

A Man Like None Other Chapter 583

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Chapter 583 A Big Liar

"If you are thinking of threatening me, forget it. I don't like to listen to nonsense."

Jared cast a disdainful look at Sean and started walking out.

"You..."

Staring at Jared's back, Sean gritted his teeth and clenched his fists.

If Samuel and Theodore were not present, Sean might have attacked Jared already. I have so many men with me now. I don't believe I can't defeat him!

"Wait and see, you punk. Theodore won't always be around to protect you," Sean threatened loudly.

Jared ignored him completely as he did not turn around at all.

Samuel was the one who halted in his tracks and turned around. "Sean, as long as the Baileys are around, don't you ever think of laying a hand on Mr. Chance."

"Pfft! You will get what is coming to you after Xander regains his freedom. Who do you think you are? You Baileys will pay for this!" Sean spat coldly.

Samuel's expression turned cold. Nevertheless, he turned around and left.

Sean was right. If Xander was released, the Baileys might not be able to defeat the Coopers. After all, no one would be able to predict precisely how powerful Xander had become.

Fortunately, the Baileys still had Jared on their side. Hence, Samuel did not bother much about Sean's threat. The only thing he needed to do was to please Jared.

They walked out of the room and came to the main hall. To their surprise, Boris and Galen had not left yet but were conversing with a middle-aged man.

Jared could not wrap his head around it. They had just been exposed for their lies, nearly losing their lives. Yet, they still dared to stay there and chat. I thought they would be running for their lives now.

Theodore's expression changed slightly upon seeing the middle-aged man. Without hesitation, he walked toward them.

"Secretary Kelley, what brings you here?"

Theodore acted respectfully toward Daniel Kelley, the middle-aged man.

"My boss heard that the number one mage of Zaprington was here, so he asked me to invite Mr. Yonce to his place," Daniel uttered.

"Why would he invite them there?" Theodore cast a glance at Galen and Boris.

"General Jackson, you know Mr. Cadden's son has been in bed for over a year. Since Mr. Yonce is here in Jadeborough, Mr. Cadden wants to let him have a look," Daniel explained.

"I see!" Theodore did not expose the men's fraud in front of Daniel.

"Mr. Yonce, this way please. The car is waiting outside."

Daniel bowed toward Boris.

At that moment, Boris had an arrogant look on his face. He knew whoever invited him must be someone with high status in Jadeborough. After all, even Theodore, the leader of the Department of Justice, respected his secretary.

Boris walked outside with his chest puffed up while Daniel followed him. Coincidentally, Sean walked out at that time and saw that scene.

His expression darkened after seeing the person behind Boris.

Even though he had gotten his money back, this incident was still a huge embarrassment for the Coopers. He had originally planned to take revenge against Galen and Boris before they left Jadeborough, yet after seeing Daniel behind Boris, he gave up on this idea.

"Who is he?" Jared asked curiously after seeing Theodore acting so humbly toward Daniel.

"Mr. Chance, he is the secretary of Mr. Jermaine Cadden, the leader of Senary Porta. I don't know why a man with such status would invite that liar over," Samuel uttered.

After Samuel found out that Boris was in cahoots with Galen to cheat people of their money, he had lost all respect for Boris.

Chapter 584 In A Coma

"I see!" Jared nodded. No wonder Theodore acted so humbly. That man is the secretary of the leader of Senary Porta!

In Jadeborough, only those with outstanding achievements or incredibly high status were qualified to join Senary Porta.

Just then, Theodore came back, and Samuel asked curiously, "General Jackson, what does Mr. Cadden want with that liar?"

Theodore was confused momentarily by Samuel's words, not understanding who this "liar" Samuel was referring to was.

When he realized who it was, he answered, "Mr. Bailey, 'liar' is quite an apt description, indeed. There goes the reputation of the number one mage in Zaprington."

"With his skills, how dare he call himself the number one mage? He is merely a clown in front of Mr. Chance!" Samuel sneered.

Even though Samuel sounded like he was trying to flatter Jared, what he said was the truth. No matter how hard Boris had tried to pretend otherwise, he could not deceive Jared.

As Theodore had not witnessed the moment Jared exposed Boris' lie with his own eyes, there was nothing much he could say. "Nevertheless, Boris is not totally a scam. I am sure he is still somewhat capable. Mr. Cadden, the leader of Senary Porta, purposely invited him to treat his son!"

"Rumors say that his son is in a coma, right? I heard his heart has to rely on some equipment to continue beating and that he will lose his life without the equipment. His brain has even stopped functioning. How could he possibly recover?"

Samuel was puzzled.

"Well, I guess they have no other choice." Theodore did not dare to doubt the decision of the leader of Senary Porta.

"Mr. Chance, you have great medical skills. Why don't you go and give it a shot? If you can cure his son, it will be beneficial for your future here in Jadeborough," Walter suddenly suggested.

Indeed, it would be a great opportunity for Jared to build his connection with such an influential leader. Nothing would be impossible with Jermaine's support, and no one would dare to go against him, not even the Coopers.

"Mr. Chance, do you know medical skills too?" Theodore only knew Jared was a cultivator.

"Just a little!" Jared nodded.

Theodore and Samuel stared at Jared, their gazes filled with surprise and amazement.

Jared was able to expose Boris' lie because he knew magecraft. It exceeded their expectation that he turned out to have medical skills too.

"If that's so, let me take Mr. Chance there. If you could cure Mr. Cadden's son, it would be a great opportunity for you!"

Theodore was overwhelmed with excitement.

Jared did not reject the idea. He knew there would be a lot of obstacles on the path of cultivation. It would not be a bad thing to build as many connections as he could, especially one as influential as the leader of Senary Porta.

With that, Theodore brought Jared to the house of the leader of Senary Porta. Due to the security over there, the rest did not follow Jared. They would not be able to enter the place after all.

Soon, Theodore brought Jared to a courtyard. Even though it did not look luxurious, it was located in a good spot. There were a few tall buildings around it, and there were people constantly patrolling it.

Jared scanned his surroundings and immediately discovered what was so special about this courtyard. It was facing a northwesterly direction, which would gather all the energy around it and direct them toward the courtyard. That helped to nourish the human body.

Evidently, the design of the place had been guided by a geomancer, who tried to build it like some sort of geomancy assay. Naturally, this was not as effective as an actual arcane assay.

Chapter 585 A Medical Consultation

"Who are you?" a guard questioned nervously when Theodore arrived with Jared at the entrance.

Theodore hurried forward and explained, "A pleasure to meet you. I'm Theodore Jackson, the general of the Department of Justice, and I'm here to meet Mr. Cadden."

After carefully sizing the man up, the guard finally regained his poise and said, "So it's General Jackson. I'll report it right away."

As soon as his words fell, he strode off, leaving Jared and Theodore waiting outside.

Meanwhile, Galen and Boris were in the living room, and opposite them was a man in his fifties, who had a squarish face and a burly physique.

That middle-aged man had a dignified and authoritative presence, possibly explaining why even Zaprington's wealthy businessman, Galen, and best mage, Boris, would behave so respectfully before him.

He was no other than the leader of Senary Porta, Jermaine Cadden, who had participated in many wars and won many accolades.

"Mr. Zane, Mr. Yonce, please forgive me for having my men inviting you over so suddenly," Jermaine said politely.

"You're too kind, Mr. Cadden. It's our honor to be able to share your woes." Galen was pleasantly surprised by the man's politeness.

Similarly, Boris also chimed in, "It's our honor that we're of use to you. We will do our very best to help you out if there's a need."

A smile instantly appeared on Jermaine's face. "Since you've said that, I won't hold back then. I suppose you should've heard that I have a son. He has been bedridden for more than a year because of an injury. Mr. Yonce, I was hoping you could take a look at him to see if he could be cured..."

"Could you bring me over to your son so that I can check on his condition?" Boris asked courteously.

"Of course! Come with me then." Jermaine nodded and prepared to take Boris and Galen to the bedroom.

At the same time, a guard walked in hastily and whispered something next to his ear.

After listening to the former, he ordered, "Let them in."

Then, he turned to Boris and voiced apologetically, "Mr. Yonce, I have a guest here to visit. Perhaps you two can have a rest first? I'll lead you over in a while."

"Sure. No worries, Mr. Cadden!" Boris nodded profusely.

Shortly afterward, Theodore and Jared were brought into the living room.

The former immediately made an apology upon meeting Jermaine. "Sorry for the abrupt visit. I hope we're not imposing on you, Mr. Cadden."

"Is there something important, Theodore? Go ahead and tell me. I still have other matters on hand."

Jermaine thought Theodore had visited him at his house because of an urgent matter.

He did not spare a glance at Jared the whole time, seemingly assuming the latter was Theodore's subordinate.

However, Galen and Boris could not help but furrow their brows in unison upon seeing Theodore and Jared's arrival.

"Mr. Cadden, I heard your son has been in a coma for a year now. Thus, I've specially brought Mr. Chance here to treat your son."

After verbalizing the reason behind his visit, Theodore turned to Jared and continued, "Mr. Chance, this is Mr. Cadden."

"Nice to meet you, Mr. Cadden." Jared gave a light nod and reached his hand out to Jermaine for a handshake.

However, the latter did not reciprocate. Instead, he sized Jared up and frowned. What could a young man in his twenties possibly do?

It was worthy to note that Jermaine had consulted experts from around the globe regarding his son's illness. Unfortunately, he failed to find a cure to date.

Eventually, although it would not reflect well on him if the public were to find out how a great leader like him believed in magecraft, Jermaine was ready to risk everything and determined to seek help from Boris to find a cure for his son. If he had not exhausted all possible solutions, he would not have resorted to inviting Boris over either.

Chapter 586 Escort The Guests Out

The lack of response from Jermaine led to an awkward atmosphere around them that Jared quickly retracted his hand and chuckled lightly.

Theodore sensed the tension and immediately explained, "Mr. Cadden, Mr. Chance not only has superior medical skills but is also an expert in magecraft. That's why I've decided to invite him over!"

He knew Jermaine was doubtful of Jared's capabilities because of his young age.

Despite so, that was all that he could say since he had to refrain from divulging too much about Jared's identity as a cultivator in front of Galen and Boris.

"General Jackson, could it be that this lad here has bribed you to say all these? He's so young; how amazing can his medical skills and magecraft be? Even if he began cultivating his skills when he was still in his mother's womb, that'd only be twenty-odd years. But look at me; I've started practicing magecraft since young and am also pretty knowledgeable in medicine. That's totaling up to a few decades of hard work and experience, and even so, I wouldn't dare introduce myself that way. How could you have such high compliments for this young man?" Boris mocked while smiling sinisterly.

He had once encountered Jared using magecraft at the auction. Back then, as he had failed to see the young man as a threat, it gave the latter an opening to cast a sound transfer array on Galen, which ultimately led to the exposure of their scheme. Nonetheless, he did not think that incident was because of Jared's incredible magecraft. After all, sound transfer array was an easy technique that anybody could master within a few years of training.

Galen threw a disdainful look at Theodore as he questioned, "General Jackson, not everyone can give Mr. Cadden's son treatment as they wished. Who can afford to bear the responsibility if something goes wrong? Will you be able to shoulder that?"

In truth, he had long bore a hatred for Jared. Neither did he have a good impression of Theodore. However, he did not dare to be disrespectful toward Theodore since the latter was the general of the Department of Justice.

At least, that was the case in the past. As esteemed guests of Jermaine at present, Galen and Boris no longer felt compelled to be amicable toward Theodore. As a matter of fact, they were also confident that he would not dare to retaliate even if they were to insult him.

Theodore let out a cold snort. "Since I'm the one who brought Mr. Chance here, I'll be more than willing to bear all of the possible consequences."

"Mr. Cadden, seeing as General Jackson is so confident, I believe there's no need for my presence then. You can seek medical help from that young lad called Jared or something. I'll take my leave first."

As Boris spoke, he stood up and prepared to leave.

It was his way of playing hard to get. By putting on that deliberate act, he would be able to test Jermaine's reaction.

"Mr. Yonce, since I've sent my man to invite you here, that means I have the intention for you to treat my son. Please stay." Jermaine stopped Boris in his tracks before turning to Theodore and continued, "Theodore, I appreciate your kind gesture. But I have Mr. Yonce here with me, and I trust that he'll be able to treat my son's illness. Leave with that young man first. We'll talk another time if you have any other matters."

It was clear that Jermaine had given Theodore and Jared an order to leave, which was precisely what Boris anticipated.

While he could barely conceal his smugness as he threw Theodore and Jared a glance, Galen had a scornful expression plastered to his face.

Caught on the horns of a dilemma, Theodore requested earnestly, "Mr. Chance is honestly a capable man. Mr. Cadden, perhaps you could—"

"Escort the guests out." Jermaine's expression turned a little forbidding when Theodore refused to leave.

As soon as the command rang out, someone walked in and headed toward Theodore at once. "General Jackson, this way, please."

Of course, the general did not dare utter another word since he could sense that Jermaine was irked. Turning to Jared, he sighed and muttered, "Mr. Chance, we should get going."

Yet, Jared acted as though he did not hear Theodore's words. Instead, he stood rooted to the ground with his brows furrowed as he fixed his gaze toward the bedroom.

"Mr. Chance?" Theodore was perplexed by Jared and gave the latter a nudge.

Only then did the young man recover from his trance and nod lightly. "Sure. Let's go!"

As the two began making their way out without looking back, Jared said loudly, "We'll be waiting right outside. Feel free to find me there if you run into a problem."

Those words were meant for Jermaine.

Chapter 587 The Real Master

Just as Theodore and Jared were about to step out of the door, Jermaine stopped them. "Hold on a second..."

"Mr. Cadden?" Theodore turned around to look at him.

"You guys can stay."

It turned out that Jermaine had changed his mind because of one thing—Jared's attitude.

In his eyes, Jared was a magnanimous person despite his young age. Not only was he unfazed by how Boris and Galen ridiculed him, but he also was not infuriated when asked to leave. What impressed Jermaine the most was how, in spite of everything, the young man was still willing to stay around and lend him a helping hand if there was a need.

"Mr. Cadden, what is that supposed to mean?" Boris' brows puckered in a slight frown at Jermaine's instruction.

"Mr. Yonce, I'll still need your help to cure my son. As for this young man, we'll treat it as an opportunity for him to observe the process so that he knows what a real master is like," Jermaine clarified.

The man had never seen the need for clarification for any of the decisions made in normal circumstances. If he did not have to rely on Boris to treat his son, he would not have explained his actions at that point. Ultimately, he was Jermaine Cadden and could do as he wished and liked!

As Jermaine had made his intent clear, there was nothing much Boris could say in return. Otherwise, it would look like he had no respect for the former.

"Since Mr. Cadden has said so, you may stay to find out what we meant by good medical skills." Boris' face was full of contempt as he eyed Jared.

"Mr. Yonce, please head in." Jermaine directed Boris toward the bedroom.

Without hesitation, Jared and Theodore also followed behind. As soon as they stepped foot inside the bedroom, a strong medicinal scent wafted into their noses. Other than the large assortment of medicine, there was also a ventilator in operation.

Lying on the bed was a young man who looked roughly in his early twenties. He had an extremely sickly appearance—his face a ghastly pallor, his eyes tightly shut, and his frame as thin as a stick. Inserted in his mouth was a tube connecting to the ventilator, and it was clear he was relying on the machine to keep him alive.

That man in the description was Jermaine's son, Josiah. He was only in his second year of college when he dropped out of school because of an accident.

Other than layers of thick gauze wrapped around the fingers on Josiah's right hand, there were no other visible wounds on his body. However, that thick dressing was already showing signs of being soaked in blood as it was bright red.

Perceiving that frightening sight, Jermaine paled at once. In the next second, he yelled, "Abigail! Abigail!"

As his voice reverberated through the air, a girl ran out from a small room next door. Anyone could tell that she had not had a good sleep for a long time from her pair of bloodshot eyes and her constant yawns as she made her way over.

"M-Mr. Cadden..."

The girl's eyes were full of terror, and her entire body was trembling.

"What have you been doing? Didn't you see the wound dressing on Josiah's hand is soaked with blood? Why didn't you change it for him?" Jermaine bellowed.

"I-I'm sorry, I'm sorry, Mr. Cadden. I was too tired that I fell asleep accidentally. I didn't expect Mr. Josiah's wound dressing would be soaked with blood that quickly."

Right after she apologized, she hurriedly grabbed a new piece of gauze and soaked it in the antiseptic before changing the badly saturated dressing on Josiah's arm.

A potent stench of rotting flesh permeated the air when the girl removed the dressing on Josiah's fingers. It was so nasty everyone scrunched their brows, and Galen even retched as he could not hold it in any longer.

He only tried his best to suppress that urge to gag when he noticed the look in Jermaine's eyes. It was surprising that, unlike everyone else, Jermaine was exceptionally calm about the smell, as though he had become accustomed to it.

In the meantime, the girl was about to put on the new dressing when Boris suddenly commented, "Hold on."

Stunned, the girl turned to look at Jermaine.

Chapter 588 Half Correct

Jermaine nodded. "Since Mr. Yonce has said so, hold on then."

Upon receiving the permission, the girl immediately moved aside for Boris to take a better look at Josiah's right hand. The mage then lifted the young man's arm directly.

Aside from the putrid stench spreading across the entire room, what came within sight was how the five fingers on Josiah's right hand had turned dark in color, with blood streaming out of his wounds continuously.

"Mr. Cadden, how did your son get hurt?" Boris inquired.

"I heard from his classmate that he was bitten on his fingers by something. Because of that, he became unconscious and fell onto the floor, knocking his head hard on the ground. He turned into this state since then. I've consulted many professionals and done all sorts of tests. The consensus is that Josiah isn't poisoned, nor does he have a brain injury. Yet, no one could tell why he hasn't regained consciousness, and worst still, he's relying on the ventilator for life support," Jermaine revealed.

"Bitten?" A crease began to form between Boris' brows as he stared at Josiah's dark fingers. "So, the wounds on his fingers never healed?"

"Yes, it has been in that state. He needs our constant attention to help him change into a clean wound dressing soaked in antiseptic. Otherwise, it'll rot and start to smell after some time. We've even seen maggots crawling and feeding on his exposed flesh before." Jermaine could not help but direct a distressed gaze to Josiah as he spoke.

"I see. If I'm not wrong, your son must've gotten bit by a venomous parasite from Mapleton. And the cause for his vegetative state is no other than that," Boris announced.

"A venomous parasite from Mapleton?" Jermaine frowned. "If that's the case, why aren't there any signs of poisoning in the tests the experts have done for him?"

Boris displayed a faint smile. "Mr. Cadden, if lab tests can reveal the reason for poisoning, then I don't think there's a need for you to invite me over, isn't it? In this world, there are many things that machines can't trace!"

Hearing those words, Jermaine could only flash him an awkward smile. He's right. If those experts and professionals could save Josiah, there's no need for me to invite him here.

"Well, Mr. Yonce, since we've found the reason, do you have a cure for Josiah?" he asked eagerly.

"I can only try my best. Though I've heard that Mapleton is a level above the rest in terms of utilizing poisons, I've never encountered it. However, Jadeborough is very far from Mapleton. How did their parasite appear here?"

In fact, Boris was mind-boggled because he reckoned it was unlikely for Mapleton's venomous parasites to travel such a long journey to Jadeborough.

"Mr. Yonce, let's not be bothered about that first. The most important matter on hand is to treat Josiah right away."

All that Jermaine cared for at that point was for Boris to cure Josiah. He could not be bothered over how the venomous parasite came about since it was an accident that occurred more than a year ago.

"All right. Let me try," Boris agreed and pulled out a small cloth pouch. Inside, there was a row of silver needles of different thicknesses, and the thinnest one was probably as thin as a strand of hair.

At the sight of Boris giving Josiah medical treatment, Jermaine held his hands together tightly.

Theodore glanced at Jared and asked, "Mr. Chance, is Boris' diagnosis correct?"

In truth, he found the presence of Mapleton's venomous parasites at Jadeborough a little unbelievable. After all, it was a mandatory protocol for the people of Mapleton to inform the Department of Justice in advance about their arrival in Jadeborough. Otherwise, the whole country would descend into chaos if those people were to roam around freely with their venomous parasites.

"He's right, but wrong too," Jared answered with a half-smile.

"What do you mean?" Theodore was confused.

"He's only half correct. The man on the bed, without a doubt, is bitten by a venomous parasite, thus explaining why his wounds not only don't recover but will even fester. But the bite from the parasite is not the cause of his prolonged unconsciousness," Jared explained.

"So, what's the cause?" Theodore asked inquisitively.

Before he received an answer, he saw Boris turning around to look at Jared. "What's the matter? Are you trying to say that I'm wrong? If you have what it takes, come and give it a shot instead of making comments at the back. Stop being pretentious!"

Chapter 589 Shut Up

Boris withdrew the silver needle in his hand and regarded Jared glacially.

"What does a young man like you know? How dare you doubt Mr. Yonce's diagnosis? If you think you're that amazing, instead of making those sarcastic remarks, why don't you move forward to show how much of an expert you are?" Galen spat contemptuously.

"Galen, I'm sure Mr. Chance has his reason for saying that. I know you've plotted with Boris to scam people. You're a bunch of swindlers. Yet you're calling yourselves masters?" Theodore snapped at him.

Hearing those harsh remarks, Galen could not help but turn grim as he felt a chill down his spine. Meanwhile, Boris was not faring any better. The word "swindlers" was a crushing blow in his face.

He had decided to collaborate with Galen as he thought nothing would go wrong with the scam that time around. Yet, at that point, he feared that his reputation would plummet since Jared had exposed him on the spot.

At that thought, Boris' gaze toward Jared became much more hostile. It was as though he wished he could skin the latter alive.

"Since you've called us swindlers, I believe it isn't appropriate for us to continue treating Mr. Cadden's son. If you guys have what it takes, go ahead and treat him by all means."

Then, Boris spun on his heels and trotted to one side. Deep inside, he was optimistic that he could cure Josiah because he had found the cause of the latter's condition. Nonetheless, he still went ahead to make the matter sound grave for one particular motive—to heighten Jermaine's anxiety level so that the man would see value in Galen and him.

Since Jared disagreed with his diagnosis, Boris decided to seize the opportunity to have the former attempt at treating Josiah. Deeming the younger man incapable of removing the

toxin, he reckoned the treatment would undoubtedly fail. When that happened, he could incite Jermaine to deal with Jared.

Anxiety swamped Jermaine when he saw Boris had discontinued his treatment. "Mr. Yonce, you don't have to mind what the others say. What matters is my trust in you. Please save Josiah, Mr. Yonce."

The man did not hesitate to humble himself for the sake of his son.

"Mr. Cadden, it's not that I don't want to continue with the treatment. Someone's questioning my skills now, and General Jackson even called us swindlers. How do you expect me to go on? Won't that mean I won't be able to explain myself if something goes wrong during the treatment? Since Jared also seems to be able to tell the cause of Mr. Josiah's condition, let him treat Mr. Josiah," Boris stated in an unhurried tone.

Boris had acted that way simply because he knew Jermaine was at his mercy. After all, it was no easy feat to remove the toxin of the venomous parasite in Josiah's body. Even if Jermaine could hire other mages over, that would not necessarily mean that they could cure his son.

"Mr. Yonce, then Jared—"

"Mr. Cadden, Mr. Chance is undoubtedly a talented genius. I'm confident he'll be able to cure Mr. Josiah. There's no need for those two swindlers," Theodore interrupted without waiting for Jermaine to complete his sentence.

"Shut up! Shut up right now!" Jermaine's eyes were blazing with rage as he glared at Theodore. "The two of you get out now."

It was his intention to let Jared watch a master like Boris treat patients as he figured such instances were rare to come by. He hoped it would dash the former's conceit, and the young man would seize the opportunity to widen his knowledge.

However, he did not expect that Jared would turn out to be so full of himself and even find fault in Boris' diagnosis. Anyone who had a temper would be annoyed by it.

"Mr. Cadden..." Sensing that Jermaine had flown into a rage again, Theodore instantly became anxious.

"That's enough. There's no point in saying anything else. You two can leave now. Don't interrupt Mr. Yonce." Jermaine waved his hand in dismissal as he gave out an order with a frosty countenance.

Whether Jared was well versed in medicine did not matter. To Jermaine, the young man in his early twenties could never be comparable to Boris, be it capability or experience.

Essentially, the title of the best mage in Zapington was not solely for entertainment purposes. Boris had to have the competencies to be worthy of that title.

Chapter 590 Mental Impairment

At that scene, Galen smiled smugly. With Jermaine around, he did not have to be afraid of Theodore.

With a sneer, he bombarded Theodore with questions. "General Jackson, how could a mature adult like you be fooled by a brat? You have to remember that we're treating Mr. Cadden's son here. Are you able to bear the consequence if anything untoward happens to Mr. Josiah? It seems likely that you've deliberately arranged for Jared to misdiagnose Mr. Josiah so that the poor young man's life will be in danger! What is your ulterior motive?"

Flustered by Galen's sudden accusation, Theodore bellowed, "Galen Zane, what are you talking about? Why would I put Mr. Josiah's life in danger on purpose? Don't you dare slander me! Mr. Chance does have the capability to treat Mr. Cadden's son."

"You're just bluffing us! How can we trust you when we've never witnessed his so-called capability? If he's as capable as you've claimed, get him to explain to us what happened to Mr. Cadden's son! Didn't he point out that Mr. Yonce was only half correct about it?" Galen mocked.

He was applying reverse psychology, hoping that Jared would reveal his true colors. Moreover, he did not believe that the latter was even more skillful than Boris. Pfft! Even Mr. Yonce can't detect the cause, let alone him!

"Mr. Chance..." Theodore looked at Jared expectantly, wishing for him to convince everyone about his skills, particularly Jermaine.

Meanwhile, Jermaine had also turned to look at Jared as he was curious about the latter's diagnosis. Similarly, Boris fastened his gaze on the latter, planning to gauge Jared's ability through that incident.

Sensing that everyone fixated their gazes on him, Jared sat on a chair beside him and explained, "Mr. Cadden, your son was undoubtedly bitten by a venomous parasite. If we don't stop the bleeding and apply antiseptic to his wound in time, I foresee it won't be long before his hand has to be amputated!"

He paused and added, "Mr. Cadden, I need to point out another thing. Your son is currently in a vegetative state due to his mental impairment. It has nothing much to do with the toxin from the venomous parasite."

"Mental impairment?" Jermaine was dumbfounded.

"Mr. Chance, what do you mean by mental impairment?" Theodore asked curiously.

"In simpler terms, mental impairment can be explained as a condition whereby the person's soul parted from their body after being frightened out of their wits. That's why he has been unconscious for a long time," Jared explained further.

Theodore, Jermaine, and Galen were flabbergasted. They were neither mages nor cultivators, so they were clueless about such a phenomenon.

When Galen finally regained his composure after quite a while, he guffawed and jeered, "Jared Chance, I bet you must be talking nonsense! Don't you know that Mr. Yonce is deemed the best mage in Zaprington? If Mr. Josiah's soul parted from his body due to a scare, don't you think he would have detected it earlier? Stop bluffing! You can't deceive us with such lies!"

Likewise, Jermaine did not believe Jared, too, as the latter's diagnosis was overly casual. At the same time, he was greatly displeased by how Jared directly stated that his son was in a coma because of a nasty fright.

"Since he can't detect it, I can only comment that he's a good-for-nothing. How dare he claims himself as the best mage in Zaprington! Apparently, he doesn't have any sense of shame!" Jared responded sardonically with a smirk.

"Jared, stop running your mouth! Since you know the cause of Mr. Josiah's condition, why don't you treat him now? If you manage to cure him, I, Boris Yonce, will grovel at your feet and beg for your forgiveness. But if you fail to do so, I'll chase you out and hire someone to throw you into the river!" Boris snapped, wearing a look of sheer grimness.

Hearing that, Jermaine jumped in and yelled apprehensively, "No way! My son is not a test subject! Don't you dare to make a bet on him!"

He turned to look at Theodore the next moment and instructed, "Theodore, bring this Jared Chance out at once! It's an order!"

Chapter 591 Invite Us Back Inside

At the sight of Jermaine's expression, Theodore parted his lips in an attempt to speak, but not a single word fell from his lips except for a sigh.

"Mr. Chance, let's go out." He had no choice but to comply with Jermaine's command.

Jared nodded. "Sure. I bet they'll invite us back inside within ten minutes!"

The second those words fell from his lips, Galen burst out laughing heartily. "Am I hearing things? Did you say that Mr. Cadden will invite you back inside? Who do you think you are? With Mr. Yonce around, you have no business here! My, you're truly great at being pretentious!"

A smirk touched Boris' lips. "I've never come across such a boastful person. Youngsters should keep a low profile."

At that moment, Jermaine's expression was grim. There was no way someone of his identity would swallow his pride to request a youngster like Jared to return after kicking him out.

Theodore's heart was in his mouth. Fearful of incurring Jermaine's wrath, he pleaded, "Mr. Chance, please don't say anything further..."

"Theodore Jackson, I'll let you off this round. But mark my words—I won't let you off the hook next time if you bring any random person you find over to my place again!" Jermaine growled.

"Mr. Cadden, I-I get it!" Theodore nodded continuously to placate Jermaine before dragging Jared out of the room.

Once they were out of the bedroom, Jared sat on the couch in the living room right away. That stunned Theodore, who whispered hastily, "Mr. Chance, it seems that Mr. Cadden

doesn't trust you. I think we'd better leave now. What if he comes out and happens to see us here?"

Undeniably, Jermaine had instructed him to bring Jared out of the house, not have them wait in the living room. If Jared remained seated on the couch and were caught by Jermaine, Theodore would surely be implicated.

"If we leave, his son will surely meet his end. General Jackson, take it easy. Come take a seat on the couch with me and wait for them to call us back in within ten minutes!" Jared reassured.

Next, he even poured himself and Theodore a cup of tea each.

Buoyed up by the confidence in Jared's tone and status as a cultivator, Theodore gritted his teeth before taking the seat on the couch. Whatever! I was the one who brought him here, so I might as well go through with it!

While they sat sipping tea in the living room, Jermaine pleaded with Boris to treat Josiah earnestly. "Mr. Yonce, I'll entrust you with my son's life. If you succeed in saving him, I'll certainly reward you handsomely. On top of that, I'll hold a magecraft conference for you in Jadeborough so that your reputation can spread throughout the city."

His attitude was downright humble. However, Boris knew the higher the hope Jermaine placed on him, the riskier the situation was for him. If he could cure Josiah, both parties would be delighted. If it were otherwise, he and Galen would be in deep water.

"Mr. Cadden, don't worry. I promise to do my best. Anyway, I still have the confidence to get rid of the toxin from the venomous parasite of Mapleton!" Boris declared, positive that he would succeed since he had treated someone bitten by a venomous parasite before.

"Mr. Yonce, please begin the treatment, then!" Jermaine requested, imbued with anticipation.

Regardless of his prominent social status and position, Jermaine was like any other ordinary father who loved their children dearly. All he wanted was for his son to recover.

Boris nodded and advanced toward Josiah's bed again. The next second, he whipped out the cloth pouch containing the silver needles.

After picking a silver needle, he poked Josiah's finger lightly with it. Miraculously, the glittering, slender piece of metal turned black within seconds.

"He has been poisoned for quite a while, so the toxin has invaded his heart. Thus, I can only go the other way around..." he explained and took out another silver needle almost twenty centimeters long. It was the longest one in his pouch.

Chapter 592 Simple Trick

Boris started chanting as he held the silver needle in his hand. After a while, it started shaking maniacally, resulting in a series of buzzing sounds resembling the ones made by insects.

As the silver needle shook faster, a pale blue flame gradually formed on Boris' fingertips, engulfing the piece of metal and burning it bright red.

The whole time, Boris did not loosen his grip on the silver needle despite the heat. That scene astounded Jermaine as he had never seen anyone apply magecraft before. Not to mention, he could not bring himself to believe it since he was the leader of Senary Porta.

Nonetheless, he was awestruck and at a loss for words when he saw the overwhelming scene with his own eyes.

With a gaze filled with admiration, he praised, "Mr. Yonce, no wonder you're known as the best mage in Zaprington! It's incredible!"

"Mr. Cadden, this is just a simple trick. Mr. Yonce's capabilities are beyond our imagination. He can even bring someone back from the dead!" Galen declared proudly when he caught sight of Jermain's reaction.

Although Jermaine knew the notion of resurrection was absurd, he did not doubt Galen's words after witnessing how Boris could do miracles with the silver needle.

In the meantime, Boris held the fiery red needle and poked it toward Josiah's heart. The moment it pierced the young man's skin, a series of petrifying hissing sounds rang out. There was even a whiff of a burnt smell permeating the air.

On pins and needles, Jermaine interlaced his fingers together tightly. He had a strong urge to ask Boris if that was a safe method, fearing that his son's life would be put on the line

when the needle pierced through his heart. Nevertheless, he restrained himself from interrupting Boris, fearful of causing any hiccups with his impulsiveness.

Very quickly, the long silver needle pierced through Josiah's chest, leaving only a small section still exposed. On the heels of that, black blood started oozing out from the tip and then gradually began spurting out.

Only then did Jermaine realize that the silver needle was hollow. More and more black blood spewed out of it as time elapsed.

At that sight, Boris hastily whipped out a few more silver needles and pierced all of them into Josiah's body.

Immediately afterward, Josiah's body shuddered, and he opened his eyes and mouth abruptly.

Jermaine was flushed with excitement when his son opened his eyes. "Josiah! You've finally woken up! Josiah, look at me!" he yelled, darting toward the bed.

However, Josiah's blood-red eyes remained fastened on the ceiling. It was as though he could not hear his father's cries.

Puzzled by Josiah's unresponsiveness, Jermaine turned to look at Boris and asked, "Mr. Yonce, what's the matter with my son? Why doesn't he seem to recognize me after recovering consciousness?"

"Mr. Cadden, calm down. He'll be fine soon!" Boris replied composedly.

In his heart, he was relieved that Josiah had regained consciousness. With a wave of his arms, all the silver needles were removed from the latter's body.

Boris' placidness set Jermaine's mind at ease.

While he waited patiently for his son to recognize him, a roar was suddenly emitted from the latter's agape mouth, scaring him out of his wits.

The sudden roar gave Boris and Galen a jolt too.

After his bellow, Josiah, who had been lying in bed, sat up abruptly, his eyes still blood-red. As wisps of black mist spewed out of his mouth, his face turned black speedily.

It was as though his entire body had blackened and festered in a blink of an eye. The horrifying transformation sent a shiver down Jermaine's spine.

Meanwhile, Boris stood rooted to the ground, for he never expected such a drastic change in Josiah's condition. I've successfully expelled the toxin from his body. How's it possible for his condition to suddenly deteriorate?

Chapter 593 The Parasite

"Mr. Yonce, what's wrong with my son? What on earth is going on?" Jermaine questioned Boris loudly.

"Mr. Cadden, please remain calm. I'll check on him now to find out what's happening!" Boris tried to appease him.

As he spoke, he stretched out his hands and smacked Josiah on the back. With every slap, clouds of black mist were expelled out of his mouth.

"Ah!" Josiah never stopped letting out blood-curdling yowls.

At that moment, he resembled a ferocious beast with his blood-red eyes. The way he stared at Boris fixedly felt as though he intended to stab him to death with his horrifying gaze.

His menacing glower made the latter's hair stand on end.

Boris could not fathom how such a horrendous twist occurred. However, he could only leave no stones unturned to expel the toxin from Josiah's body for the time being. His forehead beaded with cold sweat from concentration and fear.

In the living room, Theodore pricked up his ears when he seemed to overhear strange noises from Josiah's bedroom. "Mr. Chance, what is going on inside the room?" he asked warily, paling a little.

"It's fine! Just sit back and relax!" Jared continued to savor his cup of tea, laid-back as ever.

"Mr. Chance, we mustn't let anything happen to Mr. Cadden! If not, we'll be in big trouble!" Theodore said anxiously when he saw Jared was not the least bit concerned.

As the general of the Department of Justice in Jadeborough, he bore the responsibility to ensure the peace of Jadeborough and the security of all the leaders, such as Jermaine. Thus, he had to shield the latter against any threats by hook or by crook.

If anything happened to Jermaine, Theodore would be held accountable for it as he was at the scene. It might be considered a capital offense!

"Don't worry. Nothing will happen to Mr. Cadden. I'm sure they'll step out of the room within three minutes!" Jared commented after catching a glimpse of his watch.

Since he seemed highly confident, Theodore could not find it in himself to say anything else. Hence, he could only look in the direction of Josiah's bedroom, anxiousness coloring his features.

In the meantime, Boris was sweating profusely in the room. It seemed that the toxin in Josiah's body could never be fully expelled. The whole bedroom was engulfed by the petrifying black mist that carried a revolting stench.

When he was about to throw his palm toward Josiah again, a black insect suddenly flew out from the latter's mouth and advanced toward him at an astonishing speed.

Boris' face turned ashen instantaneously. "Mind-controlling parasite! It's a mind-controlling parasite! Run! Everyone, run!" he shrieked at the top of his lungs.

With a wave of his arms, a giant web weaved from countless red threads appeared and shielded him from the mind-controlling parasite.

Jermaine and Galen were utterly dumbstruck and watched the scene motionlessly. They could not understand why an insect would fly out of the mouth of someone who had been in a vegetative state for more than one year.

Besides, they were clueless about the mind-controlling parasite mentioned by Boris.

At the sight of Jermaine and Galen being as still as statues, Boris yelled again, "Run! Run out of the room now!"

He knew that he could not hold the parasite back anymore longer. The mind-controlling parasite was the most well-known venomous parasite of Mapleton. Apart from controlling the host's mind, the person in control of the parasite would be able to end the host's life at any moment.

Furthermore, it was even more challenging to deal with mind-controlling parasites of bigger sizes. The one that flew out from Josiah's mouth a while ago was as big as a kid's fist. Boris presumed the person capable of manipulating such a big-sized mind-controlling parasite was no ordinary figure in Mapleton.

Although he had no idea who had the audacity to step on Jermaine's toes by inflicting harm on his son with the mind-controlling parasite, his gut instinct told him it must be a master who was not intimidated by Jermaine's status.

Only after Boris bellowed the second time did Jermain and Galen return to their senses and hastily dash out of the room.

Seeing that they had fled, Boris swiftly moved out of the room and closed the door behind him.

It was then he realized that his legs were shaking tremendously. Furthermore, his clothes were soaking wet from cold sweat that exuded from every pore of his body.

Chapter 594 Best Swindler

Seeing Jermaine run out of the room in a panic, Theodore quickly approached him. "Mr. Cadden..."

"Theodore, you're still here?" Jermaine blurted, surprised to see that he was still around.

"Mr. Chance said that Boris couldn't treat your son and claimed that you guys would come out and beg for his help in ten minutes. Everything happened as per his prediction!" Theodore explained.

Only then did Jermaine notice Jared sipping tea on the couch. However, he could not be bothered to berate him as all he cared about at the moment was his son.

Distressed, he walked toward Boris and questioned, "Mr. Yonce, how is my son doing? What exactly is that insect? Why did it come out of his mouth? Please save him!"

Boris found it hard to answer, evident from the troubled look on his face. After all, he did boast of his ability to save Josiah, so Jermaine would not let him off the hook if he backtracked on his claim.

"There's no need to beg him. He can't save your son. If he could, he wouldn't have run out of the room pathetically." Jared, who sat on the couch, finally spoke.

Jermaine turned his head and looked toward him. Although he did not trust Jared due to the latter's young age, he had no choice but to place his faith in him at that juncture. "Mr. Chance, can you save my son?" he asked.

"I've said it earlier, but you refused to trust me!" Jared replied coldly.

That one statement was sufficient to embarrass Jermaine. It was difficult to describe the mixed feelings that swarmed his heart.

"Mr. Chance, Mr. Cadden was deceived by Boris. I hope you will forgive him and save his son, please!" Theodore implored, worried that Jared would refuse to help out because he bore a grudge against Jermaine for what happened earlier.

"All right!" Jared put his teacup aside and stood up.

"Stop trying to put on an act! Do you even know what parasite is inside Mr. Josiah's body? You were wrong to have said that it was a mental impairment arising from fright!" Boris reprimanded Jared defensively upon seeing that the latter actually had the guts to try and treat Josiah.

Jared's lips curled, and he drawled, "It's just a mind-controlling parasite. There is nothing worth being concerned about, yet look at how terrified you are! How can someone like you be hailed as the best mage in Zaprinton? The best swindler would be a more befitting title for you."

In response, Boris fumed with anger. "Just a mind-controlling parasite? You'll know that's not the case once you see it yourself. You should know that mind-controlling parasites are the most venomous parasites in Mapleton! It is able to control the human mind! If you enter like this, you'll become a puppet immediately..."

Jared merely chuckled, paying no heed to Boris' warning. As he had killed hundreds of mind-controlling parasites in Crescent Sect, naturally, he was familiar with them. While the

mind-controlling parasite was terrifying in the eyes of many, it was just like any ordinary insect to him.

Just when he was about to open the door to the bedroom, Boris scrambled to hide behind him. It was ludicrous to see the esteemed mage of Zaprington reacting in such a manner.

Meanwhile, Jermaine was disappointed to see Boris' cowardly behavior. The embarrassment he previously felt intensified when he recalled his differential treatment toward Boris and Jared just moments ago. Ironically, the former was treated with respect, while the latter was spurned and distrusted by him.

The second Jared opened the door, a thick fog of black mist poured out of the room. Before he could even step inside, a black figure dashed out at lightning speed.

Theodore immediately raced forward to shield Jermaine while Boris fearfully dragged Galen away.

Only Jared stood motionless at the same spot. As cool as a cucumber, he reached out and caught the black figure effortlessly.

When the mist dispersed, it soon became clear to everyone that the black figure was Josiah. His eyes were blood-red, and his face twisted into a fearsome expression. Even though Jared seized him, he relentlessly and ferociously tried to pry his way out by clawing at the latter.

Chapter 595 Making Things Up

"Josiah, Josiah..." Jermaine instantly called out to his son.

Staring at Josiah, Jared lifted his hand and wanted to smack him on his head.

In the nick of time, Josiah recovered to normal and looked at Jared in terror. His eyes were no longer red, and his facial muscles relaxed.

"Dad, save me..." Josiah yelled at Jermaine all of a sudden.

Noticing that Jared refused to retract his arm when Josiah had recovered and was even going to hit the latter, Jermaine yelled anxiously, "Stop, stop!"

As he roared, he knocked Jared away forcefully so that his son would be freed. Then, he embraced Josiah tightly and cried, "Josiah, Josiah, you've finally recovered! You're all right now..."

"Dad, what is going on? I'm terrified. I'm so afraid..." Josiah was shaking like a leaf.

"It's all right. Don't worry. I'm here for you, and no one can hurt you."

Jermaine stared at Josiah excitedly as tears started streaming down his cheeks.

However, Jared did not seem the least bit relieved that Josiah had recovered. In fact, his brows were furrowed as he regarded the latter with a murderous gaze.

"Mr. Cadden, your son has yet to recover. He is not your son but a puppet. The only way for him to return to normal is to kill the mind-controlling parasite inside him," he said.

Jermaine was taken aback for a moment before lowering his head to scrutinize his son.

"Dad, I am your son. I'm not a puppet. I don't want to die. Please don't let them kill me..." Josiah pleaded with feigned fear as he gripped Jermaine's hand tightly.

Feeling a pang of heartache, Jermaine could not help but console Josiah. "Don't worry about it. I won't let them lay a finger on you."

Then, he turned around and looked at Jared. "My son has recovered, and he's not a puppet. Please stop your nonsense."

"If you don't eliminate the mind-controlling parasite, your son will die."

After finishing his sentence, Jared flicked his finger and headed toward Josiah.

"How dare you!"

Jermaine boiled with rage when he saw Jared wanted to attack his son. Emanating a powerful aura, he parried off Jared's blow by striking with his palm.

It was worth noting that Jermaine possessed impressive combat prowess due to his achievements in war. Hence, that strike carried immense force.

Although Jared was not afraid of Jermaine's move, he did not wish to be embroiled in a fight with him. Hence, he leaned backward and avoided the attack.

"Mr. Chance, what is going on?" Theodore asked hurriedly.

Mr. Josiah has obviously recovered, but why is Mr. Chance insisting otherwise and even claiming that he's being controlled by the mind-controlling parasite?

Jared did not offer any explanation to Theodore. Instead, he looked at Jermaine and said, "Your son is being controlled by someone else. Don't be deceived, or you will face serious consequences."

The man knew for a fact that someone poisoned Josiah because of his background. After all, the mind-controlling parasite was different from other parasites, and it was too valuable to be deployed recklessly against an ordinary person.

Evidently, the mastermind's motive must be to manipulate Jermaine by controlling Josiah. As Jermaine was the leader of the Senary Porta, the consequences would be deadly if the mastermind were to exploit him with malicious intent.

"Stop making things up. Do you think I can't tell if he's my son?" Jermaine snarled. He did not believe Jared's words at all. Then, he turned to Boris and asked, "Mr. Yonce, can you help me check if Josiah is all right?"

Boris quickly took a few steps forward and waved his arm. A bright, red light enveloped Josiah's body before disappearing seconds later, and the young man seemed just fine.

Chapter 596 Holy Light

"Mr. Cadden, your son has recovered. He's not being controlled by anyone. The light that you saw just now is the holy light. If he is being controlled by a mind-controlling parasite, it would be impossible for him to stay calm. Hence, do not trust the nonsense uttered by Jared," said Boris.

Galen, who stood at a side, scoffed. "I bet Jared made up that puppet story just to get your attention because he didn't get the chance to acquit himself earlier. Now that Mr. Josiah has recovered, he's disgruntled and is trying to claim credit for what Mr. Yonce has done."

His statement had convinced Jermaine. Indeed, even though I've requested Jared to save Josiah, Josiah recovered before he could do anything. It might be true that Jared was indignant, so he invented the puppet story to create an opportunity for himself. If he could be given a chance to treat Josiah, he would be able to claim credit for Josiah's recovery!

"Humph, how dare you claim credit for something you have not done! A young man like you should be studying diligently to improve yourself instead of resorting to such trickeries. My son is fine, yet you still intended to assault him. If you dare to lay a finger on him, I guarantee that you'll not walk out of here in one piece!" The older man looked at Jared, his eyes flashing menacingly.

Terrified by Jermaine's gaze, Theodore tugged at Jared's sleeve lightly and pleaded, "Mr. Chance, I think it's best we let this slide. Let's discuss the matter at length!"

"I must eliminate the mind-controlling parasite today. Or else, many will suffer."

Jared was unmoved. He had made the decision to eliminate the mind-controlling parasite right then. The ramifications of letting Josiah go would be dreadfully unimaginable, with the peace of society at stake.

"But Boris used the holy light on Josiah just now, and it turns out that he is fine."

Theodore could not understand why Jared was so stubborn.

"That so-called holy light is nothing but a gimmick. He's just trying to hoax you guys. Don't forget that they left the room scrambling just now because of the mind-controlling parasite. The reason why Boris claims that Mr. Cadden's son is fine is that he doesn't want me to claim his credit!"

Jared knew from the beginning that Boris was spouting nonsense. Since the latter saw the mind-controlling parasite with his own eyes, he obviously knew Josiah was being controlled by it.

"Stop your bullsh*t! I think you're the one who wants to claim Mr. Yonce's credit!" Galen replied contemptuously.

Putting his body between Josiah and Jared, Jermaine had a look of determination on his face as he warned, "Regardless of whether my son is a puppet, I will not let you lay a finger on him!"

"If that's so, then you leave me no choice..."

As soon as those words fell from Jared's lips, he swung his arms forward, and rays of blinding red light permeated the entire living room.

"I'll show you what a true holy light is..."

Immediately, the light spread across the room, and everyone appeared to be engulfed in red flames.

"Ah!"

When the red light shone on Josiah, he let out a pained wail.

Jermaine's eyes widened in shock at that sight, and he leaped toward Jared swiftly. The aura on him had become terrifyingly menacing.

However, Jared ignored Jermaine as the latter's prowess was inferior to his.

Indeed, when Jermaine thrust his palm at Jared, his attack was repelled forcefully, causing him to stagger a few steps backward.

Jermaine stared at the younger man in disbelief, but the anger on his face soon manifested.

"Theodore, what are you doing? Stop him! Do you want to be dismissed?" he shouted at Theodore, who stood rooted to the spot.

In a panic, the latter shot a pleading gaze at Jared. "Mr. Chance, please stop..."

"General Jackson, if you trust me, then stay out of my way. Otherwise, just come at me..."

Jared had set his heart on destroying the mind-controlling parasite.

Chapter 597 What Else Can You Do

Seeing that Jared had made up his mind, Theodore was out of options. He would never attack Jared, not to mention that he knew he was not his match.

At that, Jermaine thundered, "Theodore, if you don't strike now, I will fire you!"

"Mr. Cadden, there must be a reason behind Mr. Chance's decision. Please trust him." Theodore tried to convince him.

"Nonsense. My son is going to die because of him!" Jermaine stared at Josiah, who was still screaming in anguish. Then, he turned toward Boris. "Mr. Yonce, please stop Jared. If you can stop him, I promise to fulfill whatever you ask for!"

Boris was enraptured upon hearing that declaration and nodded profusely. "No problem, Mr. Cadden. However, you have to know casualties in battles involving magecraft are inevitable. If I accidentally kill Jared in the process, you must not hold me accountable for it!"

Boris had wanted to take revenge against Jared all along, and the opportunity conveniently presented itself.

"I will not. Don't worry about it," Jermaine answered immediately.

At present, Josiah appeared to be in immense pain as he rolled across the floor, holding his head with both of his hands. His contorted face was painful to watch for Jermaine.

"If that's the case, I'll deal with Jared now!"

All of a sudden, Boris' body shook vigorously. He then threw his arm forward, and the force materialized into a giant palm in midair before launching in Jared's direction.

At the same time, the red light on Josiah was blocked by the massive palm, allowing the young man to rasp out a plea. "Dad, save me. I don't want to die..."

Josiah's eyes were filled with fear as he tightly clung to his father's thighs.

Jermaine crouched down and embraced Josiah tightly, consoling, "Josiah, don't worry. No one can kill you. I've asked Mr. Yonce to interfere. You will be all right."

"Mr. Chance..."

Seeing that Boris was launching a rather ferocious attack, Theodore stepped forward and wanted to assist Jared.

Jermaine glared at him and threatened, "Theodore, if you dare to help Jared, not only will I dismiss you, but I will also prosecute you!"

Stuck between the devil and the deep blue sea, Theodore froze.

Jared smirked and said in disdain, "General Jackson, just stay put and watch the show. A mere mage can't harm me."

"Brat, you will regret this soon enough."

Boris continued to mutter something incoherent under his breath. All of a sudden, scorching flames started to engulf the humungous palm. Everyone was shocked to find themselves swarmed by a wave of torrid heat in the room.

Galen let out a devilish smile. Jared spoiled my plan, and he deserves to die. I want to see it happen myself!

However, everyone was stunned the very next second.

Boris' intimidating blazing palm was hovering before Jared's head but could not advance further.

Meanwhile, Jared's body was covered in the red light, resembling a divine being who had descended to earth. The huge palm slowly reduced in size, and the flame was eventually extinguished.

"How is that possible?" Boris' eyes popped in horror.

It was his strongest attack as he wanted to kill Jared with one strike. Much to his dismay, it was ineffective against the latter.

"What else can you do? Show me!"

Jared gently blew air in the direction of the palm, and it vanished instantly.

His actions make Boris' hair stand on end.

In an instant, the petrified mage hurled a bunch of questions at Jared. "W-Who are you? What magecraft are you using? Who is your master?"

Chapter 598 Cut The Nonsense

Boris had cultivated magecraft for decades, learned from several masters, and tested his skill against fellow mages. Nonetheless, he had never seen a magecraft like Jared's.

The red light exuded by Jared was overbearing, to the extent that one would feel like worshipping him. Boris would have long kneeled before the young man if he did not force himself to maintain his composure.

Jared did not respond to Boris' questions, for he did not see the need to do so.

Instead, he snarled, "Cut the nonsense. Get lost if you don't have other moves."

Although Boris was incensed, he dared not strike Jared anymore and merely moved aside.

The fact that a prominent mage like Boris was deterred from fighting Jared with just one exchange of blows shocked Jermaine so much that he gasped and looked at the young man in disbelief.

Looking at Jermaine, Jared stated, "Mr. Cadden, I've told you that your son is now a puppet and that everything he said was controlled by the mastermind, but you find it hard to believe me. Your son can survive if I destroy the mind-controlling parasite now. If we delay it further, he might not be able to stay alive even after I destroy the mind-controlling parasite."

With Josiah in his embrace, Jermaine hesitated, unsure if he should trust Jared.

Meanwhile, Theodore also tried to persuade Jermaine. "Mr. Cadden, Mr. Chance will never harm Mr. Josiah. Please trust him."

Jermaine was a little convinced by then, so he slowly loosened his grip, ready to let go of Josiah.

In an instant, Josiah hugged his arm tightly and cried, "Dad, you can't trust them. I'm your son, not a puppet. I'm your beloved son. Look at me..."

His wails pained Jermaine so much that he did not have the heart to let Jared take action.

Since Jermaine had fallen for the puppet's act, Jared decided to do it by force.

"How dare the Mapletons scheme against Mr. Cadden! Godd*mmit!"

With that, Jared reached out to grab Josiah.

Jermaine wanted to stop him, but Jared was too fast and had taken Josiah from him in the blink of an eye.

"Dad, save me. Save me..." Josiah kept struggling to wriggle free from Jared's grasp.

However, Jared did not give Jermaine another chance to save his son by striking Josiah's forehead with his palm. The next moment, a beam of red light flickered above Josiah's head before moving swiftly into his body.

Soon, Josiah began to grimace in pain and let out anguished shrieks. Despite that, Jared still grabbed onto him tightly to restrain him.

Very quickly, Josiah's eyes reddened once again, and he suddenly opened his mouth. The fist-sized mind-controlling parasite flew out of it.

Instead of attacking Jared, the mind-controlling parasite made a beeline for the window to escape.

"Trying to run, huh?" Jared's lips curled.

Immediately, he let go of Josiah and chased after the mind-controlling parasite.

Meanwhile, the latter passed out once the mind-controlling parasite left his body and collapsed onto the floor.

"Josiah!" Jermaine ran forward to hold him, preventing him from knocking onto the hard surface.

In the meantime, Jared had rushed to the window and grasped the mind-controlling parasite.

The mind-controlling parasite kept squirming but failed to break free from Jared's fist. In the end, it opened its mouth and released a gust of black mist.

"Be careful. The black mist is poisonous." Boris nervously reminded everyone before he held his breath.

When everyone held their breaths anxiously, Jared suddenly opened his mouth to suck in all the black mist.

Chapter 599 Investigation

Boris was dumbstruck upon seeing Jared gulp down the black mist. After all, he was well aware of how deadly the mind-controlling parasite's toxic gas was.

Under normal circumstances, a mind-controlling parasite would not release its toxic gas as it would die immediately after. Given the difficulties in cultivating mind-controlling parasites, the owner would use them to kill the other party only in an emergency.

After Jared gulped down the black gas, the mind-controlling parasite stopped struggling and became thin and wrinkly.

He then threw the parasite away as the dead insect was useless to him.

At the same time, a middle-aged man in a black robe sitting inside a sealed room of a secluded house in Jadeborough suddenly rose to his feet and knocked the bowls before him to the floor.

That man was Weston Morris, the owner of the mind-controlling parasite. He never expected that the insect he had cultivated for more than ten years would perish just like that.

At the sound of the loud noises, the guard outside the room quickly pushed the door open and was frightened to silence when he saw the broken pieces on the floor.

After calming himself down, Weston asked, "Has Wade returned?"

The guard responded hastily, "Master Weston, Master Wade has returned since yesterday. However, we dare not disturb you because you have been staying in the room."

"Tell Wade to come and see me!" Weston instructed.

The guard left the room to relay his instructions. Soon, a bearded man with a protruded mouth and sunken cheeks came in.

"Wade, why did Poison King call for a meeting so urgently? Did something happen in Mapleton?" Weston asked the bearded man.

"Weston, it's not a big deal. Poison King arranged for that meeting because his godson had died. If I'm not mistaken, someone named Jared Chance killed him," Wade explained indifferently.

"His godson's name is Fabian Quillen, right?"

Wade nodded in response and said, "That's right. He died horribly."

"Humph! He deserved it! That brat is always harming ladies. I've disdained him since a long time ago," Weston spat.

"Weston, when I was in Mapleton, Poison King asked me about the progress of our plan. He can hardly do anything now because Mapleton is being kept under close watch," Wade said.

Weston's features twisted into a fearsome expression when he heard Wade's utterances. Clenching his fists and gritting his teeth, he said, "My mind-controlling parasite is dead."

"What? Your mind-controlling parasite is dead? How did it happen? What went wrong?" Wade exclaimed, shocked.

"I'll explain it to you later. For now, go and ascertain Jermaine and his family's condition. I ordered the mind-controlling parasite to kill itself by releasing the toxic gas, which could kill all human beings within a radius of around twenty meters. Hence, I reckon they are about to be poisoned to death," Weston said as a worried look crossed his face.

"Weston, a-are you crazy? Jermaine is the leader of Senary Porta. If he has been poisoned to death, the authorities will investigate the matter and eventually trace it to us. By then, we will be doomed!" Wade questioned nervously.

Weston glared at him and shouted, "Stop yakking! I did it because I had no other choices at that time. You should start investigating it now!"

"All right!" Wade nodded in response and left the room.

Back in the living room of Jermaine's house, the authoritative leader of Senary Porta was hugging his unconscious son, crying the latter's name at the top of his lungs.

"Josiah, Josiah..."

Given that Josiah had not opened his eyes or spoken for more than a year, Jermaine did not care if his son became a puppet as long as the latter was well and alive. All he wanted was to see Josiah wake up.

Chapter 600 Not A Big Deal

That was why Jermaine was so excited when Josiah first regained consciousness and refused to let Jared treat him. He was worried that he could not see Josiah anymore if anything untoward happened.

Distressed by Jermaine's heart-wrenching cries, Theodore quickly went up to Jared and requested, "Mr. Chance, please check on Mr. Josiah now."

"Sure!" Jared nodded in response.

Theodore walked toward Jermaine, squatted down, and comforted, "Mr. Cadden, Mr. Chance can cure Mr. Josiah. Please don't lose hope."

Jermaine raised his head, revealing a pair of teary eyes. When he met Jared's confident gaze, he did not utter a word but slowly put Josiah's body down and stood up.

Jared crouched down and gently put his hand on Josiah's forehead, injecting surges of spiritual energy into his body. The latter's pale face slowly turned ruddy, and even his festering fingers began to recover.

A few minutes later, he opened his eyes slowly.

By then, Jared's forehead was covered with sweat. As Josiah had been poisoned for too long and suffered mental impairment for more than a year, he had to expend a large amount of spiritual energy to cure him.

"Josiah, Josiah..."

Jermaine darted forward excitedly once he saw Josiah open his eyes.

"Dad, where am I?" With a confused expression, the latter looked around his surroundings.

"You're at home, of course! You've been in a coma for more than a year. Do you remember what happened just now?" Jermaine asked.

Since Josiah had regained consciousness earlier on and even acted normally, he was perplexed that he could not remember anything.

"As I said, Josiah was merely a puppet before this. It wasn't actually him. Someone was using the mind-controlling parasite to control his body," Jared explained to Jermaine.

Seeing the look of puzzlement on his son's face, Jermaine finally believed Jared's words.

After helping Josiah stand up, he pointed at Jared and said, "Josiah, thank Mr. Chance now. He saved your life."

Josiah looked at Jared and could tell that the latter was about the same age as him. However, he was still in a state of confusion, so he did not move or say a word.

"Mr. Cadden, it's not a big deal, so there's no need to thank me," Jared replied flatly.

While Jared behaved magnanimously, Jermaine's face flushed with embarrassment. After all, he had assaulted him and even ordered Theodore and Boris to fight him.

Deep down, he was glad that Jared was generous. If the latter had left in a fit of anger, Josiah could have died.

"Mr. Chance, you're indeed kind-hearted and generous despite your young age. I feel embarrassed for my rudeness," Jermaine said as he felt unbearably mortified.

"You're too kind, Mr. Cadden. What I've done is nothing compared with your contributions to the people and the country," Jared replied humbly.

Meanwhile, Boris walked over with unconcealed astonishment on his face.

Gazing at Jared in admiration, he bowed and said, "Mr. Chance, please allow me to offer my humble greetings."

In the sphere of magecraft, the status of a mage depended on power instead of age. Even though Jared was young, Boris respected him because he was stronger.

"Mr. Chance." Galen also hastily rushed toward Jared and bowed at him.

Since even Boris was respectful toward Jared, Galen dared not act insolently.

"Humph! Did you forget how you ridiculed Mr. Chance just now?" Theodore snarled in disdain as he looked at Boris and Galen.

Upon hearing that, Boris and Galen flushed with embarrassment as they felt remorseful for what they had done.

Chapter 601 Unforgivable

Jared did not want to be associated with Boris and Galen, so he said to Theodore, "General Jackson, now that Mr. Cadden's son is all right, we should get going."

Then, he turned around and wanted to leave. Since everything was settled, he thought there was no need for him to stay around any longer.

As for how Jermaine would deal with Boris and Galen, he could not be bothered about it.

Seeing that Jared was about to leave, Boris hastily stopped him and exclaimed, "Mr. Chance, please wait! I have a question to ask, and I hope you can enlighten me."

"What is it?" Jared was taken aback.

"Mr. Chance, since the mind-controlling parasite had entered Mr. Josiah, why did the mastermind wait for more than a year before controlling his body? What is their intention?"

Boris was mystified. After all, the owner of the parasite only controlled Josiah's body on that day, even though he had schemed against Josiah more than a year ago.

The rest directed their gazes at Jared as soon as Boris' voiced his queries, for they also wished to know the reason. Jermaine, in particular, wanted to figure out the mastermind's ulterior motive.

"As I said earlier, Mr. Josiah was in a vegetative state due to mental impairment that resulted from fright, not because of the poisoning. Although the mind-controlling parasite successfully entered Mr. Josiah's body, the parasite failed to control his mind and body since he was in a coma."

Jared continued to explain patiently, "Mr. Josiah was in a vegetative state for more than a year. To a certain extent, he was lucky. Otherwise, the mastermind could have controlled Mr. Josiah to do all sorts of horrible things. Earlier on, you accidentally stimulated Mr. Josiah's brain when performing acupuncture on him to extract the toxin. The mind-controlling parasite grabbed the chance to take control of his body, which led to what we saw just now."

Boris crimsoned with shame upon learning that the parasite successfully controlled Josiah due to his treatment. At that moment, he felt embarrassed and wished the ground could open and swallow him up.

"Mr. Chance, could you please tell me who did such a thing to my son?" Jermaine was desperate to know the mastermind behind it.

"I mentioned it before. The mind-controlling parasite only exists in Mapleton. Since the mastermind could cultivate such a large parasite, they must have a prominent standing there. However, I'm not sure about their intention," Jared responded.

As Jermaine fell silent and frowned, his eyes flashed menacingly.

Theodore reasoned, "I know why. The Mapletons want to loosen the guard on them through this method. Since all the Mapletons are good at using poisons, the government manages and controls them strictly to prevent moral panic from occurring. Because of the implementation of such stringent regulations, their development is restricted. Hence, they must have planned to use the parasite to control Mr. Cadden so as to relax the restrictions on Mapleton. As they dared not target Mr. Cadden directly, they chose Mr. Josiah."

Upon hearing his analysis, Jermaine nodded in response. "You're right. I believe that's the reason. After all, the Mapletons have, for more than once, made such a request."

Since the matter was overly complicated, Jared refrained from commenting on it.

Overwhelmed by anger, Jermaine instructed Theodore, "Theodore, I don't care what method you use. Find the Mapletons who are hiding in Jadeborough now. I won't forgive them for using such a despicable trick on my son!"

Although everyone knew that the Mapletons did it, Jermaine could not do anything without any proof. His first move was to find the mastermind who harmed Josiah.

"Understood!" Theodore answered loudly. However, he soon grimaced slightly and added, "Mr. Cadden, I'm afraid our staff from the Department of Justice can't arrest the mastermind even if we manage to find them..."

Chapter 602 I Should Leave Too

There were only martial artists in the Department of Justice of Jadeborough who were certainly no match for the mastermind in Mapleton. The other party only needed to throw a few parasites to make them suffer.

The moment Jermaine heard Theodore's words, he knitted his brows tightly. Finally, his gaze landed on Jared and Boris.

When Boris noticed Jermaine was looking at him, he immediately said, "Mr. Cadden, General Jackson, I still have something to attend to back home. We shall make a move first as we need to catch a flight to Zaprington."

The mage was apprehensive that Jermaine would make him stay. If that were the case, he would find it hard to turn him down. At the same time, he did not have the courage or confidence to deal with the Mapletons, so he was anxious to leave.

Since Boris had said so, there was nothing much Jermaine could say in return. All he could do was nod.

With that, Boris quickly left with Galen. Looking at the two men walking away, Theodore sneered. "Cowards! They're only good at scamming others. I can't believe he claims to be the best mage in Zaprington. What rubbish!"

"Theodore, what did you keep calling Boris a swindler?" Jermaine asked curiously.

Earlier on, he was preoccupied with saving his son, so he did not care when Theodore called Boris a swindler.

Seeing that Theodore was still at it, he could not help but voice his curiosity.

Theodore did not hold back, telling Jermaine everything that transpired at the auction. After listening to his recount, the latter had a look of disbelief, shocked that Boris and Galen had come all the way to Jadeborough to conduct their scams.

Then, Jermaine's expression turned grim when he recalled how he had been so respectful to Boris and even invited him to his house.

"General Jackson, Mr. Cadden, since the matter has been solved, I should be making a move too. I still have to rush back to Horington today," Jared piped up.

He had to make the best use of his time to cultivate as it was getting nearer to the date. Moreover, the divination that Dante had given to him before he passed away had made Jared very confused. He had no idea if a blessing or misfortune awaited him on the fifteenth of July.

Seeing that Jared was about to leave, Jermaine became visibly anxious and quickly signaled Theodore with his gaze.

Theodore understood his signal and said, "Mr. Chance, you saw with your own eyes that the mastermind from Mapleton is already in Jadeborough and has even harmed Mr. Josiah. If we don't locate them soon, I'm afraid they will continue with their evil acts. But given the limited capabilities of the Department of Justice, it will be difficult to find them. I hope you will be able to stay in Jadeborough for a few more days and help us out."

Jared frowned in response. He had wanted to leave because he was worried that Theodore might ask him for his assistance. However, it did not mean he feared the Mapletons; he just did not want to waste any more of his time there. Cultivating was his utmost priority at the moment.

Moreover, Jared was also aware that those Mapletons would not be merciless. All they wanted was to use the mind-controlling parasites to secure more benefits for themselves, so they dared not go to the extent of killing others yet.

Thus, he had no wish to get involved in the matter since it was not a life-threatening situation. As for the other issues, he had no time for them.

When Jermaine saw that Jared seemed unwilling, he joined Theodore in persuading the latter. "Mr. Chance, we really hope you can help us out. Otherwise, those Mapletons will be causing trouble in Jadeborough. Even if they don't dare to do anything to me next time, they might target the other leaders."

"Isn't there anyone capable of subduing the Mapletons in the entire Jadeborough? Are you telling me all of you will only sit on your hands if a few mages are wreaking havoc in Jadeborough now?"

Jared simply could not fathom their request. Surely, there must be someone in the whole of Jadeborough who can stop these Mapletons. Furthermore, there's also the Department of Justice, which is in charge of the city's safety. The people there are all martial artists. If they are that weak, wouldn't the Department of Justice be rendered useless when a few highly-skilled mages appeared?

Chapter 603 Superficial

Both Jermaine and Theodore were taken aback by his question. A troubled look appeared on their faces. In the end, it was the latter who said, "Mr. Chance, of course, there are people who can subdue those Mapletons. Even if highly-skilled mages dare cause trouble in Jadeborough, someone will intervene. However, it isn't under the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice."

"So, do you mean to say there's a Law Enforcement Department above the Department of Justice?" asked Jared in surprise.

"No, they aren't the Law Enforcement Department. These people aren't bound by the law. Nobody can control or order them around. Even everyone from the Senary Porta has no right to command them," said Jermaine as he shook his head.

"Them? Who are they? Are they energy cultivators?" Jared became a little excited.

Jermaine was momentarily dumbstruck when Jared mentioned "energy cultivators."

Theodore explained, "Mr. Cadden, Mr. Chance is an energy cultivator himself. But, at the moment, he isn't strong enough."

Jermaine appeared even more shocked, and it took a while before he regained his composure. "No wonder Mr. Yonce isn't a match for you. It turns out that you're an energy cultivator," he commented.

"Mr. Cadden, are those people energy cultivators as well?" asked Jared once again.

Jermaine shook his head and replied, "I don't know. Even if I know, I can't tell you because it's confidential."

When Jared heard that, he looked disappointed.

"Mr. Chance, it's indeed confidential. I hardly know much about it myself. That's why we cannot ask them for help. Please, Mr. Chance, you have to help us."

Jared furrowed his brows. He really did not want to get involved.

"Mr. Chance, are you worried that the Coopers may take revenge on you if you stay in Jadeborough? I can warn the Coopers to stay away from you during your time in the city. I assure you that you won't be harmed." Theodore presumed Jared was afraid of the Coopers, which was why he made that declaration.

Puzzled, Jermaine asked, "Mr. Chance, do you have grudges with the Coopers?"

Theodore nodded and shared the story with him.

After learning about the ins and outs of that matter, Jermaine added hastily, "Don't worry, Mr. Chance. I can also stand up for you."

"Both of you got it all wrong. I'm not concerned about the Coopers. It's just that I have some other things to see to."

Jared was not scared of the Coopers at all. He just could not afford to waste time since he wanted to cultivate.

"Mr. Chance, you mustn't underestimate the Coopers. The only reason I can oppress the Coopers and stand up for you is that Xander, the head of the Coopers, is still training in solitude. Once he is out and finds out that you have killed his son, I'm afraid he won't bother to show me any respect by then," said Jermaine.

Jared was startled to hear that. "Is the Coopers that powerful?"

Jermaine was, after all, the head of Senary Porta. He was someone that even Theodore had to behave respectfully toward. Thus, it was unthinkable that the Coopers dared to show disregard for him.

Jermaine sighed and said nothing. On the other hand, Theodore explained, "Mr. Chance, there's something you're unaware of. The Coopers are more powerful than you think. Xander and his family are only a collateral branch of the actual Cooper family. Their family holds immense power and influence all over Jadeborough, even the whole of the northern region, but they're quite inconspicuous."

Jared was somewhat surprised by the revelation. He did not expect that the Coopers he saw were only a small fraction of the actual Cooper family.

"Mr. Chance, everything that you have seen is superficial. The water runs deep in Jadeborough. Most common folks won't even be able to notice the truly powerful families. Some have never even heard of them," Jermaine lamented.

Chapter 604 Too Modest

As Jared listened to Jermaine's explanation, he felt increasingly pressured. As a cultivator himself, he had thought that he was unparalleled—although not to the extent of being invincible—because he had always been able to crush his enemies with ease. Only then did Jared realize that those so-called opponents of his were small fries. He had yet to encounter a truly powerful family.

However, that did not frighten Jared. After all, he had nothing to do with those powerful families. As long as they did not cause him any trouble, Jared would not provoke them too. All he wanted to do was figure out his family background and if his mother was still alive.

Worried that Jared might be afraid, Theodore voiced, "Mr. Chance, you have nothing to worry about. Those inconspicuous families won't target a particular person just like that. Thus, in Jadeborough, we are still dealing with the wealthy and noble families that are in circulation."

Jared nodded and said, "All right then. I really have some urgent matters to attend to, so I won't be able to stay in Jadeborough for too long. I can stay here for three days and help you guys find the Mapletons!"

The moment Theodore heard his promise, he was thrilled. "Thank you, Mr. Chance. With you around, those people from Mapleton won't be able to get away."

Those Mapletons would not be able to escape once Jared, who was an energy cultivator, made his move.

Jermaine expressed his gratitude as well. "Thank you, Mr. Chance."

Jared flashed them a half-smile. "Mr. Cadden, there's no need to thank me just yet. If I can't locate them within the next three days, I will still need to leave."

"No problem. I'm sure they can be found in three days. If not, the time I've spent in Senary Porta would be in vain."

Jermaine was very confident that he could easily locate that group of people from Mapleton. Once they had been found, all Jared needed to do was to make them stay.

After a brief discussion, Jared left with Theodore. As for Josephine, Walter, and the rest, they were still waiting for Jared at the auction at Jausden Auction House. Every member of the Baileys was still there. No one dared to leave.

When Samuel saw Jared had returned, he asked hastily, "Mr. Chance, how did it go? Has Mr. Cadden's son been cured?"

If Jared had cured Jermaine's son, then his life in Jadeborough would be smooth sailing. After all, he would be able to accomplish lots of things with ease if he won the favor of a leader in Senary Porta.

Jared answered indifferently, "Yes. It's only mental impairment. There's nothing serious."

He did not mention anything about the mind-controlling parasite. Even if he did, Samuel and the others might not understand what he was talking about. They were only martial artists and thus were unfamiliar with things related to mages.

A look of astonishment appeared on Tristan's face. "Josiah has been in a coma for more than a year now. No doctor or professional has been able to cure him. How can you say it's nothing serious? Mr. Chance, it must be because your medical skills are so great that he becomes well the instant you treated him."

"That's right. I'm sure that's the case. Mr. Chance, you're too modest," Samuel chimed in.

"Mr. Chance, did Boris and Galen give you any trouble?"

Walter knew Jermaine had also invited the two men over, so he was certain a conflict would occur between them and Jared.

Theodore cut in before Jared could respond and said, "Those two swindlers have left for Zaprington with their tails between their legs. The image they had when they scampered off looked nothing like that of a master."

Everyone knew that Boris must have been incompetent and left because Jared had outdone him.

At that moment, Samuel was even more determined to have the Baileys be loyal to Jared from then onward.

Walter asked, "Mr. Chance, when will we return to Horington?"

Chapter 605 Kill Him

Walter had initially headed over to try and find some treasures. Since things had unfolded in such a manner, he needed to know when they could go back. After all, they had come in the same car, so they would have to follow Jared's arrangement.

"Mr. Grange, please take Josephine and Lizbeth back with you first. I'll be staying in Jadeborough for a few more days. There's something I need to do."

Jared did not elaborate further because he did not want to worry Josephine.

The moment Josephine heard him, she requested to stay as well. "What for? I want to stay back with you too."

"Me too. I can go sightseeing with Josephine. There are quite a number of famous historical sites here," Lizbeth chimed in.

"No, both of you must go back today."

Jared turned them down without any hesitation.

Once he learned that Jadeborough was a dangerous place with many hidden forces lurking around, he dared not allow Josephine to stay there any longer. If any of the Coopers decided to hurt her, it would be too late for him to regret it.

Josephine looked at Jared with displeasure, but she did not dare to throw a tantrum.

Instead, she pouted her mouth and said, "Let me warn you first. You better not fool around if you stay in Jadeborough. If I find out about it, I won't forgive you."

"Relax. Jadeborough may be a large city, but I won't be able to find another woman who is as beautiful, gentle, and virtuous as you," said Jared with a smile.

His sentence made her blush. "Hmph! You sound so insincere!"

Despite her words, she was on cloud nine.

An indescribable emotion welled up in Lizbeth's heart when she saw Jared flirting with Josephine.

When Walter saw his granddaughter biting her lip tightly, he shook his head with a sigh. Naturally, he knew about her feelings.

However, Jared was no ordinary man. If he did not mind having a few more intimates, Walter would allow Lizbeth to stay by Jared's side.

Later on, Walter left with Josephine and Lizbeth. Samuel wanted to invite Jared to stay at the Bailey residence, but the latter did not want to trouble anyone. Instead, he got Theodore to find him a hotel.

"Mr. Chance, please rest in the hotel in the meantime. Once I have news of the Mapletons, I'll inform you."

There was no need for Jared to get involved with the search since he was unfamiliar with the place or the people. Theodore would deal with the matter himself, and once he located them, they would need Jared's help to have them detained.

Jared nodded. "Sure. Once you have an update, just give me a call."

After Theodore left, Jared wanted to cultivate in the hotel room. However, there was barely any spiritual energy in a bustling city like Jadeborough. Without the resource, it would only be a waste of time to cultivate.

Seeing that it was getting late, Samuel phoned Jared to invite him to dinner. However, the latter turned him down because it was no longer necessary for him to consume food or drinks when in the Transcendence Phase. In fact, Jared could go for days without eating and drinking in the current phase, and he still would not feel hungry. Besides, he did not like to be in situations where he would be the center of attraction and people would try to fawn over him.

The streetlights came on gradually, and they lit up the entire city, making Jadeborough look picturesque. Jared went downstairs, planning to take a walk on the streets.

Meanwhile, in the dining room of the Cooper residence, no one was eating even though there was a table full of food. Sean had a grim expression on his face, and the atmosphere in the room was suffocating.

"Dad, since you know that this guy, Jared, is in Jadeborough, why don't you just send someone to kill him and avenge Franco?" asked a young man in his twenties sitting next to Sean.

Chapter 606 Insolent Son

That person was Sean's son, Gavin. He was the same age as Franco, only a few months younger. Despite being born in the same year, their lives were completely different. Franco's father, Xander, was the head of the Cooper family, so his status within the family was much higher than Gavin's.

Therefore, the Coopers had given Franco more resources for cultivation ever since he was young, allowing him to reach the Grandmaster rank at a young age. On the other hand, Gavin spent his days as a prodigal and womanizer. He was not jealous of his cousin's rank nor interested in cultivation, so he was not even a martial artist.

Disappointed with his good-for-nothing son, Sean wanted to knock some sense into Gavin, and sometimes he even thought of resorting to violence.

"Shut up! You don't know anything," he roared at his son.

Seeing that his father was enraged, Gavin threw the fork in his hand. "I'm done eating. I'm heading out."

He stood up from his seat and left, probably to some bar.

"Such an insolent son! I would've slapped you to your death if you weren't my biological son," Sean yelled, but his reprimand fell on deaf ears.

After Gavin was out of his line of sight, Sean looked down at the table of dishes. Having lost his appetite, he slammed his palms on the table, which crumbled into smithereens from the force. That sight frightened the housekeepers standing at the side so much that they shuddered.

At that time, the butler of the Cooper family rushed into the dining room. When he saw the mess on the floor, he gestured for the housekeepers to clean it up immediately.

"Mr. Sean, I heard that Jared has indeed successfully treated Mr. Cadden's son, so Mr. Cadden is very respectful toward him," he reported.

Sean's expression turned sour. "F**k! That brat has some tricks up his sleeves, managing to curry favor with Jermaine. It seems like we can't do anything to him when he's in Jadeborough. I'll discuss the matter with Xander once he's out."

Leaning forward, the butler whispered in Sean's ear, "Mr. Sean, I also found out about another piece of information..."

Sean's expression changed a few times until it finally morphed into one of delight. "Is it true?"

"I'm sure of it. I heard about this from Mr. Cadden's housekeeper," the butler affirmed, nodding his head firmly.

"Excellent! If so, we don't have to sully our hands." Sean laughed boisterously. "Contact the Mapletons. I want to meet them."

"Yes, sir." The butler nodded and left.

In a merry mood, Sean had a cunning gleam in his eyes as he uttered, "Oh, Jared! How foolish of you to offend the Mapletons out of all people. I'd like to see if you can leave Jadeborough in one piece..."

Meanwhile, Jared was strolling on the bustling street of Jadeborough and checking out the beautiful lights on either side of the sidewalk.

Suddenly, he felt a faint spiritual sense moving toward him from behind.

A pucker formed between his eyebrows, and his heart began to race.

No one other than energy cultivators could use their spiritual sense for inspection. Even the strongest of mages could not develop them.

Jared had developed his spiritual sense after entering the Transcendence Phase, but it was weak. Nonetheless, it was still helpful, or he could not have discovered someone was monitoring him.

Not daring to talk or make any unnecessary movement, he pretended to be utterly clueless as he continued to walk forward.

At that moment, he was excited yet nervous because it was his first time meeting another energy cultivator other than Draco. However, he had no idea why the other party was following him and whether the latter was a friend or foe.

Chapter 607 Women At The Parlors

Keeping a calm front, Jared walked into an alley with lesser passersby and dimmer lighting. Inside, beauty parlors lined both sides of the passageway, their pink neon lights radiating an alluring glow. At that moment, scantily dressed women stood at the entrance of each parlor, drumming up customers.

"Come in and have some fun, mister," one of them called out, beckoning him over.

"Come here, mister. My girls here are young," another woman from the beauty parlor next door shouted.

The majority of men who came by the area were johns. Thinking that Jared was one of them, those women began shouting fervently for his attention once they saw him turn into the alley.

Jared felt a little awkward as he had not gone into the alley for pleasure. He merely chose it, thinking it had fewer people and dimmer lighting, which would give him a chance to find out the person following him.

However, he dared not look over his shoulder rashly. Instead, he approached one of the women. When the woman saw Jared heading toward her, she immediately welcomed him with a grin. "You have good taste, mister. I'm the prettiest in this area. Is the man behind you with you as well? I'll have to charge you more if the both of you want to do it together."

The woman's words had Jared tilting his head. That was when he saw a burly man standing a few meters behind him.

At the sight of that man, such stark shock and horror inundated Jared. Although he knew he had encountered a powerful person because he could only feel them watching him with their spiritual sense throughout the journey, it was too faint for him to realize his proximity.

If the man were to attack him from behind, he could not have dodged it. At that thought, Jared was a bundle of nerves.

"We're not together," he replied to the woman, shaking his head.

He was still clueless about the burly man's motive, so he did not confront him directly.

"You're not together?" The woman was baffled but soon sashayed toward the man behind Jared. Smiling seductively, she said, "You're here for some fun too, mister? You must be great in bed, judging from your physique. I love your type the most. How about I give you a discount later?"

It seemed like the woman wanted both Jared and the burly man to enter her parlor.

Right then, a slightly older woman walked out of one of the parlors, spitting, "You shameless b*tch! Are you planning to hog all the business? We need to earn money too! I see what you're up to. Do you think you can get rid of us just because you're young? Aren't you scared of dying in bed?"

She then made a beeline for the burly man.

"Mister, I'm older but more experienced than the young ones. I'm more affordable too. Fifty will do," the older woman coaxed, leaning toward him in an attempt to seduce him with her big bust.

However, the burly man was as still as a statue. Unfazed by the women's advances, he did not even spare them a glance, merely fastening his gaze at Jared.

Feeling competitive, the younger woman inched closer toward the burly man too. "I'm good with fifty too, mister!"

"I don't like or need your services. Scram, turn off the lights, and get some sleep," the burly man said, his face devoid of emotions.

The two women froze after he was done speaking. A second later, they stared blankly at the space before them and nodded woodenly as though they were being controlled. "Yes..."

Then, complying with his command, they returned to their respective parlors and turned off the lights.

With the lights turned off, darkness enshrouded the alley.

Chapter 608 Deragons

A flash of solemnity crossed Jared's face when he witnessed that scene.

He did not see the burly man use any magecraft or chant any spells, but the two women seemed to be bewitched, obeying his every word. Admittedly, Jared was well aware that he himself did not possess such skills.

He knew he did not have the slightest chance at winning if the man decided to assault him. In fact, he might not even manage a counterattack.

"Why are you following me?" Jared asked finally.

The corners of the burly man's lips curled into a sneer at his question. "I was surprised that you found out I was following you. I didn't expect you to reach the Transcendence Phase. You must be an invincible existence in the eyes of those so-called martial artists now."

Instead of replying to Jared's question, he pointed out his cultivation rank.

His words had fortified Jared's assumption—the man before him was an energy cultivator like him. However, he could feel the other party's animosity toward him.

"Who are you? You must have at least reached the Transcendence Phase to be able to use spiritual sense to probe around. However, you made those women leave with a single sentence. This shows that your abilities are superior to that of the Transcendence Phase. Could it be you've already reached the Golden Core or Nascent Soul?" Jared asked gravely.

The burly man regarded him disdainfully and said, "You don't have to guess anymore. No matter what, you can never attain my rank. Follow me obediently now, and I won't hurt you."

"Where are we going?" Jared asked.

"You don't need to know that. You'll find out when you get there."

The man refused to divulge any information.

"I won't follow a stranger if you don't tell me."

Jared refused to follow the man. Even if he knew he would lose to the latter, he would not blindly walk into a death trap. Going down without a fight was not in keeping with his character.

"Do you think you're in a position to choose?"

The man emanated his aura and engulfed Jared with it.

Feeling the aura envelop him, Jared swiftly unleashed the massive spiritual energy accumulated in his body to resist the man's aura.

Alas, Jared's resistance was like a soft rock standing in the middle of the powerful streams of the rapids. It was frail and caved within minutes. Unable to withstand the pressure any longer, he dropped to one knee and coughed out a mouthful of blood.

"The scion of the Deragons is nothing but a mere skirt-chaser." The man laughed tauntingly at Jared's pathetic state.

Gusts of blade-like wind blew with the man's laugh, slashing across Jared's body, drawing blood from each wound. However, all the injuries were minor and not fatal.

It was apparent that the man had no intention to kill Jared, or else the latter would have been dead long ago.

"Dragons? You know about my identity?" Jared frowned. He could not care much about his injuries but was curious about the man's utterance.

This man might have a clue about my background. I have always wanted to know my identity and who my biological mother is. The young man had never given up on that thought ever since he found out that he was adopted.

"If you want to know about your background, then follow me obediently, else you'll have more wounds on your body."

The man retracted his aura. Almost instantly, Jared could feel the crushing pressure around him eased away. Unable to adapt to the sudden change, he spurted out yet another mouthful of blood.

Seeing that Jared kept spitting out blood, the man shook his head. "You're too weak. I thought you could resist my aura since you reached the Transcendence Phase. However, your physical body is too frail. You haven't even strengthen your body. It's fortunate that I only used a third of my strength, or you'll be dead. If that happens, I wouldn't be able to claim the reward."

Disdain filled the man's eyes. Jared's abilities were nothing to him.

Chapter 609 Messing Around

The man's words dumfounded Jared. He did not know what the latter meant by strengthening his body. Even though he cultivated continuously and searched everywhere for resources to improve his rank, no one had told him anything about strengthening his body. Not even Draco had taught him about it.

"You said you needed me alive to claim a reward. Did the Coopers send you?"

Jared stared at the man in front of him. I can't underestimate the Coopers if they can hire a powerful man like him. It won't bode well for me if I fall into their hands.

"The Coopers? Who is that?"

The man was confused as to who Jared was referring to.

"The Coopers from Jadeborough with Xander as their head of the family. Didn't they hire you?"

Since Jared did not have any other foe in Jadeborough, the Cooper family was all he could think of.

The man clicked his tongue with contempt. "The Coopers are nothing. They'll have to get on their knees to welcome me if they see me. How could they afford to hire me?"

"Then why are you here to capture me? Who ordered you?"

Jared wanted to know who was after him.

"Stop asking so many questions! You'll know when you get there! Follow me quietly if you don't want to suffer."

The man had lost his patience and did not want to chit-chat with Jared further.

"I'm not going with you." The latter shook his head.

He had gained confidence upon learning that the man would not kill him. Not wanting to follow him to somewhere unknown, he decided to fight back with all his might.

At Jared's persistent rejection, the man flared up. As he reached out to grab him, he snarled, "Brat, you don't have a say in this matter..."

The man's movement was so quick that Jared did not even have the time to react.

In the nick of time, a figure suddenly appeared out of nowhere and stood in front of Jared. The person also moved at lightning speed, so he did not know when the former showed up in front of him. For a second, he thought the person had been in front of him the whole time.

Boom!

After the loud blow, the burly man took three steps back, his outstretched arm trembling a little.

Finally, Jared managed to get a clear view of the person who had saved him. Standing before him was a middle-aged man with an average physique. The latter seemed weak compared to the burly man, but he managed to fight the latter off with just a strike.

"Bull, how bold of you to get involved in the Deragons' affairs with your capabilities," the middle-aged man said in disdain.

Despite the mockery from the middle-aged man, the burly man, Bull was not the least bit infuriated. Instead, he flashed a smile, showing his pearly whites. "Rayleigh Deragon! I was just messing around. Don't be upset. I would never dare to get involved in your family's affairs. I'll take my leave now."

Jared watched as Bull's attitude took a one-eighty. He had treated him with scorn earlier, yet he was acting so servilely before the middle-aged man named Rayleigh.

Just as Bull turned to leave, Jared did not even realize how Rayleigh did it, but the latter had stepped in Bull's path in the blink of an eye, stopping him from leaving.

Bull was stunned. "Rayleigh, I told you I was only messing around. Can't I leave?"

"Do you think you can still leave?"

Murderous intent shone in Rayleigh's eyes.

All traces of smile were gone from Bull's face as he stared at Rayleigh intently. Suddenly, a wave of blade-like aura exploded from him, charging toward Rayleigh and Jared.

Jared was helpless against the blade-like aura as he realized he could not dodge it no matter which direction he moved in.

Chapter 610 Better For You To Know Less

"Stand still. Don't move..."

Suddenly, Rayleigh's voice sounded right next to Jared's ear.

Immediately afterward, Jared heard a series of clanking sounds as spear-like energies came shooting his way. Yet as if hitting on steel, they bounced off one after another. Jared was confused, as he couldn't feel any spiritual energy fluctuation around him. In other words, there was no protective shield formed by spiritual energy at all. So what exactly shielded him from the terrifying force?

Jared was very puzzled. He knew that with his own strength, even if he really stepped into the heavenly realm, his level of achievement was considered negligible. He used to condemn himself for lacking experience and had wanted to meet his fellow energy cultivators. But now that he had met one, it was such a shock to him.

After the eruption of his aura, Bull did not continue to fight. Instead, he leaped a height of dozens of meters, trying to escape between the buildings.

Rayleigh would not let him flee. He went after him and landed a punch on his shoulder. Bull's body dropped from above, smashing heavily onto the ground, creating a crater on its surface.

If an ordinary person were to fall from such a great height, they would be reduced to a bloody pulp. However, after Bull hit the ground, he rolled over and got up without any injuries.

"Rayleigh, must you kill me? I can pretend that I didn't see anything and leave Jadeborough forever..."

Bull looked at Rayleigh fearfully.

"Do you think I would trust you?" Rayleigh sneered and rushed toward Bull.

Bull tried to block the impact with outstretched hands, but he was not quick enough. With a loud and dull thud, Bull's huge body fell over.

Jared looked closer and discovered a thumb-sized hole in Bull's face with blood gushing out nonstop.

Gazing at Bull's dead body, Jared felt a wave of sadness coming over him. It must have been difficult to achieve the spiritual power of Bull's level. And to die such a quick death at his level was a pity.

After killing Bull, Rayleigh acted as if he had just killed a mosquito as he turned to Jared slowly and said, "Are you all right?"

Jared nodded. "Yeah, I'm well and alive. Who are you? Why did you save me? Who on earth am I?"

Jared realized that this man, Rayleigh, must know who he was; otherwise, he would not have saved him. Furthermore, Bull had mentioned that he was the young master of the Deragon family, and this middle-aged man who had just saved him was called Rayleigh Deragon—this could not be a coincidence.

"There are some things that the later you know, the better it is for you..."

Rayleigh did answer his question but took out a pill and gave it to him. "Take this back and consume it. And don't venture outdoors unnecessarily in the future. After you have finished your errands, return to Jadeborough..."

Jared accepted the pill but his curiosity was not satisfied. "I beg of you. Please tell me who I am. Am I a descendant of the Deragon family? Do you know who my mother is?"

When Jared mentioned his mother, Rayleigh's expression slightly changed. However, he pulled himself together again very quickly and looked at Jared coldly. "Do not ask anymore. You will understand everything after the fifteenth of July."

Jared was surprised that Rayleigh knew about his agreement with Draco. "You know Draco, don't you? How else would you have known about our agreement?"

Jared grabbed Rayleigh's shoulders agitatedly. He realized that when he met Draco in prison, the latter had taught him the way of spiritual energy cultivation deliberately and not unintentionally.

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Chapter 611 Body Quenching Pill

Before Rayleigh could reply, four men dressed in exactly the same manner appeared. They came over, wearing similar helmets, covering their whole heads with only their eyes exposed.

Jared was taken aback when he saw the four men who had suddenly appeared. They seemed to be more powerful than him and could be a tier higher than Bull.

He thought that Jadeborough was full of skilled masters hidden in plain sight. In just one night, Jared had actually discovered so many of them, all of which could kill him in split seconds.

Rayleigh showed no expression as he watched these four men in silence.

The four approached them, and one of them glanced at the dead Bull before addressing Rayleigh. "Rayleigh, you know the rules in Jadeborough. Inside the city, no battles are allowed between energy cultivators. Innocent bystanders might be harmed."

"Captain Xenos, it was Bull who started the fight. Look at these wounds. They're all Bull's masterpiece." Rayleigh pointed at the wounds on Jared's body.

"You need not explain to me. I know that. However, I'm just here to remind you. Whatever you Deragons do to each other is beyond my jurisdiction, but if innocents are harmed, I will show no mercy..." Captain Xenos spoke coldly.

"Understood!" Rayleigh nodded, apparently fearful of the speaker of this group of men.

Taking Rayleigh at his word, Captain Xenos waved at Bull's corpse on the ground, and it disappeared at a speed visible to the naked eye by the power of an unknown magecraft. The hole that was in the ground quickly filled up and returned to its former level.

Jared stared at the scene, and his jaw dropped. He could barely grasp what type of power this man must have.

Nevertheless, by now Jared had an idea of who these four people were. They must be the group that Jermaine and Theodore had mentioned before, who were not bound by anyone and were in charge of the security of the Jadeborough.

The four-member team went off as quickly as they came. From the beginning to the end, not one of them had looked in Jared's direction. After all, at that time, he was not anyone to be reckoned with.

After the four of them had left, Rayleigh glanced at Jared and then walked toward the exit of the alley. He did not tell Jared what he wanted to know and Jared could not just let him leave or else he would never find out the truth about himself.

Jared caught up with Rayleigh and blocked his way. "Tell me who I am and who you are. Do you know Draco?" he asked anxiously.

"I've already told you that you will know when the fifteenth of July comes. I will not tell you anything now. You should quickly go back and take the pill that I gave you. Your body is really too weak now..."

Rayleigh looked at Jared, gently shaking his head.

He then walked around Jared and continued to walk out of the alley. This time, Jared did not stop him, knowing that it was useless for him to do so as Rayleigh could not be forced to say anything. If he wanted to leave, Jared could not stop him either.

“Energy sinks into the elixir field; flesh and blood are separated, and the blood flow is dry. The internal organs are all broken; the body is reborn, tempered by the body-quenching pill...”

As Rayleigh walked away, he was muttering something, and Jared could hear him clearly.

He frowned, having no idea what Rayleigh was talking about. After a while, as he held the pill that he had been given, his eyes lit up.

Body-quenching pill... This is the body-quenching pill?

Jared looked surprised. It seemed that the words that Rayleigh had just muttered were actually body tempering formulas, which were to be used when consuming the body-quenching pill.

He wanted to thank Rayleigh when realization dawned on him, but the latter had already vanished into thin air.

Excitedly, Jared returned to the hotel with the body-quenching pill and locked the doors. Sitting cross-legged on the bed, he held the body-quenching pill given to him by Rayleigh and swallowed it.

Chapter 612 Rebirth

After consuming the body-quenching pill, Jared felt as if his internal organs were on fire. He felt great discomfort throughout his whole body, and his forehead was drenched in sweat.

Jared gritted his teeth and summoned his spiritual energy to resist this hot feeling, but it was of no use at all. Then he thought of Rayleigh’s words. Hurriedly, he retracted his spiritual energy as he realized that to temper the body, it was necessary to let the body endure this pain so that his body could be reborn.

Putting away his spiritual energy, Jared silently recited the Focus Technique, guiding the hot feeling inside him to move around his body continuously, all the while, with his eyes tightly closed. At this moment, his whole body had turned red, just like steel being refined by fire.

Jared persisted. The cracking sound of fracturing bones could be heard, and the piercing pain hit his whole body. But he made no sound no matter how painful it was.

The bones of Jared's body seemed to be unable to withstand this kind of force and began to break, but the fractured bones were rapidly condensing as if they were being rejoined.

The blood in Jared's body began to evaporate slowly in the scorching heat. Through the red skin, one could see the blood in his veins flowing, but the flow became slower and slower.

Jared did not use any spiritual energy to fight it except for the guidance of the Focus Technique. Due to the severe pain, he nearly fainted several times, but he gritted his teeth and endured it.

Time passed, and Jared could not remember how many times his bones had broken and healed. It was only when the excruciating pain was over that he opened his eyes.

At this moment, it was dark outside the window and the stars above twinkled as if saying that they had witnessed Jared's development.

Jared looked at his body and found that the clothes on his body were long gone. He was completely naked. He did not emit any spiritual energy, but his body carried a force, which was his inherent aura.

Clenching his fists, Jared looked down at himself and found that the injury on his body had disappeared without a trace or even a scar. His whole body had become bronze, and he could even feel the steel-like texture of the bones. Now, even if Jared did not use any spiritual energy and relied solely on his body, it would be difficult for ordinary people to hurt him.

I thought a long time had passed, but it was not even one night...

Jared got up and entered the bathroom to shower. Then he got ready to sleep and rest.

The moment he finished his shower and was about to get into bed, Theodore called.

"Mr. Chance, I've found those guys in Mapleton. They're in a courtyard in the western suburbs..."

He sounded rather anxious.

"Okay, I'll be right there..."

Jared hung up and changed his clothes. Then he called a cab and headed west.

Meanwhile, in a courtyard in the western suburbs, Theodore had surrounded the courtyard with his men, and opposing him were the five chiefs of Mapleton. The status of these heads in Mapleton was equivalent to the guardian of a gang.

"General Jackson, we have no wish to oppose you. Please make way for us and we will return to Mapleton right now..."

Weston looked at Theodore with a serious expression on his face.

"It cost me so much time and energy to find you. Do you think I will let you go back so easily? You guys from Mapleton are so foolhardy that you dare to harm the son of Mr. Cadden! I presume you guys have a death wish..." Theodore roared in fury.

"General Jackson, concerning Mr. Cadden's son, I have only just been made aware of that. I shall certainly investigate the allegation and if someone from Mapleton is found responsible for harming him, I will provide you and Mr. Cadden with a satisfactory explanation. Please trust me..."

Weston pretended to be unaware of the incident and denied all responsibility.

Chapter 613 Vengeance

Theodore sneered at Weston's shameless pretense. "You are lying. Do you think I would believe you? Now that we have found you, don't even think about leaving."

Theodore did not believe Weston because a mind-controlling parasite the size of a fist was not something that just anyone in Mapleton could nurture.

At Theodore's persistence, Weston showed his ugly self.

"General Jackson, Mr. Josiah has already recovered, and he is fine now. Besides, we did not mean him any harm. Why do you persist in pursuing this matter? If you really piss us off, you and your men are in no position to stop us from leaving..." Weston threatened.

Theodore saw that Weston was getting a little impatient, and he was feeling anxious as well. Although there was a large number in Theodore's group, in a direct confrontation, there was no certainty that they could overpower these five chiefs.

At the moment, he could only hope that Jared would arrive soon. If the people from Mapleton escaped, it would be an embarrassing situation for Theodore.

Seeing that Theodore was silent, Weston curled his lips into a cunning smile. He could see that Theodore was afraid. After all, Theodore did not have sufficient power to battle with the five of them. The others in the Department of Justice were of no concern to Weston as well.

"General Jackson, that was just a misunderstanding. We will personally apologize to Mr. Cadden. Meanwhile, we have other errands to attend to. Please make way for us..."

As Weston spoke, he signaled to the others, and the five of them slowly headed for the exit.

Theodore stretched out his hand, blocking Weston and the others. "You can leave, but over my dead body..."

Theodore had already made up his mind that even if it cost him his life, he would not let these people from Mapleton leave. Otherwise, he would not be able to face Jermaine.

When Weston saw how stubborn Theodore was, he burst out in anger and said, "Theodore Jackson, don't think that I'm afraid of going against you just because you are the general of the Department of Justice. Believe it or not, I can kill you with just one slap."

"Don't waste your breath. Do it..."

Theodore was ready to battle and the other members of the Department of Justice took out their weapons as well.

Seeing that, Weston knew that without a fight, there was no way they could leave. So, he said, "Brothers, let us capture these men first. Then we'll go and look for Jared. Remember, do not harm anyone..."

Weston knew that if they killed anyone in Jadeborough, things could get out of hand. If things were not settled amicably, it could lead to the appearance of the unusual group from Jadeborough.

Both cultivators and mages dared not act recklessly in the capital because they knew that there existed a secret team in Jadeborough that was secretly guarding the safety of the capital.

"Are you going to take revenge on Mr. Chance?" Theodore frowned. He had not expected that the people from Mapleton would want to take revenge on Jared, who had destroyed the mind-controlling parasite.

"Revenge? That's far from our minds. Anyway, Fabian deserved to die. We were requested to do this, and we should keep our promise..."

Weston thought that Theodore was referring to the death of the Poison King's godson, Fabian.

Both misunderstood what the other party meant.

However, Theodore did not care. Instead, he frowned and asked, "At someone's request? Is it perhaps the Cooper family?"

In Jadeborough, only the Coopers were at loggerheads with Jared.

"That's none of your concern. Jared does not belong to the Department of Justice. Furthermore, he's no ordinary man but a mage. Even if we kill him, it's not against the rules..."

Although Weston did not say it, Theodore was certain that it was the Coopers.

Chapter 614 Flee Upon Defeat

It was as he said. Sean was the one who sent those people from Mapleton. He made them a deal they simply couldn't refuse, and that was why they agreed to help him kill Jared.

"Well, if you're here for Mr. Chance, then you definitely can't leave. He'll be here soon," said Theodore.

He might have divulged the information, but he had no intention of betraying Jared. He simply knew that the men were no match against Jared.

It was as Theodore had suspected. As soon as he finished speaking, Weston paused for a moment. "Are you sure he's coming over?"

"Of course, I am. I have called him," replied Theodore while nodding.

Weston turned to Theodore and sneered. "If that's the case, then we'll wait for him here. Are you counting on Jared to come to take us down? Well, then we'll just have to show you the truth once he shows up. I'll make you see how stupid your assumptions are. Jared is undeniably powerful, but he is no match against the five of us."

Weston wasn't afraid of Jared at all. The latter might have what it took to kill Fabian, and he might have what it took to destroy the mind-controlling parasite, but all that was nothing to Weston.

Individually, the five of them weren't much of a threat, but together, they were a force to be reckoned with. Decades of training had made it so that all five of them worked in perfect unison. It was as though they shared a mind.

Weston was brimming with confidence at the time, and the look on his face discouraged Theodore. Suddenly, the latter didn't know if he made the right choice when he called Jared over. What if Jared actually failed to crush the five men in front of him? Oh no, I'll end up being an accomplice to that murder.

Theodore was panicking and wondering if he should have made the call when Jared showed up.

"General Jackson," greeted Jared as he walked into the place.

When Theodore saw Jared there, he hurried over to warn him. "Mr. Chance, be wary of those five men from Mapleton. They are infuriatingly difficult to deal with. If you sense anything off at all, please abandon us and leave right away. They don't have the guts to kill us, but they will not hesitate to murder you. My guess is that the Cooper family had paid them handsomely."

Theodore was quick to remind Jared that he should flee in the event that he was losing. Please don't die here!

Jared looked at the men from Mapleton then smiled at Theodore. "It'll be fine. I'll be careful, but may I confirm something? If they try to kill me and I end up killing them instead, will that cause you any trouble?"

"No, that won't trouble me at all. My men will be recording the entire fight. If those men try to kill you, then murdering them will be justified because it is just a form of self-defense. I'll just play the recording to the people in Mapleton when they come knocking on my door. The only problem is that I won't be able to help you in the battle..."

Theodore understood that he was not in a socially right position to butt in if it turned into a battle to the death. His limited combat prowess also made it so that his involvement wouldn't help.

"I can handle them on my own," replied Jared confidently. He hadn't battled after reaching his most recent level, so he was eager to learn just how powerful his body had become.

"General Jackson, you truly work fast. All it takes is a few hours for you to get these men over," complimented Jared in an impressed tone.

"A few hours?" repeated Theodore, who was surprised to hear that. "Mr. Chance, it has been three days. I tapped into all of my resources to locate these men. If I failed to find them by tonight, you would've left tomorrow, and I won't know what to do!"

"Oh..."

Jared rendered himself speechless. He didn't pay attention to the passing of time when he was upgrading his physical attributes. He saw a dark sky upon opening his eyes and assumed that it had only been a few hours. Who would've thought that it had been three days and he had been there the entire time?

Chapter 615 Infuriatingly Arrogant

"Mr. Chance, are you alright?" asked Theodore in a concerned tone when he saw how confused Jared seemed.

"Huh? Oh, it's nothing. I must've slept too much," replied Jared while grinning. He turned his attention to Weston and the others after that, then walked over.

Weston's eyes shone with surprise when he saw Jared because he didn't expect the guy to be that young. He looks like he is in his twenties... Wow, I can't believe he's already that powerful.

"You're Jared Chance?" asked Weston while scanning Jared endlessly.

"Yes, I am. I am also the one who killed your mind-controlling parasite," replied Jared while nodding without hesitating.

Weston's gaze turned evil. He knew that Jared only shared all that information to step on his toe. After all, everyone knew that Weston spent decades caring for that mind-controlling parasite.

"Punk, I'll admit that you are strong. It truly is amazing that you are able to reach that level despite being so young, but you are too arrogant. If you had been patient and trained for another decade or so, I might not be a match against you," said Weston while glaring.

"There's no need to train for another decade. I can beat you guys up right now. Surrender now, and you might just survive this," replied Jared calmly.

"Hahaha, you truly are arrogant, punk. Well, then allow me to teach you a lesson."

As he spoke, he threw a punch over at Jared. Black fumes engulfed his fist, and it remained there despite the strong wind howling at them.

Jared saw that punch coming, but he never budged. He didn't even go on his defensive stance, and it seemed he planned to let that punch land directly.

Theodore panicked a little when he saw Jared standing there without lifting a muscle. The former quickly shouted, "Be careful, Mr. Chance. The fumes on their fists are poisonous."

The fume surrounding Weston's fist was extremely poisonous. Even if that punch failed to kill Jared, the poison would still seep into Jared's system via the pore on his skin. His skin would rot instantly, and he would lose all combat prowess.

Despite those screams, Jared stood there. It was as though he couldn't hear what Theodore said and that troubled Weston.

The issue at hand was that Weston had no idea what Jared was planning, so he couldn't be sure there was a trap somewhere.

Hence, Weston slowed down and examined Jared carefully to prevent himself from falling into Jared's scheme.

"I'm just standing here, and you're already scared. Pfft, what a coward," insulted Jared before his lips curved into a taunting grin.

"I will crush you!"

Weston was infuriated, and he sped up once more. His strength reached its epitome as well, and he was going to kill Jared with a single punch.

Jared deliberately stepped on Weston's toe to get him to throw the heaviest and most fatal punch over. The former wanted to see just how much his body could endure.

"Mr. Chance..."

Theodore quickly unsheathed his sword when he saw how Jared was still standing there. He wanted to rush over and take the punch for Jared.

"Stay there, and don't move," instructed Jared while glaring at Theodore.

At that point, Theodore honestly didn't know what Jared was planning. Does he actually think he can withstand a punch like that?

"You arrogant punk!"

Weston was utterly infuriated, and the fumes in his fist were getting thicker and thicker. It eventually got to the point where the fumes could engulf Jared in his entirety.

Boom!

A loud noise came. Jared's figure flew backward after being hit by an incredible force. He flew for over ten meters and smashed into a wall, breaking it in the process.

The falling debris buried Jared alive, and everyone was surprised to see that.

Even Weston was taken aback. He stared as the wall crumbled in the distance. He assumed that Jared had a trick up his sleeves, and that was why he never moved a muscle. Surprisingly, the guy actually stood there and let the punch land on himself! Weston never even sensed a smidge of resistance from Jared.

Chapter 616 Kill Him

Theodore was dumbstruck. He knew how powerful Jared was and was aware of how the guy was an energy cultivator. Even if Weston's punch proved to be too much, it still shouldn't send Jared flying that far back. Does this mean Jared never fought back at all? What was he doing? Did he intend to commit suicide?

The more Theodore thought about it, the more confused he got.

"Hahaha, General Jackson, this is the guy you called for help? That is nothing but an idiot. Seriously, how did he manage to kill Fabian and my mind-controlling parasite? I can't believe the Coopers actually paid me a fortune to deal with a weakling like him. D*mn, it's really too easy to make that money."

Weston laughed boisterously.

He didn't expect his mission to go that smoothly. It was almost as easy as lifting a finger. I was going to join forces with the others, but Jared was so weak that he couldn't even survive a single punch from me.

Theodore was fuming a little after hearing what Weston said. Unfortunately, he couldn't refute those words. The best Theodore could do was to point out, "Mr. Chance saved Mr. Cadden's life once, so the latter won't let the former's death go unavenged. Now that you have killed Mr. Chance, you should all leave with me. That way, the rest of Mapleton won't be dragged into this mess."

"Puh-lease, General Jackson. Take a look at the current situation. You guys are no match against us, so just move aside already. Don't force me to attack," replied Weston nonchalantly.

"In that case, allow me to apologize for doing exactly that!"

After saying all that, Theodore flushed his aura and forged ahead with the other members of the Department of Justice. They had Weston and his friends surrounded right away.

"General Jackson, are you really going to make me do this?" challenged Weston.

He narrowed his eyes, and the cruelty shining in them was horrifying.

"Quit yapping. I have been ordered to not let you leave, despite knowing how great your magecraft is. This is Jadeborough, and it is my turf!"

After Theodore made that announcement, countless members of the Department of Justice revealed themselves. They had been hiding behind the walls, on the roof and etc. Unlike the others, these members all had a sniper with them and had aimed their guns at Weston and the others. Red lasers could be seen on all five of their targets' heads.

These men were Theodore's secret weapons. He couldn't put all his hopes on Jared and had to have a plan B. It wasn't legal to use firearms in Jadeborough, and Weston and the others, despite their crimes, didn't deserve death. Hence, Theodore had been holding out until that very moment. If the snipers were to fire, Weston and the others likely wouldn't survive, and that would step on Mapleton's toe. The disaster that followed would be unimaginable.

Unfortunately, Jared's survival had yet to be determined, and Weston was adamant about leaving. Thus, the situation forced Theodore to have the snipers reveal themselves.

As suspected, the emergence of the snipers made Weston and the others more cautious. There was even a hint of panic in their eyes. Despite their strengths and magecraft, they weren't at the level where they could ignore guns and bullets. They were still flesh and bone, so the bullet could tear right through them.

"Theodore Jackson, are you planning on killing us?"

Weston frowned deeply and glared at Theodore.

He already has his snipers in position, so it's obvious he wants us all dead.

"Just follow me and don't try anything funny. That way, I can guarantee your safety. If you oppose, we'll have to kill everyone," replied Theodore evilly.

Killing everyone... those words triggered Weston's anger immediately.

"Oh, kill everyone? Is that it? Well, then don't blame me for this!"

After saying that, Weston's fingers danced as he chanted a spell. "Saintifico Demonica!"

Everyone heard a shushing sound after Weston chanted the spell. Dark fumes showed up out of nowhere to engulf Weston and the others.

Theodore was taken aback. He frowned deeply while listening to that weird noise.

Chapter 617 You Are Alive

"Ah!" Out of nowhere, a member of the Department of Justice screamed. All Theodore saw were countless snakes, rats, and other pests making their way over at an incredible pace. There were so many of them that the mere sight of it could get anyone's scalp to feel tingly.

Those pests somehow corrode everything in their path, and even the walls instantly collapsed after they moved past them.

"Shoot! Shoot now."

Given the situation, Theodore had no choice but to issue the kill order.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

The guns went off, but the bullets never reached Weston and the others. Thick, black fumes had already concealed everything, so the snipers couldn't see their targets anymore. Hence, everyone fired their guns at random directions in hope of getting lucky.

Theodore saw how the pests were getting out of hand, so he gripped his weapon and flushed out his aura. His clothes danced in reaction to that energy. As someone in the Grandmaster rank, Theodore could exude his martial energy at will.

"Hah!"

A loud roar later, Theodore waved his sword and instantly summoned a gust of strong wind. It sent the pest flying backward, but they gathered up and crawled right back.

To make matters worse, more and more pests were gathering. Many members of the Department of Justice had insects crawling all over them. There were simply too many pests, and they were too small to attack accurately. As a result, the members couldn't destroy the pests crawling all over them.

The silver lining was that those pests weren't poisonous. If that wasn't the case, many would've already died.

"General Jackson, just move aside and let us leave. Why make your subordinates suffer through all this?"

Just then, Weston's voice echoed out of the black fumes.

Theodore looked furious. He had swung his weapon countless times, but the gust of wind he summoned could only chase the pests away temporarily. It didn't take long before the pests crawled back over, and Theodore was exhausted.

He saw how his subordinates were rolling on the ground and in agony. All that put him in a troubling position.

"All pests hate fire. General Jackson, do you really not know something so simple?"

Theodore was feeling trapped when a voice came to him from behind.

He was momentarily stunned. He turned around quickly after that. That was how he ended up witnessing Jared getting out of the rubble.

"Mr. Chance! Y-You're alive?"

Theodore was utterly dumbstruck.

"Huh? You didn't think I'd die just like that, did you?" teased Jared while grinning.

"Oh, n-no. I knew you'd come out alive."

Theodore was ever so excited. I should've known. Jared is an energy cultivator, so he won't die that easily.

Weston stared at Jared, who remained unscathed. The former was so shocked that his mind short-circuited for a moment there. A look of surprise filled his eyes.

Even if he had survived, my punch should've at least caused some broken bones and bruises. The poisonous fumes that were delivered with that punch should also have taken

effect. Hence, he should be poisoned. How is he standing there right now? It's as though he isn't hurt at all!

"H-How is that even possible? How are you completely unscathed?" asked Weston.

He was utterly confused about the situation.

"Your puny punch can't hurt me," replied Jared while smiling evilly.

His taunting grin was driving Weston insane with rage.

"Start a fire," ordered Theodore at that crucial moment.

The members of the Department of Justice started looking for flammable items right away. As the fire they built burned brighter, the pests became less. Many pests were wounded or dead, and the rest were backing away.

Things were turning around. The pests were dealt with, and Jared was safe and sound. That reignited Theodore's fighting spirit and he glared at Weston. "Save yourself from some pain and come out with your hands behind your back! If you don't, I'll attack."

Theodore held his sword. His entire body trembled a little before his aura flared up again. He had depleted his martial energy earlier, but that had since been replenished.

Chapter 618 A Humanoid Monster

"Hahaha, do you boys really think that is all I am capable of?"

After laughing in the most maniac way, Weston turned to his comrades and said, "Let's show them what we're really capable of."

All five of them sat down in a strategic position, with Weston in their middle. Black fumes seeped out of all of them, and it seemed they were murmuring the same spell under their breath.

Soon, the retreated pests attacked once more. Their numbers increased exponentially, but they were no longer attacking the others. Instead, those pests gathered together to form a humanoid monster that was a few meters tall.

The monster exuded black fumes. Obviously, that meant that many of those pests carried venomous parasites. Theodore turned pale when he saw the enormous monster. Many members of the Department of Justice were scared mindless as well. They backed away quickly.

"Shoot!"

Theodore had commanded the snipers to fire their weapons at the humanoid monster.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Dozens of bullets tore through the monster, leaving huge holes in it. However, the monster closed up those holes instantaneously. After all, it was made of countless pests, so the other pests could easily replace the ones that the bullets had sent flying.

Theodore looked worse and worse upon seeing how the gun had virtually zero impact on the monster.

More and more men were drowning in fear, and many had instinctively backed away. Theodore, however, stood his ground. He knew he had to stay strong and set an example because failure would be inevitable if he didn't.

"Kill it!"

Theodore steeled himself up and jumped to the sky with his weapon right beside him. He swung his sword and sliced the monster mercilessly.

The monster retaliated by throwing a punch at him. Its punch, which was engulfed in black fumes, crashed into Theodore's body. Theodore was sent flying backward. It looked as though he were a kite with a broken string.

Worse still, black fumes were rotting Theodore's body. His skin suddenly turned black. It was clear the man was poisoned.

"General..."

Members of the Department of Justice called out nervously when they saw Theodore wounded and poisoned. One of them wanted to rush over to help Theodore.

"Do not touch him!" roared Jared to stop everyone from getting too close. If they come in contact with Theodore, they will be poisoned as well.

Everyone was stunned. They watched as Jared jumped to the sky and caught Theodore to stop the guy from crashing onto the ground.

Jared saw how Theodore's eyes were shut tight and how his expression revealed the agony he was experiencing. The punch itself wasn't fatal, but the poisonous fumes were torturing Theodore.

Jared reached out and gently put his hand on Theodore's forehead. The black fumes started making their way into Jared's body right away. Despite the toxicity, that black fume was an excellent resource for cultivation, and Jared wasn't going to let that go to waste.

It didn't take long before Theodore eased up and slowly opened his eyes.

"Thank you, Mr. Chance."

Theodore's eyes shone with appreciation when he looked at Jared.

"It's nothing, General Jackson. I'll go deal with that monster right now," said Jared before he ran to the beast.

Naturally, the monster reacted by throwing a punch over at Jared. Its fist was almost the size of Jared's entire figure, but he wasn't bothered by it at all. He simply raised his hand slowly and halted the punch easily.

Weston and the others were shocked to see that. They sped up their chants. The humanoid monster reacted by opening its mouth and spewing black fumes at Jared.

He couldn't wait until the fumes reached him, though. He opened his mouth and absorbed them right into his body. That was when the enormous monster started struggling a little. Jared was like a black hole and was absorbing every bit of the monster's black fume into his own body.

Chapter 619 Apprehended

Soon, Jared consumed every bit of the black fume that engulfed the monster. It fell apart right after and became countless separate pests once more. They filled the entire place.

Jared snapped his finger. A ball of green flames appeared out of nowhere, and the pests dispersed as soon as they saw the flames.

That was the fire Jared used to make his medicine, so it was more than enough to burn all those pests.

He waved his palm and prompted the green flames to rain down from the sky. It destroyed every pest there was.

"H-How...?"

Weston and his comrades turned pale after witnessing the demise of all those pests. They couldn't believe it. Jared was immune to all poisonous creatures, and that surprised them to their core. It also inspired fear within them.

The people from Mapleton specialized in using poisonous creatures, but it had no effect on Jared whatsoever. Heck, the guy consumed the poisonous fumes as though it were nothing! That meant that their greatest strengths were useless against Jared.

"Is that all you can do?" challenged Jared while sneering. "Go all out and throw everything you've got at me!"

Weston stood up slowly. Sweat was still pouring out of his forehead because he had just used an extremely powerful magecraft—it depleted his internal energy.

"We have no quarrels, Jared, and you forced our hands earlier. Will you let us go if we were to apologize now?"

Weston decided to compromise. His arrogance faded after seeing how powerful Jared truly was.

"You want to leave?" said Jared. He smiled and asked, "But didn't you already accept the Cooper family's payment? Aren't you supposed to kill me? Why are you leaving so soon?"

"I..."

Weston was at a loss for words.

It was true they had no quarrels with Jared despite the fact that Jared had killed the Poison King's godson, Fabian. Nevertheless, all that politics simply had nothing to do with Weston and his gang.

Unfortunately, they were greedy. They wanted the Cooper family's money, so they came to kill Jared. That was why Weston was merciless when throwing that punch at Jared earlier.

The only problem was that Jared was too powerful. A punch from Weston failed to damage Jared. Even their combined magecraft, which they were extremely proud of, had no effect as well.

"I will spare your lives if you follow General Jackson and accept all the punishment the court deems fit," said Jared calmly. As he spoke, he stared at them as though he were a god while they were just mere mortals.

Weston frowned. He gritted his teeth before nodding hesitantly. "Okay, we'll accept those terms. We'll go with General Jackson and accept our punishment. We'll also apologize to Mr. Cadden. All we ask is that you keep your words and stop attacking us."

The incredible discrepancies between their strength had left Weston with no other options. Weston knew they would all die if they didn't agree to Jared's terms.

"I won't bother attacking Mapleton so long as you guys stop coming after me."

Jared had lost all interest in Mapleton. After meeting the true masters of spiritual energy cultivation, his only interest was in the power struggle in Jadeborough.

He wanted to know who his birth parents were and who Rayleigh was. And how is that Rayleigh guy connected to me?

All those questions and curiosity had weighed Jared down.

Weston tilted his head down and walked to Theodore. The latter waved his hands. A few members of the Department of Justice headed over and cuffed all the criminals.

"Take them away. Mr. Cadden will deal with them tomorrow."

Theodore waved his hand to get his subordinates to take Weston and the others away.

"Thank you, Mr. Chance. We couldn't have apprehended them without your help," said Theodore while staring appreciatively at Jared.

"It's not a big deal," replied Jared. He didn't think much of it because it was just a simple favor.

"I didn't realize you are that powerful, Mr. Chance. You endured that punch head-on and remained unscathed," praised Theodore. The mere thought of how Jared was hit still terrified Theodore, but it also made him jealous. I wonder if I'll ever be able to do that.

Chapter 620 Collateral Descendant

Jared grinned without saying anything. He didn't realize that his physical attributes had risen to that state, either. I guess the body-quenching pill Rayleigh gave me is a hundred times better than my revitalizing pills.

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"Now that the men have been apprehended, will you be heading back to Horington, Mr. Chance? I can have someone drop you off," offered Theodore.

"Thank you, General Jackson, but there's no need for that. I plan on staying for a while. I'll hail a cab when I decide to go home."

Bull and Rayleigh showing up like that had changed Jared's mind. He wanted to stay in Jadeborough for a little longer. Who knows? Maybe I'll get to meet other energy cultivators. My main concern is still to learn more about my birth, though.

"Then, please be careful, Mr. Chance. The Coopers won't let you off the hook that easily. If you need any help, please feel free to call me," reminded Theodore.

"Thank you for your offer," replied Jared while grinning.

After leaving the place, Jared returned to his hotel and rested on his bed. He recalled his encounter with Bull and Rayleigh. Yeah, they are definitely the strongest men I have ever met in my entire life.

On the other side, Sean Cooper of the Cooper family was burning with rage after receiving the butler's reports.

"Trash! Utter useless pieces of trash. Those idiots from Mapleton are freaking useless. I can't believe they lost even though it was five against one!"

Sean was so angry that he punched the desk and pulverized it.

"Mr. Sean, please listen to me. I don't think they had failed to kill Jared. It's just that Jared had help. My sources told me that Theodore Jackson had sent his men over and surrounded Weston and the others. They even had snipers with them. If that weren't the case, Jared couldn't have won the battle," said the butler.

Sean looked ever worse after hearing that. "That stupid Jared. I can't believe there are so many people out there protecting him. I guess I will have to wait until my brother is done with his solitary training. Then, we will be able to avenge Fabian."

In Jadeborough alone, Jared had the Department of Justice, the Baileys, and Jermaine of Senary Porta protecting him. All that made Sean cautious about attacking Jared recklessly. I guess I will have to wait until Xander gets out of training to discuss the matter.

"There's one other thing, Mr. Sean. The family's elder will be having a birthday party soon. We received our invitations. What gift should we prepare?" asked the butler.

Sean frowned right away and sighed a little.

They were collateral descendants of the Cooper family, so they weren't valued. They also had limited contact with the lineal descendants of the family, but the elder would throw a birthday party every year. The collateral descendants always had to present valuable gifts, so the mere mention of the party gave Sean a headache.

Unfortunately, there was nothing anyone could do about it. That was just how the politics worked. The upside was that Sean's brother had been receiving abundant training from them over the past ten years.

In a way, they were lucky. At least they could send one of their members over to learn everything from the direct line. Many collateral descendants of the family couldn't do that despite the annual gifts they had to present.

"Did my brother say anything? How are his studies going?" asked Sean.

"He called and said that he is now allowed to enter the main hall. He also asked us to send more gifts over so that the others would pay more attention to him...", replied the butler.

"Wait, he's in?" said Sean while smiling. "That is amazing news. That means he is a cultivator, and once his training is complete... Oh, the power we'll wield shall be incredible. The Baileys, the Department of Justice will mean nothing at all!"

Sean was so excited that his face was burning red slightly. His eyes shone with happiness, but his gaze also shone with a hint of envy.

d not let it go to waste.