

The Man's Decree 161

Chapter 161 Businessmen

"Mr. Chance, it's an honor to have you here. You have no idea how excited I am about this meeting. Please, have a seat."

To Jared's surprise, Raymond wheeled out his office chair and offered it to him.

Raymond's enthusiasm befuddled Jared. Why is he being so over-the-top with his greetings? All I did was ask Tommy to pop in earlier to make his acquaintance!

"Mr. Green, do you know me?" Jared asked blankly.

"Of course! I was at Mr. Grange's banquet too. Your gallantry remains fresh in my mind. That Steven Fisher insisted on raining on Mr. Grange's parade, yet you sent him flying with one kick."

Raymond's heart swelled with excitement as he recalled the happenings at the banquet.

That day, Steven had led men from the Crimson Dragon Gang to Walter's banquet, frightening the guests to no end. After all, the average businessmen did not typically engage in physical fights.

Jared had then stepped forward and subdued Steven, which had earned him the respect of all the guests at the banquet.

Raymond's mention of the banquet brought a knowing smile to Jared's face. Now I know why he's greeting me so enthusiastically! If I had known this sooner, I wouldn't have troubled Tommy to give him a heads-up.

Jared replied humbly, "Mr. Green, I'm just an average sales representative, here to discuss a deal with you. There is no need to bring up the past."

"I know, I know." Raymond nodded eagerly before addressing his secretary, "Eliza, have you completed the contract I told you about earlier?"

"Yes. It's here." She hurriedly handed over the contract to Raymond.

He then passed it to Jared and said, "Mr. Chance, please review the contract thoroughly. If you'd like to propose any edits to the contract, please let us know, and we'll try our best to accommodate your requirements."

Jared replied without reading the contract, "I don't need to check it. I trust you, Mr. Green."

"In that case, let's sign on it."

Raymond hurriedly produced a pen and handed it to Jared.

Just as Jared was about to sign the contract, however, Leyton stormed into the office with Sandy in tow.

"Mr. Scott?" Raymond frowned slightly at the uninvited guests.

He could only let Leyton's blatantly disrespectful behavior slide. Cosmic Chemical did not have the luxury of offending the powerful Scott family.

While his company had a sizeable market share in the chemical industry, the Scotts owned businesses in every field imaginable, and their power and influence both awed and frightened the industry.

Leyton demanded coldly, "Mr. Green, I'm here to discuss a deal with you. I recall the talks between our families going quite smoothly, so why are you suddenly signing a deal with someone else instead?"

"Mr. Scott, we considered the matter thoroughly before deciding to sign with Sentiment Chemical Limited. We are fellow businessmen; I'm sure you understand that we will always prioritize the final profit," Raymond explained with a smile.

Leyton glared at him and spat, "That's a load of crap! Do you think I'm an idiot? They sent one random salesman to visit you, and here you are signing a deal with them? They must've bribed you! I came here on behalf of the Scotts to close the deal, and that's an honor you'll scarcely receive in your lifetime."

His rage was palpable. After all, he had come by with plans to belittle Jared, only to find out that he himself had become the fool. It would be too embarrassing if Jared walked away with that contract!

All traces of the smile on Raymond's face disappeared.

Hardening his tone, he declared, "Mr. Scott, please watch your words. Cosmic Chemical is my company, and I can sign deals with whomever I want. I don't care how powerful the Scotts are, but they don't have a say in how I run my company!"

Leyton was taken aback at Raymond's audacity to talk back to him.

Scrunching his brows in anger, he roared, "Are you going to talk to me like that? I could kick your whole company out of Horington in less than a month!"

Chapter 162 Playing Innocent

Raymond merely scoffed, "Hmph! Be my guest. I have nothing to fear."

Leyton floundered when he realized his threats fell on deaf ears.

Just then, an eavesdropping Jeffrey ran into the office and beelined for Raymond. "Mr. Green, I believe that the Scott family is still our best choice when it comes to manufacturing or sales. Signing a deal with them would maximize our profits as well."

The Scott family had bribed Jeffrey to help them secure a deal with Cosmic Chemical. If the deal fell through, he would have to return the bribe and potentially face Leyton's wrath.

His advice angered Raymond, who bellowed, "Jeffrey, why are you butting your head into this contract business? You're just an office administrator, and you don't have a say in these deals!"

His loud reprimand startled Jeffrey into silence, and the latter moved aside quietly.

"Did you take money from the Scotts? Why are you pushing so hard for Mr. Green to sign a deal with them?" Jared asked Jeffrey directly.

Jeffrey sputtered angrily, "What the h*ll are you saying? No one took anyone's money! I think you have poor character, and I've always believed an employee's character is a reflection of their company values."

Raymond, on the other hand, broke out in a cold sweat.

He was aware of Jared's identity, and he could not believe Jeffrey had the gall to insult Jared to his face.

Does he have some sort of death wish? While I'm busy worrying if Jared is pleased with our service, my incompetent subordinate barged in to insult him and ruin my efforts!

He gave Jeffrey a kick behind his knees and seethed. "Shut it. How could you speak to Mr. Chance like that? Get on your knees now!"

Flabbergasted, Jeffrey looked at his boss in disbelief and stammered, "M-Mr. Green, he's just a salesman. W-What are you doing?"

"Shut up! Just get on your knees. Did I not make myself clear?" He added another fierce kick for good measure, even as he was shocked out of his wits at the consequences of Jeffrey's blind rudeness.

If Jared's angry with us, Tommy, Walter, or the Sullivan family could easily ruin this company in a heartbeat!

As Jeffrey fell to his knees with a thud, Raymond apologized profusely to Jared, "Mr. Chance, I should've educated my subordinates better. His behavior was unacceptable, and I'll fire him right away. As for any potential bribery, I'll have it investigated as soon as possible."

His courteous behavior toward Jared pissed Leyton off, and in a fit of anger, he snarled, "Raymond, what's wrong with you? Jared is just an ex-convict. Why are you worshipping him like some hero? I can't believe you're the CEO of a big company. It's freaking embarrassing."

Raymond eyed him coldly without further explanation. If he's unaware of Jared's capabilities, he can have fun digging a deeper grave for himself. The Scotts won't be around for much longer if this goes on.

While the Scott family was powerful, they did not stand a chance against the combined might of Tommy, Walter, and the Sullivan family.

"Mr. Green, let's sign the contract. In peace, if you will," came Jared's simple request.

"Of course!" Raymond turned to Eliza and ordered, "Send them away. If they refuse to leave, call for security."

Eliza nodded in acknowledgment before turning to Leyton. "Mr. Scott, this way, please."

Leyton glared at Raymond in obvious displeasure, yet refusing to leave the premises would only make his eventual exit more humiliating. Reluctantly, he dragged Sandy with him as he strode toward the doors. Before he left, he whirled around and warned, "You better watch out, Raymond. I'll make you regret this in more ways than you could ever imagine."

After their departure, Raymond turned his attention to a kneeling Jeffrey and barked, "Get lost! I'll deal with you later!"

Chapter 163 Big Fat Liar

Jeffrey turned tail and ran out of Raymond's office.

He returned to his office in a poor mood. When he spied Hilda still waiting for him, a sly thought crossed his mind.

Jeffrey's furious expression, however, scared the wits out of Hilda.

He approached her and asked, "Have you given my proposal any thought? I'm telling you, as long as you agree to my request, I swear that we'll sign a deal with your company."

Jeffrey was taking advantage of his knowledge of the situation, since he knew that Sentiment Chemical Limited had secured the deal.

Hilda pleaded, "Jeffrey, c-could you ask for something else instead?"

Scoffing, Jeffrey replied, "Ask for something else? Do you have any idea how much that contract is worth? You'd be able to swim in the commission gained from securing such a contract. You could even buy a house with that money! It's not unreasonable for you to spend a night with me in exchange for such riches, is it? If I had that sort of money, I'd be sleeping my way through the country!"

Hilda blushed to the roots of her hair, biting her lip in frustration. Her troubled look merely increased Jeffrey's desire for her.

Eventually, she conceded with a nod. "F-Fine, I agree to your requests. But only after the contract is properly signed!"

"Of course. We'll sign the contract first." He smirked cruelly and continued, "I'll book a room for tonight. Just wait for my call. Be ready to put on a show."

Utterly disgusted, Hilda whirled around and fled his office.

She had barely left Jeffrey's office when she ran into Jared, who was descending a flight of stairs nearby.

"Jared."

Hilda had no idea Jared would arrive at Cosmic Chemical so soon.

Her appearance surprised him, and he asked, "Hilda, what are you doing here?"

I told her that she didn't have to come. I can't believe she sneaked out here alone!

"I came to ask an ex-classmate for help. I thought it would be beneficial to your negotiation," she explained. Spying the contract in Jared's hands, she stammered in surprise, "Jared, d-did you already sign the contract?"

"Yes, I did."

With that, he handed the contract to Hilda.

She perused the contract with a deep frown.

I secured Jeffrey's help mere seconds ago. How could Jared sign the contract before that?

Meanwhile, Raymond had come down the stairs behind Jared. He seemed shocked to see Hilda and asked, "Mr. Chance, who's this?"

After all, he had been privy to Jared and Josephine's relationship since Walter's banquet. They were not shy about showing their affection for one another in public.

"She's like my younger sister," Jared introduced with a smile.

He then turned to Hilda and explained, "Hilda, this is Mr. Green, the head of Cosmic Chemical. I signed the contract with him earlier."

"It's nice to meet you, Mr. Green. My name is Hilda Wallace." She extended her hand out and shook hands with Raymond.

"Ms. Wallace, did I hear you say that your ex-classmate works in this company?" Raymond asked curiously.

Nodding, Hilda explained, "Yes. His name is Jeffrey Leigh, and he's an office administrator in your company."

"Him?" Jared scrunched his brows immediately.

"Do you know him?" His response perplexed Hilda.

Jared replied, "That same Jeffrey was trying his best to prevent us from signing a deal with Cosmic Chemical just minutes ago!"

His explanation had Hilda's anger soaring through the roof. Jeffrey was lying to me this whole time! I can't believe I stupidly agreed to his disgusting requests! Urgh, I'm so mad that I'm going to kill him!

As luck would have it, Jeffrey walked out of his office then. When he saw Hilda standing with Jared and Raymond, he instinctively sensed that he was in trouble. Without further ado, he immediately ran for the exit.

"Jeffrey, you b*stard! How dare you lie to me!"

Hilda gave chase immediately, yelling profanities at him with all her might.

Chapter 164 Windfall

Jared caught on to the situation and leaped forward, pulling Jeffrey back before he could escape.

Once Hilda reached them, she pulled at Jeffrey's hair and shrieked, "Jeffrey, didn't you claim that you had a say in the deal with Cosmic Chemical? How dare you lie to me and dangle the contract over my head to force me into your bed! You b*stard!"

She pounded him repeatedly as she vented her rage, and Jeffrey silently endured her raining fists.

A murderous aura had begun to emanate from Jared as he understood the situation. So Jeffrey was blackmailing Hilda with the contract. If I didn't come here to sign it myself, he would've gotten away with his scheme!

Sometime later, Hilda stopped hitting Jeffrey out of exhaustion. Her eyes had welled with tears as she turned to Jared and muttered, "Jared, I-I didn't want you to get fired. That's the only reason I agreed to this b*stard's proposal!"

"Don't worry, Hilda. I understand," he comforted her before staring daggers at Jeffrey.

Sensing his murderous aura, Jeffrey shook in fear and begged for mercy. "I-I know I was wrong. It was all a joke! We used to be classmates. How could I bring myself to take advantage of her like that?"

His profuse apologies fell on deaf ears.

Jared announced, "I don't want to kill anyone today." He tightened his grip on Jeffrey's elbow, and an immense wave of spiritual energy emanated from his body, smashing the bones in Jeffrey's arm into smithereens.

"Argh!" Jeffrey let out an ear-splitting scream of agony.

Unbeknownst to Jeffrey, the bones in his arm had been pulverized to an irreparable degree.

"Jared!" Hilda immediately pulled Jared aside after his show of force.

She was worried that Jared would kill Jeffrey for her sake and land himself in jail again.

Faced with her concern, Jared stopped tormenting Jeffrey and turned his attention to a shell-shocked Raymond. "Mr. Green, this is your employee. Please deal with him as you see fit."

Raymond nodded hastily and assured him repeatedly of his intention to discipline Jeffrey.

Jared and Hilda soon left before they overstayed their welcome. The former was confident that Raymond would teach Jeffrey a proper lesson.

When they returned to Sentiment Chemical Limited, everyone in the sales department was floored.

They even took turns reading the contract to verify its authenticity.

After that, they stared at Jared in disbelief, unable to imagine how he had secured a contract with Cosmic Chemical in such a short time.

Zayne held the contract with shaky hands. As the manager of the sales department, he was the only person who knew the true value of the contract, as well as the lucrative commission he was set to receive.

Despite his hatred and bone-deep desire to fire Jared, he could not deny that Jared had inadvertently handed him a windfall.

Still, Zayne tried his best to suppress his excitement. Putting on a nonchalant expression, he said, "Jared, you managed to secure this contract thanks to Maria's and my efforts in the past. Don't get too cocky

just yet. You may have passed this round and spared yourself from the chopping block, but that doesn't mean you'll pass the next evaluation!"

After that, Zayne kept the contract and beelined for the general manager's office, eager to share the great news.

"Zayne! Wait up!" Maria followed him after his departure from the sales department.

He stopped after seeing that Maria was running after him.

"Can you tell me how much you'll earn from this contract?" Maria knew the commission from the contract was sizeable, but she was curious about the exact sum.

Zayne beamed as he replied, "Haven't you had your eyes on the houses in Dragon Bay for a while? We can check them out tomorrow, and you can pick any unit you like. We're about to roll in riches thanks to this contract, and we'll definitely be able to afford a nice house then."

Chapter 165 Getting Stood Up

When Maria heard that, she almost leapt with joy. She asked excitedly, "Really? Looks like Jared isn't that useless."

"Hmph! I think that he's merely relying on the foundations we've built previously," Zayne scoffed, thinking that Jared did not deserve the credit.

"Yeah. If we hadn't worked on it beforehand, Jared wouldn't have gotten the contract signed so easily," Maria agreed as she nodded.

"All right. I'll pass the contract to Mr. Jennings. He'll definitely reward me. Perhaps he might even transfer me to the procurement department!"

With that, Zayne went to the general manager's office happily with the contract.

As he was overjoyed, he entered without even knocking.

Right then, Xavier was in the middle of the call. Upon noticing someone barging in all of a sudden, he ended the call directly.

Xavier's expression turned grim when he saw Zayne.

Knowing that he had just gotten himself into trouble, Zayne trembled in fear. He raised the contract and declared, "Mr. Jennings, we've signed the contract with Cosmic Chemical!"

Since this is an important contract, perhaps Xavier won't be angry after hearing such news.

However, Zayne was mistaken. Immediately after he spoke, Xavier became furious. "Get lost! Get lost now!"

Then he threw a cup at Zayne fiercely.

Crash!

The sound of the cup shattering into pieces shocked Zayne, causing him to scurry out in fear.

Gritting his teeth, Xavier panted heavily in fury.

He had already known that Jared managed to sign the contract with Cosmic Chemical. Initially, he had wanted Jared to be humiliated there, but Leyton had ended up being embarrassed instead.

The call earlier was from Leyton, who had given Xavier a harsh scolding. Xavier only became associated with Leyton because he no longer wanted to stay with the Sullivan family. As Leyton could use his betrayal of the Sullivan family as blackmail, he had no choice but to endure Leyton's scoldings.

"Zayne, what did Mr. Jennings say? Did he mention the commission?" Maria asked happily when she saw Zayne return.

"Forget it. I don't know what's wrong with him today. He even scolded me!"

Holding the contract, Zayne returned to his office unhappily.

Maria hurried behind and consoled him.

At noon, Jared packed his belongings and prepared to head to the Sullivan residence. After all, he had promised Josephine to dine with William.

"Jared, you managed to secure such an important contract today. Why don't we celebrate it over lunch? I know a really good restaurant nearby," Hilda suggested happily.

Stunned, Jared replied awkwardly, "I'm busy this afternoon, so you may go ahead and enjoy your lunch. Let's celebrate at night..."

Hearing that, Hilda became a bit disappointed. "All right, then."

Watching as Jared left the office, Hilda felt like there was a gap between the two of them. She could not understand Jared, nor could she manage to capture his heart.

After Jared left the office, he wanted to drive his Ford over. However, he suddenly saw Josephine sitting in a car and honking at him.

Since Josephine had personally come to pick him up, Jared kept his car keys and walked toward her.

"Are you so free that you've come to pick me up personally?" Jared asked with a smile after getting into the car.

"I'm just afraid that you'd stand me up. Mr. Grange has already reached. If you don't go, I'll be so embarrassed."

With that, Josephine slammed her foot on the accelerator, and the car sped forward.

At that moment, Hilda was standing beside a window upstairs. She saw Jared getting into a red luxurious car that was driven by a woman. However, as she was too far away, she could not see what the woman looked like. She could not help but feel upset upon seeing Jared leave with a woman.

