

Chapter 80 Costlier Imitation

"I'm sorry about this, Mr. Bryant. Not to worry. I'll shut her up right now!"

Beads of sweat appeared on Curran's forehead as he pleaded with Marco. He then turned to Vickie and gave her a warning look.

It was just a show. Deep down, he was happy his goal had been achieved.

Lorraine spent a fortune on a fake painting. Three million and five hundred thousand dollars was gone just like that! He believed she must have spent her entire net worth.

Curran felt like jumping for joy the more he thought about it. He continued to put up a show and even urged Lorraine to take the painting.

"Miss Torres, although the painting is an imitation, you won the bid. Go for it."

Under the gaze of most of the guests, Lorraine uttered calmly, "Yeah, I know that the painting is just an imitation, but it is actually more

Under the gaze of most of the guests, Loraine uttered calmly, "Yeah, I know that the painting is just an imitation, but it is actually more valuable than the original."

Curran's jaw dropped. After a while, he let out a burst of sarcastic laughter.

"Did the heavy blow affect your brain? In what world are imitations worth more than originals? I have never heard of a more ridiculous thing!" Even Marco and Jimmie felt that Loraine didn't know what she was talking about.

Marco was afraid that she would make a bigger fool of herself if she went on like this. He decided to step in.

"Stop this, Loraine."

Once Loraine heard that statement, she turned to look at Marco with an icy expression.

Did he take her for a fool? Was he talking her out of this because he was afraid she would bring shame to him? The nerve of him!

"Sit this one out, Marco. It's none of your business."

Marco pulled a long face as soon as he was told off.

The two of them glared at each other.

"Lorrie, just ignore them! I believe you!"

Although Jennie didn't know much about painting, she was on Loraine's side as always.

Loraine couldn't help but smile due to her friend's support.

She glanced at the crowd and continued, "This painting is indeed an imitation. But the artist is Sirloin's best friend, Robert Andrew."

Suddenly, a sharp scream came from the crowd.

"Robert Andrew? The talented painter whose paintings are worth nothing less than five million dollars each?"

"No way!" Curran immediately objected. "This painting isn't in Robert's style at all. He's into painting natural landscapes!"

Loraine nodded with a smirk when she heard this statement.

"Yes, this painting isn't Robert's style. But that doesn't negate the fact that he painted this to imitate Sirloin's work. Just as you said, the style and color are easy to imitate, but the technique of painting cannot be changed easily. It's true that Robert's forte is landscape painting. But

he's also fond of using a lot of colors. Moreover, his painting style has always been unrestrained. That said, you may have heard that Robert has the habit of writing his name somewhere on each painting he makes. You can go ahead and check this painting if you are still doubting."

As Loraine spoke, she pointed at the general's cloak in the painting. There seemed to be letters among the layers of wrinkles.

"No!" Curran, who knew that he was losing the argument, tried to find another way to fight back. "Robert is much more famous than Sirloin. Why would he imitate Sirloin's painting?"

Loraine raised her eyebrows at him.

"Isn't it obvious? They are best friends. It's normal for friends to copy each other. Besides, they learned a lot from each other. It's said that Robert even wrote in his diary that they sometimes imitated each other's paintings and put them up for sale to see whose painting would be sold at a higher price. Last year, Sirloin's landscape painting named *The Field* was sold at Boli Auction House. It was an imitation of one of Robert's paintings. If my memory serves me right, it was sold for seven

million, two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. It was more expensive than the original. The same goes for this one!"

Everyone's eyes widened in shock.

The way Loraine managed to turn the tide was shocking. It turned out that it was a little common for imitations to cost more than originals.

If Loraine was saying the truth, it meant that the original worth of the painting was way higher than her offer.


Before the guests could recover from the shock, Vickie raised another issue.

"Loraine, how can you prove that this is Robert's painting? We need solid proof, not some cock-and-bull story. Besides, how could you tell it at a glance?"

Everyone, including Curran, saw some sense in her words. They nodded and looked at Loraine. Curran had been in the antique collection industry for thirty years. How could he lose such a heated argument with a woman in her twenties? It would be shameful.

In a bid to win the argument, Curran asked that

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 +120 Points at most

the painting be authenticated again.

"Let the auctioneers check if the painting is Robert's!"