

## Read A Man Like None Other & The Mans Decree Chapter 421

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#### Is There Something

As the sun began to set and darkness covered the land, Jared got himself changed and prepared to attend the banquet.

Nonetheless, Josephine slept so soundly that she shook her head after Jared tried to wake her up. "You should just go alone. I'm not coming with you. I'm too tired and I just want to sleep."

After giving Josephine a look, Jared turned and left. Given that she was wearing a protective jade pendant, he would know instantly if she was in any danger.

Meanwhile, at Glamor Hotel...

Everyone who was someone in Horington was there. Due to Jared, William's position in Horington was significantly elevated. In fact, even Walter and Glen had to treat William with respect.

As for the other families, all of them ingratiated themselves with William and were envious of the fact that he had a wonderful daughter.

"Mr. Chance is here," someone yelled.

The moment they saw Jared enter, everyone stood up to welcome his arrival.

After greeting everyone with a slight nod, Jared took his seat beside William.

As everyone settled down, they were filled with excitement. After all, to be able to share a meal with Jared was a coveted honor by all the prominent families in the city.

"Mr. Chance, I heard that you rejected General Long's invitation to replace him as general at the Department of Justice. Is that true?"

Walter was the first one to ask about the matter.

Jared broke into a slight smile. "I'm just too busy to take over that role."

Everyone gasped upon learning that Jared had declined the offer. As a result, they were astounded as to how powerful Jared truly was.

After all, the general of the Department of Justice in Summerbank was a position that was senior to even the mayor and coveted by many.

"Let's drink to our heart's content tonight and not talk about business," William proposed by raising his wineglass. He was cognizant that Jared didn't like others sticking their nose into his business.

"That's right. Let's drink and skip the serious topics." Walter nodded in agreement.

Soon, the banquet began. Amidst the crowd's merry-making, Jared was secretly worried about Josephine's safety.

Meanwhile, right outside Dragon Bay, two men who were dressed covertly in black robes were walking toward the residential area.

When they strolled through the entrance, the security guards behaved as if they were oblivious to the intruders' presence.

Under normal circumstances, the guards in such luxurious neighborhoods would never allow strangers to enter, let alone those who dressed suspiciously and obviously looked like villains.

However, none of the security guards stopped them at all.

Suddenly, one of the guards furrowed his brows and asked, "Did you feel as if something just passed us by?"

"What is it? How can you alone see something when none of us saw anything?" another guard retorted.

"I don't know. I just felt as if someone had entered when a breeze blew past and sent a chill down my spine," the guard replied in an uncertain tone.

"Did you see a ghost instead?"

"Hahaha..." the rest of his colleagues laughed mockingly.

In spite of that, the guard ignored them as he began to patrol the neighborhood with his security baton in hand.

Evidently, he was very responsible and took his duty seriously.

Just when he turned a corner, he suddenly saw the two black figures who had covered themselves up except for their eyes.

Shocked, the guard raised his baton and questioned, "Who are you?"

One of the black figures responded by raising his hand and pulling the guard toward him with an invisible force. The next instant, the guard was strangled by his neck and could barely breathe.

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#### Revenge

As he widened his eyes in fear, he desperately tried to struggle free. Unfortunately, his efforts were futile.

"Which one is Jared's mansion?" the black figure asked in a gruff voice.

"M-Mr. Chance's mansion is at the top of the hill. He—"

Crack!

Before he could finish, the security guard lost his life instantly when his neck was snapped.

"Let's go!"

Just as they spoke, the two black figures disappeared in a flash and reappeared more than ten meters in front.

Back at the mansion, Josephine had already woken up. As her stomach was growling, she went into the kitchen to cook something for herself.

At that moment, the two black figures had entered the mansion without her knowledge.

One of them took a deep breath and commented, "He is really powerful as expected. Within the entire residential area, this mansion has the highest concentration of spiritual energy."

Subsequently, both of them settled down on the couch without fear. When Josephine had finished cooking and brought out her food, she was so shocked to see the two intruders in her living room that she dropped the plate she was holding.

With her face turning pale, Josephine asked in a terrified tone, "Who are you? How did you come in here?"

After both of them scrutinized Josephine, their eyes were filled with excitement. "I didn't expect Jared's chick to be so hot!"

"It appears that coming here wasn't a waste of time at all. We would definitely not hurt a beauty like her!"

Both of them ignored Josephine while bantering with each other. After all, they treated her as their prey.

Having heard their exchange, Josephine's expression darkened. She knew that both of them were there to cause Jared harm.

Trying her best to calm down, Josephine pressed on with her questions. "Who in the world are you? Do you know that trespassing is against the law?"

"Against the law? Hahaha, neither of us even knows what that means.

Let me be upfront with you, I'm Dreadwing of Crescent Sect, while he is Darkwing. We're here to exact revenge on Jared for killing our other comrades. So tell us, where is he?" Dreadwing asked.

"He... he isn't at home."

Josephine shook her head as she snuck a glance at the bedroom. Noticing that the door was still open, she prepared to flee to her room, close the door, and give Jared a call.

“You can forget about escaping because no one ever escapes from us!” Darkwing declared while staring at Josephine with a lustful gaze.

However, Josephine naturally didn’t listen to him. Gritting her teeth, she began to sprint toward her bedroom.

“Hmph, how dare you disobey us. Didn’t I tell you that there’s no escape,” Darkwing snorted.

Suddenly, he appeared right behind Josephine and tried to grab her.

Just when he attempted to do so, a red flash of light emanated from the jade pendant Josephine was wearing. In the blink of an eye, Darkwing was struck by it and sent flying.

Upon entering her room, Josephine slammed the door shut and locked it behind her. With her back to the door, she desperately tried to catch her breath.

Staring at his trembling hand, Darkwing exclaimed, “An ultimate shielding tool?”

Meanwhile, at Glamor Hotel, Jared felt a jolt in his body, causing him to drop his wine glass which smashed onto the floor.

“Mr. Chance, what’s wrong?”

“Jared, are you all right?”

Even though everyone turned their attention to him, Jared had no time to explain at all. Disappearing in a flash, he reappeared at the window and leaped out with a single bound.

Stunned, the crowd surged forward to see what happened. After all, they were more than ten floors up and Jared had jumped out without any hesitation.

By the time they looked down from the window, Jared was nowhere to be seen.

“An immortal. Mr. Chance must be an immortal!” Walter exclaimed with a shocked expression.

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#### I Will Not Join You

Meanwhile, Josephine's hands were trembling as she fumbled out her phone to give Jared a call. Before she could call out, Jared was already calling in.

"Jared, there are two men from Crescent Sect here and they look pretty formidable. They are currently in the living room, while I have locked myself in the bedroom!" Josephine reported to Jared anxiously.

Jared's heart sank when he heard her words, as he knew a bedroom door wasn't going to stop the men from Crescent Sect at all.

"Wait inside the bedroom, I'm arriving very soon!"

Just as he spoke, Jared increased his pace to his maximum. He traveled so fast that he could hear the wind howling in his ear.

Back in the living hall, the two intruders from Crescent Sect didn't intend on breaking down the bedroom door. Instead, they sat on the couch and continued to chat.

"Jared is really something to be able to create an ultimate shielding tool. If we are able to recruit him, he would definitely become a major asset for Crescent Sect," Darkwing commented in admiration.

Dreadwing shook his head. "Given how proud he is, there's no way he's going to join us. You'd better not waste your effort."

"Hmph, regardless of how much pride he has, there's no way he can escape my Soul Grabbing Technique. When the time comes, he will do whatever I order him to!"

Breaking into a smile, Darkwing raised his right hand which was being enveloped by a cloud of black mist.

Right at that moment, Jared barged into the mansion. When he saw the two intruders sitting on the couch instead of attacking the bedroom, he breathed a sigh of relief.

At the sight of Jared, the two intruders sprang to their feet, looking surprised.

“Are you Jared?” Darkwing asked.

They didn’t expect Jared to be so young. Given his achievements at this age, he definitely has the potential to become Crescent Sect’s leader if he joins us.

“Are you from Crescent Sect?” Jared asked with a frown.

Darkwing replied with a nod, “That’s right. We are the Darkwing and Dreadwing of Crescent Sect. Since you have killed our comrades, we would definitely not rest until we have our revenge. However, taking into consideration your youth and skills, we will spare your life if you’re willing to join us!”

“Hmph!” Jared snorted. “I’m not interested in joining an unscrupulous group like Crescent Sect. Today, you will pay with your lives for scaring my wife!”

Dreadwing ranted in agitation, “Didn’t I tell you that there’s no way his pride would allow him to join us? Stop wasting time, and let’s just get this over and done with!”

“Be patient, and let me handle this!”

With a smirk on his face, Darkwing increased the intensity of the cloud on his right hand. With a flick of his finger, he then shot it in Jared’s direction.

When he saw the impending attack, Jared was delighted by it. Pretending to have failed at dodging it, he let the black mist enter his body.

The moment it did, Jared absorbed it right away. Subsequently, he began to use Focus Technique to process it.

Darkwing burst into laughter when he saw that Jared didn’t avoid his attack. “Haha, kid, how dare you behave so brazenly with such lousy skills. Now that you have been struck by my Soul Grabbing Technique, you will have to obey my instructions unconditionally!”

As for Dreadwing, he was briefly stunned. “With that kind of skill, how did he manage to kill Venicus and Zedekiah? Could they have been assassinated instead?”

Darkwing replied with contempt, “That must be it. Venicus is a lecherous man who falls prey to women easily. Considering how pretty Jared’s wife is, Venicus might have been killed after falling into a trap!”

While they were talking, Jared quickly digested the black mist inside his abdomen. After that, he feigned surprise and asked Darkwing, “What kind of trick was that? Why did it disappear with a flash?”

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#### Give Me A Massage

Briefly stunned, Darkwing gave Jared a surprised look. “Kid, why is your mind still present?”

“Why wouldn’t it be?” Jared questioned.

“Da\*n it, what happened? Did something go wrong with your Soul Grabbing Technique?” Dreadwing cursed.

“That’s impossible! I must have used too little energy.” The moment Darkwing finished, he swung his hand and enveloped Jared with a massive cloud of black mist.

Very quickly, the mist entered Jared’s body, causing his eyes to become listless and his body to turn stiff.

When he saw the change in Jared, Darkwing burst into laughter. “Hahaha, did you see that? It has succeeded now. The kid must have used his spiritual energy to protect his presence of mind just now. That was why it didn’t succeed the first time.”

Meanwhile, inside Jared's body, the black mist desperately tried to invade his brain. Unfortunately, it was being restrained by Jared's abdomen as he began to digest it with Focus Technique.

"Has it worked? Why don't you test him?" Dreadwing suggested.

Waving at Jared, Darkwing ordered, "Kid, come over and give me a massage!"

With a blank look in his eyes, Jared walked over to Darkwing's side. Standing behind him, he began to massage Darkwing's shoulders.

"Look, my Soul Grabbing Technique never fails!" Darkwing declared smugly.

Laying down on the couch, Dreadwing instructed, "Give me a massage next."

As Jared placed his hands on Darkwing's shoulders to massage him, he began to use Focus Technique to absorb all of Darkwing's spiritual energy like a massive whirlpool.

While enjoying the massage on the couch, Darkwing quickly realized that something was amiss. He could feel his spiritual energy gushing out uncontrollably. What started as a trickle seemed to have turned into a raging flow.

When it dawned upon him that he was in danger, Darkwing wanted to get back up but could no longer move. When he looked up, he saw Jared's staring at him with a mischievous look in his eyes. Evidently, Jared was not under his control at all.

Even though he wanted to scream, he was unable to make a sound. As for Dreadwing, he had closed his eyes in preparation for his turn.

Soon, Darkwing's spiritual energy had been sucked dry by Jared, turning him into a shriveled corpse with his eyes widened in disbelief.

Turning his attention to Dreadwing, who had closed his eyes and was waiting with anticipation for the massage, Jared cracked a smile and placed his hands right on Dreadwing's shoulders.

Dreadwing opened his eyes in surprise the moment Jared made contact. Why is he giving me a massage when Darkwing hasn't ordered him to?

Subsequently, when he saw the dead body beside him, he jumped up from the couch in fright and felt as if his mind was blown.

In the blink of an eye, his comrade had been turned into a dried-out corpse without even calling for help.

Feeling a chill down his spine, Dreadwing gave Jared a horrified look before he turned around to flee.

Moving in a flash, Jared appeared right in front of Dreadwing to block his escape. "Since you have come here today, there's no point in leaving. Tonight, I will be absorbing both all your powers to improve my cultivation."

Furrowing his brows, Dreadwing gave his black robe a sudden wave to block out the light. The next moment, he suddenly disappeared into the darkness.

"Does Crescent Sect only know how to trick others with illusions?"

With a look of disdain, Jared grabbed at the darkness. After an agonizing scream was heard, Dreadwing reappeared while his black robe was shattered into pieces.

With a terrified look on his face, Dreadwing opened his mouth to speak, but it was already too late.

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#### The Enemy Of My Enemy Is My Friend

His spiritual energy had been swiftly sucked away by Jared who used the Focus Technique to absorb them for his own use.

After he was done, Jared dumped the bodies into a ditch on the hill.

Then, he tidied up the house before trying to push the room door open. However, he noticed that it was still locked from the inside.

Jared knocked and shouted, "Josephine, it's me. I'm fine!"

When Josephine opened the door, her face was still filled with panic. The moment she saw Jared, she threw herself right into his arms.

Jared patted her gently on the back and reassured her softly.

At that moment, the jade pendant she was wearing had already lost its shine, indicating that it was no longer effective.

Looking at it, Jared frowned slightly. At that moment, he endeavored to make a more powerful ultimate shielding tool. Or else, Josephine's safety could not be guaranteed.

Josephine had become Jared's weakness, as he was constantly worried about her.

Meanwhile, in the grand lobby of Crescent Sect, Fabian was playing chess with an elderly man. Suddenly, a black clay vessel beside him began to move. When Fabian opened it to check, he noticed that two parasites were dead and were being devoured by the other parasites.

"It seems that I have underestimated him."

Fabian furrowed his brows.

"What's wrong? Are Darkwing and Dreadwing dead?" the old man asked.

With a grim expression, Fabian nodded in silence.

"It seems that we old men need to pay him a visit." Just as he spoke, the old man waved his sleeves, causing the chess set in front of him to disappear.

As he turned to leave, a cold glint flashed in Fabian's eye.

Meanwhile, Josephine had already fallen into a deep sleep at Dragon Bay. With one hand gripping Jared tightly, it was evident that she didn't dare to let Jared leave.

When he saw the condition she was in, Jared let out a gentle sigh. With sympathy in his eyes, he blamed himself for putting Josephine through such a terrifying experience.

Closing his eyes, Jared began to cultivate the spiritual energy he had absorbed from Dreadwing and Darkwing. Soon, a faint white mist began to

form over his head. Once it took the shape of a vortex, it began to gush rapidly into Jared's body.

The next day morning, Phoenix sent a message informing Jared that she had paid Herb Palace and was waiting for them to deliver the goods.

Nonetheless, Jared didn't reply, as he planned to spend the next few days with Josephine so that he can ease her from the trauma.

Meanwhile, after Herb Palace had received the money sent by Phoenix, Jeremy went to see Spencer right away.

"Palace Chief, we have received the money. Should we send over the goods?" Jeremy asked.

"Of course, we should. Furthermore, we have to make sure that everything is accounted for!" Spencer replied.

Jeremy inquired curiously. "Palace Chief, why do we have to do that? Zachariah is already dead, but Phoenix is still using the Jantz family's name to deal with us. Therefore, why should we send them the goods? On top of that, Phoenix doesn't have a patron in Jadeborough."

"It's true that she doesn't have support in Jadeborough, but there's someone powerful behind her still. Despite only being in his early twenties, he was able to kill both Zachariah and Venicus of Crescent Sect. Don't you think he's a genius?" Spencer replied with a slight grin.

"Palace Chief, are you talking about the man called Jared Chance? I heard that the only reason he was able to kill Zachariah was that Zachariah was worn down after battling Bane and Phoenix. Hence, Jared simply took advantage of his weak martial energy," Jeremy commented with a mocking tone.

After all, there was no way someone in their twenties had enough time to cultivate themselves to the level of an Internal Energy Grandmaster.

"What about Venicus of Crescent Sect? Moreover, Jared had also killed Zedekiah who was sent by them too. Remember, our enemy's enemy is our friend. Sooner or later, we will have a showdown with Crescent Sect. Now that there's so much bad blood between Jared and them, we must try to get him

on our side especially since he is a rare genius,” Spencer explained with a glint in his eye.

The more he talked about it, the more excited he became.

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I Do Not Take In Students

“Quit?” Jared and Josephine looked at Lizbeth in surprise.

They were cognizant of Lizbeth’s dream to become an investigator where she could take down criminals and protect the innocent.

Consequently, they were taken aback by her decision.

“Why did you quit?” Josephine asked.

“I have to become stronger before I can fulfill my dream. Therefore, I want Jared to be my master!” Lizbeth declared with a resolute expression.

Recently, Lizbeth was traumatized by the fact that she was helpless against the overwhelming power of her enemies even though she was a member of the Department of Justice. Therefore, she decided to quit and train so that she could become stronger.

Nevertheless, her words almost caused Jared to choke on himself.

At the same time, Josephine covered her mouth as she giggled. “Lizbeth, have you gone mad? If Jared becomes your master, how are you going to address me going forward? Are you going to call me mistress?”

“Sheesh, I’m not going to do that. Besides, aren’t you embarrassed for saying that? Both of you aren’t even married.”

Lizbeth rolled her eyes at Josephine and returned her attention to Jared.

“Jared, please accept me as your student and teach me martial arts!”

“I don’t take in students.” Jared shook his head.

“You have no choice. I’m going to follow you everywhere you go.”

Lizbeth grabbed his arm and looked as if she was going to leech on him.

Faced with Lizbeth’s cheeky action, Jared looked helplessly at Josephine, hoping that she would help him defuse the situation.

Josephine chuckled in response. “I’m not going to help you. You can always compromise.”

Jared let out a sigh. “Fine. I’ll teach you by giving you some pointers once in a while, but I won’t be your master.”

Left without a choice, Jared relented.

“Sure. As long as you’re willing to teach me.” After cracking a smile, Lizbeth pulled Josephine away. While leaving, she remarked, “Josephine, I’ll take you to see my newest makeup foundation. It’s amazing!”

Staring at the two of them, Jared smiled to himself.

“Mr. Chance, Phoenix has brought the herbs over,” Tommy informed Jared as he approached.

Nodding in acknowledgment, Jared followed Tommy into a room that had been specially prepared for Jared to make pills.

When Phoenix saw Jared, she reported, “Mr. Chance, Herb Palace has sent the herbs over. In fact, they have even given us extra. It seems that they aren’t aware of the fact that Zachariah is dead.”

Glancing at the herbs, he could tell that they were centuries old and of the highest quality just from the spiritual energy they were emitting.

“No, they are definitely aware of it,” Jared replied with a smile.

Given that more than ten days had passed since Zachariah had been killed, it was impossible for Herb Palace not to know. The fact that such a huge organization would be oblivious to such news was simply inconceivable.

“If they already knew, why would they still deal with us? After all, my men were masquerading as the Jantz family when negotiating with them,” Phoenix inquired with a puzzled expression.

“I don’t have an answer for that. Perhaps, they have some other plan in mind.” Jared was equally baffled by what Herb Palace was up to. Then, he added, “Since they have sent us the herbs, we’ll just accept them. Coincidentally, I’m going to make some pills for both of you to further elevate your strength.”

“Thank you, Mr. Chance,” Phoenix and Tommy expressed their gratitude in excitement.

Tommy in particular was motivated by his arrival in Summerbank. He really wanted to increase his strength, hoping to become an Internal Energy Grandmaster one day. That way, he would no longer have any regrets.

After getting Tommy and Phoenix to stand guard outside, Jared sat down with his legs crossed and made more than ten pills from the herbs that were worth billions.

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#### There Is Always Someone Stronger

When he was done, he gave all of them to Phoenix and Tommy. Tommy was given a larger share, as he was a lot weaker than Phoenix.

Holding the pills in their hands, Tommy and Phoenix were filled with gratitude because they were well aware of the cost of the pills. Consequently, Jared’s gesture further cemented their loyalty toward him.

“Tommy, I plan to make more revitalizing pills. Hence, please take this list of ingredients and procure all the herbs on it,” Jared instructed.

“All right.” Tommy nodded before leaving with Phoenix.

Jared wanted to make more revitalizing pills so that he could be prepared for any emergency. Given that he didn’t have any money on hand, he planned to trade them for anything that caught his eye during the Martial Arts Gathering.

In the evening, Lizbeth invited Jared and Josephine to dinner to thank him for agreeing to teach her martial arts.

“Go on, just tell me what you would like to eat. There’s no need to hold back!” Lizbeth offered.

“Why don’t you decide? You would know better than us on what’s good in Summerbank,” Josephine replied.

“All right then, let’s have teppanyaki. I know of a restaurant that’s especially good!”

Just as she spoke, Lizbeth opened the car door.

When she was about to get in, her phone suddenly rang. Over the line, her family instructed her to return home for dinner, as there was something important going on.”

When Lizbeth’s expression turned awkward, Josephine smiled at her. “Don’t worry about it. You should just head home. We’ll just have dinner somewhere around here.”

“Why don’t you come home together with me? My parents are actually looking forward to seeing Jared,” Lizbeth suggested.

“Your parents want to see Jared?” Josephine was stunned.

Realizing that her words had come out wrong, she quickly explained with a blushing face, “It’s all Oliver’s fault. He has been singing Jared’s praises all day at home until my parents were so curious about Jared!”

“Do you think this is appropriate?” Jared asked embarrassingly.

“Why wouldn’t it be? Quick, get in the car!”

After ushering both of them into her car, Lizbeth sped home right away.

Although her parents were important officials in Summerbank, they stayed in an ordinary neighborhood. Despite living in a three-bedroom apartment, it was quite spacious inside.

At that moment, a Rolls-Royce was parked inside the neighborhood and looked extremely out of place.

“Whose luxury car is that? It even has a Jadeborough car plate,” Lizbeth mumbled.

At the same time, Jared and Josephine followed behind her with gifts in their hands.

Since it was their first visit to Lizbeth's home, they naturally couldn't show up empty-handed.

The moment Lizbeth opened the door to her home, she noticed that there were two more guests. Also, a somber atmosphere seemed to have dominated the house.

Upon entering, Jared and Josephine sensed the awkwardness in the air too.

When Jared looked at the young man sitting on the couch, he could tell that the young man had the strength of an Internal Energy Grandmaster from the martial energy he was emitting. In fact, the man was even more powerful than Zachariah.

Behind the young man was a burly and stern-looking middle-aged man. He emitted an aura that was even more powerful than that of the young man.

Both of them were top-tier warriors in Summerbank. At that instant, Jared understood why Luke wanted to send his son out into the world. Evidently, there was always someone more powerful within the martial arts world.

Meanwhile, when the young man felt Jared's aura, he raised his gaze at Jared before averting his eyes quickly.

"Dad, Mom, why is he here?" Lizbeth questioned her parents angrily at the sight of the young man on the couch.

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#### The Called Off Engagement

The young man stood up and smiled at Lizbeth. "Lizbeth, I'm here to see you. Although our engagement has been called off, both of us are still single. Therefore, there's still a chance of us reconciling."

“Franco, you should just give up. I would rather die alone than marry you. Haven’t you humiliated me enough back then? Why don’t you go look for Ms. Bailey instead? Or have you been dumped by her?” Lizbeth gave Franco a look of disdain.

Instead of being angered, Franco simply smiled. “Lizbeth, actually, I still like you and have dumped Mandy a long time ago. This time, I came specifically to visit you!”

Just as he spoke, Franco tried to grab Lizbeth. Even though she tried to avoid him, he was just too fast for her.

The moment she felt his grip on her hand, her expression drastically changed. Subsequently, she tried desperately to struggle free. “Franco, you b\*stard! Let go of me!”

Right when Lizbeth’s parents were about to protest, the middle-aged man shot them a glare. They were so intimidated by it that they recoiled in fear.

All of a sudden, Josephine bellowed, “Who are you? Are you trying to cause trouble here? Let go of Lizbeth!”

Upon Josephine’s protest, the middle-aged man unleashed a frightening force in Josephine’s direction.

“Hmph!”

Snorting, Jared pulled Josephine behind her and intercepted the middle-aged man’s attack with a burst of his own spiritual energy.

As the two massive waves of energy collided, the middle-aged man was pushed back by a few steps before he could steady himself.

After that, Jared stepped forward and pried Franco’s hand away from Lizbeth. “You should treat a lady with more respect,” Jared snapped with an icy tone as he gave Franco a deathly stare.

In response, the middle-aged man’s gaze was filled with murderous intent. “I’m surprised to see that Summerbank still has such young talent.”

The moment he finished, the middle-aged man clenched his fists and prepared to attack.

“Eddy, stand down!” Upon Franco’s instructions, the middle-aged man withdrew his fists.

Subsequently, Franco gave Jared a hostile look. “Who are you to Lizbeth?”

“A friend!” Jared replied indifferently before he released his grip on Franco’s hand.

After scrutinizing Jared from head to toe, Franco suppressed his hostility. “I’m here for business, not to fight. We can spar next time when the opportunity arises.”

Franco then turned toward Lizbeth’s parents. “Mr. Grange, I hope you will consider what I have proposed just now. As long as you can help me find who I’m looking for, I promise to leverage the Coopers’ entire network to get you transferred to Jadeborough for work.”

“I’ll think about it,” Lizbeth’s father replied.

After nodding satisfactorily, Franco left together with Eddy.

“Dad, who is Franco asking you to find? Haven’t our family been humiliated enough by him? Why do you still help him?” Lizbeth questioned her father loudly after Franco was gone.

Her father brought out a photo of a girl. “He wants me to use all my contacts in Summerbank to find her, saying that she might be here in this city. Hence, it’s not really a big deal.”

“You should have rejected him on the spot. Why are you even considering it? It appears to me that you are desiring an official position in Jadeborough!”

After she yelled at the father, Lizbeth turned around and ran out of the house.

Feeling awkward, Jared and Josephine had no choice but to put down the gifts they brought and run after her.

Inside the car, Lizbeth cried pitifully.

Josephine consoled her softly, “Lizbeth, who is that man? Why did he break off his engagement with you?”

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#### Fleeting Feelings

After wiping away her tears, Lizbeth began to relate her story.

When Walter was still an official in Summerbank, he was on good terms with the Coopers of Jadeborough. Back then, the Coopers were still an ordinary family. Their influence began to grow only after leveraging Walter's network.

When Lizbeth had just graduated from university, she was engaged to Franco under Walter's auspices. Back then, she liked Franco for his distinguished looks and capabilities.

However, the good times didn't last. After Walter retired, Franco not only called off the engagement but also proposed to Mandy Bailey of the prominent Jadeborough family in front of everyone. Consequently, the matter dealt a severe blow to both Lizbeth and her family. From then on, the two families fell out with each other.

Gritting her teeth, Josephine cursed, "Franco is worse than an animal!"

Jared let out a gentle sigh at the wheel. The relationship only lasted while it was still in their interest to do so. The Coopers have been extremely ruthless in this matter. Unfortunately, many in this day and age behave the same way too.

After having a simple dinner outside, Jared went back, while Josephine spent the night with Lizbeth to comfort her. Subsequently, Jared used the time he had to make more revitalizing pills.

The next morning, Jesse came to see him.

"Mr. Chance, if you want to attend the Martial Arts Gathering, we will have to travel there today. Or else, we might not be able to find any accommodation if we're late," Jesse informed him respectfully.

“All right then. Please wait for a moment. Let me leave some instructions with my men.”

After nodding in acknowledgment, Jared ordered Tommy and Phoenix to keep an eye on Josephine. With that, he traveled to Tayhaven Town together with Jesse.

A long time ago, Tayhaven was a poor town. It wasn't until Herb Palace developed it and held the annual Martial Arts Gathering did it become a thriving place.

In every corner of the town, one could see medical institutions, hotels, and heavy traffic. Compared to many third or fourth-tier cities, it bustled with a lot more activities.

“Mr. Chance, I have already made reservations for our accommodation. However, the hotels here are a lot simpler than those in Summerbank. Therefore, you will have to lower your expectations.”

Jesse led Jared to a small hotel and stopped at its entrance.

“It's okay.” It didn't matter to Jared where he stayed.

When Jared followed Jesse into the hotel, he swept his gaze across the lobby and noticed the presence of many warriors with strong internal energy. Among them were a few Internal Energy Grandmasters.

As Jesse walked across the lobby, many of them greeted him. Evidently, he was well known in that area.

It wasn't until they arrived at the last room along the third-floor corridor that Jesse remarked, “Mr. Chance, this is already the hotel's best room. You'll have to bear with it for the trip.”

When Jared entered the room, he noticed that it was only slightly bigger than ten square meters. There was also a bed and a washroom. Even though the facilities were rudimentary, the entire place was very clean and had cheerful surroundings. When Jared opened the window, he was greeted by the sight of the largest street in Tayhaven Town.

“Jesse, did you make reservations for the room?”

At that moment, a group of men approached both of them.

In their lead was an elderly man who looked to be in his seventies. He was thin and frail with veins bulging all over his body. In fact, he looked no different from a shriveled corpse. Nonetheless, his eyes sparkled brightly while he walked with a spring in his step.

Behind the old man were two young men. One of them was massively built and had a brawny air to him. As for the other, he looked a lot scrawnier. In spite of that, he had a set of mesmerizing eyes and emitted a smoldering aura, just like a proud fighting cock ready to strike at any moment.

The one who had just spoken to Jesse was the burly man, who happened to be smiling at Jesse at that very moment.