

A WARRIOR UNDEFEATABLE/

Read A Man Like None Other Chapter 2831

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2831-Hearing the elderly judge's question, Gregory and the others were also at a loss for what to do.

What are we going to say? If we announce that the verdict is void, Roderick will take advantage of the situation and claim that Jipsdale is not fair and thorough enough to have even botched the announcement of the results. However, it would be unfair to Jared for us to announce that the verdict is valid and let Roderick take first place, as Jared's Focus Pill is many times better than Roderick's.

While the judges were plunged into a dilemma, Roderick was still shouting in an effort to instigate the crowd.

At that moment, Viola stepped forward. "I have an idea, Mr. Stark, but I'm not sure if it'll work."

"Go ahead. Tell us," Gregory said at once.

The elderly judge, too, leaned over to hear what Viola had in mind.

"Since the verdict has already been announced, let's proclaim Roderick victorious! However, this won't be the final verdict. We can add another round and let that be the deciding factor. The venue and rules of the trial will be decided by the Alchemist Fair of Jipsdale, so even if Roderick protests, there's nothing he can do about it," Viola told them her plan.

"That's a good idea. This way will both guarantee the prestige of the judges and the impartiality of the Alchemist Fair!"

The elderly judge nodded approvingly.

Gregory nodded eagerly as well. "That's a good idea. We'll give it a go!"

"How could you change the rules just like that, Master? It's not fair. The rules were laid down a long time ago, and now you're adding another round. Isn't that cheating?"

Pearl was displeased to hear that as she was hoping she and Roderick would go away together upon his victory.

“Hold your tongue! I will definitely get to the bottom of this. If I find out that you have indeed colluded with Roderick, you will be in for a world of trouble,” Gregory said with a vicious glare at Pearl.

As Pearl fell silent, Ghaylen said, “What will be the test for the additional round?”

The crowd fell silent upon hearing Ghaylen’s question, as the additional round was so newly added that they had had no time to even consider its content.

“It doesn’t matter to me. Let Roderick suggest whatever he wants to compete in. I want him to know that he will never win with despicable tactics,” Jared stated confidently.

“All right, then. We’ll see what Roderick has to say.”

The elderly judge nodded before returning to the judges’ table.

“After discussing with the other judges, we have decided that the verdict will remain in effect, seeing as they have spoken,” he announced loudly. “The victor in this contest is Roderick.”

Roderick leaped up excitedly at those words. “Hah! I won! I’m number one! I can finally meet with the count of Jipsdale. Oh, I can’t wait. I wonder what the special reward would be?”

However, the elderly judge spoke again, interrupting Roderick’s victory dance. “However, since there will be a special reward offered this year, the third round is not the last. You need to go through a fourth.”

Roderick froze at the elderly judge’s proclamation. “How could there be a fourth round?” he yelled furiously. “There never was one before. Are you trying to play me for a fool?”

In response, the elderly judge glared at Roderick. “The rules of the Alchemist Fair’s competition are decided by Jipsdale. All you have to do is turn and leave if you refuse to accept them. We won’t force you to stay. If you want to participate in the competition, then you must abide by our rules. I hope you understand.”

“Did I win for nothing, then?” Roderick asked, displeased.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2832-“Of course not. The victor of this round has the privilege of selecting the next category and setting the rules. It’s a significant advantage for the winner,” the elderly judge clarified.

Upon hearing that, Roderick grinned. This condition was entirely acceptable to him.

With the ability to dictate the next round’s content and establish the rules, Roderick naturally intended to select something that would work to his advantage.

Everyone else nodded in approval when they heard this rule. The winner of the third round would be able to set the direction and rules for the fourth round!

“I can set any rule I want, right?” Roderick asked.

“Of course. Anything is fine as long as they are related to alchemy,” the elderly judge affirmed with a nod.

Roderick declared, “Very well. I propose a competition in pill crafting with no restrictions. We can each use our own pill cauldron. The winner will be determined by the speed in producing the pill and its quality.”

Upon hearing this, the elderly judge turned around to glance behind him. If there were no restrictions on the pill cauldrons used, the difference between utilizing a specialized cauldron and an ordinary one would yield significantly distinct results.

With a specialized cauldron, even a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist could potentially craft pills of a higher level than their own proficiency!

The quality and speed of pill creation could be heavily influenced by the type of pill cauldron used, independent of the alchemist’s personal skill level.

“Roderick, this seems a bit unfair. It’s common knowledge that you possess a spiritual cauldron, which is the reason for your rapid improvement. Competing against Mr. Chance using a spiritual cauldron doesn’t seem fair,” Gregory protested with a furrowed brow.

Roderick erupted into laughter. “Fair? The world itself is unfair. Yes, I do own a spiritual cauldron, but I’m not preventing him from using one. I won’t even

begrudge him if he has a specialized cauldron. The question is, does he have one? I have the right to dictate the terms of the next round, so I'll naturally choose what gives me the best advantage," he asserted smugly.

Gregory glared at him angrily. "You're despicable!"

At that moment, Pearl came to Roderick's defense from the sidelines. "I agree with Roderick," she chimed in. "He has the privilege to set the rules for the next round, so it's only fair for him to ensure they're favorable for him."

"Shut up!" Gregory glowered at Pearl. He couldn't help but despise his disciple, who had brought nothing but shame to him.

There were many excellent men in the world, but Pearl had to fall in love with someone as despicable as Roderick.

As her mentor, Gregory couldn't help but feel dismayed.

Right then, Jared spoke up. "If that's what you want, then let's compete. Perhaps I am also in possession of a spiritual cauldron."

Viola, Ghaylen, and the others struggled to contain their laughter from the sidelines as they were well aware that Jared possessed the Divine Cauldron.

Roderick, the fool, has set a rule that puts him at the most disadvantage!

They couldn't help but imagine how Roderick would react when Jared pulled out the Divine Cauldron later.

"Punk, I can't believe you accepted my challenge. I don't blame you, though. You must have not seen a spiritual cauldron before, right?" Roderick asked.

He waved his hand, and the void trembled.

With that, an emerald-colored cauldron materialized on the stage.

The spiritual cauldron bore intricate carvings of assorted herbs and emitted a soft, gentle glow.

Following the appearance of the spiritual cauldron, a subtle herbal fragrance wafted through the vicinity. The cauldron exuded an ancient aura of its own.

It was clear that the spiritual cauldron was ancient. Everyone couldn't help but wonder where Roderick found it.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2833-"So, this is a spiritual cauldron. Impressive! If I had that in my possession, I could craft a Fifth Level Top Tier pill," someone marveled.

His companion retorted, "You're too modest. If this spiritual cauldron were mine, I could unquestionably concoct a Sixth Level pill. Since Roderick is a Fifth Level Low Tier alchemist, I'm curious about the level of pill he'll be able to produce with this spiritual cauldron."

All eyes were fixed on Roderick's spiritual cauldron with a tinge of envy, including Gregory and others in the audience.

Roderick took satisfaction in being the recipient of everyone's covetous glances.

"Okay. Since both sides have agreed, we will proceed. You will both use your own cauldrons to craft any pills! Jipsdale will provide the herbs you need. Please make the preparations now!" the elderly judge announced.

Upon hearing this, the crowd turned their attention to Jared, eager to catch a glimpse of his pill cauldron.

However, Jared's hands remained empty. He didn't take out his pill cauldron.

"Jared, why haven't you unveiled your pill cauldron? Do you intend to compete against me without one?" Roderick inquired with curiosity.

Jared replied, "I'm concerned that you might flee in terror upon witnessing my pill cauldron, so I'll allow you to start the pill-crafting process first."

The elderly judge turned to Jared and issued a reminder, "Dear contestant, we have a time constraint, and both competitors must begin simultaneously. The competition will commence soon, so are you sure you won't take out your pill cauldron?"

Jared responded, "Let the competition begin now. If I don't give him more time, I'm concerned it might be perceived as me bullying him."

Roderick declared with a smug grin, “Jared, don’t get ahead of yourself. I’ll have you know that I intend to craft a Seventh Level pill this time. If you can’t match that, leave the stage immediately! Creating a Fifth Level Top Tier pill doesn’t give you the right to be arrogant. I’ll make sure you experience the bitterness of a resounding defeat!”

Jared replied, “Fine, then. If you’re crafting a Seventh Level pill, I’ll do the same.”

Hearing that, Roderick burst out laughing. “Are you serious? How are you going to craft a Seventh Level pill? You don’t even have a pill cauldron.”

Jared’s lips curved. “Just leave me be. Even if I poop a Seventh Level pill out, that’s none of your business.

Roderick was caught off guard by the retort. His expression darkened as he proclaimed, “You won’t understand your mistake until it’s too late, will you? Judge, let’s commence the competition. I’ll demonstrate the prowess of my spiritual cauldron!”

He didn’t want to waste more time talking to Jared anymore.

The elderly judge cast a glance at Jared and discerned that the latter had no intention of revealing his pill cauldron. Therefore, he waved his hand and declared, “The competition begins now!”

Upon hearing the signal, Roderick swiftly chose several medicinal herbs from the selection provided by Jipsdale. Following the recipe for the Seventh Level pill, he placed all the herbs into his spiritual cauldron, initiating the pill crafting process.

A spiritual fire ignited within the spiritual cauldron, causing it to emanate a brilliant glow before a dense herbal aroma wafted through the vicinity.

The onlookers observed Roderick in silence as he crafted the pill. Meanwhile, Jared remained unfazed, displaying no indication of commencing the pill-crafting process. Instead, he closely monitored Roderick’s actions.

“Why isn’t Jared doing anything? Does he have a trump card or something?”

“Nonsense! I believe he’s conceded defeat and is intentionally trying to provoke Roderick. When Roderick unveiled his spiritual cauldron, Jared realized he’d lose. That’s why he’s acting so arrogantly.”

Everyone assumed that Jared was putting up an act and that Roderick would definitely win this round.

Pearl was inwardly delighted. Let’s see how long Jared’s act can last. It seems that Roderick will win for sure!

“What is Mr. Chance doing? Is he admitting defeat?” Gregory demanded.

He grew anxious as Jared remained unmoving.

In the end, Gregory even took out his own pill cauldron. While it couldn’t match Roderick’s spiritual cauldron, it was superior to ordinary pill cauldrons.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2834-Gregory had initially thought that Jared was not doing anything due to the lack of a pill cauldron.

“Mr. Stark, don’t worry. Mr. Chance hasn’t started yet because he’s confident.” Ghaylen intervened when he saw Gregory about to lend his pill cauldron to Jared.

“Hey, this is the most critical part of the competition. We can’t afford to be careless! If Mr. Chance doesn’t win first place, I’ll feel really bad. It’s all because of me…” Gregory blamed himself, his face filled with self-reproach.

If he hadn’t been manipulated, Jared wouldn’t have ended up in this fourth round of the competition.

Ghaylen patted Gregory on the shoulder, trying to calm him down. Hence, Gregory had no choice but to sit back down.

Meanwhile, within Roderick’s spiritual cauldron, the spiritual fire surged. A medicinal aroma wafted in the air as the flames danced and shifted continuously,

Strands of aura continually swirled around the spiritual cauldron, indicating an extremely fast alchemical process was happening within.

However, Jared remained calm, merely watching Roderick intently.

Roderick felt slightly unnerved by Jared's persistent gaze and said, "Why do you keep staring at me? If you don't have a pill cauldron and can't craft a Seventh Level pill, just admit defeat already and save us all some time."

"Who told you that I can't craft it? I'm just not in the mood to start now. If I can craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes, wouldn't that disgrace you?" Jared replied with a cold smirk.

Hearing Jared's confident words, Roderick retorted, "Kid, stop bragging. I've already completed half of my Seventh Level pill. Even if you start now, you won't catch up to me! Crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes is an outrageous claim. If you truly manage to craft one that quickly, I'll not only bow down to you, but I'll also give you my spiritual cauldron. If you fail, you'll need to bow to me three times. How about that?"

Jared's eyes brightened at Roderick's proposal. "It's a deal. Can I trust your words, though?"

"A real man keeps his word. There are so many witnesses here. How could I not keep my word?" Roderick affirmed.

As Jared and Roderick unexpectedly began to bet on the arena, the others also became increasingly exhilarated.

However, they all believed Jared was merely boasting. After all, who could craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes?

"This young man's spiritual sense is impressive, but he's too young. Only someone so young would say something like that and dare make such a bet," the elderly judge commented, shaking his head repeatedly.

Initially, he admired Jared for being able to craft such a potent Focus Pill at his age. He even went as far as considering Jared a prodigy.

However, Jared's penchant for boasting was a flaw.

Gregory also grew anxious. He really wanted to stop Jared as he thought the latter shouldn't be betting against Roderick!

"Since you're true to your word, I'll give it a try," Jared said.

With that, he casually made a gesture.

His Divine Cauldron flew out from his Storage Ring before landing on the stage.

“What’s that? A cauldron?”

When Roderick’s gaze fell upon Jared’s Divine Cauldron, a cold smirk curled his lips.

Jared’s Divine Cauldron was pitch-black and devoid of any luster. It resembled an ordinary scorched iron pot.

The onlookers couldn’t help but mock it upon seeing the Divine Cauldron.

“D*mn, what is that? No wonder he didn’t want to show it. It’s freaking embarrassing!”

“It can’t even compare to the cauldrons provided by Jipsdale for the competition. Isn’t that really just a rusty old pot?”

“He’s so sentimental about this cr*ppy pill cauldron that he still hasn’t thrown it away. How laughable!”

Laughter rippled through the crowd as they poked fun at Jared. Even Gregory’s expression soured when he saw Jared unveil his Divine Cauldron.

Meanwhile, the elderly judge’s eyes widened in astonishment as he caught sight of the Divine Cauldron.

With just one glance, he discerned that Jared’s cauldron was far from ordinary.

Its exterior was deliberately roughed up by Jared.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2835-Unperturbed by the ridicule, Jared paid no mind to everyone else. He flicked his finger, and a surge of spiritual fire kindled within the Divine Cauldron.

Witnessing this, Roderick quickened his pace. His pill was now over halfway complete. Determined to outpace Jared, he pressed on.

As for Jared’s claim of crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes, Roderick simply didn’t believe it. That was utterly impossible!

As the seconds ticked away, all eyes remained fixated on Jared's pill cauldron. They were eager to witness if he could genuinely yield a Seventh Level pill within the given time.

However, after five minutes elapsed, Jared's cauldron remained dormant. Sporadic bursts of spiritual fire were the only visible activity.

"It's been so long, and there's been zero progress. Even if he was given hundreds of minutes, I doubt he'd succeed, let alone a few minutes."

"Crafting a Seventh Level pill isn't child's play. I bet this guy can't pull it off despite his boasts."

"Do you see that? There's been no change in his pill cauldron at all. Does he really think he can make a Seventh Level pill like this?"

Mockery swelled from the crowd.

Even Gregory was frowning slightly as he struggled to grasp Jared's motive for participating in Roderick's wager.

Five minutes had lapsed, yet the cauldron remained still. Jared's chances of crafting the pill in minutes—as he claimed—seemed grim.

Soon, Viola and Ghaylen grew worried as well. Though Jared possessed the Divine Cauldron so crafting a Seventh Level pill was entirely possible, making it within minutes still posed a considerable challenge.

Just as the majority began to doubt that Jared could pull off crafting a Seventh Level pill in mere minutes, a burst of flames erupted from his Divine Cauldron.

A scarlet pill soared from the flames, landing in Jared's hand soon after.

"The Seventh Level pill is ready. Judges, please inspect it."

Jared nonchalantly tossed the pill, and it landed in front of the elderly judge.

Gathering around, the elderly judge, Gregory, and the other elders scrutinized the Seventh Level pill crafted by Jared.

Soon, the elderly judge announced, "This is a Seventh Level Scarlet Heat Pill, and it's nearly flawless. It was crafted in just seven minutes..."

With those words, doubt transformed into awe on everyone's faces.

How could a mere Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist like Jared craft a nearly flawless Seventh Level pill when using a lousy pill cauldron? Besides that, doing so in seven minutes defied all logic.

"Impossible! I don't believe it! How can a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist whip up a Seventh Level Pill in such little time without the help of a good pill cauldron? This must be a sham. You're all in cahoots and cheating the system!" Roderick yelled in disbelief.

He refused to believe that Jared could accomplish creating a Seventh Level Pill in mere minutes, especially with such a shabby pill cauldron.

"Roderick, are you saying you don't trust us?" Gregory's face darkened.

“Yes! I don’t trust you! You and Jared are in cahoots! Otherwise, why would you introduce this fourth round? It’s rigged in his favor. What he crafted isn’t even a Seventh Level Pill!” Roderick remained resolute and defiant.

“Fine, we’ll give you the opportunity to inspect it. You can come up and check for yourself to see if it’s really a Seventh Level Pill,” Gregory said loudly.

“Sure, I’ll inspect it, but I’ll invite more people to do the same to ensure there’s no foul play,” Roderick snapped. He then chose a few more volunteers from the crowd.

Those who came to watch were all alchemists and could differentiate pills easily.

The chosen individuals came up to the judges and began their assessment of Jared’s Seventh Level pill.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2836-After a thorough examination, the pill refined by Jared was indeed of Seventh Level Top Tier quality, not to mention nearly perfect. There was no mistake.

“Mr. Gale, there’s no mistake. This is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill,” they said to Roderick.

Roderick stared at the pill, his face flushed crimson. If I admit it, that means I’ll lose. Not only will I not win the first place, but I’ll also have to kneel before Jared and give away my spiritual cauldron!

“Although this is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, I suspect Jared didn’t refine it. You all must’ve tampered with the process and prepared the pill in advance! Otherwise, how could Jared be so calm at the beginning? Moreover, with that broken pill cauldron of his, it’s unrealistic to think he could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill. The cauldron would’ve surely exploded as it couldn’t possibly withstand the might of such a high-level pill! Everyone, Jared is just a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist, yet he managed to refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill using that shabby cauldron within a few minutes! This is completely unfeasible. They’ve clearly conspired to deceive me. I will not accept this outcome!” Roderick began to stir everyone’s emotions, trying to use the crowd to pressure the judges.

“That’s right. I don’t think that pill cauldron can produce a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, can it?”

“There’s no way a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill within a few minutes without the enhancement from a good pill cauldron!”

“Is there really a scheme involved? Don’t tell me even Jipsdale’s Alchemist Fair is now secretly manipulating the competition’s outcome, too?”

Everyone clamored because they, too, found it hard to believe that Jared could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill in just a few minutes.

The turn of events left Gregory and the other judges stumped. The pill was indeed crafted by Jared, yet everyone else was unconvinced, so what else could they do?

“Roderick, how are you certain that my pill cauldron is junk? What if my cauldron is a specialized cauldron that is more advanced than your spiritual cauldron?” Jared couldn’t help but sneer at Roderick’s demeanor.

“Pfft! That sh*tty cauldron of yours isn’t even comparable to my spiritual cauldron, yet you dare claim it’s a specialized cauldron. What else are you capable of except boasting? If what you possess is genuinely a specialized cauldron, I’ll grovel at your feet and even address you as my dad!”

Following his words, Roderick spat on the floor, refusing to believe Jared’s grimy cauldron was a specialized cauldron.

“Forget it. I don’t want a son like you.” Jared scoffed.

“Young man, don’t keep us in suspense. Why don’t you clean up your magical item and show us its true nature?” At that moment, the elderly judge from Jipsdale slowly spoke.

Jared glanced at the elderly judge, realizing the latter had recognized his Divine Cauldron, so he nodded.

He walked up to his Divine Cauldron and gently tapped on it.

Immediately afterward, the blackened surface of the Divine Cauldron gradually cleared up, turning into a yellow-bronze color. A glow emanated from the inside of the cauldron, and the words “Divine Cauldron” became clearly visible.

The sudden change stunned everyone. Even Roderick was staring blankly at the Divine Cauldron.

“Divine Cauldron. This is the ancient Divine Cauldron, the sacred item in alchemy!” the elderly judge exclaimed in agitation upon laying his eyes on the Divine Cauldron’s true form.

Gregory and the others were also astounded, their eyes wide as they stared at the sight before them in utter astonishment.

The members of the crowd below the stage were equally dumbstruck, gazing at the Divine Cauldron in front of them with traces of excitement in their eyes.

Roderick’s body shuddered uncontrollably. Divine Cauldron. This is the Divine Cauldron. It’s countless times more advanced than my spiritual cauldron! But I don’t understand. How could Jared possess a sacred item like this?

“Impossible. This is impossible!” Roderick shook his head frantically, unable to believe what was transpiring before his eyes.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2837-“Roderick, the truth has been laid out right before your eyes. You’ve already lost. What else do you have to say?” the elderly judge questioned Roderick coldly.

“How is this possible? Why is this happening?” Roderick paced in circles as if he had lost his mind.

“I now declare that the champion of this Alchemist Fair is Jared!” the elderly judge announced loudly.

With the result being made official, the audience erupted into applause.

“We have a rising star in the world of alchemists!”

“Divine Cauldron! This is the first time I’ve seen a specialized cauldron.”

“Even with the aid of the Divine Cauldron, I reckon there aren’t many people who can refine a Seventh Level pill within a few minutes.”

Everyone was now showering Jared with praises, no longer directing a word of ridicule or doubt at him.

“Roderick, the outcome has been decided. Isn’t it time for you to fulfill your promises?” Jared asked Roderick.

Roderick regarded Jared with a frosty gaze, his eyes filled with defiance. Nevertheless, he had undeniably lost.

“Jared, I jested earlier, so my words don’t count. Besides, there’s nothing stating that wagering is allowed during the Alchemist Fair’s competition.”

There was no way Roderick would kneel before Jared, much less give away his spiritual cauldron.

“You played me for a fool?” Jared narrowed his eyes.

“So what if I did? We’re in Jipsdale. Do you dare to lay a hand on me here?”

Roderick dared behave haughtily as the rules in Jipsdale forbade anyone from private dueling.

Taking in Roderick’s arrogant demeanor, Jared clenched his fists tightly.

“The rules of Jipsdale don’t allow anyone to start a fight except in an arena.

This is a platform to host an alchemy contest, so it’s also considered an arena,” the elderly judge piped up.

The elderly judge’s implication could not be more obvious. He was pointing out to Jared that since they were in the arena, Jared could disregard Jipsdale’s rules.

Needless to say, Jared understood the elderly judge’s words.

As soon as the elderly judge finished his sentence, Jared had already thrown a punch.

“How dare you trick me? I’ll make you pay!” Jared’s punch landed on Roderick’s abdomen, causing him to fall to the ground.

Considering Roderick’s strength, he was undoubtedly no match for Jared. Jared could effortlessly beat up Roderick.

He stepped forward, grasped Roderick's collar, and slapped the latter several times.

Roderick was utterly defenseless, and in no time, his face became bruised and swollen.

At the sight of Roderick getting beaten to a pulp, Pearl felt her heart ache and rushed forward, bellowing at Jared, "Jared, stop!"

"Get back here, Pearl!" Gregory immediately chided furiously when he saw Pearl was still trying to protect Roderick.

However, Pearl turned a deaf ear to Gregory's order and shielded Roderick. Jared wasn't going to indulge Pearl, so he casually shoved her aside with a wave of his hand. Then, he lifted Roderick and continued hitting him.

"I was wrong. Please stop beating me!" Roderick started begging for mercy.

"Kneel and apologize!" Jared commanded coldly.

Roderick fell to his knees with a thud and apologized sincerely to Jared.

"What about your spiritual cauldron?" Jared demanded.

"I'll gift it to you. You can have it. I don't want it anymore!" Gregory was traumatized by Jared's ruthlessness.

Looking at Roderick's cowardly demeanor, Jared waved his hand and said, "Get lost!"

Hearing that, Roderick swiftly got up to leave, but Pearl quickly stopped him.

"Roderick, didn't you say you'd take me with you? Let's go together."

Pearl knew only tough times awaited her if she remained there. After all, Gregory had already begun to doubt her.

"F*ck off! Who would leave with you? I lied to you. You should take a good look in the mirror. The sight of you disgusts me!" Roderick cursed maliciously before pushing Pearl to the ground.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2838-At that moment, Roderick laid all the blame on Pearl. He was convinced that she had not poisoned Jared. Otherwise, Jared wouldn't have performed so well today!

Pearl collapsed onto the ground, gazing at Roderick with disbelief. It was hard for her to fathom that the man she had shared an intimate moment with just the previous night would now forcefully push her aside, spin around, and depart without a trace of hesitation.

But he told me he loved me!

Observing Roderick's callous demeanor, Pearl instantly burst into tears. A moment later, however, a mixture of anger and bitterness shone in her eyes. Suddenly, she sprung to her feet and charged at Roderick, her grip locking around his thighs.

“Don’t you dare walk away from me like this! Explain yourself! You manipulated me, and now you’re just going to leave me behind?” Pearl’s grasp on his thighs tightened as she shouted. “You handed me the poison and told me to use it on my master, and now you’re acting as if you have nothing to do with it? If it weren’t for me, would you have even won the third round of the competition? How can you be so heartless?”

Roderick’s face drained of color when he heard that. “What nonsense are you talking about? When did I ever ask you to poison others? Don’t you dare accuse me!”

After uttering those words, he lifted his hand, poised to strike her head, completely disregarding the passionate night they once shared.

Anyone harboring dishonest intentions during the Alchemist Fair held in Jipsdale would face grave consequences for their cheating.

Roderick was prepared to kill Pearl right then and there, all to prevent her from divulging anything.

However, just as Roderick was on the verge of ending Pearl’s life, Gregory abruptly intervened, effectively blocking his action.

“Roderick, do you truly intend to commit murder in front of so many people? You better explain yourself. Otherwise, don’t think you can leave here unscathed!” Gregory’s voice was stern and unwavering as he addressed Roderick.

“What is there for me to explain? I didn’t do anything! It’s your disciple who’s making baseless accusations,” Roderick retorted. “She seduced me, but I didn’t reciprocate her feelings. Are you Solaris Sect folks trying to push me into marrying her?”

Roderick was determined to insist he had nothing to do with the matter.

Shooting daggers at Roderick, Pearl sank into despair. She sobbed uncontrollably as she laid out the full truth. “Master, I’m so sorry. Roderick gave me a packet of poison and instructed me to brew coffee for all of you. It was the poison’s influence that clouded your judgment earlier as it damages one’s spiritual sense. He promised that if I did as he asked, he would take me away with him.”

Upon hearing the revelation, the crowd looked upon Roderick with a mix of disdain and disgust, shaking their heads and gossiping about his terrible acts.

There was nothing scary about losing in the Alchemist Fair. After all, disparities in power among contestants were inevitable. Yet, stooping to deceitful tactics for victory was nothing short of shameful.

Upon hearing that, the elderly judge leaped forward to confront Roderick.

“Roderick, how dare you cheat using such dishonorable tactics at the Alchemist Fair? You’ve gone overboard!”

Confronted by the elder's wrathful glare and the furious expressions of Gregory and the rest, Roderick found himself breaking out in a cold sweat. "I'm innocent! She's accusing me of something I didn't do! I never asked her to do anything! I've been framed!" Roderick desperately shook his head while explaining.

"We just need to do a search on your body to know if you're innocent," Jared proposed. "After all, if you did do it, you must still have the poison with you!"

"Yes. Search him!" Ghaylen concurred.

Gregory advanced toward Roderick to conduct the search. However, with a swift move, Roderick dispersed a white mist and vanished into the distance.

The elderly judge snorted and said, "Do you think you can run away?"

Following that, he flicked his sleeve, prompting a startled scream from the fleeing Roderick. In a shocking turn of events, Roderick's body swelled up before exploding into a mist of blood.

As the crowd witnessed Roderick's gruesome demise, a somber silence enveloped the scene. Everyone present understood the gravity of upholding Jipsdale's rules. Transgressing them would lead to such a fate.

There was no discernible emotion on Pearl's face at Roderick's horrible death. Then, she knelt before Gregory and pleaded, "Master, I know I've committed a grave mistake. Please forgive me."

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2839-Gregory's countenance was a mask of anger as he looked down at Pearl kneeling on the ground. However, he maintained his silence, his eyes turning to his fellow elders instead.

"Gregory, the reputation of Solaris Sect cannot be tarnished," one of the elders said.

Another chimed in, "That's right! We came close to making a grave error and jeopardizing the reputation of Solaris Sect!"

"It's a disgrace for our sect to have such a disciple."

Having spoken their minds, the elders turned around and walked away.

As for Pearl's punishment, they no longer concerned themselves with it. They left it to Gregory to decide.

"Master, I've done all of you wrong. Please forgive me this one time! I'm genuinely sorry!" Pearl continuously banged her head on the ground while confessing her mistake.

Gregory knitted his brows. It was clear that he was in a dilemma.

In the end, he raised his hand and struck Pearl with a palm.

The strike was not meant to take her life—it was to nullify her cultivation.

"You've been my disciple for many years, and now I'm taking everything I've taught you back. You must leave this place right now. Go wherever you wish

to go. From now on, I'm no longer your master," Gregory uttered, avoiding Pearl's gaze by shutting his eyes.

"Master! Master, I'm powerless now without my cultivation. I'll die for sure if I leave this place! Where else can I go? Please don't cast me away. I'll stay to serve you for the rest of my life!" Pearl begged him.

Yet, Gregory turned away without sparing another glance in her direction.

"Jared, please! Please speak on my behalf. I know what I did was wrong. I won't repeat the same mistake again!" Pearl shifted her attention to Jared, hoping he could plead on her behalf.

Nonetheless, Jared's gaze remained devoid of compassion as he stared at the tearful Pearl kneeling on the ground.

"You reap what you sow. You can't blame anyone for this," he coldly stated.

Pearl continued to plead, but as Gregory's determination became evident and she realized there was no chance of her staying, she slowly rose to her feet and departed.

After a few steps, she turned back to cast a bitter glance at Jared and Gregory, her eyes brimming with resentment.

However, no one paid her any attention anymore. With her cultivation stripped away, once she ventured beyond Jipsdale's borders, she would likely fall prey to the beasts of the wild.

"This scandal emerged due to my inadequate guidance of my disciple. I'm so sorry, Mr. Chance. I must take my leave now." With a grim expression, Gregory was about to leave.

"Wait a minute, Mr. Stark!" Jared immediately called out.

"Is there anything else I can help you with, Mr. Chance?" Gregory asked.

"Mr. Stark, Roderick's spiritual cauldron holds no value for me, so I'd like to offer it to you. It might be important to you." With a wave of his hand, Jared summoned the spiritual cauldron over.

"B-But... I don't think that's appropriate!" Gregory exclaimed in astonishment. Given that his disciple had caused so much trouble, he had not expected Jared to offer him the spiritual cauldron.

"What's inappropriate about this? Take it," Jared responded with a faint smile. Gregory accepted the spiritual cauldron, his expression one of disbelief. "Mr. Chance, if Emerald Cauldron Sect ever requires assistance from Solaris Sect, we'll lend a hand without hesitation."

With that, Gregory departed with the spiritual cauldron. The rationale behind Jared's decision not to leave it for Viola or Ghaylen was rooted in his current affiliation with Emerald Cauldron Sect. Should the need ever arise, he could always utilize his Divine Cauldron.

In addition to that, Jared understood that his stay at Emerald Cauldron Sect was temporary. By entrusting the spiritual cauldron to Solaris Sect, he could

forge a lasting friendship with them. This partnership would remain advantageous even after Jared's eventual departure from Emerald Cauldron Sect and would ease the burdens on Viola.

Moreover, given Emerald Cauldron Sect's current strength, ensuring the safekeeping of the spiritual cauldron could have posed a challenge as it had the potential to attract calamity to them.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2840-After Gregory had left, the elderly judge handed Jared a token and said, "Here you go. You have won first place in this competition, so someone from Jipsdale will deliver the prizes to your house later. You may use this token to meet the count tomorrow."

Feeling curious about the special prize, Jared said, "Thank you, sir. Could you tell me about the special prize the count mentioned?"

"I'm sorry, but I don't know what it is either. You'll only find out after you meet the count," the elderly judge replied and leaped away immediately after.

Seeing as he wouldn't be getting his answer from the elderly judge, Jared had no choice but to return with Viola and the others.

Later that evening, people from Jipsdale showed up with all sorts of resources. Everyone's lips curled into wide smiles when they saw the mountain of resources in front of them.

Ghaylen and Viola then began cultivating using the resources received.

Jared had been planning on cultivating as well, but he saw Yuven spacing out in the yard and decided to approach him instead.

Yuven was unable to cultivate because his powers were suppressed.

He's probably worried about Ivasha and Imperial Beast City...

With that in mind, Jared walked up to Yuven and patted him on the shoulder.

"Don't worry! I'm sure the count will be able to help you with your poisoning tomorrow."

Yuven nodded. "Yeah."

The next day, Jared brought Viola and the others over to the count's residence, which was located in the middle of Jipsdale.

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There were tons of guards stationed all over the place. On top of that, Jared also noticed several arcane arrays around the building.

"What's with this high level of security? Is the count paranoid or something?"

Jared let out a chuckle when he saw the fortress-like defenses around the count's residence.

The guards immediately let them in the moment Jared brandished the token he received from the elderly judge yesterday.

Jared bumped into Hester shortly after he entered the residence.

It was as though he knew Jared and the others would come and was waiting there for them.

"Come with me," Hester said upon noticing them.

Jared and the others followed Hester through a series of doors before arriving at a shabby-looking, two-story house.

The entire count's residence looked so beautiful that it resembled a palace, so the shabby state of the house before them formed a huge contrast and stood out like a sore thumb.

Jared couldn't help but frown as he wondered if the count was living inside that old house.

"Wait here while I report your arrival," Hester stated before entering the house and closing the door behind him.

"Don't tell me the count lives here? This house looks ridiculously shabby!" Viola exclaimed in confusion while staring at the two-story house in front of them.

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“We don’t even know the count’s gender,” Ghaylen added curiously.

“Why would the count behave so mysteriously and stay in a place like this? Do you think the count has some kind of strange kink? It’ll be hard for us to escape if the count tries anything funny!” Yuven said worriedly.

“I don’t think so. I’ve never heard of anyone in Jipsdale being hurt by the count before. Besides, Jipsdale is pretty much a safe haven in these parts, so we shouldn’t be in any danger here,” Ghaylen replied.

While Ghaylen and the others chatted away, Jared remained completely silent as he stared at the old house and frowned from time to time.

“What’s wrong, Jared?” Viola asked when she noticed Jared’s expression.

“Do you guys find anything strange about this house?” Jared asked.

Viola shook her head. “No, not really. Apart from it being a little shabby, I don’t see anything strange about it.”

Ghaylen and Yuven, too, were unable to find anything strange after looking closely at the house.

“I feel as though this house is more of a container than a building. Also, there’s definitely an arcane array in this house. I felt a wave of fluctuating spiritual energy coming from inside when the door was opened. That typically comes from a Soul Nourishing Formation,” Jared explained with a frown.

Read A Man Like None Other Chapter 2832

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2832-“Of course not. The victor of this round has the privilege of selecting the next category and setting the rules. It’s a significant advantage for the winner,” the elderly judge clarified.

Upon hearing that, Roderick grinned. This condition was entirely acceptable to him.

With the ability to dictate the next round’s content and establish the rules, Roderick naturally intended to select something that would work to his advantage.

Everyone else nodded in approval when they heard this rule. The winner of the third round would be able to set the direction and rules for the fourth round!

“I can set any rule I want, right?” Roderick asked.

“Of course. Anything is fine as long as they are related to alchemy,” the elderly judge affirmed with a nod.

Roderick declared, "Very well. I propose a competition in pill crafting with no restrictions. We can each use our own pill cauldron. The winner will be determined by the speed in producing the pill and its quality."

Upon hearing this, the elderly judge turned around to glance behind him. If there were no restrictions on the pill cauldrons used, the difference between utilizing a specialized cauldron and an ordinary one would yield significantly distinct results.

With a specialized cauldron, even a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist could potentially craft pills of a higher level than their own proficiency!

The quality and speed of pill creation could be heavily influenced by the type of pill cauldron used, independent of the alchemist's personal skill level.

"Roderick, this seems a bit unfair. It's common knowledge that you possess a spiritual cauldron, which is the reason for your rapid improvement. Competing against Mr. Chance using a spiritual cauldron doesn't seem fair," Gregory protested with a furrowed brow.

Roderick erupted into laughter. "Fair? The world itself is unfair. Yes, I do own a spiritual cauldron, but I'm not preventing him from using one. I won't even begrudge him if he has a specialized cauldron. The question is, does he have one? I have the right to dictate the terms of the next round, so I'll naturally choose what gives me the best advantage," he asserted smugly.

Gregory glared at him angrily. "You're despicable!"

At that moment, Pearl came to Roderick's defense from the sidelines. "I agree with Roderick," she chimed in. "He has the privilege to set the rules for the next round, so it's only fair for him to ensure they're favorable for him."

"Shut up!" Gregory glowered at Pearl. He couldn't help but despise his disciple, who had brought nothing but shame to him.

There were many excellent men in the world, but Pearl had to fall in love with someone as despicable as Roderick.

As her mentor, Gregory couldn't help but feel dismayed.

Right then, Jared spoke up. "If that's what you want, then let's compete. Perhaps I am also in possession of a spiritual cauldron."

Viola, Ghaylen, and the others struggled to contain their laughter from the sidelines as they were well aware that Jared possessed the Divine Cauldron.

Roderick, the fool, has set a rule that puts him at the most disadvantage!

They couldn't help but imagine how Roderick would react when Jared pulled out the Divine Cauldron later.

"Punk, I can't believe you accepted my challenge. I don't blame you, though. You must have not seen a spiritual cauldron before, right?" Roderick asked.

He waved his hand, and the void trembled.

With that, an emerald-colored cauldron materialized on the stage.

The spiritual cauldron bore intricate carvings of assorted herbs and emitted a soft, gentle glow.

Following the appearance of the spiritual cauldron, a subtle herbal fragrance wafted through the vicinity. The cauldron exuded an ancient aura of its own.

It was clear that the spiritual cauldron was ancient. Everyone couldn't help but wonder where Roderick found it.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2833-"So, this is a spiritual cauldron. Impressive! If I had that in my possession, I could craft a Fifth Level Top Tier pill," someone marveled.

His companion retorted, "You're too modest. If this spiritual cauldron were mine, I could unquestionably concoct a Sixth Level pill. Since Roderick is a Fifth Level Low Tier alchemist, I'm curious about the level of pill he'll be able to produce with this spiritual cauldron."

All eyes were fixed on Roderick's spiritual cauldron with a tinge of envy, including Gregory and others in the audience.

Roderick took satisfaction in being the recipient of everyone's covetous glances.

"Okay. Since both sides have agreed, we will proceed. You will both use your own cauldrons to craft any pills! Jipsdale will provide the herbs you need. Please make the preparations now!" the elderly judge announced.

Upon hearing this, the crowd turned their attention to Jared, eager to catch a glimpse of his pill cauldron.

However, Jared's hands remained empty. He didn't take out his pill cauldron.

"Jared, why haven't you unveiled your pill cauldron? Do you intend to compete against me without one?" Roderick inquired with curiosity.

Jared replied, "I'm concerned that you might flee in terror upon witnessing my pill cauldron, so I'll allow you to start the pill-crafting process first."

The elderly judge turned to Jared and issued a reminder, "Dear contestant, we have a time constraint, and both competitors must begin simultaneously. The competition will commence soon, so are you sure you won't take out your pill cauldron?"

Jared responded, "Let the competition begin now. If I don't give him more time, I'm concerned it might be perceived as me bullying him."

Roderick declared with a smug grin, "Jared, don't get ahead of yourself. I'll have you know that I intend to craft a Seventh Level pill this time. If you can't match that, leave the stage immediately! Creating a Fifth Level Top Tier pill doesn't give you the right to be arrogant. I'll make sure you experience the bitterness of a resounding defeat!"

Jared replied, "Fine, then. If you're crafting a Seventh Level pill, I'll do the same."

Hearing that, Roderick burst out laughing. "Are you serious? How are you going to craft a Seventh Level pill? You don't even have a pill cauldron."

Jared's lips curved. "Just leave me be. Even if I poop a Seventh Level pill out, that's none of your business."

Roderick was caught off guard by the retort. His expression darkened as he proclaimed, "You won't understand your mistake until it's too late, will you? Judge, let's commence the competition. I'll demonstrate the prowess of my spiritual cauldron!"

He didn't want to waste more time talking to Jared anymore.

The elderly judge cast a glance at Jared and discerned that the latter had no intention of revealing his pill cauldron. Therefore, he waved his hand and declared, "The competition begins now!"

Upon hearing the signal, Roderick swiftly chose several medicinal herbs from the selection provided by Jipsdale. Following the recipe for the Seventh Level pill, he placed all the herbs into his spiritual cauldron, initiating the pill crafting process.

A spiritual fire ignited within the spiritual cauldron, causing it to emanate a brilliant glow before a dense herbal aroma wafted through the vicinity.

The onlookers observed Roderick in silence as he crafted the pill. Meanwhile, Jared remained unfazed, displaying no indication of commencing the pill-crafting process. Instead, he closely monitored Roderick's actions.

"Why isn't Jared doing anything? Does he have a trump card or something?"

"Nonsense! I believe he's conceded defeat and is intentionally trying to provoke Roderick. When Roderick unveiled his spiritual cauldron, Jared realized he'd lose. That's why he's acting so arrogantly."

Everyone assumed that Jared was putting up an act and that Roderick would definitely win this round.

Pearl was inwardly delighted. Let's see how long Jared's act can last. It seems that Roderick will win for sure!

"What is Mr. Chance doing? Is he admitting defeat?" Gregory demanded.

He grew anxious as Jared remained unmoving.

In the end, Gregory even took out his own pill cauldron. While it couldn't match Roderick's spiritual cauldron, it was superior to ordinary pill cauldrons.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2834-Gregory had initially thought that Jared was not doing anything due to the lack of a pill cauldron.

"Mr. Stark, don't worry. Mr. Chance hasn't started yet because he's confident." Ghaylen intervened when he saw Gregory about to lend his pill cauldron to Jared.

“Hey, this is the most critical part of the competition. We can’t afford to be careless! If Mr. Chance doesn’t win first place, I’ll feel really bad. It’s all because of me…” Gregory blamed himself, his face filled with self-reproach.

If he hadn’t been manipulated, Jared wouldn’t have ended up in this fourth round of the competition.

Ghaylen patted Gregory on the shoulder, trying to calm him down. Hence, Gregory had no choice but to sit back down.

Meanwhile, within Roderick’s spiritual cauldron, the spiritual fire surged. A medicinal aroma wafted in the air as the flames danced and shifted continuously,

Strands of aura continually swirled around the spiritual cauldron, indicating an extremely fast alchemical process was happening within.

However, Jared remained calm, merely watching Roderick intently.

Roderick felt slightly unnerved by Jared’s persistent gaze and said, “Why do you keep staring at me? If you don’t have a pill cauldron and can’t craft a Seventh Level pill, just admit defeat already and save us all some time.”

“Who told you that I can’t craft it? I’m just not in the mood to start now. If I can craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes, wouldn’t that disgrace you?” Jared replied with a cold smirk.

Hearing Jared’s confident words, Roderick retorted, “Kid, stop bragging. I’ve already completed half of my Seventh Level pill. Even if you start now, you won’t catch up to me! Crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes is an outrageous claim. If you truly manage to craft one that quickly, I’ll not only bow down to you, but I’ll also give you my spiritual cauldron. If you fail, you’ll need to bow to me three times. How about that?”

Jared’s eyes brightened at Roderick’s proposal. “It’s a deal. Can I trust your words, though?”

“A real man keeps his word. There are so many witnesses here. How could I not keep my word?” Roderick affirmed.

As Jared and Roderick unexpectedly began to bet on the arena, the others also became increasingly exhilarated.

However, they all believed Jared was merely boasting. After all, who could craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes?

“This young man’s spiritual sense is impressive, but he’s too young. Only someone so young would say something like that and dare make such a bet,” the elderly judge commented, shaking his head repeatedly.

Initially, he admired Jared for being able to craft such a potent Focus Pill at his age. He even went as far as considering Jared a prodigy.

However, Jared’s penchant for boasting was a flaw.

Gregory also grew anxious. He really wanted to stop Jared as he thought the latter shouldn’t be betting against Roderick!

“Since you’re true to your word, I’ll give it a try,” Jared said.

With that, he casually made a gesture.

His Divine Cauldron flew out from his Storage Ring before landing on the stage.

“What’s that? A cauldron?”

When Roderick’s gaze fell upon Jared’s Divine Cauldron, a cold smirk curled his lips.

Jared’s Divine Cauldron was pitch-black and devoid of any luster. It resembled an ordinary scorched iron pot.

The onlookers couldn’t help but mock it upon seeing the Divine Cauldron.

“D*mn, what is that? No wonder he didn’t want to show it. It’s freaking embarrassing!”

“It can’t even compare to the cauldrons provided by Jipsdale for the competition. Isn’t that really just a rusty old pot?”

“He’s so sentimental about this cr*ppy pill cauldron that he still hasn’t thrown it away. How laughable!”

Laughter rippled through the crowd as they poked fun at Jared. Even Gregory’s expression soured when he saw Jared unveil his Divine Cauldron.

Meanwhile, the elderly judge's eyes widened in astonishment as he caught sight of the Divine Cauldron.

With just one glance, he discerned that Jared's cauldron was far from ordinary.

Its exterior was deliberately roughed up by Jared.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2835-Unperturbed by the ridicule, Jared paid no mind to everyone else. He flicked his finger, and a surge of spiritual fire kindled within the Divine Cauldron.

Witnessing this, Roderick quickened his pace. His pill was now over halfway complete. Determined to outpace Jared, he pressed on.

As for Jared's claim of crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes, Roderick simply didn't believe it. That was utterly impossible!

As the seconds ticked away, all eyes remained fixated on Jared's pill cauldron. They were eager to witness if he could genuinely yield a Seventh Level pill within the given time.

However, after five minutes elapsed, Jared's cauldron remained dormant. Sporadic bursts of spiritual fire were the only visible activity.

"It's been so long, and there's been zero progress. Even if he was given hundreds of minutes, I doubt he'd succeed, let alone a few minutes."

"Crafting a Seventh Level pill isn't child's play. I bet this guy can't pull it off despite his boasts."

"Do you see that? There's been no change in his pill cauldron at all. Does he really think he can make a Seventh Level pill like this?"

Mockery swelled from the crowd.

Even Gregory was frowning slightly as he struggled to grasp Jared's motive for participating in Roderick's wager.

Five minutes had lapsed, yet the cauldron remained still. Jared's chances of crafting the pill in minutes—as he claimed—seemed grim.

Soon, Viola and Ghaylen grew worried as well. Though Jared possessed the Divine Cauldron so crafting a Seventh Level pill was entirely possible, making it within minutes still posed a considerable challenge.

Just as the majority began to doubt that Jared could pull off crafting a Seventh Level pill in mere minutes, a burst of flames erupted from his Divine Cauldron.

A scarlet pill soared from the flames, landing in Jared's hand soon after.

"The Seventh Level pill is ready. Judges, please inspect it."

Jared nonchalantly tossed the pill, and it landed in front of the elderly judge.

Gathering around, the elderly judge, Gregory, and the other elders scrutinized the Seventh Level pill crafted by Jared.

Soon, the elderly judge announced, "This is a Seventh Level Scarlet Heat Pill, and it's nearly flawless. It was crafted in just seven minutes..."

With those words, doubt transformed into awe on everyone's faces.

How could a mere Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist like Jared craft a nearly flawless Seventh Level pill when using a lousy pill cauldron? Besides that, doing so in seven minutes defied all logic.

"Impossible! I don't believe it! How can a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist whip up a Seventh Level Pill in such little time without the help of a good pill cauldron? This must be a sham. You're all in cahoots and cheating the system!" Roderick yelled in disbelief.

He refused to believe that Jared could accomplish creating a Seventh Level Pill in mere minutes, especially with such a shabby pill cauldron.

"Roderick, are you saying you don't trust us?" Gregory's face darkened.

"Yes! I don't trust you! You and Jared are in cahoots! Otherwise, why would you introduce this fourth round? It's rigged in his favor. What he crafted isn't even a Seventh Level Pill!" Roderick remained resolute and defiant.

"Fine, we'll give you the opportunity to inspect it. You can come up and check for yourself to see if it's really a Seventh Level Pill," Gregory said loudly.

"Sure, I'll inspect it, but I'll invite more people to do the same to ensure there's no foul play," Roderick snapped. He then chose a few more volunteers from the crowd.

Those who came to watch were all alchemists and could differentiate pills easily.

The chosen individuals came up to the judges and began their assessment of Jared's Seventh Level pill.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2836-After a thorough examination, the pill refined by Jared was indeed of Seventh Level Top Tier quality, not to mention nearly perfect. There was no mistake.

"Mr. Gale, there's no mistake. This is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill," they said to Roderick.

Roderick stared at the pill, his face flushed crimson. If I admit it, that means I'll lose. Not only will I not win the first place, but I'll also have to kneel before Jared and give away my spiritual cauldron!

"Although this is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, I suspect Jared didn't refine it. You all must've tampered with the process and prepared the pill in advance! Otherwise, how could Jared be so calm at the beginning? Moreover, with that broken pill cauldron of his, it's unrealistic to think he could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill. The cauldron would've surely exploded as it couldn't possibly withstand the might of such a high-level pill! Everyone, Jared is just a

Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist, yet he managed to refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill using that shabby cauldron within a few minutes! This is completely unfeasible. They've clearly conspired to deceive me. I will not accept this outcome!" Roderick began to stir everyone's emotions, trying to use the crowd to pressure the judges.

"That's right. I don't think that pill cauldron can produce a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, can it?"

"There's no way a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill within a few minutes without the enhancement from a good pill cauldron!"

"Is there really a scheme involved? Don't tell me even Jipsdale's Alchemist Fair is now secretly manipulating the competition's outcome, too?"

Everyone clamored because they, too, found it hard to believe that Jared could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill in just a few minutes.

The turn of events left Gregory and the other judges stumped. The pill was indeed crafted by Jared, yet everyone else was unconvinced, so what else could they do?

"Roderick, how are you certain that my pill cauldron is junk? What if my cauldron is a specialized cauldron that is more advanced than your spiritual cauldron?" Jared couldn't help but sneer at Roderick's demeanor.

"Pfft! That sh*tty cauldron of yours isn't even comparable to my spiritual cauldron, yet you dare claim it's a specialized cauldron. What else are you capable of except boasting? If what you possess is genuinely a specialized cauldron, I'll grovel at your feet and even address you as my dad!"

Following his words, Roderick spat on the floor, refusing to believe Jared's grimy cauldron was a specialized cauldron.

"Forget it. I don't want a son like you." Jared scoffed.

"Young man, don't keep us in suspense. Why don't you clean up your magical item and show us its true nature?" At that moment, the elderly judge from Jipsdale slowly spoke.

Jared glanced at the elderly judge, realizing the latter had recognized his Divine Cauldron, so he nodded.

He walked up to his Divine Cauldron and gently tapped on it.

Immediately afterward, the blackened surface of the Divine Cauldron gradually cleared up, turning into a yellow-bronze color. A glow emanated from the inside of the cauldron, and the words "Divine Cauldron" became clearly visible.

The sudden change stunned everyone. Even Roderick was staring blankly at the Divine Cauldron.

“Divine Cauldron. This is the ancient Divine Cauldron, the sacred item in alchemy!” the elderly judge exclaimed in agitation upon laying his eyes on the Divine Cauldron’s true form.

Gregory and the others were also astounded, their eyes wide as they stared at the sight before them in utter astonishment.

The members of the crowd below the stage were equally dumbstruck, gazing at the Divine Cauldron in front of them with traces of excitement in their eyes. Roderick’s body shuddered uncontrollably. Divine Cauldron. This is the Divine Cauldron. It’s countless times more advanced than my spiritual cauldron! But I don’t understand. How could Jared possess a sacred item like this?

“Impossible. This is impossible!” Roderick shook his head frantically, unable to believe what was transpiring before his eyes.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2837-“Roderick, the truth has been laid out right before your eyes. You’ve already lost. What else do you have to say?” the elderly judge questioned Roderick coldly.

“How is this possible? Why is this happening?” Roderick paced in circles as if he had lost his mind.

“I now declare that the champion of this Alchemist Fair is Jared!” the elderly judge announced loudly.

With the result being made official, the audience erupted into applause.

“We have a rising star in the world of alchemists!”

“Divine Cauldron! This is the first time I’ve seen a specialized cauldron.”

“Even with the aid of the Divine Cauldron, I reckon there aren’t many people who can refine a Seventh Level pill within a few minutes.”

Everyone was now showering Jared with praises, no longer directing a word of ridicule or doubt at him.

“Roderick, the outcome has been decided. Isn’t it time for you to fulfill your promises?” Jared asked Roderick.

Roderick regarded Jared with a frosty gaze, his eyes filled with defiance. Nevertheless, he had undeniably lost.

“Jared, I jested earlier, so my words don’t count. Besides, there’s nothing stating that wagering is allowed during the Alchemist Fair’s competition.”

There was no way Roderick would kneel before Jared, much less give away his spiritual cauldron.

“You played me for a fool?” Jared narrowed his eyes.

“So what if I did? We’re in Jipsdale. Do you dare to lay a hand on me here?”

Roderick dared behave haughtily as the rules in Jipsdale forbade anyone from private dueling.

Taking in Roderick’s arrogant demeanor, Jared clenched his fists tightly.

“The rules of Jipsdale don’t allow anyone to start a fight except in an arena. This is a platform to host an alchemy contest, so it’s also considered an arena,” the elderly judge piped up.

The elderly judge’s implication could not be more obvious. He was pointing out to Jared that since they were in the arena, Jared could disregard Jipsdale’s rules.

Needless to say, Jared understood the elderly judge’s words.

As soon as the elderly judge finished his sentence, Jared had already thrown a punch.

“How dare you trick me? I’ll make you pay!” Jared’s punch landed on Roderick’s abdomen, causing him to fall to the ground.

Considering Roderick’s strength, he was undoubtedly no match for Jared. Jared could effortlessly beat up Roderick.

He stepped forward, grasped Roderick’s collar, and slapped the latter several times.

Roderick was utterly defenseless, and in no time, his face became bruised and swollen.

At the sight of Roderick getting beaten to a pulp, Pearl felt her heart ache and rushed forward, bellowing at Jared, “Jared, stop!”

“Get back here, Pearl!” Gregory immediately chided furiously when he saw Pearl was still trying to protect Roderick.

However, Pearl turned a deaf ear to Gregory’s order and shielded Roderick. Jared wasn’t going to indulge Pearl, so he casually shoved her aside with a wave of his hand. Then, he lifted Roderick and continued hitting him.

“I was wrong. Please stop beating me!” Roderick started begging for mercy.

“Kneel and apologize!” Jared commanded coldly.

Roderick fell to his knees with a thud and apologized sincerely to Jared.

“What about your spiritual cauldron?” Jared demanded.

“I’ll gift it to you. You can have it. I don’t want it anymore!” Gregory was traumatized by Jared’s ruthlessness.

Looking at Roderick’s cowardly demeanor, Jared waved his hand and said, “Get lost!”

Hearing that, Roderick swiftly got up to leave, but Pearl quickly stopped him.

“Roderick, didn’t you say you’d take me with you? Let’s go together.”

Pearl knew only tough times awaited her if she remained there. After all, Gregory had already begun to doubt her.

“F*ck off! Who would leave with you? I lied to you. You should take a good look in the mirror. The sight of you disgusts me!” Roderick cursed maliciously before pushing Pearl to the ground.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2838-At that moment, Roderick laid all the blame on Pearl. He was convinced that she had not poisoned Jared. Otherwise, Jared wouldn't have performed so well today!

Pearl collapsed onto the ground, gazing at Roderick with disbelief. It was hard for her to fathom that the man she had shared an intimate moment with just the previous night would now forcefully push her aside, spin around, and depart without a trace of hesitation.

But he told me he loved me!

Observing Roderick's callous demeanor, Pearl instantly burst into tears. A moment later, however, a mixture of anger and bitterness shone in her eyes. Suddenly, she sprung to her feet and charged at Roderick, her grip locking around his thighs.

"Don't you dare walk away from me like this! Explain yourself! You manipulated me, and now you're just going to leave me behind?" Pearl's grasp on his thighs tightened as she shouted. "You handed me the poison and told me to use it on my master, and now you're acting as if you have nothing to do with it? If it weren't for me, would you have even won the third round of the competition? How can you be so heartless?"

Roderick's face drained of color when he heard that. "What nonsense are you talking about? When did I ever ask you to poison others? Don't you dare accuse me!"

After uttering those words, he lifted his hand, poised to strike her head, completely disregarding the passionate night they once shared.

Anyone harboring dishonest intentions during the Alchemist Fair held in Jipsdale would face grave consequences for their cheating.

Roderick was prepared to kill Pearl right then and there, all to prevent her from divulging anything.

However, just as Roderick was on the verge of ending Pearl's life, Gregory abruptly intervened, effectively blocking his action.

"Roderick, do you truly intend to commit murder in front of so many people? You better explain yourself. Otherwise, don't think you can leave here unscathed!" Gregory's voice was stern and unwavering as he addressed Roderick.

"What is there for me to explain? I didn't do anything! It's your disciple who's making baseless accusations," Roderick retorted. "She seduced me, but I didn't reciprocate her feelings. Are you Solaris Sect folks trying to push me into marrying her?"

Roderick was determined to insist he had nothing to do with the matter.

Shooting daggers at Roderick, Pearl sank into despair. She sobbed uncontrollably as she laid out the full truth. "Master, I'm so sorry. Roderick

gave me a packet of poison and instructed me to brew coffee for all of you. It was the poison's influence that clouded your judgment earlier as it damages one's spiritual sense. He promised that if I did as he asked, he would take me away with him."

Upon hearing the revelation, the crowd looked upon Roderick with a mix of disdain and disgust, shaking their heads and gossiping about his terrible acts. There was nothing scary about losing in the Alchemist Fair. After all, disparities in power among contestants were inevitable. Yet, stooping to deceitful tactics for victory was nothing short of shameful.

Upon hearing that, the elderly judge leaped forward to confront Roderick.

"Roderick, how dare you cheat using such dishonorable tactics at the Alchemist Fair? You've gone overboard!"

Confronted by the elder's wrathful glare and the furious expressions of Gregory and the rest, Roderick found himself breaking out in a cold sweat.

"I'm innocent! She's accusing me of something I didn't do! I never asked her to do anything! I've been framed!" Roderick desperately shook his head while explaining.

"We just need to do a search on your body to know if you're innocent," Jared proposed. "After all, if you did do it, you must still have the poison with you!"

"Yes. Search him!" Ghaylen concurred.

Gregory advanced toward Roderick to conduct the search. However, with a swift move, Roderick dispersed a white mist and vanished into the distance.

The elderly judge snorted and said, "Do you think you can run away?"

Following that, he flicked his sleeve, prompting a startled scream from the fleeing Roderick. In a shocking turn of events, Roderick's body swelled up before exploding into a mist of blood.

As the crowd witnessed Roderick's gruesome demise, a somber silence enveloped the scene. Everyone present understood the gravity of upholding Jipsdale's rules. Transgressing them would lead to such a fate.

There was no discernible emotion on Pearl's face at Roderick's horrible death. Then, she knelt before Gregory and pleaded, "Master, I know I've committed a grave mistake. Please forgive me."

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2839-Gregory's countenance was a mask of anger as he looked down at Pearl kneeling on the ground. However, he maintained his silence, his eyes turning to his fellow elders instead.

"Gregory, the reputation of Solaris Sect cannot be tarnished," one of the elders said.

Another chimed in, "That's right! We came close to making a grave error and jeopardizing the reputation of Solaris Sect!"

“It’s a disgrace for our sect to have such a disciple.”

Having spoken their minds, the elders turned around and walked away. As for Pearl’s punishment, they no longer concerned themselves with it. They left it to Gregory to decide.

“Master, I’ve done all of you wrong. Please forgive me this one time! I’m genuinely sorry!” Pearl continuously banged her head on the ground while confessing her mistake.

Gregory knitted his brows. It was clear that he was in a dilemma.

In the end, he raised his hand and struck Pearl with a palm.

The strike was not meant to take her life—it was to nullify her cultivation.

“You’ve been my disciple for many years, and now I’m taking everything I’ve taught you back. You must leave this place right now. Go wherever you wish to go. From now on, I’m no longer your master,” Gregory uttered, avoiding Pearl’s gaze by shutting his eyes.

“Master! Master, I’m powerless now without my cultivation. I’ll die for sure if I leave this place! Where else can I go? Please don’t cast me away. I’ll stay to serve you for the rest of my life!” Pearl begged him.

Yet, Gregory turned away without sparing another glance in her direction.

“Jared, please! Please speak on my behalf. I know what I did was wrong. I won’t repeat the same mistake again!” Pearl shifted her attention to Jared, hoping he could plead on her behalf.

Nonetheless, Jared’s gaze remained devoid of compassion as he stared at the tearful Pearl kneeling on the ground.

“You reap what you sow. You can’t blame anyone for this,” he coldly stated.

Pearl continued to plead, but as Gregory’s determination became evident and she realized there was no chance of her staying, she slowly rose to her feet and departed.

After a few steps, she turned back to cast a bitter glance at Jared and Gregory, her eyes brimming with resentment.

However, no one paid her any attention anymore. With her cultivation stripped away, once she ventured beyond Jipsdale’s borders, she would likely fall prey to the beasts of the wild.

“This scandal emerged due to my inadequate guidance of my disciple. I’m so sorry, Mr. Chance. I must take my leave now.” With a grim expression, Gregory was about to leave.

“Wait a minute, Mr. Stark!” Jared immediately called out.

“Is there anything else I can help you with, Mr. Chance?” Gregory asked.

“Mr. Stark, Roderick’s spiritual cauldron holds no value for me, so I’d like to offer it to you. It might be important to you.” With a wave of his hand, Jared summoned the spiritual cauldron over.

“B-But... I don’t think that’s appropriate!” Gregory exclaimed in astonishment.

Given that his disciple had caused so much trouble, he had not expected Jared to offer him the spiritual cauldron.

“What’s inappropriate about this? Take it,” Jared responded with a faint smile. Gregory accepted the spiritual cauldron, his expression one of disbelief. “Mr. Chance, if Emerald Cauldron Sect ever requires assistance from Solaris Sect, we’ll lend a hand without hesitation.”

With that, Gregory departed with the spiritual cauldron. The rationale behind Jared’s decision not to leave it for Viola or Ghaylen was rooted in his current affiliation with Emerald Cauldron Sect. Should the need ever arise, he could always utilize his Divine Cauldron.

In addition to that, Jared understood that his stay at Emerald Cauldron Sect was temporary. By entrusting the spiritual cauldron to Solaris Sect, he could forge a lasting friendship with them. This partnership would remain advantageous even after Jared’s eventual departure from Emerald Cauldron Sect and would ease the burdens on Viola.

Moreover, given Emerald Cauldron Sect’s current strength, ensuring the safekeeping of the spiritual cauldron could have posed a challenge as it had the potential to attract calamity to them.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2840-After Gregory had left, the elderly judge handed Jared a token and said, “Here you go. You have won first place in this competition, so someone from Jipsdale will deliver the prizes to your house later. You may use this token to meet the count tomorrow.”

Feeling curious about the special prize, Jared said, “Thank you, sir. Could you tell me about the special prize the count mentioned?”

“I’m sorry, but I don’t know what it is either. You’ll only find out after you meet the count,” the elderly judge replied and leaped away immediately after.

Seeing as he wouldn’t be getting his answer from the elderly judge, Jared had no choice but to return with Viola and the others.

Later that evening, people from Jipsdale showed up with all sorts of resources. Everyone’s lips curled into wide smiles when they saw the mountain of resources in front of them.

Ghaylen and Viola then began cultivating using the resources received.

Jared had been planning on cultivating as well, but he saw Yuven spacing out in the yard and decided to approach him instead.

Yuven was unable to cultivate because his powers were suppressed.

He’s probably worried about Ivasha and Imperial Beast City...

With that in mind, Jared walked up to Yuven and patted him on the shoulder.

“Don’t worry! I’m sure the count will be able to help you with your poisoning tomorrow.”

Yuven nodded. "Yeah."

The next day, Jared brought Viola and the others over to the count's residence, which was located in the middle of Jipsdale.

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There were tons of guards stationed all over the place. On top of that, Jared also noticed several arcane arrays around the building.

"What's with this high level of security? Is the count paranoid or something?"

Jared let out a chuckle when he saw the fortress-like defenses around the count's residence.

The guards immediately let them in the moment Jared brandished the token he received from the elderly judge yesterday.

Jared bumped into Hester shortly after he entered the residence.

It was as though he knew Jared and the others would come and was waiting there for them.

"Come with me," Hester said upon noticing them.

Jared and the others followed Hester through a series of doors before arriving at the shabby-looking, two-story house.

The entire count's residence looked so beautiful that it resembled the place, so the shabby state of the house before them formed a huge contrast and stood out like a sore thumb.

Jared couldn't help but frown as he wondered if the count was living inside that old house.

"Wait here while I report your arrival," Hester stated before entering the house and closing the door behind him.

"Don't tell me the count lives here? This house looks ridiculously shabby!"

Viola exclaimed in confusion while staring at the two-story house in front of them.

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"Don't tell me the count lives here? This house looks ridiculously shabby!" Viola exclaimed in confusion while staring at the two-story house in front of them.

"We don't even know the count's gender," Ghaylen added curiously.

"Why would the count behave so mysteriously and stay in a place like this? Do you think the count has some kind of strange kink? It'll be hard for us to escape if the count tries anything funny!" Yuven said worriedly.

"I don't think so. I've never heard of anyone in Jipsdale being hurt by the count before. Besides, Jipsdale is pretty much a safe haven in these parts, so we shouldn't be in any danger here," Ghaylen replied.

While Ghaylen and the others chatted away, Jared remained completely silent as he stared at the old house and frowned from time to time.

"What's wrong, Jared?" Viola asked when she noticed Jared's expression.

"Do you guys find anything strange about this house?" Jared asked.

Viola shook her head. "No, not really. Apart from it being a little shabby, I don't see anything strange about it."

Ghaylen and Yuven, too, were unable to find anything strange after looking closely at the house.

"I feel as though this house is more of a container than a building. Also, there's definitely an arcane array in this house. I felt a wave of fluctuating spiritual energy coming from inside when the door was opened. That typically comes from a Soul Nourishing Formation," Jared explained with a frown.

Read A Man Like None Other Chapter 2833

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2833-"So, this is a spiritual cauldron. Impressive! If I had that in my possession, I could craft a Fifth Level Top Tier pill," someone marveled.

His companion retorted, "You're too modest. If this spiritual cauldron were mine, I could unquestionably concoct a Sixth Level pill. Since Roderick is a Fifth Level Low Tier alchemist, I'm curious about the level of pill he'll be able to produce with this spiritual cauldron."

All eyes were fixed on Roderick's spiritual cauldron with a tinge of envy, including Gregory and others in the audience.

Roderick took satisfaction in being the recipient of everyone's covetous glances.

"Okay. Since both sides have agreed, we will proceed. You will both use your own cauldrons to craft any pills! Jipsdale will provide the herbs you need. Please make the preparations now!" the elderly judge announced.

Upon hearing this, the crowd turned their attention to Jared, eager to catch a glimpse of his pill cauldron.

However, Jared's hands remained empty. He didn't take out his pill cauldron.

"Jared, why haven't you unveiled your pill cauldron? Do you intend to compete against me without one?" Roderick inquired with curiosity.

Jared replied, "I'm concerned that you might flee in terror upon witnessing my pill cauldron, so I'll allow you to start the pill-crafting process first."

The elderly judge turned to Jared and issued a reminder, "Dear contestant, we have a time constraint, and both competitors must begin simultaneously. The competition will commence soon, so are you sure you won't take out your pill cauldron?"

Jared responded, "Let the competition begin now. If I don't give him more time, I'm concerned it might be perceived as me bullying him."

Roderick declared with a smug grin, "Jared, don't get ahead of yourself. I'll have you know that I intend to craft a Seventh Level pill this time. If you can't match that, leave the stage immediately! Creating a Fifth Level Top Tier pill doesn't give you the right to be arrogant. I'll make sure you experience the bitterness of a resounding defeat!"

Jared replied, "Fine, then. If you're crafting a Seventh Level pill, I'll do the same."

Hearing that, Roderick burst out laughing. "Are you serious? How are you going to craft a Seventh Level pill? You don't even have a pill cauldron."

Jared's lips curved. "Just leave me be. Even if I poop a Seventh Level pill out, that's none of your business.

Roderick was caught off guard by the retort. His expression darkened as he proclaimed, "You won't understand your mistake until it's too late, will you? Judge, let's commence the competition. I'll demonstrate the prowess of my spiritual cauldron!"

He didn't want to waste more time talking to Jared anymore.

The elderly judge cast a glance at Jared and discerned that the latter had no intention of revealing his pill cauldron. Therefore, he waved his hand and declared, "The competition begins now!"

Upon hearing the signal, Roderick swiftly chose several medicinal herbs from the selection provided by Jipsdale. Following the recipe for the Seventh Level pill, he placed all the herbs into his spiritual cauldron, initiating the pill crafting process.

A spiritual fire ignited within the spiritual cauldron, causing it to emanate a brilliant glow before a dense herbal aroma wafted through the vicinity.

The onlookers observed Roderick in silence as he crafted the pill. Meanwhile, Jared remained unfazed, displaying no indication of commencing the pill-crafting process. Instead, he closely monitored Roderick's actions.

"Why isn't Jared doing anything? Does he have a trump card or something?"

"Nonsense! I believe he's conceded defeat and is intentionally trying to provoke Roderick. When Roderick unveiled his spiritual cauldron, Jared realized he'd lose. That's why he's acting so arrogantly."

Everyone assumed that Jared was putting up an act and that Roderick would definitely win this round.

Pearl was inwardly delighted. Let's see how long Jared's act can last. It seems that Roderick will win for sure!

"What is Mr. Chance doing? Is he admitting defeat?" Gregory demanded.

He grew anxious as Jared remained unmoving.

In the end, Gregory even took out his own pill cauldron. While it couldn't match Roderick's spiritual cauldron, it was superior to ordinary pill cauldrons.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2834-Gregory had initially thought that Jared was not doing anything due to the lack of a pill cauldron.

"Mr. Stark, don't worry. Mr. Chance hasn't started yet because he's confident." Ghaylen intervened when he saw Gregory about to lend his pill cauldron to Jared.

"Hey, this is the most critical part of the competition. We can't afford to be careless! If Mr. Chance doesn't win first place, I'll feel really bad. It's all because of me..." Gregory blamed himself, his face filled with self-reproach.

If he hadn't been manipulated, Jared wouldn't have ended up in this fourth round of the competition.

Ghaylen patted Gregory on the shoulder, trying to calm him down. Hence, Gregory had no choice but to sit back down.

Meanwhile, within Roderick's spiritual cauldron, the spiritual fire surged. A medicinal aroma wafted in the air as the flames danced and shifted continuously,

Strands of aura continually swirled around the spiritual cauldron, indicating an extremely fast alchemical process was happening within.

However, Jared remained calm, merely watching Roderick intently.

Roderick felt slightly unnerved by Jared's persistent gaze and said, "Why do you keep staring at me? If you don't have a pill cauldron and can't craft a Seventh Level pill, just admit defeat already and save us all some time."

"Who told you that I can't craft it? I'm just not in the mood to start now. If I can craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes, wouldn't that disgrace you?" Jared replied with a cold smirk.

Hearing Jared's confident words, Roderick retorted, "Kid, stop bragging. I've already completed half of my Seventh Level pill. Even if you start now, you won't catch up to me! Crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes is an outrageous claim. If you truly manage to craft one that quickly, I'll not only bow

down to you, but I'll also give you my spiritual cauldron. If you fail, you'll need to bow to me three times. How about that?"

Jared's eyes brightened at Roderick's proposal. "It's a deal. Can I trust your words, though?"

"A real man keeps his word. There are so many witnesses here. How could I not keep my word?" Roderick affirmed.

As Jared and Roderick unexpectedly began to bet on the arena, the others also became increasingly exhilarated.

However, they all believed Jared was merely boasting. After all, who could craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes?

"This young man's spiritual sense is impressive, but he's too young. Only someone so young would say something like that and dare make such a bet," the elderly judge commented, shaking his head repeatedly.

Initially, he admired Jared for being able to craft such a potent Focus Pill at his age. He even went as far as considering Jared a prodigy.

However, Jared's penchant for boasting was a flaw.

Gregory also grew anxious. He really wanted to stop Jared as he thought the latter shouldn't be betting against Roderick!

"Since you're true to your word, I'll give it a try," Jared said.

With that, he casually made a gesture.

His Divine Cauldron flew out from his Storage Ring before landing on the stage.

"What's that? A cauldron?"

When Roderick's gaze fell upon Jared's Divine Cauldron, a cold smirk curled his lips.

Jared's Divine Cauldron was pitch-black and devoid of any luster. It resembled an ordinary scorched iron pot.

The onlookers couldn't help but mock it upon seeing the Divine Cauldron.

“D*mn, what is that? No wonder he didn’t want to show it. It’s freaking embarrassing!”

“It can’t even compare to the cauldrons provided by Jipsdale for the competition. Isn’t that really just a rusty old pot?”

“He’s so sentimental about this cr*ppy pill cauldron that he still hasn’t thrown it away. How laughable!”

Laughter rippled through the crowd as they poked fun at Jared. Even Gregory’s expression soured when he saw Jared unveil his Divine Cauldron.

Meanwhile, the elderly judge’s eyes widened in astonishment as he caught sight of the Divine Cauldron.

With just one glance, he discerned that Jared’s cauldron was far from ordinary.

Its exterior was deliberately roughed up by Jared.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2835-Unperturbed by the ridicule, Jared paid no mind to everyone else. He flicked his finger, and a surge of spiritual fire kindled within the Divine Cauldron.

Witnessing this, Roderick quickened his pace. His pill was now over halfway complete. Determined to outpace Jared, he pressed on.

As for Jared’s claim of crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes, Roderick simply didn’t believe it. That was utterly impossible!

As the seconds ticked away, all eyes remained fixated on Jared’s pill cauldron. They were eager to witness if he could genuinely yield a Seventh Level pill within the given time.

However, after five minutes elapsed, Jared’s cauldron remained dormant. Sporadic bursts of spiritual fire were the only visible activity.

“It’s been so long, and there’s been zero progress. Even if he was given hundreds of minutes, I doubt he’d succeed, let alone a few minutes.”

“Crafting a Seventh Level pill isn’t child’s play. I bet this guy can’t pull it off despite his boasts.”

“Do you see that? There’s been no change in his pill cauldron at all. Does he really think he can make a Seventh Level pill like this?”

Mockery swelled from the crowd.

Even Gregory was frowning slightly as he struggled to grasp Jared’s motive for participating in Roderick’s wager.

Five minutes had lapsed, yet the cauldron remained still. Jared's chances of crafting the pill in minutes—as he claimed—seemed grim.

Soon, Viola and Ghaylen grew worried as well. Though Jared possessed the Divine Cauldron so crafting a Seventh Level pill was entirely possible, making it within minutes still posed a considerable challenge.

Just as the majority began to doubt that Jared could pull off crafting a Seventh Level pill in mere minutes, a burst of flames erupted from his Divine Cauldron. A scarlet pill soared from the flames, landing in Jared's hand soon after.

"The Seventh Level pill is ready. Judges, please inspect it."

Jared nonchalantly tossed the pill, and it landed in front of the elderly judge. Gathering around, the elderly judge, Gregory, and the other elders scrutinized the Seventh Level pill crafted by Jared.

Soon, the elderly judge announced, "This is a Seventh Level Scarlet Heat Pill, and it's nearly flawless. It was crafted in just seven minutes..."

With those words, doubt transformed into awe on everyone's faces.

How could a mere Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist like Jared craft a nearly flawless Seventh Level pill when using a lousy pill cauldron? Besides that, doing so in seven minutes defied all logic.

"Impossible! I don't believe it! How can a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist whip up a Seventh Level Pill in such little time without the help of a good pill cauldron? This must be a sham. You're all in cahoots and cheating the system!" Roderick yelled in disbelief.

He refused to believe that Jared could accomplish creating a Seventh Level Pill in mere minutes, especially with such a shabby pill cauldron.

"Roderick, are you saying you don't trust us?" Gregory's face darkened.

"Yes! I don't trust you! You and Jared are in cahoots! Otherwise, why would you introduce this fourth round? It's rigged in his favor. What he crafted isn't even a Seventh Level Pill!" Roderick remained resolute and defiant.

"Fine, we'll give you the opportunity to inspect it. You can come up and check for yourself to see if it's really a Seventh Level Pill," Gregory said loudly.

"Sure, I'll inspect it, but I'll invite more people to do the same to ensure there's no foul play," Roderick snapped. He then chose a few more volunteers from the crowd.

Those who came to watch were all alchemists and could differentiate pills easily.

The chosen individuals came up to the judges and began their assessment of Jared's Seventh Level pill.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2836-After a thorough examination, the pill refined by Jared was indeed of Seventh Level Top Tier quality, not to mention nearly perfect. There was no mistake.

“Mr. Gale, there’s no mistake. This is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill,” they said to Roderick.

Roderick stared at the pill, his face flushed crimson. If I admit it, that means I’ll lose. Not only will I not win the first place, but I’ll also have to kneel before Jared and give away my spiritual cauldron!

“Although this is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, I suspect Jared didn’t refine it. You all must’ve tampered with the process and prepared the pill in advance! Otherwise, how could Jared be so calm at the beginning? Moreover, with that broken pill cauldron of his, it’s unrealistic to think he could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill. The cauldron would’ve surely exploded as it couldn’t possibly withstand the might of such a high-level pill! Everyone, Jared is just a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist, yet he managed to refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill using that shabby cauldron within a few minutes! This is completely unfeasible. They’ve clearly conspired to deceive me. I will not accept this outcome!” Roderick began to stir everyone’s emotions, trying to use the crowd to pressure the judges.

“That’s right. I don’t think that pill cauldron can produce a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, can it?”

“There’s no way a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill within a few minutes without the enhancement from a good pill cauldron!”

“Is there really a scheme involved? Don’t tell me even Jipsdale’s Alchemist Fair is now secretly manipulating the competition’s outcome, too?”

Everyone clamored because they, too, found it hard to believe that Jared could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill in just a few minutes.

The turn of events left Gregory and the other judges stumped. The pill was indeed crafted by Jared, yet everyone else was unconvinced, so what else could they do?

“Roderick, how are you certain that my pill cauldron is junk? What if my cauldron is a specialized cauldron that is more advanced than your spiritual cauldron?” Jared couldn’t help but sneer at Roderick’s demeanor.

“Pfft! That sh*tty cauldron of yours isn’t even comparable to my spiritual cauldron, yet you dare claim it’s a specialized cauldron. What else are you capable of except boasting? If what you possess is genuinely a specialized cauldron, I’ll grovel at your feet and even address you as my dad!”

Following his words, Roderick spat on the floor, refusing to believe Jared’s grimy cauldron was a specialized cauldron.

“Forget it. I don’t want a son like you.” Jared scoffed.

“Young man, don’t keep us in suspense. Why don’t you clean up your magical item and show us its true nature?” At that moment, the elderly judge from Jipsdale slowly spoke.

Jared glanced at the elderly judge, realizing the latter had recognized his Divine Cauldron, so he nodded.

He walked up to his Divine Cauldron and gently tapped on it.

Immediately afterward, the blackened surface of the Divine Cauldron gradually cleared up, turning into a yellow-bronze color. A glow emanated from the inside of the cauldron, and the words "Divine Cauldron" became clearly visible.

The sudden change stunned everyone. Even Roderick was staring blankly at the Divine Cauldron.

"Divine Cauldron. This is the ancient Divine Cauldron, the sacred item in alchemy!" the elderly judge exclaimed in agitation upon laying his eyes on the Divine Cauldron's true form.

Gregory and the others were also astounded, their eyes wide as they stared at the sight before them in utter astonishment.

The members of the crowd below the stage were equally dumbstruck, gazing at the Divine Cauldron in front of them with traces of excitement in their eyes. Roderick's body shuddered uncontrollably. Divine Cauldron. This is the Divine Cauldron. It's countless times more advanced than my spiritual cauldron! But I don't understand. How could Jared possess a sacred item like this?

"Impossible. This is impossible!" Roderick shook his head frantically, unable to believe what was transpiring before his eyes.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2837-"Roderick, the truth has been laid out right before your eyes. You've already lost. What else do you have to say?" the elderly judge questioned Roderick coldly.

"How is this possible? Why is this happening?" Roderick paced in circles as if he had lost his mind.

"I now declare that the champion of this Alchemist Fair is Jared!" the elderly judge announced loudly.

With the result being made official, the audience erupted into applause.

"We have a rising star in the world of alchemists!"

"Divine Cauldron! This is the first time I've seen a specialized cauldron."

"Even with the aid of the Divine Cauldron, I reckon there aren't many people who can refine a Seventh Level pill within a few minutes."

Everyone was now showering Jared with praises, no longer directing a word of ridicule or doubt at him.

"Roderick, the outcome has been decided. Isn't it time for you to fulfill your promises?" Jared asked Roderick.

Roderick regarded Jared with a frosty gaze, his eyes filled with defiance. Nevertheless, he had undeniably lost.

“Jared, I jested earlier, so my words don’t count. Besides, there’s nothing stating that wagering is allowed during the Alchemist Fair’s competition.” There was no way Roderick would kneel before Jared, much less give away his spiritual cauldron.

“You played me for a fool?” Jared narrowed his eyes.

“So what if I did? We’re in Jipsdale. Do you dare to lay a hand on me here?” Roderick dared behave haughtily as the rules in Jipsdale forbade anyone from private dueling.

Taking in Roderick’s arrogant demeanor, Jared clenched his fists tightly.

“The rules of Jipsdale don’t allow anyone to start a fight except in an arena. This is a platform to host an alchemy contest, so it’s also considered an arena,” the elderly judge piped up.

The elderly judge’s implication could not be more obvious. He was pointing out to Jared that since they were in the arena, Jared could disregard Jipsdale’s rules.

Needless to say, Jared understood the elderly judge’s words.

As soon as the elderly judge finished his sentence, Jared had already thrown a punch.

“How dare you trick me? I’ll make you pay!” Jared’s punch landed on Roderick’s abdomen, causing him to fall to the ground.

Considering Roderick’s strength, he was undoubtedly no match for Jared. Jared could effortlessly beat up Roderick.

He stepped forward, grasped Roderick’s collar, and slapped the latter several times.

Roderick was utterly defenseless, and in no time, his face became bruised and swollen.

At the sight of Roderick getting beaten to a pulp, Pearl felt her heart ache and rushed forward, bellowing at Jared, “Jared, stop!”

“Get back here, Pearl!” Gregory immediately chided furiously when he saw Pearl was still trying to protect Roderick.

However, Pearl turned a deaf ear to Gregory’s order and shielded Roderick. Jared wasn’t going to indulge Pearl, so he casually shoved her aside with a wave of his hand. Then, he lifted Roderick and continued hitting him.

“I was wrong. Please stop beating me!” Roderick started begging for mercy.

“Kneel and apologize!” Jared commanded coldly.

Roderick fell to his knees with a thud and apologized sincerely to Jared.

“What about your spiritual cauldron?” Jared demanded.

“I’ll gift it to you. You can have it. I don’t want it anymore!” Gregory was traumatized by Jared’s ruthlessness.

Looking at Roderick’s cowardly demeanor, Jared waved his hand and said, “Get lost!”

Hearing that, Roderick swiftly got up to leave, but Pearl quickly stopped him. "Roderick, didn't you say you'd take me with you? Let's go together."

Pearl knew only tough times awaited her if she remained there. After all, Gregory had already begun to doubt her.

"F*ck off! Who would leave with you? I lied to you. You should take a good look in the mirror. The sight of you disgusts me!" Roderick cursed maliciously before pushing Pearl to the ground.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2838-At that moment, Roderick laid all the blame on Pearl. He was convinced that she had not poisoned Jared. Otherwise, Jared wouldn't have performed so well today!

Pearl collapsed onto the ground, gazing at Roderick with disbelief. It was hard for her to fathom that the man she had shared an intimate moment with just the previous night would now forcefully push her aside, spin around, and depart without a trace of hesitation.

But he told me he loved me!

Observing Roderick's callous demeanor, Pearl instantly burst into tears. A moment later, however, a mixture of anger and bitterness shone in her eyes. Suddenly, she sprung to her feet and charged at Roderick, her grip locking around his thighs.

"Don't you dare walk away from me like this! Explain yourself! You manipulated me, and now you're just going to leave me behind?" Pearl's grasp on his thighs tightened as she shouted. "You handed me the poison and told me to use it on my master, and now you're acting as if you have nothing to do with it? If it weren't for me, would you have even won the third round of the competition? How can you be so heartless?"

Roderick's face drained of color when he heard that. "What nonsense are you talking about? When did I ever ask you to poison others? Don't you dare accuse me!"

After uttering those words, he lifted his hand, poised to strike her head, completely disregarding the passionate night they once shared.

Anyone harboring dishonest intentions during the Alchemist Fair held in Jipsdale would face grave consequences for their cheating.

Roderick was prepared to kill Pearl right then and there, all to prevent her from divulging anything.

However, just as Roderick was on the verge of ending Pearl's life, Gregory abruptly intervened, effectively blocking his action.

"Roderick, do you truly intend to commit murder in front of so many people? You better explain yourself. Otherwise, don't think you can leave here

unscathed!" Gregory's voice was stern and unwavering as he addressed Roderick.

"What is there for me to explain? I didn't do anything! It's your disciple who's making baseless accusations," Roderick retorted. "She seduced me, but I didn't reciprocate her feelings. Are you Solaris Sect folks trying to push me into marrying her?"

Roderick was determined to insist he had nothing to do with the matter. Shooting daggers at Roderick, Pearl sank into despair. She sobbed uncontrollably as she laid out the full truth. "Master, I'm so sorry. Roderick gave me a packet of poison and instructed me to brew coffee for all of you. It was the poison's influence that clouded your judgment earlier as it damages one's spiritual sense. He promised that if I did as he asked, he would take me away with him."

Upon hearing the revelation, the crowd looked upon Roderick with a mix of disdain and disgust, shaking their heads and gossiping about his terrible acts. There was nothing scary about losing in the Alchemist Fair. After all, disparities in power among contestants were inevitable. Yet, stooping to deceitful tactics for victory was nothing short of shameful.

Upon hearing that, the elderly judge leaped forward to confront Roderick.

"Roderick, how dare you cheat using such dishonorable tactics at the Alchemist Fair? You've gone overboard!"

Confronted by the elder's wrathful glare and the furious expressions of Gregory and the rest, Roderick found himself breaking out in a cold sweat.

"I'm innocent! She's accusing me of something I didn't do! I never asked her to do anything! I've been framed!" Roderick desperately shook his head while explaining.

"We just need to do a search on your body to know if you're innocent," Jared proposed. "After all, if you did do it, you must still have the poison with you!"

"Yes. Search him!" Ghaylen concurred.

Gregory advanced toward Roderick to conduct the search. However, with a swift move, Roderick dispersed a white mist and vanished into the distance.

The elderly judge snorted and said, "Do you think you can run away?"

Following that, he flicked his sleeve, prompting a startled scream from the fleeing Roderick. In a shocking turn of events, Roderick's body swelled up before exploding into a mist of blood.

As the crowd witnessed Roderick's gruesome demise, a somber silence enveloped the scene. Everyone present understood the gravity of upholding Jipsdale's rules. Transgressing them would lead to such a fate.

There was no discernible emotion on Pearl's face at Roderick's horrible death. Then, she knelt before Gregory and pleaded, "Master, I know I've committed a grave mistake. Please forgive me."

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2839-Gregory's countenance was a mask of anger as he looked down at Pearl kneeling on the ground. However, he maintained his silence, his eyes turning to his fellow elders instead.

"Gregory, the reputation of Solaris Sect cannot be tarnished," one of the elders said.

Another chimed in, "That's right! We came close to making a grave error and jeopardizing the reputation of Solaris Sect!"

"It's a disgrace for our sect to have such a disciple."

Having spoken their minds, the elders turned around and walked away.

As for Pearl's punishment, they no longer concerned themselves with it. They left it to Gregory to decide.

"Master, I've done all of you wrong. Please forgive me this one time! I'm genuinely sorry!" Pearl continuously banged her head on the ground while confessing her mistake.

Gregory knitted his brows. It was clear that he was in a dilemma.

In the end, he raised his hand and struck Pearl with a palm.

The strike was not meant to take her life—it was to nullify her cultivation.

"You've been my disciple for many years, and now I'm taking everything I've taught you back. You must leave this place right now. Go wherever you wish to go. From now on, I'm no longer your master," Gregory uttered, avoiding Pearl's gaze by shutting his eyes.

"Master! Master, I'm powerless now without my cultivation. I'll die for sure if I leave this place! Where else can I go? Please don't cast me away. I'll stay to serve you for the rest of my life!" Pearl begged him.

Yet, Gregory turned away without sparing another glance in her direction.

"Jared, please! Please speak on my behalf. I know what I did was wrong. I won't repeat the same mistake again!" Pearl shifted her attention to Jared, hoping he could plead on her behalf.

Nonetheless, Jared's gaze remained devoid of compassion as he stared at the tearful Pearl kneeling on the ground.

"You reap what you sow. You can't blame anyone for this," he coldly stated.

Pearl continued to plead, but as Gregory's determination became evident and she realized there was no chance of her staying, she slowly rose to her feet and departed.

After a few steps, she turned back to cast a bitter glance at Jared and Gregory, her eyes brimming with resentment.

However, no one paid her any attention anymore. With her cultivation stripped away, once she ventured beyond Jipsdale's borders, she would likely fall prey to the beasts of the wild.

“This scandal emerged due to my inadequate guidance of my disciple. I’m so sorry, Mr. Chance. I must take my leave now.” With a grim expression, Gregory was about to leave.

“Wait a minute, Mr. Stark!” Jared immediately called out.

“Is there anything else I can help you with, Mr. Chance?” Gregory asked.

“Mr. Stark, Roderick’s spiritual cauldron holds no value for me, so I’d like to offer it to you. It might be important to you.” With a wave of his hand, Jared summoned the spiritual cauldron over.

“B-But... I don’t think that’s appropriate!” Gregory exclaimed in astonishment. Given that his disciple had caused so much trouble, he had not expected Jared to offer him the spiritual cauldron.

“What’s inappropriate about this? Take it,” Jared responded with a faint smile. Gregory accepted the spiritual cauldron, his expression one of disbelief. “Mr. Chance, if Emerald Cauldron Sect ever requires assistance from Solaris Sect, we’ll lend a hand without hesitation.”

With that, Gregory departed with the spiritual cauldron. The rationale behind Jared’s decision not to leave it for Viola or Ghaylen was rooted in his current affiliation with Emerald Cauldron Sect. Should the need ever arise, he could always utilize his Divine Cauldron.

In addition to that, Jared understood that his stay at Emerald Cauldron Sect was temporary. By entrusting the spiritual cauldron to Solaris Sect, he could forge a lasting friendship with them. This partnership would remain advantageous even after Jared’s eventual departure from Emerald Cauldron Sect and would ease the burdens on Viola.

Moreover, given Emerald Cauldron Sect’s current strength, ensuring the safekeeping of the spiritual cauldron could have posed a challenge as it had the potential to attract calamity to them.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2840-After Gregory had left, the elderly judge handed Jared a token and said, “Here you go. You have won first place in this competition, so someone from Jipsdale will deliver the prizes to your house later. You may use this token to meet the count tomorrow.”

Feeling curious about the special prize, Jared said, “Thank you, sir. Could you tell me about the special prize the count mentioned?”

“I’m sorry, but I don’t know what it is either. You’ll only find out after you meet the count,” the elderly judge replied and leaped away immediately after.

Seeing as he wouldn’t be getting his answer from the elderly judge, Jared had no choice but to return with Viola and the others.

Later that evening, people from Jipsdale showed up with all sorts of resources. Everyone's lips curled into wide smiles when they saw the mountain of resources in front of them.

Ghaylen and Viola then began cultivating using the resources received. Jared had been planning on cultivating as well, but he saw Yuven spacing out in the yard and decided to approach him instead.

Yuven was unable to cultivate because his powers were suppressed. He's probably worried about Ivasha and Imperial Beast City...

With that in mind, Jared walked up to Yuven and patted him on the shoulder. "Don't worry! I'm sure the count will be able to help you with your poisoning tomorrow."

Yuven nodded. "Yeah."

The next day, Jared brought Viola and the others over to the count's residence, which was located in the middle of Jipsdale.

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There were tons of guards stationed all over the place. On top of that, Jared also noticed several arcane arrays around the building.

"What's with this high level of security? Is the count perenoid or something?" Jared let out a chuckle when he saw the fortress-like defenses around the count's residence.

The guards immediately let them in the moment Jared brandished the token he received from the elderly judge yesterday.

Jared bumped into Hester shortly after he entered the residence.

It was as though he knew Jared and the others would come and was waiting there for them.

"Come with me," Hester said upon noticing them.

Jared and the others followed Hester through a series of doors before arriving at a shabby-looking, two-story house.

The entire count's residence looked so beautiful that it resembled the place, so the shabby state of the house before them formed a huge contrast and stood out like a sore thumb.

Jared couldn't help but frown as he wondered if the count was living inside that old house.

"Wait here while I report your arrival," Hester stated before entering the house and closing the door behind him.

"Don't tell me the count lives here? This house looks ridiculously shabby!" Viola exclaimed in confusion while staring at the two-story house in front of them.

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“Don’t tell me the count lives here? This house looks ridiculously shabby!” Viola exclaimed in confusion while staring at the two-story house in front of them.

“We don’t even know the count’s gender,” Ghaylen added curiously.

“Why would the count behave so mysteriously and stay in a place like this? Do you think the count has some kind of strange kink? It’ll be hard for us to escape if the count tries anything funny!” Yuven said worriedly.

“I don’t think so. I’ve never heard of anyone in Jipsdale being hurt by the count before. Besides, Jipsdale is pretty much a safe haven in these parts, so we shouldn’t be in any danger here,” Ghaylen replied.

While Ghaylen and the others chatted away, Jared remained completely silent as he stared at the old house and frowned from time to time.

“What’s wrong, Jared?” Viola asked when she noticed Jared’s expression.

“Do you guys find anything strange about this house?” Jared asked.

Viola shook her head. “No, not really. Apart from it being a little shabby, I don’t see anything strange about it.”

Ghaylen and Yuven, too, were unable to find anything strange after looking closely at the house.

“I feel as though this house is more of a container than a building. Also, there’s definitely an arcane array in this house. I felt a wave of fluctuating

spiritual energy coming from inside when the door was opened. That typically comes from a Soul Nourishing Formation,” Jared explained with a frown.

Read A Man Like None Other Chapter 2834

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2834-Gregory had initially thought that Jared was not doing anything due to the lack of a pill cauldron.

“Mr. Stark, don’t worry. Mr. Chance hasn’t started yet because he’s confident.” Ghaylen intervened when he saw Gregory about to lend his pill cauldron to Jared.

“Hey, this is the most critical part of the competition. We can’t afford to be careless! If Mr. Chance doesn’t win first place, I’ll feel really bad. It’s all because of me...” Gregory blamed himself, his face filled with self-reproach.

If he hadn’t been manipulated, Jared wouldn’t have ended up in this fourth round of the competition.

Ghaylen patted Gregory on the shoulder, trying to calm him down. Hence, Gregory had no choice but to sit back down.

Meanwhile, within Roderick’s spiritual cauldron, the spiritual fire surged. A medicinal aroma wafted in the air as the flames danced and shifted continuously,

Strands of aura continually swirled around the spiritual cauldron, indicating an extremely fast alchemical process was happening within.

However, Jared remained calm, merely watching Roderick intently.

Roderick felt slightly unnerved by Jared’s persistent gaze and said, “Why do you keep staring at me? If you don’t have a pill cauldron and can’t craft a Seventh Level pill, just admit defeat already and save us all some time.”

“Who told you that I can’t craft it? I’m just not in the mood to start now. If I can craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes, wouldn’t that disgrace you?” Jared replied with a cold smirk.

Hearing Jared’s confident words, Roderick retorted, “Kid, stop bragging. I’ve already completed half of my Seventh Level pill. Even if you start now, you won’t catch up to me! Crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes is an

outrageous claim. If you truly manage to craft one that quickly, I'll not only bow down to you, but I'll also give you my spiritual cauldron. If you fail, you'll need to bow to me three times. How about that?"

Jared's eyes brightened at Roderick's proposal. "It's a deal. Can I trust your words, though?"

"A real man keeps his word. There are so many witnesses here. How could I not keep my word?" Roderick affirmed.

As Jared and Roderick unexpectedly began to bet on the arena, the others also became increasingly exhilarated.

However, they all believed Jared was merely boasting. After all, who could craft a Seventh Level pill in just a few minutes?

"This young man's spiritual sense is impressive, but he's too young. Only someone so young would say something like that and dare make such a bet," the elderly judge commented, shaking his head repeatedly.

Initially, he admired Jared for being able to craft such a potent Focus Pill at his age. He even went as far as considering Jared a prodigy.

However, Jared's penchant for boasting was a flaw.

Gregory also grew anxious. He really wanted to stop Jared as he thought the latter shouldn't be betting against Roderick!

"Since you're true to your word, I'll give it a try," Jared said.

With that, he casually made a gesture.

His Divine Cauldron flew out from his Storage Ring before landing on the stage.

"What's that? A cauldron?"

When Roderick's gaze fell upon Jared's Divine Cauldron, a cold smirk curled his lips.

Jared's Divine Cauldron was pitch-black and devoid of any luster. It resembled an ordinary scorched iron pot.

The onlookers couldn't help but mock it upon seeing the Divine Cauldron.

"D*mn, what is that? No wonder he didn't want to show it. It's freaking embarrassing!"

"It can't even compare to the cauldrons provided by Jipsdale for the competition. Isn't that really just a rusty old pot?"

"He's so sentimental about this cr*ppy pill cauldron that he still hasn't thrown it away. How laughable!"

Laughter rippled through the crowd as they poked fun at Jared. Even Gregory's expression soured when he saw Jared unveil his Divine Cauldron.

Meanwhile, the elderly judge's eyes widened in astonishment as he caught sight of the Divine Cauldron.

With just one glance, he discerned that Jared's cauldron was far from ordinary.

Its exterior was deliberately roughed up by Jared.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2835-Unperturbed by the ridicule, Jared paid no mind to everyone else. He flicked his finger, and a surge of spiritual fire kindled within the Divine Cauldron.

Witnessing this, Roderick quickened his pace. His pill was now over halfway complete. Determined to outpace Jared, he pressed on.

As for Jared's claim of crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes, Roderick simply didn't believe it. That was utterly impossible!

As the seconds ticked away, all eyes remained fixated on Jared's pill cauldron. They were eager to witness if he could genuinely yield a Seventh Level pill within the given time.

However, after five minutes elapsed, Jared's cauldron remained dormant. Sporadic bursts of spiritual fire were the only visible activity.

"It's been so long, and there's been zero progress. Even if he was given hundreds of minutes, I doubt he'd succeed, let alone a few minutes."

"Crafting a Seventh Level pill isn't child's play. I bet this guy can't pull it off despite his boasts."

"Do you see that? There's been no change in his pill cauldron at all. Does he really think he can make a Seventh Level pill like this?"

Mockery swelled from the crowd.

Even Gregory was frowning slightly as he struggled to grasp Jared's motive for participating in Roderick's wager.

Five minutes had lapsed, yet the cauldron remained still. Jared's chances of crafting the pill in minutes—as he claimed—seemed grim.

Soon, Viola and Ghaylen grew worried as well. Though Jared possessed the Divine Cauldron so crafting a Seventh Level pill was entirely possible, making it within minutes still posed a considerable challenge.

Just as the majority began to doubt that Jared could pull off crafting a Seventh Level pill in mere minutes, a burst of flames erupted from his Divine Cauldron. A scarlet pill soared from the flames, landing in Jared's hand soon after.

"The Seventh Level pill is ready. Judges, please inspect it."

Jared nonchalantly tossed the pill, and it landed in front of the elderly judge. Gathering around, the elderly judge, Gregory, and the other elders scrutinized the Seventh Level pill crafted by Jared.

Soon, the elderly judge announced, "This is a Seventh Level Scarlet Heat Pill, and it's nearly flawless. It was crafted in just seven minutes..."

With those words, doubt transformed into awe on everyone's faces.

How could a mere Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist like Jared craft a nearly flawless Seventh Level pill when using a lousy pill cauldron? Besides that, doing so in seven minutes defied all logic.

"Impossible! I don't believe it! How can a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist whip up a Seventh Level Pill in such little time without the help of a good pill cauldron? This must be a sham. You're all in cahoots and cheating the system!" Roderick yelled in disbelief.

He refused to believe that Jared could accomplish creating a Seventh Level Pill in mere minutes, especially with such a shabby pill cauldron.

"Roderick, are you saying you don't trust us?" Gregory's face darkened.

"Yes! I don't trust you! You and Jared are in cahoots! Otherwise, why would you introduce this fourth round? It's rigged in his favor. What he crafted isn't even a Seventh Level Pill!" Roderick remained resolute and defiant.

"Fine, we'll give you the opportunity to inspect it. You can come up and check for yourself to see if it's really a Seventh Level Pill," Gregory said loudly.

"Sure, I'll inspect it, but I'll invite more people to do the same to ensure there's no foul play," Roderick snapped. He then chose a few more volunteers from the crowd.

Those who came to watch were all alchemists and could differentiate pills easily.

The chosen individuals came up to the judges and began their assessment of Jared's Seventh Level pill.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2836-After a thorough examination, the pill refined by Jared was indeed of Seventh Level Top Tier quality, not to mention nearly perfect. There was no mistake.

“Mr. Gale, there’s no mistake. This is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill,” they said to Roderick.

Roderick stared at the pill, his face flushed crimson. If I admit it, that means I’ll lose. Not only will I not win the first place, but I’ll also have to kneel before Jared and give away my spiritual cauldron!

“Although this is a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, I suspect Jared didn’t refine it. You all must’ve tampered with the process and prepared the pill in advance! Otherwise, how could Jared be so calm at the beginning? Moreover, with that broken pill cauldron of his, it’s unrealistic to think he could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill. The cauldron would’ve surely exploded as it couldn’t possibly withstand the might of such a high-level pill! Everyone, Jared is just a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist, yet he managed to refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill using that shabby cauldron within a few minutes! This is completely unfeasible. They’ve clearly conspired to deceive me. I will not accept this outcome!” Roderick began to stir everyone’s emotions, trying to use the crowd to pressure the judges.

“That’s right. I don’t think that pill cauldron can produce a Seventh Level Top Tier pill, can it?”

“There’s no way a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill within a few minutes without the enhancement from a good pill cauldron!”

“Is there really a scheme involved? Don’t tell me even Jipsdale’s Alchemist Fair is now secretly manipulating the competition’s outcome, too?”

Everyone clamored because they, too, found it hard to believe that Jared could refine a Seventh Level Top Tier pill in just a few minutes.

The turn of events left Gregory and the other judges stumped. The pill was indeed crafted by Jared, yet everyone else was unconvinced, so what else could they do?

“Roderick, how are you certain that my pill cauldron is junk? What if my cauldron is a specialized cauldron that is more advanced than your spiritual cauldron?” Jared couldn’t help but sneer at Roderick’s demeanor.

“Pfft! That sh*tty cauldron of yours isn’t even comparable to my spiritual cauldron, yet you dare claim it’s a specialized cauldron. What else are you capable of except boasting? If what you possess is genuinely a specialized cauldron, I’ll grovel at your feet and even address you as my dad!”

Following his words, Roderick spat on the floor, refusing to believe Jared’s grimy cauldron was a specialized cauldron.

“Forget it. I don’t want a son like you.” Jared scoffed.

“Young man, don’t keep us in suspense. Why don’t you clean up your magical item and show us its true nature?” At that moment, the elderly judge from Jipsdale slowly spoke.

Jared glanced at the elderly judge, realizing the latter had recognized his Divine Cauldron, so he nodded.

He walked up to his Divine Cauldron and gently tapped on it.

Immediately afterward, the blackened surface of the Divine Cauldron gradually cleared up, turning into a yellow-bronze color. A glow emanated from the inside of the cauldron, and the words “Divine Cauldron” became clearly visible.

The sudden change stunned everyone. Even Roderick was staring blankly at the Divine Cauldron.

“Divine Cauldron. This is the ancient Divine Cauldron, the sacred item in alchemy!” the elderly judge exclaimed in agitation upon laying his eyes on the Divine Cauldron’s true form.

Gregory and the others were also astounded, their eyes wide as they stared at the sight before them in utter astonishment.

The members of the crowd below the stage were equally dumbstruck, gazing at the Divine Cauldron in front of them with traces of excitement in their eyes. Roderick’s body shuddered uncontrollably. Divine Cauldron. This is the Divine Cauldron. It’s countless times more advanced than my spiritual cauldron! But I don’t understand. How could Jared possess a sacred item like this?

“Impossible. This is impossible!” Roderick shook his head frantically, unable to believe what was transpiring before his eyes.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2837-“Roderick, the truth has been laid out right before your eyes. You’ve already lost. What else do you have to say?” the elderly judge questioned Roderick coldly.

“How is this possible? Why is this happening?” Roderick paced in circles as if he had lost his mind.

“I now declare that the champion of this Alchemist Fair is Jared!” the elderly judge announced loudly.

With the result being made official, the audience erupted into applause.

“We have a rising star in the world of alchemists!”

“Divine Cauldron! This is the first time I’ve seen a specialized cauldron.”

“Even with the aid of the Divine Cauldron, I reckon there aren’t many people who can refine a Seventh Level pill within a few minutes.”

Everyone was now showering Jared with praises, no longer directing a word of ridicule or doubt at him.

“Roderick, the outcome has been decided. Isn’t it time for you to fulfill your promises?” Jared asked Roderick.

Roderick regarded Jared with a frosty gaze, his eyes filled with defiance. Nevertheless, he had undeniably lost.

“Jared, I jested earlier, so my words don’t count. Besides, there’s nothing stating that wagering is allowed during the Alchemist Fair’s competition.” There was no way Roderick would kneel before Jared, much less give away his spiritual cauldron.

“You played me for a fool?” Jared narrowed his eyes.

“So what if I did? We’re in Jipsdale. Do you dare to lay a hand on me here?” Roderick dared behave haughtily as the rules in Jipsdale forbade anyone from private dueling.

Taking in Roderick’s arrogant demeanor, Jared clenched his fists tightly.

“The rules of Jipsdale don’t allow anyone to start a fight except in an arena. This is a platform to host an alchemy contest, so it’s also considered an arena,” the elderly judge piped up.

The elderly judge’s implication could not be more obvious. He was pointing out to Jared that since they were in the arena, Jared could disregard Jipsdale’s rules.

Needless to say, Jared understood the elderly judge’s words.

As soon as the elderly judge finished his sentence, Jared had already thrown a punch.

“How dare you trick me? I’ll make you pay!” Jared’s punch landed on Roderick’s abdomen, causing him to fall to the ground.

Considering Roderick’s strength, he was undoubtedly no match for Jared. Jared could effortlessly beat up Roderick.

He stepped forward, grasped Roderick’s collar, and slapped the latter several times.

Roderick was utterly defenseless, and in no time, his face became bruised and swollen.

At the sight of Roderick getting beaten to a pulp, Pearl felt her heart ache and rushed forward, bellowing at Jared, “Jared, stop!”

“Get back here, Pearl!” Gregory immediately chided furiously when he saw Pearl was still trying to protect Roderick.

However, Pearl turned a deaf ear to Gregory’s order and shielded Roderick. Jared wasn’t going to indulge Pearl, so he casually shoved her aside with a wave of his hand. Then, he lifted Roderick and continued hitting him.

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Roderick fell to his knees with a thud and apologized sincerely to Jared.

“What about your spiritual cauldron?” Jared demanded.

"I'll gift it to you. You can have it. I don't want it anymore!" Gregory was traumatized by Jared's ruthlessness.

Looking at Roderick's cowardly demeanor, Jared waved his hand and said, "Get lost!"

Hearing that, Roderick swiftly got up to leave, but Pearl quickly stopped him.

"Roderick, didn't you say you'd take me with you? Let's go together."

Pearl knew only tough times awaited her if she remained there. After all, Gregory had already begun to doubt her.

"F*ck off! Who would leave with you? I lied to you. You should take a good look in the mirror. The sight of you disgusts me!" Roderick cursed maliciously before pushing Pearl to the ground.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2838-At that moment, Roderick laid all the blame on Pearl. He was convinced that she had not poisoned Jared. Otherwise, Jared wouldn't have performed so well today!

Pearl collapsed onto the ground, gazing at Roderick with disbelief. It was hard for her to fathom that the man she had shared an intimate moment with just the previous night would now forcefully push her aside, spin around, and depart without a trace of hesitation.

But he told me he loved me!

Observing Roderick's callous demeanor, Pearl instantly burst into tears. A moment later, however, a mixture of anger and bitterness shone in her eyes. Suddenly, she sprung to her feet and charged at Roderick, her grip locking around his thighs.

"Don't you dare walk away from me like this! Explain yourself! You manipulated me, and now you're just going to leave me behind?" Pearl's grasp on his thighs tightened as she shouted. "You handed me the poison and told me to use it on my master, and now you're acting as if you have nothing to do with it? If it weren't for me, would you have even won the third round of the competition? How can you be so heartless?"

Roderick's face drained of color when he heard that. "What nonsense are you talking about? When did I ever ask you to poison others? Don't you dare accuse me!"

After uttering those words, he lifted his hand, poised to strike her head, completely disregarding the passionate night they once shared.

Anyone harboring dishonest intentions during the Alchemist Fair held in Jipsdale would face grave consequences for their cheating.

Roderick was prepared to kill Pearl right then and there, all to prevent her from divulging anything.

However, just as Roderick was on the verge of ending Pearl's life, Gregory abruptly intervened, effectively blocking his action.

"Roderick, do you truly intend to commit murder in front of so many people? You better explain yourself. Otherwise, don't think you can leave here unscathed!" Gregory's voice was stern and unwavering as he addressed Roderick.

"What is there for me to explain? I didn't do anything! It's your disciple who's making baseless accusations," Roderick retorted. "She seduced me, but I didn't reciprocate her feelings. Are you Solaris Sect folks trying to push me into marrying her?"

Roderick was determined to insist he had nothing to do with the matter.

Shooting daggers at Roderick, Pearl sank into despair. She sobbed uncontrollably as she laid out the full truth. "Master, I'm so sorry. Roderick gave me a packet of poison and instructed me to brew coffee for all of you. It was the poison's influence that clouded your judgment earlier as it damages one's spiritual sense. He promised that if I did as he asked, he would take me away with him."

Upon hearing the revelation, the crowd looked upon Roderick with a mix of disdain and disgust, shaking their heads and gossiping about his terrible acts. There was nothing scary about losing in the Alchemist Fair. After all, disparities in power among contestants were inevitable. Yet, stooping to deceitful tactics for victory was nothing short of shameful.

Upon hearing that, the elderly judge leaped forward to confront Roderick.

"Roderick, how dare you cheat using such dishonorable tactics at the Alchemist Fair? You've gone overboard!"

Confronted by the elder's wrathful glare and the furious expressions of Gregory and the rest, Roderick found himself breaking out in a cold sweat.

"I'm innocent! She's accusing me of something I didn't do! I never asked her to do anything! I've been framed!" Roderick desperately shook his head while explaining.

"We just need to do a search on your body to know if you're innocent," Jared proposed. "After all, if you did do it, you must still have the poison with you!"

"Yes. Search him!" Ghaylen concurred.

Gregory advanced toward Roderick to conduct the search. However, with a swift move, Roderick dispersed a white mist and vanished into the distance.

The elderly judge snorted and said, "Do you think you can run away?"

Following that, he flicked his sleeve, prompting a startled scream from the fleeing Roderick. In a shocking turn of events, Roderick's body swelled up before exploding into a mist of blood.

As the crowd witnessed Roderick's gruesome demise, a somber silence enveloped the scene. Everyone present understood the gravity of upholding Jipsdale's rules. Transgressing them would lead to such a fate.

There was no discernible emotion on Pearl's face at Roderick's horrible death. Then, she knelt before Gregory and pleaded, "Master, I know I've committed a grave mistake. Please forgive me."

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2839-Gregory's countenance was a mask of anger as he looked down at Pearl kneeling on the ground. However, he maintained his silence, his eyes turning to his fellow elders instead.

"Gregory, the reputation of Solaris Sect cannot be tarnished," one of the elders said.

Another chimed in, "That's right! We came close to making a grave error and jeopardizing the reputation of Solaris Sect!"

"It's a disgrace for our sect to have such a disciple."

Having spoken their minds, the elders turned around and walked away.

As for Pearl's punishment, they no longer concerned themselves with it. They left it to Gregory to decide.

"Master, I've done all of you wrong. Please forgive me this one time! I'm genuinely sorry!" Pearl continuously banged her head on the ground while confessing her mistake.

Gregory knitted his brows. It was clear that he was in a dilemma.

In the end, he raised his hand and struck Pearl with a palm.

The strike was not meant to take her life—it was to nullify her cultivation.

"You've been my disciple for many years, and now I'm taking everything I've taught you back. You must leave this place right now. Go wherever you wish to go. From now on, I'm no longer your master," Gregory uttered, avoiding Pearl's gaze by shutting his eyes.

"Master! Master, I'm powerless now without my cultivation. I'll die for sure if I leave this place! Where else can I go? Please don't cast me away. I'll stay to serve you for the rest of my life!" Pearl begged him.

Yet, Gregory turned away without sparing another glance in her direction.

"Jared, please! Please speak on my behalf. I know what I did was wrong. I won't repeat the same mistake again!" Pearl shifted her attention to Jared, hoping he could plead on her behalf.

Nonetheless, Jared's gaze remained devoid of compassion as he stared at the tearful Pearl kneeling on the ground.

"You reap what you sow. You can't blame anyone for this," he coldly stated.

Pearl continued to plead, but as Gregory's determination became evident and she realized there was no chance of her staying, she slowly rose to her feet and departed.

After a few steps, she turned back to cast a bitter glance at Jared and Gregory, her eyes brimming with resentment.

However, no one paid her any attention anymore. With her cultivation stripped away, once she ventured beyond Jipsdale's borders, she would likely fall prey to the beasts of the wild.

"This scandal emerged due to my inadequate guidance of my disciple. I'm so sorry, Mr. Chance. I must take my leave now." With a grim expression, Gregory was about to leave.

"Wait a minute, Mr. Stark!" Jared immediately called out.

"Is there anything else I can help you with, Mr. Chance?" Gregory asked.

"Mr. Stark, Roderick's spiritual cauldron holds no value for me, so I'd like to offer it to you. It might be important to you." With a wave of his hand, Jared summoned the spiritual cauldron over.

"B-But... I don't think that's appropriate!" Gregory exclaimed in astonishment. Given that his disciple had caused so much trouble, he had not expected Jared to offer him the spiritual cauldron.

"What's inappropriate about this? Take it," Jared responded with a faint smile. Gregory accepted the spiritual cauldron, his expression one of disbelief. "Mr. Chance, if Emerald Cauldron Sect ever requires assistance from Solaris Sect, we'll lend a hand without hesitation."

With that, Gregory departed with the spiritual cauldron. The rationale behind Jared's decision not to leave it for Viola or Ghaylen was rooted in his current affiliation with Emerald Cauldron Sect. Should the need ever arise, he could always utilize his Divine Cauldron.

In addition to that, Jared understood that his stay at Emerald Cauldron Sect was temporary. By entrusting the spiritual cauldron to Solaris Sect, he could forge a lasting friendship with them. This partnership would remain advantageous even after Jared's eventual departure from Emerald Cauldron Sect and would ease the burdens on Viola.

Moreover, given Emerald Cauldron Sect's current strength, ensuring the safekeeping of the spiritual cauldron could have posed a challenge as it had the potential to attract calamity to them.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2840-After Gregory had left, the elderly judge handed Jared a token and said, "Here you go. You have won first place in this competition, so someone from Jipsdale will deliver the prizes to your house later. You may use this token to meet the count tomorrow."

Feeling curious about the special prize, Jared said, "Thank you, sir. Could you tell me about the special prize the count mentioned?"

"I'm sorry, but I don't know what it is either. You'll only find out after you meet the count," the elderly judge replied and leaped away immediately after.

Seeing as he wouldn't be getting his answer from the elderly judge, Jared had no choice but to return with Viola and the others.

Later that evening, people from Jipsdale showed up with all sorts of resources. Everyone's lips curled into wide smiles when they saw the mountain of resources in front of them.

Ghaylen and Viola then began cultivating using the resources received.

Jared had been planning on cultivating as well, but he saw Yuven spacing out in the yard and decided to approach him instead.

Yuven was unable to cultivate because his powers were suppressed.

He's probably worried about Ivasha and Imperial Beast City...

With that in mind, Jared walked up to Yuven and patted him on the shoulder.

"Don't worry! I'm sure the count will be able to help you with your poisoning tomorrow."

Yuven nodded. "Yeah."

The next day, Jared brought Viola and the others over to the count's residence, which was located in the middle of Jipsdale.

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There were tons of guards stationed all over the place. On top of that, Jared also noticed several arcane arrays around the building.

"What's with this high level of security? Is the count perenoid or something?"

Jared let out a chuckle when he saw the fortress-like defenses around the count's residence.

The guards immediately let them in the moment Jared brandished the token he received from the elderly judge yesterday.

Jared bumped into Hester shortly after he entered the residence.

It was as though he knew Jared and the others would come and was waiting there for them.

"Come with me," Hester said upon noticing them.

Jared and the others followed Hester through a series of doors before arriving at a shabby-looking, two-story house.

The entire count's residence looked so beautiful that it resembled a palace, so the shabby state of the house before them formed a huge contrast and stood out like a sore thumb.

Jared couldn't help but frown as he wondered if the count was living inside that old house.

"Wait here while I report your arrival," Hester stated before entering the house and closing the door behind him.

"Don't tell me the count lives here? This house looks ridiculously shabby!" Viola exclaimed in confusion while staring at the two-story house in front of them.

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"We don't even know the count's gender," Ghaylen added curiously.

"Why would the count behave so mysteriously and stay in a place like this? Do you think the count has some kind of strange kink? It'll be hard for us to escape if the count tries anything funny!" Yuven said worriedly.

"I don't think so. I've never heard of anyone in Jipsdale being hurt by the count before. Besides, Jipsdale is pretty much a safe haven in these parts, so we shouldn't be in any danger here," Ghaylen replied.

While Ghaylen and the others chatted away, Jared remained completely silent as he stared at the old house and frowned from time to time.

"What's wrong, Jared?" Viola asked when she noticed Jared's expression.

"Do you guys find anything strange about this house?" Jared asked.

Viola shook her head. “No, not really. Apart from it being a little shabby, I don’t see anything strange about it.”

Ghaylen and Yuven, too, were unable to find anything strange after looking closely at the house.

“I feel as though this house is more of a container than a building. Also, there’s definitely an arcane array in this house. I felt a wave of fluctuating spiritual energy coming from inside when the door was opened. That typically comes from a Soul Nourishing Formation,” Jared explained with a frown.

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2835

A Man Like None Other Chapter 2835-Unperturbed by the ridicule, Jared paid no mind to everyone else. He flicked his finger, and a surge of spiritual fire kindled within the Divine Cauldron.

Witnessing this, Roderick quickened his pace. His pill was now over halfway complete. Determined to outpace Jared, he pressed on.

As for Jared’s claim of crafting a Seventh Level pill in a few minutes, Roderick simply didn’t believe it. That was utterly impossible!

As the seconds ticked away, all eyes remained fixated on Jared’s pill cauldron. They were eager to witness if he could genuinely yield a Seventh Level pill within the given time.

However, after five minutes elapsed, Jared’s cauldron remained dormant. Sporadic bursts of spiritual fire were the only visible activity.

“It’s been so long, and there’s been zero progress. Even if he was given hundreds of minutes, I doubt he’d succeed, let alone a few minutes.”

“Crafting a Seventh Level pill isn’t child’s play. I bet this guy can’t pull it off despite his boasts.”

“Do you see that? There’s been no change in his pill cauldron at all. Does he really think he can make a Seventh Level pill like this?”

Mockery swelled from the crowd.

Even Gregory was frowning slightly as he struggled to grasp Jared’s motive for participating in Roderick’s wager.

Five minutes had lapsed, yet the cauldron remained still. Jared’s chances of crafting the pill in minutes—as he claimed—seemed grim.

Soon, Viola and Ghaylen grew worried as well. Though Jared possessed the Divine Cauldron so crafting a Seventh Level pill was entirely possible, making it within minutes still posed a considerable challenge.

Just as the majority began to doubt that Jared could pull off crafting a Seventh Level pill in mere minutes, a burst of flames erupted from his Divine Cauldron.

A scarlet pill soared from the flames, landing in Jared's hand soon after.

"The Seventh Level pill is ready. Judges, please inspect it."

Jared nonchalantly tossed the pill, and it landed in front of the elderly judge.

Gathering around, the elderly judge, Gregory, and the other elders scrutinized the Seventh Level pill crafted by Jared.

Soon, the elderly judge announced, "This is a Seventh Level Scarlet Heat Pill, and it's nearly flawless. It was crafted in just seven minutes..."

With those words, doubt transformed into awe on everyone's faces.

How could a mere Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist like Jared craft a nearly flawless Seventh Level pill when using a lousy pill cauldron? Besides that, doing so in seven minutes defied all logic.

"Impossible! I don't believe it! How can a Fifth Level Top Tier alchemist whip up a Seventh Level Pill in such little time without the help of a good pill cauldron? This must be a sham. You're all in cahoots and cheating the system!" Roderick yelled in disbelief.

He refused to believe that Jared could accomplish creating a Seventh Level Pill in mere minutes, especially with such a shabby pill cauldron.

"Roderick, are you saying you don't trust us?" Gregory's face darkened.

"Yes! I don't trust you! You and Jared are in cahoots! Otherwise, why would you introduce this fourth round? It's rigged in his favor. What he crafted isn't even a Seventh Level Pill!" Roderick remained resolute and defiant.

"Fine, we'll give you the opportunity to inspect it. You can come up and check for yourself to see if it's really a Seventh Level Pill," Gregory said loudly.

"Sure, I'll inspect it, but I'll invite more people to do the same to ensure there's no foul play," Roderick snapped. He then chose a few more volunteers from the crowd.

Those who came to watch were all alchemists and could differentiate pills easily.

The chosen individuals came up to the judges and began their assessment of Jared's Seventh Level pill.