

The Understated Dragon Lord

Chapter 131

Chapter 131 My Mistake

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Chapter 131 My Mistake

Staff brought over the POS machine to process Andrew's payment for the stone. After a couple of beeps, the transaction was completed, and the receipt was printed out. Another staff member, equipped with tools, approached to crack open the stone.

Daniel glanced at the stone and warned Andrew with a chuckle, "Andrew, this so-called number-one appraiser from Florida, Henry, right? Seems like he's not that skilled. This stone will probably yield only some worthless jade fragments. If you spend 1.98 million on it, you'll likely lose about 1.9 million."

"You country boy, what do you know? Stop your bullshitting! Henry Jade is renowned for a reason. I don't believe he could make such a simple mistake," Andrew retorted after swearing at Daniel.

Henry also stepped in on the discussion, "Who are you? What do you think you're doing? You don't know

anything; I suggest you stop your ill-informed chatter. This stone, as I said to Andrew, should earn him a

return of at least 20-30%-and that's a conservative estimate. Once it's cut open, it should reveal jade

worth over five million."

"Five million? I tell you, once this stone is opened, you'll be crying on the spot, Andrew. This stone will

only reveal fragments worth maybe fifty thousand at most, if you're lucky."

As the staff began cutting the stone with a power saw, it split open to reveal its contents. What Henry and

everyone else expected was a sizeable piece of jade; however, looking at the revealed cross-section, it

was clear there was no large jade piece. Instead, the stone was filled with fragments of poor-quality jade.

Although Andrew wasn't well-versed in jade gambling, he knew garbage when he saw it. This stone was

full of worthless fragments, not the large jade piece Henry promised.

"Henry, what's going on?" Andrew's first attempt was a failure. Looking visibly upset, Henry hadn't given up

yet. He instructed the staff, "Cut it here again."

Following Henry's directions, the worker made another cut-but the result was the same, just more

fragments.

"Try cutting in this direction."

After several attempts, Henry finally resigned himself to despair.

With Henry falling silent, Andrew asked, "Henry, should we continue cutting?"

"My mistake! I indeed made an error with this stone. I expected a large piece of jade, but all we found are fragments. Jade Gambling comes with risks, and even I cannot make the right choice every time. Though our first attempt failed, I'm confident the next

one will be better. You must trust me; I'm a professional. Since you've trusted me today to pick these stones, I'll surely make you money."

Frustrated with the first failure, Andrew found some logic in Henry's explanation. Jade gambling was indeed risky; nobody could win every time. A first-time loss was understandable as long as the following choices recovered the initial investment.

Despite his loss, Andrew refused to be ridiculed by the country boy. Even if he lost, he wanted to ensure

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Daniel would fail too, to embarrass himself.

With a smug expres

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Andrew turned to Daniel, prompting him, "Country boy, it's your turn to play. *Of*

course, if you're too scared, feel free to just admit defeat

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Chapter 132 He's Just an Assistant

"Well, why would I refuse? I'm surely not going to lose like you," Daniel responded with a chuckle, heading over to the lower-priced section and selecting a small, inconspicuous stone with a rough surface, barely

the size of a fist.

"This one's my pick."

When Andrew saw the stone Daniel chose, he couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"Ha ha ha...!" he jeered before continu

did you?”

ou didn’t pick that ugly little rock just because it was cheap,

“It is cheap! It’s the cheapest one of them all, costing only 50,000,” Daniel replied, prompting another

round of laughter from Andrew.

“Henry couldn’t help but speak up, “I thought you, a country boy, might actually know something about jade gambling. Turns out you don’t know a thing. Do you think you just have to choose the cheapest stone and, relying on your luck, you might get it right just once? If you’re correct once, all previous losses are

recovered?”

“The essence of Jade Gambling is cobbling, right?” Daniel replied. “You have to gamble with a small stake to win more; isn’t that how it works?”

After both Andrew and Henry had their laughs, Henry tried to give some well-intended advice, “You country boy, I presume you don’t come by money easily, and jade gambling is way out of your league. So, my advice is it’s best if you do not play.

If you purchase this stone for 50,000, I can assure you, you won’t even find the smallest piece of jade inside. Once you buy this stone, you’ll have lost 50,000!”

“I don’t care about the 50,000—it’s not like it’s coming out of my paycheck! This money was given to me by my boss; it’s not yours to worry about, you blind old fool!”

Brittany, who had always disliked Daniel, felt this was an opportunity. She turned to make Jessica see how Daniel was spending her money carelessly.

“Jessica, listen to what he just said! He’s playing around with your money without a care, saying ‘it’s not my payroll’. He doesn’t have any element of concern for these losses.”

Jessica intervened, “You don’t have to worry about him; that ten million is his to use as he pleases.”

Brittany’s jealousy was evident, and she couldn’t help but complain, “Dear Jessica, this country bumpkin is just an assistant, don’t you think you’re favoring him a bit too much? You’re talking about ten million, not just a thousand!”

“Daniel may just be an assistant, but he’s no ordinary one. He’s never let me down, always bringing great surprises, and this time will be no different. We must absolutely trust him. It’s only with our unconditional trust that he can surprise us again.”

Skeptically, Brittany muttered, "Surprise? I seriously doubt he'll bring any surprises."

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Jessica didn't respond verbally but gave Brittany a warning glare that compelled her to keep her mouth

shut.

Daniel paid 50,000 and acquired that ugly stone.

Andrew, still somewhat baffled by Daniel's confidence, mockingly asked, "You country boy, you really

think you're so smart?"

Daniel then made Andrew an offer that intrigued him even if just for a moment, "Andrew, that stone holds jade worth at least five million. You just lost nearly two million. I can give you a chance to recover that. If you spend three million to buy this stone from me and extract the jade, you could sell it for five million. That way, *you* can easily win back the 1.9 million you lost, and then some."

Andrew's response was a cold sneer and a tone full of disdain. "You think I'm as foolish as you, country

boy?"

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Chapter 133

Chapter 133 Blood Jade

"If you spent three million buying this stone from me, Andrew, then you'd be anything but a *fool*. If you refuse to pay three million, then you're certainly a fool," Daniel

asserted, aware that Andrew would never buy the stone, which is why he deliberately made such a statement. His goal was to tease Andrew a little and enjoy watching h et his decision later.

“Three million? I wouldn’t even pay three hundred bucks for that stone! I’d be a fool to buy it,” Andrew scoffed, responding just as Daniel had predicted. He indeed wasn’t willing to spend three million on a

stone worth five million.

Feigning disappointment, Daniel shook his head, “Too bad, Andrew. You could have made an easy two million plus.”

“You country bumpkin, stop with the poor act. Just because it’s priced at fifty thousand doesn’t mean

anything will come out of that worthless rock. No matter how much time you waste, it won’t change the

fact that there’s nothing in it. So I suggest you save us all time and have the staff cut it open now!”

“Andrew, I gave you the opportunity which you didn’t take. It’s a shame to watch it slip away right before your eyes. I can’t force you, Andrew, to spend three million to buy it.”

Daniel picked up a marker and drew a small circle on the rock before passing it to the staff. “Make a small window right here where I’ve marked.”

Henry chuckled at Daniel’s action, “Country boy, do you know what you’re doing? You’re having a window opened on a worthless rock, do you understand the cost and purpose of such a thing?”

“Of course, I do.”

Daniel grabbed Jessica’s LV purse, pulled out a stack of hundred-dollar bills, counted ten, and handed them to the worker. Usually, the tip for making a window-cutting a small hole in the stone—is about five hundred dollars. Daniel gave double that.

The staff member accepted the tip and began meticulously cutting with the saw, skilled and professional

at their job.

Soon, the window was opened in the stone, and after a brief rinse with water, a vibrant blood-red color revealed itself to the audience. Unexpectedly, the stone contained jade, and not just any jade but Blood Jade, with a color so rich it resembled fresh blood.

Blood Jade, while not the most expensive, was quite rare and typically fetched a high price. Everyone was curious; how could the country boy be so lucky? Picking out a stone with Blood Jade on his first try?

Andrew did some research for the Jade Gambling event tonight and roughly understood this seemed to be Blood Jade, but that didn't make him any less skeptical or willing to believe it.

Turning to Henry, Andrew queried uncertainly, "Henry, is this stuff the country boy found actually Blood

Jade?"

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Chapter 134

Chapter 134 Nicholas Arrives

Henry knew what Andrew was hoping for, and he equally hoped that the stone Daniel picked didn't contain Blood Jade. How could Daniel, this country boy, randomly choose a stone and end up with Blood Jade when Henry himself had made a mistake on his own selec

his win for Daniel and loss for him

would mean Henry had lost twice over, which was unacceptable to him. Therefore, in his mind, there was no way the jade could be Blood Jade.

After his quick internal debate, Henry speculated other possibilities and then had an "aha" moment.

"How could this stone possibly contain Blood Jade? This little window might look blood-red as if there were Blood Jade inside, but there are other explanations. It could be due to the lighting or the reflection of red light inside the stone. Or there could be impurities such as glass, which, even if red, are worthless."

It was then that a smiling figure approached—Nicholas made his appearance.

“Hello, Jessica, Daniel!” Nicholas greeted warmly, but noticeably, he didn’t greet Andrew. Having overheard Andrew calling Daniel a country bumpkin, Nicholas felt annoyed and decided to ignore him.

Nicholas was quite well-known, and of course, Andrew recognized him. He initially assumed that after greeting Jessica, Nicholas would also acknowledge him. However, Nicholas acted as if he hadn’t seen Andrew at all, a snub that made Andrew feel publicly humiliated. To save face, Andrew took the initiative

to greet him, “Nicholas, long time no see!”

“Oh, there’s Andrew! My apologies, I didn’t see you just now,” Nicholas replied with a beaming smile

before turning his attention to the stone Daniel had chosen with the newly opened window.

“Did Daniel pick this stone?”

“Yes,” Daniel confirmed with a grin, seizing the opportunity to sell the stone. “Now that it has a window, if you’re interested, Nicholas, I can offer it to you for three million. If all goes well, we might find a fist-sized Blood Jade inside it, which I estimate could be worth at least five million.”

Nicholas took the stone and examined it carefully. The glow through the small window did indeed seem

to come from Blood Jade. However, the quality of this piece was quite ordinary, not of a top grade. Its rating was probably mid-to-high. While a large-size Blood Jade of this quality might indeed fetch five million, this one’s size was still in question—if it turned out to be small, it may not even fetch half a

million. Buying it for three million would be risky.

Still, Nicholas had great faith in Daniel, after all, he was his master! There is no way Nicholas wouldn’t trust him completely.

“Daniel’s skills far surpass mine. I’m confident you wouldn’t make a mistake. I’ll buy the stone for three

million,” Nicholas declared, making the purchase right then and there.

Andrew was stunned, unable to believe Nicholas, known for his shrewdness—always the one taking

advantage of others—had just been duped. This couldn't be right; Andrew decided he had to intervene.

He couldn't let the country boy's plan succeed.

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Chapter 135 Trust in Daniel

Andrew quickly interjected, trying to caution Nicholas. “Nicholas, this stone is worthless—it doesn't contain any jade. Henry, the top appraiser from Florida, has already examined it. The red glow you see isn't Blood Jade; it's just a piece of red glass. If you spend three million on it'll merely be wasting your money!”

“Florida's top appraiser, Henry?” Nicholas looked toward Henry with a laugh. “Henry's reputation precedes him! As far as I know, Henry has an almost flawless record in jade gambling. If he's here, he must be participating in Jade Gambling too. I'm curious how any purchases he's made tonight have turned out.”

Henry felt a bit awkward fielding Nicholas's question, but after many years in the industry, he knew he had to defend himself, and he openly admitted his mistake. “I have already purchased a stone, unfortunately making an incorrect decision.”

“Did you really take a close look at this stone Daniel picked, Henry? Is the redness inside truly not Blood Jade, but a piece of red glass?” Nicholas pressed him further.

Caught off guard by the question, Henry hesitated. To claim it was red glass would mean admitting a blatant fib, both to himself and to Nicholas, and he could not jeopardize his reputation with such dishonesty. So instead of a direct answer, he replied, “I only glanced at this stone roughly. Whether it's Blood Jade or glass, I would need a closer evaluation.”

“Then, please, Henry, take a careful look at this stone,” Nicholas urged, passing the stone to Henry.

After a meticulous inspection, Henry came to his conclusion. “This is *no* glass; it truly is Blood Jade. However, the quality is quite ordinary, at best mid-grade. Judging from the

pattern, this Blood Jade piece won't be very large—no bigger than a coin, perhaps. Even extracted, this Blood Jade piece might only be worth a hundred thousand at most. Buying this stone for three million would not be a wise choice!”

Nicholas silently concurred with Henry's assessment, as it was close to his own observations. Still, he chose to believe in Daniel. Past experiences taught Nicholas that doubting Daniel usually meant trouble

for him.

“Henry says this Blood Jade might be worth a hundred thousand, tops, while Daniel believes it could be

worth at least five million. My opinion is to trust only what I can see with my own eyes! To determine

whether Henry's judgment is more accurate or Daniel's skills are superior, I've decided to purchase the

stone for three million. Let's cut it in half and show everyone what's really inside.”

With the stone in hand, Nicholas gave the command, and the staff member's small electric saw buzzed

into life, slicing through the stone. The palm-sized rock was quickly bisected.

As the stone split open, the interior surfaced for all to see.

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Chapter 136

Chapter 136 Five Million

Indeed, the cross-section was red, but it was a dull red with many impurities. To everyone's eyes, the quality of the jade looked quite average. Despite its size being as big as a fist, the stone's many impurities meant that if used for bracelets, the finished product wouldn't yield more than ten bracelets. To say it was worth five million was a

stretch—it might not even be worth five hundred. It looked like Daniel had seriously messed up.

Nicholas, whose expression had initially been full of expectation, now looked visibly upset upon seeing the cut—open stone. Pointing at the dull red cross—section with visible impurities, he asked Daniel, “Is this what you call a Blood Jade worth five million?”

“Yes,” Daniel nodded confidently, offering a suggestion to Nicholas. “If you don’t think it’s worth five million, I can refund the three million, and you can return the stone to me. We can cancel the transaction.”

Hearing this, Andrew quickly called out to Nicholas, “Cancel! Only an idiot wouldn’t cancel this

transaction!”

Yet, Nicholas shook his head, indicating his refusal. “I’ve never regretted a business decision. It’s only three million—I can afford the loss.”

Andrew was speechless, but he didn’t give up. After pondering for a moment, he came up with a rationale to try to convince Nicholas. “You don’t renounce deals, Nicholas, I respect that. However, this isn’t just

about one transaction—it’s about two.

The first transaction already concluded when you bought the stone from the country boy. Now, there’s a

second potential deal since he’s willing to purchase the stone back from you for three million.

So, Nicholas, if you sell the stone to him at that price, your reputation remains untarnished.”

“Andrew, I understand what you’re saying, but I choose to believe this stone contains Blood Jade worth

five million,” Nicholas asserted firmly. Previously, his suspicion of Daniel had only brought him hardship.

He was determined to trust Daniel this time, not willing to taste regret again.

Andrew couldn’t grasp why Nicholas remained adamant, thinking there was something off about him

today. Left with no alternative, Andrew turned to Henry for his opinion.

“Henry, what’s your take on this jade that’s been cut open? Can this dull red Blood Jade riddled with

impurities be valuable? Can it really be worth 5 million?”

Henry shook his head and explained, “Based on this cross–section, I can’t be certain it’s Blood Jade. If it

is, it’s seemingly of the lowest quality. Forget about 5 million, this stone might not even be worth 500.

At best, it could be used to make a few low–quality bracelets, the kind that sell for maybe 10 dollars apiece.”

After listening to Henry, Andrew once again turned to Nicholas. “Nicholas, you can disregard my advice, but Henry is the top appraiser in Florida! He won’t make a mistake, especially now that the stone has been cut open. Three million may not be a significant amount for someone like you, but it seems unnecessary to give it away to some country bumpkin, isn’t that a pity?”

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Chapter 137

Chapter 137 He’s bullying me

Andrew just didn’t want to see Daniel gain anything from this and be enraged if that country boy actually ended up with the three million. So, he had to prevent the transaction; he had to **ensure** Nicholas sold the worthless stone back to Daniel for three million.

“My money is my own concern, Andrew. Thank you, but I don’t need your advice on what to do with it,” Nicholas dismissed Andrew and turned to Daniel, holding the halved stone. “Is there something else

inside, Daniel?”

“Yes, but I need something first. Brittany, can you do me a quick favor? Run outside and buy me a bottle.

of vodka. The vodka they have here gets ruined because of the location, and if we want to reveal the true

nature of this Blood Jade, I'll need you to personally buy some vodka from outside."

At Daniel's request, Brittany immediately became furious, stomping her high heel and rejecting the errand.

"No way! Why should I run errands? I'm not your assistant."

"What's wrong with leg work? Look how lazy you are; you must have gained weight recently. Running

errands will help you lose weight. Just go!" Daniel teased her further.

Knowing full well Daniel was intentionally bullying Brittany, Jessica couldn't help but support him. After

all, Brittany routinely targeted Daniel, and a touch of payback seemed only fair.

Stunned, Brittany turned to Jessica with disbelief. "Jessica, he's blatantly bullying me, and you're still

taking his side?"

"All you have to do is buy something; how is that bullying? You've been calling him names—isn't that the

real bullying? Be quick; we're waiting for the vodka to turn this seemingly average Blood Jade into one

worth five million. If he can't do that, I'll make sure he pays for it."

With Jessica's words, Brittany had no choice but to go. However, she didn't set off immediately. Glaring at Daniel, she reminded him, "I'm only buying for you this one time today. Besides one bottle of vodka,

what else do you need? You'd better list everything at once!"

Last time at Auctiq, Brittany had to run around multiple times. She definitely didn't want a repeat of that

ordeal.

"For now, just the vodka. If I need anything else later, I'll let you know."

Brittany was so angry at Daniel's response that she nearly exploded on the spot. Turning back to Jessica,

she protested, "You heard what he said! This country bumpkin just wants to torment me; he's intentionally

making me run errands. If you don't keep him in check, he'll surely send me out for more after the vodka

is back."

"Just get the vodka first, and if he bullies you again later, I've got your back," Jessica reassured, although she had no real intention of defending Brittany. After progressing to secretary, Brittany had grown arrogant within The Matthews Organization, with no one daring to oppose her. Jessica wanted Daniel to take her down a peg, seeing it as potentially beneficial.

Furthermore, Daniel was merely making her buy something, hardly worth calling a punishment.

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Jessica's command left no room for Brittany's defiance. With deep dissatisfaction and a grudge, Brittany gritted her teeth and reluctantly went to fetch the vodka.

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Chapter 138

Chapter 138 Plastic

In **no** time, the vodka was purchased—a common, pretri

matup, selling at about three hundred dollars a borde

Such liavor often comes & hefty

Brittany handed the vodka to Daniel with resentment in her dice) This bottle of vodka costs a thousand

dollars, and it's coming out of your paycheck”

No way! Why should I pay for this bottle? Nicholas reads it, and even if it cost a hundred thousand

dollars, Nicholas should be the one to pay.”

Upon hearing this, Nicholas promptly agreed with a broad smile, it's on me! This vodka is on my tab ri transfer a thousand dollars to Brittany right away.”

Nicholas quickly completed the transfer. With the extra seven hundred dollars in her pocket just from buying a bottle, Brittany couldn't help feeling elated. This was much quicker money than her day job.

However, she still despised Daniel How dare that country boy task her with running errands?

Nicholas looked at Daniel expectantly, gesturing towards the vodka in his hand, “Daniel, are you ready to perform now?”

“Oh, I forgot, I need a lighter

Binay immediately refused, stamping her foot, **I'm** not going! I will not go and buy that for your

I've got a lighter right here.” Nicholas quickly pulled out a lighter from his pocket and handed it to Daniel, as he often carried one for his smoking habit

“Brittany, can you grab a clean plate from the buffet area? I need it to be about this big” Daniel commanded, even motioning the size with his hands.

“Why should I? What gives you the right to boss me around?” Brittany refused, so Daniel turned to Jessica, Maybe you can help me out, Jessica?

Hey! How dare you give me orders? Jessica rolled her eyes at Daniel and then snapped at Brittany, “Dust go and get it already”

Brittany was speechless and fuming with anger. No matter how mad she got, all she could do was curse

Daniel under her breath.

I'm keeping tabs on all this! One day, I'll get you back double!" she threatened before storming off to get the plate.

Once she brought back the plate, Daniel placed the two rock halves inside. He then opened the vodka and

poured the entire content onto the rocks.

With a click, he ignited the lighter. The rocks, soaked with vodka, caught fire, crackling intensely.

The flame of alcohol is usually pale blue, but the fire in the plate was blood red, looking eerily strange. Along with the cracking sound came billowing black smoke and a scent of something burnt.

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As everyone watched, puzzled by Daniel's actions, Andrew couldn't hold back his curiosity.

"Why is it like this? It doesn't seem to be just the alcohol burning. Perhaps the rock isn't really a rock but something like plastic. Otherwise, how could it produce black smoke? And there's a burnt smell too."

Henry agreed, nodding as he took over the conversation.

"Andrew is right; this so-called 'rock' is likely plastic, which explains everything. Spending three million on a worthless rock was already foolish enough. And then to waste a thousand dollars on vodka to pour over

it—I don't even know how to describe such behavior!"

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Chapter 139

Chapter 139 Reputation

Picking up the conversation with a chuckle, Daniel said, “Maybe Nicholas isn’t the sharpest tool in the shed, but he’s certainly not stupid. It’s you, the so-called top Florida appraiser, who seems to be blind. A five million dollar Blood Jade right in front of you, and you can’t recognize it? Maybe you should quit being an appraiser, Henry. Ever thought about construction work? After all, that doesn’t require good eyesight!”

Daniel’s words felt like a slap in the face to Henry, who was instantly boiling with rage.

“What do you mean by that, you little hillbilly? Are you saying I’m blind?”

“If a Blood Jade is right before you and you can’t recognize it, what other explanation could there be if not blindness?”

“That’s just a piece of junk plastic, and you dare call it Blood Jade? I think it’s you who’s blind—no, you were born blind!”

Just as Henry finished speaking, the flames in the plate went out, leaving the two halves of what was supposed to be precious stones charred and emitting a pungent burnt odor.

Andrew understood the irony immediately and burst into laughter. “Hahaha...” he laughed so hard that everyone could see the jubilation in his face.

He pointed to the charred pieces, calling out excitedly to Nicholas. “Look, Nicholas! That’s your three million, oh no, I mean three million and one thousand dollar Blood Jade!”

Before he could finish, Andrew was consumed by laughter once again. It was hilarious!

After decades of never being bamboozled in New York, the savvy Nicholas was duped by a country boy?

Now that Andrew had ignited mockery towards Nicholas, Henry joined in, pointing at the charred remnants, “See, Nicholas? Did I lie to you? Didn’t I tell you this wasn’t Blood Jade, and now you believe it? It’s not just far from Blood Jade; it’s not even jade—it’s just junk plastic! Spending three million on this, Nicholas, you lost more than just money. You’ve lost your reputation!”

Henry, cunning as a fox, managed not just to mock Nicholas but also stoked the flames of discord

between Nicholas and Daniel.

Though furious, Nicholas contained his anger and queried Daniel pointing at the charred remains, “Daniel, you said this is Blood Jade, but it clearly doesn’t seem to be. What’s going on here?”

Before Daniel could reply, Brittany chimed in, “Blood Jade? Jade is a stone, and stones don’t burn, right? Look at it, all black and smelly like char. It’s obviously just a piece of junk plastic!”

Henry was right; if news of this debacle spread, all of Nicholas’s hard-earned reputation would crumble, and he would become the laughingstock of New York. That was something Nicholas could never accept.

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Chapter 140

Chapter 140 Turnaround

Brittany, seizing the moment to further worsen Daniel’s situation, decided to agitate things a bit. “That country boy is pretty clever, selling a piece of worthless plas hree million dollars—and to Nicholas

of all people! If this gets out, he’ll be an overnight sensation. You know, there are lots of con artists in New York, but one who could con Nicholas? This guy might just be the first, and certainly the only one!”

initially, Nicholas maintained a smile despite the simmering anger, but at Brittany’s words, his face darkened instantly.

Sensing a turn in the atmosphere, Jessica quickly stepped forward. “Jade gambling—it’s all a gamble! It’s normal to have wins and losses. The stone was Daniel’s choice, which means it was my choice. Nicholas, let me cover the three million. I would never allow my assistant to deceive anyone.”

Jessica pulled out her phone, about to transfer the money to Nicholas.

“There’s no need, Jessica. I’m not a sore loser. It’s just three million. I can afford that. Plus, I trust Daniel wouldn’t fool me! Even though the stone now looks charred, I believe it might hold other secrets, waiting for Daniel to uncover them.”

Nicholas wasn’t just playing magnanimous in front of Jessie—it was a calculated choice. His instincts told him that if he didn’t trust Daniel, he would suffer a great loss, but if he did trust him, he might gain. something valuable.

Now that Nicholas had expressed his stance, Daniel didn’t want to waste any more time. “Nicholas, congratulations! I originally thought this Blood Jade was worth five million, but after the fire, I realized I was too conservative. It’s worth at least ten million!”

Daniel’s words thrilled Nicholas. “Daniel, you’d better not be joking with me. Are you saying this Blood Jade is worth ten million?”

“Ten million is just my conservative estimate. If you get a master to carve it, its worth could rise above twenty or thirty million. After all, gold is valuable, but jade is priceless! For jade, its quality sets the base value, but with the work of a master artist, its price can easily multiply.”

Andrew, with his grating laugh, interrupted their conversation. “Nicholas! You used to be so smart; I’ve never heard of a con man who could trick you in all of New York! What’s gotten into you today? Being led around by the nose by this country boy? Anyone with a brain can see he’s just playing you! He played you once and now he’s going for round two—he’s making a monkey out of you! I can’t believe you’re still falling for it. If I hadn’t seen it with my own eyes, I would never believe you could be this foolish.”

“Andrew, this is between Daniel and me, and it’s none of your business. Please don’t act like a meddling bitch trying to stir up trouble between us! If Daniel says this Blood Jade is worth ten million, then it’s worth ten million!”

Daniel pointed towards the buffet area and said to Brittany, “Brittany, there are bottles of mineral water over there. Fetch a few for me.”

“Why me again? I’m not doing it!” Brittany rebelled.

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