

The Man's Decree Chapter 256 (The Man like none Other chapter 256)

/ [The Man's Decree](#)

"Mom, the area where the old residence is located will be developed soon. It'll be worth a lot of money in the future!"

In truth, Kai was not interested in that meager sum of money. He simply did not want Benedict and his family to benefit from it.

"What? It's going to be developed? Are you sure?"

Excitement instantly surged within Hannah as soon as she heard that piece of news. If that's true, we'll be able to earn quite a sum after selling the house!

"Of course I am! It's already in the planning stage right now! I've seen the report at Mr. Lowe's house!" Kai answered truthfully.

"What are you talking about, Kai? Are you hinting that I'm trying to snatch the land from you? You said you saw the report at Mr. Lowe's house? What a big liar! Why don't you say you've had a meal at his house then?" A look of anger took over Benedict's face as he bellowed at his nephew.

"I did have a meal at Mr. Lowe's house before!" Kai nodded in affirmation.

Everyone burst out laughing the moment they heard his words.

Simon, who had been quiet the whole time, curled his lips at that point. "I've seen a lot of boastful people, but someone like you who's on an entirely new level is a first. Do you know who I am? You sure are daring enough to say that in front of me, huh? I'll be frank with you. Mr. Lowe will be here for a meal later, and my dad will be accompanying him. Didn't you say you've eaten at Mr. Lowe's place before? I'll take you along to give him a toast later and see if he knows who you are!"

"Sure!" Kai was not at all flustered.

"Kai!" Hannah quickly tugged at his sleeve. Joking about something that has got to do with the city's mayor? Is he trying to dig his own grave?

Gary's face turned grim too. "Sit down now, Kai!"

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He found the possibility of Kai having a meal at Glen's house totally absurd since he was, after all, an ordinary citizen.

At his father's command, Kai could only sit down.

By then, everyone was smiling at him sardonically.

"Hannah, Kai is speaking absolute nonsense. How can I not know if there's a development plan for that area? I bet he just doesn't want to get a formal job and lead a proper life, which is why he said that. Do you think an ex-convict like him has the right to visit Mr. Lowe's house?" Benedict coldly glanced at Kai before he continued, "Do you know how much risk it takes for me to find Kai a job as a government official, given his past? But fret not; I'll still find him a job, and I won't take that old residence for free. In exchange, I'll give you a hundred thousand. That'll be more than sufficient to last you guys through a few years."

Perhaps you can take that money and rent a house, so there's no need to reside in someone else's house anymore!"

When Hannah heard that Benedict was offering them a hundred thousand, her eyes instantly lit up. Considering that the old residence was abandoned and inhabitable, she figured it was a good deal if she could earn a fortune from it. "Benedict, if you say so, then there's nothing more for me to say. Since the old residence is left unused and neglected, take it if you want!" Hannah could not contain her excitement as she said those words.

Benedict was secretly delighted when she agreed to it so readily.

Truth be told, he had only agreed to turn up for that meal because of the old residence. He had received insider news regarding the development of that region. By getting his hands on it, he would be able to make a profit out of it. "Mom..." Kai knitted his brows as he called out to Hannah.

"That's enough. I've decided, and you shouldn't interfere anymore. We'll give the old residence to your uncle!" Hannah waved her hand dismissively at him, signaling him to stop talking.

Gary, who was smoking at the side, did not seem to oppose the decision since he did not make any comments.

"I disagree with that! We can't give them the old residence!" Kai yelled, maintaining a firm stance.

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He had never raised his voice at his mother, but he refused to let Benedict have his way that time around.

"Kai, just who are you to disagree? That is the Chance family's old residence. What has it got to do with you? You're nothing but an adopted child!" Benedict slammed the table forcefully as he snarled at Kai.

The Man's Decree Chapter 257 (The Man like none Other chapter 257)

[/ The Man's Decree](#)

Kai was left frozen in his spot for a few seconds before his expression darkened, and his aura changed drastically to resemble that of a demon. Throwing daggers at Benedict, he grimly uttered, "What did you say? I dare you to repeat yourself!" Benedict was initially slightly freaked out by his gaze but was quick to come around. Fuming, he yelled, "Damn it! You're a damn bastard. You don't belong to the Chance family—"

Crash!

"Shut up, Benedict!" Gary smashed a glass on the floor, flushing angrily. His body shook a little as he glowered at Benedict. "Say another sentence, and I'll..."

Seeing his brother's sudden outburst of emotions, Benedict immediately shut his mouth and sat back down on the seat.

It turned out that Gary still had his dignity as an older brother. Although Benedict had always looked down on Gary and his family, he would still be intimidated when the latter lost his temper.

At that point, Kai's murderous aura filled the entire room, leaving everyone afraid to make any noise.

Had Benedict not been his uncle, he would have long sent him to meet his maker. "Kai, Benedict must be too angry that he couldn't think straight and said that nonsense. Come, sit down now." Hannah quickly pulled Kai back to his seat. On the other hand, Gary heaved a sigh, lit up another cigarette, and started puffing away one after another.

Several moments later, the dishes they ordered earlier arrived and filled the whole table. There were also two bottles of limited-edition Sauvignon Blanc wine. The two families were astonished as they exchanged glances. No one has ordered white wine; why would they serve that?

Javier stopped the waiter and asked, "Excuse me. Did you serve this wine wrongly?"

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"Nope. It's Mr. Lewis' special request. He asked to serve to this room," the waiter answered politely.

Puzzlement swamped the crowd when they heard it was a gift from Tommy. Although Benedict's had a pretty decent position as an office administrator at his workplace, it was nothing impressive to Tommy. Thus, there was no way the latter would gift him such an expensive and precious wine.

"Simon has indeed done us great honor. Even someone like Mr. Lewis would gift us such an amazing wine!" Stella piped up all of a sudden.

Her words instantly left the crowd casting their gazes toward Simon. Among everyone present, Simon was the only one who could have connections to Tommy since his father was, after all, a chief of a ministry.

"Simon, I can't believe you're acquainted with Mr. Lewis. These two bottles of wine aren't cheap! It is a great honor for you to receive such a gift from him!" Like everyone else, Benedict was surprised too.

Simon let out an awkward laugh. "Dad, Mom, I've only had a few meals with him before. I never thought that he'll be so courteous as to give me two bottles of wine upon knowing that I'm here."

"Simon, you're actually acquaintances with someone like Mr. Lewis? You're freaking awesome! I can act as I please in Horington from now on. I'm sure no one would dare to disrespect me!"

Javier was overwhelmed with jubilation at the mere thought of how he would not be bullied by anyone else since his brother-in-law was friends with Tommy.

A tinge of envy flashed across Gary's and Hannah's faces at the sight of that family chatting and laughing away.

The only one that remained expressionless in the room was Kai. He knew clearly that the two bottles of wine were not a gift for Simon, yet he did not expose him. All that was flooding his mind were those remarks made by Benedict earlier. He could barely believe what he had just heard. Am I really an adopted child?

Instantaneously, the incident where Draco held his hand and checked his pulse while they were in prison crossed his mind.

He recalled how Draco had told him that he was certainly not a child from an

ordinary family due to the bloodline he carried. However, Kai had never heeded Draco's words since his parents were only ordinary folks.

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At that point, his mind was in turmoil. Seeds of suspicions concerning his background began to grow within him because he knew Benedict would never say something like that without any reason whatsoever.

The Man's Decree Chapter 258 (The Man like none Other chapter 258)

[/ The Man's Decree](#)

"Dad, Mom, let me pour you a glass each. This is an expensive wine. If not for Simon, we wouldn't have the chance to try this limited-edition Sauvignon Blanc wine!" While saying that, Gianna uncorked the bottle and started serving Stella and Benedict with it.

"Gianna, pour me a glass so that I can try too! I've never tasted that before!" Javier grinned as he picked up his wineglass.

"Move aside! You're still a kid; how can you drink wine?" Gianna glared at Javier before she continued pouring a full glass for Simon and herself.

"Simon, help me out here." Javier cast a pleading look at his brother-in-law.

Simon chuckled. "Pour a glass for Javier. It's a rare wine, and that's all we have. There's no way it'll be produced again in the future."

"Thank you, Simon!" Upon hearing that, Javier happily grabbed the bottle of wine and started pouring it for himself.

Benedict's family eventually filled their glasses with the precious Sauvignon Blanc wine, but no one poured it for Kai and his family.

It was fine for Hannah and Kai since the former had always abstained from alcohol while the latter was visibly distracted by his thoughts.

However, that was definitely not the case for Gary. He was licking his lips and craving badly for it. It was a pity that the wine was Simon's gift, and thus he deemed it inappropriate to ask for it if the recipient did not offer to pour it for him.

A mocking smile appeared on the faces of Benedict and his family when they saw Gary's expression.

"Javier, you should pour some wine for your uncle. Even though this is a gift from Mr. Lewis to Simon, Uncle Gary is the one treating us to this meal. We should let him have a taste of it too!" Stella said as she raised her brows at Javier, her words seemingly insinuating something.

"All right!" Javier took the wine bottle and looked at Gary. "Uncle Gary, let me pour you some wine. If you don't get to drink it this time, I'm afraid there won't be another chance in your lifetime!"

Initially, Gary did not want to drink the wine that was served in contempt.

Nonetheless, the aroma of the wine was too tantalizing that he could not suppress his urge. In the end, he grabbed his glass and reached it out toward Javier.

The corners of Javier's lips quirked into a smirk as he poured a few drops of wine into Gary's glass.

"This wine is too precious. Just these few drops of wine alone cost over a thousand! Uncle Gary, you can just have a taste of it!"

After saying that, Javier proceeded to put the wine bottle down.

if() { }

Gary had his eyes glued to the wine in the glass, and despite it being a pathetic volume, he opened his mouth, poured it down, and even savored the aftertaste that lingered.

No doubt it's the limited-edition Sauvignon Blanc wine! It's amazing! Everyone laughed in amusement at the sight of Gary's reaction.

"Sit down! You look pathetic!" Rage welled up within Hannah, and she hastily pulled him back to his seat.

There was almost nothing to fault the man except for his obsession with alcohol. It was to the point where he had to take at least a few sips every day.

"Come, let's drink!" Simon raised his wine glass and cleared everything in one shot.

In no time, Benedict and his family emptied the contents of the two wine bottles. While the family of five was having a great time chatting over the precious alcohol, Kai and his family were outright disregarded by the former.

Just then, the sound of a ringtone rang out. Simon fished out his phone to find that it was a text message from his father.

"Simon, is that from your dad? Mr. Lowe should've reached by now, right?" Benedict asked hastily.

"Yeah, they've arrived." Simon nodded. "They're at Majestic Hall. My dad asked us to head over now."

At that, Benedict's hands trembled a little. He felt extremely honored to have the opportunity to sit at the same table and enjoy wine with the city's mayor.

"Let's hurry over then! We can't hold them up!" he anxiously said as he picked his wineglass up.

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"I want to go too, Dad. I've never drunk with such a big shot before." Similarly, Javier also stood up with his wineglass in his hand.

"You're only a kid. Why tag along? Just stay here!" Benedict shot daggers at his son.

He was afraid the latter would offend Glen with his reckless comments. If that indeed happened, it would only spell trouble for them since he figured the others who were present would also be of influential statuses.

"Dad, let Javier tag along. It'll benefit his future by getting more exposure to the outside world now," Simon urged.

"All right then. But remember, don't open your mouth when you're there!"
Benedict gave Javier a stern reminder.

The Man's Decree Chapter 259 (The Man like none Other chapter 259)

[/ The Man's Decree](#)

"I'm going too."

"And me too! I also want to meet Mr. Lowe, who's famed to be impartial!"
Stella and Gianna quickly chimed in about tagging along.

"Sure, let's go together!" Simon waved his hand as he spoke.

Just as Benedict and his family were about to head out to meet Glen, Simon suddenly stopped in his tracks and turned to Kai. "Didn't you say you've eaten at Mr. Lowe's house before? Since we're heading up to give him a toast now, do you also want to follow us?"

As soon as Simon's words fell, Benedict and his family turned and threw Kai mocking looks. They believed he would not dare to follow along since that was equivalent to exposing his own lie.

Indeed, Kai shook his head without hesitation. He then added, "He should be the one offering me a toast instead!"

The crowd was slightly shocked at first, but a peal of laughter soon entailed after they recovered from their trance. "Are you still dreaming? You said Mr. Lowe should offer you a toast? Why don't you take a good look at yourself in the mirror? I'll pass your words to Mr. Lowe when I meet him and see what he'll do to you!"
Finishing his words, Simon led Benedict and the rest out of the room.

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Just as they stepped out, Stella stopped and turned around. "We might stay to have lunch with Mr. Lowe after offering him a toast. Go ahead and pay the bills later; there's no need to wait for our return. Also, those two empty wine bottles are probably worth a few hundred. Don't forget to bring them home. It'll be sufficient for you guys to last through a few days."

With that, she chuckled and walked away.

"Kai, are you out of your mind? Why did you even say that? Aren't you just landing yourself in hot water?" Hannah looked at Kai and asked him worriedly after Benedict and his family left.

"Mom, nothing bad will happen," Kai reassured smilingly.

Gary let out a huge sigh all of a sudden. "How much does this whole table of food cost? What do we do now?"

"Dad, don't worry about that. I have my ways. Why don't you head home with

Mom first? I'll take care of the bills here."

Knowing that his parents would only be worried if they stayed there, Kai figured it would be better for them to leave first.

"Sounds like a plan. We will go home and look for some money. Remember not to get into any conflicts with others. This place belongs to Mr. Lewis; it's no laughing matter," Gary warned.

"I got it." Kai nodded.

Even though Hannah was feeling a little uneasy, she still left with Gary ultimately to look for neighbors and see if they could lend some money. One would have to know that dining and dashing at Tommy's restaurant would only mean courting death.

After the departure of his parents, Kai sat back down in his seat. Thoughts regarding his identity began to run wild in his mind once again.

Meanwhile, Benedict and his family took the elevator and arrived upstairs where Majestic Hall was, their hands still holding onto their glasses.

Javier was awe-stricken as he fixed his eyes on the extravagant-looking private rooms on that floor.

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Looking at his brother-in-law earnestly, he voiced, "Simon, when will you treat us to a meal in such a luxurious room too? Just look at Kai; even someone like him could treat us to a meal in a basic private room downstairs!"

"He might not even be able to pay for that basic private room. Let's see how he'll fork out money for it later. If he dares dine and dash, Mr. Lewis will surely kill him!" Gianna covered her mouth as she laughed.

"Just shut up, the two of you! Do you know what place this is? There are many dignitaries dining here. You guys will be in deep trouble if you interrupt any of them for being too noisy!" Simon berated them with a frosty expression.

Intimidated, the pair of siblings immediately shut their mouths. Benedict also quickly chimed in, "Simon is right. You guys better watch yourselves and not talk so much. Learn from Simon."

Concurrently, in Majestic Hall, Glen and several other colleagues, including Simon's father, Devin Moore, were chatting over the lunch fare. Based on the seating arrangement, Devin was likely the one with the lowest status.

Be it serving drinks or pouring wine, he was personally doing the job of a waiter all by himself.

The Man's Decree Chapter 260 (The Man like none Other chapter 260)

[/ The Man's Decree](#)

Just then, the door was pushed open. Tommy walked in, his hands holding onto a bottle of wine.

When the crowd saw that it was Tommy, they were startled. After all, deep down, they were well aware of what he did for a living.

Being an honorable man who was fair and just, Glen used to be antipathetic to interacting with someone like Tommy. Yet, he had personally asked to invite Tommy over that time around.

“Mr. Lowe, thank you for visiting this small restaurant of mine. As a token of appreciation, today’s meal will be on me!” Tommy smiled as he uncorked the wine.

As he was a seasoned member of society, it was no wonder that he knew the way to treat his guest. What he could not fathom was why Glen had asked him over out of the blue.

“Tommy, I didn’t ask you here to pay for the bill. Have a seat; we’ll have a chat.” Glen beckoned to Tommy.

Without hesitation, the latter strode up to the seat beside Glen and sat down, leaving everyone else baffled.

No one could understand what was wrong with Glen right then.

“Mr. Lowe, tell me what orders you have. I’ll be at your service!” Tommy courteously said after he had seated himself.

“The purpose of my visit and inviting you to join me here today is to ask you to help me arrange a meeting with Mr. Chance. I’ll like to express my gratitude to him in person,” Glen responded politely.

At once, Tommy realized what was going on. So he’s here because of yesterday’s incident.

“You’re here at an opportune moment, Mr. Lowe! Mr. Chance has made a reservation for a meal here today as well. He’s downstairs right now!” Tommy explained.

“Is that so?” Glen looked elated at that response. “Then I must head down to offer Mr. Chance a toast!”

With that said, he lifted his wineglass and prepared to head out of the room.

if() { }

At the sight of Glen’s behavior, everyone present was instantly dumbfounded. They could not figure out who that influential figure in Horington was, that even someone prestigious like Glen had to be so respectful and even personally asked to meet to offer him a toast.

Despite so, they knew that person was someone special. In hopes of seeking connections with them, all of them quickly grabbed their glasses and prepared to follow behind Glen.

Just as the crowd was about to leave, the door to the private room was abruptly flung open. Next, Benedict and his family walked in.

Seeing the newcomers, Glen was taken aback and furrowed his brows. “Who are you?”

“Mr. Lowe, I’m Benedict Chance, an office administrator in the Department of Health. I’ve learned that you’re having lunch here today, so I’m here to give you a toast.” Benedict then pointed to the group behind him and added, “These are my family members. They would also like to catch a glimpse of you in person!”

The man was visibly nervous that even his hand holding the wineglass was trembling.

On the other hand, Javier, Stella, and the rest had excitement written all over their faces as they fastened their eyes on Glen. Displeased, Glen shifted his gaze toward Devin. "What's going on?"

Since he had made sure to keep his reservation at that restaurant a secret, he believed that no one should know about his presence there. After all, visiting Tommy's restaurant would only affect the public's opinions toward him because, to begin with, Tommy did not have a good reputation. Hence, he ultimately only invited several people without informing anyone else.

Yet, the presence of Benedict and his family only proved that they had received the news prior. Of course, it was an easy feat to find out the culprit. Since Benedict was from the Department of Health, making him the subordinate of Devin, the health minister, it was evident that Devin was the one who had leaked the information.

Noticing Glen's enraged appearance, Devin began quivering in fear. He glared fiercely at his son before turning to Glen. "Mr. Lowe, I merely told my son that I'll be at Meadow Restaurant and won't be home for lunch today. I didn't know that he'll turn up here and even bring people along with him to toast you."

Devin quickly tried to extricate himself from the situation. He did not want, and neither did he dare to take responsibility for anyone, not even his son, as that would jeopardize his career.

"Your son?" Glen frowned. "Don't tell me this man here who calls himself Benedict is your son?"