

## Million-Dollar 241

### Chapter 241

Paula caught the flicker of family reunion in Mila's sharp eyes.

"Is something up? Do you two know each other?"

"We've crossed paths before, and there was a minor misunderstanding." Mila, having regained her composure after the initial shock, shot Vivienne a genuine smile. "I apologize for my behavior last time, Vivienne. I hope you didn't mind."

With that said, she quickly filled Paula in on the incident at the concert.

Being a smart woman, she knew Vivienne was Scott's daughter. To marry Scott, she couldn't afford to have a conflict with Vivienne. It was better to apologize first.

"I don't mind." Vivienne curved her lips into a smirk. "After all, we're not close."

Mila's smile froze, her face barely maintaining its usual composure.

Paula, enraged, rebuked her. "Vivienne! This is your elder. Given the relationship between the Brooks and Clark families, you should respect her. What kind of attitude is this?"

Vivienne's brow twitched in irritation.

God, this woman was annoying!

“Scott, aren’t you going to do anything about your daughter? If you hadn’t prematurely left her concert in Havenwood and made her too embarrassed to return to us, she wouldn’t have been in such a rush to get to the next city. She wouldn’t have had that accident and hurt her hand, making her have to cancel the rest of her tour!” Paula spat out these accusations viciously at Scott.

Hearing this, Judith and Scott felt a surge of guilt. They had indeed embarrassed Mila that day, but it was because of her outrageous behavior.

Given the long-standing relationship between the Brooks and Clark families and Mila’s regular visits to the Brooks Mansion, they should have saved her some dignity.

“Huh?” Vivienne interjected with her hands in her pockets and her eyes full of mischief. “Ms. Mila, are you too poor to afford a hotel?”

Mila was taken aback, and she frowned at Vivienne. “What do you mean?”

Vivienne lazily brushed a strand of hair off her face. “You had the option of staying at a hotel, but chose to rush off and ended up having an accident. And now you're blaming the Brooks?”

The previously guilty Judith and Scott suddenly realized their mistake.

Indeed, even if she was too embarrassed to stay with them, nobody forced her to rush to the next city that very day. Her accident had nothing to do with them.

Faced with this, Mila's face turned ashen, and a burning anger flashed in her eyes.

Vivienne was even more troublesome than Arabella.

Her accident was a lie. She did this because the incident at her Havenwood concert had spread widely.

Many people posted videos online.

If Vivienne weren't Percival's fiancée, she might have hired a PR team to slander her. But with

Percival's protection and knowing that Percival was Mr. Percy, she knew she was in the wrong and

didn't dare smear Vivienne's name.

Therefore, she accepted her agent's suggestion to cancel the tour under the pretense of an accident to

avoid any potential backlash from the Havenwood incident that could affect future concerts.

Paula, seeing Vivienne turn the tables on Mila in just a few sentences, glared at Vivienne in fury.

"It's okay, Paula. This is my problem, so we can't blame Scott." Mila quickly intervened, but she still felt

a burning hatred for Vivienne in her heart.

Just wait!

Time will tell!

Once she became the matriarch of the Brooks family, Vivienne would see hell.

With that, she sat next to Paula, attempting to change the topic.

Calista followed her mother and took a seat.

Both Carl and Eddy were eager to strike up a conversation with Calista, but her attention was focused

on Percival. With a subtle smile, she said, "Mr. Ellington, we meet again."

Percival looked up as his deep eyes briefly scanned her face before quickly looking away. There was

an apparent distaste in his expression. "And you are?"

"I'm Calista from the TIC Research Institute." Calista struggled to maintain her composure. She didn't

expect Percival to fail to recognize her yet again.

"Oh." Percival remembered as his frown deepened. "Apologies. I'm face-blind when it comes to

women."

It wasn't that. To be frank, she was too ugly.

So ugly that it hurt his eyes.

He needed to look at Vivienne to cleanse his eyes.

Vivienne lifted her head and met Percival's deep, affectionate gaze. After seeing the distaste in his eyes, she couldn't help but smile. Her radiant smile took Scott's breath away. This was the first time he had seen Vivienne smile since he met her.

She was stunning. At that moment, she bore a striking resemblance to Karen.

Seeing Vivienne looking at him, Percival gently took her hand and spoke with utmost sincerity, "You're the prettiest, Vivienne."

Vivienne was speechless.

She understood why he was doing this. She was not exactly thrilled about people drooling over him in front of her, either.

But couldn't he at least save her some dignity?

Percival glanced up at her. From his gaze, she could tell that he wasn't trying to neglect her feelings, but he truly thought that there was no one as beautiful as her on this planet.

Vivienne had no response.

Calista struggled to maintain her composed facade. Her fingers instinctively clenched, and the

resentment in her eyes could not be concealed.

After a while, she averted her gaze, hiding the hostility in her eyes. She then asked with a light smile,

"Mr. Ellington, about that research..."

She was about to bring up the research project that Percival had handed over to her to steer the conversation back on track.

But then Percival's phone buzzed.

It was his mother, Cecilia.

Percival glanced at the caller ID, hesitated for a moment, and then looked up at Vivienne.

Vivienne was perplexed.

After a brief pause, Vivienne suddenly recalled something and asked, "Did you forget Cecilia and Isolde in Havenwood?"

"Cough!" Percival coughed lightly, feeling somewhat embarrassed. "I didn't mean to!"

Was he serious?

As soon as he answered the phone, Cecilia's furious voice came through.

"You rotten kid! You actually ditched me and your sister and came back to Rivenwood all by yourself?!"

Do I not exist in your eyes anymore?! If you want to leave, just leave, but why did you have to whisk

Vivienne away too? She was supposed to help me make a dress!"

Isolde's aggrieved voice also came from the other end of the line. "Brother, do you and Vivienne not

like me anymore? Why did you leave me behind and run back to Rivenwood by yourselves?"

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Percival rubbed his temples with annoyance, feeling somewhat helpless.

"You need to come pick us up right now! No substitutes! Or we will never forgive you!" Cecilia

commanded.

Isolde chimed in. "Right, we will never forgive you!"

"Vivienne, I need to head to the airport to pick up my mom and Isolde." Percival stood up. "I'll be back

later."

He glanced at the Brooks family and asked Vivienne, "Do you want to come with me?"

He wanted her to avoid dealing with these troublesome people.

Vivienne lounged in her chair. "I'll pass. I'll visit Cecilia later."

"Alright." Percival didn't say anything else. If his girl wanted to stay and deal with the trash, let her.

Percival apologized to Judith and Scott before heading out.

After a few steps, he stopped by Calista. "Calista, unless it's important, don't talk to me."

He was talking to Calista, but his gaze was on Vivienne. It seemed like he was pleading for praise. "I

am a gentleman."

With that, he walked away without giving anyone else a glance.

Ashley, who was drinking water, sprayed it directly onto Carl's face.

"Damn!" Carl jumped up from the sofa. "Ashley, are you crazy?!"

"Sorry, sorry." Ashley apologized while giving Percival a peculiar look.

Did she just hear that right?

Percival said he was a gentleman?

What the hell?

Carl glared at Ashley before rushing upstairs to change clothes.

Calista's smile was frozen on her face. Percival was very clear. If she still tried to get close to him,

wouldn't everyone see her intentions?



She looked at Vivienne resentfully, only to see Vivienne's disdainful gaze in return. It seemed that all of her schemes were transparent under Vivienne's gaze.

She lowered her eyes in frustration as her hands crumpled up her pants.

Mila stretched out her hand, subtly patting Calista's hand to comfort her, signaling her not to be too hasty.

The atmosphere in the living room changed visibly after Percival left.

Paula's suppressed arrogance seemed to grow stronger, and her gaze towards Vivienne was predatory.

Meanwhile, Mila and Calista occasionally showed contempt for Vivienne as well.

At that moment, Cassie announced that dinner was ready.

Melissa quickly stood up and invited everyone to the table.

"Vivienne, sit next to Grandma." Judith took Vivienne's hand and led her to the head of the table, where Baron usually sat.

Vivienne didn't refuse, and she was about to sit down when...

"Such a lack of manners." Paula sneered. "Your grandma tells you to sit, and you choose that seat?!"

Do you know what that seat signifies?"

"I don't." Vivienne sat down at the head of the table without any hesitation.

"That's a seat only your grandfather can sit in!" Paula's voice grew sharp. "Look at yourself and see if you're worthy!"

Scott's face darkened. He was ready to fight back, but Judith was quicker. "Enough! I told Vivienne to sit there. If you have a problem, take it up with me!"

Paula's face turned red with anger. She wanted to argue, but Melissa pulled her back. She didn't dare argue with Judith directly, so she swallowed her anger and shut up.

Scott took a seat next to Judith. Paula had intended to have Mila sit next to Scott, but Scott pulled Timothy to sit down next to him instead.

Paula had no choice but to let Mila and Calista sit next to her.

Once Carl changed clothes and came down, he joined the table.

Judith asked Melissa, "Where's Darren?"

The Darren she referred to was Melissa's son and Ashley's brother, Darren Edwards.

Melissa frowned slightly. "I'm not sure. He told me he was flying into Rivenwood at nine this morning.

Why hasn't he arrived yet?"

She nudged Ashley. "Call your brother."

"I did earlier. He didn't answer." Ashley shook her head.

"Maybe his flight was delayed or he is stuck in traffic." Scott suggested. "Let's not wait for him and start eating."

"Alright." Judith patted Vivienne's hand. "Your auntie's son, Darren, doesn't have a regular job. He ran off last year to join some talent show. Ever since he got into the entertainment industry, he's hardly ever been home. This time, he rushed back from a film set because he heard you were found. He's not intentionally late."

She continued, "This is your first meal back home, so we prepared a family feast. In a few days, your father will arrange a family reunion banquet for you."

Judith was relieved that Arabella's banquet was held in Havenwood. Otherwise, it would be embarrassing for the Brooks family to have two family reunion banquets in Rivenwood in a row.

Vivienne didn't comment.

Judith then presented a velvet box to Vivienne. "Vivienne, this is a welcome gift from me."

Vivienne opened the box to find a high-grade bracelet, known as Peach Blossom.

It was rare to find a Peach Blossom bracelet of such high quality. It was full-colored and had a strong purple hue, which looked particularly good against Vivienne's fair skin.

Such a high-quality bracelet would be worth millions on the market. It was a pity there was only one. If there were a pair, the value would be even higher.

"Here, let me put it on for you." Judith said, reaching for the Peach Blossom bracelet. She carefully fastened it around Vivienne's wrist, then held it up for inspection. "This shade of lavender really is perfect for a young lady of your age."

"Mom!" Paula's voice was as sharp as a knife. Her eyes were fixed on the bracelet glittering on Vivienne's wrist. "When I was getting married, I asked for this bracelet. Do you remember what you told me?"

"You said there was only one bracelet. If you gave it to me, there wouldn't be any left for anyone else.

You didn't want to show favoritism, so you said you wouldn't give it to either of us. But now you're giving

it to this girl?"

Vivienne was just a country bumpkin. What right did she have to wear such an expensive bracelet?

Was she really worthy?

A mocking smile adorned Vivienne's lips. The Peach Blossom bracelet was indeed rare, but she didn't

feel like she absolutely had to have it.

However, seeing Paula's obvious distress made her change her mind. Now that she was wearing the

bracelet, it was hers.

"Did I lie?" Judith's brows furrowed in displeasure. "I didn't give the bracelet to you or your sister, so I'm

giving it to my granddaughter. Vivienne is my granddaughter. What's wrong with me giving this bracelet

to her?"

"But you have more than one granddaughter!" Paula's words were laced with envy. She shot Vivienne

a venomous glance before pointing at Timothy and Cheryl. "Did you forget about Kala? She's your

granddaughter, too!"

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Timothy and Cheryl were taken aback. Kala Brooks was their second-born, a blossoming actress who

had already won an Academy Award despite her young age. Her popularity was skyrocketing, which meant her filming schedule was quite hectic. Even with the news of Scott finding his biological daughter, she couldn't find the time to come home.

"Call Kala." Judith instructed with her voice strained.

Cheryl glanced at her husband. She was uncertain of Judith's intentions, but she still complied. She dialed Kala's number for a FaceTime call, assuming it would go unanswered due to the time difference and Kala's busy schedule abroad.

To her surprise, Kala answered immediately. "Mom, do you miss me?"

"Actually, your grandma misses you." Cheryl replied with a small smile and passed the phone to Judith.

"Kala." Judith greeted her with a now softer voice.

On the other end of the call, Kala was in the middle of a makeup touch-up. Half her false lashes had fallen off, and she was squinting as a makeup artist worked to fix them.

"Grandma!" She greeted her back.

"Do you remember grandma's Peach Blossom bracelet?" Judith asked gently.

"Of course! The one Aunt Paula always fusses over, right?" Kala sounded a bit muffled since she was

reapplying her lipstick.

Upon hearing this, Paula's expression flickered.

"Do you want it? I can give it to you." Judith offered with a faint smile.

Timothy and Cheryl exchanged worried glances, silently hoping Kala would decline. The last thing they wanted was to upset Judith over a bracelet.

"No thanks." Kala responded while making a face. "Why would I want to wear jade? It's so old-fashioned!"

Vivienne, who was wearing a jade bracelet, could only smile awkwardly.

"Then I will give it to your cousin Vivienne." Judith said, chuckling. She knew her eldest granddaughter was not one for flattery.

Kala shrugged indifferently. "Sure, go ahead."

Suddenly noticing Vivienne next to Judith, Kala leaned closer to the screen. "Wow, this cousin is so pretty! Much prettier than the last one. I like her at first sight. The last one, I just wanted to slap her face!"

Everyone at the table exchanged awkward glances.

"Kala, you need to mind your manners." Her assistant warned her.

"Ugh, everyone always tells me what to do." Kala pouted.

Laughter erupted from Judith and her companions. Timothy and Cheryl shared a helpless look,

knowing their daughter was notorious for her lack of a filter.

Just then, someone off-screen called for Kala. She leaned in to fill the screen. "My little cousin, I'll bring

you a gift when I come home. What do you like? There are so many blonde, blue-eyed hunks here; do

you want one? I can wrap a few up for you."

Cheryl quickly ended the call, blushing slightly. "Don't mind your cousin; she's always been a bit...

eccentric." She was relieved that Percival wasn't present.

Vivienne's eyes lit up. What woman wouldn't want more hunks around? The more, the merrier!

'You wouldn't dare!' It was like Vivienne could hear Percival's voice in her head.

If he could flirt, why couldn't she find some hunks?

But when did Percival ever flirt with someone else?

"Ashley, do you want this bracelet?" Judith asked, turning to Ashley.



The bracelet was rare, and Ashley would love to have it. However, she could only suppress her

jealousy of Vivienne and politely decline. "The bracelet suits Vivienne best."

Judith nodded in satisfaction and turned to Paula. "Everyone is okay with me giving the bracelet to

Vivienne. Do you have anything else to say?"

Paula scowled at the bracelet on Vivienne's wrist. Her appetite was gone. She threw her forks down in

a huff, earning a stern reprimand from Judith.

Calista, who had been quietly observing, spoke up then, offering to take Paula to a private gemstone

auction later in the afternoon.

Hearing this, Paula's mood lifted slightly, and she thanked Calista for her generosity.

With the tension diffused, the family continued their meal, each with their thoughts preoccupied with the

events of the day.

Paula surveyed the younger generation of the Brooks family gathered around the table, and then her

gaze finally settled on Vivienne. "I must say," she declared, "none of our kids can hold a candle to our

little gem, Calista."

Vivienne continued eating her meal, her face an unreadable mask.

Calista and her mother sent smug glances her way, seemingly trying to gloat.

She found it quietly amusing.

What were they trying to show off to her?

Some kind of female rivalry?

She was not interested in the least.

Judith, smiling and nodding in agreement, was about to add a compliment or two about Calista when

Paula's next comment made her shut her mouth.

Upon seeing Judith's expression fade, Mila silently cursed Paula for her tactlessness.

No matter how good someone else's child was, who would ever enjoy hearing their own child belittled?

"On the contrary." Mila quickly interjected, trying to smooth things over. "I think Ronald is doing

fantastic. He's a real whiz in the business world. Everyone sings his praises."

This seemed to alleviate Judith's mood slightly.

Each individual had their own talents.

Calista's gift was in medicine, an area where the younger generation of the Brooks family couldn't compete. But when it came to business, she could never outshine Ronald, and as for acting, Kala was undoubtedly the star.

Only someone as thoughtless as Paula would praise another's child while stepping on her own.

Chapter 244

The atmosphere suddenly became a bit tense.

At this point, Eddy looked at Calista and asked, "Calista, you're interested in gemstones too?"

"A bit." Calista replied modestly with a smile. "My grandfather loved it, so I used to accompany him to various gemstone markets and private auctions. I often watched him bid on precious gemstones."

"I'm also very interested." Eddy finally found a common topic with Calista, and he laughed heartily. "I once went to the Mirelia Continent mine to buy raw gemstones with someone and watched how the workers picked and washed the stones."

"Why don't we accompany Aunt Paula to check it out this afternoon?" Calista suggested. "My friend's private auction not only has raw stones with windows open but also ones without windows, for guests who are interested in trying their luck."

"Sounds great." Eddy agreed enthusiastically.

"I'd like to go too, Calista. You wouldn't mind bringing me along, right?" Carl chimed in.

"I'm going too; I'm going too." Ashley added, stealing a glance at the Peach Blossom bracelet on Vivienne's wrist.

Wasn't Grandma always saying she wasn't biased?

Then she would go to the gemstone auction and pick a good raw material herself, have someone make a bracelet out of it, and let Judith pay for it. That wouldn't be too much, would it?

So she turned to Judith with a smile. "Grandma, you haven't given me a graduation gift yet. If I run out of pocket money and find something I like, can you reimburse me?"

"Ashley!" Melissa frowned. "If you want something, your parents will buy it for you."

"Alright, I'll reimburse you." Judith saw through Ashley's little scheme, but in order to maintain harmony among the younger generation, she couldn't play favorites.

Ashley was someone she watched grow up, and she believed Ashley wouldn't intentionally pick something overly expensive just to overshadow Vivienne.

"Thank you, Grandma." Ashley immediately broke into a happy smile.

One by one, everyone said they wanted to go.

"Vivienne, why don't you come with us?" Calista took the opportunity to invite Vivienne. "You've probably never been to a gemstone market or private auction before, so why not broaden your horizons? You might find something you like. Your grandma will certainly gift it to you."

This was a clear slight at Vivienne's lack of experience and taste.

Vivienne leaned back in her chair, crossing her arms while sizing up Calista. Then, the corners of her lips turned up slightly, and her eyes twinkled. "Sure, let's go."

She had been thinking about buying some gemstones recently anyway.

But now that someone was stirring the pot, she decided to tag along and see what was up. Just as well, she felt like asserting herself again.

"Vivienne, Calista's right. If you see something you like, just buy it. Grandma will reimburse you." Judith caught the undertone of what Calista said and quickly backed Vivienne up.

"Dad will reimburse you too." Scott added. He pulled out a share transfer agreement. "This is my gift to you. I'm transferring 10% of my shares in the Brooks Group to you. You can buy whatever you want."

Everyone at the table, except for Judith, gasped. Ten percent of the Brooks Group was worth billions.

The annual dividends alone were beyond what most people could earn in ten years.

"Big brother is really generous!" Paula's eyes were filled with envy. Every time she thought about her missing daughter, she couldn't bear to see Scott's daughter receiving such a wonderful gift.

However, the shares were Scott's to give, and even though Paula was green with envy, she couldn't say a word.

Only Mila's expression faltered slightly. Her gaze was icy-cold as she glanced at Vivienne.

Vivienne casually accepted the agreement. Though ten percent of the Brooks Group was only a drop in the bucket compared to her own assets, she took it without hesitation. After all, this was what Scott owed her and her mother.

She glanced up, catching Mila's chilly gaze before it quickly shifted away, as if it were just a figment of her imagination.

In the end, all the younger members of the Brooks family decided to go to the gemstone auction in River Village. The older generation wasn't interested; only Paula and Mila decided to go.

Ronald, the eldest of the younger generation, wasn't initially interested in the auction. But because

Paula harbored ill feelings towards Vivienne, he decided to go along to ensure Vivienne wouldn't be at a disadvantage.

Just as everyone was about to leave, a young man with silver hair, wearing oversized sunglasses, and dressed flamboyantly like a peacock, strolled into the Brooks Mansion with a suitcase while humming a tune. "I'm back!"

As he took off his sunglasses, ready to charm everyone, Melissa rushed over and grabbed his ear.

"Didn't you say your flight was landing at nine? Why are you only back now? Where did you gallivant off to?"

"Mom, mom, let go!" Darren grimaced in pain as he tilted his head and bent over. "I'm a super popular star now. Fans recognize me everywhere. Where could I possibly go?"

Cassie, watching from the side, couldn't help but laugh while also instructing someone to take Darren's luggage upstairs.

Melissa and Paula, despite being married, were still close to the Brooks family and often came back to stay. Their children also had their own rooms in the Brooks Mansion.

"Who would recognize you?" Melissa scolded him a few times before letting go and pointing at

Vivienne, who was standing next to Ronald. "This is your cousin Vivienne."

Darren was about to flash what he considered a charming grin at Vivienne, but his eyes widened in shock as he got a good look at her face. He pointed at her, stammering, "Vi..."

Vivienne cast him a glance. Her expression was a mix of amusement and indifference.

Darren, feeling a rush of adrenaline, called out in a high-pitched voice, "What are you doing here?"

His voice was so sharp that it almost broke.

Melissa threw him a puzzled look. "You know each other?"

Darren was about to respond when he caught Vivienne's gaze. It was the same strange look from years ago that sent a shiver down his spine.

"No, we don't!"

Melissa, feeling slightly annoyed, slapped him lightly. "If you don't know her, why are you so worked up? Go say hello now!"

Darren's voice suddenly took a turn. "Nice to see you, my little cousin."

"Just 'cousin' is fine! Why add 'little'?" Melissa scolded him while giving him a light punch. "Don't use



your flippant attitude on your cousin!"

"How am I flippant?!" Darren defended himself. He was starting to feel like he was being bullied. "I just got back, and you're already nagging and picking on me. Maybe I shouldn't have come back at all."

"Perfect! Your cousins are going to a gemstone auction held by one of Calista's friends. You should accompany them and take care of your cousin Vivienne since she is new here." Melissa instructed

Darren.

Chapter 245

Darren quickly took a step back, maintaining a distance of roughly eight yards from Vivienne, as if he were avoiding the plague.

After noticing everyone's puzzled looks, he coughed awkwardly. "It's just... Mom, I'm a big star now.

There are going to be so many people at the gemstone auction. What if someone recognizes me?"

He glanced at Vivienne. "Besides, she doesn't need me to look after her. If anything, she should be looking after me."

He had barely made it out of that hellhole, swearing to himself that he would never get close to

Vivienne again if they ever met. He swore to himself to keep at least a ten-yard distance between

himself and her.

But damn it! His long-lost cousin was none other than Vivienne. This wasn't a happy reunion; it was a death sentence!

"A big star, my ass!" Melissa retorted. "Your older cousin, Kala, is an award-winning actress, and she still walks around town every day. How come she doesn't have as many issues as you do?"

"That's because she's chased by fans all day." Darren rolled his eyes. "Remember when she got trapped in a men's restroom by a bunch of fans and had to be rescued by the police? That even made the news."

"So, are you going or not?" Melissa questioned him, not wanting to waste time arguing with him.

"Can I not?" Darren looked at Vivienne fearfully.

"If you don't want to go, then don't." Vivienne's tone was indifferent. It was actually a bit kind.

Darren shivered and quickly changed his attitude. "No, I'll go. I like gemstones too."

Melissa and Ashley exchanged a puzzled glance, not quite understanding Darren's odd behavior, but they didn't push further.

Ashley was happy to have her brother come along. He could help carry her bags.

However, they had two cars for the nine of them. Mila, Calista, Paula, and her son were in one car, then

Carl insisted on squeezing into their car to act as their driver.

That left Vivienne, Darren, Ronald, and Ashley in Ronald's car. When Darren saw Ronald's new car, he was eager to drive it.

The drive from the Brooks Mansion to the River Village was about two hours.

They had been on the road for less than half an hour when Ashley turned pale from Darren's terrible driving skills. She felt like she was about to vomit.

"Darren, stop the car. I feel sick." Ashley cried out.

But Darren, who loved to show off despite his lack of skill, was infuriated when the other driver, Carl, overtook them and gave him a disdainful look. He hit the gas pedal hard, chasing after Carl recklessly.

The car almost spun out of control when he took a sharp turn.

Even Vivienne couldn't stand it any longer. Feeling nauseous, she snapped. "Stop the car and get out.

I'll drive!"

"No way!" Darren was hell-bent on catching up with Carl.

"Are you getting out or not?" Vivienne's voice was menacing. She spoke like she was ready to kill.

Darren felt a chill run down his spine, and his voice softened into a whimper. "Okay."

Once he pulled over, Ashley was the first one to jump out. She breathed in the fresh air before glaring hatefully at Darren. "I swear I'll never get in a car with you behind the wheel again!"

Feeling guilty, Darren scratched his nose.

Vivienne had already pulled open the driver's door, yanking him out and shoving him into the back seat before taking the wheel herself.

"Vivienne." Darren glanced at Ronald, who also looked rather pale, and whined to Vivienne. "You have to catch up with them!"

He and Carl were the same age, so they had been competing with each other since childhood.

Vivienne threw him a cold glance, buckled her seat belt, and stayed silent.

She said, "Ashley, buckle up."

Just as Ashley fastened her seat belt, Vivienne floored the gas pedal.

Ashley shrieked and grabbed the handle above the door. But she soon realized that even though

Vivienne drove faster than Darren, the ride was much smoother. Even when taking sharp turns at high

speed, Ashley didn't feel sick.

Meanwhile, Carl, who was leading the way, was playing the song "Party in the USA" on full blast, adding rhythm to his driving.

"We can't lose to him!" Darren exclaimed from the back seat. He connected his phone to the car's Bluetooth and started playing the song "Nervous."

This made Vivienne, Ashley, and Ronald cringe. Ashley reached to turn the music off, but Darren turned the volume up even higher.

Carl, who was driving Paula's car, was a street racing enthusiast with excellent driving skills.

Outrunning Darren, who had always been keen on challenging him, was easy.

Suddenly, he saw Darren's car, which had initially been out of sight, catching up to him at a high speed, blasting the song "Nervous."

"Damn!" Before he had a chance to glance at Calista, who was frowning at his choice of music, he stepped on the gas and sped up again.

Meanwhile, on the same road, Percival had just picked up Cecilia and Isolde and was driving to the Ellington family's mansion on South Mountain.

Suddenly, he heard loud music from behind him. Two luxury cars, apart from his own, appeared, racing each other.

A car was blasting "Party in the USA", while another was playing "Nervous." They were engaged in a neck-and-neck race, with one chasing the other.

"Been a while since I've been back to Rivenwood. Is this a new trend or something?" Cecilia asked, clearly puzzled.

Percival furrowed his brows, and then through his rear-view mirror, he saw the car blaring "Nervous" accelerate, swiftly overtaking the one playing "Party in the USA" and whizzing past him.

When he spotted Vivienne's icy expression inside the driver's seat, he nearly mistook the accelerator for the brake.

What on Earth was going on?

How did Vivienne's musical taste become so peculiar just in the two hours he was gone?

He wanted to catch up, but he couldn't drive too fast with Cecilia and Isolde in his car.

He could only watch helplessly as the two luxury cars disappeared in the distance at the fork in the

road, still blaring their weird songs.

After some thought, he pulled out his phone and sent Vivienne a voice message. "Where are you off to?"

It took a while, but he finally received a reply from Vivienne.

"River Village. We're going to a private gemstone auction."

Percival was taken aback. Since when was she interested in gemstones?

Chapter 246

Meanwhile.

As Vivienne zoomed past Carl, Darren hollered in excitement. "Holy moly! Our little cousin just gave

Carl a run for his money!"

"Are you for real?" Ashley retorted while rolling her eyes at her brother. "Carl's defeat is Vivienne's victory, not yours."

"And..." She pointed at the music player. "How on earth did you manage to make it through American Idol with this kind of taste in music?"

"What do you know?" Darren ran his fingers through his silver hair. "I made it thanks to my personal charm."

"No wonder you immediately switched to acting, even though you got your break through a singing competition." Ashley snorted. "You must have realized early on that you lacked the talent."

"You..." Darren gritted his teeth. "I won't stoop to your level!"

While the siblings were bickering, Vivienne had already driven into River Village.

The private gemstone auction, held by MT Corporation, was an annual event, and this wasn't

Vivienne's first time attending.

She parked the car in front of the auction house like a pro and waited for Carl to arrive.

"Were you driving just now?" Carl asked Darren with a stern look as soon as he got out of the car. He

was not able to see the driver because of Vivienne's speed just now.

"Yeah, I was. Got a problem with that?" Darren replied with a smug look.

Vivienne raised an eyebrow, while Ashley and Ronald rolled their eyes. They couldn't believe how

shameless Darren could be.

Carl was skeptical, but after observing Vivienne and the others, he didn't say anything more, as he

knew that Ronald was always cautious when driving and would never pull a stunt like that. Ashley, on



the other hand, was notorious for her awful driving skills. She had already wrecked the gate of the Brooks Mansion four times. As for Vivienne, he completely overlooked her.

"Let's go in." Calista beckoned everyone to follow her into the auction house while holding Mila's hand.

Paula and Eddy walked beside them, while the others followed.

Vivienne walked next to Ronald, trailing behind the others.

"If you see anything you like, let me know. I'll get it for you." Ronald whispered to Vivienne. "I didn't have time to prepare a gift for you since Scott brought you back so suddenly."

He glanced at Ashley and chuckled. "But don't let Ashley know. She'll bleed my wallet dry. I'm a bit short on cash these days."

Vivienne smiled faintly. She had a good impression of Ronald.

As they entered the auction house, they noticed two pieces of gemstone, which were obviously cut from the same stone, placed at the entrance. They were both of the ice type, each weighing around seven to eight hundred kilograms.

The corridor near the entrance was filled with these sorts of low-quality gemstones.

Vivienne and the others didn't pay them any attention and headed straight for the high-quality

gemstones.

Since Calista was an invited guest, unlike the other buyers who paid to attend, Barret from MT Corporation personally came to greet them.

"Calista, our CEO specifically instructed me to take good care of you today. Feel free to choose anything you like." He said with a smile.

Calista pointed to Vivienne and Ashley. "I'm here just to browse around, but my two friends are not familiar with gemstones. Could you arrange for someone to assist them?"

"Of course." Barret instructed his assistant to help Calista's party.

Soon, two staff members came over to assist Vivienne and Ashley. They were given powerful flashlights to inspect the quality of the gemstones.

Ronald and the others were familiar with jade and didn't need any assistance. They grabbed flashlights and began looking around.

Ashley initially intended to find a jade bracelet similar to the one Judith had gifted Vivienne. However, such pieces were hard to come by. After searching for a while and finding nothing satisfactory, she

finally purchased a cut piece of sky-blue gemstone for half million dollars. She planned to make a pair of bracelets from it and use the leftover material for smaller pieces of jewelry. It seemed like a good deal.

Mila and Paula also purchased some gemstones to be made into jewelry.

Vivienne had intended to pick a few top-quality gemstones, but the staff member named Jacob who was assigned to her was constantly making irrelevant comments. He tried to dissuade her from buying good pieces and coax her into buying inferior ones. She couldn't help but wonder if he thought she was a fool.

In contrast, the staff member assisting Ashley was much more professional.

Curious, Vivienne glanced over at Calista, who was being fawned over by Eddy and Carl.

Jacob was still jabbering away, pointing at a piece of green gemstone on the table.

"Ms. Brooks, this piece is excellent. It hardly has any cracks. If you purchase the whole piece, you could make over a dozen bracelets." He explained. "The bidding price is just 10 million dollars, and it's guaranteed to appreciate in value."

Vivienne barely glanced at the piece. Even without a flashlight, she could tell from its surface that,

aside from the open window, the rest of the piece was of inferior quality. It might yield two bracelets at best.

Jacob was trying to sell her a piece worth only a few thousand dollars for 10 million. Did she look like a sucker?

She decided to wait and see what Calista was planning by having such a person assist her.

With a look of disinterest, she shoved her flashlight back into her pocket. "I'm not really into this stuff.

Don't you have anything better?"

Seeing this, Jacob's eyes lit up, and he was about to say something when Eddy, not far from them, spoke up first. "These common gems are boring. Didn't you mention something about uncut, raw gemstones that we could have a look at?"

After exchanging a glance, Calista and Barret burst into laughter.

"Of course, we do." Leading the group through a back door, Barret revealed another part of the venue.

Only then did the group realize that there was more to this venue than initially met the eye.

Compared to the rough setup in the front, this area was far more exquisite.

The table that displayed the raw gemstones was draped with a dark red velvet cloth. Dozens of uncut gemstones were neatly arranged on it, each labeled with a number, the gemstone's weight, and its starting bid.

Inside the venue, servers were carrying around various drinks, and there was a self-serve snack bar, making the place feel more like a cozy lounge.

Chapter 247

The private room was typically off-limits to the public. It was only reserved for esteemed guests.

"Rest assured. The raw gemstones in here were all hand-picked by us." Barret said with a grin. "Feel free to take a look and note down the number of any stone that catches your eye. The highest bidder takes it during the auction."

Eddy was immediately intrigued and walked over, using a high-beam flashlight to examine the raw gemstones.

He turned to Calista. "I'll make sure to select a top-grade gemstone for you and have it made into a beautiful jewelry set."

"I'll also pick a fine one for you, Calista." Carl said, not wanting to be left behind.

"Thank you." Calista replied with a smile before subtly glancing at Jacob.

Jacob understood her cue and then went to Vivienne. "Miss Brooks, let's go take a look as well. You mentioned wanting something better, right? These raw stones were mined from the Mirelia Continent by our company. They're the cream of the crop and are exclusively for our VIP clients. Ordinary folks won't even get a glimpse of them."

Vivienne gave him a half-smile and a half-smirk, then followed him over to a black-barked raw stone marked with the number 198. It weighed sixteen kilograms and had a starting bid of 10 million.

After a brief look, Vivienne had already formed an opinion about the stone.

Jacob was still enthusiastically introducing the stone. "Have you ever heard the saying, 'If you're bidding on stones, always go for the black ones'? You see, this stone shows almost no color under the light, which means it has a thick layer of fog inside. It's a high-risk, high-reward bet. I can assure you that once this stone is cut open, it will reveal emeralds of the finest quality."

He lowered his voice as if he were sharing a secret. "Just imagine it. A stone this big can yield dozens of bracelets. If you think about the value of those emeralds, it's almost like hitting the jackpot. You must bid for it later."

"And if it's such a treasure, why doesn't your boss have it cut and sell it directly?" Vivienne asked, feigning indifference.

"Well, it's a company rule. We can't gamble on our own stones." Jacob replied as his smile faltered slightly.

"What a pity. You guys missed such a golden opportunity." Vivienne's tone was flat, portraying her lack of interest.

"Anyway, you must bid for this stone later." Jacob insisted.

Vivienne raised an eyebrow but didn't say anything.

Just then, Eddy walked over and examined the stone under the light. Jacob was visibly relieved when

Eddy, who didn't quite get along with Vivienne, didn't say a word to her.

Jacob continued to emphasize the value of the stone numbered 198, urging Vivienne to bid for it before leading her to another stone marked with the number 213. This stone, weighing fifteen kilograms, had a starting bid of 5 million.

"Although the color isn't as good as the previous one, the texture is definitely top-grade. Miss Brooks, you must bid for this one too." Jacob urged.

Vivienne nodded absentmindedly, indicating that he should continue.

For the rest of the stones, Jacob didn't have much to say. He only emphasized the stones numbered 198 and 213 again. He insisted that Vivienne must bid for them while sharing stories about people striking it rich with stone gambling.

Vivienne found it amusing. Why would this man, whom she just met today, assume that she had so much money to spend?

Once all the guests had looked over the raw stones and noted down the numbers of their preferred ones, the auction began.

Since it was a small-scale auction, the process was simple. The auctioneer simply went to the long table filled with raw stones, and the bidding started one by one according to their numbers.

After a few stones had been auctioned off, Carl was the first to win a bid for his preferred gemstone, weighing fourteen kilograms, for six million.

Next up was stone number 213, which Jacob had claimed would definitely be top-grade. Jacob immediately encouraged Vivienne. "Miss Brooks, this stone is sure to multiply in value. You must bid for



it."

Vivienne gave him a light glance and said, "Sure."

The current bid was at 7 million, and she raised her paddle. "8 million."

The Brooks family members all shot her a puzzled look, with Eddy and Carl expressing disdain.

Vivienne's bid for the stone at such a high price was surprising.

Ashley, who didn't understand gemstone, felt like Vivienne was being reckless. But considering the ten percent of the Brooks Group shares that Scott had transferred to Vivienne, Ashley was also feeling somewhat envious.

Ronald, who wasn't as knowledgeable about gemstone as his younger brothers, felt that Vivienne was being imprudent.

However, when Carl suddenly placed a bid of 9 million, Ronald was taken aback.

Was stone number 213 really that valuable?

With the bid reaching such a high price, the others stopped participating and began whispering among themselves instead.

"Miss Brooks, even your cousin is bidding for it. It must be a good stone. You should raise your bid."

Jacob said, trying to persuade Vivienne after receiving a glance from Calista.

Vivienne gave Carl a half-smile.

Carl provocatively raised an eyebrow at her, showcasing a hint of malice in his eyes.

"10 million." Vivienne said, raising her paddle once again.

Carl was immediately enraged. His original plan was to make Vivienne suffer a little loss, but now he felt like he was the one being played.

Who did she think she was, acting so high and mighty? And she thought she could play the high-stakes game of gemstone auctioning? Her opening bid was a whopping 10 million dollars. Did she think the

Brooks family fortune grew on trees?

And then she had the gall to challenge him?!

Well, he would make her pay through the nose!

It was better to make her lose big now than let her squander the Brooks family fortune later. This could serve as a wake-up call for Granny and Scott, so they could see what sort of person this Vivienne really was.

"12 million!" Carl shouted and raised his paddle. He looked smugly at Vivienne and raised an eyebrow in a challenging manner, encouraging her to outbid him.

"Miss Brooks, you should raise the bid, or else your cousin will snatch it away!" Jacob added anxiously.

"Well, if my cousin likes it so much, he can have it." Vivienne didn't raise her paddle again and calmly sipped on the coffee the staff had brought her.

Chapter 248

After Vivienne had stopped raising the bid, Carl snagged the gemstone numbered 213 for a staggering 12 million dollars.

"Vivienne, you tricked me!" Carl's face turned sour in an instant.

"Weren't you the one who wanted it so badly that you started a bidding war with me?" Vivienne raised an eyebrow. "I let you have it, and now I'm the one at fault?"

She originally intended to play those who were deliberately bidding against her.

Carl, on his own accord, decided to oppose her. And now he was blaming her?

"You!" Carl was seething with rage.

"Carl!" Ronald was now aware that his younger brother was intentionally bidding against Vivienne. He was hoping to trap Vivienne, but ended up trapping himself instead.

Knowing his guilt, Carl glared at Vivienne and stomped off. Even when the auction staff handed him his winning bidder's tag, he didn't want to accept it.

He had spent 12 million dollars on a gemstone full of black moss. He would be lucky if he could even make a bracelet out of it. He had lost a lot of money.

He had already spent 8 million dollars, and now he had to spend another 12 million dollars. His allowance for the next three years was gone. He felt utterly dejected.

Calista squinted, suspecting she might have underestimated Vivienne. This young woman might seem impulsive, but she had her wits about her.

She exchanged a look with Jacob, who asked Vivienne tentatively, "Miss Brooks, that stone could multiply in value once cut open. Are you sure you want to hand it over to your cousin?"

"My cousin seems to want it so badly, so I'm happy to let him have it." Vivienne pointed to a dispirited

Carl standing in the corner and smiled. "Just look how thrilled he is."

He was so thrilled that he nearly ground his teeth to dust.

Jacob was apprehensive. He signaled the plants in the audience that the next time Vivienne bid, they

should not drive up the price maliciously. If Vivienne backed off again, their scheme would have been for naught.

In the next auction, Eddy secured a stone weighing 18 kilograms for 10 million dollars.

"Calista, my eye for gems is infallible. This stone will certainly reveal a verdant green jadeite with minimal flaws. You'll definitely love the finished product." He cheerfully told Calista.

Calista smiled, but her interest in Eddy's words was negligible. Her eyes were fixed on Vivienne, who was about to bid for the stone numbered 198.

She was eagerly anticipating that Vivienne would make a hefty purchase, hoping that she wouldn't disappoint her.

She wanted to show the Brooks family and Percival how wasteful and stupid Vivienne was. By spending millions on gemstone gambling, she was practically throwing away the Brooks Group shares she had just acquired.

People who suddenly came into wealth often spent money recklessly and were most annoying.

"This stone, numbered 198, starts at 10 million dollars."

It was now the turn of stone number 198 to be auctioned. Jacob immediately began urging Vivienne to

buy. "Miss Brooks, this time, you must secure this stone. It's a great opportunity to make a fortune."

"12 million." Vivienne, following Jacob's suggestion, raised her paddle.

Calista's eyes sparkled with amusement. She had specifically prepared this black stone for Vivienne. It

had almost no obvious qualities, so who knew what was within it?

However, black stones were notorious for their high risk. Although the plants Calista arranged in

advance dared not bid against Vivienne maliciously, there were still many guests thinking that MT

Corporation wouldn't put a stone of poor quality up for auction with a starting price of 10 million dollars.

So, a few people raised their paddles as well.

The price of stone number 198 had nearly doubled to 28 million dollars.

Calista's heart pounded as she watched Vivienne closely. Only when Vivienne raised her paddle to call

a price of 30 million dollars did she let out a silent cheer. Vivienne was about to become the

laughingstock of Rivenwood's high society.

Even if she had only a rudimentary understanding of gemstones, she could tell that stone number 198

had numerous flaws just from looking at its surface. The quality and color of the stone were unknown,

but considering its flaws alone, it was not worth 30 million dollars.

Both Eddy and Carl cast their gazes at Vivienne.

Eddy looked at her with contempt. He had already noticed the numerous flaws in stone 198 when he inspected it earlier. Vivienne must be out of her mind to want to gamble 30 million dollars on it.

Carl's gaze was dark. Vivienne was a real profligate. Earlier, she had trapped him into spending 12 million dollars, and now she was spending 30 million dollars on a stone full of flaws.

She had returned to the Brooks family less than half a day ago and had already spent 30 million dollars.

He was definitely going to report this to Scott and his grandmother. He couldn't possibly let this woman run amok.

"Vivienne, have you gone mad? Spending 30 million dollars on this?" Ashley couldn't understand why

Vivienne would do such a thing. It was one thing to want to gamble 10 million on Carl's stone, but now she was spending 30 million!

She used to think Vivienne was quite smart when they were in Havenwood.

"The value of this stone is more than 30 million." Vivienne responded calmly.

Calista and Jacob shared a look, both struggling to suppress their laughter.

"Miss Brooks." Calista walked over to Vivienne. "It's only natural for Ashley to worry. Gambling on stones is a huge risk. And if you lose, you're not just losing your money, but the money of Judith and Scott."

Vivienne, with her arms folded, remained silent while watching Calista's performance quietly.

"That's right! You can't just squander the money Grandma and Uncle Scott have given you!" Ashley chimed in.

This was about 30 million dollars, not just three bucks.

Even the wealthy Brooks family couldn't endure Vivienne's extravagant spending.

Darren, who had always been as inconspicuous as a wallflower, quickly stepped in when Ashley lost her temper at Vivienne. He tried to calm Ashley down, but she shrugged him off easily.

Ashley couldn't hold back any longer. Even though Darren was making faces at her, begging her to let it go, she still threw accusations at Vivienne. "Even if you've been wandering around for more than a decade and Grandma and Uncle Scott want to compensate you, you should know your limits!"



Vivienne laughed. How could these people think she was using the Brooks family's money?

Did she look so poor that she couldn't even afford 30 million dollars?

"If the Brooks are reluctant to spend this measly 30 million, I'm not." A magnetic and deep voice

echoed from behind Vivienne.

Percival, who had quietly appeared, walked up, wrapping his arm around Vivienne's waist. "I'll cover

this 30 million. There's no need for the Brooks to spend a single dime."

"Play the generous fool if you want!" Ashley's face turned pale and green alternately, and she stomped

off with a huff.

"She just don't understand." Darren apologized profusely to Vivienne for Ashley with a sheepish smile.

"Don't be upset. Please."

After saying this, he quickly went after Ashley to comfort her.

Chapter 249

Calista's gaze grew heavy as she watched Percival stand next to Vivienne. She had planned to

embarrass Vivienne in his absence, but his unexpected arrival had thrown a wrench in her plans.

However, it didn't matter. Vivienne had already purchased the number 198 gemstone anyway, so the 30

million was destined to be spent.

Even if the money didn't come from the Brooks family, if the Ellingtons found out that Vivienne had persuaded Percival to spend such an enormous amount on a gamble, they would surely be disgruntled, which could potentially harm their engagement.

Percival looked down at Vivienne with eyes full of indulgence. "Buy whatever you want; I'll foot the bill.

If 30 million isn't enough, I'll give you a billion!"

30 million was nothing. If it made Vivienne happy, he could ship over the raw jade stones from his mines in the Mirelia Continent and let his darling play with a new one every day.

"It won't be a loss." Vivienne said casually.

"Miss Brooks is so confident. Why don't we cut the stone you purchased now?" Calista suggested, hiding her amusement. She wanted Vivienne to be embarrassed in front of everyone.

"Sure." Vivienne agreed.

Upon hearing this, Barret immediately arranged for it. After all the stones that had been auctioned off were paid for, they would be cut on the spot.

Not only Vivienne, but also everyone else who had won a bid, agreed to have their stones cut on the

spot, much to the delight of the crowd.

Soon, the stones were cut one by one according to the order of the bids. Some were profitable, others were not.

Among them, the stone that Carl had won for 12 million dollars was the biggest loss.

Even though the stone was of high-quality jade and some parts even reached top quality, it was colorless and filled with moss and tiny cracks. It couldn't be used for bracelets or even ring faces.

It was probably not even worth half million.

Carl's face fell even harder than the stone itself.

"Don't expect me to reimburse you." Ronald didn't say much.

It was Carl who started the malicious bidding war, so he deserved to be trapped.

He patted his brother's shoulder. "Consider it a costly lesson. Don't mess with your cousin again."

Carl glared at Vivienne resentfully, feeling the lesson was too expensive.

Vivienne didn't pay him any attention. She completely ignored Carl's resentful gaze.

Calista had indeed chosen a tricky stone to embarrass her, but unfortunately, they had misjudged the

other one.

Soon, it was time to cut the stone that Eddy had won. He looked at Vivienne and gestured to her with

his chin. "Vivienne, want to make a bet?"

Vivienne raised her eyebrows, waiting for him to continue.

"Bet that the value of your stone won't be higher than mine." Eddy continued.

"The wager?" Vivienne asked calmly.

"If you lose, you'll kneel and apologize to my mother and me!" Eddy said coldly.

Percival's face darkened. This fool didn't know the gravity of his words.

Demanding his Vivienne to kneel was a death wish.

"Alright." However, Vivienne just held Percival's hand and asked Eddy, "And if you lose?"

"If I lose, I'll do a handstand and shit!" Eddy declared confidently. He was sure he wouldn't lose.

Vivienne and Percival fell silent.

That was very unnecessary.

Eddy had full confidence in himself. He trusted his judgment, and he was sure that the stone he had

won was bound to be profitable.

In gemstone gambling, the type, color, and cracks were everything.

Vivienne's stone, number 198, had already lost on the aspect of cracks.

Unless it could be cut into an Emperor Green, the 30 million spent on it would inevitably be a loss.

But how could Vivienne stumble upon such a rarity as an Emperor Green of high quality?

Therefore, Eddy was sure of his victory.

Soon, his eighteen-kilogram stone was cut, and the crowd was stunned.

The stone was of high quality and full-color sun green. Furthermore, there were no cracks when inspected under a light.

This could yield nearly twenty full-color sun green bracelets, and the leftover material could be used for many small pieces.

This kind of full-color sun green stone was often of collector's quality. 10 million for it was a steal. It was an enormous profit. He could earn dozens of times the original price.

Someone in the crowd made an offer. "Eddy, would you sell this stone to me for 20 million?"

"Heh." Eddy scoffed. "This stone can yield nearly twenty bracelets, worth more than 20 million alone,

let alone the value of the remaining material. You want to buy it for 20 million only? Dream on."

The man immediately shut up. Soon, other people in the crowd became eager to negotiate a price with

Eddy.

"I'm not selling this stone." Eddy told the crowd. "I'm keeping it for my collection."

Such a rare, high-quality stone was valuable, and keeping it for a few years could double its value,

making it a good investment.

"Vivienne, you're bound to lose." Eddy looked at Vivienne triumphantly amid the crowd's gasps and

compliments.

"Why the rush?" Vivienne retorted calmly.

After Eddy's stone was cut, the next one was number 198.

Eddy's gaze was full of malice. He held a grudge against Vivienne for her actions today and was

waiting for her to kneel and apologize to him and his mother, Paula.

Calista sneered at Vivienne's calm expression.

Did Vivienne truly believe Jacob's nonsense that this jade stone she had randomly chosen could yield

an Emperor Green, make a huge profit, and instantly make her rich?

That would be hilarious. Was an Emperor Green that easy to come by?

The room wasn't large, and all the guests in attendance could hear the wager between Vivienne and Eddy. Everyone was eagerly waiting to see the outcome.

After what seemed like an eternity, the machine finally came to a halt.

Two gem-cutters carefully lifted the now-split 198 stone and placed it on the table.

Under the soft glow of the room's lighting, someone chuckled. "King's Fracture."

Vivienne's stone, now cut open, revealed an array of fractures running through its jade-like flesh, commonly referred to as the King's Fracture.

Just as Eddy was about to smirk triumphantly, one of the gem cutters shone a high-intensity flashlight onto the jade-colored flesh of the 198 gemstone. Every single person in the room was stunned as their eyes became glued to the brilliant green stone.

The room fell into an eerie silence.

"My God, it's an Emperor Green!" Someone finally exclaimed.

"And it's a fully colored Emperor Green!"

"I never thought I'd see such a rare gemstone cut open right before my eyes!"

"What kind of luck is this?!"

Unable to restrain their curiosity, the guests began pulling out their own high-intensity flashlights, eager

to get a closer look at the rare beauty of an Emperor Green.

Chapter 250

All the members of the Brooks family had their eyes wide open as they watched the Emperor Green

emerge from Vivienne's raw stone.

"Did Vivienne just hit the jackpot?" Asked a shocked Ashley. "Is this rock really worth 30 million?"

"Definitely. It's worth way more than that. It's closer to a billion!" Darren was floored.

Even Carl, who had previously thought of Vivienne as a clueless newbie, was now in disbelief. How

had he failed to see the potential in that stone?

Any small piece cut from it would be snatched up by high-end collectors before it could even hit the

market, let alone be seen by ordinary people.

"You lost." Vivienne said to Eddy.

Eddy was too stunned to speak. He hadn't expected Vivienne to be this lucky as to actually reveal an

Emperor Green.



Though his sun green stone could make a number of bracelets, it still fell short in terms of quality and color.

Calista and Jacob, too, were slowly recovering from their disbelief. They hadn't expected that the stone they casually picked out to trick Vivienne would turn out to be an Emperor Green. Not only was it intact, but it was worth at least thirty times more than what she paid for it.

Their initial plan to make Vivienne lose big time completely backfired.

Was it Vivienne's luck, or did she really know her stone and had been subconsciously playing dumb all this time?

Calista clenched her fists in frustration.

Vivienne's luck was simply too good.

When Jacob said that this black stone could yield an Emperor Green, she thought he was just fooling her, but it actually did.

Vivienne didn't care about what others thought of her. All she said to Eddy was, "Remember the bet."

Although she didn't really want to see it, others might have been interested.

Eddy's face turned sour at the reminder. What was he thinking when he made that bet?

"Don't think about skipping out." Vivienne said with a light smile. "Nobody can avoid paying their debts to me."

Her smile was faint, but it was cold and threatening.

"I keep my word!" Eddy shot Vivienne a fierce look, intending to have Barret move his stone onto a truck and leave immediately.

But Barret objected, arguing that it was far too dangerous to travel with a gemstone worth millions and a car full of vulnerable women.

After explaining the risks, Eddy had no choice but to call for a security team to escort them back.

Vivienne left in Percival's car.

Seeing that Vivienne had found an Emperor Green, Percival had already arranged for a security escort.

They were now moving her stone outside.

"Miss Brooks! Can you cut a piece of this stone to sell to me?" A man approached her as she was about to leave.

Just like Eddy's, Vivienne's stone was tempting to many, but no one could afford to buy it all on the

spot.

"I'm sorry, but I need this piece for myself." Vivienne turned them all down.

Paula and Mila, who had been in the VIP room for coffee, were just about to come in when they saw

Thomas and his team moving Vivienne's stone outside.

"Oh my God, an Emperor Green!" Paula, who had some knowledge about gemstones, recognized its quality instantly.

But when Vivienne and Percival walked past them without even a glance, Paula knew that there was no chance she could buy it.

As they passed by Jacob, Vivienne said with a gentle laugh, "Thank you for letting me pick out this wonderful gemstone."

Jacob turned pale and couldn't speak.

Paula was furious at being ignored, but instead of creating a scene, she wanted to know who the owner of the stone was.

So, she went straight to her son.

"Eddy, who owns that Emperor Green I saw being moved out? I want to buy a piece to make a pendant."

"It's Vivienne's." Eddy replied darkly.

"What?!" Paula exclaimed in disbelief.

Mila glanced at her daughter, Calista, and saw her pale face. She immediately knew they had miscalculated.

"How much did she pay for it?" Paula insisted.

"30 million." Eddy replied, his mood darker than ever.

Paula and Mila were shocked to hear this.

"30 million? If that gemstone is sold, it could be worth a billion!" Paula exclaimed.

That lucky girl!

"Eddy, let's go home." Paula said.

Eddy was feeling humiliated and didn't want to hear any more about the stone worth a billion.

He was afraid he might vomit blood.

When they returned to the Brooks Mansion, it was already getting dark.

Judith and Scott, among others, decided to have dinner when they noticed the younger ones were yet to return.

Just as the housekeeper finished clearing the dining table, several cars pulled up.

The first to arrive was the vehicle escorting Eddy and Carl's gemstones, followed by Percival's car and the vehicle summoned to transport the stones.

Ashley was the first to disembark. She had a bright smile on her face as she addressed Judith.

"Granny, I bought a top-quality gem that can be used to make a pair of bracelets and some jewelry. You promised to reimburse me; don't forget."

Laughing, Judith replied, "Of course, I won't forget." She then turned to the others. "It seems like everyone had a good haul today."

Eddy had asked her for the car, saying he had found a great gem. After looking at the several cars that had pulled up, it was clear his find must have been substantial.

Eddy should have been thrilled with the gem he found. However, the thought of Vivienne's stone, worth a billion, made it impossible for him to crack a smile.

After seeing Eddy's sullen face, Ronald came to explain what happened to Judith. "Our cousin Eddy found a stone worth 300 million, and Vivienne found an emperor green worth a billion. Today's haul was pretty good."

Judith turned to Vivienne, exclaiming in delight, "A billion? Vivienne, you're incredible!"

"I should thank Calista for recommending the staff, who zealously suggested this raw stone. I was lucky that it turned out to be of exceptional quality." Vivienne glanced at Calista with a slightly teasing smile spread across her face.

Ronald and the others fell silent. This wasn't just 'pretty good,' it was extraordinary!

Who else could be lucky enough to find an emerald of such worth?