for fools? And they want us to increase its value by a hundred million with each bid? I fear this pendant isn't even worth ten million!"

"What a silly lot! Whoever buys this must be really dumb."

"Forget paying even a million for this. I wouldn't even want this as a gift!"

The audience was in an uproar. People started booing a bid to force the auctioneer to remove the lot and stop wasting everyone's time.

After all, everyone who had come to participate in this auction had money to spend. Time is money too. However, just as things started to settle down, a loud, hoarse voice suddenly pierced through the silence from Room 0.

"I'll give you a hundred million!"

What?

Is someone really insane enough to spend a hundred million on an unknown pendant?

When the bid emerged from Room 0, the crowd went wild.

Even Jonathan, who was sitting in Room 9, was shocked by this occurrence.