

The Mans Decree Chapter 496

Chapter 496 Hardly In A Position For Heroics

“Ah—” the visibly shaken Tessa squealed in panic. “Help, Jared. Save me...”

She could only turn to Jared at this moment, for she knew his strength well!

“Let her go!” Jared said steadily.

“Hardly in a position for heroics when you can scarcely save your own hide. Wouldn’t you agree, kiddo?” said the scoffing Isaiah as he regarded Jared.

Ignoring him, Jared turned to Jayden instead. “Give me half of this vein mine, and I’ll save your daughter, as well as rid you of the Fergusons!”

The snootiness and casualness of his inflection made it sound as though eliminating the Fergusons was a triviality unworthy even of mention.

Stunned, Jayden looked at him, seemingly at a loss.

“Do you even know what you are saying here, brat? Rid him of the Fergusons? Aren’t you worried about being made to chew on your own words?” Isaiah howled at Jared in displeasure.

He was not convinced that Jared possessed the ability to follow through on that, for he was buoyed further by Bruce’s presence and had no cause for fear.

“Have you come to a decision yet, Jayden?” Jared continued.

Jayden had an awful look, caught between a rock and a hard place.

If he were to accede to Jared's request and should the latter prove to be more bluster than he was worth by getting himself killed, all the Snyder family would have to contend with the fate of total eradication.

However, were he to refuse, Jayden could not live with himself seeing Tessa sullied at the hands of Isaiah either.

"Aside from turning to me, do you have any other options? Do not pin your hopes on other people's good conscience!" sneered Jared when he saw Jayden's trepidation.

"Come on, Dad. Agree to his terms..." Tessa wailed away. Though she understood her father's reservations, she had seen Jared catch a bullet in mid-flight with her own very eyes. That was not something any average person could muster!

"Mr. Chance's capability goes beyond what your eyes can perceive, Mr. Snyder!" advised Dominic who, by this point, could not allow himself to be sidetracked by other distractions.

The slightly apprehensive Jayden looked to Tessa and finally replied between gritted teeth, "If you could save my daughter, Mr. Chance, I'd be willing to give up my entire vein mine to you!"

"Like I said, half of it is what I ask. Nothing more."

With that, Jared turned to regard Isaiah. "Let Ms. Snyder go, and perhaps I might consider granting you a merciful end."

"Hahaha. Are you deluded, brat, or have you lost your mind? How do you expect to kill me?" The latter chortled with scant regard for him.

Without saying another word, Jared's body spurred into action. Following that, the two of the Fergusons straight-up hit the deck. With Tessa swept into his arms, Jared then drifted back onto Jayden's side.

While her arms wrapped around his neck and eyes fixated upon him, her heart throbbed.

Jayden responded to Jared's remarkable display with much glee inside.

"You can let go of me now!" said Jared haplessly to Tessa who did not seem ready to relinquish her grip on him.

“Oh!” She blushed and promptly loosened her hold.

“Your daughter is now back safe and sound, so I shall see to Isaiah next. Do not forget what you’ve promised me, though,” Jared said.

“I won’t. I definitely will not forget it!” Jayden nodded his head vigorously.

Jared about turned and looked to Isaiah with a subdued smile. “Let us not waste time here. Come at me with everything you’ve got!”

With that, the terrifying aura of Jared’s exploded all around him!

“You’re asking for it!”

Incensed, a Grandmaster from amongst the Fergusons started toward Jared!

With movements as swift as lightning, the Grandmaster saw a series of deafening rumbles arise from between his palms. It was the sound of energy churning through the air.

This terrifying force surged directly at Jared, stirring up a storm of dust in its wake. Jared, nonetheless, kept his hands calmly behind his own back while he regarded that Grandmaster with reticence!

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Chapter 497 The Heavens Smile Upon Us

Jared’s zen-ness came across as a massive slight in the view of the Fergusons’ Grandmaster. With both fists extended, the Grandmaster’s intimidating aura increased in intensity several-fold and shrouded Jared outright, as though he meant to crush the latter with it.

“Too weak...” Jared shook his head in disapproval.

In the next split second, Jared transformed himself into the epicenter of a massive eruption of energy that mushroomed out in all directions with a simple tap of his right foot. That Grandmaster's expression fell when he suddenly felt himself being assailed by this overwhelming tsunami of energy.

The Fergusons' Grandmaster tried to evade but to no avail. Sent flying like an untethered kite by this uncanny force, he then fell heavily to the ground, motionless!

Without having exchanged even one blow, a fighter of the Grandmaster's caliber was struck dead, just like that. That instantly got Isaiah in a rightfully severe mood and even put a frown upon Bruce's brow!

"Fantastic. Simply marvelous..."

Upon witnessing this, Jayden exclaimed in sheer delight. Never had he ever expected that Jared would possess such potency.

"Why have you kept such a formidable fighter hidden if you had him within your ranks all this while?" Christopher asked Jayden.

The latter had a look of embarrassment about him for he did not know how to answer that. This was because he had no idea Jared was that capable, to begin with.

"You ought to be convinced that Jared was the one who saved me by now, right, Dad? He caught the bullet that went off last night. It would have come straight at me otherwise!"

When Tessa related to Jayden the events from the night before, Jayden's look was that of startlement followed by a gnawing sense of dread. Would she not have been struck by the bullet had Jared not been beside her?

"Blessed with Mr. Chance's presence, the heavens smile upon the Snyders. Hahaha..." Jayden laughed haughtily.

Having the ability to catch bullets with one's own bare hands would propel one into the league of immortals. Who could possibly rival that?

The sight of Jayden's delight became a juxtaposition against Isaiah's own dismay.

"I ask of you, Mr. Mikkelson, to tear this kid to pieces!" Isaiah seethed between gritted teeth.

"With pleasure!" Bruce strode forth and regarded Jared frostily. "For one as young as yourself to boast of such ability is a rarity. Walk away now, and I may spare you your life yet!"

"Are you afraid that you may not be able to match up with me? Seeing how it couldn't have been easy to reach your level of attainment, I'd rather not kill you. So, you can jolly well buzz off!" the smiling Jared said stonily.

"What's that, you rascal? Me, afraid?" Bruce was instantly livid. "I'd say, that even if you were to possess the prowess of a Grandmaster right now, you'd still be nothing in my esteem, for I'm the one in command inside of my arcane array!"

With that, Bruce's eyeballs flipped. The black of his eyeballs disappeared in the same instant, turning his pupils white once more.

"A good thing then that I know a thing or two about arcane arrays too. What do you say to us having a little fun with it together?" Jared replied with a faint smile.

"What? Might you be adept in both the arcane and martial arts as well?" asked Bruce in astonishment.

"Do not be taken in by his tomfoolery, Mr. Mikkelson. How could one who's as wet behind the ears as he possibly knows that much?" reminded Isaiah from the side.

That seemed to make a certain sense to Bruce. Hence, with both hands in front of him, he weaved out layers upon layers of white fog until it had Jared completely surrounded!

As the fog spread, so did its thickness amplify. Soon, Jared and the Grandmaster himself became enveloped within, visually cut off from everyone from the outside.

"This is not good..."

Jayden was taken aback at this development because he was aware of Bruce's elite mastery of magecraft. How is Jared to battle an opponent that he cannot even see?

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Chapter 498 None Remained Intact

Tessa held on fast to Jayden's arm amidst her own mounting tensions inside.

"Hahaha. Abandon all your false hopes, Jayden. Inside Mr. Mikkelson's own arcane array, he is practically God-like in his ability to dictate everything within. None would be able to defeat him!" Isaiah convulsed with laughter.

Bam! Bam! Bam—

Very quickly, the sound of skirmishing between the duo emanated from within the fog, but no one could ascertain what was happening inside!

"Rather unimpressive, I should say, of this arcane array of yours!"

Only Jared's scoffing was audible before that dense curtain of fog dissipated. Quick as the eye can see, the silhouette of both men presented themselves before the masses once more.

While Jared stood as he was before, Bruce was seen with the fresh imprint of five fingers prominently upon his flush face!

The grandmaster blinked and recovered himself. While he glared at Jared, his eyes evoked strains of rage.

"Are you all right, Jared?" Tessa hastened to ask.

"Do I look like I'm not? You should be asking that old fogey over there because I reckon none of his teeth are still intact!" said Jared with a chuckle.

Seeing Bruce's expression, Isaiah then cautiously asked, "Are you all right, Mr. Mikkelson?"

"I..."

The moment the grandmaster opened his mouth, all the teeth inside came pattering out.

"Hahaha..."

Tessa could not refrain from bursting out in laughter when she saw that, and Cristopher and Jayden, too, partook in her merriment.

Even Isaiah himself felt the same urge when he saw Bruce turn out the way he did, but he fought hard to contain himself.

Bruce's eyes were ablaze. "I'd kill you right now, you little bastard!"

With that, his white mane billowed by itself like a demon.

"Cut the crap and show me what else you've got!" Jared goaded.

The unleashing of his magical technique saw Bruce's eyes turning a deep claret. Following that, the tendrils of black mist that emerged from his body suddenly blared fangs and claws and lunged toward Jared like a vengeful spirit.

"This mist is venomous, Jared..." Tessa hastened to warn Jared when she saw this.

She felt the impetus to caution him because many who preceded him had fallen prey to this poisonous mist.

However, Jared did not seem at all bothered. Conversely, he opened his mouth wide. "How could I pass on such a delicacy?"

After that black mist was sucked into Jared outright, he patted his own belly. "Are there more? I'm not quite satiated yet!"

"Hahaha. Do you have any idea what that was before you absorbed it into your own stomach, kiddo?" Surprised that Jared took in the black mist, Bruce broke into laughter.

"Whatever that was and however more of it that you can throw at me, I can take it all in!" came Jared's nonchalant reply.

"Hmph. An excruciating death from poisoning would soon visit upon you. That'll blunt your arrogance!" Bruce scoffed dismissively, and when he leaped forward, a massive aura trailed toward Jared!

"Death by poisoning, from this? Not even close!"

With that, Jared similarly unleashed waves upon waves of terrifying aura of his own.

Sand spiraled and stones flew with the two sets of auras set upon a collision course. Amidst the chaos, more than a few large rocks were altogether smashed into smithereens!

Bruce was set into a furrow. He did not expect that after being poisoned by his mist, Jared would still be able to muster up such an awe-inspiring aura.

However, Bruce was not about to let up. He knew that Jared's poisoning was close to taking effect, hence there was no better time for him to claim the latter's life than in the present!

Following a lift of his hand, an enormous palm manifested in the air and upon it a burned a tempestuous firestorm!

"Have a taste of my Flaming Palm, brat!"

The gigantic palm descended toward Jared, and the series of heatwaves those blazing fires brought with it sent the surrounding onlookers scurrying far and away!

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Chapter 499 A Chaste Maiden

When Jared lifted his head to regard the Flaming Palm hurtling down toward him, his lips curled into a smirk.

"Yeah. Now that's something. I guess I'll be helping myself to this as well!"

Seeing Jared's laid-back demeanor came to Bruce as a surprise. The latter then put more power behind his hands and increased the intensity of the flames.

Rumble, rumble, rumble...

The massive Flaming Palm pinned Jared underneath with a loud bang and engulfed Jared within with its roaring flames. Even those sturdy rocks on the ground had caught fire, one after the other.

The fiery cauldron that rocketed several meters skyward could melt walls of steel, not to mention a person!

"Jared!"

"Mr. Chance..."

This time, Jayden, Tessa and the others were scared witless.

Dominic, too, regarded those devastating flames in sheer disbelief. He could not believe that Jared had died just like that!

"Hmph. Insolent child. You should have known better than to challenge me..." Bruce cussed in contempt.

"It is over, Jayden, Cristopher. Once I finish you, all of Salinsburgh will belong to me." Isaiah regarded the duo with smugness all over.

Left ashen-faced, Jayden and Cristopher were now bereft of all illusions!

Conversely, Tessa bit her lip. "I cannot allow this beast to taint me, Dad. I'm sorry for being unfilial, but I can only hope to make it up to you in my next life!"

With that, Tessa dashed head-along toward a massive boulder!

"Within the entertainment industry in this day and age, a chaste maiden like you is a rare breed indeed."

Just as Tessa was preparing to kill herself, Jared's voice suddenly rang out.

When she turned sharply in its direction, she saw Jared standing there completely unscathed. Even his clothes remained pristine and intact!

"This... What's going on here?"

Tessa could not believe her own eyes.

The others were equally in shock. None of them could fathom how such a massive fire could do no harm whatsoever to Jared.

"Impossible. This is just impossible..." With eyes widened, Bruce howled like a madman.

"What's so impossible about that? Haven't your mentor taught you that all things are possible in this world?" The corner of Jared's lips lifted.

"I don't believe it. I refuse to believe that I cannot kill you..." Bruce roared and then bit hard upon his own finger. The fresh blood that flowed from it fell upon the stones on the ground below.

It was uncertain how many drops it took but the rocks that were stained with his blood moved as though under someone's control!

Shortly after, those rocks piled up and merged into a nearly two-meter-tall stone golem. The earth where the stone golem strode upon trembled in its wake.

"Even if I should bleed out, I shall have your head!"

The voice might belong to Bruce, but his speech emerged from within the stone golem.

Its thunderous voice made everyone's head spin and compelled them to cover their ringing ears.

"Is this the stone morphing? Now it's getting interesting!"

Jared evoked a chilling smile. Bruce's magecraft is indeed something to behold. No wonder I've felt the flow of his spiritual energy a cut above the others!

The stone golem inched toward Jared, one step at a time, and with every step, it left behind a deep crevice where all the rock underneath was crushed to bits!

All eyes were upon that animated being, beheld in stunned silence. The observers then variously retreated until they had themselves brought right to the very edge!

Rumble, rumble, rumble...

When the stone golem reached Jared, it threw a punch toward the latter so violently that it threatened to tear the entire mountain apart!

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Chapter 500 Time To Get Serious

In response to that stone golem's ferocious onslaught, Jared's answer was equally voluminous. Concentrating the spiritual energy within himself, he channeled it into a sphere of light around his own fist as radiant as the sun itself!

Boom!

Jared met that stone golem's fist head-on with his own. To the masses, however, the former's knuckles seemed so puny in comparison to his counterpart's. Even his entire person was dwarfed when lined up against that massive fist of rock.

Surprisingly, in tandem with a fulmination of golden light and a loud bang, the stone golem was knocked down to the ground in a burst of flying debris.

Reduced to a pile of rubble, the stone golem's former humanoid form had long since disintegrated beyond recognition!

Everyone regarded Jared with awe. It was inconceivable how his tiny body could have overpowered the stone golem's hulking frame!

With terror reflected within his eyes, even the color drained from Bruce's face.

"Mr. Mikkelson..." Isaiah shouted in alarm.

"Even if I were to die, so be it. But I shall not have my reputation despoiled this day!"

In his eyes appeared a smidgen of determination, as though he had arrived at some resolve.

With that, he slapped his abdomen with two fingers. His originally pallid face flushed red while he thrust his upper body forward and expunged a large spray of crimson orally. The blood fell like rain in a drizzle upon a mass of rocks!

Rumble, rumble, rumble—

An even larger stone golem, twice as big as its predecessor, arose in no time at all. The completion of this ritual, however, caused Bruce to appear significantly more haggard than before. Like a candle at the tail end of its burn time, Bruce could very well have keeled over had it not been for the support Isaiah lent.

"Kill him..." bellowed Bruce with the last muster of his strength.

This gargantuan stone golem lumbered toward Jared and caused the earth to quake every step of the way.

"All right, time to get serious."

When he regarded the stone golem, Jared's face evoked a sliver of irascibility.

As soon as he was done talking, Jared swiftly took to the air until he was brought level with the stone golem. Then, he aimed a fist right at its head.

Boom!

When the fist connected with a thunderous bang, the stone golem was grounded to dust upon impact, with its remnants scattered to the four winds!

Pfft!

When Bruce saw that, he spat out a fountain of blood and collapsed, slumped upon the ground.

Jared then came right upon the grandmaster in a single bound, prompting the latter to beat a hasty retreat.

The visibly weakened Bruce regarded Jared with a bitter smile, as though he had come to some realization. "You... are neither a martial artist nor a mage. You are... a..."

Bruce's head tilted to the side lifelessly before he was done. Toward the end, he recognized Jared to be a cultivator!

Jared regarded Bruce's corpse with a slight frown. The latter's recognition of himself as a cultivator was proof that he was aware of their existence, or had otherwise, encountered his own like in others.

Jared was a little miffed. Had he known better, he would not have allowed Bruce to die this easily because he very much wished to know where else he might find other energy cultivators like himself.

Getting up steadily, Jared then looked toward Isaiah. All the Fergusons were shaking in their boots, and no one dared breathe a word.

"I-I was in the wrong. I'm willing to give up on the vein mine and forever depart from Salinsburgh!" the trembling Isaiah said.

Jared shook his head. "I've already pledged myself to the destruction of the Fergusons. Thus, I must deliver."

"No, please..." Isaiah got down on his knees before Jared. "Do not kill me, I beg of you. Whatever you ask, I'd be able to provide! I can give you the entire Ferguson family!"