

Read A Man Like None Other & The Mans Decree Chapter 231

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Begging For Trouble

Leyton immediately paused in the middle of his rant after hearing from Sandy that Jared had summoned him. I need to play dumb in front of Jared now and trick him into lowering his guard. When I have more resources and power in the future, I'll repay his humiliation twofold!

After confirming the address with Sandy, Leyton set off for Meadow Restaurant immediately.

Sandy returned to her seat and informed Jared quietly, "He'll be here soon."

Jared appeared indifferent to her words, and Leroy smirked. The latter jeered, "Go on with your act, then. When Mr. Scott's here, you'll be drowning in your own tears!"

Jared sneered at Leroy and retorted, "We'll see about that, though you'll definitely be crying later!"

"What did you say? I'll cry? I'll make you cry right now!" Leroy barked before picking up a wine bottle.

Alarmed, Sandy screamed, "Leroy, are you mad? Put that wine bottle down right now!"

"Sandy, why are you so scared of Jared? He may have picked up some moves during his time behind bars, but this is Mr. Lewis' turf. He won't dare to lift a finger here!" Leroy then approached Jared menacingly and taunted, "Think you're so great, huh, Jared? Since you broke Warrick's leg, let's see if you dare to touch me!"

Slap!

Leroy had barely finished his sentence when Jared slapped him across the face.

The force sent two of his teeth flying out of his mouth, and his cheek instantly swelled.

Jared teased, "I've never had someone offer themselves up for a slap. Was it comfortable? Would you like to have another go?"

Leroy saw stars, probably concussed from how hard Jared had struck him.

Pamela rushed forward to support Leroy and asked, "Oh my god, Leroy. Are you okay?"

"Jared, how could you hit him? We're in hot soup now!" Virgil uttered anxiously, panic written all over his face.

Their classmates were in equal disbelief, and they began reprimanding Jared with gusto.

"What the heck, Jared? How could you slap Leroy?"

"We're all ex-classmates. There's no need to be violent to each other!"

"Just wait and see. You're dead meat!"

Bam!

Jared suddenly slammed his palms on the marble dining table, breaking off a chunk of the tabletop.

That effectively shut everyone up.

Jared's gaze roved over the crowd as he stated, "Did you all conveniently turn blind when Leroy was practically begging for a beating?"

The silence continued, and everyone looked uncomfortable.

"He's right! Leroy asked for it. How could all of you accuse Jared of being in the wrong?" Sandy spoke up, breaking the silence.

Her behavior perplexed their classmates. They had no idea what Sandy was playing at.

Leroy had slightly recovered his senses by then. He glared at Sandy before directing his attention and rage at Jared. "I can't believe you had the gall to hit me, Jared! You won't leave this room in one piece; I guarantee it!"

He began stumbling toward the door in search of Benji.

Virgil panicked and tugged on Jared's sleeve, uttering, "Jared, just apologize! Then we can scam!"

Jared merely smiled at his anxious friend and replied, "Sit tight, Virgil. I'll give you a precious opportunity today!"

Just as Leroy reached the door, it was suddenly opened from the outside by a huffing Leyton.

Leroy's attitude took a one-eighty when he spotted Leyton. He smiled brightly and greeted, "Mr. Scott, we've been anticipating your arrival. Please, take a seat!"

Their classmates joined Leroy in buttering up Leyton.

Leyton ignored them, barely glancing at Sandy as he searched the room for someone. Once he saw Jared, he jumped slightly and made a beeline for him.

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Gifts Of Sincerity

Leyton approached Jared and said courteously, "Mr. Chance, I rushed over as soon as I could after knowing that you were looking for me."

Except for Sandy, everyone's jaw dropped at Leyton's display.

Why is the Scott family heir talking to Jared like he's some kind of VIP? Aren't they love rivals?

Jared's gaze roved over his stunned audience before he scoffed. He pointed at Leroy and said, "I heard that the Scotts have some dealings with him."

Leyton glanced at Leroy. His gaze fell on the latter's swollen cheek, and he seemed to catch Jared's unspoken hint. He replied, "Mr. Chance, we have outsourced portions of two property development projects to him. However, we will be ending our partnership with him soon, and I will conduct stringent inspections on the quality of his work. Should we come across any unsatisfactory work, we will deduct his project commission and sue him for damages!"

Jared nodded lightly, secretly impressed by Leyton's quick wit.

Leroy was taken aback by his words. "Mr. Scott, w-what is the meaning of this? Our collaboration—"

"We will dissolve our collaboration and put your project commission on hold. You will be responsible for any damages incurred due to our partnership termination, understood?" Leyton cut in coldly and glared at Leroy.

He did not have any courtesy left to spare after waiting hand and foot on Jared.

"T-This," Leroy stammered, unable to make head or tail of what had just happened.

Jared got to his feet and patted Leyton on the shoulder, declaring, "Your attitude today saved your life, but it's not enough to save the Scott family."

I won't let him or the Scotts off the hook that easily. Sparing his life is the most I can do for him. There will be more horrors in store for them.

Jared's casual threat had Leyton paling instantly, and the latter immediately knelt before Jared, begging, "Mr. Chance, as long as you can spare the Scott family from utter ruin, we pledge to serve you and your interests for life. As a show of our sincerity, we can transfer ownership of our two property development companies under your name!"

He whipped out two sets of contracts.

Leyton had come prepared, proving that he was more than just a rich playboy. He wanted Jared to believe in his deference and disregard him as a future threat.

Walter and Tommy's presence had made it difficult for Leyton to execute his plans earlier. This reunion was thus the perfect opportunity for Leyton to offer his gift.

Jared was surprised by Leyton's offer. The Scott family earned their wealth and reputation from developing real estate. Their influence in Horington would undoubtedly plunge after they offered both their companies to Jared.

However, the Scotts were so wealthy that they could still live comfortably after gifting Jared their companies. It was a far more pressing matter to gain Jared's mercy and ensure their survival.

Jared received Leyton's contracts, much to the latter's delight. If he accepts this gesture of goodwill, our family may have a way out of this mess!

"Well then, I will spare the Scott family over your sincere offer."

Jared signed the contracts, sealing the Scotts' safety.

He was in dire need of the ample funds offered by their companies. The herbs Josephine had procured had cost him millions. It was a costly yet necessary expenditure, given the weak spiritual energy atop Dragon Summit and the rapidly depleting resources in Starry Compass.

Jared had to rely on crafting elixirs out of the precious herbs to increase the pace of his cultivation. He needed to achieve Foundation Phase before mid-July to earn a spot on Nameless Island.

Relying on the weak spiritual energy alone would take him eons to achieve Foundation Phase.

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Cracking Facades

Leyton uttered gratefully, "Thank you, Mr. Chance, for taking mercy on our family!"

"You're done here!" Jared dismissed him with a wave of his hand.

Leyton got to his feet and bowed deeply to Jared. Then he spun and left the room without sparing Sandy a glance.

Leroy blocked his exit, upset at Leyton's earlier words. He demanded, "Mr. Scott, we signed a contract. How can you terminate our partnership on a whim? Plus, you can't just hold my project commission hostage!"

"Get lost!" Leyton scolded impatiently. "What can you do if I refuse to release your payment?"

Leroy steeled his nerves and threatened, "I'm not scared of you. You may be a Scott, but you were begging pitifully for Jared's mercy just minutes ago. You must pay my project commission in full if you cancel the contract. My cousin Benji is one of Mr. Lewis' men. I have no qualms about involving him if the situation turns ugly."

Though he had no idea why Leyton seemed so deferential toward Jared, Leroy's priority was to secure the lucrative project commission to ensure his company's continued operation.

Ultimately, the Scott family was no match for Tommy's prowess, and Leroy was using that fact to his advantage.

"Dumb*ss!" Leyton muttered under his breath. He ignored the raging Leroy and left.

Tommy obeys Jared's every word. I can't believe Leroy thinks he can ride on Tommy's influence!

After Leyton's departure, Leroy turned his anger to Jared, instantly pinning the blame on him.

He scowled and said, "Jared, I don't know what you've done to frighten Leyton into submission, but I'm not scared of you. I'll ensure your ruin today!"

Finally, Leroy stalked off to find Benji.

The room fell into an awkward silence after his departure. Everyone stared at Jared, wondering how he seemed to have Leyton wrapped around his finger.

Juliette stared at Sandy instead. Hesitantly, she asked, "Sandy, did you break up with Leyton? Are you no longer the Scotts' future daughter-in-law?"

Her question had everyone turning their questioning gazes on Sandy, who blushed furiously and fidgeted.

She could only nod in resignation.

The crowd erupted into fierce whispers of displeasure. “So that’s why she was defending Jared earlier! Looks like someone got dumped by the Scott family heir!”

“Judging by his behavior earlier, I don’t think Leyton will consider courting Sandy again!”

“Pfft, she acted as though she was still associated with the Scott family!”

Sandy had been reduced to nothing in their eyes now that her coveted association with the Scotts turned out to be void.

Leyton’s deference toward Jared did not soothe Virgil’s anxiety. He cautioned, “Let’s go, Jared. Mr. Lewis doesn’t even blink when he kills someone!”

He was genuinely worried over Jared’s safety now that Leroy had finally gone off to summon one of Tommy’s men.

Jared smiled and asked, “Have you seen Tommy Lewis in the flesh?”

“No!” Virgil shook his head.

“Well then, how do you know he doesn’t blink when he kills someone?” Jared teased.

Virgil answered fearfully, “Jared, things have changed while you were in prison. The members of Mr. Lewis’ Templar Regiment and Steven Fisher’s Crimson Dragon Gang are ruthless killers. Everyone in the city has heard about their murderous exploits.”

Jared’s smile merely widened as he clapped Virgil on the shoulder and coaxed, “Don’t worry. Nothing will happen on my watch.” He then tossed the signed contracts to Virgil and uttered, “I’m too busy. You should manage them on my behalf.”

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Not From The Mobs

Virgil was stunned. He stammered, “J-Jared, t-this is too much. I have no idea how to manage a company!”

“No one’s born knowing how to manage a company. You can always learn.” Jared stuffed the contracts into Virgil’s hands and insisted, “Work hard, and I’m looking forward to calling you CEO, Mr. Hancock!”

Virgil’s hands shook as he held the valuable contracts. He blushed, overwhelmed with gratitude.

He became absorbed in daydreams of his future life as a CEO.

Virgil was now the envy of every classmate. After all, he had become the CEO of two multimillion companies in the blink of an eye.

Some of them regretted their decision to scorn Jared instead of supporting him, like Virgil, from the beginning.

Just then, someone kicked open the room door. A young man dressed in a sharp suit strode in, followed by several imposing security guards.

Leroy was part of the group, and he pointed at Jared as he declared, “Benji, that’s the person who hit me. You’ve got to teach him a lesson!”

Benji glared at Jared and asked, “Did he act alone?”

Leroy surveyed the room, and their classmates hurriedly put some distance between themselves and Jared for fear of being dragged into this mess.

Virgil shook with fear, yet he determinedly stood his ground beside Jared.

His show of loyalty infuriated Leroy, who barked, “Get rid of that fellow beside him too!”

To his surprise, Benji slapped Leroy up the side of his head and scolded, “Useless! You called me over to deal with those two fools?”

Leroy wailed, “Benji, one of them came out of prison recently. He picked up some moves while he was there.”

“Oh, so he runs in our circles.” Benji smirked. “Which gang are you with?”

He mistakenly believed that Jared had spent time in jail over underground crimes.

“Far from that, Benji! He beat up Leyton Scott for playing his girlfriend and got slapped with a three-year sentence!” Leroy explained hastily.

“F*ck! That’s unexpected!” Benji guffawed. “Well, he does look like an unlucky lad. Still, he can’t be some simpleton if he dared to hit my cousin!”

Benji grabbed a wine bottle and brought it down upon Jared’s head.

A few girls shrieked in terror.

Virgil paled, but he gritted his teeth and grabbed a chair, ready to defend Jared from Benji’s attack.

He scarcely moved when Jared suddenly threw out a punch.

It landed square in Benji’s abdomen, sending the latter flying a distance.

Benji curled into himself, huffing from extreme pain.

“Are you okay, Benji?” Leroy asked as he tried to help his cousin to his feet.

“Get him!” Benji growled, spurring the security guards into action.

They charged at Jared with batons.

Virgil shouted, “Run, Jared! I’ll hold them off!”

He lifted a chair and ran toward the charging men.

They were about to clash when a shadow darted past Virgil. Seconds later, the guards lay on the ground, moaning in agony.

These were all Tommy’s men, which made them Jared’s subordinates. It was the only reason Jared had refrained from unleashing his full strength.

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A Gruesome Apology

Everyone was dumbfounded, and even Leroy was grudgingly impressed. Jared seemed to have defeated his opponents with the barest hint of effort.

Benji had woefully underestimated Jared's abilities, and he groaned, "Get Mr. Lewis here at once!"

One of the waiters rushed off.

Everyone in the room grew nervous at the thought of Tommy's arrival. They were mere bystanders, yet Tommy's reputation preceded him.

"Jared?" Virgil called out hesitantly. He was still holding the chair from earlier.

Smiling, Jared asked, "Are you scared, Virgil?"

Virgil clenched his jaw and shook his head. "There's nothing to be scared of at this point. I'm ready to fight to the end!"

That earned him a quiet smile from Jared.

Leroy's arrogance grew as he anticipated Tommy's arrival, and he warned, "Watch out, Jared. Once Mr. Lewis is here, he'll have you hacked to pieces!"

"I can't wait," Jared replied drily before returning to his seat, cool as a cucumber.

In fact, Tommy had been awaiting Jared's arrival on the third floor for some time now. Despite his concern over Jared's prolonged absence, he did not want to rush Jared and could only wait patiently for the latter's arrival.

A waiter burst into Tommy's room on the third floor and announced, "Mr. Lewis, there's trouble happening downstairs. Someone beat up Benji!"

"What? How dare they cause trouble in my restaurant! Is it someone from the Crimson Dragon Gang?" Tommy demanded, jumping to his feet in an instant.

He hurried downstairs as the waiter explained, "I'm not sure, but he's very strong!"

Tommy frowned. If he's strong, then he's obviously here to cause trouble. No one but the Crimson Dragon Gang has dared to mess things up on my turf. It could be them since Steven was humiliated just days earlier!

Soon enough, Tommy came to the second floor. He kicked the door open and was about to reprimand the troublemaker until he saw Jared sitting in the room. He quickly swallowed the insults on the tip of his tongue, and he subconsciously shuddered with fear.

Oblivious to Tommy's emotions, Benji struggled to get up and croaked, "Mr. Lewis, he—"

Tommy ignored him and made a beeline for Jared.

Leroy cackled in glee as Tommy approached Jared. He taunted, "You're dead meat, Jared!"

To his shock, Tommy greeted Jared courteously, "Mr. Chance!"

Silently, Jared placed his cup on the table, and Tommy immediately refilled it for him.

Everyone stared on in disbelief, flabbergasted by the turn of events.

Tommy appeared to worship Jared just as Leyton did earlier.

It seemed unimaginable to them that Jared could wield such influence over these important men.

Leroy and Benji were perhaps the most stunned of them all.

Benji stuttered as he asked, "M-Mr. Lewis, who is he?"

He had already realized that he had grossly misjudged the situation.

Instead of answering him, Tommy asked, "How long have you been serving me, Benji?"

"It has been f-five years, Mr. Lewis!" Benji stammered nervously.

Calmly, Tommy clapped Benji on the shoulder and commented, "Five years is a long time."

His cryptic statement sent alarm bells ringing in Benji's head, who immediately knelt before Tommy.

He was no stranger to Tommy's personality, and his present silence spoke volumes about his murderous intent.

Benji muttered, "Please spare my life, Mr. Lewis. Please!"

Tommy was unmoved as he tossed a sharp dagger on the ground and said, "Cut your hand off!"

Benji stared at the dagger. After a momentary hesitation, he grabbed the dagger and brought it down on his left hand.

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Stupefied

A blood-curdling scream filled the air as Benji cut off his left hand.

The bloody scene frightened everyone into silence, most of all Leroy.

Benji clutched his bleeding wrist and eked out, "Thank you for sparing my life, Mr. Lewis!"

Coldly, Tommy tossed out, "Don't thank me. Thank Mr. Chance!"

"Thank you, Mr. Chance. I will not forget your kindness!" Benji turned and knelt before Jared instead.

Leroy stammered in utter disbelief, "B-Benji?"

He stared at his cousin, stupefied by the horrifying turn of events.

Benji yelled at him, "F*cker! Get on your knees right now!"

Petrified into submission, Leroy hastily fell to his knees. He kept his head lowered and his mouth shut.

Jared stood up and walked toward the exit.

Tommy followed him and addressed Benji coldly, "Your cousin was disrespectful toward Mr. Chance. I'll trust you to teach him a lesson."

"Understood, Mr. Lewis!" Benji nodded fervently.

Jared lifted a finger and pointed at Pamela. He commented, "Deal with this woman too."

Pamela was already pale and shuddering in fear, and she fainted from shock the minute Jared pointed her out.

"Yes, Mr. Chance. I understand," came Benji's reply.

Jared allowed his gaze to rove over the room once more, and his classmates all looked away, trying their best to shrink into themselves. Juliette hid at the back, terrified that she would suffer the same fate as Pamela or Leroy.

Finally, Jared's gaze landed on Virgil, and he smiled. "Work hard, Virgil. I trust in your abilities. If you have any difficulties in the future, you can seek Tommy's help."

Tommy piped up, "Of course! Virgil, you can contact me anytime for help!"

Virgil could only nod repeatedly in reply.

Benji steeled his nerves as Jared and Tommy took their leave. He ordered his men to drag Leroy and Pamela out of the restaurant. Terrified screams rang out soon after. Benji did not take Tommy's orders lightly.

Jared's classmates regretted the way they had acted earlier. If they had not teased and mocked him so, Jared might have given them unimaginable riches like he did Virgil.

Meanwhile, Jared and Tommy had arrived at the room on the third floor.

Jared asked, "Have you heard anything of Steven? Has he been causing you trouble?"

Shaking his head, Tommy replied, "He hasn't. His master, Hydra, is a rare sight, and he has been difficult to track down."

“Hmph! Even his grandmaster hardly frightens me. All these experts of ancient martial arts are nothing to me,” Jared scoffed.

“Well, of course, My Lord. They are no match for your immortal techniques!” Tommy chimed in.

Jared smiled and said, “No need to butter me up.” He took an enhancement pill from his pocket and offered, “I have a pill here that can increase your abilities upon consumption. Once you take it, Steven will cower in the face of your prowess.”

Tommy was fascinated. The pill was smaller than a thumb and looked utterly unassuming. Can it truly boost my abilities?

He asked curiously, “My Lord, what pill is this? It sounds impressive.”

“It’s an enhancement pill. Don’t underestimate its effects. The herbs used to craft one pill cost millions!”

“What?” Tommy exclaimed and immediately swallowed the pill.

Warmth filled his abdomen and began spreading out toward the rest of his body.

Soon enough, Tommy felt his body surging with energy and in need of release.

Jared noticed the change in Tommy and smiled. “Does your building have a backyard? Go ahead and give it a try!”

“Yes, there is!” Tommy immediately led him out the back.

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Funding Woes

There was a huge stone behind Tommy’s restaurant. Tommy had paid a fortune to have a saying carved into the stone.

Jared pointed at it and suggested, "Why don't you swing a fist at that stone?"

Tommy punched the stone without a moment's hesitation.

Crack!

The stone split down the center.

Tommy stared at his fist in amazement. I must have used tonnes of force to break that stone!

Jared patted him on the shoulder and said, "Your punch can easily kill a bull. Steven's Impenetrable Skill is practically child's play to you now. In the face of true power, there is no such thing as Impenetrable Skill!"

Tommy's excitement was palpable as he asked, "My Lord, do you have more? I want to swallow two more pills!"

If I'm already this strong after taking one pill, I will be practically invincible after taking two!

Jared rolled his eyes in response. "This pill is crafted from rare and exorbitant herbs. I exhausted a lot of spiritual energy trying to create this thing! I can hardly give you another pill, let alone two!"

Tommy scratched his head and replied sheepishly, "I got too excited. This pill could fetch you tens of millions per piece. Martial arts are all the rage nowadays. Too many people are willing to spend a fortune on exotic herbs or hire masters to train them in ancient martial arts. Steven purportedly spent two hundred million to train under Francis Yancey."

"Two hundred million?" Jared was stunned. He spent two hundred million on such paltry skills? Tommy can break through his Impenetrable Skill after consuming just one pill. Damn, this pill is even more valuable than two hundred million!

Jared's eyes lit up as he identified his source of income.

He asked, "Tommy, if I craft more of these pills, will you be able to sell them?"

"My Lord, isn't it better to let our men consume these pills instead of selling them? If you need funds, Templar Regiment has a commercial street under its name. We're drawing lucrative profits from that street every year!"

Tommy could not fathom Jared's motives for selling such a game-changing pill.

If our enemies get their hands on this pill, we're practically digging our own grave!

Jared explained, "I won't be selling this enhancement pill; it costs too much money and spiritual energy. I'm thinking of preparing some revitalizing pills for sale. They can restore focus and nourish the brain, as well as extend one's lifespan. It also improves male virility!" He then asked, "How much revenue is that commercial street bringing in annually?"

"About two hundred million. Most of it goes toward the operations of Templar Regiment, which leaves us with about one-tenth of that sum," came Tommy's reply after some thought.

Jared shook his head and stated, "I need way more money than that. I probably need billions or even more to purchase the raw materials for these pills. We'd have to wait decades if we relied solely on your commercial street!"

"Billions!" Tommy inhaled sharply before continuing, "My Lord, why do you need so much money?"

Jared explained truthfully, "I need a lot of spiritual energy to cultivate. The energy is far too weak even atop Dragon Summit, which is insufficient to raise my abilities. I need the money to procure valuable herbs and craft more enhancements pills to hasten my cultivation!"

"Ah!" Tommy nodded in understanding. He scrunched his brows and said, "I fear you may not have enough funds even if the Sullivan family gives you all its assets."

That earned him a glare and a reprimand from Jared. "What the heck do you mean? Do I look like a person who'll live off his woman's money?"

Tommy hurriedly shook his head and denied, "No, no, of course not! The overlord of Dragon Sect will never do something like that!"

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The City Of Herbs

“I will tell you a list of herbs now. They are all ordinary herbs and are not expensive. Please purchase them for me. Also, I’ve made some revitalizing pills. Go and sell them. You can decide the price!”

After Jared finished his sentence, Tommy asked his men to take a piece of paper so that he could jot the name of the herbs down.

At one shot, Jared named more than ten ingredients, but they were all ordinary herbs that could easily be purchased.

“Did you write them all down?” he asked.

“My Lord, yes, I did. They are all ordinary herbs. The pharmacy in Horington has them, but not in bulk. I will send some men to Yeringham. There’s a medicinal base there. It has all kinds of herbs, cheaper than other places! With that, we can also save a lot of money!”

After knowing that Jared needed a lot of money, Tommy had learned to be frugal.

“Yeringham?” Jared suddenly recalled that city. It was located a few hundred kilometers southwest of Horington and was indeed the biggest herbs producer in the country.

Almost all the herbs in the country were sold through Yeringham. Over time, Yeringham was given another name—the City of Herbs.

“I am not sure if the City of Herbs has the herbs I need!”

The herbs that Jared needed were all rare and expensive. The ginseng and reishi mushrooms required for making energy condensing pills must be at least three hundred years old.

Such herbs could only be found in desolate mountains. Thus, it was tough to obtain. Moreover, to maximize the energy condensing pill’s effect, snow lotus was also needed.

It was even more challenging to obtain snow lotus, so Jared knew he could not rush it. He could only accumulate wealth first and then acquire those herbs at high prices.

“My Lord, there’s an auction house in Yeringham. They specifically run auctions for rare treasures from all around the world, and rare herbs make up most of the goods. I will keep an eye on it. If there’s anything that you need, I will inform you right away,” Tommy whispered.

“Okay. That’s all we can do for now,” Jared replied, nodding.

After giving all the orders to Tommy, he did not linger at Meadow Restaurant and left for the Sullivan residence.

Since he had completed the pill for William, he wanted to bring them to the latter.

Even though he and Josephine had not confirmed their relationship officially, it was only a matter of time before William became his father-in-law.

As it was a matter concerning his father-in-law, Jared dared not delay things.

Tommy personally chauffeured him to the Sullivan residence.

When they arrived at the mansion’s entrance, they spotted a black Audi parked at the front. The license plate was eye-catching, with A00001 seen on it.

“Holy sh*t. Isn’t that the car of the mayor of Horington? Why is it here?” Tommy exclaimed upon seeing the car’s license plate.

Jared could not wrap his head around it too. However, he soon figured it was not unthinkable for the mayor to come to discuss things with William, the richest man in Horington.

After a brief hesitation, Jared eventually decided to go in. He will be my father-in-law soon. There’s no need for me to be restrained. Plus, making acquaintances with prominent figures like the mayor may come in handy in the future.

As soon as he walked into the mansion, he saw Josephine engaging in a conversation with a young man in the courtyard. However, she looked rather displeased.

“Frederick Lowe, do not come to my house ever again. Other people might misunderstand that there is something going on between us!” she said to the young man with her brows furrowed.

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Do Not Touch My Wife

“Josephine, I’m just here to visit Mr. Sullivan. I heard that he’s sick. I even brought a thousand-year-old ginseng root as a gift. It took me a lot of effort to obtain it from the City of Herbs!”

As Frederick spoke, he reached out to grab Josephine’s hand.

Shocked, she staggered a few steps back, but he did not seem willing to give up.

Jared lost his temper upon witnessing that scene and snarled, “How dare you make advances to a lady in broad daylight! Do you even have manners?”

“Jared!” Josephine was delighted to see him and immediately ran over to him.

A trace of hostility flashed across Frederick’s gaze when he noticed her reaction to Jared’s appearance. “Who are you? Do you know who I am?”

“I don’t care who you are. I will beat up whoever touches my wife...” Jared growled, intending to charge forward and land two kicks on Frederick but was stopped by Josephine.

Holding his arm, she said, “Calm down. He didn’t manage to touch me!”

Nevertheless, she was touched by his words and found herself falling for him further.

“Your wife?” Frederick’s eyes widened in disbelief.

“Why? Do you want to see the marriage certificate?”

Jared stared at Frederick in contempt while a sneer touched his lips.

Josephine was at a loss for words, wondering why she was oblivious to that matter. However, she soon came to her senses and figured Jared was trying to exasperate Frederick.

“All right. Show me then,” Frederick replied as he extended an arm toward Jared.

Not expecting him to go along, Jared was momentarily stunned.

“I didn’t bring it with me. Plus, you have no right to see it. It’s none of your business!” he remarked as a teasing smile hovered on his lips.

Evidently, Jared was fooling with Frederick.

Upon seeing his countenance, Josephine stifled a giggle by covering her mouth with her hand.

“Bast*rd. How dare you try to fool me? I’ll...”

Before Frederick could finish his sentence, William came into the room with a teapot in his hand. He was slightly startled to see that Jared was also around. “Oh, Jared, you’re here too. Come and try the tea I’ve brewed. Fred, you too!”

After William knew about Jared’s close relationship with Josephine, he started calling the young man by his name so that they would seem less distant from each other.

“The tea brewed by my dad tastes amazing. Let’s try it out!”

To Frederick’s dismay, Josephine linked her arm with Jared’s and walked toward a pavilion in the courtyard.

Despite his darkening expression, Frederick still caught up with them.

They sat in the pavilion while William poured them a few cups of tea. “Fred, this is Jared. He was the one who cured my illness. Without him, I would’ve met my maker by now!” the older man said and chuckled.

“Mr. Sullivan, isn’t he Josephine’s husband? They’ve already registered their marriage!” Frederick asked William directly.

“Husband? Registered their marriage?” William echoed, stunned to hear the younger man’s query.

He had no idea about it, as Josephine never told him.

At the sight of his bafflement, Frederick sneered. William's reaction had confirmed his suspicions. Earlier on, he had suspected that Jared made up a lie in order to anger him. Not only are they not married, but the marriage certificate is also a bluff!

"Dad, Jared was just joking around!" Josephine immediately explained to William.

Even though William seemed satisfied with Jared, he would never allow her to get married to the latter secretly. Her father was a typical conservative man, after all.

"I see!" William's expression lightened when he heard her explanation.

Noticing that, Frederick sneered and taunted Jared through his gaze.

Read A Man Like None Other & The Mans Decree Chapter 240

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Ginseng

"Mr. Sullivan, I heard you weren't feeling well previously, so I purposely brought a thousand-year-old ginseng root from Yeringham. Such a herb is extremely scarce! I bought it at a high price from a farmer, and apparently, it can cure all diseases and prolong life!"

Upon saying that, Frederick took out an exquisite box wrapped in red cloth. It was even tied with a red cord.

"It is said that thousand-year-old ginseng contains spirituality. If we don't wrap it with red cloth and tie it with red cord, it might run out of the box!" he explained while handing the box to William.

"Fred, that's very kind of you." William took the box delightfully. "How's your dad doing recently? Is he busy? I've been meaning to pay him a visit, but I couldn't find the time!"

“Mr. Sullivan, my dad has been quite busy recently. Have you heard of a businessman that wants to make investments in Horington? My dad has been accompanying him lately, but I’ve told him about your family’s land development in the west of the city. He has instructed his men to start processing the approvals!”

Halfway through his utterances, Frederick cast a glance at Jared.

I bet he knows about my identity now and will surely be intimidated!

William let out a laugh after hearing Frederick’s words. “Fred, thank you so much! If our land can be developed successfully, I won’t forget your help!”

“Mr. Sullivan, you’re welcome. We are a family, so there’s no need to be so polite with me!”

Frederick shot Jared a triumphant look as he emphasized the word “family.”

However, the latter did not even spare him a glance. In fact, there was not even a sign of surprise on his face.

Frederick was somehow startled to see Jared’s composure and thought he had yet to realize his identity.

“Mr. Sullivan...” Just then, Jared piped up while taking out the pill that he brought over. “This is the pill I’ve made for you. Your body will be fine after taking it!”

William’s elation at obtaining the pill was far greater than when he received the ginseng from Frederick.

After all, he was aware of Jared’s ability. The pills made by the young man were comparable to that of the philosopher’s stone.

After receiving the pill, William did not hesitate to swallow it.

Rage welled up in Frederick’s heart when he saw how William preferred the black pill over his thousand-year-old ginseng.

“Mr. Sullivan, why are you so happy over a black pill? My ginseng is far better than it!” he grumbled. The hint of displeasure in his voice could not be concealed.

When William was about to explain, Jared forestalled him by sneering. “Who knows if your thousand-year-old ginseng is a fake or not?”

Scowling, Frederick countered, “What do you mean by that? I’ve paid over a million for it, so there’s no way it could be a fake. I would’ve shown it to you right now if I weren’t worried that it might flee after I open the box!”

Jared and Josephine burst into laughter upon hearing his words.

They could not believe Frederick thought the ginseng had spirituality and could escape, not to mention the insanely low price he paid for a thousand-year-old ginseng root.

After all, the hundred-year-old ginseng, reishi mushrooms, and other herbs prepared by Josephine were worth at least a few million. Even that single pill Jared made for William was worth over a million.

“Why are you guys laughing? Do you think I am lying?”

Frederick started to feel anxious.

Josephine tried hard to stifle her laughter as she asked, “Frederick, did you look inside the box when you bought it? Or did you just take it like that?”