

Chapter 311 A Hundred Million Deposit

"Now I know why Zyaire was in such a hurry to leave. He must have gone to the auction. The thousand-year-old snow lotus is extremely rare. Plenty of people will fight for it!" Zeke said.

"Let's go to the auction too." Jared was filled with excitement.

If he could get his hands on the thousand-year-old snow lotus, his skills would be significantly elevated.

Zeke nodded and took Jared to the auction.

The auction was held on the outskirts of Yeringham, inside a classically designed building with a circular arch.

The outside of the building was filled with luxury cars that were usually not there. Evidently, many people had rushed over just for the thousand-year-old snow lotus.

When they arrived at the entrance, the staff immediately recognized Zeke. He handed Zeke a bidding paddle and informed respectfully, "Mr. Griffin, the deposit this time is a hundred million."

"What?" Zeke was stunned. "Isn't it usually ten million? Why did it increase to a hundred million?"

"Mr. Griffin, today is special. I'm sure you're aware that a thousand-year-old snow lotus has been put on the block. Hence, the deposit has been increased to stop anyone who's not serious," the staff explained.

Zeke's expression drastically changed, as he didn't have a hundred million on him.

"Let me put it up," Jared volunteered when he realized that Zeke might not have so much money on him.

After paying the deposit, Jared received a paddle, and they proceeded to the auction hall.

The usually quiet hall was now bustling with crowds. Everyone important in Yeringham was there. Even Zyaire was seated in front, chatting softly with someone.

At the sight of Zeke and the others, Zyaire was briefly stunned. Nevertheless, he nodded at them with a smile in an effort to greet them.

After they settled into their seats, Jared and company quietly waited for the thousand-year-old snow lotus to be brought out.

The auction started with some ordinary herbs that no one was interested in. Hence, many of them didn't receive a bid at all. Evidently, everyone had come for the snow lotus.

"Jared, the bid is expected to be extremely competitive. If you intend to secure the snow lotus, do you already have a price in mind?" Zeke asked softly.

Jared shook his head. "I must have it regardless of the price."

Having heard Jared's answer, Zeke didn't say anything further.

“Josephine, what does your boyfriend actually do? Why is he so rich? You didn’t give him all that money, did you?”

Frida was intrigued by Jared’s identity after seeing him splurge tens of millions as if it wasn’t his money.

“He doesn’t want my money. Do you actually think he’s a kept man?”

Smiling slightly, Josephine gave Jared a look of admiration.

She realized that she had become increasingly attracted to Jared. In fact, she felt deeply mesmerized by the unique charm he exuded.

Meanwhile, after a few more items were auctioned, the host finally brought out a large glass container. Soaked inside it was a snow lotus.

“Ladies and gentlemen, this is the highlight of the day, the thousand-year-old snow lotus. As all of you are aware, there hasn’t been any snow lotus discovered in Yeringham for a long time now. Due to the difficulty in gathering it, the number of herbalists has declined. In fact, this snow lotus was discovered in the hands of a farmer who used it to brew medicinal wine.”

While the host was still explaining the origins of the snow lotus, the crowd was already in an uproar.

“Damn it, what sort of joke is this? Isn’t this just a lie? Did you actually invite us here for a snow lotus that is used to make wine?”

“Is the snow lotus even a thousand years old? From the looks of it, it probably isn’t even a century old. You guys are nothing but cons!”

“You even demanded a hundred million for the deposit! This is outrageous!”

When they saw the snow lotus, everyone raised a ruckus to express their disappointment.

Chapter 312 Too Willful

Jared was the only one who lit up at the sight. He could barely hide his excitement. Though the snow lotus was soaked in alcohol, he could sense its strong spiritual energy bubbling in the liquid.

Though the snow lotus was not big and had been soaked in alcohol for God knew how long that caused it to lose its luster, it didn’t stop Jared from wanting it.

They didn’t know how to appreciate it, so Jared would get it easily. At least that was what he thought.

Despite the crowd’s curses and yells, the auctioneer didn’t flinch and continued with a smile, “The starting bid for the thousand-year snow lotus is one hundred million, with an increase in the bid of no less than ten million. Let the auction begin!”

Instead of raising his paddle, Jared took in the crowd’s reaction. As no one raised their paddles, he was inwardly pleased.

Right before Jared was about to raise his paddle, Zyaire, who was in the front row, raised his paddle. “One hundred million!” he declared.

Everyone erupted into discussions at the sight of Zyaire raising his paddle.

“Mr. Rider is bidding for this snow lotus? Did we see it correctly?”

“Oh, Trinity Herbs is rich enough to buy such an expensive herb!”

“Just you wait and see. Zyaire is an old but sly fox. He wouldn’t have bid for an expensive herb without reason.”

Everyone gazed at Zyaire, who got to his feet after stating his bid. He announced, “Everyone, though the snow lotus looks to be in bad shape, it is at least a few hundred years old. Since it’s in Yeringham, we can’t let it leave. Otherwise, our reputation as City of Herbs would be affected. Thus, I’ll be bidding for it. Please don’t compete against me.”

Hearing that, everyone was unconvinced, but they dared not bid for the snow lotus.

Zyaire returned to his seat after that announcement. The auctioneer glared at him in displeasure but didn’t have the guts to yell at him. He asked pleadingly, “Anyone else? The snow lotus is a real bargain for its price!”

He did his best to encourage the others to bid so the organizer would get more profit. Alas, no one was bold enough to raise the bid.

Left with no choice, the auctioneer trudged back to the stage and raised his gavel to close the bidding reluctantly.

“A hundred and ten million!”

Jared raised his paddle without warning right before the auctioneer could do that.

The auctioneer cast Jared a delighted look. Everyone else turned to look at Jared, too.

Zyaire furrowed his brows and glared at Jared angrily.

“This bidder has offered a hundred and ten million. Is anyone else going to bid?” the auctioneer inquired and glanced at Zyaire anxiously.

The only person who could bid against him was Zyaire.

“A hundred and fifty million!” Zyaire declared as he raised his paddle in a slow manner.

After he raised the bid by forty million, everyone turned to Jared to see if the latter would raise the bid. Even the auctioneer gave him an earnest look.

“Two hundred million!” Jared raised his paddle without hesitation.

Everyone else gasped in shock.

“Jared, that’s too much!” Zeke reminded him in a low voice.

At auctions, the bidders would normally raise the bid gradually. That way, they could sound each other out. Increasing the bid by tens of millions in one go was too much.

“Josephine, your boyfriend is awesome! Does he own a bank?”

Frida gazed at Jared curiously, as though she wanted to see through him.

Chapter 313 On Purpose

“Didn’t you say he’s a leech? So now he’s awesome?” Josephine responded with a smile.

She was slightly surprised to learn that Jared was in possession of that much money. She had made up her mind to call William to ask him to pay for the snow lotus even if Jared couldn’t afford it. As the richest man in Horington, he could spare the money easily.

Zyaire glared at Jared and narrowed his gaze. A frosty expression took over his face.

“Two hundred and ten million!” he managed between gritted teeth.

Right after he spoke, Jared raised his paddle once again. “Three hundred million!”

Hearing that, everyone gaped in disbelief. They started wondering about Jared’s real identity. The auctioneer beamed and roared, “The bid is now raised to three hundred million. I repeat, three hundred million. Would anyone else want to raise the bid? This bidder looks unfamiliar, so I believe he isn’t from Yeringham. Will no one from Yeringham bid against him? If news of this gets out, we’ll lose our nickname as City of Herbs!”

The auctioneer was smart enough to sow discord between Jared and Zyaire. Earlier, Zyaire claimed he didn’t want to embarrass Yeringham. If Zyaire didn’t raise the bid, he would be contradicting himself.

Jared glanced at the auctioneer. He’s good at sowing discord. He wants us to fight so they will get more profit!

“Three hundred and ten million!” Zyaire clenched his jaw and raised his paddle yet again.

Jared was about to do the same when Zeke stopped him.

“Jared, even if the snow lotus is a thousand years old, it isn’t worth that much. Stop bidding!” Zeke advised.

It was currently overpriced and too expensive to be bought. Jared would suffer a loss if he won the bid.

“Zeke, I need the snow lotus!” Jared explained. He proceeded to raise his paddle and announced, “Three hundred and fifty million!”

The crowd regarded Jared with curiosity. They were eager to know why he was willing to part with an astronomical amount of money just to get the snow lotus.

Even those who weren’t herb experts knew that the snow lotus was overpriced. It wasn’t that valuable, especially since it was soaked in alcohol.

Does this young man hold a grudge against Zyaire and is targeting the latter on purpose?

That idea popped up in everyone’s mind. It was the only reason they could come up with after seeing Jared’s action.

Zyaire thought the same, too. His brows knitted together as he glowered at Jared. “Young man, are you doing this on purpose?”

“I don’t even know you, so why would I do it on purpose? In an auction, the bidder who offers the highest price would win the bid. Mr. Rider, if you want, you can continue raising the bid!” Jared responded with a smile.

Zyaire huffed, “We’re in Yeringham, so you’d better be careful!”

With that, he stormed out of the venue.

After Zyaire’s departure, everyone cast sympathizing gazes in Jared’s direction. How dare he offend Zyaire? He must have a death wish!

“Three hundred and fifty million, deal! The snow lotus goes to you, sir...”

The auctioneer pounded the gravel happily and courteously handed the snow lotus to Jared.

After getting the snow lotus, Jared transferred the money into the auction house’s account and left with Zeke and the rest. He had achieved his goal that day, so there was no need to remain at the auction.

“Jared, you’ve offended Zyaire Rider. He won’t let this go. Besides, I’m afraid your deal will fall through,” Zeke said worriedly after they stepped out of the auction house.

Chapter 314 A Robbery

“He won’t, so stop fretting about it. Businesspeople don’t differentiate between friends and enemies, for we only care about profit. I’m spending money to buy his herbs, and he’ll earn a profit from it. Why would he say no to the deal? It isn’t easy to get a big client like me,” Jared responded with a calm smile.

He wasn’t bothered about the matter at all.

“T-Then are we still heading to Trinity Herbs?” Zeke asked carefully.

“Of course. We haven’t gotten the herbs yet. Let’s go!”

Jared gave a curt nod and entered his car to head to Trinity Herbs.

Meanwhile, Zyaire was smoking with anger back in Trinity Herbs.

“I can’t believe someone dares to offend me in Yeringham! How infuriating!” he declared as he smashed his cup on the floor.

“Mr. Rider, should I get someone to get the snow lotus?” a young man asked.

He was dressed in a crisp black suit, and his left ear was missing.

The man was Zyaire’s trusted subordinate and had been working with Zyaire back when he was involved in shady businesses in Yeringham. After Zyaire whitewashed himself, he kept the young man by his side.

Zyaire hesitated for a moment before frowning. “Remember to do the deed in a secluded place. Don’t let anyone find out about it!”

He had gone to great deals to whitewash his reputation, so it would be bad if the matter were connected to him.

Zyaire loved the snow lotus. He wasn't planning to sell it out at an inflated price. In fact, he wanted to make it his store's most prized possession. His store's current prized possession was a fake. That was why Zyaire went to extreme lengths to bid for the snow lotus.

"Don't worry, Mr. Rider. I know the drill."

The young man gave him a nod and spun on his heel to leave.

At the sight of Jared, Zeke, and the like striding into the store, he immediately halted in his tracks.

Zyaire was surprised to see Jared in his store.

"Mr. Rider, I'm here to seal the deal. I need to keep my word as a businessperson. Since I offered to buy your herbs, I won't go back on my word!"

Jared flashed a smile at the sight of Zyaire's shock.

"You're a man of your word?" Zyaire scoffed. "After getting my snow lotus, I can't believe you're here in my store. You don't have respect for me at all!"

"Mr. Rider, why did you say that? I bought the snow lotus with my money. It isn't yours in the first place," Jared responded with an innocent smile.

The man missing an ear declared icily, "Young man, stop putting up an act. If you give us the snow lotus, we shall spare your life. You'll get to leave Yeringham unscathed. Otherwise, you'll perish here!"

Right after he said that, a dozen men ran over to block the exit. The doors rolled down slowly, trapping them inside effectively.

Zeke, Frida, and the rest blanched in shock. Josephine promptly gripped Jared's arm.

"Mr. Rider, we can talk things through. This—"

"Scram. This is none of your business!"

Zeke was about to patch things up, but Zyaire yelled at him, causing him to shut up awkwardly.

"Is this a robbery?" Jared inquired.

Unfazed by the threats, he was a sea of calm as he flashed a nonchalant smile.

"Young man, I can't believe you're still smiling right now. I admire you for your courage. Why don't you sell the snow lotus to me at three hundred million? I won't let you suffer a lot of losses. How does that sound?"

Fear rose in Zyaire's heart when he realized Jared was unfazed. He was afraid that Jared had an influential backer. After all, Jared was rich enough to pay a few hundred million for the snow lotus.

Thus, Zyaire decided to take a step back by offering to buy the snow lotus. That way, Jared would get an out.

Chapter 315 An Unscrupulous Shop

Jared scoffed. "You're practically robbers. How dare you offer me a deal that causes me to lose fifty million? Do you think I'm foolish enough to agree to it?"

Zyaire's expression turned dark. "Then state your price. I can also buy it back at the same price."

"No matter how much you offer, I won't sell it!" Jared answered as he shook his head in a firm manner.

"Hey, you're forcing me to go the hard way. Do you really want me to take action?" Zyaire demanded, his face all scrunched up in anger.

"I'd advise you to stay put. It's normal for deals to fall through, and you'll still be a businessman if you don't take any action. However, if you take action, your store will be labeled as an unscrupulous shop. I won't hesitate to take action against an unscrupulous shop!" Jared said calmly.

He narrowed his gaze as a menacing aura rose from his entire being.

"Who the h*ll do you think you're fooling?" the young man roared.

He threw a punch at Jared without hesitation.

Jared pulled Josephine and stepped backward as Tommy dashed forward eagerly.

He grabbed the young man's wrist and exerted force. At once, the young man lost balance. Tommy promptly gave the young man's leg a flying kick. Crack! A horrifying crack pierced the air as the young man's femur fractured.

Without hesitation, Tommy grabbed the young man's wrist and threw him over his shoulders before giving him the last kick.

His kick was so forceful that the young man's chest caved at the impact. Judging by the look of it, all his ribs were broken.

The young man spat out a mouthful of blood as his expression contorted in anguish.

"What..."

Zyaire was astonished, for the young man was his trusted aide and an experienced fighter. He couldn't believe that the young man was defeated easily by Tommy.

After consuming the enhancement pill, Tommy had experienced a great improvement in his skill. Thus, the young man was no match for him.

Both Zeke and Frida were astounded to realize how strong Tommy was.

"Damn it, you despicable thing! You were still a baby when I became the underground king!" Tommy hissed. He kicked the young man's head so forcefully that it killed the latter on the spot. After killing the young man, Tommy turned to Zyaire and asked, "Do you dare attack me, old fool?"

Zyaire was trained in martial arts, but he was no match for Tommy. Retreating in fear, he stammered, "W-Who are you?"

"My name is Tommy Lewis!" Tommy announced grandly.

Suddenly, Zyaire's eyes widened as cold sweat dripped down his forehead. "Y-You're the underground king, Tommy Lewis. No, you're Mr. Lewis from Horington!"

Zyaire finally recognized Tommy. He had met Tommy twice, but that happened a long time ago, and his memory was hazy. Besides, he didn't know Tommy would come to Yeringham without causing a fuss. So, despite finding Tommy familiar, he didn't pay any attention to the man.

After Tommy introduced himself, he finally regained his memory.

"M-Mr. Lewis, I must've been blind for not recognizing you!"

Zyaire immediately fell to his knees.

Tommy wasn't lying. Zyaire might've previously been involved in shady businesses in Yeringham, but he was nothing compared to Tommy. After all, Tommy's reputation was infamous, even in the surrounding cities.

The Whitaker family from Summerbank might be the only family who didn't fear Tommy. The people from the surrounding cities, however, feared him greatly.

"Mr. Chance..."

Tommy glanced at Jared and waited for the latter's order to deal with Zyaire.

Jared marched over to Zyaire. "I warned you earlier. If you take action, this shall be an unscrupulous store. I won't abide by the rules when it comes to teaching dishonest stores a lesson!"