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Leading The Way

At the mention of the Black Blind Forest, Ewan paled. After a long moment of silence, he finally began telling his story.

As it turned out, Ewan had been greedy. Upon finding out that the trees in the Black Blind Forest were tall and thick, he had led his men to cut the trees in the forest.

Despite hearing that the Black Blind Forest was a place of strange happenings, Ewan had decided to take the risk for the sake of money. Furthermore, there were over a dozen of them, so they felt less fear.

Their first day of woodcutting went well, and they progressed quite a lot as well. However, in the middle of their logging, Ewan and the others found a ginseng. After careful observation, they realized it was a decamillennium ginseng, and the finding thrilled Ewan.

Ewan knew that he had no experience in harvesting ginseng—he was afraid that he would ruin the ginseng while harvesting it—so he left it as it was. Yet, he was afraid that the ginseng would vanish from its spot, for he had heard that aged ginseng often moved around in the earth. Hence, he used a red string to leash it before digging a tunnel dozens of meters away from the ginseng to prevent that from happening.

However, the place where they were tunneling turned out to be a mass grave—they dug out many bones. Although fear entered their hearts at that, Ewan did not stop. He told his men to continue digging and sent some men to tell the Sabines about how they had found a decamillennium ginseng.

Nevertheless, before they could finish digging the tunnel, the entire sky had turned dark. It was as if a blanket had veiled across the forest, and they could not even see their fingers when they stretched their arms out in front of themselves.

Ewan did not remember what happened after. When he came back to his senses, it was after Jared had gotten rid of the ghost.

"After Ewan sent someone to convey the news to us, I brought some people over. But by the time I reached him, he was already lying on the ground, unconscious. We couldn't find anyone else despite looking high and low for them. The ginseng was still there, and I didn't dare to touch it. Instead, I instructed the people to bring Ewan home," Frazier added.

Jared gave them a slight nod. "That sounds about right. No wonder I felt the ghostly chills when I came into the house. You've really dug up someone's grave."

"Mr. Chance, what do we do next? Will the ghost come back?" Frazier asked worriedly.

"Take me to the decamillennium ginseng right now. I'll have a look at the grave and ask the ghosts not to haunt the Sabine family," Jared said.

Hearing that, Frazier finally nodded. "All right. I'll lead you there, Mr. Chance."

"I'm coming with you," Ewan voiced.

Frazier wanted to persuade Ewan otherwise, for Ewan had just woken up and was still weak.

However, before he could open his mouth, Jared said, "Let him come along. After all, he was the one who did this. He'll have to explain himself to them."

Frazier fell silent.

The group of people then headed to the Black Blind Forest in a few cars.

Although it was noon, the moment they went down from their cars and entered the Black Blind Forest, they shuddered.

Jared looked up at the sky and drew his brows together.

"Mr. Chance, is there something wrong?" Ewan whispered to Jared.

Jared shook his head. "Nothing. Please lead the way."

He had noticed that the negative energy was everywhere, to the point it nearly covered the sky. The place did not seem like a specific family's ancestral grave. Instead, it seemed that many had died here, and they did not die of natural causes. That was why the negative energy in the forest was intense.

Ewan walked with Ludovic's help as he led the way. After over half an hour, they finally arrived at the spot where Ewan had found the decamillennium ginseng.

Upon arrival, Jared was dumbfounded. Even the others who were there for the first time widened their eyes as shock overwhelmed them.

Human bones were strewn all over the place.

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Respect

Right in the middle of the bones was a swaying ginseng with a red string in the middle. The moment Jared laid eyes on it, he immediately recognized that it was a decamillennium ginseng.

"W-Why are there so many bones here?" Zyaire asked in shock.

They ignored the decamillennium ginseng, for the bones had attracted their attention.

"If my guesses are right, this should be a <u>search battlefield</u> or an execution spot in the past," Jared pointed out.

"Yes, I remember there was a war here. People used to hear gunshots coming from this forest," Zyaire said.

"T-Then are these the bones of the people who died at war?" Frazier asked Jared in a soft voice.

"Not necessarily." Jared shook his head. "If we want to find out how they died, we'll have to ask them."

He crooked his finger, and a ball of flame shot out from his hand, bursting like fireworks in the air.

Along with the flames, screams echoed in the air, and soon, the sky turned dark as black mists covered the sun.

The black mists were like ferocious ghosts screaming and crying. One of the black mists landed on the ground and morphed into the shape of a human. It was the ghost that had escaped from the Sabine residence earlier.

"W-What is this?" Ewan screamed.

As the others had seen it before, they did not have as big of a reaction as him. Nevertheless, they were shaking in their boots at the sight of the ghosts in the air.

"I never thought you'd come after me all the way here. Are you planning to annihilate me?" the ghost screeched.

Jared asked calmly, "Who are you? Why do you want to hurt others even in death?"

The ghost's eyes turned red as it bared its fangs.

When Jared realized that the ghost was not going to reply to him, a ball of flame manifested in his palm.

Almost immediately, it relented.

"We didn't hurt anyone. It's because these people have dug up our bones and disrupted our peace for money," the ghost confessed, pointing at Ewan.

"Then why didn't you enter the cycle of reincarnation but wander in the woods?" Jared asked.

The ghost fell silent. A moment later, it retracted its fangs and drawled, "We don't have a place for eternal rest, nor were we buried properly. We can't enter the cycle of reincarnation..."

"So, who are you? How did you die?" Jared continued asking.

The ghost slowly raised its head to look up at the sky. "We were soldiers. The ones buried here are my comrades. Our enemies had set us up and killed us here."

Jared extinguished the flame in his palm. As it turned out, his guess was right. They had died an unnatural death, and that was why the negative energy was intense in the forest.

"We're trapped in the forest because no one came for us to give us a proper burial. We can't leave this place. Fortunately, there's a ginseng here, so we use our bodies to fertilize it. I was hoping to form a human figure by absorbing the essence of the ginseng so that I can lead my comrades out of this forest. But these people had dug up our bones to get the ginseng."

The ghost glared at Ewan resentfully.

Everyone could hear the ghost's voice. When they realized that the bones belonged to soldiers, respect bloomed in their chests. As they thought about how the soldiers' bones were scattered everywhere haphazardly, the Sabines turned to Ewan and frowned.

Even Ludovic was looking at his father in anger.

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Build Cemeteries

Being stared at by the crowd, Ewan blushed as he lowered his head in embarrassment.

"You guys died because you tried to protect the country. However, you should not kill them just because they dug up your corpses. Those are a lot of lives that we are talking about here..." Jared uttered.

"Those people are not dead. They are just trapped inside the forest, around five hundred meters to the west."

The ghost pointed toward the west.

After hearing those people were still alive, Ludovic immediately headed to the west to search for them. Sure enough, he brought back a dozen of men. However, all those people looked disheveled after getting trapped for a few days.

Upon seeing that, Ewan regretted his actions deeply. I should not have been so obsessed with wealth. I nearly killed these people.

Jared realized the ghost did not harm anyone and was previously a warrior during his lifetime. Thus, Jared's hostility faded instantly.

"This decamillennium ginseng won't be able to make you guys into human form. Since you had sacrificed your lives for the country, we should build tombstones to let your souls be in peace..."

Upon saying that, Jared glanced at Ewan. "Mr. Sabine, all this happened because of your greed. Are you willing to donate some money to build a cemetery for these fallen warriors? We should also burn some sacrifices for them."

"Sure. I am willing to do so..."

Ewan kept nodding his head as he fell to his knees. "I am willing to provide the money and build a cemetery at the foot of the mountain. We should let our future generations remember these warriors forever..."

Ewan bawled his eyes out. It seemed like he had truly repented. Those of the Sabine family also knelt one after another. It was indeed a massive sin that their family had committed.

Ludovic flushed with shame as a young man, and his knees hit the ground. "Mr. Chance, I will immediately order the remains of these soldiers to be collected, and I will build a cemetery for them within half a month. The world has forgotten them for decades, and this should not keep happening. I am willing to preserve their graves for them for three years to atone for my father's sins…"

Jared nodded slightly upon seeing the attitude of the Sabine family. He shifted his gaze toward the ghost. "Now that they are willing to build a cemetery for you guys, the world will remember all your achievements. Let your souls be at peace and stop wandering around."

Tears flowed down the ghost's cheeks as he was touched by the Sabine family's gesture. He announced loudly, "Brothers, did you guys hear that? We won't be forgotten. Now we can leave in peace..."

There seemed to be waves of responses echoing in the air after the ghost shouted. In the next second, the black mist started to fade. Sunlight fell in and shone on the ghost's body.

Its body began to fade until it vanished completely. With that, the entire forest resumed its peace.

If it were not for the corpses all over the ground and the decamillennium ginseng, everyone would probably think it was all just a dream.

"Mr. Chance, thank you so much for saving our lives..."

Ewan bowed humbly toward Jared.

All the other family members bowed toward Jared as well. Even though Jared was still young, they had witnessed his ability with their own eyes.

"Mr. Sabine, you have to compensate for what you have done. Please keep your promise..." Jared told Ewan.

Ewan's face became red again. "Of course. I won't back out on my words. I will arrange for my men to start right away and collect all these remains."

"Mr. Sabine, since the matter is resolved, let's talk about the price for the decamillennium ginseng. After all, you were the one who found it."

Only then did Jared touch on his real purpose for coming here.

Ewan immediately waved his hand upon hearing that. "Mr. Chance, take it if you need it. I have been obsessed with wealth all my life. Today I finally understand that money is not the most important thing in life. The wealth of the Sabine family would not diminish even after a few generations. In the future, I will continue to fund the construction of cemeteries all over the country. I will also find the families of those warriors and help them."

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Xander Is Here

The incident was a massive blow to Ewan. It seemed like he had truly repented for his evil deeds.

"If that's so, I will accept it then."

Jared did not hold back at all. After all, the decamillennium ginseng was essential to him.

"Mr. Chance, I will send my men over here right away. A decamillennium ginseng like this will take days to dig out. And we need to be extra careful while digging. I will monitor the process personally," Zyaire said to Jared.

Jared waved his hand as he did not have a few days to wait. "It's all right. Please go back. I will stay here. Tommy will come to pick me up tomorrow morning."

The crowd did not understand what Jared was up to, but no one dared to refute him. With that, all of them left Black Blind Forest. After everyone left, Jared stared at the decamillennium ginseng. His heart was overwhelmed with excitement. He immediately sat down and activated his Focus Technique.

Waves of spiritual energy rushed toward Jared. The decamillennium ginseng seemed to sense something as its branches and leaves kept shaking desperately. It appeared that it was struggling to escape its fate of being consumed by Jared.

Jared spent the entire night finally consuming the spiritual energy of the decamillennium ginseng. After that, he directly advanced to the Third Tier of the Transcendence Phase. When he opened his eyes, he felt tremendous power within his body.

He only managed to advance two Tiers with one decamillennium ginseng. Jared had no idea how difficult it would be for his future cultivation. However,

he would not give up easily since he had chosen this path. After all, he had not yet found out his origin.

Staring at those corpses on the ground, Jared bowed at them. After all, they used their blood to help the decamillennium ginseng grow.

Jared walked out of Black Blind Forest and spotted Tommy already waiting for him at the foot of the mountain. Meanwhile, Ewan had brought a dozen men to collect the remains. Not far from there, there were machine sounds roaring. It turned out Ewan had immediately arranged for his men to start the construction of the cemetery on the previous day.

Jared did not stay for long. He asked Tommy to send him to the Sabine residence. He planned to say goodbye to them and return to Horington without delay. After all, it would be his battle with Xander tomorrow. He could not be late for that. Plus, he had gained a lot of confidence after advancing.

By the time he reached the Sabine residence, the Sabine family was waiting for him. However, when he said he would leave soon, Ewan immediately uttered, "Mr. Chance, it is not easy for you to come here. We have not served you properly yet. Why don't you stay for two more days? Please give us the chance to express our gratitude."

"Mr. Sabine, I have something urgent tomorrow, so I can't stay," Jared responded politely.

Ewan was slightly disappointed upon seeing Jared insisting. "Since you have something urgent, I won't force you. However, if there is anything you need from the Sabine family, please tell me. We will try our best to help."

Ewan sounded utterly sincere. Indeed, it was because of Jared that the Sabine family could escape from a disaster.

"Okay, sure." Jared nodded.

Ewan arranged a car to send Jared and the rest to the airport. Zyaire still had some errands at the Rider residence, so he did not go back with Jared.

They arrived at Horington around noon. At that moment, Jared's mansion at Dragon Bay was swarmed with people. Over a hundred of his subordinates were surrounding the mansion. Tommy and Phoenix were not around, while Walter, William, and the rest were among the crowd.

Those people immediately approached Jared after they saw him. Jared displayed a confused look. "What's going on?"

"Mr. Chance. Xander is here. He is in the house," Walter uttered nervously.

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Do Not Harm The Family

Jared's expression darkened as he heard Xander had come to his house.

Josephine grabbed his arm when Jared was about to walk into the mansion. "Jared, please don't go in. I am scared."

Josephine was afraid that Jared might engage in a conflict with Xander.

"Don't worry. I am here. There's no need to be afraid..."

Jared patted the back of Josephine's hand.

With that, the crowd followed Jared and entered the mansion grandiosely.

A fierce-looking middle-aged man was sipping tea unhurriedly on the couch in the living room. He was wearing a grey tunic, and his height was average. That man was Xander.

There were two subordinates standing behind Xander. Jared took a glance and noticed they were both at least Fifth Level Grandmasters.

"I am here to see Jared. If Jared isn't here, everyone else should leave and not disturb me..."

Hearing the door open, Xander did not even turn around.

"This is my house. You should be the one leaving."

Jared furrowed his brows slightly.

Upon hearing that, Xander placed his cup on the table and turned around slowly. He shifted his gaze toward the door and was stunned momentarily when he saw Jared.

"So you're Jared?" Xander asked.

"Yes. I am the one who killed your son and your nephew. Also, I injured your brother."

Jared was displeased upon seeing Xander's arrogant look. He deliberately provoked the latter.

As expected, Xander was beyond exasperated upon hearing that. He stood up from the couch as his aura shattered the cup in front of him.

The whole living room was filled with Xander's deadly aura instantly. The crowd gasped in fear upon feeling his intense hostility.

Jared shook his body slightly and released a wave of spiritual energy, covering the crowd behind him and blocking Xander's aura.

Xander furrowed his brows upon seeing that. Regardless, he retracted his aura shortly after that.

"Mr. Cooper, since you have sent the challenge and the battle in the arena is tomorrow, why did you still come here? It's the rule of the martial arts world not to harm your opponent's family."

Walter had known Xander for a long time. Back then, Xander even addressed Walter formally and respectfully. After all, Walter played an essential role in developing the Coopers' influence in Jadeborough.

Nevertheless, Xander ignored what Walter said. He did not seem to respect Walter at present, and he only cast the latter a cold glance.

One of Xander's subordinates took a step forward. "Who do you think you are? You are not qualified to advise Mr. Cooper."

Walter's face reddened with rage when he heard what the subordinate said. Back then, even the head of the Cooper family, Xander, would not dare to talk to him so disrespectfully. It seemed things had changed over time.

Even though Walter was pissed, he dared not to say anything more. After the Granges had collapsed, he could not go against the Coopers anymore.

"How dare you? If it were not for Grandpa's help, the Coopers wouldn't be where they are today."

Lizbeth could not bear seeing Walter getting disrespected. Enraged, she cast a punch toward the subordinate.

Lizbeth's ability was merely an amateur in front of the subordinate who was a Grandmaster. He displayed a disdainful look at Lizbeth. He could not believe the latter dared to make a move on him.

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Compensation

"Ms. Grange, please watch and stay out of this. Let me teach the Cooper family's guard dog a lesson."

Tommy stopped Lizbeth before he threw a punch toward the subordinate.

When the subordinate saw Tommy's attack, his expression turned stern. After all, Tommy was already a Grandmaster. Thanks to Jared's boosting pills, Tommy had improved by a lot.

However, being a Grandmaster, Tommy still paled in comparison to Xander's subordinates.

Bang!

After a loud collision, Tommy staggered a few steps backward. If Phoenix did not support his body in time, he would have fallen to the ground.

"Is that your subordinate? He's so weak."

Xander sneered arrogantly upon seeing that.

Jared did not say anything but only glanced at Phoenix. Phoenix nodded and charged forward swiftly.

During this period, Phoenix had improved tremendously with the help of Jared's pill. She had almost reached the Senior Grandmaster level.

Seeing that it was a female, the subordinate instantly let down his guard. There was even a hint of amusement in his gaze.

Soon, he immediately regretted that. After sensing Phoenix's intense aura, he lifted his arms to try to block her attack.

Boom!

After a muffled thump sounded, the subordinate flew backward and crashed onto the ground.

"Is that your subordinate? He can't even beat a woman." Jared sneered coldly.

"How dare you hurt my subordinate? You're dead!"

Xander's expression darkened as he directed his palm toward Phoenix. Even though he was a few meters away, Phoenix could feel a massive force coming her way.

Phoenix was startled as she immediately retreated. However, it was too late. She got hit by the energy and spat out a mouthful of blood.

She glared at Xander. Even though there was a massive gap in capabilities between them, her gaze had no trace of fear.

"How could you possibly still stand after getting hit by me?"

Xander was somehow shocked by that. His eyes filled with utter rage.

He lifted his palm again. A ball of light condensed in his palm. There was lightning flashing in the ball.

Phoenix slightly panicked upon seeing that, but she still stood her ground.

When Xander was about to attack, Jared stepped on the ground, and a crack instantly formed on the floor. The crack moved swiftly toward Xander.

Xander quickly responded by pressing his palm to the ground. His ball of light hit the crack instantly.

A huge pit that spanned around one meter formed in the middle of the living room after a loud crashing sound rang out.

Smoke and dust rose everywhere as the shock waves dispersed in all directions. Jared hurriedly used his palms to form a wall of energy to block the shock waves. He did not want the shock waves to hurt William and Josephine. After all, they were all ordinary people. They would not be able to bear it.

Xander's two subordinates were directly swept away by the shock waves. They fell to the ground and spurted out a mouthful of blood.

Even though they were Grandmasters, they could not stand against the shock waves created by Jared and Xander.

"You are indeed powerful."

Xander stared at Jared in bewilderment.

"You are not bad too." Jared sneered coldly. "Despite so, you have to pay for destroying my house."

Xander was stunned momentarily after hearing Jared asking for compensation. He let out a boisterous laugh. "Kid, make me compensate you in the arena tomorrow if you can."

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Pay With Their Lives

"Let's go," Xander told his subordinates.

The two subordinates stood up as they supported each other and followed Xander closely.

The crowd at the door did not stop them from leaving.

"No one ever dares to owe me any debt."

When Xander and his subordinates walked past Jared, the latter suddenly made a move.

However, he did not direct it toward Xander but his subordinates.

Bang! Clash!

The two subordinates did not have time to respond to his attack as their heads got blown off.

"Since you don't want to compensate me, I'll take their lives instead."

The two subordinates collapsed to the ground, dead.

"You..."

Xander was beyond exasperated upon seeing that.

Jared glanced at Tommy. "Get everyone out of here. We are not going to wait until tomorrow. We will settle this today."

Jared knew he would not be able to protect the others if he engaged in a fight with Xander. Even the shock waves of their attacks could cause many injuries to the crowd.

Tommy was also aware that they would not be able to help in the battle as it would be totally out of their league.

Seeing Jared getting ready to battle with his all, Xander suddenly suppressed his rage and cast a hard look at Jared. "I will ruin your reputation tomorrow. I will take your life in front of everyone in the martial arts world."

Xander left abruptly upon saying that.

Xander did not want to fight that day as he wanted the whole world to witness his victory tomorrow. He wanted to avenge his son in front of the public.

Even though Xander had left, the crowd could not help but worry about the battle tomorrow after witnessing Xander's power.

Josephine almost vomited as she saw the two gut-churning corpses on the ground.

She was merely an ordinary citizen, so she seldom witnessed such gruesome scenes.

Jared immediately covered her eyes and hugged her in his embrace. "Stop looking. You should go home."

Jared shot a look at Tommy. Tommy immediately ordered his men to carry away the corpses and clean up the scene without delay.

Josephine shook her head inside Jared's embrace. "It's okay. I am not afraid. I want to become a martial artist in the future. Thus, I will be killing people too. How am I going to help you if I get afraid now?"

Josephine's words touched Jared. However, he thought it was not the right time for Josephine to cultivate. Plus, he was not capable of doing that. He needed to meet Rayleigh first.

"Please go home. I can't focus on my cultivation if you are here. Do you want me to lose tomorrow?"

Jared smiled faintly.

Josephine immediately got out of Jared's embrace and covered his mouth with her hand. "Don't say such a thing. You are not going to lose."

"Josephine, let's not disturb Jared anymore. The more time he has to cultivate, the higher his chance of winning. Let's go home, and I will train you," Lizbeth told Josephine.

Josephine nodded and left after casting a final glance at Jared.

After the crowd left, Jared stared at the messy living room and walked into his bedroom with a heavy heart.

As he was in the Transcendence Phase, he could survive without food and water for a month. He sat on his bed and planned to go right into his cultivation. However, he could not focus as the spiritual energy around him was thin.

In the end, he lay on the bed and took out the bronze breastplate. He started pondering about his identity. There were still a lot of things that he could not understand. Yet, Rayleigh refused to tell him.

Jared could not wait for the fifteenth of July to come. Only then would he be able to know his origin.

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Would Not Turn A Blind Eye

While he was about to doze off, he suddenly sensed two figures in front of him. His heart skipped a beat as cold sweat flowed from his forehead. Usually, he would be able to detect any movement within a hundred-meter radius. Nothing could hide from him. Yet, he only noticed the two figures after they got so close to him.

If they are here to kill me, I will be in great danger.

Feeling a shiver, Jared jumped up from his bed and stared at them. A second later, he heaved a sigh of relief. It turned out they were Rayleigh and Melanie.

"What a muscular body you've got..."

Melanie's lips curled into a smile as she stared at Jared, who was only wearing his underpants.

Turning red, he immediately put on his clothes. He then stared at Rayleigh and Melanie with a confused look, wondering what they were doing at his house.

"Not bad. It's only been a few days, but you've improved again. It looks like you ran into an opportunity."

Rayleigh nodded with satisfaction as he studied Jared. He had no idea that Jared had consumed a decamillennium ginseng.

"M-Mr. Deragon, why did you guys come to Horington?" Jared could not wrap his head around it.

"Why else? Mr. Deragon was worried about your safety. Yet, who would have thought that you would advance so much in such a short time."

There was a trace of envy in Melanie's gaze.

Jared was grateful after knowing they had come all the way from Jadeborough because they were concerned about his safety. "Thanks, Mr. Deragon. I have confidence in the battle tomorrow."

Rayleigh was somehow delighted upon seeing Jared's confidence. Nevertheless, his expression turned serious shortly after. "Even though you are now at the Third Tier of the Transcendence Phase, you should not underestimate the power of the Martial Arts Grandmaster. Xander was able to reach that level by force through solitary training. He is the real deal."

"Thanks for your advice, Mr. Deragon. I will keep that in mind."

Jared nodded.

"Good then. Don't forget to wear the bronze breastplate tomorrow. Also, we will be there to watch your battle, so don't get stressed out. A Martial Arts Grandmaster might be a difficult opponent to you, but I can crush him with one finger. However, I can't help you all the time. You will need to bear most burdens yourself, understand?"

Rayleigh was like an elder to Jared. His words gave the latter confidence.

What Rayleigh meant was obvious. If Xander defeated Jared, Rayleigh would not turn a blind eye to it. Regardless, he would make sure of Jared's safety. Hence, there was no need for Jared to be afraid.

Without the threat of death, Jared would be bolder to face the battle tomorrow.

"Okay. I got it!" Jared nodded firmly.

After chatting for a little while, Rayleigh turned around to leave. Just then, Jared suddenly called out to him.

"Mr. Deragon, there is one thing I would like to ask you..."

"Didn't I say it already? You will know it after July the fifteenth. I can't answer you even if you ask me now."

Rayleigh thought Jared wanted to ask about his origin again.

"Mr. Deragon, you've misunderstood. I am not asking about that. I want to ask if you are willing to accept my girlfriend as your disciple? She is an ordinary citizen, but I hope she can also go into spiritual energy cultivation. With that, we can be together for a long time."

Jared wanted Josephine to cultivate too. If Josephine's level increased, her years of life would increase too. If not, Jared might need to watch her die after she got old, and he would have to wait for his death alone.

"Do you think anyone can enter the spiritual energy cultivation easily? I've seen your girlfriend. She's not even a martial artist. Do you want her to cultivate? That's impossible!"

Melanie let out a provocative laugh.

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The Detoxification Pills

"I was not a martial artist either, and I was merely an ordinary citizen. Yet Draco managed to take me into spiritual energy cultivation," Jared refuted.

Jared used to be an ordinary citizen, after all. He was not even a martial artist when he went into prison. Yet, despite that, he was able to enter into spiritual energy cultivation after spending three years with Draco.

"You can't compare her to you. You are..."

Melanie was about to say something else, but Rayleigh shot her a glare. Melanie immediately swallowed back her words.

Jared glanced at Melanie, and he knew she must know something he didn't. However, she did not dare speak about it in front of Rayleigh.

"Jared, it is not impossible for your girlfriend to enter spiritual energy cultivation. But I won't accept her as my disciple. I don't want to ruin her future. Please don't think I am all mighty. Once you know more about the heavenly realm, you will find out there are cultivators much more powerful than me. Nevertheless, I can give you a few detoxification pills. Let your girlfriend eat them to cleanse her body. Then, you can teach her a set of cultivation methods. It will depend on her effort whether she could make it or not," Rayleigh uttered.

"Thanks, Mr. Deragon!" Jared was delighted.

"But I didn't bring any detoxification pill this time. Do you have herbs here? I just need some ordinary herbs. I will make some for you. It's easy to make compared to a body-quenching pill." Rayleigh said.

"What herbs do you need? I will ask my men to send them here right away."

Even though it was already late, Jared could arrange for the herbs to be sent here almost immediately.

Rayleigh listed down the herbs he needed. Jared called Tommy and asked the latter to drive to Herb Palace to get those herbs.

Around three hours later, Tommy came back with the herbs that Jared asked for. By the time Tommy arrived, it was already midnight.

Tommy was puzzled when he saw one man and one woman suddenly in the mansion. He thought the woman looked familiar. Only then did he recall she was the one who sent the bronze breastplate here a few days ago.

After Tommy put down the herbs, Jared asked him to go back to rest. Meanwhile, Rayleigh looked at the herbs. His hand waved slightly, and a green, spiritual fire started to burn in the air.

The fire kept burning bigger and bigger and eventually turned into a form of a dog. It looked at the herbs and started eating them.

Jared widened his eyes in awe. It was the first time seeing someone controlling spiritual fire to make a pill.

Soon, the dog formed with spiritual fire consumed all the herbs. The herbs could be seen burning inside its belly.

Upon seeing that, Rayleigh focused and released more spiritual energy, making the spiritual fire even larger. Instantly, the whole room was filled with spiritual energy.

Jared was overwhelmed with admiration upon feeling the intense spiritual energy from Rayleigh. He wondered how long it would take for him to reach such a level.

Surrounded by spiritual energy, the Focus Technique inside Jared's elixir field automatically activated and started absorbing the spiritual energy released by Rayleigh wildly.

An arrogant cultivation method like Focus Technique was like a black hole. It sucked all the spiritual energy around. Meanwhile, the spiritual fire burning the herbs started to fade.

Rayleigh was sweating heavily. However, he did not stop Jared. He took a deep breath and forced more spiritual energy out of his elixir field.

Melanie was left in awe upon seeing that scene. A while later, she realized what was happening and glared at Jared.

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His Specialty

"Jared, how could you do that? Mr. Deragon is making the pills for you. Yet, you're secretly sucking away his spiritual energy!"

Melanie shot a kick at Jared.

Only then did Jared regain his senses. He immediately stopped his Focus Technique and gazed at Rayleigh with an embarrassed look.

Jared did not intend for that to happen, as his Focus Technique was activated automatically.

Rayleigh did not speak or stop what he was doing. After a long while, he finally withdrew his spiritual energy. Just then, three black pills fell from the air.

Even though they were black, they were emitting dim light. The room would have been lit by the light if the room had been dark.

Rayleigh reached out, and the three detoxification pills came to his palm. He handed them to Jared. "Usually, a normal person will need only one detoxification pill. It depends on her talent whether she can start spiritual energy cultivation. Please don't give her more than that. A human body can't take so many."

Holding the pills in his hand, Jared felt amazed. Those were ordinary pills, according to Rayleigh. However, those were more powerful than the energy condensing pill and the boosting pill he made in Jared's eyes.

Jared used to think he was good in alchemy. After witnessing Rayleigh's skills, he realized he was just a nobody.

Rayleigh knew what was in Jared's mind. He patted the latter's shoulder. "Not every energy cultivator knows how to create pills. I only know a little. Moreover, Draco, who led you into this, has not learned to make pills. Hence, he only taught you some basics in it. It is reasonable that what you know is limited. There are professional alchemy masters in spiritual energy cultivation. You need to learn from them to make the high-grade pills."

After hearing Rayleigh's explanation, Jared came to understand that. "Are the alchemy masters from the heavenly realm equivalent to the alchemist from the martial arts world?"

"Yes, they are almost the same. However, the pills made by alchemy masters are more powerful. You will know more in the future. All the enemies you've met were just some martial artists. You could defeat them without any weapon. However, when you enter the heavenly realm for real, you need to find yourself a suitable weapon so that your power can increase more."

Jared listened to Rayleigh's explanation attentively like a student. He had always wanted to know more about the heavenly realm, but no one ever told him about it.

"I've talked too much with you. Please focus on the battle tomorrow. You will know more in the future..."

Rayleigh patted Jared's shoulder again and got ready to leave.

"Mr. Deragon, how could Jared absorb the spiritual energy from your body just now?" Just then, Melanie voiced out her doubts.

From what she knew, all cultivation methods absorbed spiritual energy from nature. She had never seen anyone absorbing it from another human.

After all, the spiritual energy from a human body was converted by one's technique and was stored inside the elixir field. It was different from the spiritual energy in nature that could be absorbed by all energy cultivators.

Melanie's words made Jared feel awkward. He was confused by the question and asked curiously, "Can't you guys do that?"

Jared had never encountered another energy cultivator before. Hence, he did not know whether the other energy cultivators cultivated in the same way he did.