

A Man Like None Other Chapter 705

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Chapter 705 Imparting Techniques

Melanie snorted at Lizbeth and said, "Humph! It's because you aren't alluring enough. Anyway, Jared is a pervert. Otherwise, can he explain why Lyanna's blouse is like this?"

Once Melanie finished, Lizbeth was infuriated. "Who says that I'm not alluring enough? Just ask Jared who is more alluring!"

In no time, all of the women in the living room turned to Jared, rendering him a bundle of nerves.

As Jared felt helpless, he could only look at Rayleigh pitifully, hoping that the other man could come to his rescue.

Rayleigh couldn't help but chuckle. After a while, he stood up and said, "Melanie, stop it. Jared didn't do anything to Lyanna. He is still a virgin and has never slept with any women yet. How could he do anything to Lyanna?"

Melanie was surprised at the revelation and looked at Jared in disbelief.

Since Josephine and Lizbeth lived with Jared, Melanie didn't expect that he could control his desires and not sleep with them.

After giving it some thought, Melanie shot a disdainful glance at Jared and said, "Now I know why you were able to resist the Seduction Technique. You must be impotent..."

Upon hearing that, Jared was irritated and felt the impulse to prove himself to Melanie.

However, since many people were around, Jared could only stay silent.

After everyone calmed down, Josephine looked at Rayleigh for a while and asked Jared, "Jared, who is this?"

Josephine didn't know Rayleigh because she had never seen him before.

Jared introduced Rayleigh after Josephine brought it up. "Oh, I forgot to introduce Mr. Deragon to you. I wouldn't have been able to return from Jadeborough to here safely without him. Besides that, he also gave the bronze breastplate and detoxification pill to me."

After Jared finished, Josephine flashed Rayleigh a smile and greeted him, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Deragon."

Rayleigh smiled and nodded in response. After scanning Josephine for a few seconds, he asked, "Have you eaten the detoxification pill?"

"Yes, I have." Josephine nodded.

Rayleigh waved at Josephine and said, "Come here. I'll impart some techniques to you, and you can practice them whenever you're free. However, it all depends on you as to whether you can successfully cultivate the techniques."

As soon as Josephine came up to Rayleigh, he put his right hand on her head.

The next moment, waves of spiritual energy flowed from Rayleigh's hand into Josephine's head, and her mind went blank. Then, techniques, which consisted of four words per sentence, flashed across her eyes.

About ten seconds later, Rayleigh retracted his hand.

However, Josephine's eyes widened in shock, for she felt that her mind was suddenly overwhelmed with techniques.

It's miraculous! Would I become a genius if I could inject knowledge into my brain as easily?

While Josephine was at a loss, Rayleigh said smilingly, "You can practice the techniques now based on what is in your mind."

"Yes!" Feeling excited, Josephine quickly sat on the couch and instinctively closed her eyes. Then, she began adjusting the pace of her breaths based on the techniques.

As Josephine's breaths became slower, the spiritual energy around her slowly infiltrated her body.

"You're indeed full of potential."

Rayleigh was surprised to see that Josephine could detect and absorb the spiritual energy, even though her cultivation had only just begun.

However, everyone soon noticed that Josephine's breathing was growing fainter. Then, her face and skin began to redden.

Chapter 706 Fiery Constituent

The temperature of the living room rose rapidly. It was as if Josephine had turned into a hot furnace, causing everyone to back away from her.

"Fire... Fire..." Lizbeth screamed suddenly.

The couch Josephine sat on began to produce smoke due to her high heat.

Jared noticed the smoke and rushed to move Josephine away. However, he could not help flinching when he touched her. Josephine's body was so hot that it felt like hot iron bars.

"Josephine, Josephine, the couch is burning. You must get up!" Lizbeth shouted, but Josephine did not seem to hear her.

Jared began to panic and looked at Rayleigh. He wanted to know what was happening and what technique Rayleigh had taught her.

Rayleigh frowned and released a burst of cold air all over his body. He kept releasing cold air until frost covered his hands.

"Both of you step aside. I will try using Ice Palm..." Rayleigh said and used his frost-covered hands to lift Josephine.

Sizzle, sizzle...

The frost on Rayleigh's hands sizzled as they touched Josephine. In the next moment, water vapor surrounded them.

Rayleigh gritted his teeth and moved Josephine away from the couch. At the same time, the said couch suddenly burst into flame.

Jared quickly extinguished the flame with water. He also kept his eyes on Josephine and was really worried about her.

"Mr. Deragon, what happened to Josephine?" Jared asked worriedly.

Rayleigh shook his head. "I'm not sure either. What I taught her was an ordinary technique. I don't understand why she became like this."

Jared became more anxious when he found out that Rayleigh did not know what was happening.

Meanwhile, the temperature in the living room kept rising, making it feel like the inside of a furnace. After a while, Melanie, Lizbeth, and Lyanna could not stand it anymore and ran outside.

Jared and Rayleigh were drenched in sweat as they remained in the living room and fought hard against the heat waves with their spiritual energy. At the same time, they observed Josephine closely.

Although the temperature was unbearable, there was no trace of sweat on Josephine's face. Apart from her flushed skin, she seemed fine.

Suddenly, Rayleigh gasped and widened his eyes. "I think I got it. Could this be the legendary fiery constituent?"

"Fiery constituent?" Jared was stunned for a moment. He looked at Rayleigh blankly.

Seeing Jared's confused expression, Rayleigh explained, "Fiery constituent is a rare bodily condition. A person with a fiery constituent can cultivate at a much faster speed than an ordinary person. Also, once someone with fiery constituent ventured into spiritual energy cultivation, her body would cease to fear flame. She would not feel the heat even if she stands in the middle of a roaring fire, and the fire would not hurt her..."

Jared seemed to realize something upon hearing Rayleigh's explanation. He nodded and said, "Is it similar to someone with a frosty constituent? Once they ventured into spiritual energy cultivation, the person would cease to be affected by low temperature, right?"

Jared knew about the frosty constituent because Erasmus' daughter, Renee, had it. However, Renee had not begun spiritual energy cultivation then. When she suffered from frosty energy, she needed Starry Compass to remove it from her. Otherwise, she could die.

Jared had never expected Josephine to have a fiery constituent. He had never noticed anything unusual about her.

"Fiery constituent is many times more powerful than a frosty constituent. Melanie and her sister, Lyanna, were born with the aptitude to bewitch. Although it is a unique ability, it pales compared to a frosty constituent and does not help much with cultivation. On the other hand, people with frosty constituents cultivate much faster than ordinary people. Although Renee started her cultivation journey later than you, her power is likely comparable to yours now," Rayleigh explained to Jared patiently.

Chapter 707 It Was All The Same

Jared was stunned to hear Rayleigh mentioning Renee. He looked at Rayleigh in confusion and asked, "Rayleigh, how do you know about Renee? Also, how do you know that she has a frosty constituent? Has she started spiritual energy cultivation?"

Jared's questions made Rayleigh realize that he had said too much. He accidentally revealed the matter concerning Renee.

"Please don't ask anymore. You will find all the answers that you seek on July 15. Now, let us wait for your girlfriend to wake up," Rayleigh answered.

He refused to continue talking about the matter. There were some things that he could not tell Jared yet.

Seeing that Rayleigh refused to tell him anything, Jared stopped asking. After all, he only had to wait for around a dozen more days until July 15 to find out everything.

Half an hour later, Josephine gradually opened her eyes, and the living room temperature quickly dropped back to normal.

Josephine was stunned to see the couch burnt. "What... What happened here? Was there a fire?"

"Yes. I accidentally caused a fire when smoking just now!" Jared did not tell Josephine the truth. He chose to lie because he feared she could not accept it.

After all, Josephine had always thought that she was an ordinary person. Therefore, she would find it hard to accept if he told her that she had a fiery constituent.

Furthermore, that was only Rayleigh's guess and had not been confirmed. Thus, it was still too early to tell her.

"Josephine, you have just started learning a technique. How do you feel?" Rayleigh asked Josephine.

Josephine frowned slightly and answered, "I don't feel much different from usual, except that my body feels warm..."

"Do you feel any swelling in your abdomen like something is in it?" Jared asked hurriedly.

If Josephine feels her elixir field and the flow of spiritual energy in her first training, she has successfully begun spiritual energy cultivation.

Josephine blushed instantly. "What are you saying? How can my abdomen be swelling? I'm not pregnant..."

Jared was rendered speechless by her answer. On the other hand, Rayleigh chuckled and said, "Jared, you are too impatient. There's probably only one in a million people who can feel the presence of the elixir field on their first try. She should learn at her own pace."

Suddenly, Lizbeth and Melanie noticed that Josephine had awakened and came into the living room to see her.

Lizbeth chatted with Josephine and was relieved to find that Josephine was fine. However, Lizbeth could not help but feel a little envious of her.

She believed that Rayleigh taught Josephine a technique due to her status as Jared's girlfriend.

On the other hand, Lizbeth was a nobody. Therefore, she did not have a chance to learn cultivation techniques.

Rayleigh looked at Lizbeth and knew what she was thinking. Therefore, he said, "Lizbeth, I taught Josephine a simple technique. Later, she can teach you so that both of you can practice together."

"I can learn it too?" Lizbeth was overjoyed.

Rayleigh smiled and said, "Of course. Once all of you have mastered that technique, I will teach you higher-level techniques. After all, you are all Jared's women. You can help Jared once you become stronger."

Lizbeth blushed upon hearing the word 'Jared's women' and became flustered.

Meanwhile, Jared glared at Rayleigh. He knew Rayleigh said that deliberately to cause him trouble.

However, Josephine did not seem to mind or say anything.

Chapter 708 Get Yourself Killed

In actuality, Josephine did not oppose the idea of Jared being with Lizbeth. After all, she and Lizbeth were best friends. If Jared took Lizbeth as an additional companion, Josephine would always have her best friend with her.

Although Josephine could accept Lizbeth, it did not mean that she could allow Jared to be with any other woman. She would surely oppose if Jared were to take Melanie or Lyanna as his additional companion.

The mood in the living room became a little awkward. Suddenly, Lyanna screamed and pressed her hands tightly to her head. She seemed to be in pain.

"Lyanna... Lyanna... What's wrong?" Melanie rushed to stop Lyanna from falling.

"Godfather is calling for me. I have to speak to him." Lyanna frowned and seemed at a loss.

She did not know what she could report to Poison King. Lyanna knew she would be in trouble if she told him the truth.

However, if she lied to him, Poison King would eventually find out the truth. After all, she could not bring Jared to him.

"Lyanna, you shouldn't return to Mapleton. We are not sure whether Poison King killed our parents. Let's investigate it first." Melanie did not want Lyanna to return to Mapleton. If Poison King killed their parents, Lyanna would be returning to a murderer.

"No, I don't have a choice. If I don't return immediately, Godfather would activate the parasite and make me suffer. If the parasite dies, I would die too..." Lyanna shook her head. Poison King had many subordinates, and he controlled them using this method.

"Don't worry about that. Mr. Deragon can help you to remove the parasite. He is a renowned cultivator," Melanie advised Lyanna.

Lyanna shook her head. "My godfather has raised me for many years. I can't just leave him like this..."

"Lyanna, what would you do if Poison King was the one who killed our parents? Are you going to accept our parents' murderer as your kin? Furthermore, Poison King wanted you to capture Jared. Since you can't capture him, he will punish you when you return." Melanie was worried and kept trying to get Lyanna to stay.

Lyanna remained silent before saying calmly, "I will ask Godfather about our parents. As for my failure to capture Jared, I don't think he will do anything to me. After all, he has raised me for many years."

Lyanna insisted on returning to Mapleton. She could not bear to leave the place she grew up.

"Brody would not lie. Since he said Poison King planted the wasp venom in your parents, it must be true. You could be in danger if you insist on going there," Rayleigh warned Lyanna.

"I don't care that it might be dangerous. I have to go back and ask Godfather." Lyanna refused to back down.

"I will go with you," Jared said suddenly.

"Jared, are you crazy? Are you trying to get yourself killed?" Josephine became worried when Jared proposed to go to Mapleton with Lyanna.

"Since Poison King wants to capture me, he will keep sending someone to abduct me. Therefore, I might as well go to Mapleton and meet him. Poison King is not even at Xander's

level of power. Since I killed Xander, why should I be afraid of Poison King." Jared seemed unconcerned.

Lyanna looked at Jared with an astonished expression. She did not expect him to volunteer to go to Mapleton with her.

"You should not underestimate my Godfather's abilities. Although he is only a Senior Grandmaster, he is adept with poison. Furthermore..." Lyanna hesitated but decided not to continue. It seemed that Poison King still had some secrets that Lyanna did not dare to divulge.

"Poisons don't work on me, so I have nothing to be afraid of. You can take me there," Jared replied.

There was another reason why Jared asked Lyanna to take him to Mapleton. To Jared, the poisonous creatures in Mapleton were good resources for his cultivation.

Chapter 709 The Return To Mapleton

Jared was more concerned that Poison King wouldn't use poison on him. He wished that Poison King would let loose all the poisonous creatures on him. That way, Jared could absorb all their toxic energy into his body and use Focus Technique to convert them into spiritual energy. Then, he could use the spiritual energy to raise his capabilities.

"Jared, are you crazy?" Melanie looked at Jared in disbelief.

Only Rayleigh understood Jared's intention. He smiled and said, "It's good for Jared to go to Mapleton and deal with the matters there. That would prevent future troubles."

Since Rayleigh agreed with Jared, no one dared to say anything else.

Lyanna looked at Jared and warned, "Jared, things are not as simple as you think. You should think it over."

Jared replied firmly, "I don't need to think it over. If I don't go with you, you know what kind of punishment you will have to face in Mapleton. Don't try to convince me that Poison King would be forgiving. I won't believe it."

Lyanna did not expect Jared to be concerned about her or willing to face danger for her. Therefore, she hesitated before saying, "I need to tell you something. Godfather wanted me to bring you back alive to turn you into a cadaver king. To form a cadaver king, one needs to send a living person into a room full of poisonous creatures and let those creatures bite him. Furthermore, the person would have to be shut there for seven days. If he survived after seven days, he would become cadaver king. So far, no one had succeeded yet."

Everyone was shocked to hear Lyanna's revelation. They did not expect Poison King to do something that cruel and use humans for such experiments.

"Jared, you can't go. Please don't go..." Josephine held onto Jared's arm and refused to let go. She could not let Jared face such danger.

On the other hand, Jared became even more excited upon hearing Lyanna's explanation. Initially, he planned to go to Mapleton to find poisonous creatures. Since Poison King wanted to turn Jared into a cadaver king, that was more than Jared could ask. He could not wait to absorb all the poison from those poisonous creatures. That way, he might even progress to a new rank.

"Don't worry. I will be fine!" Jared comforted Josephine before turning to Lyanna. "Let's go now. I just can't wait any longer."

Lyanna was perplexed to see how enthusiastic Jared was. Initially, she thought he would be afraid and became hesitant upon hearing her revelation. She did not expect to find him excited instead.

"Let me inform Godfather first," Lyanna replied.

Seeing how determined Jared was, Lyanna had no choice but to go out of the mansion and contact Poison King.

Soon, Lyanna came in again and said, "I have informed Godfather. We can leave now."

Jared nodded and followed Lyanna out of the mansion. Josephine and Lizbeth looked at Jared worriedly.

Lyanna saw how worried they were and said solemnly, "I will do my best to ensure his safety..."

Even Lyanna was surprised with herself for saying that. She did not realize that she had developed feelings for Jared and his friends. It probably had something to do with her relationship with Melanie.

Then, Jared and Lyanna headed to the airport and took a flight southwest before traveling to Mapleton.

Meanwhile, Rayleigh did not linger in Horington. He brought Josephine and the other ladies on a ship to the sea. Although Josephine and Lizbeth did not know where he would take them, they did not ask but followed him obediently.

Jared sat beside Lyanna on their flight. He held Lyanna's arm and leaned close to her. Lyanna appeared indifferent to his touch. She did not push him away but let him cling to her.

Many other passengers witnessed this and sent Jared judgmental looks. Does he have no shame leaning against a woman like that? Usually, it is the woman who clings to a man.

Chapter 710 Twenty Years Of Grudge

"After we get off the plane, you must obey my instructions. You are besotted with me because I have seduced you. Therefore, you need to appear love-struck. Otherwise, they could see through the act," Lyanna whispered to remind Jared.

Jared nodded slightly and hugged Lyanna tighter. He took a deep sniff of her scent and looked at her with obsessive yearning.

Meanwhile, Poison King looked at himself in the mirror in his bedroom in Mapleton. Then, he slowly took out a photo. It had turned slightly yellow with age and showed a man and a woman.

The man was a young Poison King. At the time, he had dark hair and looked handsome. Meanwhile, the woman in the photo was beautiful and vibrant in her floral dress. Her face looked similar to Melanie and Lyanna's.

Poison King looked at the woman in the photo and caressed her face. His gaze turned gentle as he said, "Faye, it has been twenty years. Time passes so quickly, and now, your daughter has grown up. She looks so much like you. I think of you whenever I see her. You had betrayed me twenty years ago. Now, I will make your daughter pay for your sins. See, I

have prepared the room. Once she has returned, I will make her my wife. I believe when I bed your daughter, it would feel just like doing it with you..."

Poison King muttered to the photo, and desire burned in his eyes. Soon, the woman's face grew blurry from his constant rubbing.

Suddenly, someone opened the bedroom door and rushed in, causing Poison King to jump in shock. He quickly threw the photo onto the table.

It was one of Poison King's subordinates. He became afraid when he saw that Poison King was in a bad mood. His face turned pale as he explained quickly, "Poison King, Ms. Lyanna has gotten off the plane. She should be arriving in Mapleton in a few hours..."

The subordinate looked down and did not dare to meet Poison King's gaze.

"Sure, I understand." Poison King nodded and waved his hand. The subordinate immediately shivered, and a black insect flew out of his mouth.

After the insect flew out, the subordinate's eyes widened, and he vomited blood before dropping dead.

"Someone come here and get rid of this body!" Poison King commanded. He did not bother to spare another glance at the dead body.

Soon, someone came in and dragged the body away. Then, Poison King looked through the window with eyes full of desire. "I have resisted for twenty years. Now, I can finally act out my desires."

With that, Poison King took out a small bottle from his pocket. The label said aphrodisiac.

He had raised Lyanna for twenty years and knew her character well. Although Lyanna was born with seductive charm, she would not let any man touch her. Therefore, he needed extra measures to get her to bed.

Meanwhile, Jared and Lyanna had arrived in a city in the southwest. They walked out of an airport like a young couple in love.

The weather here was much warmer than Horington, so everyone dressed lightly. One could see many young ladies in shorts.

Lyanna had also changed her clothes. She now wore small denim shorts paired with a white singlet and a large pair of sunglasses. Her looks attracted the gaze of many men. If Jared did not keep holding her arm, a few men would have tried to hit on her by now.

Lyanna was a rare beauty. Therefore, many men could not help feeling jealous seeing Jared sticking so closely to her. They glared at him with hostility, but Jared did not care.

Chapter 711 A Piggyback Ride

Lyanna hailed a cab. Then, they got in and headed toward Mapleton.

There was still a long way to Mapleton. Since Mapleton was in the southwest mountain region, the taxi could only send them to the foot of the mountain. They had to continue the rest of the journey on foot. It would probably be midnight by the time they reach Mapleton.

Jared sat in the backseat with Lyanna. He noticed the taxi driver glancing behind through the rearview mirror, observing their every move.

Jared clung to Lyanna's arm and leaned against her shoulder throughout the ride.

Suddenly, Jared leaned into Lyanna's embrace and rubbed against her.

His hands started to move improperly.

Lyanna secretly glared at Jared, but he pretended not to notice. Instead, he continued to touch her daringly.

Suddenly, Lyanna trembled. She could feel his touch on her sensitive spot from time to time.

Lyanna gritted her teeth. She did not know whether Jared was touching her by accident or was deliberate. She felt a wave of unfamiliar sensation, causing her body to tense up. At the same time, she bit her lower lip so as not to make a sound.

Soon, Lyanna's face became flushed, and her breathing quickened. She pushed hard against Jared, trying to stop him from moving further. No man had ever touched her this intimately. Therefore, she feared that she would lose control of herself.

The two hours car journey felt like a year to Lyanna. She nearly slumped in her seat due to the strange feeling.

Soon, the taxi arrived at the foot of the mountain. The taxi driver smiled and opened the door for her. "Ms. Lyanna, we have arrived. Congratulations on completing your mission. Poison King is waiting for you."

Lyanna looked at the taxi driver with an astonished expression. She did not expect him to be one of Poison King's subordinates. Thankfully, she and Jared did not behave out of character in the taxi or say anything. Otherwise, the taxi driver would have exposed their act.

Lyanna got out of the taxi and nearly fell when her legs gave way. Luckily, Jared noticed it and quickly supported her.

The taxi driver smiled upon seeing Jared's attentive gesture. "Ms. Lyanna, your Seduction Technique is incredible. You made this man fall head over heels with you."

Then, the taxi driver drove the taxi away.

After the taxi was gone, Lyanna quickly pushed Jared away. "You pervert. How dare you grope me in the taxi?"

Lyanna glared at Jared. Her face was still flushed from before.

Jared shrugged nonchalantly and said with a smile, "The taxi driver is one of Poison King's subordinates. If I didn't do that, the taxi driver would have seen through our pretense, isn't it?"

Lyanna looked at him with an astonished expression. "You knew the taxi driver was Poison King's subordinate since the beginning?"

"Of course. Otherwise, why would I want to touch you?" Jared smirked. "Let's go. If we keep wasting time, we might have to spend the night in the forest."

Lyanna wanted to start walking but her legs were still wobbly. The two-hour car journey had been a torture for her.

Jared could not resist chuckling as he looked at Lyanna. "Do you want me to give you a piggyback ride?"

"No, stay away from me." Lyanna glared at Jared.

"Don't forget that this is now Mapleton. There could be Poison King's spies in the forest. Don't blame me if someone found out that we are acting," Jared said and headed straight toward the mountain.

Lyanna had no choice but to run to catch up with him. Then, Jared linked his arm with hers again, and they walked up the mountain like an inseparable couple.

Lyanna did not expect Jared to exercise so much caution. She did not believe Poison King would send someone to spy on his goddaughter.

It was now dark. Jared followed Lyanna's lead up the mountain.

After passing by a valley, they reached a brightly lit area. They had reached Mapleton.

Chapter 712 Dissipation Powder

"A report for Poison King! Ms. Lyanna and Jared will be reaching Mapleton soon. According to Ms. Lyanna, she has him wrapped around her finger. He's like a little puppy following her everywhere now," a subordinate reported.

Poison King nodded his head with satisfaction at the news.

After the subordinate left, the five men headed to Poison King's living room.

These five were the leaders of Mapleton.

"Have you prepared the materials for his transmutation to cadaver king?" Poison King asked the five leaders.

Weston nodded. "We've all the materials prepared, but I'm worried about that brat's immunity to poison. If the poisonous creatures don't work on him, then-

"Rest assured. Lyanna had reported that Jared was head over heels over her. He'll do whatever she asks of him. I've also prepared the dissipation powder for him. He will lose his powers immediately after he consumed them. He won't be able to withstand the poisonous creatures' assaults without martial energy," said Poison King with a faint smile.

"But won't he die from the poisonous creatures' assault after being locked with them for seven days straight without his powers?" Weston asked.

Who can withstand being locked in a room with poisonous creatures for seven days if they're devoid of energy and power?

"That won't happen. His body had toughened to an exceptional level. I chose him to be the cadaver king for that exact reason."

The thought of choosing Jared to be the cadaver king struck Poison King when he saw a video clip of the battle between Jared and Xander.

The five leaders had no more queries at Poison King's confident words.

Meanwhile, Jared and Lyanna were trekking a trail in the dense jungle using the moonlight as illumination.

The two were so close to each other that she could smell his scent. Unbeknownst to the reason, her heart began to race.

"Are we still not there yet?" Jared asked with a frown as he looked at the dark trail leading deeper into the jungle.

He didn't expect Mapleton to be hidden far within the depths of the mountainous jungle.

"We'll reach soon enough. There's a valley right up ahead. Mapleton is just there," Lyanna assured as she pointed in a direction.

Without any choice but to take her words for it, Jared continued to trudge forward after Lyanna resignedly.

The two finally reached Mapleton at midnight. There were quite a few guards standing guard at the entrance gate. They instantly opened the gate when they saw Lyanna. "Ms. Lyanna, you've finally arrived. Poison King has been waiting for you."

Lyanna was surprised. She didn't think Poison King would still wait for her this late into the night. Could it be he is impatient to turn Jared into a cadaver king?

"Okay. Got it." Lyanna nodded with acknowledgment as she led Jared through the gates into Mapleton.

Envy filled the guards when they saw Jared clinging onto the beautiful Lyanna's arm with a greedy look. Despite coveting Lyanna for the longest time, they didn't make any moves to court her because she was out of their reach in terms of her capabilities and status. After all, she was the goddaughter of Poison King.

Under the scrutiny of the guards, Jared entered through the gates of Mapleton, clinging onto Lyanna. At a glance, he noticed they used wood to construct most structures. As he walked deeper into the village, a two-story cabin came into his view. It was larger and grander than the rest of the structures. He supposed that cabin was Poison King's residence since it was in the middle of the village.

As he assumed, Lyanna led him into the cabin. A handsome man with white sideburns sat at the host seat in the living room.

Five others were seated in a row beside him. Jared recognized them as the five leaders because he had seen them before.

However, after he stepped into the living room, he withdrew his gaze from his surroundings and focused it on Lyanna. He tightened his grip on her arm, continuing his act as a skirt-chaser.

"Godfather, I brought Jared back with me," Lyanna informed with a neutral expression.

Chapter 713 Love For Red

Poison King studied Jared and noticed the latter's greed on his face and the intense look in his eyes. "It's hard to believe this fellow is the one who killed Xander, a Martial Master. Reaching the level of a Martial Arts Grandmaster is very arduous. Xander had trained in isolation for several years to rise to the rank of Martial Arts Grandmaster, just to be killed by this fellow here."

Poison King had slowly crossed the room to Jared as he spoke. He now stood near Jared and Lyanna.

Lyanna's stomach tightened when she noticed Poison King assessing gaze directed at Jared. She was worried that he would catch any flaws.

"Lyanna, have him remove his shirt," Poison King ordered out of the blue, snapping her out of her thought.

Lyanna was stunned at his sudden request. "Why the request, Godfather?"

Lyanna was puzzled as to why Poison King had asked for Jared to remove his top.

Jared's heart lurched despite the lewd grin he maintained.

Is Poison King a pervert? What am I going to do if he likes men? I'm straight as an arrow!

Jared's heart began to pound harder as he mulled. If this Poison King has a different sexual orientation, then I'll make my move to kill him first. I'm not going to hand over my virginity to a man.

Poison King frowned at Lyanna's question. "Follow my command! I don't have to explain my actions to you!"

Noting the irritation in his tone, Lyanna instantly shut her mouth and cast a resigned look at Jared. "Jared, take off your shirt."

Jared stared at Lyanna intensely at her request and shot her a wicked grin. "Why are you asking me to take off my shirt? Do you want to do it in front of an audience? Color me surprised! I didn't take you for one to like doing it in front of an audience. Just thinking about it had me all worked up."

Jared took off his shirt and revealed his well-toned body.

A satisfied gleam shone in Poison King's eyes at Jared's body. He reached out a hand toward Jared's arm and squeezed it with a look of envy.

Feeling goosebumps all over his skin, Jared flung his hand away. "What are you doing? I don't like men."

"As expected, your body is tough. It won't be long till the day when Mapleton will reign over the entire southwestern domain."

Poison King laughed victoriously, then waved Lyanna forward. "Come here, Lyanna."

Lyanna stepped closer to Poison King. The latter turned his back toward Jared, concealing his actions as he handed a small bag of powder to her. He whispered to her, "Put some of

this dissipation powder into Jared's meal later. Don't let him touch you when you stay with him tonight. You know the consequences if you lose your virginity."

Lyanna merely nodded her head silently as she accepted the small bag.

She wanted to ask about her parents but knew the danger she would put herself in if she asked directly. If the people of Mapleton had murdered her parents, she would never get any answers from him but would also risk her life.

"All right. It's late. Rest up, everyone."

Poison King waved his hand to disperse the crowd as he returned to his room.

The five leaders had a mocking smile on all their faces as they looked at the shirtless Jared. Even though the fellow is powerful, he still fell for Lyanna's honey trap in the end. So much for defeating a Martial Master.

After everyone left, Lyanna led Jared to her room.

A waft of fragrance assaulted Jared the moment he stepped into her room. At a glance, the room was clean and tidy. A few of Lyanna's undergarments were hanging by the window to dry.

Noticing his gaze on her undergarments, Lyanna blushed and frantically took them down and stuffed them into her closet.

"I didn't know you love red bras," Jared teased her with a smirk.

She didn't rebuke his teasing and merely shot him a glare, then threw a set of blankets onto the floor. "You'll be sleeping on the floor tonight. Don't even think about crossing the line with me. I'll make you pay if you do."

Chapter 714 Sneak In

"Don't worry. I'm a gentleman. I won't force you. In fact, I want you to do it willingly if I ever want to sleep with you."

Jared flashed her a confident smile as he arranged his mattress on the floor.

"Who in the world will want to sleep with you," she muttered softly.

With a roll of her eyes at him, Lyanna climbed into bed without changing out of her clothes.

She didn't tell Jared about the dissipation powder because she wasn't planning on feeding it to him. Aware that he would be nothing more than an average man awaiting his death if he lost all his powers and recovered them after twelve hours.

She lay in bed for a long while and couldn't fall asleep. Hearing Jared's carefree snore, she sat up feeling frustrated. "Oh my, how can you still sleep so soundly knowing you will turn into a cadaver king soon?"

She changed into an all-black catsuit, then snuck out of the room. Since she couldn't ask Poison King directly, she would have to poke her nose around to search for clues about her parents.

Right after she shut the door to her room, the snoring Jared opened his eyes immediately. With a curl of his lips, he followed her out.

She made a beeline for the second floor where Poison King sleeps. After having stayed there for twenty years, she was familiar with the cabin and the timing of the guards' patrol. It was a piece of cake for her to dodge all the patrolling guards.

Soon, she made it to the second floor. She didn't find anything after sneaking around the common area. She knew the secrets of Poison King would be locked in his bedroom, but there was a strict rule that nobody could enter his bedroom without his permission.

Never once had she entered his room in the twenty years she had stayed in Mapleton. She was never curious about his bedroom until now when she needed to search for clues about her parents.

Hiding under the window to the room, she carefully peeked inside. Her eyes widened after a glance at the interior of the room. The entire room was decorated festively with a red blanket and fairy lights as though it was for a newly married couple.

She didn't hear anything about Poison King taking a bride during her stay in Mapleton, so why would he decorate his room in such a way?

The decorations seem recent. Is he planning to take a bride soon?

She filed away the thoughts at the back of her mind and pulled her focus back on her mission. Once she was sure Poison King was asleep, she sneaked into his room.

With light fingers and feet, she began to search around.

The furnishing within the room was simple. There was only a table, a closet, and the large safe beside it. Her gaze zeroed in on the metallic cube, assuming Poison King would keep all his confidential and important documents inside it.

A sense of helplessness filled Lyanna as she studied it. Even though she possessed martial arts skills, she didn't have the skills to open the safe. She could open the safe by force, but that would risk Poison King finding out someone had snuck into his room.

Her gaze darted around the room as she contemplated, finally landing on a piece of photo on the table. Picking up the photo, she scrutinized it under the moonlight.

Her entire body stiffened when she saw the people in the photo. She could recognize the young man in the photo as Poison King when he was younger, but there was a young girl too. The girl looked familiar to Lyanna because she looked very similar to herself.

Despite the photo being slightly yellowed from its age, Lyanna was sure she was related to the girl in the photo for they looked too alike to deny any relation.

Still immersed in analyzing the photo, Lyanna didn't notice Poison King had sat up. "Who is it?"

His shout startled her. She swiftly pocketed the photo and leaped out of the window.

Chapter 715 Request For An Audience

Poison King chased Lyanna to the window and watched as she disappeared into the night. Glancing at the missing photo on his table, he grinned.

"Don't be hasty. You'll know everything soon enough come tomorrow night."

His eyes glinted maliciously.

When Poison King turned from the window and returned to bed, a figure flashed across a dark corner. It was Jared.

Jared looked up at Poison King's bedroom window with a cold look. "It looks like there is a relation between this old geezer and Lyanna's parents somehow."

Lyanna was already back in her room when Jared arrived. Seeing him returning from outside, she asked cautiously, "Where did you go?"

"To the restroom. I couldn't keep it in. What? Am I not allowed to do that?" Jared let out a tired yawn and said, "Where did you go dressed in an all-black catsuit in the middle of the night?"

"I don't need to explain anything to you."

Changing out of her catsuit, she climbed back into bed, holding onto the photo tightly. She decided to confront Poison King about the girl in the photo the next day.

Lyanna led Jared to Poison King's cabin the next morning. Stepping through the threshold, they saw many others had gathered around waiting in the living room.

"Pretend as though you've lost all your powers later. Make sure no one sees through your act," Lyanna instructed.

"Why?" Jared asked.

"Don't ask so much. Just do as I say."

Lyanna shot him a glare.

Jared nodded his head and followed Lyanna into the living room.

She didn't dare to meet Poison King's gaze, feeling guilty after sneaking into his room the other night. On the other hand, Poison King acted as though nothing out of the ordinary happened.

Noting his gesture for her to approach, she quickly strode to his side with downcast eyes and a bowed head.

"Have you fed Jared the dissipation powder?" he asked.

"I did, Godfather. I watched him consume it with my own eyes. He has completely lost his powers now. He just a commoner." Lyanna nodded her head.

"Excellent! I won't forget about your efforts after I succeed in turning him into a cadaver king."

Poison King patted her shoulder with satisfaction, then waved her away.

At that moment, a subordinate rushed into the living room urgently and reported, "Poison King, Mr. Xuereb has requested a meeting with you."

Poison King shot to his feet at the news. The five leaders stood up nervously too.

Lyanna, who was about to leave, paused mid-stride.

Jared noticed the nervous look on their faces and speculated Mr. Xuereb must be a powerful figure for Poison King to be anxious about his arrival.

"How many men did Carlos bring with him?" Poison King asked.

"He brought only two guards with him. Mr. Xuereb said he wanted to discuss some matter with you. He wasn't here to seek revenge," the subordinate reported.

Poison King frowned with suspicion. "Discuss some matter with me? What is there to discuss? Could it be a trap?"

"We have poisoned over hundreds of Emyrean Sect's martial trainees, so it was likely he was here to seek revenge. I suspect his request for a meeting is a trap. We should gather everyone this instant and defend against the Emyrean Sect's attack," Weston suggested.

"Since Carlos came here personally with only two guards, I think we don't have to be scared of him. We can just let him in. Even if he plans to trap us, we can always catch him and blackmail the Emyrean Sect," Evron suggested.

"Evron is right. There're only three of them. What is there to be afraid of?"

"Let them come here. We can surely take on the three of them."

The other leaders also concurred with allowing Carlos to come inside.

Chapter 716 The Empyrean Sect

"Let Mr. Xuereb enter. Remember to show him great hospitality," Poison King instructed the member of Mapleton who had come to update him on Carlos' arrival.

The latter nodded respectfully and left. Meanwhile, Poison King huddled over with Weston and the others as though they were discussing something.

Jared grabbed the opportunity to sound Lyanna out by putting on a quizzical look. "What is so special about the Empyrean Sect? All of you from Mapleton seem to be terrified of them!"

Lyanna stole a look at Poison King and the others before explaining to him, "The Empyrean Sect's base is located around 5 kilometers from us, on the mountain in the south of Mapleton. Mapleton and the Empyrean Sect are mortal enemies, and I've heard both parties started to battle against each other as early as a century ago, resulting in great losses of lives. For some reason, there was suddenly a drastic increase in the number of strong disciples they had. All of a sudden, they have almost twenty new Senior Grandmasters. Even their sect leader has reached the level of Martial Arts Grandmaster. As a result, Mapleton has been oppressed by them these years."

She paused, stealing another glance at Poison King and the others before adding, "That's why Poison King intends to cultivate a cadaver king, so we won't need to bow to the Empyrean Sect again. Earlier on, hundreds of martial trainees from the Empyrean Sect were killed after being bitten by our venomous creatures when they trespassed on our turf. Thus, we're overwrought that they will settle the score with us!"

"Isn't Mapleton famous for their expert use of poison? Regardless of how formidable the Empyrean Sect disciples are, you can easily wipe them out by poisoning them, can't you?" Jared refuted in bafflement.

Lyanna could not resist laughing in exasperation. "You've overestimated Mapleton. After battling against us for more than a century, how could the Empyrean Sect be oblivious to Mapleton's expertise at poisoning? They've long developed a way to deal with our poisons and venoms. Even the venomous wasp, deemed the deadliest creature in Mapleton, is nothing to them."

"If they can cure your poisons and venoms, how's it possible for hundreds of their members to be killed by you previously?" Jared questioned doubtfully. He could not fathom why those members from the Empyrean Sect still ended up losing their precious lives even though the sect had already found a way to deal with venoms.

"Those attacked were only the Empyrean Sect's martial trainees, not their disciples. Thus, the Empyrean Sect didn't try to cure them with their precious antidotes. Apart from that, they decided to go with the flow and make use of that incident as an excuse to strike against Mapleton," Lyanna explained further.

Hearing that, Jared's heart skipped a beat. My goodness! How could the Empyrean Sect be so inhumane and treat the martial trainees as though they were worthless and didn't deserve to live? Those martial trainees held the Empyrean Sect in high regard, yet the sect had the heart to let the former meet their end without curing their poison. If the Empyrean Sect can treat their own people like that, I can't even imagine how they would treat outsiders!

In the meantime, a long-haired young man in his early twenties dressed in a long-sleeved shirt showed up. He was none other than Carlos.

When he came into view, Jared could not help but let out a sigh of admiration. Undeniably, Carlos had stunning good looks, as if he was the male lead in a romance movie.

There were two subordinates following behind him, and both were Senior Grandmasters. Surprisingly, Carlos was already a Senior Grandmaster at such a young age as well. It implied that his potential was impressive beyond imagination.

The moment Poison King noticed Carlos, he hurried toward the latter. "Mr. Xuereb, welcome to Mapleton!"

Carlos flashed him a smile and greeted him courteously, "Poison King, sorry for disturbing you! I hope you don't mind that I'm here without notifying you in advance."

"Of course not. Mr. Xuereb, it's a great honor to have you here. Please take a seat!" Poison King welcomed Carlos cordially and instructed his subordinate to pour him tea.

After being seated, Carlos instinctively glanced at Lyanna, who was sitting beside him. His eyes lingered on her for more than a moment.

Seeing that Carlos' eyes seemed to be glued to Lyanna, Poison King's expression darkened as he asked grimly, "Mr. Xuereb, may I know why you suddenly paid us a visit?"

Needless to say, he was hinting to Carlos to take his eyes off Lyanna. Deep down, he claimed Lyanna as his woman and would never let any man lay a finger on her.

Carlos finally retracted his gaze and smiled at Poison King. "Poison King, both the Empyrean Sect and Mapleton have sustained great losses battling against each other these years. Are you willing to let both parties reconcile and form an alliance?"