

A Man Like None Other Chapter 675

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Chapter 675 Sleep

After Jared heard his offer, he snorted, "How are you so certain that I would lose?"

"Well, I'm sure you would not emerge as the winner. Xander is a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Although he is new to it, and his powers aren't as stable, he could still beat you easily. I think you are no more than a Fifth Level Grandmaster, so how could you defeat Xander? It's impressive for you to be part of the martial arts world at such a young age. Nonetheless, you still have a lot to learn. Do consider what I have offered because you still have a bright future ahead of you," Axton tried to persuade Jared, hoping the latter would agree.

After all, the Medicine God Sect did not often come across such a high-tier pill.

More importantly, he was interested in knowing the person who created the pill and how Jared was related to the person such that he could receive such a precious pill.

"I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. I rather die in the arena than receive help from someone else. If there is nothing else for us to discuss, please leave."

Although Jared did not know how strong he would be in his Transcendence Phase and the type of martial artists he could defeat, he knew he was more than a Fifth Level Grandmaster. That was proven when he easily defeated two martial artists of a lower level than a Fifth Level Grandmaster.

Hearing that, Axton glanced at Jared before he sighed, "You should reconsider what I said. Even if you are already in the arena, you can still seek my help. I will be watching the fight. I'm only hoping for a miracle as it would be a loss to lose a fighter like you."

With that, Axton turned to leave. Then, Donald gave Jared a side-eye and scoffed, "How arrogant! You'll probably beg for our help tomorrow."

After both men left, Jared returned to his room and did not take Axton's words to heart. Even if he could not defeat Xander, he did not think he would ask Axton to save him. After all, Raleigh would be watching the match and could help him instead.

The next morning, Horington saw its most glorious day as a small city. Countless luxury cars and even helicopters had gathered in the area.

People from the martial arts world everywhere came to watch the deathmatch between Jared and Xander. From the modes of transport they arrived in, one could tell that there were many wealthy individuals in the martial arts world. It was no surprise as one would need substantial financial support to improve their skills and rise through the ranks.

There was already an arena in a stadium in Horington. Outside the stadium, Phoenix and Tommy had their men surrounded it. Other than people from the martial arts world, no one else could enter.

After all, it was a fight between two highly skilled martial artists. Even if one were a hundred meters away, the aftermath could kill a commoner. Only people that had the Grandmaster rank could enter.

At the same time, Luke led his men from Summerbank over to help Phoenix maintain the order. Spencer from Herb Palace also came. It was only natural that those who interacted with Jared had to watch such an important event.

At that moment, Theodore, Walter, and the Baileys were waiting outside Jared's mansion in Dragon Bay. They did not dare disturb Jared, who was still asleep.

"As expected, Mr. Chance must be full of confidence. Look at how he is still sleeping despite having such an important day ahead," Samuel could not help but comment in amazement.

Tristan whispered, "Grandpa, Xander is a Martial Arts Grandmaster. However, Mr. Chance--"

Although he knew Jared was an energy cultivator, Xander was much stronger. Besides, what worried Tristan the most was Jared's lack of time to train.

"Don't worry. I have faith in Mr. Chance," Samuel calmly responded.

Chapter 676 Familiarize

However, not everyone was as composed as Samuel. In particular, Walter and William looked anxious. They knew how formidable Jared was but did not know his true identity.

"Dad, what are all of you doing here?" Josephine probed.

She and Lizbeth had rushed over only to see the group of them waiting outside the mansion.

"Jared is still sleeping, and we are afraid to disturb him," William explained.

"What? How could he still be sleeping so peacefully when he has a big fight in a few hours!"

Josephine's loud voice woke Jared up from his slumber.

"Ms. Sullivan-" Walter quickly interrupted Josephine. "Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Chance knows he has an important event ahead. That is precisely why we should let him sleep in and recharge."

Since it made sense to Josephine, she quietly backed away.

Despite so, Jared walked out of the mansion with a yawn minutes later. He froze when he saw all of them gathered outside waiting for him. Seeing so many of them there, he wondered how he managed to sleep through, unaware of their presence.

"What are all you doing here so early in the morning? Isn't the match in the afternoon?" Jared was curious.

"Mr. Chance, there are already many people gathered in the stadium. It might be good if you familiarize yourself with the arena first."

Samuel was first to speak up.

"I see. Let me wash up then. All of you can take a seat in the meantime."

After he washed up, everyone headed to the stadium with him.

When Jared arrived, he was shocked to see how packed the stadium was. His eyes widened at the sight as he did not expect so many martial artists to gather here to watch the battle between him and Xander. Some even traveled a long distance to witness the fight.

There was a lounge in the stadium where Xander was lying on a couch with his eyes closed. Sean and the Coopers also gathered there.

"Xander, you should not let him off too easily. Please teach Jared a lesson in the arena. Remember Franco and Gavin's deaths?" Sean croaked while forcing a few tears to flow from the corner of his eyes.

"Are you telling me what to do?" Xander replied in a hostile tone with his eye still closed.

Immediately, his voice sent a chill down Sean's spine, and the latter fervently shook his head. "Xander, I didn't mean that..."

Since Xander became a Martial Arts Grandmaster, Sean feared him even more than before.

"Does Sylvester have any more news? Does the elder like the gift we sent this time?" Xander questioned.

"Sylvester mentioned that he was happy. Now that Sylvester has entered the ancestral hall, our family will finally have an immortal. I'm going to ask Sylvester to teach me how to be one. Then, we could marry tons of wives and have lots of sons. I guess no one in Jadeborough would dare challenge us anymore."

Sean beamed with joy as he spoke.

Hearing what Sean said, Xander's eyes flew open. He glared at Sean and spat, "Childish!"

At once, Sean trembled and said nothing more.

Seconds later, Jared and his supporters entered the lounge. He wanted to rest since it was not yet time for their match.

Seeing Jared appear before him, Sean turned livid and shot death glares in his direction.

Meanwhile, Xander calmly scanned the group that entered. When he spotted Samuel and Theodore behind Jared, he chuckled.

"I can't believe the head of the Baileys and the General of Jadeborough's Department of Justice is now someone else's lackey. Isn't your master a little too young?"

Xander's jab at Samuel and Theodore did trigger them, and all they wanted to do was beat Xander into a pulp.

Despite so, they restrain themselves. After all, Xander was a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Even if they combined their powers and fought Xander together, they would not pose any threat to him. They might have the quantity, but one should not underestimate Xander's martial prowess.

Chapter 677 Once And For All

Samuel and Theodore's silence only made Xander feel more gleeful. At the same time, Sean conceitedly stated, "You should all kneel before Xander and beg us while you have the chance. Perhaps, Xander will forgive you for your ignorance. In a while, when Jared loses in the fight, we shall see who else you can rely on."

In response, Samuel and Theodore's faces darkened, and they could only glare at Samuel. Although anger pulsed through their veins, they remained quiet.

They could only pray that Jared could beat Xander. As long as Jared won, the Coopers would no longer pose a threat to them. Besides, it would drag the Coopers' reputation through the mud, and they would not hold as much power as they did before.

"If the Coopers love arguing this much, I don't see any point in the match later. I don't like to fight with people who have no substance."

Scrutinizing the Coopers, Jared defended Samuel and Theodore.

"Jared, what the hell?"

Sean raged and was about to lunge for Jared. Since Xander was there, he was not afraid of the repercussions.

"Sean," Xander warned.

Instantly, Sean stopped in his tracks.

"Hey, there is only an hour to noon, and it is exactly how long you have to live. If there is anything you want to say, you better spit it out before we step into the arena. Otherwise, you will never have to chance to speak anymore."

Xander glanced at Jared. Once he finished speaking, he casually leaned back on his chair and closed his eyes to rest.

Ignoring his words, Jared took a seat elsewhere and quietly waited for the time to pass.

Meanwhile, more people streamed into the stadium. Everyone there was from the martial arts world and was at least a Grandmaster. Skilled fighters like Axton from the Medicine God Sect and even Rayleigh were sitting among the crowd.

Regardless, most people came because of how high-profile the battle became. First, it was rare for such matches to occur in the martial arts world. Secondly, Xander was a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Therefore, it attracted more attention to this showdown as people wanted to witness the power of a Martial Arts Grandmaster. After all, not many people could achieve that rank, and it was not every day you would see a Martial Arts Grandmaster show his skills.

"I heard Jared is only in his twenties. He is so young! Why would he take on Xander's challenge?" Some people in the crowd asked.

"He doesn't know his limits. I think this battle might only last a minute. Maybe Jared wouldn't even be able to hold out for a minute." As many people did not know Jared, they were scornful of his decision to accept the challenge.

"How is that possible? I heard Jared is strong, and he must be better than a Fifth Level Grandmaster. He must be a prodigy to achieve a Senior Grandmaster level at that age."

"What is the point of being gifted? He would still end up dead in the arena."

Many people in the crowd pitied Jared. Although they did not know him personally, they knew it was rare to have a person as gifted as him in the martial arts world. Therefore, it seemed like a waste for him to die that young.

Soon, the sun rose higher in the sky, and the heat caused everyone to perspire. Despite so, no one left as the match was about to start.

In the first row closest to the arena, Axton and Donald quietly sat there, waiting for the fight to start.

"Mr. Knox, do you think Jared could defeat Xander? If he can't withstand the first attack from Xander and dies, we will lose the pill forever since we don't even know where he keeps it," Donald softly whispered to Axton.

"No worries, Jared would not lose that quickly. However, I know he won't have a chance of winning. Still, I will step in to help him at the last minute because we can't have him dead," Axton replied.

"Mr. Knox, if so, we will offend the Coopers. In addition, if Jared refuses to hand over the pill, we will be at a disadvantage. We should have taken it last night. After all, no one saw it, and we could own it once and for all," Donald ruthlessly stated.

To his dismay, Axton only shot him a stern look and said nothing.

Chapter 678 Village Of Villains

Little did Axton and Donald know that Rayleigh and Melanie had overheard their conversation from a few seats away. Although the two spoke softly, Rayleigh caught every word they said.

Melaine frowned and asked, "Mr. Deragon, they must be looking for your detoxification pill. Who are they?"

"They are from the Medicine God Sect. I didn't expect people from there to be interested in Jared and Xander's match," Rayleigh muttered indifferently.

"Medicine God Sect?" Melanie was surprised to hear that. "I heard those people were arrogant and regarded themselves as superior beings. If they pride themselves as honorable people, why would they have such a greedy thought?"

"Hmph!" Rayleigh snorted, "When it comes to such benefits, nothing else would matter. Who cares whether they are upright or not? Have you forgotten who picked you up and handed you over to me?"

Melaine's expression changed almost instantly. Sounding hurt, she mumbled, "You told me that Brody from the Village of Villains passed me to you."

Rayleigh nodded. "There are rumors that people from the Village of Villains are wicked. However, when Brody saw you on the streets, he had the heart to take you in. Do you think he is a bad guy then?"

In response, Melanie shook her head. Recalling her past conversation with Rayleigh, she turned back to him and muttered, "Mr. Deragon, you mentioned you would take me to the Village of Villains if we had the time. I like to meet my benefactor in person."

"Yes. Let's speak about it after July 15. Who knows, I might need the help of those from the Village of Villains. The Deragons will not let Jared off so easily, and I don't think Mr. Draco and me are enough to protect him."

Rayleigh seemed sullen as he spoke of the situation.

"Mr. Deragon, who the hell is Jared? Why do you and Old Mr. Deragon have to go to such lengths to protect him?" Melanie curiously probed.

"It's for your own good to know as little as possible. Also, don't use your Seduction Technique carelessly. You have a natural feminine charm. If someone evil catches wind of it, it will mean trouble for you," Rayleigh reminded her.

"I understand." Melanie nodded her head in acknowledgment.

While they conversed, the crowd suddenly got all worked up.

"Xander has come out!" Someone beside them shouted.

Everyone else turned their attention to the arena and noticed Xander taking the lead to enter the arena first. He hopped up and landed lightly on his feet. Sean and the Coopers followed behind him.

"As expected, Xander has achieved the rank of a Martial Arts Grandmaster."

Someone stated in admiration, "It seems like the Coopers' power will only increase. Look at how all their family members are Grandmasters. There is even someone who is a Senior Grandmaster."

"Jared is a nobody in comparison. How dare he provoke the Coopers? He must be courting his death."

On the other hand, some people pitied Jared. "Ah, he is going to lose his life at such a young age. How sad."

The crowd discussed among themselves but kept their eyes glued on the arena. They knew that Jared would appear soon, and they wanted to see who he was.

Immediately after Xander made his way to the arena, Jared and his men emerged from the lounge.

Following Jared's appearance, the entire stadium stood up. Everyone was craning their necks to catch a better glimpse of Jared, curious about who the daring man was.

"What? Is that young man standing at the front Jared? He looks like a fine chap."

"Isn't that Samuel from the Bailey family walking behind him? That is Theodore Jackson, the General of Jadeborough's Department of Justice too. How do they know Jared?"

"No wonder Jared dared to accept this challenge. I see that there are people who are backing him. But even with the Baileys and Jadeborough's Department of Justice support, Xander would not let him off. I bet his will to avenge his sons would seem more important."

The spectators were taken aback.

Chapter 679 A Single Strike

Jared slowly made his way to the arena while everyone in the stadium sat down and quietly waited for the match to begin.

"Jared, do you have any last words? Tell me before you step into the arena because I will not let you leave here alive," Xander taunted Jared.

As he spoke loudly, all the spectators could hear him. They all expected the fight to end only when one was dead.

"That is also something I would like to ask you. Do you have any last words then? Let me or any of your men know while in the arena because you will not get out of there alive."

Jared glanced at Xander, unfazed.

"Preposterous!"

Xander took one step forward, and the entire arena shook. Even the audience could feel the tremors. As a result, many people started shaking.

Boom!

Xander's step sounded like thunder and caused a white trace of dust to rise into the air. It formed a shape of a sharp sword and headed for Jared, who was standing ten meters away.

Xander used all his internal energy to deliver that one blow because he did not want to waste his time fighting with Jared. After all, he was a Martial Arts Grandmaster. As he wanted to prove his martial prowess, Xander had to kill Jared with one blow in front of the spectators from the martial arts world.

As the fight had started, the audience could not help but gasp. Many people there had not witnessed a Martial Arts Grandmaster fighting, and it was stunning to see it in person.

Bang!

The energy waves moved toward Jared, and suddenly, a loud explosion filled the air. Everyone's ears buzzed due to the sheer volume of the impact.

Instantly, smoke and dirt covered Jared's body, and the aftermath had spread across the arena. People sitting in the front row felt a strong gush of wind hitting them. Before they knew it, their chairs shattered into pieces.

Despite that, no one got hurt since only skillful martial artists had the guts to sit there in the first place. As such, they could handle the impact.

"It's over! Wow, I think this is the fastest match I've ever seen. Jared could not even deflect that," some spectators exclaimed in shock.

"I don't think a Senior Grandmaster could handle the attack from Xander earlier. Am I right?"

"It's way too strong. A Martial Arts Grandmaster's powers do live up to its name."

The rest of the audience had seen the mess in the aftermath of Xander's attack on Jared in the front row. Since Jared was in the arena, he would likely receive a more deadly blow. Therefore, no one thought he had the chance to survive.

Having similar sentiments, Josephine started to sob at the sight of the destruction. After recovering from the shock, she wanted to run onto the arena, but Lizbeth stopped her.

"Jared, you can't die!"

Josephine howled at the top of her lungs, attracting a lot of attention.

Samuel, Theodore, and others looked grim too. Their palms were sweating as they silently prayed that Jared could survive the blow given his identity.

"Hmm, how dare he pits himself against the Coopers? Doesn't he know where he stands?" Sean scoffed while eyeing Samuel and the rest in glee.

"M-Mr. Knox, isn't that too fast?" Donald stammered in shock, seeing Jared's figure disappear under the dust and smoke.

Axton frowned and shook his head in disappointment. "I didn't expect Xander to be that strong. It seems like I've overestimated Jared."

"Mr. Deragon, Jared-"

Meanwhile, Melanie's mouth hung open as she looked stupefied by what had happened. It was not what she expected, as Rayleigh did not even have the chance to strike.

Chapter 680 Delay

"Don't worry. Jared is fine. Even if he isn't as strong as Xander, he will not lose so quickly."

In contrast to the rest, Rayleigh seemed calm.

As the dust slowly settled, those with sharp eyes noticed a figure standing in the middle of the arena.

Soon, more and more people noticed that Jared was still standing in the arena. It turned out that Xander did not defeat him with that blow.

It seemed like only Jared's clothes were torn and tattered, and the bronze breastplate on his chest had a huge dent.

Seeing Jared alive, another wave of shock moved across the crowd.

Josephine was no exception. She stood out from the rest as she started to cry even more.

"H-How is that possible? Isn't Jared a Fifth Level Grandmaster?"

Axton was astounded by the sight of Jared standing in the arena unscathed. He was sure that he did not make the wrong judgment. How could a Senior Grandmaster like Jared escape such a forceful blow from a Martial Arts Grandmaster? It was intriguing how he could still stand safe and sound in the arena.

At that moment, only Jared knew that his internal organs had suffered the most. Although the bronze breastplate deflected some of the impacts of Xander's attack, he still suffered from some internal injuries.

He was frantically trying to use his Focus Technique to treat himself with spiritual energy. Instead of puking out the blood built up in his throat, Jared suppressed it to put up a strong front.

"Is that all you had? I would persuade you to kneel and admit your mistake now. Perhaps, I could spare your life."

Jared stood there, shooting lasers out from his eyes.

Although he looked battered, the crowd was in awe of him at that point.

How many people could survive an attack from a Martial Arts Grandmaster?

"Jared, don't be so full of yourself. I swear I'll kill you today."

When Xander realized that Jared emerged alive from the blow he delivered, he felt his heart race with anxiousness. Initially, he had the confidence that he could win from the start.

However, seeing how things unfolded, his confidence began to fade. Nonetheless, Xander knew he could not back out with the martial arts world watching him. Even though he was enraged, he did not dare to make another move on Jared.

The more Jared acted that way, the less sure Xander felt of himself. He grew more cautious as he assumed Jared had something up his sleeves and was purposely trying to agitate him.

Little did he know that Jared intended for that effect as he needed the time to recuperate.

Both men faced each other for a while, but no one made a move.

The tension in the stadium was palpable, and it only grew. No one dared to make a sound. Since it was a decisive match between two skilled fighters, everyone wanted to avoid agitating any of them.

Soon, Jared's internal injuries began to recover slowly under his Focus Technique. At the same time, he also managed to calm himself down.

"Mr. Deragon, why aren't any of them striking?"

Melanie turned to Rayleigh, looking quite frustrated with the situation.

"Jared is injured, and he is trying to treat himself," Rayleigh grimly spoke.

From the start, he could tell Jared had suffered from internal injuries. However, the audience did not notice it as Jared hid it well.

As time passed, Xander started to notice what was going on.

"Da*n it. You fooled me. I see you were trying to waste time."

Xander had a moment of realization as coldness flashed across his eyes. Then, he leaped up, and like a hawk, he spread his arms and flew toward Jared.

In midair, he closed his arms, and the audience could see Xander activating the energy of heaven and earth combined with his own energy. Then, he created two giant-like hands, slamming them into Jared.

Jared frowned in response. Using his palm like a knife, he tried to cut through the air with all his might.

Smash!

A faint green light could be seen cutting across the giant hand-like energy.

Chapter 681 Not Everything Yet

As a blinding green arc streaked across the air, the giant pair of hands were slashed open right in the center. Recoiling from the attack, the hands that Xander had formed with his energy disintegrated into dust.

Instead of getting the better of Jared, Xander was beaten back instead, which came as a shock to everyone.

As Xander narrowed his gaze, the murderous intent in his eyes intensified. Without another word, he prepared to launch another attack.

Regardless of whether Jared was hurt, Xander didn't plan to allow him to catch his breath. Since he couldn't kill Jared in a single blow, he had to fight a battle of attrition instead. After all, as a Martial Arts Grandmaster, he was confident that Jared wouldn't be able to last too long.

Balling his fingers into fists, Xander threw a punch from tens of meters away. He had unleashed an invisible ball of energy in Jared's direction. Due to how fast the attack was, the crowd only saw a residual trail of smoke in the air, similar to those left by airplanes in the sky.

Bam!

Jared returned another energy slash that was significantly more powerful than the one earlier. Evidently, he had not used his full strength then.

With a loud rumble, the arc that Jared shot out slashed at Xander's energy attack. Even though Jared had intercepted most of the attack, part of it still rammed into Jared's chest.

At that moment, the massive impact pushed Jared back across the arena, leaving two deep grooves where his feet had slid backward. It wasn't until he reached the edge of the arena that he finally came to a stop.

In response, Jared furrowed his brows slightly. I cannot underestimate the power of a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Evidently, Xander's energy level is different from that of an ordinary martial artist.

Under normal circumstances, a martial artist's energy was generated from fighting and cultivation. Therefore, only a Grandmaster was able to emanate energy at will. However, due to the limits of a martial artist's cultivation, they could not sustain the energy for long, let alone crystallize its form.

Evidently, this energy was still significantly inferior to spiritual energy. That was the reason why Jared could easily defeat two powerful Grandmasters even though he was only an energy cultivator in the Transcendence Phase.

Nevertheless, Xander's energy was different from that of other martial artists. In fact, it resembled Jared's spiritual energy more.

No wonder Rayleigh reminded me not to underestimate Martial Arts Grandmasters, for they are indeed formidable foes. It appears that once a martial artist achieves that state, he will be elevated to a whole new level. I finally understand why so many of them dream of reaching the heights of a Martial Arts Grandmaster and train tirelessly for it. In spite of that, it isn't a walk in the park at all. Other than the endless amount of cultivation and talent needed, one has to also be lucky.

"Having defended against my attacks twice, you are considered the strongest Grandmaster I have met ever since I came out of seclusion. In fact, your body's constitution has exceeded my expectations. Therefore, I'm sure you must have taken some pills to supplement your training. If you're willing to give them to me, I'll consider sparing you."

Xander was filled with envy when he saw Jared's bronze-colored complexion.

"Sparing me? I'm the one who killed your son and nephew. Hence, are you really going to let me go?" Jared replied with a smirk.

"When one reaches my state of cultivation, familial ties are nothing but an impedance. Once I have achieved immortality, there's no need for me to worry about having descendants. If you're willing to give me the pills you use to train your body, I will definitely let you go."

Xander's words shocked everyone present. No one expected him to forgo seeking revenge for his son over some pills.

Chapter 682 Battle Of Attrition

Staring at Xander with disdain, Jared scoffed, "You might want to let me go, but I'm not going to allow you the same luxury. Today, you are going to die in this arena."

Just as he spoke, Jared formed the shape of a blade with his fingers and drew a meter-long green energy arc with it.

Swinging his hand forcefully, he sent it flying in Xander's direction.

As the arc shot across the arena, the trail it left on the ground ignited in flames. The sparks that flew looked just like exploding fireworks underneath the illumination of the sun.

Narrowing his gaze, Xander waved his hands frantically to form an energy wall in front of him. Visible to the naked eye, the wall was stronger than one made of bronze or steel.

The moment Jared's arc slammed into the wall, the crisp sound of clanging metal echoed through the air.

As the arc continued to cut through the wall, sparks flew everywhere. Furthermore, it sounded as if it was a high-speed grinder slicing its way through a wall made of bronze.

"Jared, it seems your strength is still lacking. Did you actually expect such a weak attack to break through my defenses?"

A contemptuous look was written all over Xander's face, for he knew that the arc would soon disappear. As it was also formed by energy, he was confident that it would not be able to sustain itself. Once the user's energy was used up, the arc would naturally disintegrate.

Consequently, Xander's plan was to exhaust Jared's energy. On the contrary, Jared was delighted to have learned that. Although Xander was stronger than Jared in absolute terms, he did not have the stamina to keep up with the latter.

Given the huge amount of spiritual energy stored in Jared's elixir field, he would definitely beat Xander in a battle of attrition.

As Jared's arc continued to grind against Xander's energy wall, its intensity did not waver with the passage of time. Instead, it gradually grew more powerful.

Meanwhile, Xander began to break out in cold sweat as he stared at Jared in disbelief. Moreover, the energy wall he conjured began to turn transparent, indicating that his reservoir of energy was weakening.

"Mr. Knox, why does Jared have so much energy in him? Even a Martial Arts Grandmaster like Xander is on the brink of faltering," Donald asked after watching the battle for some time.

Axton was equally baffled as to what Jared was trying to do.

"How can this be? Isn't Jared just a Fifth Level Grandmaster? How can he have so much energy within him? Can it be that he took an explosion pill before the battle?" Axton frowned curiously.

"Mr. Knox, wouldn't it be suicide for him to take the pill? Furthermore, its effects only last for ten minutes, and they have now fought for a much longer time than that," Donald disagreed with Axton's assessment.

Even though the explosion pill could enhance one's power in a short time, it came at a price. Taking it would damage one's internal organs, on top of the fact that the pills' effects wouldn't last for long.

"This is really strange. It appears that Jared has plenty of secrets we don't know of."

Squinting his eyes at Jared, Axton looked as if he was trying to decipher all of Jared's secrets.

Meanwhile, Melanie commented, "Mr. Deragon, it seems that Jared still has a chance to win. I guess you don't have to intervene this time."

Rayleigh nodded. "Jared's victory is secured. Thus, it's time for us to go."

With that, Rayleigh strode out of the arena with Melanie following closely behind him.

Back in the arena, Jared hadn't noticed that Rayleigh had left. Instead, he was using the Focus Technique to enhance his arc's explosiveness.

Chapter 683 Taste Of Death

At that moment, the ground below Xander had begun to crater. Despite how astounded he was at Jared's boundless energy, Xander continued to hold his ground with gritted teeth.

Crack! Crack!

Soon, hairline cracks emerged on the energy wall before growing increasingly large.

With a drastic change in expression, Xander threw himself back.

Crash!

Upon his retreat, the wall disintegrated into thin air. Subsequently, the green arc that Jared had launched slammed into the ground by Xander's feet.

On the arena, it left a trail of destruction so powerful that there was a one-meter-deep trench in the ground with rocks strewn in every direction.

By then, Xander had retreated to the edge of the arena where he dodged Jared's attack by a whisker.

When he saw how pathetic Xander looked, Jared narrowed his gaze. "If I were holding a real sword, you would already be dead."

Staring at Jared, Xander didn't rebut, for he knew that Jared was speaking the truth. If Jared had used a real sword instead of one shaped from energy, Xander wouldn't have been able to escape the attack.

"Jared, it's too early for you to gloat. After training in seclusion for many years, I have managed to use the Cooper family's techniques to achieve the level of a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Consequently, a Grandmaster like you won't be able to defeat me easily."

Just as Xander spoke, he released a terrifying aura from his body, stirring up howling gales in the arena.

Soon, Xander's hair began to stand while he waved at the air as if he was dancing like a madman. Every time he got hold of something, he would hurl it forward. In the blink of an eye, razor-like lights were being shot out from his hands.

From Jared's end, he realized the lights looked like bullets being fired at his vital organs.

Unfazed by the attacks, Jared didn't dodge and allowed them to hit his body.

After their earlier exchanges, he had gained a good understanding of Xander's strength and his own defensive capabilities. Only with that knowledge was Jared confident enough to absorb the attacks.

When the lights struck Jared's body, a soft sound was heard. Nevertheless, it didn't leave a single scratch on him.

Xander's expression turned grim. "Jared, are you wearing a chain mail? I have never seen anyone who trained their body to this level of hardness before."

Snorting, Jared took off the bronze breastplate he was wearing and threw it to the side.

"Do you think you can actually hurt me even if I'm not wearing anything?"

Jared's words utterly humiliated Xander.

At the sight of Jared taking off his breastplate, a solemn expression descended on Xander's face.

The fact that Jared dared to do so demonstrated his confidence.

Xander took a deep breath and stared coldly at Jared. "Given how arrogant you are, it's time for you to know what death tastes like."

With that, Xander unleashed his aura again. With his body as the focal point, a terrifying force expanded in all directions. Waving his right hand slowly, rays of light began concentrating within it. It was as if he had control of the sun in his hand.

Soon, the light in his hand began to grow until it was shining brighter than the sun itself. Consequently, the light was so jarring that everyone could barely open their eyes.

"What technique is Xander using? It looks truly terrifying."

"I can't believe how amazing it is. Despite being so far away, I can even feel the heat being emitted."

"There's no way Jared can intercept that attack. It seems the gulf in skills is just too big to bridge."

"That's it. Jared will be defeated by this move."

As the crowd discussed how powerful Xander's technique was, those who sat in front covered their eyes with their hands.

Chapter 684 Interesting Development

As for Josephine and the others, all of them watched while being on the edge of their seats.

"Argh!" Xander let out a thunderous roar before hurling the ball of light at Jared.

Other than a heatwave, Jared could feel an intense pressure moving in his direction. He felt like he had the weight of a mountain on his shoulders.

As the floor he was on began to crack, the arena soon collapsed underneath him, causing him to fall onto the ground.

Meanwhile, the ball of light that was thrown at him went through the hole and struck Jared directly.

Having watched the ball of light disappear underneath the arena, no one could see what Jared's condition was.

"He's doomed."

"The idea that a Senior Grandmaster can defeat a Martial Arts Grandmaster remains nothing but a fool's dream."

"Even though Jared is a genius and has a terrifyingly strong body, some humility would've done him some good. Unfortunately, he has wasted such a powerful body."

As the crowd lamented Jared's defeat, they got up from their seats and prepared to leave.

"Mr. Knox, is that the end?" Donald asked.

Axton felt a tad disappointed. "It is. I was expecting Jared to deliver us a surprise, but a Martial Arts Grandmaster is just way too powerful. Solely relying on a strong constitution and technique alone isn't enough to bridge the gap."

"In that case, Mr. Knox, why didn't you save Jared so that you can ask him for the pill?" Donald didn't understand Axton's decision.

"Even I couldn't save Jared from Xander's attack just now. To be honest, I wasn't even aware that the Cooper family had such powerful techniques," Axton lamented with a sigh.

At that moment, Xander stood in the middle of the arena with a smug and confident expression. When he swept his gaze across the crowd, everyone lowered their heads for fear of making eye contact with him.

Now that the battle was over, Xander's ranking in the martial arts world would definitely make a significant leap. 'A rising tide lifts all boats', the Cooper family's reputation in Jadeborough would be greatly enhanced.

"Let's hurry and welcome Xander down from the arena," Sean exclaimed jubilantly. He then ordered his subordinates to line up in two rows to receive Xander when he was about to descend from the arena.

However, just when Xander turned around and prepared to leave, a golden hue shone out from the hole Jared was in.

Filled with astonishment, everyone stared in the direction of the golden light.

Even Xander stopped in his tracks and stared at it in disbelief.

No one had any idea what was going on, but they were certain that the golden light had something to do with Jared.

As Jared's body gradually rose from the hole, he was enveloped by the golden hue and looked just like an angel who had descended from heaven.

"Da*n it, Jared isn't dead yet. Has he become an immortal?"

"He's like an unkillable pest that just refuses to die."

"No, this is getting interesting!"

At that moment, the crowd who were just about to leave returned to their seats, expecting the battle to get even more interesting.

After Jared landed gently on the arena, the golden hue surrounding him began to dissipate.

Not only did he not have a scratch on him, but his energy was also replenished significantly.

"Xander, if that's all you have, let's just end this."

Just as Jared spoke, he suddenly exploded in Xander's direction and slammed his hammer-like fist straight at the latter's face.

This time, Jared no longer used any flashy moves. The basic punch he launched was so fast that it created a vacuum in the air.

Turning around at the crucial moment, Xander threw a punch to intercept Jared's attack.

Chapter 685 Not Worthy Of Knowing

As this was their first physical exchange ever since their duel started, everyone watched anxiously, hoping to see a miracle.

If a Senior Grandmaster was able to defeat a Martial Arts Grandmaster, it would give every martial artist hope that it was possible to bridge the gulf in levels.

Boom!

The moment both fists clashed, a thunderous rumble rang out. With both men at the epicenter, the audience could see the residual shockwaves that emanated from them.

Those who were sitting in the first row sprang to their feet and unleashed their own aura to block the shockwave from traveling any further. Even then, the fact that all of them were trembling was a testament to how powerful the impact was.

Crack!

The crisp sound of a fracture rang out. At that, Xander's wrist was broken after being contorted at a strange angle after having overexerted himself in battle. Furthermore, his body was flung backward by the tremendous force that resulted.

Given that he was already close to the edge of the arena, he was finally thrown out of it this time and was about to crash onto the ground.

"Xander..."

Sean's face lost all color as he jumped to his feet to break Xander's fall.

As for the Cooper family's men, they too leaped into the air hoping to catch Xander.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

At that moment, Xander crashed into them and sent them all flying backward with his unstoppable inertia.

Despite the huge group of people, they were not enough to break Xander's fall. The momentum he flew with was a testament to how powerful Jared's punch was.

Subsequently, Xander, Sean, and their men crashed onto the ground and threw a plume of dust into the air.

At that moment, everyone had their minds blown by how powerful Jared's punch was.

Tommy sprang to his feet jubilantly and cried out, "Mr. Chance is so amazing that he can take on the entire Cooper family all by himself."

"Mr. Knox, Mr. Knox..."

Donald anxiously wanted to seek Axton's opinion over the turnaround but realized that the latter was frozen still from gawking at Jared.

After struggling to get up, Xander had a sullen expression on his face.

His right hand fell limp and was no longer of any use.

Staring at his broken wrist, he wondered how a Senior Grandmaster like Jared wielded so much power. He had also noticed that Jared had an unlimited supply of energy. In fact, the longer they fought, the stronger Jared became.

There's no way a Senior Grandmaster can be so powerful. In that case, did I make a mistake in my assessment?

"Jared, I admit defeat and recognize that you're the stronger one between us. Also, you're not a Senior Grandmaster. Tell me, where did your power come from? What secrets does your body hold?" Xander asked as he narrowed his eyes at Jared.

After they heard what Xander said, everyone turned to look at Jared. They too assessed that Jared was a Senior Grandmaster. But now that he had defeated Xander, they wondered if they had also made a mistake, or if Jared had a secret hidden up his sleeve.

"You are not worthy of knowing my secret," Jared sneered.

Despite being infuriated, Xander couldn't fight in the arena anymore. With his wrist now broken, he was no match for Jared at all.

"Fine. Today, I accept my defeat at your hands. Till next time..."

Too ashamed to stay any longer, Xander turned and prepared to leave with his men.

"Did I say you can leave?" Jared's voice rang out the moment Xander turned around.

Jumping down from the arena in a flash, Jared blocked Xander's way.

Chapter 686 I Admit Defeat

Xander furrowed his brows. "Jared, I have admitted defeat. What else do you want?"

"Admitted defeat?" Jared smirked. "When I offered to spare you if you apologized on your knees, you rejected it. Therefore, there's no way I'm going to let you leave today."

"Do you want to kill me then?" Xander didn't expect Jared to not let him go despite his submission.

"Today's battle was to the death. If I had lost, would you have spared me?" Jared said with a grim expression.

The truth was he had never planned to let Xander leave alive. He believed that showing the enemy mercy would only result in one's demise. Evidently, he wasn't a man with compassion in the face of his enemy.

When the crowd heard that Jared wanted to kill Xander, they gaped in shock.

It's unbelievable that a Senior Grandmaster is insisting on killing a Martial Arts Grandmaster. On top of that, the Cooper family is present with many Senior Grandmasters among them. Does Jared plan to take on the entire Cooper family alone?

"Jared, you had better not go overboard. My brother has admitted defeat, and yet, you insist on taking his life. Don't you dare assume that the Cooper family is afraid of you!"

Sean stepped forward while the rest of the Cooper family surrounded Jared.

"Sean, today's battle to the death is between me and Xander. All of you should back off if you do not wish to die. Or else, no one is going to leave this place alive."

With a solemn look on his face, Jared unleashed a murderous aura.

"This is Horington, not Jadeborough. If you think you can cause trouble for Mr. Chance, you have certainly picked the wrong place."

Tommy jumped out of the crowd, followed by Phoenix, Theodore, Samuel, Luke, and many other prominent figures of the Jazona martial arts world.

At the same time, members of both the Templar and Phoenix Regiments, who were in charge of security, swarmed in and surrounded Xander and his men.

"Sean, this battle is between Mr. Chance and Xander based on the challenge Xander issued himself. Therefore, are you trying to wiggle your way out just because you outnumber him?" Samuel asserted as he glared at Sean.

"Sean, as the General of the Department of Justice, I don't care who wins or loses in a legal duel. However, if you don't respect the rules, I cannot sit idly by and ignore your actions," Theodore warned them sternly.

He had long been irritated by the sight of them. Furthermore, he was furious when they compared him to a dog in the break room earlier.

"Hmph, how dare you try and intimidate us with your numbers. Although there are fewer of us, these are the Cooper family elites who are at least Fifth Level Grandmasters. In fact, there are even a few Senior Grandmasters among us. Therefore, if you lot try and take us on, there's still no guarantee that you will win!" Sean snorted as he had no intention of backing down.

There was no way he would allow Xander to be killed. Without Xander, the Cooper family would collapse.

Theodore and the others were filled with frustration because Sean was right. Even though they had more people, there weren't many of them who were stronger than Grandmasters. As for the rest of their men, some hadn't even trained on their energy before. Consequently, strength in numbers was futile in the face of elite martial artists.

At that moment, the situation fell into a stalemate where no one dared to move or leave. All that was left was a tense Mexican standoff.

"Let me mediate this situation," Axton suddenly suggested before walking gradually into the crowd.

As he strode forward, an invisible force opened a path in front of him by splitting apart the crowd.

With Donald following Axton from behind, both of them walked to the center of the group.

While many in the crowd were curious to know who Axton was, Xander, Samuel, and Theodore were shocked to see him.