

The Man's Decree 356

Chapter 356 Too Controlling

Lizbeth was really worried that Oliver would go around telling everyone about Jared being her boyfriend. I don't know how I'd face Josephine if she hears the rumors!

"That won't be necessary. Let's just treat this money as payment for letting me stay over at your place. I can't just eat and sleep here for free, after all," Jared said as he grabbed an apple from the table and began munching away.

"You plan on sleeping here? I just had a discussion with General Long earlier. We won't hand you over to the Jantz family for the time being, but they're definitely searching everywhere for you right now. I'll arrange for you to stay in a hotel for a while and see if I can get you acquainted with Phoenix. This way, you might just stand a chance at survival."

Jared felt a little speechless when he saw Lizbeth trying so hard to save him, but he was still touched by her efforts.

"Knowing how powerful the Jantz family is, they'll be able to find me no matter which hotel I stay in. It's actually a lot safer for me to stay here instead," he said with a smile.

Lizbeth shot him a cautious glare as she asked, "You're not trying to take advantage of me, are you? I'm not going to betray my friend, so I'll tell Josephine if you dare lay a finger on me!"

Jared let out a helpless sigh. "You're overthinking things. I only have eyes for Josephine, so you can rest assured that I won't try anything funny with you."

"All right... You can sleep on the couch, for the time being, then," Lizbeth said before entering her room to get changed.

Later that evening, the two of them were having dinner together when Oliver dropped by again.

"What do you want this time?" Lizbeth asked with a frown upon seeing her brother.

"Man, this smells so good! See? I knew he wasn't just a friend! There's no way you'd make dinner for him and let him stay the night if he was!" Oliver said, ignoring her as he sat down and helped himself to the food.

Lizbeth shot him a fierce glare in response. "Shut your stinking mouth! Jared and I are just friends!"

After dinner, Oliver was picking his teeth as he said, "Jared, how about I take you out for a tour in the city tonight and introduce you to my friends? Next time you run into trouble in Summerbank, just give us a holler and we'll help you out!"

Jared was about to take him up on his offer when Lizbeth quickly interrupted, "No! He's not going anywhere tonight!"

"Keep in mind that you two aren't even married yet, Lizbeth. You shouldn't be too controlling or he might leave you for another woman," Oliver snapped back at her while sticking his tongue out.

"Come here so I can kick your ass, you little sh*t!"

Oliver quickly moved behind Jared the moment Lizbeth tried to hit him.

Of course, Jared was well aware that Lizbeth was worried about him running into the Jantz family. "Don't worry. I won't be gone for long, so it'll be fine."

Seeing as Jared was willing to go out, Lizbeth made no further attempts to stop him.

The two guys headed downstairs and sped off in Oliver's BMW. Despite it being a used car, Oliver seemed to really enjoy driving it.

He picked up a woman along the way. She was dressed in very revealing clothes and looked extremely seductive with the makeup she had on.

After getting into the car, the woman noticed Jared sitting in the back seat and winked at him flirtatiously.

"Hi, handsome! What's your name? I'm Lily. Are you interested in getting to know me better?" she asked while reaching out to touch him on the face, but Jared quickly moved out of the way.

Lily let out an amused chuckle when she saw his response. "Hahaha! Aren't you quite the shy one? Are you still a virgin?"

"Hey, quit fooling around! This is my future brother-in-law!"

Oliver shot her a glare before flashing Jared an awkward smile as he continued, "I'm sorry, Jared. Lily just loves to joke around like this. Please don't take it to heart."

"Is she your girlfriend?" Jared asked with a smile.

"Uh..." Oliver chose to keep quiet as he didn't want to answer that question.

Chapter 357 Big Fish

However, Lily didn't take too kindly to his response. "What the hell is with that response of yours, Oliver? Just tell him that I'm not your girlfriend! With how stingy your parents are, you can't even afford to have a normal girlfriend, let alone someone like me!"

Although Oliver was incredibly embarrassed by what she said, there was nothing he could say in retaliation at all.

Having finally understood why Oliver's parents refused to give him any money, Jared flashed him a helpless smile in response.

The three of them soon arrived outside Phoenix Bar. As the parking lot in front of the bar was filled with fancy cars, Oliver had to park his used BMW in a corner far away.

"This is the best bar in Summerbank, Jared. Come on, let's go in there and have some fun!" Oliver said excitedly after parking the car.

"I think it'd be better if you address me as Mr. Chance instead," Jared reminded him as he felt Oliver was acting a little too close to him.

“Oh, please! Why do you have to be so uptight about these things? You’re going to be my brother-in-law sooner or later anyway, so what’s wrong with me treating you like family in advance? Come on, let’s go inside!”

Oliver dismissed Jared’s reminder and began dragging him into the bar.

“Hey, Oliver, did you hit the jackpot or something? You don’t look like you can afford to party here,” Lily asked playfully after they entered the bar.

“I didn’t, but my brother-in-law did! Guess what? He has over ten million in his bank account! I saw it today!” Oliver whispered into Lily’s ear, and the way she looked at Jared changed instantly.

Although Oliver had lowered his voice significantly, Jared could clearly hear what he said. D*mn it... I wouldn’t have shown it to him if I knew he’d go running his mouth like this!

After finding a place to sit down, Oliver ordered two bottles of Rémy Martin cognac right away without any hesitation. A single bottle could cost up to hundreds of thousands, but Oliver wasn’t afraid as he had Jared around to foot the bill.

Lily, on the other hand, wasted no time cozying up to Jared after finding out how rich he was. “So, Mr. Chance... Is this your first time being in a place like this? I’m here with you, so you don’t have to be nervous. If you have any questions, feel free to ask me...” she said coquettishly while rubbing her body against his.

Feeling uncomfortable from the way Lily was running her hands all over him, Jared frowned and moved his body away from her.

“Hey, Lily! I told you that he’s my brother-in-law! Besides, I’m paying you to keep me company tonight! Now, get your a*s over here!” Oliver shouted angrily when he saw what she was doing.

“Pfft! You’re only paying me five thousand per hour, you cheapskate! You know what? You can keep your money! I’m going to entertain whoever I like!”

Lily simply rolled her eyes at him and proceeded to ignore him after saying that.

Jared is just a bumpkin who somehow made himself a fortune without knowing how to spend his money properly. That’s probably why he’s acting all awkward after coming to a place like this! Big fish like these are the easiest prey! Once you get them hooked, you can easily suck them dry! Screw Oliver! I’m going to stick to Jared tonight!

Oliver was so angry that he began downing glass after glass when the drinks were served up.

A group of rich young men happened to pass them by moments later.

“Oh? Mr. Grange? Since when were you able to afford to drink Rémy Martin in a place like this?” one of them asked in surprise when he saw Oliver.

Oliver shot the guy a glance and said in displeasure, “That’s none of your business, Thomas. Leave me alone.”

He was already in a bad mood after what Lily did to him, so hearing Thomas' question agitated him even further.

Instead of just walking away, Thomas burst out laughing and asked, "I'm surprised you dare talk to me like this, Mr. Grange! Did you finally grow a pair?"

Chapter 358 Knight In Shining Armor

As Thomas spoke, he caught sight of Lily. "It's no wonder Mr. Grange was so bold today. It looks like he's on a date with his goddess. Are you trying to put on a tough guy act for her?" he sneered mockingly.

All of a sudden, he reached out and grabbed Lily by her waist. "Ms. Lily, why don't you keep me company instead?"

"Unfortunately, I already have a customer who I must tend to, Mr. York. Why don't we drink together on another day?" Lily replied with an apologetic smile.

Now that I've found the perfect golden goose, there's no way I'm going to let this opportunity go to waste!

Slap!

Without warning, Thomas sent his palm across Lily's cheek. "The audacity of a s*ut like you to deny my advances!"

The slap was unexpected for Lily. She held onto her reddened cheek and stared at Thomas in indignance. Even so, she could not muster the courage to retaliate.

At the same time, Jared merely glanced away, pretending like he saw nothing. He had no intention to swoop in and rescue her like a knight in shining armor. After all, he barely knew Lily.

In stark contrast, Oliver could not turn a blind eye. Lily had always been the woman of his dreams. Hence, he couldn't stomach the sight of his beloved goddess being slapped by Thomas.

"Thomas, let Lily go right this instance! Are you still a man for hitting a woman?" Oliver snarled as he advanced toward Thomas with a wine bottle in hand.

Bang!

The moment Oliver finished his sentence, one of Thomas' fellow subordinates lashed his foot out at Oliver. "You brat! How dare you speak to Mr. York in such a rude tone!"

A dark expression loomed across Oliver's face. Gritting his teeth, he lunged at Thomas with the sole intention of smashing the wine bottle on the latter's head. "I'll kill you all!" he roared.

Right then, Oliver was living up to the role of a knight in shining armor. Regardless of the consequences, he wanted to leave Lily with a good impression of his bravery.

Yet, the wine bottle hit empty air. Not only did Oliver miss, but Thomas managed to pluck the wine bottle from his grip. All of a sudden, their roles were reversed as Thomas mercilessly swung the bottle at Oliver's head.

The sudden turn of events left Oliver so shocked that he remained rooted to the spot and resigned to his fate.

Before the bottle could collide against Oliver's skull, however, Jared, who had remained motionless this entire time, finally made his move. He suddenly clasped his fingers around Thomas' wrist and yanked the latter backward. Immediately, piercing pain shot up Thomas' arm, forcing him to release the wine bottle.

"Drinking is supposed to be a fun activity. Why are you ruining the fun over a scarlet woman?" Jared released Thomas before moving to stand protectively in front of Oliver.

Since Oliver was Walter's grandson, Jared couldn't disregard the situation.

Thomas fumed in rage when he noticed his bruised wrist. Gritting his teeth, he snarled, "Who the hell are you? Tell me your name right now!"

"Mr. York, he's Oliver's brother-in-law. This man is nothing but an arrogant upstart!" Lily hissed as she shot a venomous glare at Jared.

Earlier, Jared's dismissive remark about her had caused a dent in her ego.

"You're Lizbeth's boyfriend?" Thomas sized him up with a mocking sneer. "You know, just because Lizbeth is an investigator doesn't mean that you're some bigshot. In my eyes, she's as insignificant as a speck of dust. In fact, she can't even hold a candle to this woman right here." Thomas grabbed Lily's chin as he spoke.

Immediately, Jared's eyes narrowed dangerously. A menacing aura emanated from his body when he heard Thomas' insult. Promptly, he kicked Thomas in the chest and sent him flying.

Whoosh!

Thomas soared in the air for several meters before he came crashing down onto a table. The weight of his body instantly reduced the table to smithereens.

"Ahh!" Startled by the collision, all the other guests scrambled for their lives.

With great effort, Thomas managed to crawl back to his feet. He felt like his entire body was going to fall apart. "K-Kill him!" he ordered furiously.

Thomas' subordinates were about to leap into action when suddenly, a cold voice echoed from behind. "Who's causing all this nuisance at my bar? Don't you know who owns this bar?"

Chapter 359 Fifty Slaps

Immediately, all the blood drained from Thomas' face. Even his subordinates were so scared that they had retreated.

On the other hand, Lily had already fled the scene with her tail tucked between her legs.

“Oh no, we’re doomed!” Oliver’s cheeks turned deathly pale as all color drained from his face. With a trembling voice, he said, “Jared, this bar falls under Phoenix Regiment’s territory. They won’t be merciful if they find out that you’ve stirred such a ruckus here.”

Shortly after, a middle-aged man wearing an eyepatch emerged with a group of guards following at his heels.

The sight of this man scared Oliver so much that his legs gave away, and he collapsed into a nearby chair. Promptly, a gush of yellow liquid stained his pants.

Oliver’s terrified state left Jared utterly speechless. Is he really Walter’s grandson?

“O-Orb, he was the one who hit me first!” Thomas stammered as he made his way toward the newcomer. In an attempt to butter him up, Thomas offered him a cigarette.

“Slap him!” Despite that, Orb didn’t even spare Thomas a single glance.

Upon his command, one of the guards grabbed Thomas by the collar and backhanded him across the face.

Repeatedly, the guard slapped Thomas until his face swelled to twice its size.

“Were you the one who hit him?” the middle-aged man asked Jared.

“Yes.” Jared nodded in affirmation.

“Slap him too,” Orb ordered. Immediately, one of his men approached Jared with his arm raised and ready to strike.

Before he could hit Jared, however, Jared caught the guard’s wrist. “Aren’t you going to clarify the situation first before hitting me?”

A deep scowl graced Orb’s forehead when he heard Jared’s refute. “In my territory, I will deliver fifty slaps as punishment before asking for the details. Are you trying to go against my rules?”

“I heard that Phoenix Regiment is supposed to be chivalrous and kind. After all, Phoenix herself was dubbed a living saint. Is this really how you, as her subordinate, handle things?” Jared was starting to dislike the Phoenix Regiment.

Initially, Lizbeth’s constant praise had left Jared with a good impression of the Phoenix Regiment. He was also particularly impressed by Phoenix, the leader of the said regiment. Yet, Orb’s haughty arrogance left Jared with a bitter taste in his mouth. It seems like the tales of their kindness are nothing but empty rumors.

Orb snorted incredulously. “What makes you think that a nobody like you is in a position to criticize the Phoenix Regiment? As punishment, I’m ordering you to slap yourself ten times!”

“What if I refuse?” Jared replied with a smirk.

“If you aren’t going to take action, I will!” With that, Orb sent his palm across Jared’s cheek.

Orb's astonishing speed caused the onlookers to break out in cold sweat. If Orb managed to land a hit on Jared, the monumental impact would probably cause the latter to lose all of his teeth.

Despite the gravity of the situation, the corners of Jared's lips upturned into an airy smile. Casually, he reached out and grabbed Orb's wrist in mid-air. "I was in the middle of my speech. Is violence really your only answer to everything?"

Immediately, Orb's eyes grew twice as large. In a fit of panic, he tried to break free of Jared's vice-like grip. But no matter how hard he tried, he could not escape.

"You brat, are you aware of the consequences of your actions?" Orb thundered.

After so many onlookers witnessed Orb's humiliation in the hands of a young man, he couldn't help but blow his top.

"Clearly, you were the one who started the fight. Are all members of the Phoenix Regiment as unreasonable as you are?" Jared asked with a look of exasperation.

"F*ck you!" Enraged, Orb swung his other hand at Jared.

Furrowing his brows, an aura of bloodlust radiated from Jared's figure when he sensed Orb's second attack. Although I've tried to go easy on him, he still insists on doing things the hard way.

Before Orb's fist could connect, Jared launched a kick at him.

Chapter 360 Clear The Bar

Bam!

A single kick from Jared sent Orb hurtling several meters into the air. Moments later, Orb finally crashed to the ground with a deafening thud.

Upon seeing Jared attack Orb, Oliver almost passed out from fear. He was so scared that his eyes rolled to the back of his head.

"You brat, I can't believe you had the nerve to hit Orb. You're done for now!" Thomas exclaimed gleefully.

Immediately, Jared's sharp glare slid toward Thomas, prompting the latter to fall silent.

At the same time, one of Orb's men quickly helped him up. When Orb pushed himself upright, rivulets of blood trickled down the side of his mouth.

"Clear out this place and lock the doors," Orb ordered as he glared at Jared with a murderous glint in his eyes.

Quickly, the guards ushered everyone out of the bar, including Oliver, who was grabbed by the collar and hauled out.

Before long, the only people remaining were Jared and a few of the bar's security guards.

Once Oliver was outside, he spun on his heel and took off in the opposite direction. Although Jared's my brother-in-law, I don't want to be dragged into such a mess involving the Phoenix Regiment!

Orb wiped away his blood as he advanced toward Jared. "You're the first person who dared to lift a finger against me. How am I going to salvage the Phoenix Regiment's reputation if I don't end your life?" he said sinisterly.

Giving off an air of indifference, Jared simply took a seat and sipped his wine. He didn't appear the slightest bit fazed by Orb's threat.

"If it weren't for the Phoenix Regiment's renowned reputation and the fact that your Madam is a hero, do you really think that you'd have the chance to talk to me?" Jared remarked disdainfully.

"Even on death's door, you're as arrogant as ever!" An expression of fury flitted across Orb's gaze. "Kill him!"

At his command, dozens of guards lunged at Jared with sticks brandished in their hands.

Jared merely snorted. In the blink of an eye, he vanished from his seat.

Promptly, Orb caught sight of a blurry shadow darting amongst his men as anguished screams echoed in the air.

Within minutes, not a single guard remained standing. They had all crumpled to the floor, howling in pain.

Nevertheless, Jared had been merciful and spared them from any grave injuries.

"What the f*ck?" Orb's jaw fell open when he witnessed his guards' defeat. The look of anger in his eye was quickly replaced with one of unadulterated fear instead.

As Jared strode toward Orb, the latter began to stumble backward.

Soon, Orb's back ended up hitting a wall, leaving him trapped. "W-What do you think you're doing? I'm a member of the Phoenix Regiment! Madam will not forgive you if you kill me!" Orb blustered aggressively.

"There's no need to be so frightened." Jared grinned when he witnessed Orb's fear. "It was never my intention to kill you. I just need you to call your Madam here."

Hearing this, Orb jolted in shock. "What business do you have with our Madam? Although she's a living saint, she'll be enraged once she sees the havoc you've wrecked in her shop! She might even end your life!"

"I thought you wanted me dead? Wouldn't the arrival of your Madam fulfill your wish?" Jared replied in confusion. Why is he trying to defend me?

Flustered, Orb averted his gaze. "I-If Madam comes, she might not spare me," he admitted in a hushed whisper.

Immediately, realization dawned upon Jared. He must be afraid of his Madam's punishment. After all, his reckless and arrogant demeanor was unlike that of the Phoenix Regiment.

“I’m going to give you two choices. Either you call her, or you can die right now,” Jared thundered. He couldn’t be bothered to waste his breath talking to Orb any longer.

“Okay, okay! I’ll call her right now!” Since Jared’s threat put his life on the line, Orb opted to go with the choice that would save his own skin.

Hastily, Orb fished his phone out and called Phoenix.