

The Man's Decree Chapter 453 (The Man like none Other chapter 453)

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Kai brought Josephine and the others back to Summerbank. His expectation of spiritual energy had increased as he was entering the Foundation Phase. Nonetheless, he was thrilled that his abilities had drastically improved. He could finish a few Grandmasters off today. He would not have achieved it if he were still stuck in the Energy Refining Phase. It also took him some time and effort to battle against Zachariah. Kai could have easily vanquished him had he continued with the attack.

"Mr. Chance, should we send someone to monitor Herb Palace's operation? I believe they won't give us the herb without putting up a fight!" Phoenix came over to meet Kai when she knew he had returned. She was stunned when Tommy told her about the incident in Tayhaven Town. After all, everyone could tell that Kai's power was growing rapidly by the day!

"That won't be necessary. If they refused to give it to us, I would have all the more reason to take over the entire Herb Palace!" Kai responded with a smug smirk.

If he wanted to advance to the next level, he needed a lot more spiritual medicine. The batch of medicine the Herb Palace had might have been of great help to him, but the quantity was somewhat limited. That was why he was fixated on claiming the ownership of Herb Palace so that he would have exclusive access to that spiritual medicine.

But this century-old herb had limited quantity and would one day be depleted completely. The more powerful Kai became, the more dependent he would be on the medicine. Hence, he would also need to source other substitutes too! It's time to make a trip to Mount Hickoria to look for the spiritual stones. I could cultivate my power there right away using those stones!

Kai contacted Dominic and told him about the trip to Mount Hickoria. Kai was relieved that Josephine had a jade pendant that could protect her. It must be a powerful magical item as it could even keep two Grandmasters away from her! Night fell, and everyone was asleep. Tayhaven Town had also turned into a ghost town due to the upheaval at the Martial Arts Gathering.

Yet, four elderly men with white beards were seen wandering on the quiet street. Clad in black robes, they were able to stride across the street from one end to another in a short time even though they walked very slowly. These men were none other than the four elders from the Crescent Sect! They then headed in the arena's direction and started performing their respective duties as if they were carrying out a private investigation.

Besides monitoring the footprints, they also studied the man-shaped hole that Derek had caused when he smashed into the arena. One of the elders took out a cloth and covered his hand to retrieve the silvery powder from the hole.

The moment he flung the powder into the air, moving human figures emerged in the sky. The image was so realistic that one might easily mistake it for a character in a 3D movie.

The moving images displayed the fight between Kai and a few Grandmasters, but they disappeared seconds later. Once again, Tayhaven Town plunged into total darkness.

"What do you think of the boy?" The elder, who flung the powder into the sky, asked.

The head of the elders shook his head. "I can't tell much from these images. To defeat the other Grandmasters of internal energy, he must have been a full-fledged Grandmaster of internal energy or have at least obtained similar power. Yet, I don't feel the aura of a Grandmaster from him at all!"

"Based on the man-shaped hole caused by Derek, the boy must have attained the power of a Grandmaster. Otherwise, Derek wouldn't have suffered a miserable death." Another elder, who was studying the arena, analyzed.

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The elder, who flung the powder in the air, chose to believe the head of the elders. "He has the sharpest nose of us all. I'm sure he would have detected the presence of a Grandmaster if there was one!"

All four elders fell into deep thoughts.

"What if he's not a martial artist? What if he's a mage like us?" The same elder's eyes brightened.

"It's impossible. Mages could not combat like that young man no matter how powerful they are. We rely on magecraft. Do you think we can fight against Grandmasters of internal energy and physically take them down?" The head of the elders dismissed his analysis.

Once again, the elders knitted their brows and kept mum, as they did not know what to do next.

The head of the elders raised his hand in the air and said, "Let's report what we saw to Mr. Quillen. Kai is not an easy person to deal with, so we have to start planning!"

The other three elders nodded and vanished into thin air. No one knew they had visited the town on that night.

Dominic arrived early the following day and waited for Kai. After reminding Josephine about a few matters, Kai began his journey with Dominic.

The trip to Mount Hickoria would only be a short one, as they merely wanted to explore the area for a couple of days. Hence, they traveled light. But when they were about to depart, Kai's phone rang.

Upon realizing it was a call from his mother, he immediately answered, "Yes, Mom?"

He was pleased to hear her voice. In fact, he felt bad for not calling his parents in the last few days.

Hannah, too, was delighted to speak to Kai. "Are you busy? Ingrid is getting married in a couple of days. Do you have time to come home?"

"Ingrid's getting married?" Kai was taken by surprise. "But she's still so young!"

"Ingrid is not young anymore! She's already nineteen and has quit school!"

Hannah said.

Her response rendered Kai speechless. That was the typical example of life in the village. Children, especially girls, who stopped schooling would be arranged to get married.

"Mom, I..." Kai did not know how to tell Hannah that he had no time to go home as he was about to leave for Mount Hickoria.

Upon noticing his hesitation, she sighed. "It's all right. I'll tell Sarah you're busy. Don't worry..."

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Hannah's voice faded out. She eventually remained silent but did not end the call. Kai could feel the disappointment in his mother's voice. Ever since he went behind bars, his father had lost his job, and his family had to eke out a living. Villagers had also started talking badly about their family members behind their back.

Hannah was a strong-headed person, who used to have a wide connection. However, things fell apart. Even their relatives shunned her.

The reason she called Kai was to ask him to attend Ingrid's wedding so that she could show off his achievement to all the guests.

Though Hannah had no idea what he was doing, she knew he must be a capable man ever since he humiliated Benedict at the hotel and fired an officer.

"I'm fine, Mom. I'll be back by tonight, so don't worry," Kai promised.

Hannah was thrilled to hear that. "All right! I'll make you your favorite dish when you get back. Oh, bring Josephine back too. I want to introduce her to the other relatives as well!"

Kai grinned. He knew she wanted to show off Josephine to other relatives in the village too. He nodded and replied, "All right. I'll talk to her right now."

"Okay! I'll see you tonight!" Hannah then ended the call.

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"Something caught up, and I have to put the trip on hold. But I want you to buy more stones from Mount Hickoria!" Kai said to Dominic.

"Sure. I'll go to Mount Hickoria myself and check out the stones!"

After Dominic left, Kai told Josephine about Ingrid's wedding. She knew a trip to the village might not be pleasant, but as someone who understood Kai, she agreed right away.

They then started their journey and drove back to Kai's hometown.

His hometown is a village in Horington that used to be a small settlement, but its landscape had drastically changed due to the development in the last few years.

Kai saw many houses were slapped with a demolition notice to make way for development projects. That was why Benedict insisted on getting his hands on the family residence!

Children were running around in the village. Kai did not know anyone of them since he had not returned for many years.

"Hey, taking a break from work?" He rolled down the car's window and greeted the seniors who were sitting by the curb.

Kai knew who they were. After all, he grew up in the village and stayed here until middle school. He only moved out when his father was transferred to work in the city.

The elderly folks walked over to take a closer look. One of the middle-aged women instantly recognized Kai. "Aren't you Kai? I thought you were still in jail? Since when were you released? And now you're driving a Mercedes-Benz?" She studied Kai from head to toe.

Kai responded with a wry smile. "I came out of jail not long ago."

"Oh. Did you come back to attend the wedding? Ingrid's husband is super rich, and he's the boss of a big company! Maybe he can help you find a job. All right, all right. I'm not gonna disturb you anymore." The woman waved her hand in the air. Kai nodded and rolled up the window. He then looked at Josephine and said awkwardly, "That's how blunt women in the village speak, but they don't have any bad intentions. She used to boil eggs for me when I was a child!"

Josephine responded with a grin but kept mum. Perhaps, she was not used to the way villagers spoke.

Soon, Kai arrived at his family's house. After parking his car in the courtyard, he took a glance at the residence that was made up of five individual buildings. My parents must have given the house a fresh coat of paint.

"Dad! Mom!" he shouted from the courtyard.

Standing in front of the house and calling his parents brought back childhood memories.

As a child, Kai used to call out to his parents when he returned from school. He would then dump his bag in the corner of the courtyard and run out to play.

"You're back!" Hannah came out of the room and greeted her son.
"Hello, Mrs. Chance." Josephine greeted her with a grin.

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"Josephine! Glad to see you. Come on in!" Hannah nearly jumped with joy. She initially thought someone as rich as Josephine would not want to step into their lowly village. Even though Kai promised to talk to her about it, Hannah did not expect her to come. That was why Hannah was overjoyed when she saw Josephine standing in front of her.

"Where's Dad?" Kai asked.

"He has gone to Sarah's to help with the wedding!"

That was how life in the village was. Villagers would always do their part to support a wedding. Family members living in the same village would contribute even more to make the event a success.

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Hannah showed Josephine around as soon as they entered the room in an effort to make her feel more at ease. At the same time, Kai drifted in and out of the rooms drunk on nostalgia.

"Take a good, long look, son," sighed Hannah. The house is coming apart soon. I don't know where we'll go to once they evict us."

"Aren't they going to rehouse you, Mom?"

"Hah!" exclaimed Hannah scornfully. "They didn't even subsidize our rent. Some of us have been living here for decades and they are only giving us about a hundred thousand per home. That's what we're worth to them. Though we should be grateful that other villages receive much less compared to us, it's hard to feel too optimistic when our future is that uncertain. Besides, your father and I had just forked out so much for the renovation and it's going to get torn down just like that!"

"Come to Horington with Dad," Kai suggested. "The place in Dragon Bay is still vacant anyway. I haven't had the time to drop by and sort things out over there." Hannah glared at her son. "Though Josephine's family is rich enough to let you live in a huge house like that, you can't be sitting on your hands all day, you hear me? You can't be spending all of her money for the rest of your life. Be a man!" "You are mistaken, Mrs. Chance. Actually-"

"I know what to do, Mom," Kai cut across Josephine. "I'm working on it!"

"It's sweet of her to not look down on us, you know." Hannah gazed fondly at

Josephine. "You must treat her well, son. If I hear that you do anything to hurt her, I will disown you."

How rare it is to find a nice, polite girl from a rich family who does not mind our poverty!

Josephine smiled reassuringly. "Kai has been good to me, Mrs. Chance. I'll twist his ear off if he hurts me!"

"Yes, yank it right off!" Hannah reciprocated the smile. "Inform me when you do. I'd like to get in on that."

"I'm your son, Mom!" Kai protested despite being secretly delighted at how quickly the two most important women to him bonded. "Are you ganging up with Josephine on me?"

Josephine burst out laughing at Kai's expression.

"Kai! Kai!" A young female voice suddenly came from outside the house. Kai recognized his cousin's voice at once and dashed out to meet her.

Ingrid was several years younger than him. From as early as she could remember, she had been inseparable from Kai, who had gotten into more fights than he could remember to protect her from her own mischief. Despite being cousins, they were closer than most siblings.

It's been years. I wonder how my favorite cousin is doing?

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A tall girl, five foot nine at the very least, greeted him when he arrived outside the room. Her ponytail bounced excitedly at his appearance, revealing two deep dimples on either side of her cheeks when she beamed.

"Ingrid?" Kai asked in disbelief.

Ingrid laughed. "Don't you recognize me, Kai?"

"I don't," he murmured in a daze. "You were half this height when I last saw you. Look at you! You're as tall as I am now!"

Kai walked around Ingrid and stood back to back with her to measure his height against hers.

It's been around five years. She was only fourteen the last time I'd seen her. How quickly has she grown!

"You grew slowly, that's all," she teased in return. "Watch out, I'll be even taller than you in another two years! By the way, I'd heard word that you were back. Is that your Mercedes parked out front?"

Kai smiled mysteriously. "It's a friend's!"

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The car actually belonged to Josephine. Kai did not buy a car as there were plenty to borrow from between the garages of Josephine and Tommy. As a result, Kai always had an arsenal of vehicles at his disposal.

Ingrid nodded impatiently. "There was also talk that you came with a very pretty girl. Is she your girlfriend?"

Kai nodded with a helpless smile. The gossip of village women travels faster than scandals on the Internet!

"Where is she?" Ingrid demanded as she dragged him indoors. "Bring me to her!"

Upon pushing open the front door, they found Hannah and Josephine on the other end ready to receive them.

"Aunt Hannah!" Ingrid called cheerily.

"You're about to get married in a couple of days, Ingrid. Why are you still out and about?"

"It's too crowded and noisy at home! I had to come out for a breather."

Ingrid's gaze fell onto Josephine, who was standing beside Hannah. "You must be Kai's girlfriend," she gasped. "Oh, my. You're so pretty!"

Despite blushing deeply, Josephine's heart swelled with warmth at the sincere compliment.

"My name's Josephine, nice to meet you." She extended her hand to the younger woman.

"Ingrid." She offered hers as she took Josephine's hand. "Nice to meet you, Josephine!"

"Step out of the sun, you kids. Take this conversation indoors," Hannah said as she stepped through the door. "I'm going over to Ingrid's."

The group marched back into the house as Ingrid stared at Josephine with such intent that it made the latter feel uncomfortable.

"Why are you staring at her like that for, Ingrid?" Kai asked, nonplussed.

"Josephine is dressed in luxury brands from head to toe," Ingrid whispered admiringly. "Those are Cartier earrings! Do you know how expensive they are?"

Turning to the subject of her scrutiny, she asked, "What does your family do, Josephine?"

Josephine was impressed by Ingrid's sharp observation skills.

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"Oh, we just run a small business," she responded modestly before taking off her earrings. "We didn't get to bring you a wedding gift, Ingrid. I would like you to have these earrings if you like them!"

Ingrid staggered backward in horror. "I can't accept them, Josephine," she cried, waving her hands frantically. "They're too expensive!"

"Not at all," said Josephine earnestly. "Think of it as a gift from us!" As she spoke, she forced Ingrid around to put the earrings on for her. "They look so pretty on you! Imagine how they'll complement your wedding dress."

At the mention of her wedding, the joy in Ingrid's face seemed to fade a little as if something weighed heavily on her.

"You're only nineteen, Ingrid," Kai added, failing to notice the change in her expression. "Why are you in a rush to get married instead of completing your education first? It'll be increasingly difficult to establish yourself in the modern society without a university education."

Kai had struck a chord. In an instant, tears welled up in Ingrid's eyes as she began to weep.

He gaped in horror, not expecting a passing remark to make her cry.

Josephine hastened to comfort the girl. "Kai didn't mean it, Ingrid. Ignore him."

Ingrid's sobs intensified at that. She threw herself onto Josephine's shoulder and howled.

Eventually, her sobs subsided before she drew a great shuddering breath to calm herself. "I know Kai didn't mean it, Josephine," she said with a sniffle. "I don't actually want to get married. I do want to go to university, but I... I can't get out of this!"

Ingrid's wide and fearful eyes reminded Kai forcefully of the days when they were children. It made his heart twinged with guilt to see her as helpless as she was.

The couple exchanged startled glances. How are there still forced marriages in the world?

"What is going on, Ingrid?" Kai asked with a frown.