The Legendary Man Chapter 91

Chapter 91 | Spent Three Hundred Million

"Come on in," Jonathan commanded casually.

"Yes, Mr. Goldstein!" Under his orders, the men stepped into the villa.

Their appearance caught the attention of Margaret and Emmeline.

"Mr. Goldstein, please check the contents," said the man in black as he offered a sandalwood box in his palms. However, Jonathan accepted it and gave him a cocky wave. "There's no need to check the contents. You may leave now!"

"Yes!"

Without hesitation, the men filed out of the villa obediently.

After they left, Margaret pursed her lips in annoyance. "What is this? What's the mystery all about? I can't believe they made a grand entrance just to deliver this box. What is inside?"

"A gift I prepared for Josephine's annual party," said Jonathan as he placed the sandalwood box on the table.

"Let me see what it is!"

Margaret opened the box without hesitation to reveal a carved figure in translucent lavender jade. Without a mottle in sight, it was clear that this was a valuable ornament.

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"Oh, what a nice figurine. How much did you buy it for?" Margaret grabbed the lavender jade figurine and fondled it casually as though it was a cheap ornament.

"A hundred grand," came Jonathan's offhand answer.

"This ugly-looking figurine cost a hundred grand?" Margaret pursed her lips in disbelief. "I think it costs at most ten grand! Jonathan, did you get scammed?"

"If it costs ten thousand, I'll buy everything from that shop!" Jonathan didn't want to explain too much.

If she finds out that the lavender jade figurine costs three hundred million, she'll definitely tremble in fear!

Margaret scoffed, "Is this the only thing you bought for our company's annual party tomorrow? You can afford to buy a villa but not an expensive gift? We're going to get humiliated again!"

With that, she let out a derisive snort and tossed the lavender jade figurine back into the sandalwood box forcefully, nearly toppling the box over.

Luckily, the lavender jade figurine was of good quality. Otherwise, Margaret would've caused a scratch on the figurine with her action.

"This figurine must be worth more than one hundred thousand!" Emmeline, who had been keeping mum, finally blurted out.

She knew Jonathan wouldn't buy a cheap jadeite worth only one hundred thousand.

"How much do you think it costs, then?" Margaret sneered.

"I have no idea," Emmeline mumbled, biting her bottom lip.

"Young girls like you often get scammed!" Margaret uttered coldly as she rose to her feet to go upstairs. "We're definitely going to get humiliated tomorrow!"

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After Margaret took her leave, Emmeline jolted up and scurried after her.

She dared not remain in the living room with Jonathan and acted as though he was a horrifying beast who would gobble her up any minute.

After they went upstairs, Jonathan lit up a cigarette. He had barely taken a few puffs when footsteps sounded outside the villa. Shortly after, Andrew appeared in sight.

"Commander," he greeted Jonathan in his freshly pressed military uniform.

After that, he stood there unmoving, like a statue.

"Come on in," Jonathan said.

Andrew gave a curt nod and came in. "Commander, Graham Cabot has just sent this share transfer agreement," he reported before handing the document to Jonathan.

As Jonathan was seated on the couch, Andrew stood before him in a respectful manner.

"All right!" Jonathan casually replied.

He took the document and flipped through it. On the agreement, it was written that one hundred percent of Graham Group's shares were transferred to Jonathan Goldstein after the board of directors voted in unison.

"Graham's an efficient man," Jonathan said, pleased with how fast Graham dealt with the matter. He got himself a pen and signed his name on the document.

The agreement came into force upon being signed by both parties.

It also meant that Jonathan would be the owner of Graham Group starting that day.

"Give him this card. He is entitled to spend three billion," Jonathan uttered as he gave his black card to Andrew. He wasn't afraid Graham would overspend, for the latter was a coward.

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"Yes, Commander!" Andrew took the card from him humbly. "Any other orders, Commander?"

"That's it!" came Jonathan's answer.

Before Andrew took his leave, Jonathan called out, "Wait a minute. Remember to return the card to me after he spends three billion!"

This was his only card. If Andrew thought there were only three billion in this account and gave the card to Graham, Jonathan would end up being dirt poor again.

"Understood!"

Andrew marched away after receiving Jonathan's order.

Once he disappeared from sight, Jonathan promptly tossed the agreement into a random box. I can't let Josephine see this! If she finds out, my cover will be blown!

Right after he concealed the agreement, Josephine suddenly pushed the door open and strode in.

"Jonathan? What are you doing?" Josephine frowned at the sight of Jonathan's suspicious figure lurking around.

"Oh, nothing. I was looking for a screwdriver." Jonathan made up an excuse.

His lips curling into a smile, he made his way to Josephine. "Darling, you must be tired from work. Why don't you take a seat? I can give you a massage!"

"No, it's fine," Josephine answered, shaking her head.

She collapsed onto the couch in exhaustion. "So? How did your interview with Graham Group go? When will you start working?"

"Tomorrow morning!"

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Jonathan sat beside her nonchalantly and slowly inched nearer to her. The moment their bodies touched, Josephine jolted up as if she had been electrified. "By the way, did you buy the gift as instructed?" she asked hastily.

"Yes, I did!"

Jonathan pointed at the sandalwood box on the table. "It's inside the box!"

"What did you buy?" Josephine asked as she walked toward the sandalwood box. When she opened the box, a translucent figurine appeared in sight. Surprise flashed across her eyes as she inquired, "You bought a jade figurine?"

"Do you like it?" Jonathan turned at his shoulder to ask.

"This must've cost at least one hundred thousand, right?" Josephine scrutinized the jadeite carefully. "Though I don't know jades that well, I'm pretty sure this is a high-quality jadeite. Previously, I saw a pair of jade bracelets in a store that costs hundreds of thousands!"

Josephine was more experienced than Margaret, for she immediately recognized that it was a valuable piece of ornament at first sight.

"It's not cheap," answered Jonathan with a mischievous grin. He then explained, "It is a lavender jade figurine carved by the famous Roscoe Channer. I bought it for three hundred million!"

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The Legendary Man Chapter 92

Chapter 92 Give Me A Kiss

"Three hundred million?" When Josephine heard that figure, her expression abruptly changed. Even her hand that was holding the lavender jade figurine trembled slightly. "Have you lost your mind, Jonathan? You spent three hundred million on a piece of jade?"

If it were in the past, I would never believe that he has three hundred million. But now, he has become increasingly mysterious, making him all the more unfathomable. Not only did he blithely buy a sports car that costs eighteen million, eight hundred and eighty thousand, but he also moved into a villa worth several hundred million with a single word. Even the Chairman of Graham Group showed him respect. Therefore, buying a piece of jade for three hundred million is indeed something he would do!

"Nah, that's a lie!" Jonathan couldn't help chuckling at her emotional state, fibbing, "I was just joking. This piece of jade only cost a few hundred grand."

"Really?" Josephine was rather skeptical.

"Why would I lie about that?" Chortling, Jonathan then asked, "Do I look like someone who could fork out three hundred million?"

"Nope." Josephine shook her head before she frowned and questioned, "Didn't I say to buy something around a hundred thousand? How could you have so much money when you've just started working?"

"I've got a couple hundred thousand in savings at the very least. Before I left my post, Zachary gave me a huge sum of money, saying that it's compensation." Jonathan randomly made up a reason, using Zachary as a shield again.

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"I really don't know what to say about you!"

Josephine was so vexed that she was at a loss for words.

"In the past, I was poor and caused you to be mocked alongside me during the annual party. This year, however, things will be different!" Slowly walking over to her, Jonathan hugged her around the waist from behind. In a gentle voice, he vowed, "From now on, I'll never allow anyone to treat you with contempt!"

"Okay..."

At his sudden hug, Josephine instinctively tensed, and even her hands turned a touch stiff.

"Hurry up and let go! It'll be bad if Emmeline sees us like this!" Josephine started struggling, but it was merely a half-hearted effort.

In truth, her aversion toward Jonathan had gradually started fading.

"She won't see us..." Jonathan lightly blew a puff of warm air against her ear. "If she dares to peep on us, I'll spank her!"

"She's your sister-in-law, so you're not allowed to have any indecent thoughts about her!" Her head snapping back, Josephine shot daggers at him.

I heard that many men harbor fantasies about their sisters-in-law! I must douse his fanciful notions in the cradle!

"I've got no indecent thoughts about her!" Jonathan curled his lips. "Her figure is flat without any curves to speak of, so she needs a few more years to grow into them!"

"You're not allowed to have any indecent thoughts about her in the future, either!" Josephine asserted coldly.

"I only have indecent thoughts about you." Lifting her, Jonathan whirled around and pinned her onto the couch.

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He then lowered himself over her and was just a moment away from capturing her lips when the shrilling ringing of a phone interrupted him.

"Who's calling at this time?"

Jonathan's expression turned frightfully grim.

"It's my phone!" Josephine hastily pushed him away, the ringing of the phone snapping her out of her haze of desire.

"Hello, Uncle Ezra."

"Have you made all the preparations for the annual party tomorrow?" A man's strained voice sounded from the other end of the phone.

That aside, she could also seemingly hear a woman's soft moans.

"Yes, everything is ready." Josephine's face instantly flushed bright red when she heard the woman's pants.

She was no young teenager, so she could naturally tell what they were doing.

"Have you prepared a gift?" The man's rough voice started turning a tad raged, and he was even panting heavily.

"Yeah," Josephine answered.

"Remember to be there on the dot at eight o'clock tomorrow morning! Oh yes, I heard that your family's worthless live-in son-in-law is now back after having disappeared for three years?" Josephine's uncle, Ezra Smith, mentioned Jonathan out of the blue.

"Y-Yes, that's right." Josephine reflexively moved the phone away, not wanting Jonathan to hear someone else criticizing him thus.

However, such a scanty distance posed no difficulty to Jonathan's keen hearing.

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"Don't bring him tomorrow, lest he make a fool out of himself! All right, I'll talk to you next time! I'm busy right now!"

Without waiting for Josephine to respond, the man hung up with a beep. Prior to the call disconnecting, a woman's tormented yet euphoric scream split the air without warning.

Hearing that, Josephine blushed to the tip of her ears.

Gah! This is so awkward!

"Uncle Ezra truly has no scruples at all!" she griped with her face flaming bright red.

"What do you mean by that?" Jonathan pretended as though he hadn't heard anything.

"Well..." Josephine was about to answer, but in the next second, she glowered at him. "Stop asking the obvious!"

"I really didn't hear anything." Jonathan spread his hands, an innocent look on his face.

"Forget about that! Let's meet in the living room at half-past seven tomorrow morning. Don't oversleep!" After saying that, Josephine bolted to her feet and hastened toward the second floor.

"I'm too tired today, so I might very possibly oversleep." Jonathan rubbed his head with weariness etched on his face. "How about we sleep together tonight? Then you can wake me up tomorrow morning."

"In your dreams!" Josephine shot him a glare. "You've already taken advantage of me earlier!"

"Hey, there's no such thing!" Smirking, Jonathan drawled, "How could it be taking advantage of you when you're my wife?"

"Whatever!"

Rolling her eyes at him, Josephine then headed upstairs, sashaying her hips all the way.

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The night passed in the blink of an eye.

The sky had just begun to brighten, but Margaret had already showered and changed hours ago. She even went out and had a makeover.

Even Connor, who basically wore an apron every day, had purposely changed into a black suit.

It was the Smith family's annual party, an exceedingly grand occasion for all the Smith family members.

Knock, knock!

"Wake up, Jonathan!"

At half-past seven in the morning, Josephine knocked on Jonathan's room door.

"Coming!"

The moment Jonathan opened the door, he was greeted by the sight of Josephine in a white dress. Her long, black hair was casually draped over her shoulders, while her fair skin was smooth and supple.

As she wore the white dress, in particular, she exuded a pure and refined aura.

"What are you looking at?"

Josephine felt a touch uneasy at his scrutiny, a hint of a blush staining her face.

"Looking at your beautiful countenance!" Jonathan wrapped an arm around her slender waist and whispered into her ear, "Give me a kiss, Darling!"

"Stop messing around!" Josephine couldn't help shoving him away. "Mom and Dad are waiting for you downstairs!"

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The Legendary Man Chapter 93

Chapter 93 The Annual Party

"They're not going to see it even if you kiss me..."

With an arm wrapped around Josephine's waist, Jonathan was just about to capture her lips, but she broke free and sprinted downstairs as though fleeing for her life.

When Jonathan went downstairs, the family of four was already dolled up, ready to leave anytime.

As soon as Margaret spotted Jonathan's casual dressing, her expression abruptly darkened. "Are you going like this, Jonathan?"

"Is there a problem?" Jonathan countered blasely.

In the past few years, all I ever wore was a military uniform aside from casual clothes. I've hardly worn anything else.

"Do you know the occasion today?" With a wintry expression on her face, Margaret enunciated, "It's the Smith family's annual party today, and everyone will be attending in formal attire. Do you want to be the only person dressed casually? And are you trying to have us humiliated with you deliberately?"

"You'll be humiliated with me just because I'm not dressed as ostentatiously as you in attending the party?" Jonathan then sneered, "Do you perchance think that the Smith family's annual party is some international event?"

He wasn't in the mood to bicker with her.

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If she had nicely coaxed me into changing, perhaps I wouldn't have had any objections. Unfortunately, I simply can't stand her sarcastic remarks!

"Are you going to change or not?" Margaret lambasted while pointing her finger at him, her expression frosty.

"No."

Jonathan's made his stance abundantly clear.

"You're not allowed to attend the annual party today if you're not changing!" With a harrumph, she barked, "Let's go!"

Having said that, she stalked away.

I'd rather he not attend than to be humiliated alongside him!

"Do you think you have the right to decide whether I can attend?" Jonathan arched a brow, not giving in to her pompous attitude.

"Who can decide if not me?" Margaret instantly got up in arms upon hearing that.

But when she was just about to unleash her wrath, Josephine cut her off. "That's enough! Stop arguing! Jonathan was the one who prepared the gift, so what right do you have to forbid him from attending? It's just clothes, no? Never mind if he doesn't want to change!"

Her unexpected defense of Jonathan had Margaret's expression contorting into a mask of fury at once. "Whose side are you on, you wretch? He prepared the gift, you said? Where did he get the money? It's from you, no? He has been using your money to buy a gift for the Smith family's annual party, hasn't he?"

"It's different this year!" In a frigid voice, Josephine maintained, "This year, he bought the gift out of his own pocket!"

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"Fine! Continue acting with him to dupe me!" Margaret didn't believe her in the least. "We'll see who ends up being an embarrassment when we arrive at the Smith mansion! What do I care if he wants to go?"

After saying that, she stormed off.

Outside the door, the car Josephine booked in advance was already waiting.

Opening the car door, Jonathan was just about to sit in the back seat with Josephine when Margaret ordered him to sit in the front. "Go and sit in the passenger's seat! You're unworthy of sitting in the back seat!"

Glancing at her, Jonathan ignored her entirely and sat down beside Josephine.

"How dare you?" When Margaret saw that her words had fallen on deaf ears, and he paid her no mind, her chest heaved violently. "Do you hear me, Jonathan?"

Still, Jonathan disregarded her and acted as though he didn't hear her.

Connor urged, "All right. That's enough. Hurry up and get into the car! We're going to be late if you don't make haste!"

"Zip it!"

Glaring at him, Margaret climbed into the front seat.

The car then left Edenic Heights and headed toward the city center.

Despite having a city center, Jadeborough wasn't all that big in reality. In the past, the affluent loved living in the city center since they relished the lively atmosphere.

Presently, however, they preferred living in the suburbs, as they were fond of being close to nature.

The wealthier one was, the further away from the city center one lived.

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"When we arrive later, just turn a deaf ear to whatever they say," Josephine murmured to Jonathan in the back seat.

Although they hadn't yet reached the Smith mansion, she could already guess how those people from the Smith family were going to harp on Jonathan.

After all, it's the same every single year. As long as he attends the party, they'll use every weapon in their arsenal to humiliate him!

"Okay," Jonathan replied softly.

At the same time, the scene of those people from the Smith family heaping scorn on him during the Smith family's annual party a few years back inexorably flashed in his mind.

I was the easiest prey there since I'm a live-in son-in-law? For that reason, none of them had any respect for me!

Half an hour later, the car drew to a stop in front of a mansion.

The area occupied by the mansion was meager. Compared to the mansion owned by the Blackwood family, this mansion couldn't be considered a mansion at all. At most, it was merely a vast courtyard.

And if compared to No. 1 Villa, it was absolutely pathetic.

No. 1 Villa was the most expensive mansion in Jadeborough, with its construction alone costing hundreds of millions.

In terms of its size and geographical area, this mansion owned by the Smith family couldn't even hold a candle to it.

"We're here."

When the car door was opened, the few of them alighted from the car, one after another.

By then, a crowd had formed in front of the Smith mansion.

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There was row after row of luxurious cars. While they weren't exorbitant, they all cost at least a million.

A family that had fallen from grace was still more influential than others. Despite being considered a third-rate family, the Smith family had existed in Jadeborough for at least a few decades, so they had some connections.

"Uncle Ezra."

The person who was greeting the guests at the door was none other than Josephine's uncle, Ezra.

He was initially all smiles, but the second he caught sight of Josephine and her family, the smile on his face vanished in an instant. "What time is it now? Didn't I say that you're to arrive at eight o'clock on the dot? Do you know the meaning of punctuality?"

Before they had even stepped into the mansion, they were hauled over the coals by the man.

Despite being all high and mighty at home, Margaret didn't even dare utter a single word of protest in front of Ezra.

"There was heavy traffic on our way here, Uncle Ezra." In the end, it was Josephine who stepped out and answered him.

"Okay, whatever! Just go in!" Ezra waved a hand impatiently. He was going to greet the next group of guests, but the moment he spotted Jonathan, his expression promptly darkened. "Who brought him here? Didn't I tell you last night that you're not to bring him here, Josephine?"

"Uncle Ezra..." When Josephine heard him saying such a thing in front of everyone without any regard for Jonathan's dignity, her expression similarly darkened. "He's part of our family, so why isn't he allowed to come?"

"Do you really not know why I forbade you from bringing him?" Snorting, Ezra threw Jonathan a disdainful glance and taunted, "What use is a worthless piece of trash like him other than to embarrass the Smith family? Look at his clothes! He's not even wearing

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something decent! Does he know the occasion today? How could he simply wear such shabby clothes?"

The Legendary Man Chapter 94

Chapter 94 An Exclusive Event

Before I've even entered the mansion, the insults I'd expected have already started!

In the blink of an eye, Jonathan's expression went chilly.

The scenes from three years ago played in his mind once more.

"What has my dressing got to do with you?" Regarding Ezra coldly, he drawled, "Besides, I don't think you have the right to decide whoever is allowed to attend the Smith family's annual party, no? Has Hugo gotten up in years that you're now the patriarch of the Smith family?"

"What did you just say?" Seeing that he still dared to talk back, Ezra immediately blew a gasket. "How dare you speak to me in such a manner, Jonathan?"

As far as I remember, he's merely a useless live-in son-in-law. Every single time he attended the Smith family's annual party, he always stood there meekly and allowed me to snub him without the guts to utter a retort! But today, he actually dared to answer back?

"Am I supposed to check the dictionary when I speak to you, making certain what I can and cannot say?" Jonathan riposted frostily.

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"This is preposterous! How dare you talk to me so rudely when you're simply a worthless bum?" Ezra was so infuriated by his words that his face flushed bright red. "Why are you still standing around, twiddling your thumbs, Connor? Hurry up and keep this good-for-nothing live-in son-in-law of yours in line!"

Hearing his name all of a sudden, Connor alternated his gaze between Ezra and Jonathan.

He stared at them both for a long time yet said nothing at all.

"Connor!" When he made no move to interfere after an eternity, Ezra went ballistic. "Are you going to do something about this, Connor? If you're not, then I'll do it for you!"

No sooner had he said that than he rolled up his sleeves, seemingly gearing up to get physical.

But at that precise moment, Josephine, who had been keeping mum, abruptly warned with a cold expression on her face, "Uncle Ezra, it's the Smith family's annual party today, so you'd best not make a fuss of things. Otherwise, the Smith family will truly be a laughingstock in the eyes of others! Furthermore, don't you think that you've gone too far in your insults toward Jonathan?"

"I've gone too far?" Upon hearing that, Ezra grew so furious that the red splotches on his face deepened a shade. "Regardless of whether that's true, so what if I were to insult him in even nastier terms? Isn't it a fact that he's a worthless live-in son-in-law? If he hadn't married into the Smith family, do you think he has the right to attend such an exclusive event?"

"An exclusive event? Don't flatter yourself thus!" Jonathan sniggered as a glint of contempt flashed across his eyes. "Such an annual party by the Smith family is considered an exclusive event?"

What's an exclusive event? Only events I attend are considered exclusive events! Even if the patriarch of the most prominent family in Chanaea wants to see me, he has to make an appointment three days in advance. And that even depends on my mood! How could a mere Smith family compare?

"Listen to that! Is that something he should be saying?" When Ezra heard that, he grew so livid that steam was coming out of his ears. But just when his words fell, a sharp female

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voice rang out from the direction of the Smith mansion. "What's all this commotion? I can hear you all making a racket out there from a few dozen meters away! Why is the lot of you squabbling here on such an occasion today? Are you all deliberately making a joke out of the Smith family?"

Following that, a middle-aged woman in a red gown walked out of the mansion.

She didn't appear all that young but seemingly in her forties or fifties instead.

She was dripping in gold and silver, but despite her utmost efforts to present herself as a wealthy lady, she merely looked like a nouveau riche.

"Seraphina!" Ezra immediately greeted the middle-aged woman the moment he spotted her.

Even Connor did the same.

"You're here, Connor?" The middle-aged woman, Seraphina Duvall, gave Connor a sidelong glance before she shifted her gaze to Josephine. "Oh, you're here as well, Josephine!"

As for Margaret, Seraphina didn't even deign to spare her a single glance.

"And this is..." Her gaze stilled on Jonathan for a moment. "Jonathan?"

She recognized him right away, and astonishment manifested on her face.

"It's me," Jonathan affirmed placidly.

"It's really you?" Seraphina was all the more surprised. "Wasn't it rumored that you died three years ago? How are you still alive?"

As soon as her words rang out, Jonathan's gaze turned glacial.

"Oh gosh, look at my unruly tongue!" Seraphina hastily clapped a hand over her mouth and remarked with a chuckle, "How could I say something so inauspicious on such an occasion? Okay, stop bickering. Hurry up and come in so that the Smith family doesn't become a laughingstock!"

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She then gestured for them to head in. When Ezra saw that, he still wanted to argue, but a sharp glare from Seraphina had him promptly shutting his mouth and saying nary a word further.

Only after Jonathan and the others had gone in did he finally cave and ask, "Seraphina, why did you allow that deadbeat in? What's the point of a dud like him going in? He's only going to embarrass the Smith family."

"What else could I do?" Glowering, Seraphina chided, "Was I supposed to kick up a huge fuss at the door like you? Don't you find it mortifying?"

"But he-"

Ezra was going to speak further, only to be cut off by Seraphina. "That's enough. Why would you bandy words with a worthless piece of trash? There are plenty of opportunities if you want to teach him a lesson. Just take it as allowing a dog in, okay? Anyhow, stop your nonsense. Mr. Swindell will be arriving soon. I spent a lot of effort to secure his attendance, so I'll kill you if you do anything to ruin things!"

"Mr. Swindell will be coming as well?" Ezra's expression instantly changed when he heard that name.

Oh my God, that's the mayor of Jadeborough! Tons of families want to invite him to their annual party, but he never attends! Yet, he's going to be attending the Smith family's annual party?

"How did you get him to agree, Seraphina? I heard that he never attends such an event!" Ezra couldn't help questioning.

"Never you mind! Just greet the guests properly!" Not in the mood to yak with him, Seraphina spun on her heels and headed back to the mansion on her beguiling high heels.

There was a maelstrom of voices in the mansion with swarms of people everywhere.

While there weren't any prominent figures, there were a handful of people who had some status in Jadeborough.

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The seats were still arranged according to status. Those higher in the ranks of society were seated toward the front, while those lower on the totem pole were seated near the door.

Surprisingly, even Connor, as the youngest son of the Smith family, was seated near the door.

In fact, they were only a few steps from the door.

"I've got to sit in such a crappy seat every single year!" Mere moments after they had taken their seats, Margaret couldn't resist grumbling, "When are you going to have the right to sit in front, Connor? Aren't you ashamed to be seated at the door even when it's an annual party by the Smith family itself?"

The Legendary Man Chapter 95

Chapter 95 The Annual Party Begins

Margaret was exceedingly dissatisfied, and that resentment hadn't just been for a day or two.

He's part of the Smith family, yet he's seated at the fringes, closest to the door, during the Smith family's annual party! Is this not humiliating and degrading?

"It makes no difference where we're seated, no?" Conversely, Connor wasn't the least bit bothered.

Anyway, I haven't been treated all that well in the Smith family ever since young. Dad has always favored my brothers more. As for me, I'm no different from a child he found by the

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roadside! No sooner had I gotten married than I was booted out of the Smith mansion and had to live outside. Of the three sons of the Smith family, I was the only one kicked out of the house!

"Of course, it's different!" Margaret grew even more irate after hearing that. "Tell me how it's the same! How could sitting in the first row and the last row be the same?"

The instant her temper spiked, Connor was so frightened that he lowered his head and dared not even say anything.

At that exact moment, Josephine finally had enough and snapped, "That's enough! Stop arguing. Not only do the two of you bicker at home, but you're even doing so when you're outside. When are you both going to stop squabbling?"

Ever since young, I grew up with their interminable arguments! And this is precisely why I adamantly refused to get married in the past. Otherwise, I would never have taken a second look at Jonathan back then!

"Do you think I want to quarrel with him?" Harrumphing, Margaret huffed, "He's not young anymore, yet he's still as useless as before! Even when he returns to his own house, he has to sit at such a crappy place! I feel ashamed to sit at the same table with him!"

"Keep it down..." Connor tugged at her sleeve, urging her to lower her voice.

Unexpectedly, Margaret's voice went up a decibel instead after she heard that. "Are you embarrassed? Do you even know what it means to be embarrassed?"

At her retort, Connor hung his head at once, not daring to utter a single word.

As time ticked by, almost all the guests seemed to have arrived in short order.

Right then, an elderly man in white, traditional attire walked out of the living room, surrounded by a group of people. In his hand was a cane with a dragon's head. He had white hair and looked to be advanced in years. However, he was seemingly in the pink of health since he had a majestic gait.

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Just after a few steps, he arrived at the main table.

"Old Mr. Smith is here!" someone among the crowd exclaimed upon spotting the elderly man.

It was also then that Jonathan cast his gaze over. That elderly man was none other than the patriarch of the Smith family, Hugo Smith!

He was also Josephine's grandfather, but Jonathan wasn't really familiar with him.

The two of them seemingly hadn't said a single word to the other. Even when Jonathan and Josephine got married, he had never bothered being amicable to him.

In fact, he didn't even deign to spare him a single glance.

"Ahem!" Hugo cleared his throat. At once, the crowd went silent, upon which he nodded approvingly. "I'm truly honored to have all of you gracing the Smith family's annual party with your presence today. A lot of you here are my old friends. But of course, there are also many new faces. No matter what, all who are here today are esteemed guests of the Smith family! And now, I'd like to toast all of you!"

While saying that, he raised a glass of white wine and downed it in one go. Everyone there got to their feet and guzzled their wines with him.

Subsequently, it was naturally time for the most crucial part of the annual party—the presentation of gifts.

After the guests had presented their gifts, it was then the Smith family's turn to demonstrate their sincerity to Hugo.

"Let's go. It's our turn now." Connor took a gulp of wine morosely before he led Jonathan and the others toward Hugo. When they were halfway there, Margaret even glanced over her shoulder and asked Jonathan, "You did bring the gift, yes?"

"Yeah," Jonathan answered mildly.

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By the time they walked over, there was already a crowd in front of Hugo.

"You're here, Connor?" Seraphina made the first move to greet Connor when she saw him.

"Seraphina," Connor murmured in reply, his head hung low.

"What gift did you prepare for Dad this year, Connor?" Snorting, Ezra swung his gaze at Connor. "Don't tell me you only bought a gift worth a mere few thousand, like the previous year?"

"A few thousand is already pretty good. Who knows, he might be giving a gift that's only worth a few hundred this year!" a middle-aged lady, Lula Brooks, couldn't help deriding right after his words rang out.

"A few hundred? That's impossible!" With a sneer, Ezra exclaimed, "Would they really be so shameless to give something worth a mere few hundred?"

The husband and wife ganged up and started mocking Connor in front of all the guests.

"Why not?" Snickering, Lula scoffed, "It's not the first or even second time they've been so shameless, so what's another time to them?"

Turning to Connor, Lula started, "I don't want to lecture you, but you should just forget about buying a gift if you haven't the money and can't afford to buy something decent, Connor." As she spoke, she caressed the freshly done manicure on her nails and brandished the jade bracelet on her wrist in front of them in a seemingly involuntary manner.

"Who said our gift this year is worth only a few hundred?" Margaret snapped at their provocation. "Our gift this year is worth a hundred grand!"

Hearing that, Lula promptly sneered, "Oh, a hundred grand? Can you guys afford to buy something of that value? Don't tell me you bought some counterfeit and deliberately claimed that you bought it for a hundred grand?"

"That's impossible! Connor would never do such a thing!" Seraphina chimed in.

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"Who knows?" Chuckling coldly, Lula drawled, "People like them will do anything at all!"

"That's enough! Stop bickering! Why are you all squabbling with so many people looking on? Are you not the least bit ashamed?" a middle-aged man in a black suit stepped forward and chided at just that moment.

"Miguel," Connor greeted immediately at the sight of him, dipping his head.

His brother, Miguel Smith, cut him a look and chastised, "Connor, it's not my intention to criticize you, but just buy something cheaper if you really can't afford to buy an expensive gift. No one will say anything about that. However, it's simply too embarrassing to buy some knock-off and pretend that it's a costly gift just to pass yourself off as what you're not! Can you afford to buy a gift worth a hundred grand? I know your limits all too well!"

"No, Miguel, I—" Connor wanted to explain when he saw that things were looking bad for him, but Miguel cut him off right away. "Okay, stop giving excuses. Let's just forget about it this time. In the future, remember not to do something so disgraceful!"

After saying that, he waved a hand and declared, "All right, it's our turn to go over and present our gifts to Dad. Bring your gifts and come with me."

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