

A Man Like None Other

Chapter 351 Going Back On Your Word

Jared frowned when he saw that. "What is this?"

At the moment, Jason was emitting an aura that was much more powerful than Francis.

"Be careful, Jared! He has activated Golden Armor!" Lizbeth shouted in shock when she realized what Jason was doing.

Jason burst out laughing. "I'll show you the power of Golden Armor, kid! You won't be able to hurt me even if you have the strength to level mountains!"

"Is that so? I'll have to give it a try, then!" Jared said as he threw a punch at Jason's chest.

Instead of trying to dodge or block the attack, Jason simply stood there with a disdainful look on his face.

Gong!

The impact produced a loud and clear sound similar to that of a church bell being rung. Not only was Jason completely unfazed by the punch, but Jared even felt his arm go slightly numb from it.

"Hahaha! Hahaha!"

Jason's eyes were filled with arrogance as he cackled like a madman.

A faint smirk appeared on Jared's face. "Oh? This is getting interesting. Here, have another punch!"

Seconds later, the spiritual energy in his body began to surge like crazy before accumulating in his fist.

Jared's fist started glowing brighter and brighter, eventually getting to a point where it was as bright as the sun.

The smile on Jason's face was frozen instantly. "W-What the hell is this?"

Jared simply threw a second punch at him without answering his question.

Bang!

The bright light on Jared's fist vanished after a thunder-like sound was heard.

Jason could be seen standing there, rooted to the spot like a statue as the golden glow around his body slowly faded.

"Jason!" the two guys from Iron Gate Academy who came with Jason called out to him as they rushed to his aid.

Pfft!

The next thing they knew, Jason coughed up a huge mouthful of blood as well as tiny chunks of his internal organs.

Plop!

Jason's huge body went limp, and he collapsed to the floor. His eyes were still wide open, but he was no longer breathing.

The two guys from the Iron Gate Academy were so terrified that they turned around and ran as quickly as their legs could carry them.

"You... Why did you kill him?" Lizbeth asked with panic written all over her face after regaining her composure.

"Weren't you the one who asked me to kill him? What, are you going back on your word now?" Jared snapped back at her with a chuckle.

Lizbeth quickly ran up to him and tugged at his arm as she said, "I was just saying that out of anger! I didn't think you'd actually kill him! Come on, we have to go before the guys from the Iron Gate Academy come back for revenge!"

Just like that, Jared was dragged out of there before he could even have lunch.

"Hey! We haven't eaten anything! I'm hungry!" Jared protested from the passenger seat while glancing at Lizbeth, who was still in shock.

"We're going to my place. I'll make you some pasta. Honestly, I can't believe you'd be so reckless as to kill Jason like that!" Lizbeth exclaimed with a sigh.

"You're the one who told me to kill him, so it's not my fault," Jared replied nonchalantly.

"You..." Lizbeth's face was red with frustration, but she couldn't say anything in retaliation.

After parking her car in a residential area, Lizbeth brought Jared to her place, which turned out to be a one-room apartment that she had rented.

Despite it being rather small, the place was clean and tidy. On top of that, it had a pleasant smell that one would expect when visiting a girl's house.

"Have a seat while I check the kitchen for something to cook."

Lizbeth then started making lunch while Jared sat down in the living room.

Strange... Why would a person of her identity and status have to rent a place like this? She could simply live with her family, right? Even if she doesn't want to rely on them, she should be able to afford a nice house. I mean, just look at that insane amount of money Walter spent on his house in Horington! The antiques they own are so expensive that selling one of them would give her enough money to buy a house for herself!

Jared thought to himself as he watched her get to work in the kitchen.

Chapter 352 Warriors Alliance

It didn't take long before Lizbeth was done cooking the pasta. She even whipped up two more dishes on the side, and Jared found himself getting hungry when he got a whiff of the food.

“For someone with average fighting skills, your cooking sure is amazing!” he complimented her after taking a few bites.

The look on Lizbeth’s face turned cold instantly. “Who are you calling average? I’ll have you know that I’m the best in my team when it comes to martial arts!”

“Right, sure... Of course, you’re the best,” Jared mumbled. How is someone of her skill level able to become a champion? Heh... Anthony must’ve gone easy on her out of respect for Walter!

Lizbeth shot him a fierce glare before asking curiously, “Still, I’m surprised at how strong you are. Who did you learn your martial arts from?”

“Of course I’m strong! How would I have wiped out the Whitaker family if I wasn’t strong? I am actually self-taught, but I am talented enough to pull it off!” Jared replied proudly.

“Pfft!” Lizbeth rolled her eyes at him as she didn’t believe in his talent.

“Is it just me or do the people here in Summerbank not respect you investigators at all?” Jared asked.

His words hit Lizbeth where it hurt most, and the look on her face grew depressed as she explained, “Summerbank is famous for its practice of martial arts. You’ll find martial arts schools and martial arts families everywhere. With that many martial arts families around, it’s only natural that the number of conflicts would increase as well. The Department of Justice can only do so much to maintain order around here. In fact, there are times when we can’t even do anything about it. The martial arts families are all under the Warriors Alliance, and their conflicts are often resolved by said organization.”

Her reply piqued Jared’s interest. “Warriors Alliance? I didn’t know such a thing exist here in Summerbank!”

Being an ordinary person, it was perfectly normal for Jared to not know about these things as he never had a chance to come across them.

“Of course! The Warriors Alliance is made up of Summerbank’s top four martial arts families with the purpose of keeping each other in check as well as standing up to challenges from other martial artists.”

“What are the four martial arts families?” Jared asked.

“The Jantz family, the Wagner family, the Schmidt family, and the Phoenix Regiment,” Lizbeth replied.

“Phoenix Regiment? What’s a regiment like that doing in there?” Jared’s curiosity grew stronger.

“Although Phoenix Regiment didn’t have a lot of time to develop and grow, it is still a very strong organization by itself. I hear they’re almost at the level of Grandmasters when it comes to internal energy! Phoenix may be a woman, but she is incredibly ruthless in her ways. In just a short amount of time, she was able to strengthen Phoenix Regiment enough to earn it a spot in the Warriors Alliance. The most impressive part? She never once did anything illegal to achieve all that!” Lizbeth’s eyes were filled with admiration for Phoenix as she said all that.

“Phoenix sure is a formidable woman, huh?”

Jared too, found himself admiring her greatness from the bottom of his heart.

Lizbeth's eyes lit up as she said, "Yeah! Most of us here in Summerbank practically worship her like a goddess! She's so terrifying that most of the bullies from wealthy and powerful families would humble themselves in front of her. In fact, the reason Phoenix Regiment and the Whitaker family don't get along is because she had whooped Tyrion's ass a few times! You know, you might actually stand a chance at survival if you can get yourself acquainted with Phoenix! The Jantz family will think twice about killing you if she's on your side!"

"Oh? Don't you want the Jantz family to kill me? I mean, I am a murderer who wiped out the entire Whitaker family," Jared asked with a mischievous grin on his face.

"Of course not! Josephine would be devastated if you were to die, and I don't want to see my best friend cry. Besides, the Whitaker family had it coming anyway."

Being in the safety of her own home, Lizbeth no longer bothered to filter her words.

"Hahaha! With or without Phoenix, the Jantz family won't be able to kill me that easily!" Jared said with a confident chuckle, showing no regard for the Jantz family's strength at all.

Chapter 353 Master Venicus

Meanwhile, in the Jantz family residence, Zachariah was sitting on the couch with a warm towel over his head.

The impact of losing his daughter gave him a really severe headache.

Wilbur walked up to him and said, "Anthony is back, Dad!"

"Did he bring our guy with him?" Zachariah asked with his eyes still closed.

Wilbur shook his head. "No, he didn't."

"Since the Department of Justice is useless, we'll do it ourselves. Jared is still in Horington, right?"

"No, he's not."

"What?" Zachariah's eyes shot wide open instantly. He then tossed the towel aside as he continued, "He escaped? Did Anthony let him go on purpose? I won't forgive him if he did!"

"Jared isn't in Horington, but he hasn't left the country. He probably returned to Summerbank. Lizbeth wasn't with Anthony when he returned, so I'm guessing she snuck him into Summerbank to protect him from us," Wilbur replied after giving it some thought.

"Hmph! An eye for an eye, a life for a life! No one can stop me from killing Jared, especially a small fry like Anthony! Wilbur, I want you to have our men capture Lizbeth and interrogate her for Jared's whereabouts!" Zachariah shouted angrily.

"I'll make the arrangements right away!" Wilbur turned around and prepared to leave after saying that.

"Wait! How are things with the Whitaker family's businesses? Has anyone made a move yet?" Zachariah called out to him all of a sudden.

“Not yet, but there are plenty of other families that are itching to act upon it. Most of the Whitaker family’s business partners have ceased collaborations with them. In addition to that, a huge number of senior executives in the company are also starting to panic. It would seem that they are looking for a way out,” Wilbur replied with a worried look on his face.

The entire family business would surely perish if there was no one left in the family to keep it going.

“Put the word out that we will take over all of the Whitaker family’s businesses and keep everything the way it is. This should at least stop them from freaking out,” Zachariah said with a sigh.

Although the Jantz family was a formidable one, they were a martial arts family and had little experience when it came to managing businesses. Even so, Zachariah had no choice but to take up the responsibility.

Wilbur nodded. “Understood!”

Zachariah sat back down on the couch and motioned at Wilbur to leave.

The Jantz family’s butler came into the room shortly after Wilbur left. He hesitated for a bit when he saw that Zachariah was resting, and eventually decided not to disturb him.

As the butler was about to leave, Zachariah called out to him from behind, “What is it, Leonardo?”

Zachariah could tell who it was that came in even with his eyes closed.

“Master Venicus of the Crescent Sect is here, Mr. Jantz,” Leonardo replied respectfully.

“What? Hurry up and invite him in! No, actually, I’ll go greet him in person! Help me get changed! Hurry!” Zachariah leaped to his feet in a state of panic.

The butler quickly helped Zachariah get dressed and followed behind him as the two of them made their way out of the room.

A sage-like old man could be seen standing quietly outside the Jantz family mansion.

“I am terribly sorry that my servants kept you waiting out here, Master Venicus! I’ll be sure to punish them severely for this!” Zachariah said respectfully as he ran up to Venicus.

“You’re being too harsh on your servants, Old Mr. Jantz! They did nothing wrong, so there is no need to punish them,” Venicus replied with an enigmatic smile.

Chapter 354 Are You Dating My Sister

“Of course, Master Venicus! Please, come on in!” Zachariah said while motioning at the elderly man to enter the mansion.

After inviting Venicus into the living room, Zachariah even personally poured him some tea to show his respect.

Satisfied with Zachariah’s attitude, Venicus nodded at him with a smile.

“Did Mr. Quillen have any instructions for this visit of yours, Master Venicus?” Zachariah asked.

“Hahaha! Mr. Quillen has told me all about you, Old Mr. Jantz! I have come here today to help you produce the Longevity Pill! It’ll help extend your life past a hundred years old!” Venicus replied with a hearty chuckle.

“Thank you very much, Master Venicus! I’m sure you must be tired after such a long journey, so how about you stay here and rest for a few days? I have ordered my servants to prepare the materials needed for the Longevity Pill. They should have everything ready in two days,” Zachariah said excitedly.

Venicus nodded and got to his feet. Just when he was about to head over to the room prepared for him, he turned around and asked, “By the way, are you aware of what I like, Old Mr. Jantz?”

“Of course, Master Venicus. I have prepared for you exactly what you want,” Zachariah replied while nodding profusely.

“Hahaha! Excellent!”

Zachariah waited for Venicus to enter the guest room before instructing his butler, “Leonardo, bring the women we’ve invited over to Master Venicus’ room Remember, we need to find him two virgin women each day.”

“Yes, sir.” Leonardo nodded and hurried off to carry out his duties.

Meanwhile, Jared was resting on the couch in Lizbeth’s apartment while she headed out to meet Anthony.

Neither of them knew what they should do with Jared, but Lizbeth was definitely not going to hand him over to the Jantz family.

The sound of someone unlocking the door could be heard all of a sudden. Thinking Lizbeth had returned, Jared didn’t pay much attention to it.

To his surprise, it was a young man in his early twenties who came in through the door instead.

“Who are you? What are you doing here?” the young man asked in surprise when he saw Jared lying on the couch.

Thinking he was Lizbeth’s boyfriend, Jared panicked and frantically tried to explain himself, “I was just resting here for a bit! I’m not a bad guy or anything!”

“That’s not very convincing coming from a guy caught in my sister’s apartment, is it? How did you get in here? My sister is an investigator! She’ll beat you to death for barging in here like this!” the young man threatened him while grabbing a broom from the corner.

Jared breathed a sigh of relief when he heard the young man identify himself as Lizbeth’s brother. “Oh, you’re Lizbeth’s brother? Well, it was actually her who brought me over. She had to go out for a bit, so she told me to wait here until she returns. Don’t worry, I’m not a bad guy. In fact, I’m an associate of your grandfather, Walter Grange.”

Figuring a burglar wouldn’t be associated with his grandfather, the young man let his guard down and put the broom aside.

“You’re my sister’s boyfriend, aren’t you? The family has always been pestering her to get a boyfriend, but she kept refusing to. Looks like she has secretly found herself one already. What’s your name? And what does your family do for a living? Are you from a wealthy family?” he bombarded Jared with a series of questions after assuming his identity as Lizbeth’s boyfriend.

Before Jared could even explain himself, Lizbeth had returned and came in through the door.

“What are you doing here, Oliver?” Lizbeth asked with a look of displeasure on her face.

Chapter 355 You Are My Brother In Law

“Why didn’t you tell us that you’ve found yourself a boyfriend, Lizbeth? I could help assess him and see if he’s a good match, you know? Judging by the way this guy is dressed, I’d say he doesn’t look very wealthy,” Oliver said disdainfully after eyeing Jared from head to toe.

Lizbeth’s face burned bright red as she shouted angrily at Oliver, “Shut up! He’s not my boyfriend, okay? I don’t want to hear another word about this!”

“Oh, please! Why else would you let him into your apartment if he isn’t your boyfriend? You don’t even like having me over, so I doubt you’d let any of your friends in here. Anyway, regardless of whether he’s your boyfriend or not, I need you to lend me some money. I’m short on cash right now.”

Lizbeth shook her head. “So am I. Besides, don’t you think you’ve come to me for money way too many times now?”

“I’ll tell the family about you having a boyfriend if you won’t lend me money!” Oliver then took a few pictures of Jared as he continued, “Let’s see what they have to say about your taste in men!”

“I told you, he’s not my boyfriend! He’s just a regular friend of mine! You’d better delete that picture right this instant!” Lizbeth shouted as she tried to snatch the phone from Oliver, but he refused to hand it over.

The two siblings ended up running around the apartment while Jared watched on in admiration from the side.

Oh, how I wish I had younger siblings like this... I’d probably spoil them like crazy if I had any!

“Fine, I’ll give you the money if you delete the pictures! How much do you want this time?” Lizbeth asked while panting heavily.

Given her skills in combat, she could’ve easily snatched the phone over from Oliver, but she chose not to as she didn’t want to hurt him.

“Not much. Just a hundred thousand,” Oliver replied with a faint smile.

“What? A hundred thousand? Do you have any idea how little I earn per month? How dare you ask me for a hundred thousand? I don’t have that kind of money!” Lizbeth yelled.

“That’s fine, I’ll just ask my future brother-in-law for the money then.” Oliver turned toward Jared as he continued, “Do you have any money? Could you lend me a hundred thousand? We can offset the amount from Lizbeth’s betrothal gift if I am unable to pay you back.”

Jared burst out laughing when he heard that. Man, Lizbeth's brother sure is an interesting one! In view of my relationship with Walter, there's no reason why I can't give his grandson a hundred thousand.

"I do. Come on, pull out your phone and I'll transfer the money over. In fact, instead of lending it to you, I'll just give it to you, so you don't even have to pay me back," he replied while retrieving his phone.

"Huh? Really?" Oliver was shocked.

Jared held his phone up to Oliver's face as he said, "Of course! A hundred thousand means nothing to me."

Given the amount of money he had in his bank account, a hundred thousand truly was a tiny sum for him.

Oliver was dumbfounded when he saw the balance displayed on the screen. A few seconds later, he hugged Jared tightly and shouted in excitement, "I will only acknowledge you as my brother-in-law from now on! I'll cut ties with Lizbeth if she dares to replace you with someone else!"

Lizbeth's face was red with anger as she glared at Oliver. She then turned toward Jared and said, "Don't give him the money, Jared! He'll just spend it all in one go!"

However, Jared ignored her warning and gave Oliver the money anyway.

"Let's exchange contact numbers, Jared! I'll take you out for a drink and show you around Summerbank tonight! Everyone knows me here, so all you have to do is mention my name!"

Oliver ran off happily after exchanging contact numbers with Jared.

"Why did you give him the money?" Lizbeth asked with a helpless frown as she sat down on the couch.

"Come on, it's just a hundred thousand! It's no big deal!"

"That little rascal is just going to spend all of his money on booze and women. That's why my parents aren't giving him any money. Anyway, I'll pay you back on behalf of my brother. Let's just hope he doesn't go running his mouth out there..." Lizbeth muttered with a sigh.

Chapter 356 Too Controlling

Lizbeth was really worried that Oliver would go around telling everyone about Jared being her boyfriend. I don't know how I'd face Josephine if she hears the rumors!

"That won't be necessary. Let's just treat this money as payment for letting me stay over at your place. I can't just eat and sleep here for free, after all," Jared said as he grabbed an apple from the table and began munching away.

"You plan on sleeping here? I just had a discussion with General Long earlier. We won't hand you over to the Jantz family for the time being, but they're definitely searching everywhere for you right now. I'll arrange for you to stay in a hotel for a while and see if I can get you acquainted with Phoenix. This way, you might just stand a chance at survival."

Jared felt a little speechless when he saw Lizbeth trying so hard to save him, but he was still touched by her efforts.

“Knowing how powerful the Jantz family is, they’ll be able to find me no matter which hotel I stay in. It’s actually a lot safer for me to stay here instead,” he said with a smile.

Lizbeth shot him a cautious glare as she asked, “You’re not trying to take advantage of me, are you? I’m not going to betray my friend, so I’ll tell Josephine if you dare lay a finger on me!”

Jared let out a helpless sigh. “You’re overthinking things. I only have eyes for Josephine, so you can rest assured that I won’t try anything funny with you.”

“All right... You can sleep on the couch, for the time being, then,” Lizbeth said before entering her room to get changed.

Later that evening, the two of them were having dinner together when Oliver dropped by again.

“What do you want this time?” Lizbeth asked with a frown upon seeing her brother.

“Man, this smells so good! See? I knew he wasn’t just a friend! There’s no way you’d make dinner for him and let him stay the night if he was!” Oliver said, ignoring her as he sat down and helped himself to the food.

Lizbeth shot him a fierce glare in response. “Shut your stinking mouth! Jared and I are just friends!”

After dinner, Oliver was picking his teeth as he said, “Jared, how about I take you out for a tour in the city tonight and introduce you to my friends? Next time you run into trouble in Summerbank, just give us a holler and we’ll help you out!”

Jared was about to take him up on his offer when Lizbeth quickly interrupted, “No! He’s not going anywhere tonight!”

“Keep in mind that you two aren’t even married yet, Lizbeth. You shouldn’t be too controlling or he might leave you for another woman,” Oliver snapped back at her while sticking his tongue out.

“Come here so I can kick your ass, you little sh*t!”

Oliver quickly moved behind Jared the moment Lizbeth tried to hit him.

Of course, Jared was well aware that Lizbeth was worried about him running into the Jantz family. “Don’t worry. I won’t be gone for long, so it’ll be fine.”

Seeing as Jared was willing to go out, Lizbeth made no further attempts to stop him.

The two guys headed downstairs and sped off in Oliver’s BMW. Despite it being a used car, Oliver seemed to really enjoy driving it.

He picked up a woman along the way. She was dressed in very revealing clothes and looked extremely seductive with the makeup she had on.

After getting into the car, the woman noticed Jared sitting in the back seat and winked at him flirtatiously.

“Hi, handsome! What’s your name? I’m Lily. Are you interested in getting to know me better?” she asked while reaching out to touch him on the face, but Jared quickly moved out of the way.

Lily let out an amused chuckle when she saw his response. “Hahaha! Aren’t you quite the shy one? Are you still a virgin?”

“Hey, quit fooling around! This is my future brother-in-law!”

Oliver shot her a glare before flashing Jared an awkward smile as he continued, “I’m sorry, Jared. Lily just loves to joke around like this. Please don’t take it to heart.”

“Is she your girlfriend?” Jared asked with a smile.

“Uh...” Oliver chose to keep quiet as he didn’t want to answer that question.

Chapter 357 Big Fish

However, Lily didn’t take too kindly to his response. “What the hell is with that response of yours, Oliver? Just tell him that I’m not your girlfriend! With how stingy your parents are, you can’t even afford to have a normal girlfriend, let alone someone like me!”

Although Oliver was incredibly embarrassed by what she said, there was nothing he could say in retaliation at all.

Having finally understood why Oliver’s parents refused to give him any money, Jared flashed him a helpless smile in response.

The three of them soon arrived outside Phoenix Bar. As the parking lot in front of the bar was filled with fancy cars, Oliver had to park his used BMW in a corner far away.

“This is the best bar in Summerbank, Jared. Come on, let’s go in there and have some fun!” Oliver said excitedly after parking the car.

“I think it’d be better if you address me as Mr. Chance instead,” Jared reminded him as he felt Oliver was acting a little too close to him.

“Oh, please! Why do you have to be so uptight about these things? You’re going to be my brother-in-law sooner or later anyway, so what’s wrong with me treating you like family in advance? Come on, let’s go inside!”

Oliver dismissed Jared’s reminder and began dragging him into the bar.

“Hey, Oliver, did you hit the jackpot or something? You don’t look like you can afford to party here,” Lily asked playfully after they entered the bar.

“I didn’t, but my brother-in-law did! Guess what? He has over ten million in his bank account! I saw it today!” Oliver whispered into Lily’s ear, and the way she looked at Jared changed instantly.

Although Oliver had lowered his voice significantly, Jared could clearly hear what he said. D*mn it... I wouldn’t have shown it to him if I knew he’d go running his mouth like this!

After finding a place to sit down, Oliver ordered two bottles of Rémy Martin cognac right away without any hesitation. A single bottle could cost up to hundreds of thousands, but Oliver wasn’t afraid as he had Jared around to foot the bill.

Lily, on the other hand, wasted no time cozying up to Jared after finding out how rich he was. “So, Mr. Chance... Is this your first time being in a place like this? I’m here with you, so you don’t have to be nervous. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me...” she said coquettishly while rubbing her body against his.

Feeling uncomfortable from the way Lily was running her hands all over him, Jared frowned and moved his body away from her.

“Hey, Lily! I told you that he’s my brother-in-law! Besides, I’m paying you to keep me company tonight! Now, get your a*s over here!” Oliver shouted angrily when he saw what she was doing.

“Pfft! You’re only paying me five thousand per hour, you cheapskate! You know what? You can keep your money! I’m going to entertain whoever I like!”

Lily simply rolled her eyes at him and proceeded to ignore him after saying that.

Jared is just a bumpkin who somehow made himself a fortune without knowing how to spend his money properly. That’s probably why he’s acting all awkward after coming to a place like this! Big fish like these are the easiest prey! Once you get them hooked, you can easily suck them dry! Screw Oliver! I’m going to stick to Jared tonight!

Oliver was so angry that he began downing glass after glass when the drinks were served up.

A group of rich young men happened to pass them by moments later.

“Oh? Mr. Grange? Since when were you able to afford to drink Rémy Martin in a place like this?” one of them asked in surprise when he saw Oliver.

Oliver shot the guy a glance and said in displeasure, “That’s none of your business, Thomas. Leave me alone.”

He was already in a bad mood after what Lily did to him, so hearing Thomas’ question agitated him even further.

Instead of just walking away, Thomas burst out laughing and asked, “I’m surprised you dare talk to me like this, Mr. Grange! Did you finally grow a pair?”

Chapter 358 Knight In Shining Armor

As Thomas spoke, he caught sight of Lily. “It’s no wonder Mr. Grange was so bold today. It looks like he’s on a date with his goddess. Are you trying to put on a tough guy act for her?” he sneered mockingly.

All of a sudden, he reached out and grabbed Lily by her waist. “Ms. Lily, why don’t you keep me company instead?”

“Unfortunately, I already have a customer who I must tend to, Mr. York. Why don’t we drink together on another day?” Lily replied with an apologetic smile.

Now that I’ve found the perfect golden goose, there’s no way I’m going to let this opportunity go to waste!

Slap!

Without warning, Thomas sent his palm across Lily's cheek. "The audacity of a s*ut like you to deny my advances!"

The slap was unexpected for Lily. She held onto her reddened cheek and stared at Thomas in indignance. Even so, she could not muster the courage to retaliate.

At the same time, Jared merely glanced away, pretending like he saw nothing. He had no intention to swoop in and rescue her like a knight in shining armor. After all, he barely knew Lily.

In stark contrast, Oliver could not turn a blind eye. Lily had always been the woman of his dreams. Hence, he couldn't stomach the sight of his beloved goddess being slapped by Thomas.

"Thomas, let Lily go right this instance! Are you still a man for hitting a woman?" Oliver snarled as he advanced toward Thomas with a wine bottle in hand.

Bang!

The moment Oliver finished his sentence, one of Thomas' fellow subordinates lashed his foot out at Oliver. "You brat! How dare you speak to Mr. York in such a rude tone!"

A dark expression loomed across Oliver's face. Gritting his teeth, he lunged at Thomas with the sole intention of smashing the wine bottle on the latter's head. "I'll kill you all!" he roared.

Right then, Oliver was living up to the role of a knight in shining armor. Regardless of the consequences, he wanted to leave Lily with a good impression of his bravery.

Yet, the wine bottle hit empty air. Not only did Oliver miss, but Thomas managed to pluck the wine bottle from his grip. All of a sudden, their roles were reversed as Thomas mercilessly swung the bottle at Oliver's head.

The sudden turn of events left Oliver so shocked that he remained rooted to the spot and resigned to his fate.

Before the bottle could collide against Oliver's skull, however, Jared, who had remained motionless this entire time, finally made his move. He suddenly clasped his fingers around Thomas' wrist and yanked the latter backward. Immediately, piercing pain shot up Thomas' arm, forcing him to release the wine bottle.

"Drinking is supposed to be a fun activity. Why are you ruining the fun over a scarlet woman?" Jared released Thomas before moving to stand protectively in front of Oliver.

Since Oliver was Walter's grandson, Jared couldn't disregard the situation.

Thomas fumed in rage when he noticed his bruised wrist. Gritting his teeth, he snarled, "Who the hell are you? Tell me your name right now!"

"Mr. York, he's Oliver's brother-in-law. This man is nothing but an arrogant upstart!" Lily hissed as she shot a venomous glare at Jared.

Earlier, Jared's dismissive remark about her had caused a dent in her ego.

“You’re Lizbeth’s boyfriend?” Thomas sized him up with a mocking sneer. “You know, just because Lizbeth is an investigator doesn’t mean that you’re some bigshot. In my eyes, she’s as insignificant as a speck of dust. In fact, she can’t even hold a candle to this woman right here.” Thomas grabbed Lily’s chin as he spoke.

Immediately, Jared’s eyes narrowed dangerously. A menacing aura emanated from his body when he heard Thomas’ insult. Promptly, he kicked Thomas in the chest and sent him flying.

Whoosh!

Thomas soared in the air for several meters before he came crashing down onto a table. The weight of his body instantly reduced the table to smithereens.

“Ahh!” Startled by the collision, all the other guests scrambled for their lives.

With great effort, Thomas managed to crawl back to his feet. He felt like his entire body was going to fall apart. “K-Kill him!” he ordered furiously.

Thomas’ subordinates were about to leap into action when suddenly, a cold voice echoed from behind. “Who’s causing all this nuisance at my bar? Don’t you know who owns this bar?”

Chapter 359 Fifty Slaps

Immediately, all the blood drained from Thomas’ face. Even his subordinates were so scared that they had retreated.

On the other hand, Lily had already fled the scene with her tail tucked between her legs.

“Oh no, we’re doomed!” Oliver’s cheeks turned deathly pale as all color drained from his face. With a trembling voice, he said, “Jared, this bar falls under Phoenix Regiment’s territory. They won’t be merciful if they find out that you’ve stirred such a ruckus here.”

Shortly after, a middle-aged man wearing an eyepatch emerged with a group of guards following at his heels.

The sight of this man scared Oliver so much that his legs gave away, and he collapsed into a nearby chair. Promptly, a gush of yellow liquid stained his pants.

Oliver’s terrified state left Jared utterly speechless. Is he really Walter’s grandson?

“O-Orb, he was the one who hit me first!” Thomas stammered as he made his way toward the newcomer. In an attempt to butter him up, Thomas offered him a cigarette.

“Slap him!” Despite that, Orb didn’t even spare Thomas a single glance.

Upon his command, one of the guards grabbed Thomas by the collar and backhanded him across the face.

Repeatedly, the guard slapped Thomas until his face swelled to twice its size.

“Were you the one who hit him?” the middle-aged man asked Jared.

“Yes.” Jared nodded in affirmation.

“Slap him too,” Orb ordered. Immediately, one of his men approached Jared with his arm raised and ready to strike.

Before he could hit Jared, however, Jared caught the guard’s wrist. “Aren’t you going to clarify the situation first before hitting me?”

A deep scowl graced Orb’s forehead when he heard Jared’s refute. “In my territory, I will deliver fifty slaps as punishment before asking for the details. Are you trying to go against my rules?”

“I heard that Phoenix Regiment is supposed to be chivalrous and kind. After all, Phoenix herself was dubbed a living saint. Is this really how you, as her subordinate, handle things?” Jared was starting to dislike the Phoenix Regiment.

Initially, Lizbeth’s constant praise had left Jared with a good impression of the Phoenix Regiment. He was also particularly impressed by Phoenix, the leader of the said regiment. Yet, Orb’s haughty arrogance left Jared with a bitter taste in his mouth. It seems like the tales of their kindness are nothing but empty rumors.

Orb snorted incredulously. “What makes you think that a nobody like you is in a position to criticize the Phoenix Regiment? As punishment, I’m ordering you to slap yourself ten times!”

“What if I refuse?” Jared replied with a smirk.

“If you aren’t going to take action, I will!” With that, Orb sent his palm across Jared’s cheek.

Orb’s astonishing speed caused the onlookers to break out in cold sweat. If Orb managed to land a hit on Jared, the monumental impact would probably cause the latter to lose all of his teeth.

Despite the gravity of the situation, the corners of Jared’s lips upturned into an airy smile. Casually, he reached out and grabbed Orb’s wrist in mid-air. “I was in the middle of my speech. Is violence really your only answer to everything?”

Immediately, Orb’s eyes grew twice as large. In a fit of panic, he tried to break free of Jared’s vice-like grip. But no matter how hard he tried, he could not escape.

“You brat, are you aware of the consequences of your actions?” Orb thundered.

After so many onlookers witnessed Orb’s humiliation in the hands of a young man, he couldn’t help but blow his top.

“Clearly, you were the one who started the fight. Are all members of the Phoenix Regiment as unreasonable as you are?” Jared asked with a look of exasperation.

“F*ck you!” Enraged, Orb swung his other hand at Jared.

Furrowing his brows, an aura of bloodlust radiated from Jared’s figure when he sensed Orb’s second attack. Although I’ve tried to go easy on him, he still insists on doing things the hard way.

Before Orb’s fist could connect, Jared launched a kick at him.

Chapter 360 Clear The Bar

Bam!

A single kick from Jared sent Orb hurtling several meters into the air. Moments later, Orb finally crashed to the ground with a deafening thud.

Upon seeing Jared attack Orb, Oliver almost passed out from fear. He was so scared that his eyes rolled to the back of his head.

“You brat, I can’t believe you had the nerve to hit Orb. You’re done for now!” Thomas exclaimed gleefully.

Immediately, Jared’s sharp glare slid toward Thomas, prompting the latter to fall silent.

At the same time, one of Orb’s men quickly helped him up. When Orb pushed himself upright, rivulets of blood trickled down the side of his mouth.

“Clear out this place and lock the doors,” Orb ordered as he glared at Jared with a murderous glint in his eyes.

Quickly, the guards ushered everyone out of the bar, including Oliver, who was grabbed by the collar and hauled out.

Before long, the only people remaining were Jared and a few of the bar’s security guards.

Once Oliver was outside, he spun on his heel and took off in the opposite direction. Although Jared’s my brother-in-law, I don’t want to be dragged into such a mess involving the Phoenix Regiment!

Orb wiped away his blood as he advanced toward Jared. “You’re the first person who dared to lift a finger against me. How am I going to salvage the Phoenix Regiment’s reputation if I don’t end your life?” he said sinisterly.

Giving off an air of indifference, Jared simply took a seat and sipped his wine. He didn’t appear the slightest bit fazed by Orb’s threat.

“If it weren’t for the Phoenix Regiment’s renowned reputation and the fact that your Madam is a hero, do you really think that you’d have the chance to talk to me?” Jared remarked disdainfully.

“Even on death’s door, you’re as arrogant as ever!” An expression of fury flitted across Orb’s gaze. “Kill him!”

At his command, dozens of guards lunged at Jared with sticks brandished in their hands.

Jared merely snorted. In the blink of an eye, he vanished from his seat.

Promptly, Orb caught sight of a blurry shadow darting amongst his men as anguished screams echoed in the air.

Within minutes, not a single guard remained standing. They had all crumpled to the floor, howling in pain.

Nevertheless, Jared had been merciful and spared them from any grave injuries.

“What the f*ck?” Orb’s jaw fell open when he witnessed his guards’ defeat. The look of anger in his eye was quickly replaced with one of unadulterated fear instead.

As Jared strode toward Orb, the latter began to stumble backward.

Soon, Orb’s back ended up hitting a wall, leaving him trapped. “W-What do you think you’re doing? I’m a member of the Phoenix Regiment! Madam will not forgive you if you kill me!” Orb blustered aggressively.

“There’s no need to be so frightened.” Jared grinned when he witnessed Orb’s fear. “It was never my intention to kill you. I just need you to call your Madam here.”

Hearing this, Orb jolted in shock. “What business do you have with our Madam? Although she’s a living saint, she’ll be enraged once she sees the havoc you’ve wrecked in her shop! She might even end your life!”

“I thought you wanted me dead? Wouldn’t the arrival of your Madam fulfill your wish?” Jared replied in confusion. Why is he trying to defend me?

Flustered, Orb averted his gaze. “I-If Madam comes, she might not spare me,” he admitted in a hushed whisper.

Immediately, realization dawned upon Jared. He must be afraid of his Madam’s punishment. After all, his reckless and arrogant demeanor was unlike that of the Phoenix Regiment.

“I’m going to give you two choices. Either you call her, or you can die right now,” Jared thundered. He couldn’t be bothered to waste his breath talking to Orb any longer.

“Okay, okay! I’ll call her right now!” Since Jared’s threat put his life on the line, Orb opted to go with the choice that would save his own skin.

Hastily, Orb fished his phone out and called Phoenix.