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Trapped

Seizing the opportunity while they were distracted, Jared shot his hands out and placed them on the two men's heads. Swiftly unleashing the Focus Technique, he began absorbing their power.

In a flash, the faces of the two men drained of all color. They trembled all over as though having been electrocuted.

In just a dozen seconds, all the power of the two Fifth Level Martial Arts Grandmasters was completely sucked away by Jared.

That scene terrified Karl to the core.

"Y-You know black magic? You're actually a Demonic Cultivator?"

He couldn't believe the sight before his eyes. Never had it crossed his mind that Jared was a Demonic Cultivator.

Besides, the Pentacarna Tower seemingly didn't manage to seal Jared's capabilities.

"That doesn't matter. The important thing is, you're going to die!" Jared stated while staring at him icily.

"Do you think you can kill me effortlessly just because the Pentacarna Tower can't seal your capabilities, Jared? Let me tell you that this is my territory! Taking my life here is a pipe dream!" Karl scoffed.

"You'll know whether it's a pipe dream very soon!"

After Jared said that, his aura burst forth at once. His intense murderous aura quickly saturated the entire room.

Karl, on the other hand, instantly stomped his feet on the ground. The whole building started shaking as though there was an earthquake.

Then, he bit his finger and dripped a drop of blood onto the ground.

In an instant, the blood was absorbed into the ground. Immediately after, patterns began materializing on the ground.

The innumerable patterns started glowing, and the rays of light seemed to contain infinite power.

Rumble! Crash! Boom!

The wall outside the building began crumbling, but nothing happened on the inside.

In no time, a gigantic hexagonal tower took shape.

It turned out that the old structure contained an iron tower.

No wonder Karl dubbed it the Pentacarna Tower. It's really a tower!

"Jared!"

Lizbeth clutched Jared's arm tightly. Right then, she no longer had any spiritual energy, so she was no different from an ordinary person.

"Don't worry. Everything will be fine," Jared coaxed gently.

"After stepping into this tower, Jared, you'll never be able to get out!"

Karl broke out in raucous laughter. Under his feet, a circle of light starting flashing.

Seeing that, Jared swiftly rushed at him.

With a flicker of light, however, Karl simply disappeared. The circle of light on the ground, likewise, vanished.

"Let's go, Lizbeth!"

Dragging Lizbeth along, Jared started sprinting down the tower in desperation.

The exit was sealed by a massive door. Jared shot his hand out forcefully, hoping to smash the door in front of him.

Alas, a titanic force blasted him the moment his palm made contact with the door.

The impact sent him flying backward. He was flung more than ten meters away before he hit the ground hard.

"Jared!"

Lizbeth hurriedly ran over and helped him up.

Worry was written all over her face.

Jared dusted himself before he slowly walked over to the door again. He scrutinized the iron door that was a few meters high, but there were no patterns or carvings on it. It's just a big iron door. It doesn't appear to be anything special, so how could the recoil earlier be so strong?

"Could it be that there are restrictions here, so you can't open the door, Jared?" Lizbeth ventured.

"Even if there are restrictions, I have to break the door!"

Jared's eyes narrowed slightly. In the next heartbeat, he balled his fists.

A golden light shimmered above his fists, and the Power of Dragons flowed above his fists.

"Shatter!"

With a furious bellow, he struck out with both fists and hit the iron door hard.

Bang!

Another intense recoil burst forth. This time, Jared was thrown dozens of meters away, and he hit the wall hard before stopping.

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Fate

Jared could feel his internal organs crashing into each other as blood trickled out of the corner of his mouth.

Lizbeth quickly ran toward him and helped wipe the blood off his mouth.

After staring at the metal door for a few minutes, Jared recalled something and came to a sudden realization.

"I understand now! This metal door returns whatever force it receives! The harder I hit it, the harder it'll hit back at me! Looks like it'll be impossible to forcefully break through the restriction..." he exclaimed with a frown.

"What do we do, then? Are we trapped here forever?" Lizbeth asked with panic written all over her face.

It wouldn't be a problem for Jared, who had already achieved the Golden Elixir Stage, to go without food and water. However, the same could not be said for Lizbeth, who was no different from an ordinary human after losing her powers.

As there was no food in the area, she wouldn't even last a few days unless they could get out of there.

"I don't think we'll be able to go through this door. Let's try looking upstairs instead."

Jared then took a moment to adjust his aura before going up the tower with Lizbeth.

The two of them had just arrived at the stairwell when a wall of light appeared in front of them, blocking their way up the stairs.

"What? We can't go up either?" Lizbeth exclaimed in shock.

"Step back, Lizbeth. I'm going to check it out."

Jared told her to back away from the wall as he wasn't sure what it would do.

He then slowly reached out to touch the wall of light, only to feel an electric shock when his finger made contact with it.

The next thing they knew, a few images appeared on the wall before disappearing a second later.

It all happened really quickly, but Jared managed to get a clear look at the images and saw that it was a person performing some strikes.

Unsure of what to do, he tried mimicking the movements of that person to the best of his ability. A second later, the wall of light disappeared before their very eyes.

After taking a few steps forward, Jared confirmed that it was safe and motioned at Lizbeth to come over.

"You can come up now, Lizbeth!"

"What did you see, Jared? I saw you doing some kind of weird move earlier," Lizbeth asked curiously while making her way toward him.

Jared shot her a strange look in response. "Didn't you see the images on the wall? It was like a huge television screen or something."

"Huh? I didn't see anything. All I saw was you doing some weird move in front of the wall," Lizbeth replied while shaking her head, much to Jared's confusion.

What? Was I the only one who could see those images? Well, whatever... I don't have time to be worrying about this right now. Our main priority is to find our way out of Pentacarna Tower!

Jared and Lizbeth were heading up the stairs when another wall of light appeared in front of them.

This time, Jared placed his palm on it right away.

He felt the same electric shock on his fingertips and saw a few images flash past again.

Having learned from his experience with the previous wall of light, Jared mimicked the movements shown in the images to make the wall of light disappear.

Jared and Lizbeth encountered the same obstacle on every floor as they continued making their way up the tower.

Upon reaching the top floor, Jared recalled the moves he had seen earlier and performed them on the spot.

A few seconds after he completed the performance, the entire top floor of Pentacarna Tower started to bend and twist like it was being distorted.

Eventually, a beam of light shone into the room, and a humanoid figure slowly appeared in front of them.

Jared squinted at the figure to get a better look at it, only to see that it was a friendly-looking old man dressed in white robes.

To have an old man materialize before one's very eyes was indeed a shocking sight, so much so that even Jared was feeling a little nervous as he stared at the old man.

The old man then slowly walked up to Jared, eyed him from head to toe, and stroked his long, white beard as he said, "After waiting for hundreds of years, the son of a dragon shows up at last! Perhaps this is fate, after all..."

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Greed

"Who are you? What are you doing here? Have you been staying in this tower for hundreds of years?" Jared asked while staring at the old man in shock.

Despite being an energy cultivator himself, the fact that a person could live up to a few hundred years still baffled Jared to no end.

"Haha! You see, Pentacarna Tower was built specifically for me. Had it not trapped my soul here, I would've broken out of this sh*tty place a few hundred years ago! Now that you've learned my Sacred Light Fist, I'll be able to follow you as you leave this place!" the old man replied with a chuckle.

Jared shook his head. "Pentacarna Tower has restrictions on the front door, so I can't get it open at all."

"Don't worry. All you have to do is deactivate your spiritual energy and use Sacred Light Fist. Remember to use only your physical energy, or the door won't open," the old man instructed before slowly vanishing into thin air. "H-Hey!"

Jared had wanted to ask the old man what he meant about him being the son of a dragon, but the old man had completely disappeared.

"Jared? Jared! Wake up, Jared! Don't scare me like this!"

Lizbeth's voice trembled slightly as she shook him with all of her might.

Upon opening his eyes, Jared realized he was lying on the ground with Lizbeth kneeling beside him.

She breathed a sigh of relief when she saw that he was awake. "You nearly scared me to death, Jared! You did some kind of weird move and passed out immediately after. I even heard you mumbling some weird stuff while you were unconscious."

Jared frowned as he sat up straight and tried to recall what had just happened.

"Was I dreaming just now?" He couldn't help but find it all very strange.

"What did you dream about?" Lizbeth asked in confusion.

Jared shook his head. "Oh, it's nothing. Come on. We're leaving."

"How will we get out of here? You can't open the front door because of the restriction, remember?" Lizbeth asked.

"Just come with me. I'm going to give it another shot." Jared grabbed her by the arm and dragged her downstairs with him.

Meanwhile, Karl was sitting on the balcony of a mansion not too far away with a glass of red wine in hand.

"It's been three days now. I wonder if Jared is still alive," he mumbled to himself as he gently swirled the red wine and took a sip.

Joshua came over and whispered in his ear, "Mr. Gardner, Mr. Norton is on the way here with his men. All we have to do is deliver Jared to him, and the Gardner family will finally be able to venture into Jadeborough." The flames of greed burned brightly in Karl's eyes as he exclaimed, "Yes! Once we enter Jadeborough, I will become the president of the Warriors Alliance and have the entire martial arts world under my rule!"

Unsatisfied with being Baron of the Northwest, he wanted to get the Gardner family into Jadeborough so that he could become the president of the Warriors Alliance.

That showed just how greedy of a man he was.

"With Pentacarna Tower, the position of president is bound to be yours sooner or later. However, we might not be able to keep its secret for long once Mr. Norton gets here. What should we do if they start prying into Pentacarna Tower, Mr. Gardner?" Joshua reminded him.

"We have nothing to worry about. I'm the only one capable of using Pentacarna Tower. It's nothing more than a hunk of scrap metal to everyone else," Karl replied confidently with a chuckle.

Meanwhile, as Jared and Lizbeth continued heading down the Pentacarna Tower, they were completely unaware that three days had passed in the world outside.

For them, it had only been a few hours since they were trapped inside.

About ten minutes later, the two of them had arrived at the entrance of the tower. Jared slowly clenched his fists as he stared at the looming metal door in front of him.

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Die Together

"Jared..."

Fearing that Jared would hurt himself from the recoil again, Lizbeth clung tightly to his arm.

Jared patted her on the hand and reassured her, "It'll be fine. This time, I'll be able to get this door open for sure!"

Recalling what the old man said, Jared disabled his spiritual energy and the Power of Dragons to ensure he was only using his physical strength. As his muscles expanded, he swung his fist straight at the metal door.

"Sacred Light Fist!"

Boom!

A deafening boom was heard as his fist made contact with the door, but he didn't get sent flying back this time.

Delighted with his successful attempt, Jared continued slamming his fist against the door repeatedly.

Each and every one of those punches were delivered solely with his physical strength.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

The metal door rattled more and more with each hit.

"What's going on?"

Karl was so shocked that he dropped his glass of wine on the floor when he saw that.

"C-Could it be that Jared is breaking the tower?" The look on Joshua's face turned pale as well.

"Come on! Let's go have a look!"

Karl shouted as he jumped down the balcony and ran straight toward Pentacarna Tower.

Boom!

He had just arrived outside Pentacarna Tower when the heavy metal door came crashing down with a deafening boom.

A huge cloud of dust formed when the metal door hit the ground, and Jared could be seen walking out of there with Lizbeth's hand in his.

Karl was so bewildered that he couldn't believe his eyes at all.

"H-How did you get out?"

A white beam of light then came flying out of Pentacarna Tower, and Jared heard the old man's voice in his head saying, "Hahaha! Thank you very much, young man! May we meet again someday on Demonia Mountain!"

Demonia Mountain? Jared frowned as he didn't remember hearing about such a mountain.

No, I don't have time to be thinking about that now. Karl is right in front of me, so I have to kill him first!

Having recovered her spiritual energy after getting out of Pentacarna Tower, Lizbeth's eyes were filled with rage as she glared at Karl.

The look on Karl's face was twisted with horror when he felt the aura that Jared and Lizbeth exuded.

Joshua, who was standing behind Karl at the time, immediately turned around and ran.

He was well aware that Jared only wanted to kill Karl.

Being a mere servant, he decided it was more important to save himself than die fighting a pointless battle.

"You're not going anywhere!"

Lizbeth chased after Joshua the moment she saw him running.

Jared chose not to stop her as she was more than capable of killing a small fry like Joshua.

He also figured it would do her good if she took her anger out on Joshua.

"Got any more tricks you have up your sleeve, Karl? If not, then hold still and accept your death!" Jared taunted him with a mocking smile.

Karl frowned deeply and looked like he was contemplating something as he muttered through clenched teeth, "Don't do this, Jared. I promise to leave you alone from now on if you spare my life."

"Spare you? Didn't seem like you were going to spare me back there!" Jared replied with a sneer.

Realizing that Jared wasn't going to let him go, Karl closed his eyes and said, "Fine. We shall die together, then."

He then began chanting an incantation, causing the area around the manor to shake violently.

Boom!

Deafening noises filled the air as mansions collapsed one after another, and the luxurious manor was soon reduced to a pile of rubble.

A few seconds later, beams of light appeared in all directions around them and shot straight up to the sky.

The beams of light then merged into an immensely powerful ball of light before making its way into Karl's body.

The next thing Jared knew, the power levels of Karl's aura skyrocketed to that of a Top Level Martial Arts Grandmaster.

He looked like he was in a lot of pain as the look on his face was twisted.

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Not That Bad

As the light slowly faded away, Jared saw that Karl's body had become a lot bigger and muscular.

His aura, too, had changed so much that it felt like he was a completely different person.

"I've destroyed the manor and absorbed the power of my ancestors. As such, I must kill you to do my ancestors justice!" Karl said coldly while glaring at Jared.

"You won't be able to kill me even if you dug your ancestors up from their graves! The fact that your body is even able to control this energy is impressive enough. Did you really think you could kill me with it?" Jared asked with a disdainful grin.

"We'll see about that!" Karl shouted as he charged forward at lightning speed and threw a punch at him.

"Sacred Light Fist!"

Jared, too, swung at him with the new technique he had just learned.

Boom!

A loud boom echoed through the area as Jared was sent flying backward like a cannonball. It wasn't until he crashed into a wall that his body finally came to a halt.

Jared shook his head when he saw the damaged skin on his body. "It seems even Sacred Light Fist isn't enough to stop you if I rely on physical strength alone."

What? Jared was relying on his physical strength alone to withstand my attack? Just how much is he underestimating me?

Furious at the thought of that, Karl yelled, "You insolent fool!"

"Am I? I don't think that's a very fair statement considering how weak that strike was. Seems your ancestors aren't that powerful, after all!" Jared mocked him.

"Die!"

Fuming with rage, Karl threw yet another punch at him with the force of a speeding train.

His fist was moving so fast that it produced a whistling noise as it cut through the air.

Jared quickly leapt to the side to dodge it.

Boom!

The next thing he knew, the impact from the punch had left a crater in the ground.

"Oh? Things are finally getting interesting here. Keep it up!" Jared said with a more serious look on his face.

Karl roared as he closed the gap between them in an instant and punched at Jared with all of his might.

Due to him being in an enraged state, he held nothing back when it came to his martial energy.

Jared condensed the spiritual energy in his elixir field before greeting the incoming punch with one of his own.

Boom!

Jared's punch knocked Karl back by a few steps, but Karl was able to send Jared flying again with his.

"Looks like you aren't that bad, after all!"

Jared's eyes glimmered with a fighting spirit as he steadied himself.

The stronger his opponent was, the greater his fighting spirit became. He found fights where he could kill opponents with a single strike to be completely meaningless.

As Jared started taking Karl seriously, his body exuded a golden aura that reflected the strength of his spirit.

Having activated Golem Body to the highest level, Jared's body was completely covered in golden scales. On top of that, his muscles were slightly hardened as well.

"Hmph! Even the strongest Golem Body will shatter in the face of my absolute destructive force!"

Karl's confidence increased significantly after landing two successful blows.

It was the first time he had experienced such immense power, but it was only temporary. The power would fade away later on, and Karl would lose his life along with it. Even so, he had been left with no other choice.

I've destroyed the manor, so taking Jared's life along with my own is all I can do right now!

"Bring it on, then!" Jared said as the Power of Dragons surged within his body.

Both of his fists were exuding a golden glow as two tiny dragons wrapped themselves around his knuckles.

"Sacred Light Fist!"

Using the Power of Dragons, Jared began performing the new technique he had just learned.

As he was able to destroy the metal door with his physical strength alone, combining it with the Power of Dragons would increase its destructive force thousands of times.

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Everything Is Born From The Heart

Karl responded by throwing a punch at Jared as well.

Boom!

The impact of the clash was so great that almost all of Xenhall could hear it.

As if it was the end of the world, the sky above turned dark in an instant, and a strong gust of wind started blowing in the area around them.

The manor, which had been reduced to a pile of rubble, turned into ash on the spot.

The only building that remained unharmed on that huge piece of land was the Pentacarna Tower.

This time, they were evenly matched and both staggered backward after the clash.

"Is that all you got?

Karl then closed his eyes and stretched his arms out like he was embracing something as he said, "Ancestors, please lend me your strength!"

Seconds later, a beam of light came shooting out of Karl's chest as if it was tearing his body apart.

The look on Jared's face turned solemn as he could feel the aura within Karl's body get increasingly stronger.

In fact, it got so strong that he had become as powerful as a Top Level Martial Arts Grandmasters like Warren.

The light then condensed into a ball in front of Karl's chest before flying toward Jared at an insane speed.

It was so fast that Jared didn't even have time to dodge it.

Boom!

Jared was sent flying upon impact, and blood came gushing out of his mouth when he crashed into the ground.

The golden light around his body faded a little, and cracks could be seen on the scales covering his body.

"You're going to die here today, Jared! I'll use everything I've got to make sure of it!" Karl shouted as he held his arm out.

A gigantic arm made entirely out of light appeared and grabbed Jared by the throat.

He was then pulled toward Karl and suspended in the air at arm's length away from him.

"Die!" Karl roared at the top of his lungs as he punched Jared in the chest.

He knew his power boost wouldn't last very long, so he had to kill Jared before it faded away.

As Karl's aura was at its peak level, Jared could only take a deep breath and shield his body with spiritual energy.

With the help of his spiritual energy and Golem Body combined, Jared was able to take Karl's punch head-on.

Boom!

The golden aura around his body faded as the scales fell off and disappeared, exposing his tanned skin to the elements.

Seeing as Jared could only take the subsequent hits with his physical body alone, Karl happily threw another punch at him.

With an incredibly solemn look on his face, Jared summoned Dragonslayer Sword in his right hand and delivered a flaming slash at Karl's arm.

Fearing the power of the Dragonslayer Sword, Karl had no choice but to quickly back away.

Jared frowned. Hmm... This guy's power has actually surpassed that of Warren's by a little. I wouldn't be taking so many hits if I were facing Warren instead. Looks like I shouldn't be underestimating the power of one's ancestors obtained at the cost of one's life.

"That sword won't save you now!" Karl said while raising his hand.

The ground then shook beneath their feet as a gigantic hand of light came smashing down on Jared.

Naturally, Jared wasn't about to just stand there and do nothing. He swung his Dragonslayer Sword in the direction of the gigantic hand and hit it with several sword energy waves in a row.

However, none of those attacks did anything to stop the gigantic hand.

Jared found himself being forced to the ground from the immense pressure.

Even by channeling his spiritual energy and the Power of Dragons, he was unable to stop the gigantic hand at all. At that critical moment, Jared recalled the images of Sacred Light Fist that he had seen in Pentacarna Tower and realized they each represented a separate technique.

As the images fused into a single motion, Jared heard the old man's voice in his head saying, "No action is limitless. All living beings shall live and perish as I do. Everything in the world is born from the heart."

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Fancy Tricks

With a frown between his brows, Jared started chanting that sentence repeatedly even if he didn't understand its meaning.

Thinking that Jared was begging him for forgiveness, Karl burst out laughing and said, "Hahaha! Begging for forgiveness won't do you any good now, Jared!"

The huge hand then came slamming down on Jared with an unimaginably destructive force.

Boom!

The shockwave from the impact was so powerful that it left a crater about fifty feet deep in the ground.

With dust and sand flying everywhere, Karl breathed a sigh of relief when he saw no sign of Jared.

It's done... Jared is finally dead! It's too bad I have to die along with him, but I guess there wasn't exactly any other choice.

"This place is where I was born, so I guess it makes sense for me to die here as well..."

Karl mumbled to himself as he slowly closed his eyes and waited for his power to fade away.

Suddenly, he heard a noise coming from the crater and glanced in its direction.

A few seconds later, Jared could be seen climbing out of the crater.

After taking a moment to regain his balance, Jared casually dusted himself off like nothing had ever happened.

His blood was boiling within his veins, and a terrifying murderous aura filled the air around him.

"H-How is this possible? Could it be that Jared has surpassed his limit?"

Karl's eyes were wide with fear when he noticed the change in Jared's aura.

Jared, on the other hand, was still thinking about the phrase he chanted earlier.

"Everything in the world is born from the heart..." he muttered under his breath while slowly walking out of the crater.

After repeating that phrase a few times, Jared burst out laughing all of a sudden. "Oh, I get it now! Everything in the world is born from the heart! I finally get it! Hahaha!"

He then shifted his gaze toward Karl and glared at him with a wide grin on his face.

"Don't give me that cr*p, Jared! If one smite isn't enough to kill you, I'll just smite you again!"

Karl shouted as he channeled his energy and sent another gigantic hand flying toward Jared.

To his surprise, Jared simply ignored the incoming gigantic hand and charged at Karl as he yelled, "Sacred Light Fist!"

Karl's jaw dropped when he saw Jared pass right through the gigantic hand completely unharmed. Before he knew it, he had taken a solid punch in the chest and was sent flying backward.

"What? This can't be! How is this possible?" Karl exclaimed in shock and disbelief as he staggered to his feet.

"Forget about those fancy tricks and face me head-on with your physical strength alone!" Jared said.

"Hmph! Take this!"

Karl raised both arms and conjured up a vortex in the air above him to create a huge tornado.

A beam of light then entered the tornado and turned it into a flaming tornado that burned like the sun.

With a gentle swing of his arm, Karl sent the flaming tornado flying toward Jared.

The flames inside the tornado had taken the form of hideous skulls that leered at Jared as it headed his way.

Despite having his newfound power, Jared didn't dare take such a destructive attack lightly.

He quickly channeled the Power of Dragons and swung a fist at the incoming flaming tornado.

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Spiritual Fire

A gentle beam of light erupted from his fist and penetrated the flaming tornado, causing it to vanish in an instant.

Jared froze when he felt the gentleness and purity of the light.

"I-Is this the true essence of Sacred Light Fist?"

For some reason, the light seemed to fill his body with an inexplicable comforting sensation.

Karl's frown deepened as he could feel his power starting to fade away.

It's now or never! I have to take Jared's life with this next attack!

"The blood is my guidance, and the earth is my coffin. My ancestors, please lend me your strength!" Karl muttered under his breath before hitting himself in the chest.

As he coughed up a mouthful of blood onto the ground, it got absorbed into the earth instantly.

The ground shook violently seconds later, and a huge, glowing image appeared beneath his feet.

"Come forth!" Karl yelled at the top of his lungs, causing the image to rotate while a beam of light shone on it.

The next thing Jared knew, skeletons began climbing out of the ground before his very eyes.

Karl then bit into his finger and dabbed his blood on the heads of the skeletons, bringing them to life on the spot.

The skeletons all had a pulsating red glow in their chest cavities that resembled a beating heart.

Jared frowned deeply when he saw that.

"What the heck is this?"

I can't believe Karl is capable of summoning something this scary! Looks like the Gardner family has a lot more secrets than I imagined!

"These are the skeletal remains of my ancestors! Since you've disturbed their peace, you leave them with no choice but to kill you!" Karl replied and waved at the skeletons, prompting them to charge at Jared.

Jared tried launching two powerful gusts of wind at the skeletons, but the attacks simply went right through their bones without doing any damage.

Karl burst out laughing. "Hahaha! It's useless! They're already dead, so they're not afraid of your puny attacks!"

One of the skeletons ran up to Jared and clawed at his chest, cutting through his skin instantly.

What? Their attacks can go right through Golem Body?

Jared's expression turned solemn as he stared at the bleeding wound on his chest.

"Very well, then. If you're going to use magecraft, then I shall respond in kind!" he said while conjuring up blue flames in his hands.

The blue flames were exuding an eerie aura as they danced about in his palms.

Moments later, Jared channeled the Power of Dragons into the flames and caused them to increase in intensity.

"If physical attacks won't work on these skeletons, then maybe spiritual fire will..." Jared mumbled as he started casting an arcane array, much to Karl's dismay.

What? Not only does Jared know magecraft, but he's also able to control spiritual fire? Only alchemy masters are capable of such a feat! Could it be that Jared is an alchemy master? Why do I feel like he knows everything?

The look on Karl's face turned gloomy at the thought of that.

The next thing he knew, Jared sent waves of arcane arrays out with a pushing motion.

The spiritual fire enveloped the skeletons and devoured everything it came into contact with.

"W-What is this?"

Karl was so terrified by the spiritual fire's power that he backed off immediately.

He felt like his soul was being burned in the pits of hell simply by being near the flames.

The skeletons put up a brief struggle in the flames before being reduced to piles of ashes that blew away in the wind.

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Up In Flames

As waves of despair swirled within him, an ashen-faced Karl gazed hopelessly at the scene before him.

"How unfilial of you to mobilize your ancestors remains," Jared scoffed coldly. "What else do you have? Bring it on!"

"This isn't over!"

Karl's eyes bulged. With a final roar, the energy that had been flowing swiftly out of him stopped instantly. In the next second, his body began to inflate at an alarming rate.

Jared knew at a glance that Karl was about to self-destruct.

The self-destruction of a Martial Arts Grandmaster close to Top Level would be even more forceful than an aerial bomb! The blast would wipe out all life within a hundred miles radius!

Jared hastened to intercept him. He immediately conjured up another spark of spiritual fire and hurled it at Karl.

His eyes glittering with hatred, Karl did not attempt to dodge it.

Boom!

The spiritual fire engulfed Karl. In an instant, he and everything in his vicinity was set aflame.

Being spiritual fire, mere water cannot put it out.

"Argh!"

The intense blaze caused Karl to scream in agony.

However, the swirling aura within him did not diminish in the slightest. It continued to gather as his body swelled even more.

Jared waved both fists and sent out the Power of Dragons, which caused the spiritual fire to burn even more fiercely.

He could not allow Karl to pull off his self-destruct, for he was aware that even if it did not kill him, he would sustain serious injuries.

The air sizzled with the sound of burning flesh.

Karl's screams grew fainter. Soon, his aura began to diminish.

In the end, he slumped to the ground like a deflated balloon.

As the spiritual fire continued to eat away at Karl, he rolled on the ground in agony.

"Kill me quickly, please," he moaned, wanting nothing more than to die at that moment.

Jared watched Karl coldly, his gaze distant and cruel. He was never one to show his enemies any mercy.

Karl soon fell completely silent. Only a blackened body was left behind after the last embers of the spiritual fire flickered out.

With Karl dead and Gardner Manor reduced to mere rubble, only Pentacarna Tower remained at full height, surrounded by an imposing aura.

Jared stood before Pentacarna Tower and felt an overwhelming sense of humility.

"What an amazing artifact," he lamented to himself. "It would be wonderful if I could take it with me."

With such a miraculous building to cultivate in, my progress would probably accelerate at an unimaginable speed. As they say, "An hour inside the tower is equivalent to a whole day outside."

Alas, the Pentacarna Tower was too large for Jared to take with him. There was also no way he could fit it in his Storage Ring.

Having been locked in Pentacarna Tower at night, Jared emerged merely hours later, only to realize that it was day and three days had already passed.

If that's the case, a day's worth of cultivation within the Tower would equate to a month outside!

Sparing another reluctant gaze at Pentacarna Tower, there was nothing for Jared to do except leave to seek Lizbeth.

I'll come back here when I get the chance and try to convert this estate into my turf.

By extending his spiritual sense, Jared immediately located Lizbeth and hurried over to her.

She was frantically searching for Joshua at that moment.

"So, what happened to that guy, Jared?" Lizbeth asked urgently at his approach.

"Dead," Jared said simply.

Lizbeth was not surprised to hear about Karl's death as she knew he was not a match for Jared at his current powers.

She huffed, "Urgh! I can't believe I managed to let that old fellow slip away! I would have killed him already if it weren't for his familiarity with the terrain."

Lizbeth was livid.

"He's only a servant. Let him run," Jared consoled softly before adding, "We should head back. Everyone at home must be worried sick that we've been here for several days."

Read A Man Like None Other & The Mans Decree Chapter 1100

A Man Like None Other & The Mans Decree Chapter 1100

Are You Lying

Aware that Theodore and Rayleigh must have been worried about him over the past few days, Jared and Lizbeth hastened to the airport.

At that exact moment, Skylar was walking out of the airport, flanked by his men as they arrived at Xenhall.

Both men were at the same place and at the same time but they did not notice each other.

Jared's brow creased for a moment. Although he could not see Skylar in the crowd, he recognized the latter's aura as one he knew well.

"What is it, Jared?" Lizbeth asked when she saw Jared stopping in his tracks.

"Oh, nothing."

Jared glanced around him before shaking his head and heading straight into the airport.

Meanwhile, Skylar and his men arrived outside the airport. He glanced at the road outside and scowled when he did not see his expected reception.

"This Baron of the Northwest is too much, Mr. Norton," remarked a subordinate beside Skylar. "How dare he neglect to send a car for you when he knows you're coming?"

Skylar said nothing, visibly displeased.

At that moment, an old man stepped out urgently from the passenger side of a taxi that had screeched to a halt before Skylar. It was none other than the man who escaped Lizbeth's grasp, Joshua.

He peered about warily after alighting the vehicle before addressing Skylar, "Excuse me, are you Mr. Norton?"

Skylar swept his gaze up and down Joshua before nodding.

Joshua heaved a long sigh of relief. "I am the butler of the Gardners, Mr. Norton," he explained hastily. "I'm here to receive you."

"How brazen of the Gardners to receive Mr. Norton in a taxi!" Skylar's subordinate growled indignantly.

Joshua looked uncomfortable. "There's something you need to know, Mr. Norton," he said quickly. "Jared is currently on a massacre at the Gardner residence. I barely managed to escape just so I could come and receive you, Mr. Norton, and I have no idea how my master is doing."

"What's going on?" Skylar demanded, his expression frosty. "Karl told me Jared was captured. What happened? Are you luring me into a trap?"

"Not at all!" Joshua explained with a flurry of agitated gestures. "We wouldn't dream of lying to you, Mr. Norton. Mr. Gardner had indeed locked Jared in Pentacarna Tower, but he had somehow escaped. I reckoned Mr. Gardner is dueling with him this instant."

"What do we do now, Mr. Norton?" asked Skylar's subordinates quietly.

The news of Jared's escape and engagement in a fight with Karl made Skylar hesitate, as his brash arrival would definitely force a confrontation with Jared.

Despite joining forces, Skylar and Karl still failed to beat Jared back at Dragon Island. Skylar was concerned that he would not be able to hold his own against Jared if he went.

After all, Jared had just won a battle against Edgar, the most talented fighter of our generation. He even managed to force Warren to burn his blood essence.

Skylar did not know the extent of Jared's power, so it would be disadvantageous if he were to rush into conflict with the man.

After a brief consideration, Skylar gestured to his men. "We're going back."

Joshua panicked when he saw Skylar turning away and hastened to block the latter. "Jared would not be able to beat Mr. Gardner, Mr. Norton. After all, Mr. Gardner has in his possession the Pentacarna Tower—a relic passed down from antiquity. An hour of cultivation within the tower is equivalent to a whole day outside!"

He went on after securing Skylar's attention. "Mr. Gardner has relied on the power of this tower to become Baron of the Northwest. Right now, only he can activate Pentacarna Tower. If you could join Mr. Gardner to kill Jared, I don't think Mr. Gardner would keep the secrets of Pentacarna Tower to himself."

Skylar froze at those words before turning to gaze at Joshua with disbelief. "There exists a treasure like that? You're not lying to me, are you?"