Limits 741

Chapter 741

Jack was one of the first people that Joanne informed about her results. He felt like he was floating on cloud nine after he received the news. To celebrate the excellent results that Joanne had achieved, he invited Samuel, Isaac, Joshua, and Ronnie to join him for a meal at Caesar Hotel that was located within Alnewgo Central Tower.

Joanne had also informed Jeffrey and Helena about her results, and they were over the moon with joy after hearing the news. Many of their neighbors dropped by their home to congratulate them for Joanne's incredible results, to the point where the welcome mat in front of their door had turned noticeably flatter after being stepped on by so many pairs of feet.

The neighbors praised Jack and Joanne, calling them the pride of the Holland family. They had brought honor not only for their own family, but also for the people who resided in the same suburbs as them.

After all, it was already impressive enough to have one top scholar be born in their area, let alone two. They began to refer to the Hollands as the family of top scholars.

If they were still living in ancient times, Jack's and Joanne's achievements would be carved into rock walls and their stories would be passed down for thousands of years.

Even Jeffrey's and Helena's relatives, who used to treat them coldly, approached them of their own accord to offer up their congratulations in hopes of deepening their relationship.

Jeffrey's younger brother was amongst them. He dropped by their home with a basket of apples, though his appearance made Joanne's expression twist unhappily.

It was true that people only wanted to associate with someone when good fortune smiled upon them. If one were poor and down in the dumps, they wouldn't acknowledge them even if they were related to them by blood.

Jeffrey had a younger brother while Helena had an elder brother. However, their siblings would find any and all opportunities to widen the distance between them during earlier years.

Jeffrey and Helena had led tough lives in the past and their income was unstable. Their relatives were worried that they would ask them for money, since they still had to put Jack and Joanne through school at the time.

Jeffrey's younger brother, Joseph Holland, was an employee at the National Tax Authority. Although they were siblings, Jeffrey and Joseph's relationship was more akin to a pair of strangers.

A few years ago, their father, Johann Holland, retired from his position at the tax department. It was a common procedure during that time for the son of the retiree to take his father's vacated position.

Johann originally wanted to give the job opportunity to Jeffrey since he was smart and capable. Joseph had coincidentally been unemployed at the time and after finding out that a position at the tax department was a cushy job, he threw a tantrum and demanded Johann to give the opportunity to him instead.

In the end, Jeffrey had passed on the lucrative opportunity, allowing Joseph to take the position instead. Joseph's standard of living improved by the day after he took the job while Jeffrey lived a life of perpetual poverty as he struggled to gather the money he needed to pay for Jack's and Joanne's school fees.

However, Jeffrey was most disappointed by how heartless Joseph was. The financial pressure had been at its peak when Jack was in high school while Joanne was in middle school. He had sought Joseph out at the time, hoping to borrow some money from him, but Joseph had rejected him without a second thought.

He had even insulted Jeffrey, asking, "Why are they studying if you have no money to put them through school? They should just start working. Jack can move bricks while Joanne can find someone to marry."

Despite how Joseph had mistreated him in the past, Jeffrey still felt grateful when he spotted him with a basket of apples clutched in his hand. He assumed that Joseph had turned over a new leaf and was here to offer his heartfelt congratulations to Joanne for being the top scholar of the province.

He was proud of the hard work that Jack and Joanne had put in to achieve their titles of top scholars, and he didn't doubt for a second that they had bright futures ahead of them.

News of Joanne being the top scholar of the province spread like wildfire across the city, and it didn't take long before the news reached Crestfield High School, making the people there puff out their chests in pride.

They had hoped for years that their school would produce a top scholar of the province, and it had finally happened. They could finally stand shoulder-to- shoulder with Seaton High School once more after being humiliated by the other school in the past.

Crestfield had prepared firecrackers and banners beforehand just for the occasion, kicking off the celebrations with gusto. However, when they realized that Joanne was Jack's younger sister, they couldn't help but feel a strange sensation in their hearts.

The strange sensation only continued to intensify after they heard about how Joanne had managed to achieve the position of top scholar with Jack's help.

No matter how one looked at the situation, it felt as if Seaton High School was still superior to Crestfield High School. It was as if Crestfield was Seaton's younger brother.

Chapter 742

Following the release of the college entrance exam results, the university academic year also came to a close as summer break began.

Emily and Quintis had contacted Jack beforehand to invite him to Tarthy City to spend his summer vacation. Worried that Jack might reject their offer, Emily had personally made a trip to Alnewgo University to extend the invitation to him. She dropped by several times until Jack finally relented and agreed.

They had spent so many years searching for him. Even though Jack had acknowledged them as his parents, he still spent most of his time in Alnewgo University to pursue his studies.

Emily missed him terribly, but she knew that she couldn't drop by the university whenever pleased. She worried that she would disrupt his studies.

It had taken a lot of effort to convince Jack to spend his summer vacation with them, so it was only natural that Emily would come up with all sorts of plans to keep Jack by her side.

Meanwhile, Jack was still conflicted over Emily's invitation. The truth was, he hadn't agreed solely because he had been moved by her perseverance, instead he had recalled how Feena also resided in Tarthy City. There was a chance that he could meet up with her after he arrived in Tarthy.

Furthermore, Jack had already made plans to have Joanne and their parents visit him in Alnewgo during his summer break. They would stay with him in his villa, and they could spend an unforgettable vacation together.

In the end, he decided to spend time with his family in Alnewgo first and foremost.

It wouldn't be too late if he visited Tarthy later on.

His parents had suffered many hardships in the past years. Since Jack had gained his independence, it was only natural that he would provide only the best for them to enjoy. However, when Jack called home to relay his plans to them, Helena rejected his suggestion.

Of course, the Hollands were thrilled at the prospect of spending more time with Jack. However, they had spent their entire lives in Perthter City.

They worried they wouldn't be able to adapt to life in the big city while surrounded by unfamiliar faces. Helena was also not used to being in a moving vehicle for an extended amount of time, so Jack had no other choice but to cancel his plans after hearing their reasoning.

Emily was over the moon with joy when Jack called to inform her that he would be joining Quintis and her on their trip to Tarthy City.

On the day of departure, Emily and Quintis personally drove to Alnewgo University to pick Jack up. They bombarded him with questions about his well-being after he got into the car. They then boarded a plane that flew them to Tarthy City.

A huge convoy of cars were already on standby by the time they touched down in Tarthy. The cars were there to welcome Jack to Emily and Quintis' home. The massive Lycan estate was located halfway up the mountain. With Reginald taking the lead, he arranged for all the staff to line up at the entrance to welcome their arrival.

Jack's room was the same one he lived in when he was still a child. It didn't matter whether it was in the past or the future. Emily and Quintis would always give Jack the room with the best view and most comfortable environment.

However, the room had clearly undergone some renovations since he lived in it last. It was no longer a child's room.

They had changed the decorations and layout, but it was no less warm and cozy. Every part of the room gave off the impression that whoever had decorated it had done so meticulously and with the utmost care in their hearts.

Emily and Quintis had left the room as it was in the past as a tribute to Jack. But since Jack had returned to their side, they no longer needed to reminisce about the past. Besides, the interior design from 10 years ago no longer suited the style of the modern age, which was why they decided to renovate the room after getting Jack's permission.

Quintis had several plans lined up for Jack during his stay in Tarthy City. He wanted Jack to adapt to the role he would eventually play and also wanted him to find the purpose of his life.

Jack was never meant to spend his time in the bottom rungs of society. He was always meant to soar high above in the skies.

The first thing that Quintis did was to use his influence to create a network for Jack. He would lay a solid foundation for Jack for the sake of his future.

As he followed after Quintis, Jack came to realize just how far the Lycan family's network reached. Not only would they be visited by several different congressmen, but even the mayor of Tarthy's Special District would make a personal appearance at their doorstep.

He came into contact with several big shots from the military, as well as political and business circles.

Jack had heard the rumors—in this small area of Tarthy City, every time a new chief took office, the first person they would visit in the business circle was Quintis. It was obvious to see just how influential he was in Tarthy.

Chapter 743

Quintis had also made plans to bring Jack with him to visit an old friend. This old friend of his hailed from Boleria, and his status there was comparable to Quintis' in Tarthy City. His old friend was named Trent Dodger, and he was Quintis' lifelong friend. Quintis and Jack would visit him in the afternoon two days later.

On the morning of that day, Emily called Jack to her side. She was all smiles when she asked, "Jack, how is your relationship going with that girlfriend of yours?"

Jack guessed that she must be talking about Bella. She had run into Bella during one of the times when she had sought out Jack. She had even tried to get into Bella's good books after gaining Jack's trust, secretly sending her many gifts to curry favor with her.

She had no way of knowing, but by bringing Bella up, her words were actually cutting deeply at Jack's heart.

He shook his head and said, "We've broken up."

Emily was stunned. "Broken up?" she parroted back at him, her brow furrowing slightly. "Why did the two of you break up?"

Pain flickered across Jack's face before he fixed a smile on his face. "It just happened. Besides, it's already in the past. Why are you asking me this?"

Emily studied Jack's face carefully. She had a keen eye and had a knack for knowing exactly what the other person was thinking based on their facial expressions alone.

From the miniscule changes in Jack's expression, she could tell that not only had they broken up, but it was highly likely that Jack was the one who had been dumped. The pain in Jack's face was all too clear for her to see.

If Jack was the one who had done the dumping, his behavior would certainly be more indifferent. He wouldn't be wearing such a pained expression. Thus, the only reasonable conclusion was that Jack had been dumped by Bella.

Emily could feel the embers of anger burning within her heart. Any mother would treat their son as a precious treasure, and Emily was no exception, especially since she considered her son, Jack, to be a near perfect individual.

No, he wasn't just near perfect. He was actually perfection incarnate!

His character, education, and family background were all outstanding. He would be the cream of the crop no matter where he went. Emily couldn't believe that a woman would dare dump her precious son, Jack. It was much too ridiculous in Emily's opinion.

The fondness she harbored for Bella during the early days instantaneously transformed into loathing upon finding out that she had dumped Jack.

However, Emily's anger only lasted for a second. She wasn't even upset. In fact, a slightly pleased expression appeared on her face to replace her fury.

The sudden turn of events actually worked in her favor, allowing her to pave the road toward the conclusion that she actually wanted. She comforted Jack, "There's no need to get so upset over a woman, Jack. I'll find someone who's even better than her for you tomorrow."

"Tomorrow?"

Jack was stunned momentarily. As he gazed at Emily's face, he got the feeling that she already had something planned from the very start.

Emily nodded in response and said with a smile, "Do you know who your father is bringing you to see tomorrow? His name is Trent Dodger, your father's best friend.

"He has been expanding his business in Tarthy City recently, so he will be around for quite some time. He had a daughter named Wilhelmina Dodger. Do you remember her?"

"Wilhelmina?"

Although Jack's memory was frighteningly good, he couldn't recall who Wilhelmina was at all.

Chapter 744

Jack guessed that he had met Wilhelmina when he was still very young, probably even before he learned how to retain his memories.

Emily seemed to expect that he wouldn't be able to remember Wilhelmina, so she continued, "Wilhelmina is younger than you by only a day. She was also born in the same hospital as you. In fact, I would consider the two of you to be childhood sweethearts!"

Seeing how Jack seemed to be hanging onto her every word, a smile broke across Emily's face. "She's studying in Federia now, but she returned to Zargonia recently to visit her father.

"I was able to meet up with her once. Trust me when I tell you that she's a generational beauty, Jack."

Jack's expression had turned stiff. "What does any of this have to do with me?"

Emily patted Jack's hand and said, "I just felt like telling you all of this. The truth is, shortly after you were born, your father and Trent, Wilhelmina's father, set up an arranged marriage between you and her. We also supported their decision at the time."

"An arranged marriage?"

Jack felt rather awkward at the sudden revelation. Arranged marriages were such an old-fashioned custom. He couldn't believe that he was involved in one without his consent.

Emily nodded. "That's right! So what I'm trying to say is that you already have a fiancée. We didn't talk about it anymore after you went missing, but since you've returned, your father brought it up again with Mr. Dodger. He seemed quite pleased and was very excited for you to meet Wilhelmina tomorrow."

The Dodgers and the Lycans stood shoulder-to-shoulder when it came to the power and authority that their families wielded. Furthermore, Wilhelmina had always been enrolled in schools that only had female students, and no one had ever heard about her having a boyfriend.

Trent was worried that those with malicious intentions would try to take advantage of Wilhelmina's pure heart, so he was also very protective over her.

Jack's return had greatly pleased the Dodgers. If the arranged marriage between Jack and Wilhelmina proceeded as planned, not only would they become a family, but they would also be forming a strong alliance. It was a lucrative opportunity for both the Dodgers and the Lycans.

Jack's expression twisted slightly. He wanted to tell Emily that he already had a girlfriend, but was suddenly struck with the concern that Emily would behave like Bella's mother Clarice.

He was worried that she would mistreat Feena just so she could fulfill her own wishes to have Jack in a political marriage. After all, it wasn't an uncommon

occurrence.

Thus, Jack decided to hide the truth from her for the time being. As for this "fiancée" of his, Jack had already decided to come up with an excuse to reject her. It was simple enough for him to say that they were not a good match for each other, or that he didn't like her.

Based on how Emily and Quintis treated him, he was confident that they wouldn't force the arranged marriage on him if he wasn't willing. If they tried to do so, they would be losing their only son.

Emily was unaware of the concerns swirling about in Jack's heart. When she noticed his hesitation, she assumed that he was worried that Wilhelmina might not be as pretty as he wanted his partner to be.

She hurriedly added, "Why don't you meet with her first, Jack? It doesn't have to be anything serious. I'm being completely truthful with you when I say that she's a beauty! Not only that, but she's also smart and has good manners.

"You won't be able to find a candidate for a wife that's better than her! If the two of you were to become a couple, your father will have no worries in the future when he leaves his business to you to handle."

Jack had already made his own decision, so he nodded in agreement to Emily's suggestion, causing a relieved smile to stretch across her face.

After lunch, Emily brought Jack with her to a fashion design studio that wasn't very famous despite the intricate and detailed garments that they produced.

The only reason the studio wasn't more famous was because they did not accept orders from ordinary citizens, and the astronomical prices of their clothes typically discouraged people from opening their wallets. The studio only served the elite of Tarthy City.

When they arrived at the establishment, Jack noticed that the interior of the studio had been decorated extravagantly. A group of pretty women stood in a line outside the entrance as they ushered them in. A brand new red carpet had been rolled out for them, making them feel like they were being treated like nobility.

Emily wanted to order a few different outfits for Jack. Although the clothes that Jack was wearing were all branded-courtesy of Feena-in Emily's eyes, the quality and style could not compare to the trendy designs created by this particular studio.

Chapter 745

Emily wanted Jack to look his absolute best when he appeared before Wilhelmina. It was what he deserved for being the best, after all.

When they entered the studio, the owner, Carson Benedia, came out to personally greet them. Although he had gotten used to attending reputable figures, he was aware that a client such as Emily was leagues above the other customers he had served. He knew that he had to tread carefully, he didn't want to accidentally offend her.

Carson personally took Jack's measurements while the other staff of the studio swiftly surrounded Jack to serve him. Some were holding scissors while some were holding rulers. There was also a staff member who was in charge of noting down Jack's heights and the circumference of his chest, waist, and hips.

The whole studio busied themselves with servicing Jack, allowing him to experience once more the lavish lifestyle of a capitalist. The simple lifestyle he led in the past paled in comparison. Even though he possessed assets that were worth over 10 billion dollars, he lived a life that was even less luxurious than a low-level manager.

The staff who was in charge of measuring his chest, waist, and hips was a woman with a pretty face. Her cheeks were flushed the entire time as she took his measurements, making it obvious that she was attracted to Jack's attractive figure.

After she was done taking Jack's measurements, she shook her head and said to Emily, "Mrs. Lycan, your son's figure is flawless! We'll have no issues with designing any outfits for him."

Satisfied with the woman's praise, Emily nodded. She said, "I want 10 sets of new clothes for him by tomorrow morning. Can you deliver them to us before then?"

It appeared that having Jack and Wilhelmina meet in person had been a part of her plan all along since she had already selected the fabrics and designs of the clothes.

Carson nodded his head vigorously. "Rest assured, Mrs. Lycan. We've already made preparations beforehand. There won't be any issues."

For a high-fashion design studio such as theirs, as long as the client was willing to pay the fee that was requested of them, they would be willing to fulfill any and all requests that the client had.

Night had fallen by the time they finished what they were doing at the studio. Emily decided to personally prepare dinner, wanting to cook all of Jack's favorite dishes. Her heart filled with joy when she saw how Jack enjoyed the meal that she had carefully and lovingly prepared for him.

That night, after Jack bid his farewells to Emily and Quintis, he made his way over to Imperial Club, a privately-owned club, to attend a party. The leader of the "Four Princes of Tarthy City", Elias Carpenter, was the one who extended an invitation to him.

When Jack had first arrived in Tarthy City, Quintis had brought him along and introduced him to many reputable figures in the city. After Elias caught wind of his presence in Tarthy, he had immediately sent out an invitation to Jack to join him at his private club for a night of good food and conversations.

He also told Jack that they would be hosting a charity auction that night, and that Jack was free to take a look at the items on auction if he was interested. It would be a casual night for them to unwind and relax.

Jack still dreamt of building his business empire whenever he was free enough to let his mind wander. He knew the importance of expanding his network of connections if he wanted to make that dream a reality. Thus, when he had received the invitation from Elias, he had easily accepted.

When Jack arrived at Imperial Club, he could see how Elias and a group of people were waiting at the entrance to welcome him even from a distance away. Although there was no red carpet this time around, the sense of grandeur that permeated the air was not diminished in the slightest.

Elias was all smiles as he approached Jack and pulled him into a hug. "Jack, I was hoping that you would show up! I don't care what else happens tonight, but you have to drink a few rounds with me!"

Jack was also smiling as he replied, "You're being too humble, Elias. I'm the one who should be honored for receiving an invitation from you."

Elias waved his words away. "There's no need for such courtesy between the two of us. Both of us will be as thick as thieves from this day forth! Here, let me introduce you to my friends. We can gather together again in the future when everyone is free."

Elias proceeded to introduce Jack to the group of men that surrounded them. At first, they were rather confused as to why Elias was attending to Jack with such enthusiasm.

But after discovering that he was the heir of the Lycan family, they were stunned speechless. The common folk might not be aware, but they knew that the Lycans were the ones who were running the show behind the scenes in Tarthy City.

Chapter 746

Jack had been missing for a long time and had only reunited with his blood- related family recently, which explained why his last name was Holland and not Lycan. However, his last name did not take away from the fact that he had pure Lycan blood running through his veins.

A person's pedigree was immensely important in the world of affluent families. No one doubted that Emily would ensure whoever was foolish enough to offend Jack would not live to see the next sunrise.

With Elias taking the lead, he guided Jack and the others into the private club. Although the exterior of the establishment was quite normal, the same could not be said of the interior, which was decorated extravagantly.

Their group caused a slight scene when they entered the club with Elias at the head. As the leader of the "Four Princes of Tarthy City", no one could ignore his capabilities and charm. He had officially taken over the Carpenters' family business, and was now the one who controlled all the operations.

Elias' status was nothing to sneeze at amongst Tarthy City's upper class.

Jack wasn't too interested in the fake acts that the people around him were displaying, but nonetheless, he allowed his eyes to wander around the place as he took everything in. He realized that the guests of the banquet were all people from high society. They were dressed to the nines and were comparable to what he had witnessed during the summit he had attended back in Alnewgo.

What captured Jack's attention the most wasn't the socialites that were loitering around, but the beautiful ladies that were clad in gorgeous dresses. They looked like flowers in bloom, making for an ethereal sight.

However, in the midst of the glitz and glamour, Jack spotted a familiar face. It was Peter Trevell, the man with whom Jack had once had a conflict.

At the moment, Peter was surrounded by a group of people and looked immensely smug. Although he wasn't one of the Four Princes, he still held a considerable amount of influence in Tarthy.

Jack's eyes flashed dangerously when he laid eyes on Peter, but he quickly reined in his emotions and continued to engage Elias and the others in conversations.

A few moments later, a sweet scent wafted toward him before a gentle but cold voice drifted into Jack's ear. "Please excuse me."

Jack turned toward the direction of the voice and came face to face with an extremely beautiful woman with a gorgeous figure. He was stunned for a moment, before he realized that he recognized her. She was one of the people that he had saved during the hijacking incident on the plane.

She had tried to get Jack to stay by her side at the time, but since he had been in a hurry, he had left her without leaving any sort of contact information behind. He never would have thought that he would run into her again in the club of all places.

It was clear that the woman did not recognize Jack. It made sense since Jack had been in disguise when he saved her on the plane. Furthermore, they had met only once, so there was no reason for her to remember him.

"Why are you still standing there? You're blocking the way!"

Another woman with short hair stood next to the beautiful woman. When she noticed the dazed look in Jack's eyes as he stared at her companion, she mistakenly assumed that he had been mesmerized by her

good looks, to the point that he forgot that he was in the way. It was why she addressed him in a rather unkind tone.

Jack shifted his body sideways after he regained his senses. The beautiful woman approached Elias while the short-haired woman gave Jack a curious onceover.

"Who are you?" she asked. "I don't think I've seen you before."

The short-haired woman was one of Elias' good friends, so she was familiar with his close circle of friends. However, she had never seen Jack before tonight. What was even more surprising was how well Elias was treating Jack, even though he was just a newcomer.

Jack shot her a small smile. "I only became friends with Elias recently."

"Oh." The woman hummed as she nodded.

She had assumed as much as she pinned Jack with a scrutinizing gaze. After all, not just anyone could enter their small circle as they pleased. The longer she scrutinized Jack, the more tightly her brow furrowed.

Chapter 747

Even though Jack was clad in branded clothes from top to toe, it was obvious that the garments had been purchased at a shopping mall. There was a clear difference between how he was currently dressed compared to the custom-made designer clothes that they were wearing. He was at least a league below them in that sense.

In their circle, a man who was dressed like Jack was considered unpresentable and would be looked down upon by others. Thus, the short-haired woman had no reason to continue speaking to Jack. She turned around and joined Elias' conversation with the beautiful woman.

Elias seemed to be engaged in a deep conversation with the beautiful woman. Her icy demeanor had melted somewhat as a pretty smile graced her features. Elias recalled Jack's existence at that moment, and he pulled the woman with him to Jack's side to introduce them to each other.

It was then that Jack found out that the beautiful woman was Wilhelmina Dodger.

If he was remembering correctly, it was the same name that Emily had mentioned earlier. Could the beautiful woman standing before him be his fiancée?

It was too much of a coincidence. Jack never thought that he would run into her here of all places.

Jack couldn't help himself as he shot a few appraising glances at her. She was indeed extremely beautiful. However, her behavior was completely different from how she had acted on the plane.

After he had saved her, she had been relentless and forward, and she had been incredibly disappointed when Jack rejected her. However, at that moment, Wilhelmina was proud and indifferent, giving off the air that she was looking down on everyone around her.

Jack wasn't concerned with her behavior. In fact, the more indifferent Wilhemina was toward Jack, the better. That way, he could easily reject the arranged marriage.

While Jack was appraising Wilhelmina, she too was swiftly giving him a onceover. She had noticed his unscrupulous gaze on her earlier, causing her brows to knit together. She already had a bad impression of him, which only deepened when she noticed how he was dressed.

"Come here, Mina. Let me introduce you to a friend of mine." He pointed at Jack and continued, "This is Quintis Lycan's son, Jack Holland. Jack, this is Trent Dodger's daughter, Wilhelmina Dodger."

He then pointed at the short-haired woman and introduced her as well. "This is the heiress of the Havok family, Lizzie Havok. We're all part of the same circle of friends now, so be sure to get to know each other better!"

Naturally, Elias was unaware of the relationship between the Dodgers and the Lycans. He had no idea that Jack and Wilhelmina were supposed to be engaged. Wilhelmina was also unaware that Jack was supposed to be her fiancé.

Lizzie exclaimed, "Oh! So, he's Mr. Lycan's son, the one who grew up in a backwater village!"

News of Jack being the heir of the Lycan family and his reunion with them had spread like wildfire amongst the upper class of Tarthy City since some time ago. At the same time, the public had discovered that he had spent over a decade living in a village as well.

Lizzie's tone was unfriendly, and it sounded like she was ridiculing Jack, which made the situation quite awkward for Elias. However, Jack wasn't bothered in the slightest.

Lizzie wasn't wrong-he did grow up in a village. He just didn't understand why the term "village" had such negative connotations within this circle. It sounded like they were forced to swallow dirt when they had to say it.

Meanwhile, Jack had taken note of Lizzie's last name, as well as the way Elias and Wilhelmina treated her. If he was not mistaken, Lizzie was part of one of the four powerful families that resided in Tarthy City, the heiress of the Havok family. She wouldn't be able to be friends with Elias and Wilhemina if she didn't possess that status.

Since the charity auction had yet to begin, Elias led a group of heirs and heiresses of Tarthy City to sit at a table, so they could chat amongst themselves. Their topics of conversation were common amongst the upper class of Tarthy City, which included discussions of branded watches, yachts, flying private jets, collecting world-renowned red wines, as well as racing horses.

Chapter 748

Jack felt completely out of place amongst them. He couldn't find a way to join the conversation, though he was also rather disinterested in their topics of

conversation.

If someone asked Jack how to catch a fish from the river, or how to sell melons with his father, or how to get down and dirty in the fields, he would have the answers to all of those questions. Unfortunately, he had no knowledge regarding these topics that the upper class talked about.

However, someone among them deliberately dragged Jack into the conversation with the intention of making him the butt of the joke.

Lizzie asked, "Hey, handsome. What sort of yachts do you own?"

"Yachts?" Jack shook his head. "I don't have one. I'm not interested in them."

He considered a yacht to be one of those luxurious possessions that only those who wanted to flaunt their wealth would own. As someone who grew up with different principles instilled into him, naturally, he wouldn't debase himself to the point where he would own such a thing.

"What about watches?" Lizzie asked again. "Did you do any research on the new "Starshimmer" that Witzerland just released?"

"I typically use my phone to check the time," Jack answered.

"What about horse racing? Do you like or follow it? Oh, you have to at least be interested in race cars right? What's your opinion on Ferrari's latest supercar model? What's that? You don't follow this either?"

Lizzie bombarded Jack with endless questions, leaving him no opportunity to answer any of them.

The crowd around them begin to snicker to themselves. They looked at Jack as if he was a country bumpkin who had just taken his first step into the big city after descending from the mountains. There were even some who felt that their reputation was being threatened just by sitting at the same table with someone as classless as Jack.

Lizzie was intentionally ridiculing Jack, causing the people around them to let out condescending laughter.

Although they greatly respected the Lycans, they didn't think that this future heir of the Lycan family was all that impressive. Jack seemed to be rather silly. If they were putting it nicely, he was a happy-go-lucky person, but if they wanted to be nasty, he was a fool.

They found it hard to believe that Jack would be able to adapt to their circle since he clearly had no knowledge on how to interact with the upper class of society. They had only treated Jack with respect initially because of Elias.

The respect they showed him slowly morphed into disdain. Some even began to develop feelings of contempt toward the Lycans, who were supporting Jack.

Only those who were a part of the elites of Tarthy City knew about the powerful authority that the Lycans wielded. The rumors were not widespread in Tarthy, which was why not many of the upper class could truly feel the impact of the Lycan family's existence.

Compared to the four big families of Tarthy City that often operated publicly and flexed their authority when political, business, legal, or illegal matters were involved, the Lycans were far more mysterious since they preferred to keep a low profile.

The reality was that the Lycans had never actually shown their capabilities on a public platform when it came to political or business matters. Their involvement was practically the stuff of legends.

That was why the Lycan family seemed rather mediocre when compared to the four big families of Tarthy City. Some even referred to them as a second-class family, while others considered them to be unpresentable despite having some wealth to their name.

Of course, Jack was not privy to these opinions. Fortunately, Elias was a sociable person who often took the initiative to converse with Jack. Only those who were at the very core of his friend group would know just how powerful the Lycans truly were.

Elias looked down on everyone present at the club, but he dared not do the same to Jack. Since he had earned Elias' respect, the others also didn't dare to act too boldly around Jack.

As the banquet carried on, it was about time for the charity auction to begin. The host announced that half of the proceeds from the auction would be donated to

children who were living in poverty.

After that, the auction officially began.

Chapter 749

Jack was disinterested in the auction, especially when it came to items like limited-edition wine selections, designer watches, private villas, yachts, jewelry, and the like.

Even though he had entered the top circles and owned more than enough money, these luxury goods still felt worlds away from him.

The first item to be presented was a specially crafted sword, said to have once belonged to a head of state. Though it couldn't compare to legendary swords like Dawnbreak and Nightfall, it still held a certain fame among collectors.

The moment the sword was unveiled, the crowd erupted into a frenzy of bids. The financial power of the elite in Tarthy City was on full display.

Their offers jumped by hundreds of thousands, even over a million dollars, without any hesitation. In the end, the prized sword was sold at a whopping five million dollars.

The following item was a pink diamond ring weighing a dozen carats. Compared to the "Ocean's Heart" Jack had gifted Feena previously, this pink diamond ring was even larger and more brilliant. Even Jack wavered slightly at the sight of it.

The moment the diamond was revealed, a chorus of excited screams erupted from the women in the crowd. Even Lizzie and Wilhelmina couldn't hide the flicker of amazement in their eyes. Not many women could resist the allure of such a stunning pink diamond.

The moment the bid started, the price skyrocketed. Eventually, it was a bidding showdown between Tarthy City's wealthiest men, Elias Carpenter and Peter Trevell. They were determined to win; it was a battle of pride.

However, the woman beside Peter continued to pester him relentlessly. Peter gritted his teeth and secured the pink diamond ring at an eye-watering price of 13 million dollars.

Elias helplessly said, "I initially wanted to buy this pink diamond ring for the girl I like, but you're clearly the bigger spender, Peter. I can't keep up with you!"

A tinge of helplessness was hidden in his tone.

The woman beside Peter leaped for joy.

With a wide grin, Peter said, "It's not the matter of how much money you have but how willing you are to spend. I value loyalty and relationships, unlike some people who treat money as if it were worth more than life itself."

His words were dripping with sarcasm toward Elias, but Elias couldn't be bothered by it.

Then, a Witzerland watch, rumored to have quite the prestigious background, was brought out for auction.

It was rumored that it was worn by one of the heads of state from Euphoria. It even bore the engraving of that head of state, making it a true collector's item.

Its appearance caused the crowd to frantically bid for it.

Naturally, not all of the auctioned items piqued the interest of the wealthy. Some auctioned items remained unsold.

Halfway through the auction, a stunning piece of raw emerald stone was brought to the table.

The raw emerald stone was cut open, revealing a green surface shimmering with an alluring luster; it was mesmerizing. However, this wasn't exactly a stone- gambling event, and the distinguished guests present showed little interest in it. After all, the stone-gambling market was riddled with uncertainty. Without expertise, it was nearly impossible for one to differentiate the real from the fake.

However, when Jack saw the stone, a strange feeling surged in his heart. It was as if the stone was pulsing in an electric current, sending an irresistible call to him. Although Jack wasn't sure what this feeling was, his gut was telling him that he should get this stone. It would benefit him greatly.

The bidding started at half a million dollars, but the auctioneer was skeptical of the stone. Only a confident gambler would buy it.

However, there were some in the wealthy crowd that were into gambling stones.

They considered this a promising stone, so they began bidding for it.

Soon, the half-a-million-dollar stone had reached a whopping price of one and a half million dollars, three times its original price.

The fiercest bid came from the green-haired guy next to Peter.

This guy was wealthy and passionate about gambling stones. His successive bids sent shivers down the spines of the other bidders, prompting them to back off.

Just as the green-haired guy thought he had successfully gotten the stone, Jack raised his bid. "Two million dollars!"

The green-haired guy immediately raised his bid to two and a half million dollars, and Jack quickly raised it to three million dollars. Then, the green-haired guy raised it to four million dollars.

Chapter 750

Jack maintained a bright smile and said, "Eight million dollars!"

His bid caused an uproar among the crowd. Everyone thought Jack had lost his mind.

One had to know that even if high-quality emeralds were to be extracted, after being polished and crafted into items like necklaces and bracelets, their value would still only amount to a few million dollars.

A raw material, being bid at more than a million dollars by the green-haired guy, was already an astronomical price. Shockingly, Jack had actually bid on it for eight million dollars.

Even if the stone produced a premium emerald, the profit after processing it would barely help break even or yield a marginal gain. More often than not, the outcome was far less desirable. If the emerald turned out to be of poor quality, the loss would be devastating.

From experience, obtaining a poor-quality emerald was far more probable than gaining a premium emerald.

It didn't matter which perspective one came from. It was absurd for Jack to bid for the raw emerald stone for eight million dollars.

Frankly speaking, this was nothing short of reckless indulgence, a sheer act of frivolous behavior for the sake of showing off. It was a downright waste of money.

The green-haired guy was furious and cursed, "Do you even know anything about raw stones? I'm bidding for it to add to my collection. What do you want it for? To purely challenge me?"

From the expression on the green-haired guy's face, it seemed like he had given up. After all, no one was dumb enough to beat that.

However, Jack seemed calm and unbothered. "I like it. What are you going to do about it? I have the money, and this is how I want to spend it."

He had that smug, money-can-do-anything attitude as if taunting, "What? Are you mad about it? Too bad; bite me."

"Eight million dollars—going once, going twice, and sold!" The auctioneer's gavel came down with a decisive thud.

Jack had dropped eight million dollars on a raw emerald stone that was almost guaranteed to be a losing bet.

Even Elias didn't understand what Jack was doing. Did being rich mean that he could act this frivolously?

Lizzie, who was beside him, couldn't help but glance at Jack and ask, "Do you know how to gamble stones?"

"I don't. I was just curious about this stone," Jack answered. He couldn't tell anyone that the stone shared some strange, unspoken connection with him.

"Oh," Lizzie said. "It seems like your parents' hard-earned money is nothing to you."

Only Jack was stupid enough to buy this worthless stone for eight million dollars. That said, Jack's behavior made a lot more sense if one considered his background. He grew up in a remote border town on the Solara mainland, received a basic education at best, and spent most of his days among streetwise locals.

Now, he had gone from rags to riches overnight, suddenly becoming the long-lost heir of Tarthy City's most powerful family-the Lycan family. With his net worth soaring to tens of billions of dollars, the dramatic shift in his wealth and status had to have inflated his ego. He threw money around as if trying to prove himself to others that he truly belonged in their circle.

However, this behavior only brought the ridicule of others, and nothing else.

For a streetwise local, this willful spending seemed cool, but in the eyes of refined elites, who were raised in prestigious families, shaped by higher education, and polished with grace and dignity, his behavior was nothing short of embarrassing. Only a fool would act this way.

Many who knew who Jack was didn't hesitate to say what they were thinking— that the Lycan family's downfall was only a matter of time with a useless heir like him.

Standing not far away, Wilhelmina looked at Jack indifferently but said nothing.

After all, it was the Lycan family's money. She had no right to comment.