

A Man Like None Other

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Slap!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bam!

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

That effectively shut everyone up.

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

The silence continued, and everyone looked uncomfortable.

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

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

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

He began stumbling toward the door in search of Benji.

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

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

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

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

Their classmates joined Leroy in buttering up Leyton.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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He whipped out two sets of contracts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jared signed the contracts, sealing the Scotts' safety.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Finally, Leroy stalked off to find Benji.

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

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

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

She could only nod in resignation.

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

"Judging by his behavior earlier, I don't think Leyton will consider courting Sandy again!"

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

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

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

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

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

"No!" Virgil shook his head.

"Well then, how do you know he doesn't blink when he kills someone?" Jared teased.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A few girls shrieked in terror.

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

He scarcely moved when Jared suddenly threw out a punch.

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

Benji curled into himself, huffing from extreme pain.

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

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

They charged at Jared with batons.

Virgil shouted, "Run, Jared! I'll hold them off!"

He lifted a chair and ran toward the charging men.

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

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

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

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

One of the waiters rushed off.

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

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

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

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

That earned him a quiet smile from Jared.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tommy ignored him and made a beeline for Jared.

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

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

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

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

Tommy appeared to worship Jared just as Leyton did earlier.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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