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I Have Wronged You

“Where is she?” Tristan was stupefied when Sonia was out of sight.

Franco’s face turned grim when he discovered that Sonia was nowhere to be seen. “D*mn it! Did someone get ahead of us?”

“Hurry up! Chase after them now!” Tristan leaped up to chase after Sonia.

Franco gestured to his men and ran after Tristan too.

In the meantime, the wind whizzed against Sonia’s ears as Jared moved at mind-boggling speed.

The latter finally came to a halt when they reached a secluded area and put her down.

Right that instant, she took the chance to bite him hard on the arm. Grasping the jade pendant in her hands, she stared at him with anxiousness written all over her face.

Jared looked at the deep bite mark on his arm and furrowed his brows. “I saved your life. How could you bite me?”

“Pfft! Don’t ever think that you can make a fool out of me! I know you’ve been targeting my jade pendant. It’s the Yeagers’ heirloom. I would rather destroy it than let it fall into your hands!” Sonia snapped coldly, glaring at him with her eyes.

Undeniably, Jared went after them because of Sonia’s jade pendant. However, he never had the intention to snatch it from her. Now that she misunderstood him, he could not resist mocking, “Hmph! How ridiculous! You seem to treat this jade pendant as an invaluable treasure, don’t you?”

The next moment, he turned and left, paying no heed to her.

Gazing at his retreating figure, Sonia was dumbfounded and stood rooted to the spot.

When she finally came to her senses after quite some time, Jared was already a distance away from her. She gritted her teeth and quickened her pace to catch up to him.

Jared shot her a glance and snorted. "Why are you trailing behind me?"

"I-I'm sorry... It seems like I have misunderstood you!" Sonia stuttered sheepishly.

"You don't have to apologize to me. Now that you're safe and sound, you can stop following me!" Jared snapped at her without slowing down.

Nevertheless, Sonia continued to trail behind him closely with her head lowered.

Jared was utterly speechless. He stopped abruptly and said, "What on earth are you trying to do?"

Sonia looked at him eagerly. "Could you please send me back? I'm scared of bumping into those people again!"

Her gut instinct told her that Jared was no ordinary man. Since he managed to save her on the spot without Tristan and Franco's knowledge, she was sure as hell that his formidability was beyond imagination.

"Where do you stay?" Jared finally heaved a sigh as he did not have the heart to reject the pitiful lady.

Sensing that Jared had relented, she replied excitedly, "Not very far. It's in the village located not far away from the town!"

Later, Jared followed Sonia and headed in the direction away from the town. Shortly after, a village came into view. It looked like an abandoned one as all the houses were dilapidated. There were even signs on the front doors indicating that they would be demolished soon!

Moments later, they stopped outside a house in a slightly better condition and entered it. Under the dim light from a lit candle, a middle-aged man with an ashen face was lying feebly in bed.

Jared knitted his brows at the sight of his pathetic state. He had a hunch that the man was severely injured and might not live long.

The man mustered up his strength to open his eyes upon hearing their footsteps. When he saw Sonia, he parted his lips to say something. However, blood spurted out of his mouth in an instant.

“Dad!” Sonia yelled out worriedly and dashed forward to Marcus, the middle-aged man. After wiping off the bloodstain from his face, she whipped out a few black pills and was about to let him swallow them.

Nonetheless, Jared stretched out his hand to stop her at once. After sniffing the pills, he told her solemnly, “Apparently, your dad has sustained an internal injury. Hence, he shouldn’t take this medicine of high intensity. Even though it helps to stabilize his condition temporarily, it will aggravate the internal injuries as time elapses.”

Shocked, Sonia asked him hesitantly, “D-Do you know how to treat his medical condition?”

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Serve You In Bed

On the other hand, Marcus also gazed at Jared in bafflement.

“I have some knowledge of it.” Jared nodded placidly.

“Great to hear that! Could you please help to treat my dad? If you manage to cure him, I’m willing to do anything to repay your kindness! Even if...” Sonia’s voice trailed off; her face flushed red. Seconds later, she piped out, “Even if... you want me to serve you in bed!”

“Huh? No, you don’t have to do so. I already have a girlfriend.” Jared was utterly speechless. My goodness! Do I look like a womanizer?

Sonia blushed crimson and cast her eyes down with shame. “But there’s nothing I can offer you now other than myself...”

“Don’t you still have your jade pendant?” Jared threw a look at the jade pendant in her hand.

In an instant, Sonia lifted her head and stared at him nervously. Tightening her grasp around the jade pendant, she stammered, “W-What do you intend to do?”

“Take it easy. I’m just interested in taking a look at your jade pendant. By the way, let me try to stabilize your dad’s condition first.”

The next moment, Jared pressed one hand lightly on Marcus’ head. Seconds later, a wave of spiritual energy emanated from his body and flowed into the latter’s body. It enveloped his injured internal organs and started healing them gradually.

Meanwhile, Marcus felt a ripple of warmth flow into his body. After a while, he felt as though his entire body was becoming lighter. Apart from that, his cheeks were slowly becoming rosy again.

Sensing the drastic change in her father’s condition, Sonia’s eyes glittered with joy. “Dad, how are you feeling now?”

Marcus coughed and replied, “I can breathe better now. The pain in my stomach seemed to have eased as well.”

“Thank you so much!” Sonia expressed her gratitude to Jared earnestly.

“So... Can I see your jade pendant now?” Jared asked.

Holding the jade pendant tightly, she flashed her father a glance hesitantly.

Marcus nodded his head approvingly at once. “Sonia, show it to him. After all, he’s our benefactor!”

Sonia had no choice but to hand over the jade pendant to Jared. The moment he held it in his hand, he felt a strong sense of familiarity.

Two dragons were carved on the jade pendant. Due to the excellent craftsmanship, it looked as though they were alive and were spiraling on the pendant.

Jared unleashed a wave of spiritual energy gradually into the jade pendant, but it soon bounced back with massive force. The jade pendant almost flung out of his hand due to the overwhelming force!

Ah! There seems to be a seal on the jade pendant! After pondering for a while, Jared bit his middle finger to squeeze a drop of blood onto the jade pendant.

Sonia was about to stretch out her hands to stop him, but her father stood in her way. Shaking his head, he gestured to her not to interrupt Jared.

When Jared's blood dropped onto the jade pendant, it glittered with an instant red light, followed by the thunderous roaring sound of the dragons.

It was as though the two dragons had come alive and started moving swiftly. However, the red light slowly faded away right after the blood was absorbed. Moments later, the jade pendant was back to its usual look again.

Awestruck, Sonia and her father's eyes widened in disbelief as they fastened their gazes on Jared.

"Ha! So that's how it works!" Jared was flushed with excitement as he turned to look at Marcus. "Sir, do you have any idea where this jade pendant comes from?"

"I'm not really sure about it. If I'm not mistaken, my father picked it up somewhere on an island. It glittered with red light like how it did a while ago and saved my father's life. Since then, the jade has become our family heirloom."

"So your father picked it up on an island?" Jared knitted his brows as he thought about Nameless Island and Dragon Island, as mentioned by Draco. Hmm! I bet I can only find out more after exploring the islands!

"Since it's your heirloom, it's inappropriate for me to request it from you too. However, it might bring misfortune to you..." Jared pointed out as he returned the jade pendant to Sonia.

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Are You Not Willing

Marcus heaved a deep sigh sorrowfully. “Undeniably, this jade pendant has brought disasters to the Yeagers. Sadly, both of us are the only Yeagers left.”

Earlier on, Jared happened to overhear something from Tristan and Sonia’s conversation. The Yeagers seemed to have attracted unwanted attention because of the jade pendant, spelling trouble for themselves. Consequently, it’s just a matter of time before a tragic fate befalls them!

“Dad, don’t worry. I vow to avenge all the Yeagers!” Sonia reassured Marcus with a glint of determination amid fury in her eyes.

Surprisingly, Marcus shook his head and tried to talk Sonia out of doing so. “Sonia, forget about it. You’re the only one by my side now. I really don’t wish to end up losing you again. Let’s find a secluded place to spend the rest of our lives together.”

Next, he took the jade pendant from Sonia and handed it to Jared. “I’m grateful to you for saving my life. I believe this jade pendant is meant for you. You can make miracles with this jade pendant. Thus, I’ve made up my mind to give it to you. From this moment onwards, it means nothing to us anymore.”

Jared took the jade pendant from him without hesitation. “Thank you so much. Don’t hesitate to call me if you are in trouble at any moment.”

After that, he gave Sonia and Marcus his phone number and some money. They thanked him sincerely and left right away.

Initially, their main aim was to look for the Herb Palace so Marcus’ internal injury could be treated. Since Jared had cured him, it was pointless for them to stay there any longer. Besides, Tristan and Franco were looking all over the place for them.

By the time Jared was back in the hotel, the sun had risen. Without wasting time, he started to cultivate the jade pendant, hoping to transform it into an

ultimate shielding tool soonest possible. As long as Josephine brings it along with her, even the so-called formidable Internal Energy Grandmaster would not be able to inflict any harm on her!

“Jared, wake up for breakfast now!” Coincidentally, Josephine knocked on the door right after he cultivated the jade pendant into the ultimate shielding tool.

Not wanting to let Josephine know, Jared pretended that he had just woken up and opened the door with a yawn.

“Ah! You’re early! I was hoping to sleep a little longer!” he grumbled and rubbed his eyes.

“Sleepyhead, time to get up! After breakfast, accompany us to go shopping. Lizbeth told me that everyone here has expertise in martial arts and is exceptionally ill-tempered. Thus, we don’t dare to go by ourselves. You must be our bodyguard,” Josephine explained.

“What? Shopping?” Jared could feel his temples throb the moment he heard that.

Josephine turned to glare at him instantaneously. “Why? You’re reluctant to accompany us?”

“Of course, I’m more than willing to do so.” Jared could only put on his brightest smile to appease her.

Nevertheless, when Jared was going downstairs for breakfast with Josephine, she caught a glimpse of the bitemark on his arm. As Sonia had bitten him quite hard the day before, the mark was visible even after many hours had elapsed.

“What’s this? Did you tease some young girls last night and end up getting bitten?” Josephine questioned him.

“When there’s a gorgeous lady like you by my side, do you think there’re any young girls who can catch my eye? It was merely a misunderstanding. I was looking for a jade pendant for you.” Jared reassured her and took out the unique pendant with two dragons.

Josephine’s eyes lit up when the jade pendant came into view. She held it up and cautiously scrutinized it without questioning further. Deep down, she

trusted him and was convinced that he was not the type of man who would flirt with other women behind her back.

After breakfast, Jared accompanied Josephine and Lizbeth shopping for the whole day. Initially, he expected the Herb Palace would stir up trouble again. He was surprised the day passed by peacefully without any hiccups.

The following day was the commencement of the Martial Arts Gathering. Hence, the whole Tayhaven Town was engulfed in a different atmosphere. A tall stage was even set up outside the main entrance of the town as the arena.

Those from the Herb Palace took the responsibility to stand guard around the arena. Meanwhile, some elderlies were seated in the arena, playing the roles of judges.

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The Martial Arts Gathering Begins

The middle seat for the judges was still empty. Apparently, it was specially reserved for Spencer, the Palace Chief of the Herb Palace.

At that moment, the open area beneath the arena was already flooded with excited spectators. However, there were only a few rows of seating prepared at the front. Those standing behind were cramped in the limited space like a pack of sardines.

Jesse walked up to Jared and greeted him respectfully, “Mr. Chance, this way, please!”

Since Jared and the others attended the occasion as visitors, they did not have any seats in the front row. Nevertheless, Jesse led them to the front and arranged for them to be seated in the row reserved for those from Extreme Fist Gym.

Shortly after Jared, Josephine, and Lizbeth were seated at the front, Lionel led his disciples and stood behind them.

The others were flabbergasted. They could not fathom why the head of Extreme Fist Gym would let a few young ones take their seats and even stand respectfully behind them. They could not help but wonder about Jared's identity. Soon, martial artists from Jazona and Summerbank managed to recognize him at once. No doubt, they had the answer as to why Lionel willingly gave up his seat for Jared.

"Lionel Cohen, I wonder if there's a new head for Extreme Fist Gym. I've never seen this young man who takes your seat before!" a bald man seated next to the row for Extreme Fist Gym mocked with sheer disdain on his face.

"Rocky, keep your mouth shut! I'll let my disciples teach you a lesson on the arena later—just you wait!" Lionel snarled at him.

"Hahaha! Now that all of you from Extreme Fist Gym have downgraded and become others' lackeys, how could you still have the audacity to say this?" Rocky guffawed, causing the others to laugh contemptuously at Lionel as well.

Everyone guessed there must be a reason for such a high-ranked person like Lionel to let a young man take his seat and even stand behind him. Perhaps, the mysterious young man was backing Extreme Fist Gym up.

Right that instant, Jared turned to shoot Rocky a frigid glance. The utter frigidness in his eyes sent an instant shiver down Rocky's spine, and his smile froze on his face.

Wiping the cold sweat off his forehead, Rocky dared not have any eye contact with Jared again. It was as though the latter's penetrative glance had sent him down to a horrendous bottomless abyss at once.

"The Palace Chief of The Herb Palace is here!" After the announcement, Spencer moved toward the stage slowly.

Pin-drop silence ensued in the place instantly. Spencer might not be the most skilled martial artist, but he was undoubtedly the most influential among all.

For all the martial artists, be it from Nuthana or Jazona, none of them dared to step on the toes of the Herb Palace. After all, they would inevitably need to seek treatment from the Herb Palace if they sustained injuries.

After Spencer was seated, he scanned everyone below the arena. He was stunned at the sight of Jared sitting in the front row and could not resist throwing him a flaring glance.

“Everyone, I’m not going to talk much about the rules for the Martial Arts Gathering today. But I’ve to emphasize the reward this round! It’s the centurial premium herb—a top-notch herb which costs a few million!” His words whipped everyone below the arena up.

The costly centurial premium herb was indeed an attractive reward. After all, not all martial arts families and martial artists were from well-off backgrounds. In fact, most of them had to make ends meet as they indulged themselves in martial arts.

“Hahaha! This centurial premium herb is definitely mine!” Rocky laughed triumphantly as he rose to his feet and flung himself abruptly onto the arena. The next moment, he scanned everyone below the arena sardonically and yelled, “Anyone dares to come up and challenge me?”

“I’ll be the first person!” A young man dressed in a white suit jumped onto the arena swiftly.

He greeted Rocky with a sweeping gesture. “Rocky, after you...”

“Stop being pretentious. I can’t stand it when you waste time on that!” Rocky cut him off and threw his punch at the young man without a second thought.

In a split second, a deafening sound rang out as Rocky’s punch whizzed toward the young man at an astonishing speed. Awestruck, the latter stood in a striking stance hastily to fight against Rocky.

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A Grandiose Show

Pow!

After an ear-splitting boom, the young man's face turned ashen as he retreated speedily, resulting in deep scratch marks on the ground.

His hands trembled uncontrollably, and there were flickers of extreme fear in his eyes. Rocky had almost shattered the young man's defensive shield with just one punch!

The young man gasped, "Rocky, I'm in awe of you! I—"

Rocky cut him off by shrieking impatiently, "Enough of that!"

Seconds later, a shrill resounded the entire place as he flung another punch toward the young man.

Thunderstruck, the latter's heart skipped a beat. Without wasting any second, he turned to run for his life. Initially, he thought of raising the white flag, but he had a feeling that Rocky would not stop throwing deadly punches at him till he met his end!

Sadly, he was not in time to dodge Rocky's deadly punch. It landed on his back heavily the moment he turned, sending him flying!

There was a ghastly splatter of blood in the air as blood spewed out of the young man's mouth. The next second, he landed clumsily on the ground below the arena and breathed his last breath without even having the chance to let out a single yowl.

"It's a match of life and death in the arena! Who else dares to challenge me?" A cold-blooded Rocky squealed after flashing a haughty glance at everyone below the arena. He did not even spare any glance at the young man's lifeless body on the ground.

Rocky's haughtiness sent the crowd into a frenzy. Filled with anger, the young man's relatives could not wait to avenge him. Nonetheless, there was nothing they could do due to the age restriction. Regardless of how skillful they were, they were not allowed to step onto the arena as long as their age exceeded the maximum age limit. Thus, they could only glare at Rocky in intense resentment.

Meanwhile, the elderly seated in the arena furrowed their brows at Rocky's ruthlessness. Nonetheless, they could not voice anything as it was common

for martial artists to sustain injuries or even meet their tragic ends in the arena.

“Anyone else dares to challenge him?” Spencer asked abruptly, devoid of expression.

Hearing that, Jesse was about to head onto the arena, but Jared stood in his way. “Don’t act impulsively. His combat prowess is better than yours. Let’s wait for him to use up his energy fighting a few more rounds with other opponents first.”

Jesse had no choice but to step backward. In the meantime, another martial artist stepped onto the arena to challenge Rocky.

The match continued. More and more martial artists stepped onto the arena to challenge Rocky. However, they were no match for him. Either they met their end or sustained severe injuries. Panic-stricken, the other young martial artists, who were thinking of challenging him, remained rooted to the ground.

Rocky’s combat prowess seemed to have reached the same level as the Internal Energy Grandmaster. Undeniably, the centurial premium herb was irresistible. Even so, it was still not worth it to put one’s life on the line to fight for it.

Rocky turned in the direction where Jared and the others were seated with a snigger. “Hmph! It seems everyone from Extreme Fist Gym has chickened out. So are you planning to be cowards till the end?”

“Rocky! Watch your mouth!” Unable to stifle his simmering fury, Jesse rushed onto the arena like a bolt of lightning.

Wearing a look of sheer contempt, Rocky scoffed, “Haha! At least there’s still a courageous punk like you! Even though I’ve gone through many rounds continuously, it’s still a piece of cake for me to defeat you!”

“Stop talking b*llshit! Strike now!” Jesse fumed and sprang himself up in an instant, throwing a powerful fist toward Rocky.

Jesse had thrown a powerful punch, wooshing from a precise angle. While he was high up in the sky momentarily, he grabbed the opportunity to engulf his opponent with the afterimage of his fist.

Rocky's lips contorted into a smirk as he glanced at Jesse disdainfully. "Hmph! What a waste of breath on a grandiose show!"

The next second, he shot up with a punch, resulting in turbulence in the air. Within seconds, the afterimage of Jesse's fist vanished. Consequently, both of their fists ended up colliding with each other.

Bam!

After an ear-splitting collision, Jesse dropped onto the arena at a mind-blowing speed and staggered three steps backward. As he felt a tingling numbness on his arm, he stared at Rocky in utter disbelief.

"Punk, you're undoubtedly incomparable to me. Don't you think it's just your wishful thinking to be the champion, huh?" Rocky snickered and started throwing explosive punches at Jesse.

At that moment, Jesse was in a precarious state. There was nothing he could do to defend against Rocky's massive attack. As his arms turned numb due to the latter's powerful punches, he could only stagger backward!

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Are You Scared

Lionel sat among the audience. His expression suggested that things were not going his way as he clenched his fists anxiously.

"Mr. Chance..." he called out softly to Jared from behind.

The former was obviously trying to get him to make a move at that crucial moment to rescue Jesse. That was the more appropriate course of action because Jared was within the age range, and Lionel himself wasn't.

Jared said nothing, but he nodded slightly. He would not have let anything bad happen to Jesse, even if Lionel hadn't asked.

Lionel sighed in relief when he saw that nod. Given Jared's strength, Baldy over there can be twice as strong, but it still won't be a problem.

At that moment, Jesse had already backed up the edge of the arena. Both his arms were numb, so he could only move instinctively to deal with Baldy's incessant attacks.

"Get off the stage, punk!"

Baldy grinned and swung a punch to hit Jesse in his chest.

If that hit were to land, Jesse would, without a doubt, fall out of the arena. He would either die or suffer serious injury.

The audience frowned upon seeing that. Jesse was one of the most skilled martial artists of the next generation. He had a great shot at winning the tournament. Yet, despite his skills, Baldy's attack had overwhelmed him.

All they saw was how Baldy's fist would land on Jesse's chest soon. There was no way to avoid it. Just then, a figure instantly zipped to the stage and grabbed Baldy's wrist.

That ferocious punch was halted just like that.

Baldy was surprised. He tilted his head and realized the one who had stopped his attack was the young man from Extreme Fist Gym.

"What now? Are the two of you going to go up against me simultaneously?"

Jared released his hold on Baldy and sneered. "Jesse has been defeated, and he is raising his white flag. I shall be your opponent now."

"Thank you, Mr. Chance. You saved my life."

Jesse's forehead was covered in sweat. Being that close to death had left him weak with fear.

"Go on, get out of here," instructed Jared calmly.

Jesse nodded and jumped out of the arena.

Baldy, however, narrowed his eyes cautiously while scanning Jared from head to toe. That guy grabbed my wrist with ease without even a hint of a struggle. He is definitely stronger than he looks.

“I have gone through many battles and am exhausted now. As per the rules, I am allowed a break and let someone else fight you.”

Baldy couldn't tell how strong Jared was, so he wanted the latter to fight someone else first. That way, he could observe the fight from the side.

“Oh, you're not tired. I bet you're just scared,” replied Jared while smiling. “Here, I'll fight you with one hand behind my back.”

Jared waved at Baldy with his other free hand.

That taunt was infuriating. There were dozens of witnesses there, and Jared was claiming he could beat Baldy with one hand on his back. Baldy would surely become the laughingstock if he were to back out now.

When the audience saw that, they started murmuring among themselves. It intrigued even the few elderly men on the stage. Spencer was the only one who stared calmly at Jared.

Tristan had snuck in with his men. They were hiding among the crowd, glaring icily at Jared. On the other side, Franco narrowed his eyes in amusement as he stood among the spectators with his men.

“I can't believe you're that arrogant, punk. It doesn't matter how powerful your family is. Any deaths and injuries inflicted here are free from all legal repercussions. No one can come after me if you die by my hand.” Baldy glared murderously at his opponent.

He didn't know who Jared really was, so he was worried about getting into trouble if he accidentally killed the man.

“Oh, don't worry. No one will come after you when that happens.”

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No Right To Talk

“Good, I’m glad to hear that,” replied Baldy. He roared at the next moment, and his skin started turning darker. The veins on his forehead were slowly revealing themselves as well.

Then he attacked. The punch he threw was so strong it was as though a tsunami was going after Jared.

Jesse, who was watching off the stage, turned a little pale. If Baldy had used that punch from the very beginning, he likely wouldn’t have lasted as long as he did.

Jared grinned mockingly upon seeing Baldy’s punch. He waited until the man was right in front of him before launching his counter-attack casually. All everyone saw was how weak Jared’s punch seemed, and it looked as though the two were on different levels.

However, when their fists met, it created a massive force of energy. Even the few elderly men on stage had to tap into their internal energy to withstand that force. They literally swept most of the audience off their feet and overturned every table and chair.

Crack!

It was a crisp sound.

When everyone regained their composure, they saw Baldy’s arm had bent in the most peculiar way. He stood rooted in the arena, looking ghastly pale. His eyes shone with immense fear as he stared at Jared.

“I-I admit-”

Baldy realized Jared was stronger than he could possibly imagine, so he was quick to admit defeat.

Unfortunately, Jared cut him off with a slap.

Slap!

Half of Baldy’s face became red and swollen. All of his teeth fell out of his mouth, and the intense pain prompted him to scream in agony.

“I know you want to concede defeat, but there is no way I’ll allow you to do so.”

After saying that, Jared punched over and attacked Baldy once more.

Baldy roared loudly. He used his other hand to defend himself as much as possible. All he wanted was to flee, but his legs had already sunk into the arena, so he couldn’t move at all.

Argh!

Jared’s punch landed on Baldy’s chest and penetrated his body before exiting from the other side. Crimson red blood dripped from Jared’s hand.

Baldy’s eyes bulged in disbelief and hatred as his body went limp. Obviously, he died on the spot.

The entire place turned quiet after that. Everybody turned their attention from Baldy to Jared, who scanned around and asked, “Anybody else want to come up here?”

No one dared to say anything. Baldy was strong, but Jared had killed the guy easily with one hand behind his back. If anyone else were to try, they’d just die on the stage.

“What a bunch of losers…”

A man made his way to the arena.

“Huh? Isn’t that Derek Jantz?”

Many recognized the guy because it was a huge deal when Derek was kicked out of the family years ago.

Spencer narrowed his eyes in silence when he saw Derek getting up on the stage. However, the elderly man sitting beside him spoke up.

“Derek Jantz, this is the Martial Arts Gathering, and the arena has its rules. Anyone over thirty-five years old is disqualified. You are way too old to be there. Leave now!”

To everybody's surprise, Derek simply sneered and replied, "Spencer Schmidt is in charge. He's not complaining, so what are you barking about, you old man? You have no right to talk right now."

He waved his arm nonchalantly. A powerful wave of aura zipped over to the elderly man, who frowned and immediately tapped into his internal energy. Even then, he was sent flying out of the arena, and his chair was pulverized.

Everyone was surprised upon seeing that. Only someone of incredible strength was qualified to be a judge. Derek had sent the old man flying with a single wave of his arm.

Spencer was furious. The Herb Palace was the one hosting the Martial Arts Gathering. Derek's behavior was a direct insult to the host and his earlier words, in particular, had utterly embarrassed Spencer.

The latter said nothing earlier because he wanted the former to teach Jared a lesson. However, Derek wasn't just going after Jared. He was mocking Spencer as well, and that was something the latter would not publicly endure, especially since Tristan was observing everything from the shadows.

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Just A Bunch Of Idiots

"Derek, the rules hold, and I am the one who listed all those rules. Do you really want to challenge them?"

As Spencer spoke, he moved gracefully over and stood right in front of Derek.

When Jared saw what was playing out in front of him, he moved to the side to give the two men space to fight. He knew Derek was there to seek vengeance, but he wouldn't mind letting them fight first. He would benefit from their fight, anyway.

"Oh, to hell with your stupid rules. Don't assume you can boss me around just because the Baileys are supporting Herb Palace. I can still slap you to your death," growled Derek in distaste.

Spencer was a skilled medical practitioner, and his combat prowess was just enough to reach the Grandmaster rank. He was undeniably weaker than Derek.

Hence, he was fuming a little when he heard those words.

“Oy, Derek Jantz, do you realize the Baileys are not people you can afford to taunt?”

As soon as he finished speaking, Tristan jumped out of the audience and landed on the stage. He had a few subordinates with him. Every single one of them exuded a powerful aura. It was clear that they were all in the Grandmaster rank.

Derek’s expression stiffened a little when he saw Tristan there. “Thing is, Mr. Bailey, that Jared guy murdered a member of my family, so I must kill him to avenge his death.”

The audience gasped after hearing what Derek had said. Many were aware of how Zachariah was murdered, but they knew nothing specific. In fact, no one but those present at the scene that day knew what had happened.

Now that Derek had shared that information, the audience realized that Jared, who killed Baldy with a single punch, had also killed Zachariah. No wonder he was so gutsy and dared to fight Baldy with only one hand.

“I don’t care about your revenge. The Herb Palace is the host of this Martial Arts Gathering. I will not stand idly by if you insist on destroying it,” growled Tristan.

“Can’t you make an exception this one time? Derek is here as the Coopers’ guest, after all.”

After saying that, Franco made his way to the arena as well. He also had a bunch of subordinates who were all in the Grandmaster rank.

The sudden emergence of those men had the younger martial artists feeling ashamed of themselves. Jesse, in particular, had clenched his fists as his eyes shone with surprise.

He had always thought of himself as one of the top fighters among the younger generations. Unfortunately, Tristan and Franco showed up, and they

were both stronger than he was. They might even be stronger than his father, Luke.

At that moment, Jesse finally understood that he had been an ignorant man. I guess the world is much bigger than I thought, and skilled fighters are more abundant than I had imagined.

Tristan and Franco showing up had undoubtedly saddened the younger martial artists in Jazona. When Jared was the only powerful one there, they could assume that he was an exception and an outlier. The continuous emergence of Grandmasters who were in their twenties. That was a little difficult for the others to ignore their own obvious weakness.

Tristan didn't respond directly to Franco. The former simply turned to Jared and said, "This is how the situation is right now. If you agree to my terms, I will help you deal with this matter. If you don't... well, I'm sure you know what the consequences will be."

He was blackmailing Jared in broad daylight for the recipe. It was the perfect opportunity to make that threat.

Jared sneered in distaste. "They're just a bunch of idiots. I'm not afraid of them."

Tristan was taken aback when he heard what Jared said. Derek was much stronger than Zachariah, and the former had Franco on his side. They also had a few subordinates who were ranked as Grandmasters. Jared, on the other hand, was on his own. I can't believe he has the guts to say something like that!

"Okay, in that case, I'll sit back and watch the show."

Tristan led his men to the side of the arena. Spencer followed closely behind and whispered, "Mr. Bailey, are you really going to let Derek kill Jared? If that happens, we won't be able to get the recipe."

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Lapdog

“Don’t worry, I will rescue that punk after they beat him up. We must crush his ego to get what we want,” replied Tristan calmly.

After Tristan left with his men, Derek glared at Jared and growled, “I will avenge my family’s death today, and glory will return to the Jantz family’s name!”

As he spoke, he moved forward to attack Jared, but Franco reached out to stop him.

Franco grinned calmly at Jared. “We meet again. My, what a small world.”

He had met Jared once at Lizbeth’s parents’ place. At the time, Franco found Jared’s aura to be strong. He knew the guy was powerful, but he didn’t expect Jared to be the one who had murdered Zachariah.

“Yes, it truly is a small world,” replied Jared icily.

“Tell me what Tristan wants from you. If you do so and agree to follow my lead, I will have Derek spare your life. You won’t have to owe the Baileys anything, either.”

Franco knew Jared had something Tristan wanted. Otherwise, Tristan would not have gone up against the Coopers for a guy like him. Whatever Jared has with him must be extremely valuable.

Derek shot a silent look at Franco. If the latter requested it, he might just let Jared off the hook, because he and Zachariah weren’t actually that close. In fact, Derek himself might’ve killed Zachariah if Jared hadn’t beaten him to it.

The so-called vengeance was just an excuse to kill Jared. Derek would make a claim to be the head of the Jantz family after killing him, and his would officially be a part of the Coopers’ power in Jazona.

“Are you sure you’ll do that?” asked Jared.

“Of course. Everyone knows I always keep my word,” replied Franco as he tapped his own chest confidently.

Tristan tightened his fist and frowned. He didn't expect Franco to make a move like that. If Jared were to accept the Coopers' terms, it would be a huge loss to Tristan and his family.

"Okay, then I'll tell you what's going on," replied Jared while smiling in amusement. "You see, Tristan here wants to be my lapdog, but I don't want something so ugly, so I turned him down. He keeps badgering me about it, though.

"That being said, I will consider letting you be my lapdog if you beg me for it."

The audience laughed endlessly. Tristan, however, looked utterly infuriated.

Franco was burning in rage as well. "You're messing with me!"

"What if I am? Men like you mess with women's hearts all the time, so it's just karma. Jerks like you aren't even worthy of being my lapdog," replied Jared as he sneered in distaste.

He was obviously talking about how Franco had backed out of his engagement to Lizbeth.

"You are so freaking dead," growled Franco through gritted teeth. He turned to Derek and ordered, "Kill him and tear him apart!"

Derek's aura flushed out the second he received Franco's orders. It engulfed Jared right away.

"I will tear you limb from limb, you punk!"

Derek was like a bloodthirsty monster who had his sights on Jared.

"Wow, this dog sure can bark, but I know better. Barking dogs like you have no bite."

Jared harrumphed and flushed his terrifying aura out of his body as well.

When their auras clashed, a whirlwind formed.

"Back up!" ordered Franco. He led his men to the side of the arena upon seeing how everything was playing out.

Jared and Derek stood in the same spot. With them as the epicenter, an insanely powerful whirlwind spread out.

It didn't take long before Derek started sweating, but Jared remained standing there calmly. It was as though the latter didn't need to do anything to flush that powerful aura out.

"Is that all you can do?" asked Jared. He noticed Derek's condition was deteriorating, so he further mocked, "Given how weak you are, you are not worthy of even being a lapdog."

"Ah, I am so going to kill you!"

Derek had lost his composure from the continuous taunting.

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Amazing Item

After shouting aloud, Derek swung his arm at Jared. Its huge shadow towered over the man like a mountain.

That punch left the arena shaking, and even the strong stones holding it in place were cracking. The audience at the side started feeling the pressure as well.

"Jared!" Both Lizbeth and Josephine shouted, and they wanted to rush over to him.

"No one is allowed to make any move."

Jared was quick to stop them from doing anything because they could not help, anyway.

Tristan and Franco, who were at the side of the arena, turned to the ladies.

They were both stunning, so it was only natural others would stare. However, one look was all it took to get both Tristan and Franco to glow.

The two men realized the jade pendant on Josephine was what they were after the entire time.

Neither hesitated. Both Tristan and Franco jumped to get to Josephine.

“Ah!” Josephine instinctively shouted fearfully.

Lizbeth quickly attacked to protect her, and Jesse did the same. The two of them were ready to stop Tristan and Franco from getting to Josephine.

Unfortunately, they weren't nearly as powerful as Tristan or Franco. Strong martial energy pushed both Lizbeth and Jesse out of the way before they even got close.

Just then, Jared, who was still fighting, saw what was happening. His eyes immediately glowed with anger and cruelty as he jumped down from the arena.

“Don't even think about fleeing, punk.”

Derek's punch was already close by then.

“F*ck off!”

Jared was in no mood to fight.

Slap!

Derek flew right to the ground. It seemed Jared's slap had landed and locked him in place in the arena.

Many were stunned to see that. They knew how powerful Derek was, and they couldn't believe Jared had slapped him right back to the center of the arena. I guess he is so much more powerful than I imagined.

Lionel, in particular, was shaking fearfully. He was comparatively weak and puny, and he had the audacity to taunt Jared earlier. If Jesse hadn't shown up, Lionel would likely have already died.

Jared hopped out of the arena quickly, but Tristan and Franco had already reached Josephine. They went after her jade pendant simultaneously.

A red light suddenly flashed out from the jade pendant and sent both men flying backward. They backed away for over ten steps before they finally stopped.

“Wow, that really is an amazing item...”

The glow in their eyes intensified.

Jared had made his way to Josephine’s side by then. The jade pendant kept her safe, but the entire incident scared her and turned her pale.

“You’re okay now, Josephine,” cooed Jared as he held her tightly.

“Jared...”

She was trembling, even as she rested in his arms.

Jared sensed that, and the cruelty in his eyes became more intense. He glared at Tristan and Franco.

“You will both die for going after the woman I love!”

His body exuded a terrifying, murderous aura as soon as he finished speaking. Everyone around him could tell he was out for blood, and they were all frightened to their cores. They couldn’t stop trembling.

Tristan and Franco frowned as well. They tapped into their internal energy to combat that terrifying aura. Despite that, they couldn’t stop themselves from shaking.

Franco’s men had dragged Derek off the stage by then. They saw how the guy was bleeding from every pore, and his eyes were wide open. Yep, he’s definitely dead.