

Lucky Collision (Evans and Martin Robinson) Chapter 14

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Chapter 14 I'm With Father-In-Law

Just then, Evans received a text message on his phone. It was a message from Zoe.

"What are you doing, Piggy? I miss you."

Evans stared at his phone for quite some time. Then, he stole a glance at Daniel.

"I'm with my Father-in-law right now." He typed a reply and sent it to Zoe.

On the other hand, Zoe was so shocked by Evans's message that she even dropped her phone.

Why is he at my dad's shop again?

Zoe hurriedly picked up the phone and deleted her previous message.

Back at Treasure Trove, Evans gently felt around the corners of the painting as he looked at it closely.

Why am I seeing two names associated with one painting?

Evans moved the box further away from the painting. Then, he fixed his gaze on the painting again.

I was right. The information that I'm getting is still the same.

Could it be that both men had worked on the painting? That's impossible, though! Both of them lived in different eras. How could they possibly work on the painting together?!

There must be something else that I'm missing...

Evans carefully picked up the painting and held it against the light above him. His eyes flew open in surprise.

Good heavens! So, that's it!

Evans put the painting down and muttered slowly, "Father..."

Wait! That's not it!

"Mr. Rodriguez, you've hit the jackpot."

Daniel asked curiously, "What do you mean?"

Evans smiled as he gave a small sigh. "You're truly lucky to have bought this painting for just 8000 dollars. There's another painting within this painting that you're looking at."

"What?! Please explain more about what you're saying." Daniel could barely hold back his excitement.

Evans replied, "If I'm not mistaken, there's another painting done by Jean Liotard hidden behind this painting."

The painting done by George Romney would most likely cost at most 30 thousand dollars at its usual price. However, Jean Liotard's paintings are worth millions of dollars! "What?! You're not trying to pull a prank on me, right?" Daniel had a look of utter disbelief in his eyes.

"Do you happen to know of any way for us to take the hidden painting out securely?" Evans asked.

Daniel thought about it for a bit. Then, he rushed to the back of his shop and returned with a small bucket of water. Daniel also found a soft brush with which he used to wet the edges of the painting.

After waiting for a while, Daniel slowly peeled off the second layer of paper stuck to the back of the painting.

Just as Evans had predicted, another painting could be seen at the back of George Romney's painting. Daniel could also make out what seemed to be Jean Liotard's signature on the second painting.

"Evans! I knew I was right about you!"

Daniel clutched Evans's shoulder in his excitement. "If this is really an artwork done by Jean Liotard, I'll need to buy you a gift to repay you for your help!"

Evans replied calmly, "You don't have to do that. I didn't really do much."

"That won't do! I still need your help to keep our discovery of Jean Liotard's painting today a secret."

Jean Liotard's paintings are one of the most wanted items sought after by art collectors. I want to keep the fact that I'm holding on to one of his paintings private for now.

Daniel picked up his phone and transferred 20 thousand dollars to Evans via his online banking app.

"That's a small token of gratitude from me."

"I can't possibly accept this, Mr. Rodriguez."

Before Evans got the chance to return the money, Daniel stopped him, "You don't have to feel bad about taking that amount of money from me."

"It's a rule that we practice in our line of work. It's only right I pay you a certain amount of money when you've helped me discover such a valuable painting."

"If it weren't for your help, I might have sold off the painting and lost my chance to earn

more money!”

In the end, Evans yielded and accepted the money from Daniel.

After Evans had returned to his dorm, he decided to send a text message to Zoe.

“Let’s eat at a nice place today. It’ll be my treat. I got 20 thousand dollars from your dad today.”

“What the heck?! What did you do this time?!” Zoe replied almost instantly.

Dad gave him 20 thousand dollars?!

I must meet with him and find out what he was doing at Treasure Trove!

“I’ll change my clothes and head out right now.”

Evans had a sunny smile on his face as he read Zoe’s message.

After that, Evans transferred half of the money he received to his mother’s bank account. He had no plans of using those 20 thousand dollars on his investments.

However, he got a call from his father minutes later.

“Why did you transfer the money you got from your scholarship to us? You should keep it and use it for your daily expenses!”

“You’re on your own in a new environment.”

“If you happen to get a girlfriend later on, you’ll need the money to spend on dates.”

Evans ended up spending almost ten minutes trying to explain to his father that he had enough money for all that.

Sigh... I guess I need to find a better way to send them money after this.

Soon afterward, Evans met up with Zoe. The two of them decided to eat at a restaurant located slightly further away from the university. They wanted to avoid running into someone they know.

As soon as they sat down, Zoe said sternly, “Evans, you can’t let my father find out about us!”

“I remember you saying that your family is alright with you being in a relationship... Oh. I get it now... You’re just toying with me, aren’t you?” Evans asked.

Zoe pinched Evans on his waist. “What nonsense is that? Are you seriously considering marrying me when we’re both still university students now?”

“Well, of course! I’ve even decided on the names for our children.”

Zoe almost spit out the water as she was taking a sip of her drink. She rolled her eyes.

“So, what were you doing at my dad’s shop?” Zoe asked.

“Your dad asked for my help to check the authenticity of some of his stuff.”

“You know how to do that?” Zoe’s eyes widened.

“Nope.”

“Why did you go to his shop then?”

“I went because of you, of course. He’s your dad after all.”

Zoe narrowed her eyes and gazed at Evans.

He’s not telling me the full truth. It’s fine, though. I’ll just ask Dad later.

After they had finished eating, Zoe returned to her dormitory and phoned Daniel.

She heard him speaking in a chirpy tone the minute the line got through. “Zoe, Evans has helped me earn a fortune today!”

“I had planned to sell the painting at a price of 80 thousand dollars at first. I’m so glad we’ve been able to discover that secret painting with Evans’s help!”

Huh? So, Evans is an expert at antique valuation?

Zoe ended the call soon. She muttered to herself, “I think that guy is hiding something from me.”

Not too long after Evans had reached his room, he noticed that the Searall Group’s shares had gone up by 20%. He had as much as 155 thousand dollars in his account at the moment.

Hmm... I think I’ll be able to have enough money to get a wife soon if everything goes smoothly like this for the days to come.