

Chapter 126 Auction Rivalry

"Fifty million for the third time... Sold!" The auctioneer's gavel fell, sealing the deal with a wide smile as the crowd erupted in applause. "Congratulations to bidder number 66, Ms. Holden, for securing item number seven!"

The Holden family's stature as one of the city's four most influential families was well recognized. Despite item number seven being located in remote wilderness, the crowd felt compelled to show respect.

The applause swelled, with guests around her offering their congratulations, which she met with a warm, confident smile. As the staff approached to finalize the sale, Kimberly's smile grew even brighter.

After paying and signing the papers, she hugged the contract close, heart pounding with excitement.

She let out a long breath, savoring the moment—the land was finally hers!

She had seen it rise from obscurity to become the bedrock of a vast empire in her past life.

Now, she intended to unlock its full potential herself. 🌱

This was her big chance, and she would guard it closely.

Declan couldn't help but sneer. Kimberly's obvious delight seemed almost laughable to him. If he hadn't looked into it beforehand, he might have thought she'd snatched up a goldmine.

"You... really like it that much?" he taunted, his tone dripping with sarcasm.

Kimberly's joy vanished, replaced by a cool, steely gaze. "Why does it matter to you if I do? I suggest you keep your hands off it," she said firmly, slipping the contract securely into her bag as if shielding it from him.

Declan's face darkened, his smirk turning bitter. "Even if you handed me that wasteland for free, I'd still refuse it! Fifty million on a worthless plot—Kimberly, have you lost your mind? I've never met a woman as foolish as you!"

Kimberly shot him a dismissive glance. "Yes, I'm foolish," she said with a shrug. "If I weren't, I wouldn't have been blind enough to fall for you."

Internally, she could hardly contain her amusement. Just wait, Declan—within six months, he'd see who the real fool was.

Declan scowled, visibly irked, but his attention quickly shifted as the auctioneer announced item number eight. A glint of anticipation lit his eyes, and he practically forgot about Kimberly.

He had been waiting all night for item number eight!

This plot was only two streets away from the Howard Group, a name synonymous with rare investment opportunities.

On top of that, the land was expansive—ideal for a business district or other ventures, promising high returns with virtually no risk of loss!

Declan gripped his paddle tightly, eager for the next round.

Originally, he had intended to partner with the Howard Group, acquire the land, and relocate the Walsh Group there. But now, he had a new plan.

Even without the Howard Group's backing, obtaining this land would be a major victory, showcasing the Walsh Group's influence to everyone.

The property was ideal for developing new energy projects or, perhaps even better, building a grand shopping mall.

To his knowledge, no large malls were situated near the Howard Group, and in a place like Javille, where land was incredibly valuable, that presented a prime opportunity. With tens of thousands of high-level employees working for the Howard Group, a mall in this location would surely flourish!

Absorbed in his plans, Declan failed to notice Kimberly quietly watching him. She observed his confident expression and smirked.

At first, she was concerned that Declan might lose interest in item number eight, considering how different things were in this life compared to the last. Without the Howard Group's backing, he likely had fewer resources, and she wasn't sure if he would still pursue the land.

But now it was clear she had no reason to worry.

As the auction for item number eight began, Chris seated front and center, raised his paddle immediately. "Four billion," he called, his steady voice cutting through the air.

The starting price was only three billion!

Yet he raised it without hesitation, silencing the crowd of hopeful bidders. Aware they couldn't compete with the Howard heir, many backed off, unwilling to risk offending him.

"Him again!" Declan muttered, clenching his jaw. "Does he intend to snatch everything out from under me?"

Kimberly glanced at him, her tone dripping with mock sympathy. "Why not admit defeat? Besides, even if he didn't bid, do you even have the funds to go after this?"

"Shut up!" Declan's face reddened, his fury nearly uncontainable. "I'm getting this land today, and I'll prove just how capable I am!"

Kimberly let out a dismissive laugh, her tone laced with sarcasm, and winked at him with a captivating charm. "I'll be watching, Mr. Walsh."

For a moment, Declan faltered, caught off guard by her teasing gaze, then quickly refocused. Raising his paddle, he shouted, "Four billion and fifty million!"

Kimberly almost laughed. She'd expected a bigger increase, especially after Chris had upped the bid by a billion.

Declan's extra fifty million seemed hardly worth mentioning.

Around the room, guests exchanged knowing looks, many finding Declan's bid almost humorous in comparison to Chris's.

Unfazed, Declan ignored the skeptical stares, holding his ground.

He had neither Chris's wealth nor his confidence, but he'd prepared carefully, selling patents and projects over months just to have enough for this moment.

Chris's lips curled slightly as he noted Declan's bid.

The trap was set.

Before Chris could raise his paddle again, another voice echoed through the hall. Levi raised his card, saying, "Five billion!"

Chris was taken aback, quickly turning to face Levi, who regarded him with a defiant stare.

"You..."