

The Man's Decree 146

Chapter 146 Take A Look

Yvonne shot Jared a glare and snapped, "You're saying that the watch is a knock-off without even looking at it! It's glaringly obvious that you're jealous! Are you feeling resentful that your girlfriend's ex-boyfriend is doing better than you?"

"I'm just stating the facts." Jared flashed her a faint smile.

In response, Yvonne harrumphed. "Pah! This is plain jealousy! If it's true, do come up with proof!"

Seeing so many people speaking up for him, Lincoln asserted with a frosty expression, "We've just made each other's acquaintance today, so why are you targeting me, Jared? If you don't give me an explanation for this matter, mark my words that I'm going to have you brought out of here on a stretcher!"

However, Jared merely sneered, "Okay! You know better than anyone whether the watch is an imitation. Since you want to be humiliated, don't blame me for granting you your wish."

While saying that, he stood up and ordered, "Give me your watch. I'll prove it to you all!"

Instead of giving the man his watch, Lincoln withdrew his hand and demanded warily, "How are you planning to prove it? This watch of mine cost a few hundred thousand. Can you afford to replace it if you were to damage it?"

He would never hand it over, for he knew that it was a knock-off. In truth, he was merely creating an illusion of being a wealthy man.

"That's simple. We'll know whether it's an imitation after smashing it to the ground," Jared answered nonchalantly.

As long as the gold watch shattered, one could instantly tell whether it was the real deal. The mechanisms in an authentic gold watch were made of gold, but a knock-off couldn't possibly imitate that as well.

"You want to shatter my watch? This watch cost a few hundred grand, Jared! Can you afford to pay me back after ruining it?" Lincoln questioned guiltily upon hearing that.

He couldn't allow the man to shatter the watch since it was an imitation, and that would be clear as day once smashed.

"Exactly! Can you afford to pay for it?"

"You dare smash a watch worth a few hundred thousand? What kind of authentication method is this?"

"Don't boast if you don't have that capability! And here I thought that you really knew how to verify whether it's real!"

Everyone started criticizing Jared and heaping scorn on him.

Smiling, Jared stated, "There are still other methods to decipher whether it's the real deal even without smashing it. Gold is different from other metals, so the answer will be evident as long as we weigh the watch and compare its weight with the figure stated on the official website."

No matter how good an imitation was, the weight couldn't be the same. After all, gold weighed differently from other metals.

When the others heard that, they found it to be a feasible method as it also wouldn't ruin the watch.

"And I'm supposed to just do as you say?" A glimmer of panic flitted across Lincoln's eyes. He would never agree to weigh it, knowing that it would only prove the watch to be a knock-off.

"Jared, you're jealous of Lincoln and claim that his watch is an imitation, but what if it's not? There's no reason for him to listen to you just because of a baseless remark!" Michelle demanded with her eyes fixed on Jared.

"If the watch is genuine, I'll pay for this meal!" Jared declared confidently.

He had full confidence that the watch was a knock-off.

Hearing that, everyone turned to Lincoln. "Just let him weigh it, Lincoln. Since he dared make such a bold statement, prove him wrong once and for all! Besides, we'll also be getting a free meal out of it!"

By then, Lincoln was a smidge panicked, and cold sweat started beading on his forehead.

Never had he expected Jared to fixate on his watch.

"This watch requires a precise weighing instrument, but we don't have it now. How do you want to weigh it? Don't tell me you can tell by just weighing it in your hand?" Lincoln questioned.

"All right, I'll admit that you're right in that we don't have a weighing instrument now. However, do you dare give your watch to me for a look? I'll only take a look at it," Jared drawled with a smirk.

"What are you planning to do? Are you going to smash it?" Lincoln asked warily.

"No, I definitely won't do that. If I damage it even one bit, I'll pay you back according to the original price regardless of whether this watch of yours is genuine!"

Jared shook his head. He didn't need to smash the watch, and he was merely teasing the man when he said he was going to shatter it to tell whether it was genuine.

Chapter 147 A Rental

"Fine. I don't mind giving it to you for a look." Lincoln was afraid that Jared would continue insisting that the watch was a knock-off if he refused to give it to him for a look, so he took it off and handed it to the man. Then, he asserted, "Many people are standing witness for me here! If you smash it, you've got to compensate me according to the original price!"

With that said, he was convinced that Jared wouldn't dare smash it anymore. Without being weighed, it was also impossible to tell the authenticity of the gold watch. After all, it was a top-notch imitation, and

only an expert appraiser could tell whether it was genuine at a single glance. He didn't believe that Jared could discern that.

Jared took the watch from him. After fiddling with it for a while, he handed it back to the man.

"That's it? You can tell whether it's the real deal with just a look?" Lincoln regarded him with puzzlement written all over his face even as he took his watch back.

"Yes, I only needed to take a single look." Jared nodded firmly.

"Hmph! How ridiculous!" Snorting, Lincoln slipped his watch back onto his wrist.

Just as everyone was waiting for Jared to come up with the proof, Michelle abruptly shrieked, "Lincoln, q-quick, look at your watch!"

Startled, Lincoln hastily swung his gaze to his watch, only to be wholly stumped.

All the others were perplexed and shifted their gazes to the man's watch as well. At a single look, they were all similarly floored.

The gold watch on Lincoln's hand had long since lost its golden luster earlier and had turned into a coppery color, making it all too clear that it was discoloring.

With that, they could all tell that it was unquestionably an imitation since authentic gold wouldn't discolor.

They all stared at Lincoln with a peculiar look in their eyes. The atmosphere also became exceedingly awkward.

"That imitation watch is so inferior that my hand is all covered in gold powder!"

Jared snagged a piece of wet tissue and wiped his hand, the corners of his mouth lifting slightly.

Lincoln's expression turned exceedingly grim, becoming as black as thunder.

Beside him, Michelle gaped at him in shock, at a loss for words.

Lincoln, who had initially acted high and mighty with an arrogant aura, felt his face flaming hotly right then. He didn't even dare look anyone in the eye.

"Lincoln, could it be that you were duped by that friend of yours? How could he get you a knock-off from Sumanthova?" someone couldn't help asking.

That reminded Lincoln of a possible excuse, and jubilation immediately inundated him.

He lifted his head and snarled, "That damn fellow must have duped me! I spent a few hundred grand, yet he dared to buy me an imitation watch? I'll definitely kill him when I catch him!"

While saying that, he smashed the watch in his hand to the ground, shattering it into smithereens.

However, the trust earlier was already gone from some of the people's eyes as they looked at the man. After all, it was clear as day that he was using an imitation watch to show off.

“That swindler is truly despicable! It’s just a three-hundred grand watch, no? Lincoln certainly won’t lie about that when he’s driving a car that costs over a million. Why would he still need to buy a knock-off to put on a show?” Michelle stood up beside Lincoln and defended him.

Seizing that opportunity, Lincoln took out his car key and placed it on the table to flaunt his status.

“Who knows whether he rented the car?” Jared chimed in with a sneer right then.

In fact, many people there shared his sentiments. After all, Lincoln’s watch was an imitation, so there was a possibility that the Mercedes-Benz was also rented. Besides, a day’s fee didn’t cost that much.

“Nonsense! How could it possibly be a rental? I’ve seen him driving it long before today, not just for tonight!” Michelle retorted.

“The answer will be evident once he shows us the car ownership certificate,” Jared countered.

As long as Lincoln produced the car ownership certificate, there would be no doubt about the name on it at a single glance.

Michelle turned to Lincoln, seemingly wanting him to retrieve the car ownership certificate to shut Jared up.

Seeing that, Lincoln hurriedly declared, “It’s too troublesome to go to the car and retrieve it. You just want to see whether I’ve got that capability, no? I’ll order a new watch online right away! I find myself feeling uneasy without a watch!”

Chapter 148 Give Us Ten Bottles

While saying that, Lincoln ordered a watch costing over two hundred thousand right in front of everyone’s eyes.

Furthermore, he even paid for it, so all that was left was to wait for it to be delivered.

With that, envy slithered into everyone’s gazes once more. They all believed that he was truly loaded, which meant he had undoubtedly been duped about the imitation watch.

At the same time, Lincoln breathed a long sigh of relief that he managed to safeguard his status as a wealthy man.

Glimpsing his reaction, Jared chuckled softly.

Cancellation is entirely possible for purchases made online. Therefore, he can simply cancel his order later without losing a single penny.

Nonetheless, he didn’t expose the man since he still wanted to toy with him.

In the end, the matter of the gold watch was merely a trifling episode that didn’t affect Lincoln’s status in the crowd’s eyes.

Lincoln then turned his gaze to Jared with a provocative look in his eyes.

He just wanted to humiliate me, but not only did he fail to do so, but they're even more respectful toward me now!

"Earlier, you said that money is no matter to you and that you're unaccustomed to drinking Sauvignon Blanc. So, what would you like to drink? Glamor Hotel has all kinds of liquor, but it all depends on whether you can afford to pay for it."

After almost having been tripped up by the man, Lincoln wanted to give him a taste of his own medicine.

"How about brandy?" Jared eyed him with a challenging glint in his eyes. "Do you dare drink it? I'm afraid that you won't have any money left to foot the bill after having spent your entire fortune on the watch."

Lincoln was taken aback for a moment, never having expected him to choose such an expensive liquor since the cheapest bottle of brandy cost two hundred thousand at the very least.

Everyone else gaped at Jared incredulously with disbelief etched on their faces.

"Jared..." Hilda tugged at Jared's sleeve lightly.

She used to work at a bar, so she naturally knew the price of brandy. A single bottle was a few hundred thousand, so it'd be a tidy sum even if they were only paying for their shares.

Clocking her expression, Lincoln sniggered. Hah! I just knew that he was putting on a show, deliberately mentioning such expensive liquor to intimidate me!

"Brandy isn't too bad. I've had it a few times. If you want to have brandy, we'll order a few bottles."

He handed the decision to Jared, waiting to see whether the latter would dare say that he wanted to have brandy.

At that moment, everyone trained their eyes on Jared with mockery teeming in their gazes. They all felt that he certainly wouldn't dare ask for it. Thus, it was akin to him shooting himself in the foot.

Unexpectedly, Jared nodded. "Sure!"

Without giving Lincoln another opportunity to change his mind, he called out to the server right away, "Waiter, five bottles of brandy, please!"

Shock deluged them all when they heard him ordering five bottles of brandy in one go.

Lincoln was likewise startled. He initially wanted to stop Jared from doing so, but on second thought, he promptly assumed that the man was still provoking him. Even if he orders five bottles of brandy, it won't be charged if he doesn't open them!

At that line of thought, he finally breathed a sigh of relief, secretly rejoicing that he didn't fall for the man's trick.

"Five bottles are too little. Give us ten bottles!"

He eyed Jared with a smirk. Since he wants to play games with me, I'll play along with him! Anyway, I don't have to open them at the end of the day. I can just return them when the time comes!

“Oh, wow! I’ve never had brandy, yet Lincoln asked for ten bottles! How incredible!”

“Look, this is the epitome of someone rolling in money! Jared is merely putting on a show! Not only is he an ex-convict, but his clothes aren’t even worth two hundred, yet he claims that he drinks brandy! Pah!”

“This is probably the exact scene when a braggart meets a true tycoon! Let’s just see how he’s going to deal with the consequences of his lies!”

Everyone regarded Jared with amusement, eagerly waiting to see him worming his way out of the predicament.

Meanwhile, Hilda was bowled over by the turn of events. Ten bottles of brandy? That’s a total of two million! Even if we’re only paying for our share, that will be close to two hundred thousand! If our parents were to learn about it, they’d definitely kill us!

Chapter 149 Open Them Up

“Jared, forget about it,” Hilda whispered anxiously.

Lincoln burst into laughter when he saw how troubled Hilda was. He then mocked Jared, “Hey punk, you still have time to change your mind. Can you even afford to drink brandy? You look like you don’t even have twenty thousand with you. Stop bluffing, punk!”

“Change my mind?” Jared grinned. “What for? It’s just brandy anyway. It’s not like I’ve never drank it before. But if you’ve regretted your actions, you still have time to stop the waiters.”

“Hahaha! Are you kidding me? Why would I? A few million means nothing to me.” Lincoln laughed aloud. Let’s see how long you can go on with your act. Once the liquor gets here, you’d surely regret it.

Soon, the waiters served up ten bottles of brandy. Everyone was amazed because none of them had ever indulged in such expensive liquor.

“Sir, do you need help to open them?” one of the waiters asked Lincoln.

Lincoln hesitated and turned to look at Jared. “Jared, are you sure about this? Once they open the bottles, it’d be too late to back down!”

Lincoln was certain that Jared was bluffing, and so he pressured him to submit. In fact, he hoped that none of the liquor would be opened because he couldn’t afford to pay.

Jared smiled faintly and said to the waiter, “Please open all of them.”

“Yes, sir.” The waiter proceeded to open up a bottle of brandy.

Lincoln was stunned. He didn’t see that coming.

Pop!

A second bottle was opened.

Every time Lincoln saw a bottle cork being pulled out, his heart bled a little.

Not long after, Lincoln was drenched in cold sweat. “Jared, don’t you forget that we’re at Glamor Hotel. It’s the Sullivan family’s business. There’s no way you can leave without paying, you know?” Lincoln tried his luck and threatened Jared, hoping that he would stop the waiter.

“I’m not planning to do that. How about you? Are you worried that you can’t afford the drinks? If that’s the case, you can tell them to stop!” Jared sneered.

“What makes you think I can’t afford it? My monthly expenses far exceed your annual salary!” Lincoln knew it was too late to back down, considering that he was the one who had ordered ten bottles of brandy.

By the time all ten bottles were opened, Lincoln’s heart sank.

“This is good liquor.” Jared poured himself a big glass of brandy and downed it.

Lincoln looked at Jared with contempt and said to the others, “Let’s drink! Don’t let him have it all to himself! It seems that Jared has never seen such expensive liquor in his life!”

Upon hearing that, everyone started pouring for themselves. Yvonne and Michelle, despite being non-drinkers, poured themselves a full glass each as well. They were taking full advantage, knowing that they wouldn’t be able to afford expensive liquor themselves.

Unlike the others, Hilda wasn’t keen on drinking. Instead, she was busy comforting Yolanda, who was in a bad shape.

Chapter 150 Avoid Paying

Lincoln felt relieved when he saw everyone drinking. Good! I can pay for the meal myself, but now that you all are drinking, we’d just split the bill on the liquor later! There’s no way I’d pay over a million on my own!

Assuming that Lincoln would pay for them, the others were all fawning over him.

“If it weren’t for you, Lincoln, I doubt I could ever have a taste of such good liquor!”

“Exactly! You’re awesome, Lincoln! A million really means nothing to you!”

“And then there’s Jared. Doesn’t he know how capable Lincoln is? How dare he compare himself to Lincoln?”

Jared was unfazed by those flatteries. Say whatever you want now because you’ll still have to fork out the money later.

In a blink of an eye, they finished all ten bottles of brandy. Some of them couldn’t even stand upright.

“All right. It’s time to go,” Jared said to Hilda.

Hilda nodded and helped Yolanda walk out of the room.

The others followed suit. Lincoln hurriedly caught up with them. He was eager to humiliate Jared in public. Let’s see how you are going to pay up!

“May I know how much we’ll have to pay?” Lincoln asked the cashier.

“Sir, your total bill is two million one hundred thousand,” the cashier answered promptly.

Lincoln nodded and took out his phone to split the bill. “Jared, we have a total of fourteen people here. Hence, it’d be a hundred and fifty thousand each. Since there are three of you, you’d have to pay four hundred and fifty thousand.”

“Four hundred and fifty thousand is nothing!” Jared chuckled.

“Drop your act, Jared. If so, then what are you waiting for? Pay up now!” Michelle said with a sarcastic tone.

“There’s no way he could pay! He’s just acting rich!” Yvonne added.

The rest of them were all waiting to see Jared make a fool of himself. Four hundred and fifty thousand was an enormous amount for a typical wage earner. Hence, they were sure that Jared wouldn’t have that amount of money.

Hilda stared at Jared nervously, as she had no money with her. How are we going to pay four hundred and fifty thousand now?

Yolanda, who had been silent, slowly raised her head and said, “I have two hundred thousand with me. Take it.”

Yolanda knew she shouldn’t let Jared pay for her. After all, she was the one who had insisted on bringing them along although she had never thought that things would end up that way.

Furthermore, she knew that Jared did not come from a well-off family and he had just gotten out of prison recently. Four hundred and fifty thousand must be an unimaginable amount for him!

“Yolanda, just how rich do you think you are? I’m sure you have to whore around for quite a few times to earn yourself two hundred thousand!” Michelle scoffed upon seeing that Yolanda was willing to fork up with her hard-earned money.

“How dare you?” Yolanda was extremely infuriated by Michelle’s degrading words. Suddenly, she felt lightheaded and immediately passed out.

“Yolanda! Yolanda!” Hilda held onto her and shouted.

Jared went toward Yolanda and checked her pulse. After knowing that she’d be fine, he turned toward Hilda and said, “Hilda, take her home. I’ll deal with them on my own.”

“But Jared, how about the money?” Hilda queried worriedly.

“Don’t worry about that. I have my ways. You should take her home now,” Jared answered with a straight face.

Hilda took a glance at Jared before shifting her gaze to the unconscious Yolanda. She had no choice but to leave Jared behind.

“Jared, now that the ladies are gone, are you going to go back on your words and leave without paying up?” Lincoln asked coldly.

Jared scoffed and continued, “I’ve got no bills to pay, though!”