

The Man's Decree 151

Chapter 151 Pitch In

"What do you mean? You have to pay four hundred and fifty thousand for the dinner! Do you think you can leave without paying?" Lincoln snorted.

"I have free dinners wherever I go! What bill are you talking about?" Jared raised his brows.

"Stop playing dumb! There are so many witnesses here, including the staff. Do you think you can get away with free meals? Don't act so tough just because you've been to prison. This restaurant is owned by the Sullivan family. You're gravely mistaken if you think you can get away!" Lincoln assumed that Jared was acting tough to get free meals just because he was an ex-convict.

"Well, go ahead and ask the cashier if I need to pay my bill." A smile flashed across Jared's face.

After staring at Jared with his puzzled expression for a moment, Lincoln turned and asked the cashier, "This fellow is trying to get away with a free meal. What are you guys going to do about it?"

"Sir, Mr. Chance doesn't need to pay whenever he dines here," the cashier answered politely.

As soon as the cashier finished the sentence, Lincoln felt as if he was just struck by lightning. He froze on the spot.

The others were just as dumbfounded as Lincoln was. Why doesn't Jared need to pay?

"Why is that? Why doesn't he need to pay?" Lincoln asked in bewilderment.

"Sir, I'm not obliged to answer that question of yours. However, I do need you to pay the difference. After deducting Mr. Chance's four hundred and fifty thousand, you still owe us one million six hundred and fifty thousand. May I know if you're making the payment by cash or by card?" the cashier asked sternly.

Lincoln was baffled at the turn of events. Who the hell is he? Why doesn't he need to pay when he dines at Glamor Hotel?

Yvonne and Michelle were also staring at Jared in astonishment.

"If you had the balls to extort money from women, I'm sure you're a sharp-witted person. So what are you waiting for? Didn't you hear her say one million six hundred and fifty thousand? Pay up!" Jared smiled and looked at Lincoln contemptuously.

Upon noticing the look on Jared's face, Lincoln finally realized that he was tricked. "You... You tricked me?"

Jared knew he wouldn't need to pay for anything! That's why he ordered all the expensive liquor! I was such a fool for playing along with him. I'm doomed!

"Yes, I've tricked you. What can you do about it?" Jared admitted without hesitation because he had it mapped out all along.

"Sir, please pay," the cashier urged.

By then, Lincoln was already trembling with rage. He didn't have that much money with him, but then he couldn't possibly ask everyone to pitch in either. By doing that, it would definitely destroy his image. Without an option, he blurted resignedly, "I'll pay by card."

A few seconds after he handed over his payment card, the cashier said, "Sir, your amount in this card is insufficient."

Lincoln embarrassingly took back the card and said, "That's impossible. I was informed that two million had been credited to my account earlier today. Could it be that the amount hasn't gotten through?"

At that moment, the others broke out in a cold sweat. They were worried that they'd have to pitch in eventually if Lincoln didn't have enough money.

It costs over a million! That's a few hundred thousand per person! Surely no one has that much!

"Lincoln, what should we do now?" Michelle asked nervously.

"How about this? Since there's a minor delay in the transaction, perhaps we could all pitch in for the bill. Once I've gotten my money, I'll pay it back to you guys," Lincoln suggested to the others.

"Yes, we should do that. It's just a delayed transaction. Once Lincoln has received the money, he'll pay it back to everyone." Michelle hastily backed Lincoln up.

Chapter 152 A Rented Car

Finally, the moment everyone was afraid of had arrived. Excuses and complaints soon followed.

"I... I only have a thousand with me."

"I don't have money! I haven't even paid my personal bills!"

"I have ten thousand, but that's far from enough!"

They could barely pitch in eighty thousand, so there was no way they were going to pay up the sum.

While they were scrambling around, Jared sat comfortably on a couch in the lobby. He was served with refreshments by the staff as soon as he sat down.

"If you guys don't pay up, we can't let you leave." The cashier was getting fed up while waiting for the payment. She then announced on her walkie-talkie to request for the hotel security guards. "To the security department, please be informed that we have a situation at the payment counter. There are customers who can't pay for their meals."

Upon hearing that, Lincoln and the others jumped in fright.

Within a few seconds, they were surrounded by more than ten armed security guards.

Their knees were wobbling in fear because they had never been in such a tense situation before.

Under the dire circumstances, everyone's eyes were glued to Lincoln. If they were ever going to get free, he was their only hope.

However, Lincoln's face turned pale when he saw the murderous looks the security guards had on their faces.

"Lincoln, you came in a Mercedes-Benz S-Class, right? Why don't you just tell them you'll leave your car here as collateral?"

"That's right! Just leave your car here. Once you've received the money you mentioned, you can just come back and pay."

"Exactly. Unlike you, Lincoln, we aren't rich. I'm sure a million means nothing to you!"

The others came up with the idea and showered Lincoln with compliments again.

At that moment, Lincoln's face had embarrassment written all over it. "The car... The car is rented. I'm supposed to return it after dinner. I can't leave it here."

Lincoln's words left everyone absolutely appalled. Michelle gaped in astonishment as well.

Everyone felt utterly embarrassed because they didn't believe Jared when he said that Lincoln had only rented the car.

At that moment, everyone panicked because if Lincoln was a fraud, that would mean they had to fork up for the bill themselves.

"Since none of you could pay, we'll have to detain all of you!" the cashier said in annoyance. She then instructed the guards, "Bring all of them to the office. The manager will deal with them. They're cramping the place up!"

The guards then proceeded to drag all of them away by force.

Suddenly, Lincoln yelled out, "I... I'll pay my own share. Let me go! You can keep the rest of them."

Due to the devastating situation, Lincoln had decided to abandon the rest and save himself.

Everyone was stupefied when they heard Lincoln say that.

Michelle grabbed his hand and begged, "H-How about me, Lincoln? Are you not going to pay for me?"

"Get lost! I don't have that much money!" Lincoln shoved Michelle away aggressively. "I must get away now! Otherwise, I might even get beaten up!"

Michelle was at a loss for words. She had never thought that Lincoln would be such a heartless man.

"No. That's not possible. Unless the bill is cleared entirely, none of you is allowed to leave." The cashier rejected Lincoln coldly.

Lincoln was stunned. So we're all doomed unless we can pay off the outstanding of more than a million.

"Why did you act all high and mighty when you're just a poor bloke? How ridiculous!"

"It's all your fault! Why did you order brandy when you're penniless?"

"More than a million! What are we going to do now?"

Everyone turned livid and didn't hold back on their remarks directed at Lincoln and Michelle.

"Jared, please have some mercy! Help me get out of this, and I'll pay you back later," Yvonne begged Jared.

Chapter 153 Audacity

Out of a sudden, everyone realized that the question around Jared's identity didn't matter anymore. He must be someone important. Otherwise, why would he have the privilege of having free meals at Glamor Hotel? It seems like only he can help us.

Then everyone started gathering up around Jared and begged for his help.

"Please help us get out of this. After all, we're Hilda's friends!"

"We're such a bunch of fools for believing in Lincoln and Michelle!"

"Lincoln is a fraud! We now know that he must've extorted the money from Hilda! No wonder she broke up with him."

"Please, Jared. I'm begging you!"

Jared stood up and took a glance at all of them. He grinned and exclaimed, "How audacious of all of you to call yourselves Hilda's friends! I can get all of you out of this with just one word. But that's not what I'm going to do. Every one of you deserves this!"

Upon hearing that, everyone was remorseful for what they had done.

"Bring them away!" Since Jared wasn't going to help them, one of the staff at the payment counter gave the order.

"Hey! No! Let me go..."

"Please help me!"

Some of them had even started sobbing when they were being brought away by force.

"Don't touch me! I... I am a close friend of your boss' daughter! If you touch me again, I'll get her to fire all of you!" Lincoln instinctively threatened the security guards.

Faced with the possibility of losing their livelihoods, the security guards stopped in their tracks. The staff at the payment counter were also stunned. After all, they were the ones who gave the order.

Lincoln felt relieved after finding out that his threat worked. He then said arrogantly, "I'm a close friend of Ms. Sullivan. Initially, I didn't want to tell her that I was dining here. Otherwise, she'd have come with me. But if you touch me again, you'll leave me no choice! I can give her a call right now and get all of you fired. Now, let me go and I'll let it slide."

Instantly, all the staff turned to look at Jared. They knew of the relationship between Jared and Josephine. If Josephine was really a close friend of Lincoln, Jared would have known. Hence, they wanted to find out if Lincoln was telling the truth.

Jared furrowed his brows. Just when he wanted to question Lincoln, a voice echoed through the lobby. "So, you said you know Ms. Sullivan?"

The voice came from the entrance of the hotel. Jared turned around and saw Josephine walking through the door.

While staring coldly at Josephine, Lincoln nodded and said, "Yes, I do. In fact, we're close friends. We'd always dine together!"

Upon hearing that, Josephine burst into laughter.

Jared, too, was laughing his head off. So Lincoln was bluffing! He almost got me there!

The hotel staff started chuckling among themselves as well. Josephine was right in front of him, and yet Lincoln wasn't even aware of who he was speaking to. Just a few seconds ago, he had even arrogantly claimed that he was a close friend of Josephine.

"Hey, idiot! Do you know who the person standing right in front of you is?" Jared smiled mockingly.

Lincoln looked at Jared and felt uneasy, as though something embarrassing was about to happen to him. As he was staring at Jared in puzzlement, the latter continued, "The person standing right in front of you is Ms. Sullivan, your close friend!"

Suddenly, chuckles turned into waves of laughter. The staff couldn't contain themselves any longer. On the other hand, Lincoln wished that the ground would open up and swallow him whole.

"What are you doing here this late at night?" Jared asked Josephine.

"What else? I heard you were here, so I came to see you. I've also heard that you have a beautiful lady accompanying you these days. You're enjoying life, aren't you?" Josephine was staring at Jared with a hint of jealousy in her eyes.

Chapter 154 No One Is Allowed To Leave

Lincoln, along with all of Hilda's ex-classmates, were stupefied when they heard Jared and Josephine speaking to each other. At that moment, Lincoln finally discovered the reason why Jared could have free meals at the hotel.

A smile flashed across Jared's face when he asked Josephine, "Are you jealous?"

"As if! Why would I be jealous?" Josephine rolled her eyes and continued, "My dad has been asking for you recently! He wants you to join us for a meal at home!"

"In another few days, perhaps. I've got my hands full recently!" Jared rejected.

The guys at the scene were all staring at Jared with envy. They were dumbfounded by the fact that he had just rejected an offer to dine with the Sullivan family.

A meal with the Sullivan family could potentially turn their life around for the better. They could not understand why Jared would reject such a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

“Hmph! What could you be so busy with? Maybe I should just appoint you as the chairman of the company! By then, you wouldn’t be as busy anymore.” Josephine wasn’t happy with Jared’s rejection.

“Oh, don’t! I have no time to manage the company for you!” Jared hurriedly waved his hands in dismissal.

Again, the people around, especially Lincoln and the others Jared had just had dinner with, were stunned by Jared’s reaction.

Just a few hours ago, they were all taking turns to ridicule Jared. But right at that moment, they felt so insignificant standing in front of him.

“I don’t care. You must come over tomorrow. My dad said Mr. Grange had asked him to invite you. So maybe there’s a solid reason for that,” Josephine said in a domineering tone.

After finding out that it was Walter who wished to see him, Jared accepted the offer instantaneously, as he reckoned that it might have something to do with the spiritual brush. “All right then. I’ll go over at noon tomorrow.”

“That’s more like it.” Finally, a blissful smile emerged on Josephine’s face. Then she gazed at Lincoln and the others.

As they locked eyes with Josephine, they could not help but lower their heads in embarrassment.

“Detain all of them! As long as we aren’t paid in full, none of them is allowed to leave!”

The security guards moved quickly to lock all of them up in a room behind the payment counter.

While they were being locked up, they were all regretting their actions. If only they hadn’t mocked Hilda endlessly, they wouldn’t have ended up in such a predicament. After all, they had nothing against Hilda. They were just doing it under the influence of Lincoln and Michelle.

However, it was too late for them to realize their mistakes. Knowing that it was Lincoln and Michelle’s fault, they could no longer contain their anger and started beating the duo up.

Meanwhile, Josephine offered to give Jared a ride home. However, he refused because Josephine’s luxury car would attract too much attention. Therefore, Josephine could only let out a sigh as she watched Jared driving away in his Ford.

After Jared had arrived home, he called Hilda to let her know that he had gotten home safely. He then found out that Hilda was sleeping over at Yolanda’s place. She had decided to stay over and comfort Yolanda.

Jared’s parents were already asleep when he got back. He then sat with his legs folded and started absorbing spiritual energy with his Focus Technique.

The spiritual energy in the surroundings then gathered up around Jared. However, the spiritual energy there was too little compared to what he could gain when he was at Dragon Bay. Hence, his ability wasn’t improved by much throughout the night. He could only replenish the spiritual energy within him.

It seems like I'm not getting anywhere with the spiritual energy available here. I have to get back to Dragon Bay. It's impossible to improve myself if I keep staying here!

Chapter 155 He Is Late

The next day, at Sentiment Chemical Limited, Zayne had gathered everyone from the sales department for a corporate meeting. However, Jared hadn't arrived yet.

"What's with Jared? Why hasn't he arrived at work?" Zayne took a quick glance around and asked.

He was directing his question toward Hilda because he knew that she would most probably know the reason behind Jared's late arrival.

However, Hilda had no clue about where Jared was. She was getting nervous, as she thought something bad might have happened to him. What if he got into trouble last night? Maybe he lied to me so that I wouldn't be worried about him!

"Jared should be here soon," Hilda blurted as she took out her phone to give Jared a call.

"I'll make a record of this. He has only been here a few days, and yet he's already late for work!" Zayne said coldly.

Zayne took full advantage of the situation because he was keen on having dirt on Jared.

"Mr. Carlson, perhaps he has realized that he was too full of himself by promising to secure the contract with Cosmic Chemical. Thus, he's too embarrassed to show his face here!" Lydia mocked while laughing sinisterly.

"That could be it!" Zayne nodded.

The others started to mock Jared as well. They knew that it was a tough task to secure the contract. Since Zayne and Maria had failed to secure it after making several attempts, it was very unlikely that an insignificant salesperson like Jared would be able to do it.

"That's not it! Jared will surely be here." Hilda jumped to Jared's defense.

"It's so late already. I bet he's just too embarrassed to come!" Lydia sniggered.

"Other than talking big, Jared is good for nothing else!" Maria added. After all the things that had happened recently, her hatred for Jared was piling up.

Anxious, Hilda was still trying to reach Jared by making calls.

By the time Jared answered the call, he was already making his way into the office. He was late because he couldn't wake up in time after a whole night long of cultivating his spiritual energy.

"You're finally here, Jared! I thought something bad happened to you!" Hilda greeted with a sigh of relief.

"Nothing bad happened to me! I couldn't get up in time." Jared smiled.

“Jared, you’re a worker! You should at least be punctual. Since you’re late, you’ll be fined five hundred as punishment,” Zayne yelled furiously.

A penalty of five hundred was considered much, since Jared had only been working for a few days.

“Mr. Carlson, isn’t five hundred a bit too much? Could you give Jared another chance, since this is only his first offense?” Hilda pleaded.

“There are rules in this company. There’s no way around it. The amount is stated in the company policy.” Zayne smirked.

“Whatever. I don’t care.” Jared wasn’t bothered by the penalty at all.

Upon seeing that, Zayne was infuriated. He then roared, “Do you remember what you said yesterday, Jared? If you fail to secure the contract with Cosmic Chemical by today, you’ll have to resign!”

“All right. Whatever you say!” Jared replied nonchalantly as he took his seat.

Zayne was extremely irritated by Jared’s attitude. However, his mood improved when the thought of Jared resigning crossed his mind.

“Jared, Yolanda told me that one of our ex-classmates is working in Cosmic Chemical. Maybe I can put in a good word for you. In fact, that person is an office administrator in the company. I think he could be instrumental to your task!” Hilda said.