

## Chapter 127 Really A Short-sighted Woman

"Why can't I place a bid on this land just like you, Mr. Howard?" Levi made himself comfortable in his chair, legs crossed. While speaking his right hand rhythmically tapped the broken armrest, his eyes sparkling provocatively. His light gray hair matched his unrestrained demeanor.

It was evident to all that Levi's involvement was a direct challenge to Chris!

By accident or oversight, his microphone remained on, broadcasting his arrogant voice to every guest in attendance.

The entire audience gasped, taken aback by his provocation.

Even Kimberly, who was sitting far from the front, furrowed her brows, her anxiety tightening around her heart. This was a crisis! Levi's decision to bid could completely destroy her plans.

Similarly, Declan's expression grew tense. Already nervous about competing against Chris, Levi's entry presented yet another formidable obstacle.

He felt his hopes sinking

"Turn your microphone off," Chris instructed, his eyebrows furrowed, his expression cold.

Levi, misinterpreting this as a retreat, let out a snort and lazily turned off his microphone. "What's your point?"

In a low, cold voice, Chris leaned closer. "We need to put our differences aside for now. It's crucial that Declan wins this land."

Levi, visibly annoyed, looked up. "And why should he?"

"Because Kimberly wishes it so."

Chris's grave tone momentarily stunned Levi, his face taking on a curious look.

He hadn't expected Chris, usually so proud, to go to such lengths for

Kimberly!

Admiring Chris's ability to set aside his pride was inevitable for Levi.

He nodded slightly, understandingly. "Alright, but... Doesn't our intense bidding war only serve to make the land appear more valuable?"

This insight gave Chris pause; he hadn't thought of that.

He shot Levi a thoughtful look, nodded in acknowledgment, and both men cautiously raised their bidding paddles once again.

However, this time, they restrained themselves from making drastic increases, concerned that Declan might not be able to keep up financially.

"Five billion, one hundred million!"

"Five billion, two hundred million!"

With a tone tinged with impatience, Chris increased the bid, saying, "Five billion, three hundred million!"

Levi promptly said, "Five billion, four hundred million!"

The intense bidding war between Chris and Levi over the land sparked envy among the spectators. Even the influential Hoffman family had thrown their hat into the ring, underscoring the land's perceived value!

Declan was also aware of this dynamic. Overwhelmed with nerves, he realized he lacked the financial resources to match bids with Chris and Levi.

Kimberly felt her anxiety mounting. Why hadn't Declan attempted to bid yet?

As bids neared the six billion mark, Kimberly couldn't keep still any longer. "Are you going to just give up?"

Declan was visibly surprised, turning to face Kimberly in silence for a few moments.

During those tense seconds, Kimberly's discomfort grew. Just when she thought all was lost, Declan finally responded... However, he was seeking financial help. "Lend me some money. I'm short for this bid."

For the first time, Declan appeared less confident, his lips pressed together, his eyes reflecting a touch of desperation.

Kimberly paused, taken aback, her anxiety easing. She quietly exhaled in relief, her eyebrows arching as she asked, "How much do you need, when will you repay it, and what interest will you pay?"

Her demeanor suggested she had anticipated his request for financial assistance.

With a clench of his jaw, feeling a sting of humiliation, Declan replied, "One billion, and I'll repay it in three months with twenty million in interest." He would never have humbled himself like this if he weren't pushed to his limits by the bidding war!

Kimberly considered his proposal for a moment, then looked at him and replied, "Deal."

She quickly retrieved a notebook and pen from her bag and handed them to Declan. As he began to feel a sense of relief, he noticed the items and was momentarily puzzled. "What's this about?"

"It's for an IOU!" As Declan hesitated, Kimberly opened the notebook and started writing with a grave look. "Even among family, we must keep clear records. I can't simply hand over one billion without any formal agreement."

She finished writing down the details and passed the notebook back to Declan, her eyebrows lifted. "Sign here and add your stamp."

"Kimberly!" Instantly, Declan's face contorted with rage. "We're married, and you're asking me to sign an IOU? Don't you trust me? You're taking advantage of me, can't you see?"

"Is there still trust between us?" Kimberly responded with a cold smile, her tone dripping with authority. "Sign the IOU or forget about the loan. Think it over carefully and be sure you won't regret your decision later!"

Her demeanor was resolute and inflexible, clearly signaling no room for negotiation unless Declan signed.

Holding the notebook tightly, Declan could hear Chris and Levi's heated debate in the background. After a brief pause, he signed the IOU, applied his fingerprint with the ink Kimberly provided, and then hurled the notebook and pen back at her. "Are you happy now?"

Kimberly, unfazed by his sharp tone, replied with a slight smile as she stowed the notebook and pen. "Satisfied? Of course, I am. After all, the interest amounts to twenty million."

"You lack foresight!" Initially, Declan suspected Kimberly of laying a trap with her readiness. However, when he realized her focus was merely on the interest, his suspicions faded. Since their marriage, Kimberly had been devoted to her role as a housewife. What hidden agenda could she have? She was clearly only interested in the twenty million interest.

With an indifferent smile, Kimberly reminded him "Are you going to make your bid? If you don't increase it quickly, those two will notice, and you might lose out on the property."

She gestured forward.

Declan followed her pointing hand, observing Chris and Levi, who were standing and engaged in a vigorous argument, neither backing down.

Chris and Levi were indeed embroiled in a fierce dispute!

Meanwhile...

Levi, frustrated, muttered, "Damn it, what is that bastard Declan doing? Does he even want this land?"

Chris's face was stern, his eyes locked on Levi. "You've driven the price up too much. If this deal falls through, Kimberly will be displeased, and the blame will fall on you."

"You!"

Suddenly, an urgent voice called out, "Five billion, eight hundred million!" That voice belonged to Declan!

Levi and Chris, both towering figures, quivered slightly. Never had they found Declan's voice so agreeable.

"What are you doing just standing there? Continue arguing!" Chris quickly recovered, pushing Levi forcefully. "I suggest you don't push your luck, Levi!"