Chapter 156

At that moment, Wyatt Johnson's facial expression changed. He took a few steps forward and said coldly, "I still think that this painting is fake. At most, it's just a replica which resembles the original painting tremendously. Miss Naiswell, isn't your grandpa an expert master in the field of appraising? May we have the honor to ask for help from him, to take a look at it?"

Hearing that, Rosalie Naiswell trembled. She had a much deeper admiration toward Wyatt now. 'That's true. At a time like this, even he could not confirm the authenticity of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak". Maybe the only way is to ask for help from my own grandpa, so that we can identify its authenticity. Besides, Wyatt is able to act so calm under such a circumstance. It's enough to prove that he's indeed an exceptional man!'

At that moment, Rosalie took a deep breath,

stepped forward and said, "If that's the case, I'll ask my grandpa to take a look at this painting and to identify its authenticity!"

Having said that, she took out her phone and made a video call directly.

Seeing that, everybody was stunned. They were filled with deep astonishment.

Rosalie's grandfather was called Shane Naiswell. He was an expert master in the field of antiques. He had aged much now, so he never undertook any task in person. But he enjoyed quite a high reputation in the field. It was rumored that the price of an item would be ten times more expensive with his appraisal report.

If a person like that was willing to step forward, then the authenticity of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" would certainly be revealed.

Soon, someone picked up the video call. An old man in a suit appeared on the phone screen. At that moment, both his moustache and his hair looked

white because of his old age, but he still appeared quite magnificent and solemn.

'Oh god!'

'It's Shane Naiswell indeed!'

At that moment, a lot of people screamed in shock since they were able to meet the person who usually only appeared on TV programs of appraising treasures. It never occurred to them that they could meet him in such a way at an occasion like that.

Feeling the slight change in the emotions in the others, Rosalie felt slightly smug. She then glanced at Harvey York subconsciously. But he seemed uninterested. Soon, her facial expression worsened. When she thought of the fact that he wanted her to address him as her father, she was so angry that she gritted her teeth.

In that instant, she did not talk nonsense and held the phone before the painting and said, "Grandpa, I saw a painting by Albert Bierstadt today. I would like you to see whether it's authentic or not!" At first, Shane was slightly upset. But when he heard of the name of Albert Bierstadt, he trembled slightly. He could not help it since there were not that many paintings which were produced by Albert Bierstadt. But even so, Albert Bierstadt enjoyed quite a prestigious status in the field of arts. No one dared to look down on that fact.

In that instant, Shane seemed quite stunned at the other end of the phone. After a short while, he broke into laughter all of a sudden. He said, "Rose, what do you mean by this? You know very well that the original painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" had been divided into two different paintings. How could you ask me to appraise it? Do you deliberately want to infuriate me?"

A sigh was heard.

A lot of people then heaved a sigh of relief, feeling that they were quite relieved now.

At that moment, no one hoped that "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" was authentic, because that would only show that they were not insightful.

Besides, the most important thing was the live-in son-in-law sounded quite reasonable and logical just now. He seemed quite convincing. But in the end, it turned out that what he said was nothing but an absolute joke. The fact regarding the location of the authentic painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" had long been universally acknowledged. How could a live-in son-law try to act smug here, making irresponsible remarks in analyzing the authenticity of the painting?

Master Naiswell claimed that the painting was a replica, so it was nothing but fake.

"What a worthless piece of trash! Did you hear that?" Wyatt was the first one to step forward at that moment. He said to Harvey, "Hurry up and kneel down before Miss Naiswell and apologize to her!"

"Wyatt, don't get angry. Harvey was just being insensitive and oblivious. Don't mind him." Mandy

Zimmer said immediately. If Harvey kneeled down at that moment, it would certainly be over for him, and he would become a laughing stock for the entire Niumhi.

At that moment, Harvey stepped forward all of a sudden. He then snatched away the phone from Rosalie's hand.

"Shane Naiswell, you're also an expert master in the appraising field. How could you say such irresponsible remarks? In appraising a treasure, the least that we should do is to identify its authenticity. We cannot just confirm the authenticity of a treasure just because of some classic tales or unofficial histories. Now, you'd better look at it carefully. Don't ruin your reputation and honor here, which you have gained in your entire lifetime!" Harvey put the phone near the painting and said coldly.

Before Shane could say anything, Wyatt became infuriated. He glared at Harvey coldly and said, "What a worthless piece of trash! How could you talk

like that with Senior Naiswell? He's a much respected and influential person in the field of appraising treasures. He claimed that this thing is fake, then it's definitely a fake painting. You're just an idiot without any knowledge or capabilities! How could you talk nonsense here?"

"Yes, that's right! We were out of our minds just now. How could we even listen to your nonsense here? You're just a live-in son-in-law. If you're really that capable, why would you become a live-in son-in-law? You just know how to boast about yourself!" Jake Surrey reiterated what was said. For them, it would be much better if Harvey was dead.

Besides, Harvey became angry and snatched Rosalie's phone away, because his story was being exposed as nothing but a lie. That was indeed imprudent of him.

Chapter 157

"Live-in son-in-law! Let go of Miss Naiswell's phone this instant!"

"How could you argue with Master Naiswell given your capability? Are you insane?"

"We were stupid just now. How could we believe you?"

At that moment, everyone present condemned Harvey York, scolding him ceaselessly.

But in that instant, Shane Naiswell drew in a cold breath all of a sudden at the other end of the video call. He then said in confusion, "Is it the luminous technique? That was Albert Bierstadt's special painting skill. How could there be such a technique on a fake painting? During all these years after so many eras, there is indeed no one who's able to make such a replica in such an exceptional manner. It's impossible. How could it be possible..."

At that point in time, Shane was filled with deep disbelief.

"Sir, after hearing what you said just now, do you think that this painting is authentic? Then could you explain why there are two remaining paintings which are currently displayed in the museums? What's that about? I went and looked at them in person before. But the painting you have here is not fake too. It's just too strange..."

'What? The two remaining paintings in the two large museums are authentic, but the painting here right before us is not fake too. What's going on?'

Having said that, everyone looked at the others helplessly. They stared at Harvey and the phone consecutively. They were indeed filled with disbelief.

Standing beside them, Wyatt Johnson frowned slightly. After a short while, he glared at Harvey and roared, "Harvey, how could you talk like that with Senior Naiswell? You're absolutely impolite! Hurry

up and return the phone to Miss Naiswell!"

At a moment like that, Wyatt felt that it was indeed meaningless to confirm the authenticity of the painting. Since Shane claimed that the painting was an imitation, it could not be real even if it was indeed an authentic painting.

For Wyatt, he was reluctant to give Harvey any chance to prove himself, even if it was only an extremely small chance.

"You shut up!" Suddenly, Rosalie Naiswell glared at Wyatt. She was addicted to appraising treasures the most. At that moment, she had understood the underlying meaning. There was some hidden meaning in what her grandfather said. She wanted to know about the truth too.

"Grandpa, may I know if you have discerned or thought of something?" Rosalie said respectfully.

Shane seemed to be deep in thought at the other end of the phone. "I indeed thought of a possibility, but the possibility is too small. It's almost impossible... Sir, since you claimed that this painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" is authentic, I want to hear your explanation."

'What?'

'Did Master Naiswell have some underlying meaning in what he said? Could it be that this painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" is possibly authentic?'

'He even said that the painting here is authentic, and the remnants in the museums are real too. What exactly is this all about?'

Harvey smiled faintly. He then looked at the phone and said, "It seems like Mr. Naiswell is going to test my ability. If that's the case, I won't hide anything and tell you about my judgment. Then, Mr. Naiswell can see whether that's the case here."

"If my guess is right, the painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" before us here is actually one organic whole of the other paintings of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak"..."

Many people were filled with confusion now. 'How could he say such a mysterious and puzzling statement? Does it mean that the painting has the ability to split into half?'

After hearing that, Shane smiled and nodded. What Harvey said was indeed slightly similar with his own thoughts.

"The reasoning is quite simple. It's because Albert Bierstadt was famous for having exceptional skills in his paintings. The pressure he applied while painting could let the paint penetrate through the inner part of the drawing paper. Besides, the drawing papers in the 1900s were less than an inch. When the younger generation obtained that drawing, they might have used an extremely sharp small knife to cut it in half from the centre of the paper. After that, they mounted the two different paintings separately. In that way, a painting was separated into two paintings, and those two paintings are authentic..."

"But I infer that the painting here is the first layer

of the painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak", and the remnants are the second layer."

"Master Naiswell, these are some of my judgments.
I'm wondering whether I'm right."

Shane smiled and said, "Wonderful! Sir, you're indeed a person who shares the same kinds of perspectives and tastes as me. Surprisingly, your thoughts are similar to mine without any prior discussion between us. I still want to thank you for your reminder. If not, I might have overlooked that too..."

"The painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" here is not only authentic, but this is much more valuable than the remnants in the museums. The reason being it's a complete painting..."

Having said that, everyone was stunned.

They looked at Harvey as if they were looking at a monster.

'It turns out that the painting of "The Rocky

Mountains, Lander's Peak" here is real! It's a legendary world renowned painting. Normally, a painting like that would certainly cost over millions. But this live-in son-in-law bought that with only fifteen dollars!

Both Wyatt and Jake Surrey felt that they were having cold feet at the moment. There was an unknown feeling emerging in their hearts.

Cecilia Zachary turned pale too, and she was filled with disbelief. She never knew that the man who she condemned as a worthless piece of trash had such a capability.

On the other hand, Mandy Zimmer viewed Harvey in a different light now. Her eyes brightened. She never thought that her husband had such an outstanding capability. Harvey did indeed seem quite plain normally, but now he had shown great capability and achievement all of a sudden.

'What other surprises does this live-in husband prepare for me?'

Standing beside them, Rosalie looked quite adorable in her daze. She was tremendously stunned.

Chapter 158

She could refrain from believing Harvey York's judgment. But she had absolute trust in Shane Naiswell. It was because her grandfather was an expert master in the appraising field. There were indeed not that many people who enjoyed the same prestigious status as her grandfather in their country.

"Sir, if you're free as of late, please come to the Naiswells to meet me. You're most welcome here at any time." At the other end of the phone, Shane smiled faintly before hanging up the phone.

After that, Harvey threw the phone to Rosalie
Naiswell casually. He then smiled faintly and said, "
Miss Naiswell, do you still remember our bet just
now?"

"I..." Rosalie was speechless. 'Do I really have to address him as my father?'

Standing beside them, Wyatt Johnson became

deeply furious. He then scolded, "Harvey, are you even a gentleman? Miss Naiswell was joking with you. How could you be so serious about it? How could you try to make things difficult for a woman? Is that what you're capable of?"

"Shut up!" Rosalie spoke up all of a sudden. She then fixed her gaze at Harvey with mixed emotions. After a short while, she said with a deep voice, "Harvey, I'll admit that it's me who overlooked that just now. Besides, we always emphasize the importance of reputation and honor the appraising field. Since I made such a bet with you, then starting from today, I... I'll..."

Rosalie blushed deeply. She stammered for a long time, yet she could not say the word "father".

"Can't you do it?"

"Miss Naiswell, you can't do that. How could you address this live-in son-in-law like that?"

"He's just a lucky b*stard today! How could he enjoy the same privilege as you?"

"That's true! Besides, the person who appraised the painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" was Master Naiswell, not him!"

A lot of people were talking. If Rosalie did actually speak up at that moment, all of the people present would be ruined if the Naiswells could not endure such humiliation.

At that moment, a lot of people wanted to kneel down in front of Harvey to beg for mercy from him. 'Bro, we're begging you now. Please don't make Rosalie address you as such. The Naiswells are indeed not as simple as they seem!'

Harvey did not want to bother about that either. He just glanced strangely at Rosalie once.

Although Rosalie seemed not that smart, she was much better than most of the other men in terms of how she upheld her words.

At that moment, Harvey admired her more.

After keeping silent for a short while, Harvey said

softly, "Miss Naiswell, you don't have to be like this. In fact, it's considered a tie for the bet between you and me, so you don't have to..."

"So you're meaning to say..." Rosalie blushed slightly. It did not occur to her that Harvey would say such a thing.

A roar of laughter was heard.

Standing beside them, Wyatt laughed all of a sudden. He then pointed at Harvey and said, "Live-in son-in-law, I thought that you've become quite dominant and powerful all of a sudden. But it turns out that you're still a coward! You're not daring enough to do so! How could you say that it's a tie? Besides, you said something like that deliberately at a time like this. What do you mean by that? Did you do that to show your generosity and deep virtues? F *ck you! Literally anyone could see through that cunning trick of yours!"

What Wyatt said soon resonated much what the others felt at that moment. They could not help it

as they found Harvey's behavior and action that day quite annoying. There were indeed a lot of people who were annoyed with him now.

Harvey did not want to talk much nonsense with him. He then said lightly, "Mr. Johnson, if you know nothing about it, could you please watch your mouth? Don't be condemning people like this here!"

Wyatt smiled coldly and said, "Fine. If you're not a coward, then what's that all about? What do you mean that it's a tie? Eh?"

Having said that, Wyatt still felt that it was not enough. He then said to the others, "Ladies and gentlemen, come and give your opinions now. Is this live-in son-in-law afraid of the Naiswells? He's clearly a coward. How could he say that it's a tie? Have you ever met such a shameless man?"

After that, the crowd broke into a roar of laughter.

"He's just a live-in son-in-law. Certainly, he's only a coward. If not, why would he become a live-in son

-in-law if he's not just an ordinary person?"

"I think that the so-called appraising the treasure which he did just now, he was only having some luck. Maybe he found that online. He even showed off himself like that. Does he really think that he's a master now?"

"Master Naiswell was just being polite and generous. He didn't mind him, but this guy thinks that he's some kind of big shot now!"

Soon, the crowd was filled with ridicules.

Harvey was quite speechless when he heard that. He could see that Wyatt did all those things, showing himself off, just because he wanted to gain Rosalie's admiration. 'But the problem is that this guy does not seem that smart. Couldn't he see that Rosalie is feeling tremendously awkward now? He even called over a lot of people here. Why did it seem like he wanted to humiliate Rosalie deeply?'

As expected, there was a great change in Rosalie's facial expression. At last, she said with a deep voice,

"Harvey, since you mentioned that it was a tie, you need to give me a reason. If not, I won't accept it!"

As a Naiswell, Rosalie had her own pride and dignity. She could not act according to how the others told her to do. Although she could not bring herself to utter that word, she was indeed defeated now...

Standing beside them, Cecilia Zachary said all of a sudden, "Miss Naiswell, this worthless piece of trash is indeed useless. Don't bother about him. You don't have to treat the bet you made with him seriously."

Chapter 159

Mandy Zimmer was slightly anxious too. She then said apologetically, "Miss Naiswell, we're truly sorry. Harvey just said that casually. Don't take it to heart. Please don't mind him."

Wyatt Johnson said dully, "Mandy, although he's your husband, you can't always protect him like that. He's indeed just a coward. You really don't have to act like this."

Rosalie Naiswell frowned deeply as her facial expression worsened. At first, the incident had ended. But after what the others did, the incident became worse, and she would only become quite humiliated.

Thinking of that, her voice became much colder, "
Harvey, we can't joke about the reputation and
dignity of the Naiswells. You'd better explain
yourself clearly. If not, this won't end here."

Harvey York admired Rosalie more now. Nowadays,

there were not many people who were so honest and straightforward.

Thinking of that, Harvey said slowly, "Miss Naiswell, don't worry. Please listen to my explanation."

"Previously, you said that the painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" in the museum is real. But I said that the painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" here is real. As it turned out, both paintings are real. Under such a circumstance, both of us are quite insightful in making our judgments. Certainly, it's a tie between us."

Swoosh!

All of them turned to fix their gazes at Harvey. '
What this live-in son-in-law said is logical.
Besides, it does seem that way.'

Since both paintings were real, naturally it meant that both of them were equally exceptional. It was indeed a tie. When Rosalie heard that, the coldness and aloofness in her disappeared. She then broke into a smile in relief and said, "Then does it mean that I don't have to address you as such..."

Harvey had a peculiar facial expression. 'If I indeed make this cold and aloof beauty address me as her father, it'll certainly be rather exciting!'

At that moment, Rosalie had stretched her right hand out generously and said, "Mr. York, thank you for giving me a lively lesson today. We really need to be practical and realistic in appraising the antiques. We shouldn't have any prejudices.

Grandpa always said that it's my flaw, but I always thought that I was quite insightful. It did not occur to me that I might have overlooked something one day."

Harvey smiled and stretched out his hand too. He then touched Rosalie's gentle and small hand slightly. He said, "Miss Naiswell, you're being too modest. By the way, I need to thank you. If not, I might not be able to afford this painting!"

After he said that, the others turned to look at him sternly.

'It's the real painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak"! It's a treasure which one couldn't even get a hold of even if they have money!"

Standing among the crowd, Wyatt was deeply infuriated. At that moment, he had treated Rosalie as something he owned solely which could not be shared with the others. But how could Harvey shake hands with her? At that moment, Wyatt was filled with the urge to murder Harvey.

However, Mandy was slightly stunned. She stepped forward subconsciously and shoved Harvey's hand away. It was because of the reason that she found herself feeling deeply uneasy when she saw that scene before her. Even she herself could not explain that feeling.

At that moment, the auctioneer was looking slightly pale too. She did not know the authenticity

of the painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" just now. Hence, she felt indifferent even if it was bid at a price of fifteen dollars.

But at that moment, it was proven that "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" was authentic. Then, that price was indeed a joke.

Therefore, she almost said subconsciously, "Sir, if this "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" is authentic, I'm afraid that the bidding process just now is void."

Having said that, the others turned to look at each other helplessly. But soon, Jake nodded and said, "Yes, what this lady said is true. Since "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" is real, the bidding process just now is void. We need to start all over again!"

"Yes, that's right! How could a painting like that be sold at fifteen dollars?"

"We agree! Let's start over the bidding for this lot!"

"Thank you, ladies and gentlemen..." That

auctioneer bowed to the others ceaselessly. She then stretched her hands out as she wanted to retrieve the painting of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak".

But Harvey acted swifter than the auctioneer. He had gotten "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" and rolled it in his hands by then.

"Sir, are you trying to create trouble here?" The auctioneer's facial expression changed. No one dared to create trouble in Mountain Top Auction before. It was because it was the territory of the Cloudes.

The Cloudes were the largest family from the county. They were truly the influential and powerful people there. The reason they chose to hold an auction in Mountain Top Villa was merely because of the fact that those things were unsuited to be held in the county.

Harvey said lightly, "Who was the one who said that it's all up to us whether we wanted to bid for it or not? Besides, you claimed that there's no starting price for this painting, and we could offer any price casually, even if it's only fifteen dollars. Now suddenly, we found that this painting is valuable. How could you go back on your words? The Cloudes are such a great and influential family. Aren't you afraid of doing such a thing which will ruin their reputation?"

What Harvey said was logical. During an auction, all the lots which were being bid were considered sold once the final price was being offered. There was never any rule of retrieving the lot once they were sold, even after one discovered that the price of the lot was unsuitable.

It was indeed logical. However, no one dared to speak up against Harvey at that moment.

Chapter 160

Needless to say, Wyatt, Jake, and Cecilia wanted Harvey to die. Why would they consider helping Harvey right now?

Additionally, the others were eager to auction again, because "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" was so famous that there were many people who wanted it.

At that moment, a young man in a suit walked out from behind the stage with a few bodyguards.

"Mr. Cloude..." The auctioneer let out a sigh of relief when he saw the young man. This was Jude of the Cloudes, the person in charge of the auction, and he already knew about what had happened just now.

Jude's cold gaze travelled around the room before settling on Harvey. He smiled at him. "Sir, I heard that you helped identify the authenticity of "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak". To express our apology, we will pay you an appraisal fee of one hundred and fifty-two thousand dollars. Please do not refuse it."

Harvey frowned slightly. What did Jude mean?
Giving him an appraisal fee? Was he shamelessly
trying to get out of this?

It was understandable though. After all, this was "
The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak"—a real
masterpiece.

Wyatt also smiled after hearing this, and said, "Mr. Cloude, why are you being so polite to this live-in son-in-law? He had actually wanted to buy "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" for fifteen dollars. Hilarious, right?"

Jude frowned and unconsciously glanced at Wyatt. '
Did he say that on purpose? Does he not know that
the Mountain Top Auction has to maintain its
reputation? I have already come here to play down
this matter, so why is he still mentioning it? Does

he want to die?'

However, "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak"
was indeed precious, and the Cloudes dared not
mess with the big figure behind this painting. Even
if Jude was reluctant, he still had to find a way to
get "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" back.

Jude smiled as he thought about it and continued, " Sir, if you think the appraisal fee of one hundred and fifty-two thousand dollars is low, you can also name a price. We will surely consider it if it's fair."

Harvey looked at Jude and said slowly, "Mr. Cloude, let's be clear on something: I'm here to participate in your auction to buy things, not identify the authenticity of your things. I bought and paid for "The Rocky Mountains. Lander's Peak"."

"Really!"

All eyes focused on him instantly.

'This brat is not afraid of death! Does he actually want to take away "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" for just fifteen dollars?'

'Although the Cloudes are in the wrong regarding this matter, they have already given you a fair chance. You, a live-in son-in-law, can just take the appraisal fee and get out of the way. What else do you want? You had better quit while you're ahead.'

Jude's smile froze on his face. He stared at Harvey for a moment, then smiled widely and said, "What did you say? I didn't quite hear you."

Mandy was starting to feel a little anxious. She tugged Harvey aside gently and said in a low voice, "Forget about it, Harvey. It's impossible to take "The Rocky Mountains, Lander's Peak" for fifteen dollars..."

Mandy was really worried that something might happen to Harvey. The Cloudes were a capable and distinguished family from the provincial town.

Everyone always tried to be on their good side. Who would dare mess with them?

Moreover, Harvey had no background and was even

a live-in son-in-law. If he provoked such a prestigious family, he would only cause trouble for himself.

Jude's eyes were cold. This brat just didn't know when to quit! Did he not know that the Cloudes could kill him if they wanted to?

Harvey smiled faintly, not even flinching under Jude
's glare. Instead, he looked at Jude and said
seriously, "I said I bought "The Rocky Mountains.
Lander's Peak". It's mine, Mr. Cloude, do you
understand? Of course, if you fancy my item, you
can name your price. I am willing to consider it if it'
s fair."

Name a price?

Jude sneered. As a member of the Cloudes, he had never encountered anyone who dared talk back to him. He replied icily, "Well, you asked for it. We guarantee your safety here, but once you get out of this place, it's none of our business."

Threat. It was clearly a threat.

The Mountain Top Auction naturally had its own rules. If the auction was forcibly denied, it would ruin the Cloudes' reputation. However, as Jude said, if someone took something out of this place and had an accident outside, it had nothing to do with them.

Harvey did not say anything whereas Mandy was anxious. She quickly said, "Mr. Cloude, don't mind him. He's just a bit overwhelmed at the moment. I'll knock some sense into him."