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Coolest Girl in Town Chapter 651 - 652

Chapter 651 Master of Ink Painting

"Miss Hill, are you planning to protect SQ's beloved artwork for her?" Somebody joked.

Tiana smiled faintly. "This painting has always been one of my teacher's favorites. Not only will I put the old lady in a good mood if I purchase this and bring it back, but I can also perform charity at the same time. So, why not do it?"

"Miss Hill, you sure are attentive."

"That's right. You are so considerate. It's no wonder that you are the only one whom SQ favors!"

"You are praising me too much." She lowered her head humbly.

Elise raised an eyebrow at those words, feeling rather annoyed. The old woman? I've only been married for less than a month. I'm at the peak of my youth! When did I become an old woman!? My painting has no reason to fall in the hands of others either.

"Two million." Her voice rang out like the toll of a bell in the morning, seeming to awaken all the people who were immersed in flattering Tiana.

Joey gasped at those words. She turned to the side and looked at Elise. "Why did you say no when I offered to buy it for you just now?"

Elise shrugged nonchalantly and looked innocent. "I never said that."

While she spoke, she parted the crowd and walked to the position closest to the cordon, where she stood side by side with Tiana.

"I apologize, Miss Hill. I've had my eye on this painting for a while now. I'm afraid I can't surrender it to you so easily."

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“That’s right, Tiana. You can pick a different painting and put the cost on my tab.” Joey came over on her own and observed Tiana with a wary look. Isn’t she that first-ranker who was manipulating the votes last night? Besides, her disposition is much worse compared to Elise when I look at her in person!

The smile on Tiana’s face faded considerably, but she continued to smile. It’s Elise again. Just what grudges do I have against this woman in my past life that I keep running into her everywhere!?

All of SQ’s artwork has room for value appreciation. If she bought this painting, it would only bring her a steady profit over time. Moreover, she could create a good reputation for herself by preserving her teacher’s artwork. Every move she made had been well-planned, but trouble just had to appear out of nowhere.

Although she could raise the price a little more, the other party had already mentioned that they first had their eye on this painting. Therefore, it would be disgraceful if she insisted on increasing the bidding price any further.

In this case, her reputation and demeanor were much more practical than the money she spent.

“No need.” She composed her emotions and gently said, “A gentleman does not snatch another’s beloved. Besides, the principle of ‘first come, first served’ stands in all matters. I would also like to thank the two of you for your generosity in buying the works of my teacher.”

Her remarks were utterly foolproof. Not only did those words highlight her tolerance, but they also allowed her to subtly resolve a dispute. So, regardless of how one looks at her, she would be regarded as a well-educated and cultivated lady.

Elise had no idea why Tiana claimed to be SQ’s student, but she had quite a good impression of Tiana at the moment.

“Thank you.” She politely thanked the other party. Then, she turned to the staff member and said, “Excuse me, can you please pack all three paintings up and send them to the Sinclair Residence in the historic town area.”

“Of course, Miss.” The staff member responded politely.

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“Huh?” Somebody questioned in a puzzled voice. “Didn’t Miss Hill explain earlier that only the painting in the middle is genuine? So, Miss, why are you also bringing the fakes back? Are you worried that these fakes might enter the market?”

“Who said that the other two are fakes?” Elise smiled brightly.

That person seemed amused. “SQ’s student herself has already identified the painting. So, what else is there to say? It looks like you are an outsider to this field, Miss!”

“It’s true that I don’t know much about art, but I do know a little bit.” She explained in a manner that was neither too humble nor arrogant. “Miss Hill is not wrong. The second painting is indeed genuine, but the other two paintings are also genuine.”

A look of delight flashed across Tiana’s eyes. An actor is an actor, after all. How can she possibly understand the way of the elegant arts? Nevertheless, she quickly got rid of her emotions that were inappropriate for this occasion. Then, she pretended to be kind and spoke as though intending to help. “In truth, collecting artwork depends largely on the collector’s preference. As long as the collector likes something, then the question of whether it is real or fake no longer becomes an issue.”

The implication behind her words was a reminder to the ‘knowledgeable’ collectors that they should understand and respect the choices of others even if they liked to collect fakes. There was no need to point fingers. Needless to say, she also very cleverly confirmed that Elise was not an expert in this matter. Be that as it may, there was nothing wrong with her statement on the surface.

Even Joey couldn’t help but look at Tiana in admiration. Could it be that the mastermind behind the manipulation of votes was not Tiana herself but her obsessed fans? Looking at how she relinquished the painting to Elise and helped us resolve a dispute today, she seems reasonable and amicable. Perhaps I have been gauging the heart of a gentleman with one’s own mean measure. On the surface, she seems very gentle. She did not look like somebody who would do something so dishonorable.

When everybody heard Tiana’s words, they exchanged glances with each other and smiled meaningfully. Moreover, they stopped being nitpicky and insulting.

Elise hated the feeling of being treated as a fool. Lowering her eyes in thought for a moment, she said, “Thank you for your help, Miss Hill. But, it is fate for everybody to gather here today. Therefore, I will dare to display my inferior skills before the experts.” She paused

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at this point, turned to look at the staff member, and asked a question. "I've already purchased the paintings. Can I touch them now?"

It was the first time this staff member had ever met such an impatient buyer. In any case, he decided that her request was entirely in line with the regulations after giving the question some thought and agreed. "You can."

Then, she pulled aside the red ropes of the cordon and walked over to stand in front of the three paintings. Finally, she reached out her hand to gently touch the painting in the middle. While she handled the artworks, she explained as though she was in a trance. "Masters in framing traditional paintings have a special skill called clipping and uncovering layers. They can peel an ink painting apart, layer by layer. Depending on the thickness of the rice paper, they can usually peel off three layers. As Miss Hill said earlier, the force of SQ's strokes can reach down to the back of the paper. Even if someone peeled the painting apart into three layers, each layer would be almost identical. The ink of the middle painting is darker, so it is most likely the top layer. As for the other two by the side, they are most likely the second and third layer in that order."

As soon as the words left her mouth, everyone reacted as though they had been enlightened by her perfect wisdom and were instantly frozen on the spot in shock.

The method of clipping and uncovering layers was rare, but this method was very famous in the industry. They only used it in particular authentic works that had been handed down from ancient times. Those who had witnessed this skill before were people who had seen many famous paintings in their life. It was not an exaggeration to say that they were very knowledgeable.

On the other hand, Elise was just a young girl in her twenties. For her to have such profound insights just went to show that she was not as simple and ignorant as she seemed on the surface.

Tiana was so anxious that she started to sweat. Despite studying ink painting for several years, she had remained a nobody in the industry. It was not until somebody linked her paintings to SQ that she gradually made a name for herself in the oil painting circles. Ever since then, she had claimed to be SQ's student. In order to prevent her identity from being revealed, she studied and researched all of SQ's artworks that had appeared on the market. As a result, nobody was more familiar with SQ's paintings than her.

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However, such a person had appeared. Elise's appearance had caused the image that she painstakingly created over the years to become shaky. With just a few words, Elise had turned her identity as the disciple who knew SQ like the back of her hand into a joke.

Coollest Girl in Town Chapter 652

Chapter 652 Alexander, You're So Cool!

Tiana suddenly felt a deep sense of crisis welling up from the depths of her heart. It was just like the moment she saw Elise's face on the 'National Goddess' voting interface last night. This woman was probably her greatest nemesis.

While the others were still caught up in amazement, she quickly sorted out her emotions and pretended to look enlightened. "I can't believe I forgot about such an important thing! Teacher once told me before about the method of clipping and uncovering layers. Almost all the paintings that she sent for mounting would use this method. It's all my fault. I've recently been busy with the school competition while managing the Calligraphy Association. I must have been so busy that this slipped my mind. I'm so glad you reminded me about this, Miss Sinclair. Otherwise, teacher's artworks would have been destroyed." She gratefully extended her hand to Elise. "Miss Sinclair, I am truly grateful."

Elise couldn't help thinking that these words sounded strange somehow, but she could not pinpoint exactly what was weird. However, when she saw that Tiana was looking at her sincerely, she stretched out her hand and shook hands with Tiana. "You're welcome. I didn't do much either."

The smile on Tiana's face deepened. "You have such a unique perspective, Miss Sinclair. If my teacher were here, I'm sure she would make another exception and take in another student."

She only spoke those words out of courtesy. However, Elise grasped the opportunity to push her luck further and answered accordingly. "That's great! In that case, I'll have to trouble you to give me SQ's contact information, Miss Hill." I want to see just who is using my name to swindle others.

Tiana was visibly taken aback by those words. That was just a throwaway remark. Why is she taking it seriously?

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“Miss Hill, is my request very troubling?” Elise deliberately pressured the other party.

“What is there to be troubled about?” Tiana forced herself to smile. “I’m the only one who knows my teacher’s social media account. It’s just that she generally does not like to be disturbed, so I’m worried that you might be disappointed by the results, Miss Sinclair.”

“You don’t need to worry about that, Miss Hill,” Elise replied without a change in her expression. “Even you have such a high opinion of me, Miss Hill. I’m sure SQ will not reject me either.”

Tiana stared blankly at Elise’s face for a few seconds, unable to shake off the ominous feeling in her heart. Why is Elise so confident that SQ will accept her friend request? Could it be that she has met SQ before? In that case, if I really do hand SQ’s contact information over and the two of them meet, then won’t the fact that I’ve been pretending to be SQ’s student come to light? She decided to test the waters by handing over her secondary account after mulling over the problem. “Since you insist, Miss Sinclair, then I can only wish you good luck.”

After saying that, she asked the staff member for a pen and paper. Finally, she wrote down the email for her secondary account and handed the note to Elise.

“Thank you, Miss Hill.” Elise took the note and placed the note in her bag. After that, she nodded her farewell. “Well then, I’ll be taking my leave now.”

She then shot a look at Joey, and they left the exhibition hall together.

Joey followed behind Elise, muttering under her breath all the way.

She suddenly paused in her tracks and turned around to ask Joey once they exited the building, “What have you been muttering under your breath?”

“Nothing much.” Joey lied without batting an eyelid. “I was thinking about what to eat for dinner. My mother eats according to the diet you gave her every day, forcing Daddy and me to eat those light and bland meals with her. I want to eat something different tonight. Will you cook for me, Elise?”

Elise sighed in resignation. “It’s easy to get indigestion if you eat too heavily seasoned meals at night. It will make you fat. Keeping in shape is a girl’s goal in life. You can’t relax, not even for a single day. Do you understand?”

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"Fine. For the sake of beauty, I can only sacrifice my little tummy." Joey leaned over and grabbed Elise's arm as she said playfully.

Elise had once mentioned that she did not wish to interfere with the 'National Goddess' voting process. Therefore, Joey could not let Elise discover that she had been secretly investigating the matter.

The two of them laughed and chatted with each other by the side of the road, waiting for Alexander to come and pick them up.

It didn't take long before a black van pulled up beside them. The car door opened, and two men in black suits and sunglasses got out of the car to greet Elise respectfully. "Miss Sinclair, the lady would like to invite you over for tea."

"Who is this lady you speak of?" Joey deliberately acted like she was not to be trifled with, and she shoved Elise protectively behind her after she stepped forward.

"Our invitation is extended only to Miss Sinclair. So, you do not need to know." The man who spoke did not fall for those tricks, focusing only on Elise. Instead, he leaned sideways to face the opened door and made an inviting gesture. "This way, please, Miss Sinclair."

"What if I refuse?" Elise crossed her arms in front of her chest. "She wants to meet me but does not even dare to tell me her name. Does your mistress think that I'm an insignificant ant that would come and go as I'm told?"

The bushy eyebrows on the man's face furrowed together slightly, and a noticeable change came over the aura around his entire body. There was a moment of silence. Then, he reached out to grab Elise to forcibly drag her into the car. Before he could lay his hands on Elise, the sound of urgent footsteps rang out behind them. The two men turned around vigilantly. Before they could get a clear glimpse of that person's appearance, both were kicked in the chest and collapsed to the ground.

"Is my wife somebody you can touch just because you want to?" Alexander stood on the curb, looking down on them from above. His eyes were brimming with coldness.

"Alexander! That was so cool!" Joey raised both hands and gave him a thumbs-up gesture.

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Elise watched the simple but crude scene unfolding in front of her just now. The speculation that she had suppressed for a long time flooded her mind again. This method of solving problems is not Alexander's style. It's more like Kenneth to do this.

Alexander was refined down to his very bones, and every action he took was calm and controlled. On the other hand, Kenneth was so lawless that even the Gods could not stop him once he lost his temper. She had clearly caught a glimpse of Kenneth's shadow at that moment, and the realization made her all the more stressed. She sighed as she clutched her chest.

Alexander was keenly aware that she wasn't herself. Hence, he hurriedly walked over and steadied her. Then, he asked in concern, "Ellie, what's wrong? Did you get hurt?"

While speaking, his pitch-black eyes surged with murderous intent.

"I'm fine." Elise shook her head. "It might be that I didn't get enough rest last night. Forget about them; let's go back first."

"Alright, let's go back first." Alexander coldly glanced sideways at the two men crawling on the ground. Only then did he escort her to his parked car on the opposite side of the road.

Upstairs, Tiana watched the entire scene from afar. Her beautiful eyes narrowed slightly at the sight. Elise sure has many people around her to protect her. As things stand, I won't have the chance to interrogate her about SQ. But it doesn't matter. SQ has never shown herself before. Elise might not actually know her, and I might just be overthinking things. She outshines me in every way. I hope I never run into her again.

On the other side, Alexander was driving. He took a shortcut near the Science and Technology Museum to send her back to the courtyard house. When they rounded the corner and entered an alley, Elise saw a red luxury sports car by the side of the road in the opposite direction out of the corner of her eye. Craig was hugging a woman with an ample bosom. Their bodies were pressed closely together. It was easy to tell that their relationship was pretty unusual at a glance.