

The Man's Decree 306

Chapter 306 A Bet

Due to how loud the man was speaking, he caught Jared's attention by accident.

"Mr. Drake, I'm sure there's still room for negotiation. This ginseng is indeed a quality specimen, but twenty million is too expensive for me. Why don't you lower your asking price, and I'll pay you right away," Zeke proposed with a smile.

"Twenty million. Take it or leave it."

Just as the middle-aged man spoke, he stood up with the box and prepared to leave.

"Mr. Drake, calm down, calm down. I'll take it. Goldenbirch Herbs will take it just because we value your friendship."

After stopping the middle-aged man, Zeke took out his phone. "I'll transfer the money to you right away. If you still have any other excellent specimens, please bring them to Goldenbirch Herbs. I'll definitely pay you a good price for it!"

"Hahaha, well said, well said."

The middle-aged man laughed ecstatically.

"Zeke, wait."

Just when Zeke was about to pay, Jared walked up to him suddenly and stopped him.

"Jared, what's wrong?" Zeke asked curiously.

"Mister, can you let me take a look at that ginseng?" Jared requested.

Instead of replying, the middle-aged man gave Zeke an inquisitive look.

"Oh, he's a good friend of mine," Zeke explained at once.

Looking at Jared, the middle-aged man asked warily, "Mr. Griffin has already examined my ginseng. Is there a problem?"

"I suspect it's a fake!" Jared replied with a smirk.

As if Jared had struck a nerve, the middle-aged man exploded, "What did you say? How dare you accuse my ginseng of being a fake? How can you say so without even looking at it? Mr. Griffin himself has examined the product, so how can it not be genuine? If you're looking for trouble, let me tell you that I'm not someone to be trifled with."

Zeke tried to calm the situation with a smile. "Mr. Drake, please calm down. My friend here just likes to joke."

After reassuring the middle-aged man, Zeke furrowed his brows slightly at Jared. "Jared, I have examined it and found no problems. Besides, how do you know it's a fake without even looking at it?"

“This ginseng is definitely a fake. If you don’t believe it, we can get it tested. If he doesn’t dare to open the box, it only serves to prove me right!”

Jared stared at the middle-aged man coldly, sending a chill down his spine.

“Fine, I’ll open it. What will you do if it’s real?”

The middle-aged man picked up the courage to accept Jared’s challenge. Nevertheless, he didn’t dare to look Jared in the eye.

“If it’s real, I’ll compensate you ten million!” Jared declared confidently.

At that moment, Josephine and Frida came over. Both of them didn’t expect Jared to end up betting against someone.

Meanwhile, Tommy remained in his seat, drinking coffee with a smirk on his face. He knew that the middle-aged man had gotten himself into trouble.

When he saw how confident Jared was, the middle-aged man began to panic and looked at Zeke.

“Mr. Drake, since Jared wants to take a look, why don’t you just let him satisfy his curiosity? If you do so, I’ll increase the price I’m willing to pay you.”

Having examined it himself, Zeke didn’t suspect that the ginseng wasn’t authentic. But since Jared had insisted, he decided to give in to Jared’s request.

“Fine. Since you’ve said so, I’ll let him see it and shut him up!” the middle-aged man said through clenched teeth.

When the box was opened, they saw a piece of long and thick ginseng lying in it.

Chapter 307 A Fake

“Look how excellent the ginseng is. Even in Yeringham, this is considered extremely rare.”

The middle-aged man sneered at Jared, “Now that you have lost, where’s my ten million? In fact, you don’t even look like someone who has that kind of money.”

Ignoring the man’s comments, Jared reached out to grab the ginseng.

“Hey, what are you doing?”

With a drastic change of expression, the middle-aged man tried to stop Jared, but it was too late. Jared was already holding the ginseng in his hand.

Picking it up, he attempted to break it by force.

“Jared, what are you doing?”

Zeke’s expression darkened, for he knew that a ginseng’s value lay in its perfect condition. Any damage to it would significantly reduce its value. Hence, breaking it would render it worthless.

Crack!

The moment Zeke spoke, Jared had broken the ginseng in two.

Zeke closed his eyes. He could feel the rage welling up within him, for he lost twenty million in the blink of an eye.

Josephine and Frida stared at Jared in shock, not knowing what he was up to.

The middle-aged man, however, paled. Turning around, he tried to flee and didn't even want his money anymore.

"Are you trying to escape? Do you think you actually can?"

Jared grinned slightly.

Just when the middle-aged man tried to dash out, Tommy sprang to his feet and kicked the man back into place.

"W-What's going on?"

Zeke was confused when he saw that the middle-aged man had tried to run.

"Zeke, why don't you check if the ginseng is real?"

Jared handed it to Zeke.

After receiving it, Zeke was briefly taken aback when he saw the part that was broken. Suddenly, he was filled with rage. "Damn it! How dare you try to swindle me? You must certainly have a death wish!"

Zeke approached the man and kicked his abdomen. He bellowed, "Men! Take him out and teach him a painful lesson!"

Soon, the man was led away, and cries of agony followed.

"Jared, I appreciate what you did today. If not for you, we would have suffered a terrible loss. The financial loss isn't the issue. It's the reputational loss that would be humiliating for me," Zeke lamented.

"It's normal to make mistakes. It happens to the best of us," Jared replied with a smile.

"Jared, how did you know that it was a fake without even seeing it?"

Zeke was intrigued.

"It's simple. I have a very sensitive nose. I can tell just by smelling it."

Jared told a random lie, as he obviously couldn't reveal that he relied on sensing spiritual energy to do so. If the ginseng was more than a century old, he could easily pick up its energy.

Therefore, when he didn't sense any spiritual energy from the box, he concluded that the ginseng was either entirely fake or just not a hundred years old.

Staring at Jared, Zeke remarked in disbelief, "I have never heard of anyone being able to authenticate herbs with their nose my entire life. Today has indeed been an eye-opener for me."

“Josephine, what other hidden talents does your boyfriend have? He has a sense of smell that’s sharper than a dog!” Frida asked in surprise.

Right after she spoke, she realized her words had come out wrong. She then stuck her tongue out at Jared before smiling at him apologetically.

Jared returned the smile and didn’t mind at all, for he knew that Frida didn’t do it on purpose.

“Jared, since you have been a big help to me today, I’ll bring you around the city. If you see any herbs that interest you, I’ll negotiate on your behalf. Every herb trader in the city knows me. They will definitely show us some respect,” Zeke offered as he patted Jared on the shoulder.

Chapter 308 Trinity Herbs

With that, the five of them went to Yeringham’s largest herb market. After walking one round, Jared felt disappointed, as all the herbs sold there were of the ordinary kind. Even if there were any which were more than a century old, they had been crushed into powder and had lost their spiritual energy.

“Jared, is there nothing in this market that interests you?” Zeke asked when he saw the dismay on Jared’s face.

Jared nodded. “I’m looking for quality herbs that are more than a century old, but the herbs sold here are run-of-the-mill stuff which I don’t need.”

Having heard Jared’s answer, Zeke pondered briefly before suggesting, “I’ll take you to the many herb traders. All of them will definitely have some sort of treasure. However, whether they’re willing to sell is a different matter.”

Due to the fact that they were hostile business competitors, Zeke seldom patronized other herb traders. After all, they would naturally be wary of his motives and hesitant to show them their prized treasures.

However, as Jared had done him a huge favor, he had no choice but to lower himself and approach his business rivals.

“Thank you, Zeke!” Jared expressed his gratitude.

“Don’t be a stranger. We’re family anyway. Come, let’s go.”

With that, Zeke brought Jared to Yeringham’s largest herb trader, Trinity Herbs. Trinity Herbs’ store was sprawled across thousands of square meters. It looked to be busier than that of Goldenbirch Herbs, given the crowd at the entrance.

“Jared, Trinity Herbs is stocked with many herbs that are more than a century old. In fact, I even heard that they have a thousand-year-old reishi mushroom among their prized collection. Their reputation is solidified by the fact that they’re the only ones in the entire city to carry millennia-old herbs,” Zeke explained as they entered the store.

The moment Jared stepped in, he could feel waves of spiritual energy flowing from inside. At that moment, he narrowed his focus on a few items that had sparked his curiosity.

“Zeke, does Trinity Herbs display their century-old herbs in the main lobby?” Jared inquired.

“Yes, they are the only ones to do so in the entire city. They control eighty percent of the century-old herbs in the city itself.”

Zeke had a glum expression on his face as he spoke. After all, it didn’t feel good talking about the achievements of his competitor.

“I see.” Jared nodded as he hid the delight he felt inside. Looks like my search ends here. With Goldenbirch Herbs’ help, I will have no trouble obtaining rare herbs going forward.

“Mr. Griffin, it’s a surprise to see you here. What brings you to my humble store?”

At that moment, a plump and bespectacled elderly man walked up to them.

Despite his size, he was light on his feet. It was obvious from his swagger that he was a skilled martial artist.

“Mr. Rider, I’ve brought a friend today. I hope I’m not imposing on you,” Zeke greeted the elderly man respectfully.

“Not at all, not at all. Come, let’s have a drink at the back.”

Zyaire ushered them onward with a smile.

Zeke nodded in acknowledgment, and the group followed Zyaire to the backyard.

Along the way, Zeke told Jared that the elderly man was Zyaire Rider. He wasn’t a local of Yeringham and had arrived in the city during its chaotic days when he was young. After being embroiled in the violence there, he had managed to emerge with a monopoly of the herb market in the city.

As time went by, he had given up on his violent methods and released his grip on the monopoly. Subsequently, many other herb traders began mushrooming throughout the city. In spite of that, he still retained control of the most valuable herbs.

Once they took their seats in the back, Zeke got straight to the point. “Mr. Rider, my friend is looking to buy a batch of century-old herbs, so I brought him to Trinity Herbs since you have the largest supply of them.”

Chapter 309 Just Bragging

“A batch?” Zyaire’s eyes lit up. “Hahaha, that’s wonderful! Mr. Griffin, since you thought of Trinity Herbs, I’ll make sure you get your cut.”

In the business world, getting a commission for introducing clients was a well-accepted practice.

“Mr. Rider, thank you for your offer, but I’m waiving the commission. He is a close friend of mine. All I’m asking for is that you give him the lowest prices,” Zeke answered at once.

“I understand.” Smiling, Zyaire turned to Jared and asked, “How many century-old herbs are you looking for, young man?”

“Everything you have,” Jared replied plainly.

Zyaire was briefly stunned. He replied with a smile, “I’m afraid that you’re not aware of how much century-old herbs cost, young man. A single item costs at least ten million. Those of excellent quality can run into tens of millions. Also, do you know how many of them I have here? In fact, do you even know how much there is in Yeringham?”

Zeke whispered into Jared’s ear, “Jared, you can buy a little first to try. Despite how potent they are, it’s useless if you end up holding too much stock.”

At that moment, Zeke wasn’t aware that Jared was planning to make pills with them. He assumed that Jared was looking to sell them.

Ignoring Zeke’s comment, Jared asked Zyaire, “Mr. Rider, I heard that you have a thousand-year-old reishi mushroom which is the store’s prized treasure. I wonder if I’m allowed to take a look at it.”

“Oh? Are you interested in buying it?” Zyaire asked.

“If it really is a thousand-year-old reishi mushroom, I definitely want it regardless of the price.”

Jared would undoubtedly get his hands on the reishi mushroom if the claims were true, as it would elevate his strength to the next level.

“Haha, there’s more to the youths today than meets the eye. It seems that I’m truly getting old!” Zyaire burst into laughter. “But since it’s a prized treasure of the store, I’m not selling it regardless of the price. Let’s just keep this to herbs that are centuries old.”

“All right, then, Mr. Rider. Please show me your wares and name your price.”

Jared didn’t insist further. After all, he didn’t sense the presence of such a herb anyway. The only thing he felt was a slightly larger wave of spiritual energy from the back, indicative of a herb that was only a few centuries old.

Evidently, the thousand-year-old reishi mushroom that Trinity Herbs claimed it had was nothing but a boast.

Nodding in acknowledgment, Zyaire clapped his hands three times. Immediately, someone brought out five wooden boxes that contained century-old herbs, including reishi mushrooms and ginseng.

“All these are century-old herbs of the highest quality, young man. Do you want to take a look?” Zyaire pointed at the wooden boxes.

Jared shook his head. “There’s no need to, Mr. Rider. Just name your price.”

Zyaire was delighted by Jared’s response. In fact, he loved brazen youths who pretended to be knowledgeable despite not knowing anything at all. To him, such customers were the easiest to take advantage of.

“You really are an easygoing man. Since you trust me and are a friend of Mr. Griffin, I’ll offer them to you at twenty million per item. After all, Mr. Griffin knows the market value of century-old herbs and the fact that our cost price is twenty million too,” Zyaire proposed casually as he narrowed his eyes.

Jared knew that Zyaire wasn't lying. After all, Zeke had almost bought the fake century-old ginseng for twenty million back at Goldenbirch Herbs.

"Jared, twenty million for century-old herbs of top quality is a reasonable price to pay," Zeke said.

Jared nodded in response before asking, "Zeke, what about century-old herbs of lesser quality? What's the market price for them?"

"Those are much cheaper. In fact, their prices are at least fifty percent lower and won't cost more than ten million."

Chapter 310 Integrity Is Important In Business

"Mr. Rider, for these five items, I'll pay you ten million for each of them. Even then, you're still making a tidy profit," Jared countered.

"What? Ten million per piece?" Zyaire raised his voice suddenly. "Are you suggesting that my herbs are of lower quality? Looks like you're not a serious buyer at all and are here just to cause trouble. How dare you accuse me of selling herbs of inferior quality without even looking at them?"

"I don't need to look at them. You should know the quality of your herbs better than I do. Also, it's important to have integrity in business. Only then can you be successful over the long haul. Anyway, ten million for each item and not a penny more!"

Jared looked at Zyaire fearlessly.

In response, Zyaire held Jared's stare in grim silence.

When he noticed Zyaire's growing anger, Zeke interjected at once, "Mr. Rider, my friend is able to determine the quality of a herb without looking. How about I examine them on his behalf?"

Zyaire waved his hand. "You don't have to. I have seen for myself how sharp he is. Fine, I'll accept ten million for each item."

Zyaire refused to let Zeke see the goods, as he could obviously recognize their quality with a single glance.

When Jared paid up without delay, Zyaire was astounded.

"I still have a few more century-old herbs. I'll get my men to bring them."

Just as he spoke, Zyaire gestured to his men.

After that, they continued drinking coffee in the backyard.

While doing so, Zyaire began chatting with Zeke. "Mr. Griffin, do you know that someone has been selling pills in Horington recently?"

"Pills?" Zeke shook his head. "No, I don't."

“The pills can strengthen one’s body and enhance one’s lifespan. I tried one myself and found it to be reasonably effective. But when I got my men to conduct research on it, they couldn’t break down the ingredients and replicate the manufacturing process,” Zyaire lamented.

“I’m surprised to hear that there’s someone so skilled in Horington!” Zeke exclaimed.

It wasn’t a big deal if the manufacturing process couldn’t be replicated. But to not even be able to break down the ingredients was simply mind-boggling.

“I’m planning to visit Horington to meet this expert. It will be wonderful if I’m able to recruit him.”

Zyaire’s eyes were filled with anticipation. If he could hire someone like that, it would be akin to sitting on a gold mine.

When he saw the expression on Zyaire’s face, Jared smiled slightly. At the same time, Tommy shot Jared a glance while grinning in silence.

This expert is right in front of them. Unfortunately, they just don’t realize it.

At that moment, one of the staff rushed over and whispered something in Zyaire’s ear, causing his face to light up in delight.

“All right. You can go.” Zyaire waved his subordinate away. In an apologetic tone, he said to Jared and Zeke, “I’m sorry, but something cropped up. Let’s continue in the afternoon. I promise I’ll reserve the best for you.”

Hearing that, Jared and the others had no choice but to take their leave.

“I wonder what happened to make Zyaire delay such a lucrative transaction,” Zeke mused out loud as they walked out of Trinity Herbs.

Just as he spoke, he received a notification on his phone.

After reading it, he gasped, “There’s a thousand-year-old snow lotus available at the auction. It’s been a long time since Yeringham has even seen a snow lotus, let alone one that’s a thousand years old!”

“Auction?” Jared was puzzled.

Upon listening to Zeke’s explanation, Jared learned that there was an herb auction in the city. It had started out decent with occasional rare herbs being put on the block. Unfortunately, fakes began to creep in while the number of genuine items gradually declined. As a result, Zeke no longer paid attention to the auction as its popularity waned.