

Chapter 171

After getting off work, Hilda didn't hitch a ride home with Jared but hailed a taxi home by herself. "What's wrong with her today?" Jared murmured under his breath. He could sense her being listless the entire day, and she didn't speak to him either. Having driven home, he got changed, and Josephine came to pick him up. A luxurious car idling in front of the dilapidated neighborhood attracted plenty of attention in a blink of an eye.

"Who's this wealthy lady, and why is she here in our shabby neighborhood?" "Could it be that she has taken a fancy to one of the lads here?" "It's evident that she's filthy rich at a single glance, so how could she possibly be interested in the lads here?" A group of elderly ladies was sitting by the neighborhood entrance, shooting the breeze. Among them was Chloe, and she was also very curious to know who exactly the person in the car was waiting for.

However, when she spotted Jared exiting the neighborhood and getting into the car, she was wholly stumped. "Chloe, that's Gary's son, Jared, no? So, he has gotten himself a rich girlfriend!" "I remember that he's quite close to your daughter, Hilda. What's going on here?" "Young people nowadays are always materialistic..." The few elderly ladies gossiped among themselves while Chloe rushed home to ask her daughter what exactly had happened.

After Jared had gotten into Josephine's car, they went all the way to the suburbs in Horington according to the location Walter had given them. The area was undeveloped, so single-story houses predominated, and the roads were rather bumpy as well. More than an hour later, they finally arrived at their destination. By then, Walter was already waiting there.

As Jared swept his gaze around, he couldn't quite believe that Walter had a good friend at such a place, considering his identity. "Mr. Chance!" Walter went up to Jared and greeted him courteously right away. Beside Walter stood a similarly elderly man with graying hair at his temples. However, his aura and dressing were as different as night and day from Walter. "This is Mr. Chance whom I spoke of, Kieran.

His medical skills are unparalleled," Walter murmured to the elderly man beside him. As soon as Kieran Snyder saw Jared, he froze with disbelief written all over his face. In his mind, he pictured a professor or expert over seventy years old, since Walter had revered the person so greatly to the point of addressing him as "Mr." and lauding his medical skills. Thus, he never expected Jared to be so young, a mere kid to someone of his age.

"Kieran, Kieran!" Walter called out to the man who had fallen into a trance. Jolting back to his senses, Kieran quickly extended his dry and wrinkled hand, saying to Jared, "Oh, sorry! Nice to meet you, Mr. Chance." Jared shook his hand and inclined his head a fraction in greeting. "Kieran's wife is in the house, Mr. Chance. Please look her over."

While Walter spoke, Kieran walked ahead and led the way. Walter walked alongside Jared and explained his relationship with Kieran. It turned out that they were childhood friends, and Walter had also used to live in a single-story house in the area when he was young. Of course, that was decades ago.

He had left after attending school and had slowly gone into politics. In time, he rarely contacted his old friends anymore. After he had retired and returned to Horington once more, he got in touch with his old

friends. He then wanted to help Kieran move from the suburbs and buy him a house in the city, but Kieran was reluctant to leave.

Hence, he relented. The two of them often chatted over tea. While Kieran led a humble life, he found it very fulfilling and had never asked Walter for anything. However, a few days ago, he had suddenly sought the man out and implored him to help find a skilled doctor to treat his wife.

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Walter was well-respected and had vast connections, so it would be a piece of cake for him to find a skilled doctor. However, Walter immediately surmised that Kieran's wife wasn't simply sick after hearing about her condition. For that reason, he went to Jared. Soon, they arrived at a courtyard with Kieran leading the way. The courtyard was exceedingly small, housing only three brick rooms, while a corner was dedicated to rearing chickens and ducks.

An unpleasant stench hung in the air. The moment they stepped into the courtyard, Josephine's brows furrowed slightly. She clapped a hand over her nose and mouth, repulsed by the malodor, as she seldom visited such a place. Conversely, Jared wasn't perturbed, as he had lived in a village for more than ten years before moving to the city with his mother. No sooner had they entered the house than the shrieks of a woman from the room on their left drifted into their ears.

Her voice was shrill and sounded particularly terrifying. "Ahh! I'm going to kill you all! I'm going to execute the lot of you! I'm now the queen, and I want to sentence you all to death!" Her screams and wails scared Josephine so much that she went as pale as a sheet. She clutched at Jared's sleeve, regretting her decision to come with him.

Kieran then opened the room door on the left, revealing an elderly woman in her sixties with white hair and a wrinkled face screeching madly right then. There was nothing in the room save a single bed. The second the elderly woman saw someone entering the room, she leaped onto the bed. "Who are the lot of you? How dare you barge into my palace? I'm going to have you all arrested!" she bellowed with widened eyes.

"I found someone to look you over, Darling. Please stop kicking up a fuss." Kieran went over to soothe his wife. Unexpectedly, the elderly woman darted forward and bit him hard before sprinting over to the corner. "Oh, well..." Kieran heaved a helpless sigh at that turn of events. "How long has your wife been in such a condition? And does she remain mentally unstable all the time?" Jared asked Kieran. "It's been seven or eight days now.

She's not mentally unstable all the time, but the times she's cognizant are growing increasingly far between," Kieran answered with anxiety etched on his face. "I heard from Mr. Grange that this condition of your wife's started after you both returned from a trip to the cemetery?" Jared continued inquiring. Kieran nodded in affirmation. "That's right. My wife said that she missed our son a few days ago, so I brought her to the cemetery for a visit.

Alas, she started acting up that night." "Kieran's son passed away some years ago from an accident, Mr. Chance," Walter hastily explained to Jared. As Jared looked at Kieran and his wife, a wealth of sympathy

filled him. *Ah, losing a child at old age is the most tragic thing ever!* “Did anything strange happen after the two of you went to the cemetery?”

he questioned. Kieran pondered for a moment before shaking his head. “No, everything was quite normal. Nothing happened.” “Mr. Chance, could it be that Kieran’s wife is possessed?” Walter asked in a whisper. “Let me check her over before drawing any conclusions.” After saying that, Jared took out a cloth pouch with rows of silver needles arranged neatly.

He swiftly whipped out a silver needle and headed toward the elderly woman in the corner. Seeing that, Kieran hurriedly blocked his path. “You’ve got to be careful so that my wife doesn’t hurt you. She doesn’t recognize anyone now.” “Don’t worry. I’ll be fine.” Jared flashed him a smile.

When he reached the elderly woman, she rushed at him without warning and opened her mouth to bite him. Jared promptly inserted the silver needle in his hand into her neck, causing her to freeze before falling back onto the bed with a thud.

At that sight, Kieran dashed over and shook his wife vigorously. When she remained motionless, he panicked and roared at Jared, “What did you do to my wife? Is she dead?”

Chapter 173 Poisoning

Kieran grew very emotional and was seemingly a moment away from getting physical with Jared.

Upon seeing that, Walter instantly zipped forward and held him back. “Kieran, Mr. Chance is here to treat your wife. What are you doing?”

“Don’t worry, for your wife is just unconscious. She’ll be fine.”

Having said that, Jared sat on the bed and placed a hand on the elderly woman’s pulse. On the heels of that, a burst of pure spiritual energy left his body and streamed into hers.

If she were possessed, his spiritual energy would undoubtedly be able to force the spirit out. Regretfully, no matter how much he increased the flow of his spiritual energy, she remained still without the slightest reaction.

At that, Jared frowned slightly. “Hmm? Could it be that I made a mistake?”

In the beginning, he had thought that she was possessed by a malicious spirit, and he only needed to force it out before absorbing it into himself. However, it seemed that she wasn’t possessed, after all.

“Mr. Chance?” Walter called out softly when nothing happened after a long while, and he noticed something off about Jared’s expression.

At that moment, Josephine mustered her courage and went up behind Jared. Despite her fear, she was still curious and wanted to see how exactly a spirit looked like.

A long time passed without anything transpiring, and the atmosphere in the entire room turned a tad awkward.

Jared slowly retracted his hand, sweat beading on his forehead.

He had used too much spiritual energy earlier, so he was a touch enervated.

“She’s not suffering from hysteria, so I’ll check for other causes.”

After saying that, he picked up a silver needle and gently inserted it into the elderly woman’s wrist. Then he slowly twisted it.

Soon, almost the entire needle was embedded in her wrist.

A moment later, he took it out, only to see a drop of black blood beading at her wrist.

Everyone was shocked when they saw that her blood was black. That went doubly for Kieran. He wore a worried expression and seemingly wanted to speak, yet he was afraid that he would break Jared’s concentration.

“What’s going on here, Mr. Chance?” Walter was also baffled, since it made no sense that an ordinary person would have black blood.

“This is a symptom of poisoning. From the look of things, that’s the cause of her mental disorder, leading to her being of unsound mind,” Jared explained.

“Poisoning?” Walter was startled. Turning to Kieran, he queried, “What did your wife eat before she started acting up, Kieran? How did she get poisoned?”

With a frown marring his countenance, Kieran mulled it over before shaking his head. “She didn’t eat anything. She just had a simple meal after returning from the cemetery. I ate the same thing as well, so why am I fine?”

Walter didn’t know what to say to that, so he shifted his gaze to Jared.

“Recall carefully whether your wife ate or drank anything after going to the cemetery, including wild fruits and herbs. Or did she touch anything at all?” Jared questioned Kieran solemnly.

“N-No, she didn’t touch anything.”

Despite Kieran’s denial, he averted his gaze when answering and dared not look the man in the eye.

Noticing his shifty expression, Jared knew that he was definitely lying.

Since the man wasn’t willing to speak the truth, he couldn’t do anything to help despite sympathizing with them.

“In that case, please accept my apologies. This is beyond my capabilities.”

He put the silver needles away and got ready to leave.

At that turn of events, Kieran started panicking. Meanwhile, Walter could also tell that Kieran was seemingly hiding something, so he snapped, “Kieran, I got Mr. Chance here to treat your wife, yet you’re unwilling to be candid with us? Do you want your wife to die?”

Kieran had a conflicted look on his face while he stared at his wife on the bed. At long last, he gritted his teeth and admitted, “We indeed found something at the cemetery, and my wife brought it home.”

Chapter 174 Meat Reishi Mushroom

“What was it?” Walter and Jared asked in unison.

“It was a reishi mushroom. It was gigantic and resembled a reishi mushroom yet a bit different from the usual ones. My wife was convinced that it would fetch a high price, so she brought it home,” Kieran confessed with embarrassment written all over his face.

“Where is it? Let me have a look at it,” Jared ordered.

Nodding, Kieran left the room. Shortly after, he came back in with a huge glass bottle in his hands.

Indeed, something that resembled a reishi mushroom lay in the glass bottle. However, it didn’t at all appear to be a plant.

“This is no reishi mushroom. It’s clearly a piece of rotten meat!”

When Josephine saw the item in the glass bottle, she almost hurled.

“This isn’t rotten meat. It’s indeed a plant that grows on the ground, but it appears like meat.”

While saying that, Kieran opened the glass bottle and took it out.

“Watch out, Kieran! It might be poisonous!” Walter promptly cried out upon noticing that Kieran was planning to take it out with his bare hands.

“It’s fine. I’ve already touched it back then, so I would’ve been poisoned long ago if it’s really poisonous.”

Kieran wasn’t at all afraid, blithely taking out the item resembling a reishi mushroom.

“In that case, your wife can’t possibly have been poisoned by it either,” Walter said.

Since he’s fine after holding it, his wife couldn’t possibly have been poisoned in the same manner.

“Having skin contact with it is fine, but taking a bite out of it will result in the person being poisoned.”

As Jared spoke, he took the item resembling a reishi mushroom from Kieran and turned it over in his hands gently. Subsequently, he glimpsed a tiny portion missing at the bottom, making it abundantly clear that someone had taken a bite out of it.

When Kieran saw that tiny missing portion, surprise inundated him. “I told her not to simply eat it when its exact nature is yet uncertain. I never thought that she’d actually take a bite out of it furtively. If I’d known, I wouldn’t have allowed her to put it away!”

Stark regret flooded him, and he kept thumping his chest.

“Don’t blame yourself anymore, Kieran. I’m sure Mr. Chance can treat your wife!”

Stopping the man from inflicting harm upon himself, Walter looked at Jared and inquired, “What exactly is it, Mr. Chance? It doesn’t look like a reishi mushroom.”

Jared took the item back from Kieran and squeezed it gently, upon which it seemingly twitched as though having sensed something.

“This is known as the aconite or meat reishi mushroom. It grows at places where the geomancy is at extreme ends and nature is imbalanced. Although this is also a type of plant, it has eyes like an animal and is able to see the world. It has different names as its eyes increase in number. When it has all five senses, it becomes an aconite mushroom. It’s exceedingly rare, since it’s usually plucked by mistake or eaten by animals when it’s in its infancy stage. Very few make it to maturity.”

Jared then continued explaining in detail, “It’s very poisonous and absorbs its nutrients from decaying meat in the soil, so it has a high propensity of growing in the cemetery. Your wife is lucky that she only took a small bite. Otherwise, no one will be able to save her. Despite its rarity, it doesn’t have much medicinal value. If you had made it into a medicinal wine, the person who drank it would’ve probably died on the spot.”

Kieran trembled in fright after hearing that. Fortunately, I hadn’t any time to make it into a medicinal wine since my wife took ill! Otherwise, I would’ve been doomed as well!

“So, is there any cure for Kieran’s wife, Mr. Chance?” Walter asked in a murmur.

“Yes.” Jared nodded and returned the meat reishi mushroom to Kieran. Then he took out his silver needles and inserted them into Kieran’s wife at lightning speed.

A while later, Kieran’s wife regained consciousness and coughed up a mouthful of black blood.

Chapter 175 Eternally Grateful

With a wave of his hand, Jared retrieved all the silver needles and placed them back in the cloth pouch.

“All is good now. She’ll be right as rain after resting for a few days,” Jared said to Kieran.

“Darling, Darling!” Kieran hurriedly called out to his wife.

The elderly woman slowly opened her eyes. When she saw the crowd in the room, she murmured in bewilderment, “Why are there so many people here, Kieran?”

“Oh, don’t worry about it! They’re here to treat you. You’re fine now, so just rest!” Kieran urged in euphoria when he had ascertained that his wife had truly recovered.

Jared and the others left the room quietly and went to the courtyard. When Kieran came out, he dropped to his knees before Jared right away.

Jared was stunned for a moment, but he swiftly reached out and pulled the man up without allowing the latter’s knees to touch the ground.

“You’re truly my family’s savior! I thank you for your kindness! We don’t have much money, so I really don’t know how I should repay you...”

Kieran kept thanking him incessantly.

He was skeptical in the beginning, but he was then eternally grateful to Jared.

“Mr. Chance isn’t here for money, so you don’t need to do this, Kieran,” Walter advised.

If it were because of money, he wouldn’t be here!

“True, true! He isn’t hurting for money at all!” Kieran nodded fervently. After all, he had seen Jared and Josephine arriving in a luxurious car, so Jared couldn’t possibly be strapped for cash.

“Let me get you a few chickens and ducks instead so that you can have a feast later, Mr. Chance! I rear them myself, and they’re all well taken care of.” While saying that, he made to go and catch a few chickens and ducks for Jared.

At that, Jared quickly stopped him from doing so, asserting, “Don’t be such a stranger with me, Mr. Snyder. If you really want to thank me, do you mind giving me the meat reishi mushroom? I don’t mind paying for it!”

Hearing that, Kieran was stumped and regarded the man with a look of puzzlement. “Didn’t you say that it has no medicinal value and is poisonous instead, Mr. Chance? Why do you want it?”

“Indeed, it’s of no use to the average person. However, I need it for my training.”

It so happened that Jared could use it in his training. In fact, he believed that he would improve by leaps and bounds if he absorbed the essence of the meat reishi mushroom.

“Since it’s of use to you, just take it, Mr. Chance. I’m going to dump it anyway, as I don’t dare keep it at home anymore!”

Without an ounce of hesitation, Kieran handed the meat reishi mushroom in his hand to Jared.

Jared wanted to pay for it, but Kieran staunchly declined and refused to take his money.

After leaving Kieran’s house, Josephine lamented in disappointment, “I initially thought that I’d get to see some novel things, but there was nothing at all.”

At the sight of her crestfallen expression, Jared chuckled softly. “There aren’t that many ghosts and spirits in this world. Anyway, just don’t pass out in fright if you do have the opportunity to see them.”

“That won’t happen with you protecting me!” Josephine beamed at him.

After dropping Jared off, Josephine sped off. And no sooner had the former gone upstairs did Hilda slowly come out from behind a gigantic tree in the courtyard in the neighborhood. She stared at the man’s back, a riot of emotions brewing within her.

She had been secretly waiting there for him, wanting to see who exactly the woman was. However, she didn’t get to do so, since it was too dark, and Josephine didn’t alight from the car.

“Let’s go home, Sweetie. If he really chose to date the rich girl, that’s his choice,” Chloe murmured, patting her daughter gently on the shoulder.

“Yeah.” Hilda nodded, but tears shimmered in her eyes.

When Jared arrived home, he went to bed early. It was Saturday the following day, so he was planning to make a trip to Dragon Bay. The spiritual energy there was more bountiful, and there was no one to disrupt him. Therefore, it was the perfect opportunity for him to absorb the essence of the meat reishi mushroom.