

The Man's Decree 301

### **Chapter 301 A Misunderstanding**

"All right!" Tommy nodded.

Just when Tommy was looking around for a mechanic while driving, he noticed a red Mercedes-Benz tailing them.

"Mr. Chance, we have a situation," Tommy remarked as he glanced in his rearview mirror.

Turning around to look, Jared said anxiously, "Find someplace secluded. It's too crowded here on the main street!"

Tommy made a sharp turn and sped toward the outskirts of Yeringham, and the red Mercedes-Benz continued to follow them closely.

Realizing that they were being followed, Josephine blanched, and her body began to tremble.

Jared put his arm around her shoulders and reassured her, "Don't worry. Everything will be all right."

Tommy stopped the car when they arrived at a secluded area. Subsequently, the red Mercedes-Benz behind them jammed its brakes and screeched to a halt.

Jared got out of the car with his arm around the terrified Josephine.

From the driver's seat of the red Mercedes-Benz, a short-haired girl with exquisite features alighted. Her round and petite face made her look just like a doll.

Jared and Tommy were stunned to see her, as she didn't look like an assassin at all.

Holding a wrench in her hand, she stared at Jared and Tommy with fear.

"Who are you? Let my cousin go, or I'll call the police"

The girl's hand was trembling violently as she pointed her wrench in Jared's direction.

Shocked, Jared and Tommy turned to look at Josephine, whose eyes were filled with tears. She was so overwhelmed with emotions that she could barely speak.

"Frida, you've grown so tall that I barely recognize you!"

Josephine ran toward the girl and gave her a hug.

Bewildered by Josephine's reaction, Frida looked at Jared before returning her attention to Josephine.

"Josephine, y-you weren't kidnapped by these two?" Frida asked.

"Kidnapped?" Josephine was dumbstruck. Then, bursting into laughter, she said, "What are you talking about? They are my friends. Let me introduce them to you!"

She held Frida's hand and brought her to Jared. "This is my cousin, Frida Shaw. Frida, this is Jared Chance and Tommy Lewis."

"It's a pleasure to meet you." Jared extended his hand for a handshake.

Blushing red in embarrassment, Frida shook his hand. "I'm really sorry to have mistaken you for criminals."

It turned out that Frida had noticed the terrified expression on Josephine's face when she was in Jared's arms earlier in the car and because their car had been damaged from behind, she couldn't help but assume that Josephine had been kidnapped.

Hence, she had called the police while following their car. However, she now realized that it was nothing but a misunderstanding.

"Thank God we got that cleared up. You gave me a scare. We thought you were a baddie too!" Josephine replied in delight.

"Josephine, what happened to your car? What are you doing in Yeringham?" Frida asked curiously.

"We're here to buy some herbs. As for the car, it's a long story. I'll tell you about it next time."

Josephine didn't want Frida to know too much, as it would only endanger her.

"In that case, let's go in my car. I'm on my way to have lunch with my sister. She will definitely be ecstatic if she knows you're here!"

Frida did not ask further as she tugged Josephine straight toward her car.

Seeing that, Jared instructed Tommy, "Get the car repaired. We'll stay in touch over the phone."

After nodding in acknowledgment, Tommy left in the car. As for Jared, he followed Josephine into Frida's car and sat in the back.

### **Chapter 302 Do You Enjoy Being A Kept Man**

Josephine and Frida chatted incessantly, as they had not met each other in a few years.

"Josephine, which company does your boyfriend own?" Frida inquired.

"He isn't my boyfriend!" Josephine shook her head.

"Cut the crap. I saw it with my own eyes. If he wasn't your boyfriend, would you have sat with him and let him hug you? Did you sneak out without your dad's knowledge?"

Frida grinned cheekily at Josephine.

"No, my dad knows that we're here in Yeringham," Josephine explained at once.

She was worried that Frida would assume that she was eloping and give William a call.

"Hey, handsome, which company do you own? Since Josephine has the hots for you, you must really be something, huh?" Frida asked Jared mischievously. She was no longer afraid of him.

Jared smiled plainly. "I don't own any. I'm unemployed and relying on your cousin for living expenses. In fact, she bought me these clothes."

Indeed, Josephine was the one who bought the suit he was wearing.

“A kept man?” Frida let out a Freudian slip.

“Frida, stop spewing nonsense!” Josephine glared at her before giving Jared an apologetic look. “Jared, I hope you don’t mind. My cousin can be overly frank sometimes.”

Jared simply smiled. “Good, I like people like that.”

“It’s useless for you to like me. I’ll be your relative soon!” Frida teased.

Jared responded with an awkward chuckle. Even though she has a sharp tongue and straightforward character, she does resemble Josephine quite a bit.

Soon, the three of them arrived at a restaurant. After parking the car, Frida led Jared and Josephine inside.

Sitting at a table by the corner, a lady with long wavy hair was looking intently at her phone. With a pair of sunglasses hanging in front of her chest, she exuded the charm of a career woman.

Frida walked up to her and exclaimed in excitement, “Yas, look who’s here?”

The lady was stunned the moment she looked up. Josephine started, “Yasmin, can you recognize me?”

“Josephine?” Yasmin quickly got to her feet. “What brings you here? Quick, have a seat.”

“My friends and I are here to buy some herbs,” Josephine said as she took a seat beside Yasmin.

Only then did Yasmin notice Jared’s presence. After checking him out, she gave him a slight nod and extended her hand. “I’m Yasmin Shaw, Josephine’s cousin.”

“Jared Chance, Josephine’s friend.”

Jared shook Yasmin’s hand in return.

After they were seated, Yasmin grinned at Josephine and asked softly, “Josephine, who is he? He looks really sharp! Well done, you!”

“Yas, stop asking. He’s...”

Frida pulled Yasmin aside and whispered a few words into her ear.

Yasmin’s face visibly darkened after that. In fact, the way she looked at Jared had drastically changed.

“Josephine, you have to be careful in choosing a boyfriend. You’re attractive. I’m sure you have many suitors. You’re still young, so you have to keep your eyes out for those who will seek to deceive you, or else it will be too late for regrets once you’re married.”

Even though Yasmin was speaking to Josephine, her words were clearly aimed at Jared.

“Yasmin, you have misunderstood. Actually—”

“There’s no need to explain. I know everything. I was once your age,” Yasmin interrupted.

She then turned to Jared and sneered, "What's your reason for being unemployed? Do you enjoy being a kept man?"

### Chapter 303 Goldenbirch Herbs

Realizing that Yasmin was picking on him, Jared looked on helplessly and didn't know how to answer her.

"Yasmin, who's a kept man? Does kept man still exist in this society?"

At that moment, a handsome man who was one point eight meters tall walked in.

"Zeke, you're finally here! Why are you always late?" Frida said in a piping voice when she saw the man.

"I was held up by a business meeting. As usual, it will be my treat to make up for it. So please, go ahead and order whatever you want," Zeke replied with a smile as he checked out Josephine.

"This is my cousin, Josephine, and this is her boyfriend, Jared," Frida introduced them both to Zeke.

"Hi, I'm Zeke Griffin. Yasmin's boyfriend."

Zeke extended his hand in a chivalrous manner to both of them.

Meanwhile, Frida vacated her seat so that Zeke could sit with Yasmin.

"What are you chatting about to even broach the topic of a kept man?" Zeke asked Yasmin after settling down.

"It was just a casual remark. My cousin, who is the daughter of the richest man in Horington, found a loafer for a boyfriend. She even bought his clothes. If this isn't the definition of a kept man, what is?"

Yasmin sighed in disappointment.

Jared grimaced. Even though Yasmin's comments were well-intentioned on Josephine's account, her incessant attacks infuriated him.

Sensing the change in Jared's mood, Zeke said to Yasmin, "Not necessarily. It doesn't matter if they come from different backgrounds. In fact, Jared seems like someone pretty capable to me. As long as he works hard, he will achieve success too. We shouldn't look down upon others."

After he finished, he nodded apologetically at Jared. "Jared, please don't mind her. She has always been this straightforward."

"Not at all. She was only looking after Josephine."

Jared's anger slowly dissipated, as he had a good impression of Zeke.

"Anyway, let's order, shall we? This meal will be on me, so don't any of you fight me for it!"

Zeke called for the waiter and began ordering.

Shortly after, the table was filled with food. As they continued chatting, Jared discovered that Zeke was someone down to earth despite his important status. His family owned Goldenbirch Herbs, which was extremely famous.

Goldenbirch Herbs was among the top three herb traders out of eighteen in Yeringham. Their business revolved around collecting and selling herbs, and they were reasonably influential in the city.

Jared could see that Zeke wasn't just a spoiled rich kid when he observed how the latter conducted himself.

"Jared, are you guys here in Yeringham to visit a relative or just look around?" Zeke asked.

As they could potentially become relatives, it would be a good idea for them to get to know each other better.

"I'm here to purchase some herbs," Jared replied honestly.

"That's great! Just let me know whatever you need. We have all kinds of herbs at Goldenbirch Herbs, and the quality of our product is guaranteed. Since we're practically family, I'll give you the best price possible. To be honest, this is a pretty lucrative industry to be in."

Zeke misunderstood Jared's intentions by assuming that he planned to start a business selling herbs.

"That's not what I'm trying to do. I'm buying them for my personal use. I'm looking for ginseng roots and reishi mushrooms that are at least a century old. If you have any that are a thousand years old, it will certainly be fantastic!" Jared said casually with a smile.

Zeke was taken aback, while Yasmin scoffed, "Are you mad? Do you know how much they cost? Especially thousand-year-old ginsengs? The price is so exorbitant that there's no way you can ever afford it."

Jared remained silent, as he didn't see the need to explain.

## Chapter 304 The Same Name

After regaining his senses, Zeke replied in a solemn tone, "Jared, I understand your ambition, but what you are asking for costs an arm and a leg. Despite how wealthy the Sullivan family is, even they might not be able to get you what you want. And if you don't know how to judge the authenticity of the product, you might end up being cheated of everything you have!"

"Zeke, I appreciate the advice, but I know what I'm doing," Jared said.

As Jared seemed to have made up his mind, Zeke didn't try to dissuade him any further. Instead, he offered, "Jared, since you have just arrived in Yeringham, you should get some rest. Tomorrow, come to Goldenbirch Herbs and I'll show you around. With me by your side, no one will try to swindle you."

"Why do you need to accompany him? Aren't you busy enough? He's overambitious and incompetent. Does he even know how to recognize a hundred-year-old ginseng?"

Yasmin's disdain for Jared continued to grow.

“All right, now. Since they have traveled so far, it’s only right that we show them around,” Zeke replied with a smile.

“Go ahead if you insist, but I’m not free. I still need to work.” Yasmin frowned at Zeke. “Josephine, you’d better be careful and not just loosen your purse strings just because someone asked you to.”

“I understand, Yasmin.” Josephine nodded.

After the meal and bidding their farewells, Jared and Josephine planned to look for a place to stay.

Yasmin had invited Josephine to stay with her, but Josephine had turned her down on Jared’s account.

The moment they stepped out of the restaurant, Tommy drove over in his car after having it repaired.

“This is my friend Tommy Lewis,” Jared introduced Tommy to Zeke.

“Hello, I’m Zeke!” Zeke shook hands with Tommy.

“Jared, I heard that the underground king of Horington is named Tommy Lewis and people call him Mr. Lewis. He is known to be extremely powerful in Horington and has hundreds of men under his command. Your friend here shares the exact same name as Mr. Lewis!” Zeke commented in surprise.

“There’re plenty of people who have the same name. Would someone like Mr. Lewis be a driver for a kept man? What are you even thinking?” Yasmin sneered.

The moment she heard it, Josephine wanted to explain to her cousin that Tommy was indeed who they were talking about.

However, Jared stopped her before she could say a word. With an awkward chuckle, he replied, “They just share the same name, that’s all.”

He didn’t want Tommy’s identity to be revealed for fear of attracting unnecessary attention to their movements.

After going their separate ways from the restaurant, Jared found a hotel and reserved three rooms, one for each of them. Truth be told, Jared had wanted to book only two rooms to save money, but Josephine had refused to allow him to do so.

Having traveled the entire day and being hunted by the Whitaker family’s assassins, they quickly fell asleep out of exhaustion.

Meanwhile, at the Whitaker residence, Kane was filled with anxiety.

More than half a day had passed, and he hadn’t heard back from his men. Even when he tried to contact them, he couldn’t get through either.

As his expression grew increasingly grim, the dread Kane felt intensified. He knew that something unfavorable must have happened to his men since they were unreachable.

“Alfred!” Kane called out.

“Mr. Whitaker.” A thin and hunchbacked old man entered.

He was the Whitaker family's former butler and was of the same generation as Kane's father. After retiring from his butler duties due to his age, he continued to stay with the Whitaker family, as they treated him as their own.

### Chapter 305 High Quality Ginseng

Back then, the Whitaker family had been attacked and surrounded by hundreds of their enemies. At the very last moment, Alfred had managed to rescue them by defeating their enemies single-handedly. From then on, Alfred had become part of the Whitaker family.

"Alfred, bring some men with you to Yeringham, and capture the man who crippled Tyrion. If you can't take him alive, just bring him in dead. If we don't do this, I'm afraid the Jantz family will look down upon us even more!"

No matter what, Kane had to dispose of Jared; otherwise, he would be scolded by his wife every day and viewed with contempt by the Jantz family.

"Mr. Whitaker, don't worry. I'll definitely bring him back to you."

Nodding resolutely, Alfred turned and left.

The next morning, when Jared and the others were having breakfast in the hotel, Frida had driven over to meet them.

"Josephine, Zeke was worried that you wouldn't know the way, so he asked me to pick you up," Frida said.

"All right, then. Let's go!"

"Josephine, you didn't sleep with your boyfriend last night, did you?" Frida whispered after walking up to her.

"What are you talking about? We have our own respective rooms!"

Josephine shot her a glare.

With Frida leading the way, Jared and the others arrived at Goldenbirch Herbs very quickly.

The shop was in the city center and had a floor space of more than a thousand square meters. Evidently, Goldenbirch Herbs was a very well-established business.

The moment they entered, the staff greeted Frida courteously, "Ms. Shaw, Mr. Griffin wants you to know that he is waiting for you at the back."

"All right!" Frida nodded and waved at Josephine. "Josephine, let's head to the back."

As Jared and Tommy followed the girls from behind, they scrutinized the entire store. Even though it was still early in the morning, the store was already busy with customers. Some were verifying the authenticity of the goods, while others were bargaining for lower prices.

In the main lobby, there were thousands of herbs on display in the cabinets. Furthermore, all of their names and uses were clearly labeled, which demonstrated the professionalism of Goldenbirch Herbs.

Jared tried to sense the presence of any spiritual energy, but he realized that there was none. It only meant that there was nothing special about the herbs. Nevertheless, it made sense to him, as no one would display their treasures in the main lobby.

After traversing the main lobby, they entered a narrow corridor before arriving in a large hall at the back. On both sides of the hall were warehouses that were filled with sacks of herbs.

“Jared, you’re here.”

Upon seeing Jared and the others, Zeke approached them with a smile. “Have a seat first. I have to entertain a guest. I’ll show you guys around once I’m done.”

“Zeke, take your time. There’s no hurry.” Jared grinned.

Zeke nodded in acknowledgment. “Men, serve them some coffee!”

After making sure Jared and the others were attended to, Zeke returned to his guest. At this moment, a middle-aged man was sitting at a square table right in the middle of the hall. Zeke arrived and took a seat right opposite him.

With an exquisite-looking wooden box placed in the middle of the table, both of them seemed to be negotiating a deal.

Jared sat down, sipped his coffee, and watched them out of boredom.

“Mr. Griffin, what I have here is a ginseng that’s more than a century old. You can tell what an excellent specimen this is by its shape and texture. Hence, I’ll offer it to you for twenty million, which is a steal. If you don’t take it, I’ll offer it to Trinity Herbs instead. I’m sure they will definitely buy it from me for that price.”

The middle-aged man suddenly raised his voice as he spoke to Zeke.