

Chapter 181

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Liana shouted, "Why didn't she continue bidding if she wanted the painting? She never planned to buy it in the first place the only Wanted to trick me!

The onlookers shifted their opinions about the situation.

"Could Ms. White have done that to Ms. Gardner because she was upset with the divorce?"

"That's unnecessarily petty, What's the meaning of pulling that after a divorce?"

"It is not meaningless. She must have been indignant after losing her marriage with the distinguished Mr. Beckett

"She looks proper on the outside but mean on the inside. Women like her only use their brains on petty things."

Liana felt great hearing the barrage of criticisms on Alice.

"Ms. White, did you really do that? Javier knitted his brows and looked sternly at Alyssa. Similarly, Newton was waiting for her answer.

"Ms. Gardner, it was a misunderstanding." Alyssa took a step forward. Her face scrunched up into a pitiful expression. "I was the one who first bid for the painting. You followed suit.

"I liked the painting and wanted to contribute to charity at the same time. Those were the reasons I bid for it at a higher price—to win the bid at once. Jasper and Landon could attest my word because they were there."

There seemed to be a twist in the incident.

"You—" Liana scrambled for words as she jumped in anger.

"I can vouch for her!" Landon jumped out to defend his crush without hesitation. "Ms. White started the bid, followed by Ms. Gardner. Ms. White was the one who wanted the painting."

There was a gleam in Jasper's eyes. Landon seemed to be everywhere these days.

"I intended to purchase the painting for my collection. Grandpa has the original painting in his study, and I like it. Even if it was a replica. I would like to collect it. The sight of it reminds me of the good time I spent with Grandpa."

Looking helpless, Alyssa pursed her lips. "Ms. Gardner seemed to want the painting as well I bid against her for a few rounds, but I decided that I should not deprive her of what she wanted and gave up on the bidding war."

Alyssa continued, "What exactly was my fault? Ms. Gardner, why would you accuse me in that manner? If it makes you feel unfair, I'm willing to purchase the painting from you and make up for your losses."

Things had changed in the court of public opinion. Alyssa's bright eyes were full of tears. She had convinced everyone with her exceptional acting.

Jasper tilted his head and stared silently into her crystal eyes as he breathed hard. He watched as she acted.

"You—Nonsense— Liana was about to launch into a tirade when Sophia went up and secretly pinched her. Feeling the pain, Liana was distracted and almost lost her composure.

Sophia interjected, "Haha! It was a misunderstanding. Dad, Lia is at home most of the time and rarely joins events like an auction. She blindly followed what the others were buying. She bought the painting just to make you happy, that's all

Sophia gave Liana a look. "Your mom called because of an emergency at home. Call her back now. Don't keep her worried."

Gritting her teeth, Liana left the scene, looking dejected.

After some thinking, Newton grasped Alyssa's hand and said, "You should have told me that you liked the painting. I would have given you anything you wanted, even if it were a Georgian-era antique!

"I'd even get you the Mona Lisa if you wanted that! I am generous when it comes to things that you set your eyes on."

"Thank you, Grandpa. I don't need anything else when I have your care and attention." She squeezed his hand and smiled sweetly.

By that time, the guests finally saw through the dynamics of the family. Jasper might have divorced Alyssa on paper, but they appeared to