

# The Understated Dragon Lord

## Chapter 21

### Chapter 21 We're in the Same Boat

"I'm in the same boat as Mr. Andrew, the humiliation you faced today is just as much mine. Why would I mock you?"

"Healthy Land's strategic partner is TMO, not ArmCorp. Right now, Anthony, it's you and The Matthews who are on the same team. After today's debacle, I've completely ticked off Master Joshua, and we'll never secure a collaboration with The Grants. And honestly, for your own future's sake, you should probably keep your distance from me to avoid any misunderstanding by Master Joshua. Otherwise, who knows, you might get the boot."

"Andrew, don't be mad. Sure, TMO snagged this signing, but Healthy Land's investment in Delvin Hub is all about making dough. If collaborating with TMO ends up losing The Grants money and

tarnishing Healthy Land's rep, my mentor will cut losses without

blinking, and he'll ditch the partnership pronto. When that happens, I'll put in a good word for you and ArmCorp. I'll make sure your family becomes The Grants' partner in Delvin Hub. Then, buddy, we can shoot for success together!"

...

Meanwhile, after dining with Joshua, Daniel returned to his place to

find Brittany waiting at his door as if she had been there for ages.

"Need something?" Daniel asked.

"You did good today. Jessica's switching your dorm room, so get a move on."

Jessica was still negotiating the nitty-gritty of the deal on-site. She mentioned she would drop by Daniel's dorm once she wrapped up.

So Brittany hurried over to tell Daniel to move while the coast was clear. If Jessica found out she'd tucked Daniel away in a dirty, stinky basement full of rats and roaches, she'd certainly get a scolding.

Even though Brittany still looked down her nose at Daniel, considering him a total washout unworthy of being TMO's assistant, the guy's luck was infuriatingly good!

He unexpectedly made nice with Joshua, who had basically cheered him on, making him the star of the day. Even Mr. Andrew wound up on his knees apologizing!

But once Joshua left, Daniel would be on his own!

This stroke of luck was a one-hit-wonder to Brittany, and she was certain it would never strike twice!

As for the basement, it was no place for sleep. A better dorm was a no-brainer for Daniel.

As he was packing up, Jessica showed up.

The sight of Daniel's place next to the garbage dump, with mice and roaches scurrying around and a strong musty stench in the air, ticked her off.

Turning to Brittany, she demanded, "Why's he staying here?"

"Oh, Jessica, when I set him up it was in the best room. But he said he liked living with mice, loved the company of roaches, and insisted on this joint. No matter what I said he wouldn't budge, so he ended

Chapter 21 We're in the Same Boat

up here," Brittany explained, shooting Daniel a look meant to keep him on script with her story.

If he dared stray from her narrative, Brittany wouldn't let him off easy!

Jessica, not buying it, whirled around to ask Daniel, “Is that so?”

“Of course not! I clearly remember Brittany telling me that you, Jessica, assigned me to this room. I know you don’t think much of me, didn’t want me as your assistant, and wanted me gone ASAP.

Now that *TMO* has signed with Healthy Land and The Matthews are on board with The Grants, I guess I’m of no use anymore. So, I should just go, right?”

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## Chapter 22

### Chapter 22 Punishment

After speaking his piece, Daniel started to leave, a plastic bag in hand. Jessica snatched the bag away and demanded, “Do you really think I’m the kind of person who only cares about profits?”

“Does it matter if you are or not?”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Had I not bumped into Joshua by chance and unintentionally helped *TMO*, would you ever come here to see me? No, you wouldn’t! I would be left to live in this rat-and-roach-infested dump, akin to a trash heap. It’s clear that I’m insignificant to you. There’s no point in me sticking around as your assistant. Let’s just part ways amicably! I don’t even want the last two days’ pay I’m leaving now!”

“Don’t you dare go!” Jessica blocked Daniel, not letting him leave. For some reason, the thought of him leaving caused an ache in her chest, almost as

if her beloved was growing wings and flying away. But she’d only known him for two days!

Could she have fallen for him that quickly? No, that wasn’t love; it was just gratitude.

That's what Jessica told herself. This man had saved her grandfather and helped secure the deal with The Grants. She owed him big time, and that's why she felt thankful.

"You want me to stay? Fine, but I refuse to live in this dump any longer. If you really want me to stick around, arrange for me to stay in a five-star hotel.

At Daniel's words, Brittany scowled, "Stay in a five-star hotel? Who do you think you are? Ma'am Jessica, you can't indulge such a waste of space you should just let him go!"

"You shut your mouth! I told you to arrange the best accommodation for Daniel, and this is what you give him? Since this room is 'the best' in your eyes, then you'll stay here for the next month! You have to

complete a full month, not a day less. If you can't

stand it, then resign!"

Jessica was furious. Brittany had targeted Daniel

multiple times, and if she didn't teach her a lesson now, she'd never learn respect.

Brittany dared not speak again, her eyes burning with resentment toward Daniel. Before this 'waste of space' showed up, she was Jessica's golden girl, never having received a harsh word. And now, thanks to Daniel's provocation, Jessica scolded her and sentenced her to live next to garbage!

Brittany's heart seethed with frustration, but she had

no choice but to endure.

"Apologize to Daniel!"

"I have to apologize to him?"

"I said apologize!"

Brittany's eyes grew even more venomous as she begrudgingly muttered, "Sorry."

"If you bully Daniel again, it won't just be a month in this dorm room," Jessica warned.

"Yes, Ma'am Jessica."

With a new, beaming smile, Jessica turned to Dani and said, “Are you satisfied now?”

“It’ll do.”

“Come with me! To the five–star hotel we go!”

As Jessica led Daniel away, even carrying that w/out plastic bag for him, Brittany clenched her fi tightly, her teeth grinding in anger. She’d worked hard for years to fully earn Jessica’s trust, to

become TMO’s second most crucial figure nex

Jessica herself.

But now, with Daniel’s appearance, her status threatened.

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## Chapter 23

### Chapter 23 You’re My Honey

Brittany swore to herself that she’d drive Daniel out of TMO and away from Jessica for good!

After a quick drive, they pulled up in front of a stand- alone villa in The Matthews residential complex.

“Weren’t you supposed to take me to a five–star hotel?”

“Isn’t this place better than any five–star hotel?”

“But this is your house!”

“You don’t want to stay at my house?”

“No! Did you bring me here because you’ve fallen for me? Are you planning to actually marry me?”

Daniel’s hopeful little eyes made Jessica laugh.

“So, you really want me to marry you, huh?”

“Of course.”

“Why?”

“Because... because you’re pretty!”

Daniel almost let slip that it was because he wanted

The Sealed Dragon Grass.

“If I weren’t pretty, you wouldn’t marry me?”

“Uh...”

“And you hesitate? Men really are dogs!”

Jessica pulled out a set of keys and handed them over to Daniel.

“This villa is yours now.”

“Mine? Don’t you live here?”

“Why would I live here? What are you thinking?”

Jessica rolled her eyes at Daniel and then fished out a sleek black credit card, handing it over.

“This credit card has no spending limit; use it as you wish.”

“You’re giving me a villa and a no-limit credit card. Are you trying to be my sugar mommy or what?”

“Cut that out!” Jessica pointed to the sleek car and said, “This car is yours too, for getting around.”

“All these material things don’t matter. What’s important is... can I call you ‘dear’?”

“No!! If you dare call me that in front of others, I’ll fire

you on the spot! However you’ve done well these

past few days, I’m quite satisfied, so I’ll grant you

some privileges. In public, you still call me Jessica. In private, you can call me Jess or J.”

“Yes! Honey!”

“You...”

Jessica stomped her foot and pouted.

“I mean it, if you keep calling me that, I’ll really get

mad!”

Despite her scolding, Jessica was astonished to

find that deep down, she didn’t mind when Daniel called her Honey. If it weren’t for her quick reflexes, she might have just agreed,

What was happening to her? Could she actually like

him?

To stop her mind from wandering, Jessica quickly changed the subject, “That worm in grandpa’s body, what’s up with that?”

“It’s a specially engineered parasite, you won’t find anything like it in the wild. Those used for curses are bred by the Tame Head curse casters. If your grandpa was hit with that curse, someone’s definitely out to get him. I’ve dealt with the creature this time, so they didn’t succeed. But I expect they might try again. However, Honey, rest assured, as long as I’m around, your grandpa will be safe.”

“Don’t call me Honey!”

“There’s no one else here. Calling you Honey doesn’t

cost you anything.”

“You...”

Annoyed, Jessica stamped her foot.

“Jerk!”

After cursing Daniel under her breath, she clacked away in her high heels.

“Honey, aren’t you staying for dinner?”

“Shut up!”

Quickly stepping away, Jessica felt her pretty cheeks flush with embarrassment.

That Daniel, he was shameless. Next time, she’d have to avoid being alone with him. Being solo with him, he’d surely keep calling her Honey!

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## Chapter 24

### Chapter 24 This Is My House

The next day at noon, Daniel just stepped out of the shower when the door to his room was flung open. Both he and the intruder screamed in unison. Daniel quickly wrapped himself in the blanket, covering every inch of himself like a mummy.

Jessica, cheeks burning red with embarrassment, pointed at him and accused, “You... you pervert!”

“I’m the pervert? I’m bathing in my own room, and

you burst in! If anyone’s a pervert here, it’s you!”



“You..... I.....”

Jessica was at a loss for words but quickly

collected herself.

“This is my house, my room. I’ll come in if I want to. You’re the pervert – apologize and promise not to do

it again!”

Daniel: ...

“Are you going to apologize?”

Seeing no way out and considering The Sealed

Dragon Grass, Daniel let out a sigh.

“Sorry, Honey. I won’t do it again. Next time, I’ll even wear my down jacket in the shower!”

“That’s your last warning; don’t call me honey!” Jessica glared at Daniel and continued grumpily, What were you doing last night? The security guard said you came back late!”

“Just out for a stroll.”

“Where do you go strolling at night?”

“The bar! So many beautiful ladies there!”

Daniel made up an excuse, not about to reveal that Heather had summoned him last night to treat Ryan, which led to a night full of brawling. He had taken down many contenders and somehow ended up as the chairman of the Delvin Hub Martial Club United.

He also heard about the upcoming World Martial

Club United Congress and one of The Seven Dragon Grasses he was seeking, The Grass of Awakened

Dragon.

Thinking of The Grass of Awakened Dragon brought a mysterious smile to Daniel's face.

Seeing Daniel's expression after mentioning the bar made Jessica even more upset as if her man had betrayed her.

"What did you go to the bar for?" she asked.

"Pick up girls!" Daniel said, deliberately provoking her.

"All men are the same no good! Jerks! Get dressed quickly; I'll wait for you outside."

After Daniel got ready, Jessica was already lounging on the living room sofa, nonchalantly eating Daniel's freshly toasted bread.

"Making yourself at home, I see?"

"What, you have a problem with me eating a piece of your bread? Cheapskate!"

A satisfied Jessica pushed the remaining bread at Daniel.

"Here, take it back!"

"It's all gone."

"What about the crust?"

Daniel: ...

"What? Not hungry? If not, be my driver from today

"Where to?"

“We’re picking up Brittany. Poor thing’s been living in that nightmare with the rats and roaches for two days. I’m sure she’s learned her lesson. So, when we get there, be a gentleman and suggest she move out, in front of her.”

“Why should I?”

“Because I’m telling you to. I value Brittany’s abilities; she’s worked with me for years. No conflict between you two – you must get along with her! Do I make myself clear?”

Daniel nodded, resigned to his new role as Jessica’s driver, confidant, and, now it seemed, peacekeeper.

Fast Free Bonus Time is Running Out

Claim

Chapter 25

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## Chapter 25

### **Chapter 25** Another **Dose of** Resentment

Since Jessica forcefully arranged for Brittany to stay in that room, she took a leave of absence and stayed there without taking a step outside. It was

her way of showing Jessica just how important she, as a secretary, truly was.

Jessica, leading Daniel to the hostel door, gave him a look. Daniel, however, failed to catch her cue.

“What are you waiting for? Knock on the door!”

“Why should I knock?”

“You’re my assistant, aren’t you? Or should I knock for you?”

Daniel: ...

Thump! Thump, thump!

Left with no choice, Daniel stepped forward and knocked.

Chapter 25 Another Dowel repentine cl

The door swung open, and upon seeing Daniel standing there, Brittany was fuming.

“You piece of trash, what are you doing here? Here to humiliate me? Or perhaps to harass me? Let me tell you, even though this is a basement, and it’s

usually empty, if you dare to touch me, I’ll call the police right away!”

Daniel: ...

“Brittany, haven’t you learned your lesson yet?” Jessica’s voice instantly changed Brittany’s

demeanor.

“Jessica, I... I misunderstood. This useless guy

came alone, how could I know his intentions? But since he's with you, forget what I said – just a misunderstanding!”

Jessica remained silent but gestured with her eyes at Daniel, signaling for him to proceed as they had agreed in the car.

“Brittany, it's not suitable for a lady to live in a basement like this. I forgive you. Move back to your previous room.”

“Yeah, as if I'd really believe you!”

“Brittany, he has forgiven you. Why the attitude? Do you want to keep living here?”

“...”

Shooting Daniel a glare, Brittany begrudgingly bowed. “Thank you, Daniel.”

“Daniel, help Brittany with her things,” Jessica ordered.

“Yes, Jessica.”

After helping Brittany move, she was finally back in her original place – but this incident only added to her disdain for Daniel. He was playing games, and it irked her to no end. She underestimated him before.

He had pleaded on his own behalf in front of Jessica, simply to make himself appear magnanimous and make her look petty.

How dare this nobody play such games with her? He could not continue to stay by Jessica's side. For

now, she would have to tolerate him thanks to the good fortune that brought him Joshua's help, aiding TMO in securing the project with Healthy Land and making him a person of significance beside Jessica.

Once Jessica's fondness for him wanes, Brittany

would devise a plan to have him removed.

“Are you two okay now?”

“I’m not interested in squabbling with some girl.”

“I’m not interested in fighting a loser either!”

“You two are colleagues now. You must get along and are forbidden from bickering.”

“Yes, Jessica!”

“Yes, Hon...”

Daniel stopped midway as Jessica glared at him.

“Huh, okay, Boss.”

“Don’t call me Boss; call me Jessica!” she quickly reminded him, knowing what he was about to say.

“Boss? Do you think this is a soap opera? This is a big city! Boss? Ma’am Jessica is a CEO! Do you even know what a CEO is? It’s the president!”

“Brittany, have you had enough?”

“... I was teaching him manners!”

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## Chapter 26

Chapter 26 *Eighty Million*

Jessica was getting a headache and scolded Brittany sharply, “I’ll teach Daniel discipline, *and* it’s not your place to do so! You’re not his superior, and he’s not yours.

You can't control each other or bully each other! Both of you come with me; we're going to Auctiq to find Nicholas Snyder. For TMO's

collaboration with Healthy Land, we need a considerable investment. That old fox cheated me out of *my* money, and we must get it back."

"Nicholas isn't an easy one; we've tried several times, already to get our money back without any success. I doubt this time will be any different; we probably won't get a dime."

"We won't know unless we try. Getting back any amount is better than nothing at all."

Someone dared to cheat Jessica out of her money?

Daniel saw this as an opportunity to make a good impression.

Winning a woman's heart requires patience and consistent effort. Every favor he did for her could make her a bit more appreciative. The more he did, the more she would owe him.

Even if, in the end, she wasn't willing to marry him, at least he expected she'd hand over The Sealed

Dragon Grass as compensation.

"Ma'am Jessica, how much did Nicholas cheat you out of?"

"Eighty million!"

"Eighty million? How did he swindle you? I'll make sure that old fox coughs up every penny, with interest!"

Daniel's claim was met with a cold laugh from

Brittany.

"Heh!"

With a face full of scorn, Brittany mocked him, "You idiot, do you even know who he is? Do you know what Auctiq is? And you think you can make

Nicholas return eighty million, plus interest?”

“Of course, I can.”

“If you can’t, then resign from Jessica’s side promptly! TMO needs honest people, not braggarts like you!”

Brittany saw her chance to set a trap for Daniel – a fool who didn’t know what he was doing could be easily ousted from TMO with a little ploy.

“Fine!”

Daniel agreed without hesitation, prompting

Jessica’s irritation, “Okay? Who gave you permission.

to say okay? You’re my assistant, and unless I fire you, you don’t get to quit! And you better work on

that habit of making empty promises.

And Brittany, didn’t I ask you to get along with

Daniel? Are you trying to get rid of him because

you’re jealous? If you keep this up, forget about your

bonus!”

Jessica, are you blaming me for this? He’s the one who started bragging. It was just a bet between us. If he can’t handle the loss and expects you to bail him out, that’s not my problem. He’s an idiot, shameless, with no sense of decency.”

“Who says I can’t handle a loss? Besides, I won’t lose! I’ll make sure Nicholas returns your eighty million, plus interest!”

“Did you hear that, Jessica? You’re backing him up. But he’s not showing you any respect; he’s still bluffing!”

Jessica chose to stay silent. One was her husband



in a trial period; the other, her long-standing secretary. She had hoped to keep both sides happy, but it seemed impractical now. So, she decided to

let them be.

If Daniel couldn't even handle Brittany, he didn't

deserve to be Jessica's husband!

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## Chapter 27

### Chapter 27 Auctiq

Jessica *made* a snap decision to stop intervening in

Brittany's attempts to make life difficult for Daniel. No matter how Brittany tried to challenge him, Jessica would not utter a single word. She knew Brittany's capabilities well; if Daniel could hold his own *or* even outpace her during their confrontations, it would at least prove that he wasn't entirely useless that he could be considered clever.

In her heart, Jessica thought: If that's the case, after a year, once he's passed my assessment, I'll assign him a high-level executive position. He should be up

*for* it.

Half an hour later, Jessica's car pulled up in front of

Auctiq.

Auctiq was Delvin Hub's most prestigious auction house, offering a variety of items ranging from

antiques and artworks to strange collectibles – everything under the sun.

As the trio stepped through the doors, a short, plump man greeted them warmly, his face beaming with smiles. This was Auctiq's owner, Nicholas Snyder – also known as Smiley Nick.

The wider Smiley Nick smiled at you, the deeper he'd reach into your pockets. His smile wasn't for the customers; it was for their wallets. With just a grin, Nicholas had conquered the auction world. All the bigwigs in Delvin Hub had been cheated by him at some point!

Even if you realized you'd been had, you couldn't get mad. Trying to get your money back would likely just end up enriching him further.

"Ma'am Jessica, what brings you here today?"

"The eighty million you swindled from me!"

"Ma'am Jessica, how could I possibly do such a thing? You're my honored guest, the most esteemed customer my deity."

Nicholas kept up his radiant smile. "What did you see today at my place, Jessica? Or are you just browsing?"

"Browsing? Every time I've come here, I've walked away with a bigger loss than the last. You've taken eighty million from me."

Jessica had Daniel bring over a cardboard box from the trunk.

"These three pieces of junk, I'm returning them all to you! Give me back my eighty million, and we'll call it even."

"Listen, Jessica, the first time you visited Auctiq, I told you about our policy. Auctiq never does returns."

"No returns? What did you tell me when you sold these to me? This is a Renaissance sculpture worth twenty million! This is some ancient Eastern

porcelain worth fifty million! This is even more impressive, a Monet painting valued at a hundred million!”

“Jessica, this indeed is a Renaissance sculpture !”

“A fake from World War II.”

“Ah, well, if it’s from World War II imitating the Renaissance, I didn’t say anything wrong. I may have just omitted a few words!”

“And you claim it’s worth twenty million?”

“It’s definitely worth twenty million. Yen? Of course, even in dollars, it might fetch about a hundred thousand.”

“You...”

Jessica was left speechless, never having been toyed with like this before.

“While this sculpture might be a WWII imitation, I’ve made inquiries and it’s worth at least three million.

As for the other two items, I’ve also checked one

is worth five million, the other twelve million. The

total value of these three items is at least twenty

million. I don’t want them. You take them back. I know I can’t get the eighty million, but you have to give me those twenty million, right?”

Jessica was making her bid. She knew before she arrived that Nicholas would never return her entire eighty million. All three items were forgeries, whose true value combined was only around five million. So she started high at twenty million, allowing plenty of room for negotiation.

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## Chapter 28

### Chapter 28 Deal is Deal

“Two million is definitely out of the question! For these three items you have, Jessica, I can only offer two hundred thousand.”

“One million eight hundred thousand!”

“One hundred eighty thousand.”

Nicholas’s counteroffer left Jessica stunned.

“Smiley Nick, what do you mean by this?”

“Jessica, I wasn’t particularly interested in your items to begin with. Since you’re calling out random prices, it’s only fair I can too! I never planned on buying them. However, I can totally accept if you want to sell at the price I offered.”

Nicholas was certain in his position, knowing that even though the items were forgeries, their total value was around five hundred thousand dollars. If he could get them for a mere one hundred eighty thousand, he’d essentially be pocketing a profit of three hundred twenty thousand, so why not?

“Smiley Nick, aren’t you going a bit too far? You scammed me out of eighty million, gave me three forgeries, and still, that’s not enough for you? You want to keep scamming me? As the owner of Auctiq, you can’t possibly fail to recognize that even as forgeries, these antiques have a market value of at least five hundred thousand dollars!”

“Ma’am Jessica, you say I scammed you out of eighty million – that’s not right. Since you wanted to buy antiques, there’s always a risk involved! If you failed to discern that these were forgeries and you

paid a high price for cheap **items**, that’s on you – you can’t blame me. **And to** claim that I’m trying to scam you again, that’s even less **correct**. You’re aware these forgeries are valued at five hundred thousand in the market, yet you called out a price of two million, clearly aiming to deceive me for my money. I naturally can’t accept that, so my offer of one hundred eighty thousand is purely self- defense. Of course, the choice is yours – **you** can simply choose not to sell. Auctiq has been operating for over three hundred

years, and up to this day, throughout the eight generations of ownership, there has never been any forced trading!”

Nicholas kept his smile steady. He was confident in his stance with Jessica, knowing that if she tried to offload these items elsewhere, no one would be **willing** to buy them. The risk associated with such forgeries was high. Even with a genuine value of five hundred

thousand, other auction houses might not offer more than one hundred thousand because the sale of antiques is greatly dependent

on luck. Genuine antiques are difficult to match with the right buyer, making it even harder to sell forgeries.

With a three–hundred–year legacy, what made Auctiq the premier auction house in Delvin Hub was its vast network of clientele. In the whole of Delvin Hub, only Nicholas could find buyers for these

antiques.

“Since you’ve put it that way, Smiley Nick, I won’t sell these items.”

Jessica turned away and commanded Daniel, “Pack them up. We’re leaving.”

“Wait a moment!”

“Smiley Nick, what now? You’ve changed your mind and want to buy these items?\*

“Jessica, you misunderstand. I just wanted to remind you. If you leave Auctiq with these forgeries today, I won’t be able to offer you one hundred eighty thousand if you bring them back next time. At most, I can only offer you one hundred thousand! You’ve always been cautious, Jessica. I’m sure you’ve made inquiries elsewhere before coming to Auctiq. Chances are, not many places would take these forgeries off your hands, and if they do, the bids won’t exceed one.

hundred thousand.”

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## Chapter 29

### Chapter 29 The Power of Auctiq

Nicholas's words sowed a seed of doubt in Jessica's mind. She knew that the owners willing to take the three forgeries had appraised them at around five million dollars. However, none of them were willing to actually purchase them for that price. The highest bid she received was 880,000 dollars, and the lowest was dismayingly at 180,000 dollars.

Certain Nicholas knew something she didn't, Jessica wanted to get to the heart of the matter.

"Indeed, not many dare to take them, but Smiley Nick, why do you assert that their offers won't exceed one million dollars?"

"In our business, customer resources are a sign of strength. Those places don't hold a candle to Auctiq because those owners don't have

the client base that needs these three forgeries. Even if they purchase, your items, they can't resell them and will end up having to bring them to me at Auctiq. They are aware of my purchasing price I will only offer one million dollars. If they want to avoid losses, they can only acquire these below one million dollars. Nobody is a fool these days; no one will conduct business at a loss.

My offer is 1.8 million dollars; if you don't wish to sell, that's fine. But if you return next time, I'll have to treat you as an insider, and my offer will be one million dollars. I've said all I have to say. If you decide to leave, Jessica, then take your forgeries – my business thrives on

voluntarism."

Jessica trembled with rage – Nicholas had her cornered.

Yet, what could she do?

The forgeries were utterly useless to her. If they were genuine, worth even just five million dollars, she could at least have given them as gifts to her clients. Forgeries, however, even if appraised at fifty million dollars, could never serve as presents!

While 1.8 million was pitifully small compared to eighty million, it was still money in hand. Jessica decided to take the offer. This would be the last time she'd suffer a loss at Nicholas's hands; she vowed never

to step foot in Auctiq again.

"Fine, one..."

Just as Jessica began to agree, Daniel suddenly stepped forward and interrupted her.

"Not even for a billion!"

Brittany was livid, promptly pointing at Daniel and scolding him sternly, "You worthless piece of trash, who gave you permission to speak while Jessica is conducting business? You're just an assistant, a freaking driver. Don't you have any manners?"

"I don't want to do this either! But if I don't speak up, won't Jessica be sure, she is quite beautiful, but fooled again? This foolish woman she's a bit dim-witted. Smiley Nick throws a few tricks her way and she's completely duped! Selling items worth at least two billion for just 1.8 million?"

Daniel's words made Jessica wish she could slap him hard across the face. However, she withheld her anger.

She was Jessica, a CEO who needed to maintain dignity; she couldn't

lash out at Daniel, even if he was her husband, not in front of others. Even if she wanted to punish him, she had to do so behind closed doors.

Jessica's face went stone cold as she asked, "You say these three items are worth two billion dollars?"

"Yes."

"How can you prove that?"

"The value of antiques doesn't depend on our words; it's all about the actual sale price. Just give me the..." Daniel glanced at Jessica's sharp gaze and quickly corrected himself, "Just give me the authority to handle these antiques, Boss, and I promise I'll sell them today **for**

two billion dollars."

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## Chapter 30

### *Chapter 30 Another Bet*

*Nicholas* couldn't *help* but burst into roaring laughter, then stared at Daniel like he was looking at a fool. "Two billion? Who are *you* going

to sell to? *Who* would pay two billion for your junk?"

"The buyer is right in front of me."

"*Right* in front of you? Who? Who would be that stupid?"

"*Of* course, it's you, Smiley Nick."

Daniel's answer left *Nicholas* momentarily taken aback. Then, he laughed even louder.

"What did you say? You want to sell these three pieces of junk to me *for* two billion? Jessica, your assistant, did he escape from a mental institution? If his brain functioned normally, could he say such a thing? Expecting me to pay two billion for these three items? If you succeed, I'll kneel down to apologize to you!"

*Nicholas* was confident; he hadn't met his match in the art of

deception for decades. For a mere assistant to dare claim he'd make *Nicholas* pay two billion for what was essentially five million dollars' worth of forgeries – the assistant clearly didn't grasp the reality.

Brittany, standing by, couldn't bear to watch any longer.

"Heh!"

She let out a scornful laugh and mocked Daniel. "Smiley Nick has been in this business for so long. These three antiques are forgeries worth about five million. Not only did Smiley Nick recognize that, but

so did others. You think you can sell something worth five million for **two** billion to Smiley Nick? Do you think his head is a water tank?"

"Even if Smiley Nick's head was a water tank, he wouldn't want these



three items for two hundred dollars, let alone two billion. It is

precisely because of Smiley Nick's profound cunning that he will

spend two billion to acquire these three items. Not to mention, like he just promised, he will kneel before me to apologize. But I may not forgive him."

Daniel's words seemed to irritate Nicholas.

"How dare an assistant speak in such a manner? If you can sell these three pieces of junk to me for two billion, I won't just kneel and apologize to you. You can pick any antique off this shelf there!"

Nicholas gestured towards a shelf filled with counterfeits, none of which were worth more than fifty thousand.

Adding to his offer, Nicholas suggested, "Since I've put forward my wager, perhaps you should place a bet as well?\*

Nicholas, the old fox, was not looking to bet with Daniel for his position – he wanted to use this bet to con Jessica again.

"What sort of wager do you expect from me?\*

"You are Jessica's assistant, a representative of TMO. It looks like you're the one gambling with me, but in reality, it's the organization you represent TMO – that's betting against me. Thus, our wager should naturally come from TMO.

–

The Windows Street property you've owned for three years without development – if you lose, TMO should transfer it to me at the

original price they paid."

Upon hearing Nicholas's proposal, Brittany immediately panicked and rejected it.

"Transfer it to you at the original price? How could that be possible?"

WA

The land value of Windows Street has tripled compared to three years ago. transfer it to you at the original price, **we'd** not only lose out

on the investment but also the accrued bank interest! That's out of

the question. Unless Jessica is a fool, she would never agree to it!"

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