

## **The Man's Decree 381**

### Chapter 381 Die In Terror

Although Jared appeared to be standing completely still in the face of the fearsome tiger, he had already activated Focus Technique in his core.

At that moment, Jared had a very bold idea.

Focus Technique is capable of absorbing someone else's martial energy into my own body. While I can't be going around hunting people down to absorb their martial energy for the sake of training, what about martial energy that has been released and materialized like this tiger over here?

With that in mind, Jared reached out with both hands and grabbed hold of the tiger's head.

He then began channeling Focus Technique to absorb the martial energy, all while being careful not to use any force or the tiger would dissipate instantly.

The floor beneath his feet began to crack from the impact, and his knees began to bend from the enormous force of the attack.

"I knew Jared was too young to go against Zachariah!"

"It's a miracle that he's even surviving this long in the arena with him!"

The crowd could be heard murmuring in the distance.

Josephine clutched at the hem of her shirt with her sweaty palms.

"Mr. Chance is going to lose! I'm going to save him!" Phoenix muttered through clenched teeth as she leaped to her feet.

She wouldn't just sit by and watch Jared get killed, even if saving him would put her life at risk.

Tommy grabbed her by the arm and said, "Given your body's current condition, you won't be of any help even if you charge in there. Let's just wait a little longer. I believe Mr. Chance won't go down that easily!"

Despite what he told her, Tommy was also feeling incredibly anxious at the time. He hated himself for being so weak and useless in such a situation.

Due to his status as the underground king in Horington, Tommy had everything at his fingertips. As such, he never bothered to train at all.

However, having witnessed the battles in the arena earlier, Tommy began to regret not putting in the effort back then.

Instead of following up with more strikes, Zachariah simply stood there and watched as Jared struggled to defend against his attack.

"I'll make sure you die slowly in fear and terror!" Zachariah said coldly.

Jared ignored him and continued channeling Focus Technique to absorb the martial energy around him. As it was his first time attempting such a feat, he had some difficulties getting used to it.

Nonetheless, he could feel the surrounding energy being absorbed into his body. All he had to do was process it in his core, and he would be able to use it for himself.

Over time, the tiger made out of martial energy began to fade and eventually disappeared before their very eyes. Both of Jared's feet had been planted deep into the ground by the time he straightened his back.

"I'm impressed that you were able to survive that attack," Zachariah exclaimed in surprise when he saw that Jared was perfectly fine.

"Your son's corpse is still lying on the ground over there. You'd better give me everything you've got if you wish to avenge him!"

Because it would be inappropriate for him to just drain Zachariah of his martial energy in front of everyone, Jared decided to provoke him into releasing it all in his attacks instead.

That way, he would be able to absorb Zachariah's martial energy without looking like a villain.

Sure enough, Jared's taunts worked wonders and caused Zachariah to explode in anger. "You insolent fool!" he shouted while leaping into the air.

The surrounding martial energy condensed into the shape of sharp blades before they rained down on Jared from above.

Not only did Jared not dodge the incoming attack, but he even moved toward the martial energy blades.

## Chapter 382 Who The Hell Are You

To everyone's surprise, the martial energy blades vanished into nothingness after making contact with Jared's body.

"What the..."

Zachariah's eyes were wide with shock.

The crowd, too, was dumbfounded by the sight before them. It was the first time they had witnessed anything like this. The martial energy attacks from an Internal Energy Grandmaster are insanely powerful! How did they just disappear without a trace after hitting his body?

"Do you think Jared used Golden Armor?" someone asked.

Everyone then turned to look at the men from Iron Gate Academy as they were the only ones in Summerbank capable of using Golden Armor.

Noticing their reaction, the head of Iron Gate Academy, Master Iron, waved at the crowd awkwardly and explained, "Hey, don't look at me like that! Golden Armor isn't sufficient to withstand an attack from an Internal Energy Grandmaster!"

Just two days ago, I had boldly sought out Jared for revenge. Now that I have witnessed his strength in this fight, I realize that I'm not even worthy of thinking about challenging him!

"Do you have any more tricks up your sleeve? Come on, I'm waiting for you!" Jared taunted Zachariah with a cold sneer.

Zachariah stared long and hard at Jared, but he wasn't in a hurry to attack this time. At that moment, the guy wearing a hat that had been standing among the Jantz family's men finally looked up at Jared.

Sensing his gaze, Jared turned to look in his direction as well. Having gotten a clear view of the man's face, Jared saw that he was actually an old man.

He then decided to ignore the old man and shifted his gaze back toward Zachariah as he continued, "Don't you want to avenge your son and your daughter's family? Come on! I'm standing right here!"

Despite the provocations from Jared, Zachariah simply stood there and stared at him with a frown on his face.

The explosion pill did give me a boost in power, but it doesn't provide me with an infinite supply of martial energy. At this rate, I'll run out of martial energy after delivering two more attacks. When that happens, I'll be completely vulnerable like meat on the chopping block!

Noticing that Zachariah wasn't falling for his taunts anymore, Jared let out a snort as he said coldly, "Fine. If you don't have the guts to make a move, I will!"

With that, the air around him became charged with an explosive surge of martial energy.

Like a tornado, his energy levels sent the tables and chairs flying everywhere. Unable to withstand the intense force, the arena crumbled beneath his feet.

The dust cleared after a while, but the energy surrounding Jared's body was unaffected as he stood atop the rubble.

It was so overwhelmingly powerful that Zachariah had no choice but to unleash all of his remaining martial energy just to block it.

Enveloped by a faint mist, Jared looked like an angel when he levitated above the ground.

Zachariah's eyes were filled with fear as he could feel his martial energy draining rapidly like it was being sucked out of him.

By the time he realized something was amiss and prepared to deactivate his martial energy, his body had already been completely depleted of it.

"W-Who the hell are you?" he asked in horror.

Now I see why he kept taunting me earlier! He's trying to provoke me into attacking him so he can absorb my martial energy! That's how he was able to make all those blades disappear into thin air!

"I am the person who is going to kill you!" Jared shouted while glaring coldly at him from above.

To him, Zachariah was nothing but a dead man walking.

“N-No... You can’t kill me...”

Zachariah’s face went pale as he stepped back, only to trip over a piece of rubble and fall on his behind.

### Chapter 383 Be My Disciple

After scrambling to his feet, Zachariah continued backing away with his body all covered in dust.

The crowd was stupefied as they couldn’t understand why Zachariah was in such a helpless state.

They had no idea that Jared had drained Zachariah of his martial energy completely. At the moment, Zachariah had been weakened so much that anyone in the crowd could have easily killed him right then and there.

“Give me a reason why I shouldn’t kill you,” Jared ordered coldly.

Zachariah anxiously glanced about his surroundings, and his eyes lit up when his gaze fell upon the old man wearing a hat. “Don’t get ahead of yourself just yet, Jared! I can have someone finish you off right away!”

Zachariah then turned toward the old man as he continued, “Master Venicus, the Jantz family will thank you generously if you could help me take care of this crisis! I’m willing to offer up all of the herbs that we own!”

He was so desperate to survive that he didn’t even care about the longevity pill anymore. After all, it would serve him no purpose if he wasn’t alive to consume it. As such, Zachariah was willing to hand over every herb the Jantz family had in their possession in exchange for Venicus’ help.

Jared’s eyes lit up as well when he heard Zachariah mention the herbs. Having attained level nine in Energy Cultivation, Jared would require a huge amount of spiritual energy to reach the Foundation Phase. As such, hearing about the herbs got him excited.

“Are you serious, Old Mr. Jantz?”

Venicus was delighted. If I can get my hands on those herbs, I can become a lot stronger! On top of that, I’ll also need them to produce aphrodisiac pills or I won’t be able to handle banging two women on a daily basis!

“I’m a man of my word, Master Venicus! I wouldn’t dare lie to you, let alone in front of all these people!” Zachariah replied humbly.

“Fair enough!” Venicus said as he took off his hat and began walking toward Jared.

“Who is this guy? I’ve never seen him before!”

“I don’t know. Maybe he’s some kind of powerful fighter that the Jantz family hired. Judging by his sage-like appearance, I’d say he must be really powerful!”

The crowd began discussing among themselves when they saw Venicus step forward.

Standing before Jared, Venicus eyed him from head to toe as he said, "Hey, kid! You're pretty powerful and talented! If you become my disciple, I promise you'll be untouchable in Jazona within two years! The Jantz family will no longer cause you any trouble either!"

"Master Venicus!" Zachariah yelled with his eyes wide.

Jared has killed my son and daughter! There's no way I'm letting him get away with it!

"Shut up!" Venicus shouted at him with a frown.

Although reluctant, Zachariah didn't dare say another word in that situation.

Venicus shifted his gaze back toward Jared as he continued, "Well? Have you made up your mind yet? To be my disciple is something countless people can only dream of!"

"If you want to be my mentor, you'll have to prove yourself worthy of that title! Are you able to do that?" Jared asked with a smug grin on his face.

"Since you asked, I'll show you what I'm capable of!" Venicus then pulled out a round, black-colored object from his pocket and hurled it on the ground.

Boom!

With a loud explosion, the entire arena was instantly surrounded by a dense, black fog. It was so thick that nobody could see anything.

Everyone began to panic, and some of them even started shoving their way toward the exit.

It wasn't long before the black fog cleared up, and the crowd went silent from shock when they saw what happened.

The arena that was reduced to rubble had been restored to its original state. Jared could be seen standing in the middle of it with Venicus.

#### Chapter 384 Enlightening The Ignorant

"What the hell? This is definitely not the doing of a martial artist!"

"I'm not detecting any martial energy from him at all! This old man must be an immortal!"

"Where on earth does the Jantz family hire such people? I want to hire one too!"

Everyone in the crowd gasped in surprise and disbelief. The situation had far surpassed their expectations at that point.

Venicus broke into a gleeful smile when he saw their response.

"Is this good enough for you, kid?" he asked.

Jared shook his head and sneered as he replied coldly, "I'm talking about actual strength, not magic tricks! Your illusion magic is impressive, but you can't fool me!"

He then lightly waved his hand in the air, emitting a blinding golden light that illuminated the entire place.

As the light faded, the crowd was once again surprised when they saw Jared and Venicus standing atop the arena's ruins.

They were completely unable to comprehend what had just happened before their eyes.

Venicus' face was twisted with frustration, and he narrowed his eyes as he said, "I didn't expect to meet a fellow mage... In that case, I'll send you to your death!"

A second later, Venicus pulled out eight black chess pieces and tossed them in a circle around the arena.

Eight pillars of light emerged the moment the pieces hit the ground, instantly surrounding Jared and Venicus inside.

"It doesn't matter how skilled you are in magecraft. You won't be able to use any of it when you're trapped in my Soultrapper Formation!" Venicus shouted gleefully.

"Is that so?" Jared simply flashed him a cold sneer without saying anything else. Looks like Master Venicus here will become my next resource in cultivation!

"What the hell? Is this a divine martial art? Are they seriously going to do battle in there?"

"This is definitely divine martial art! That old man must be an immortal!"

"No, I think he's a mage. These are just magecraft techniques that we're seeing. I hear there are plenty of mages in the southwest states. Some of them even keep spirits or ghosts as pets!" someone explained to those who were ignorant.

Within the Soultrapper Formation, Venicus made Jared a final offer. "Last chance, kid! Become my disciple, and you will have a bright future ahead of you!"

"I'm the one giving you a last chance here. You'd better surrender those magical items you have if you want me to spare your life!" Jared retorted.

He could sense strong spiritual energy coming from Venicus' chest.

Venicus clutched at his clothes and shot Jared a cautious glare. "Don't you dare touch my magical items! I'll kill you if you even try to!"

Concealed in his clothes was the thousand-year ginseng that the Jantz family had gifted him. He carried it on him as it was indeed a very precious magical item.

"Enough talk! Let's do this!"

Jared was getting a little impatient at that point.

"Fine by me!" With a loud yell, Venicus vanished into the shadows within his Soultrapper Formation. A second later, he appeared right behind Jared and delivered a palm strike to his back.

Jared simply scoffed as he turned around to grab Venicus by the wrist, neutralizing his attack instantly.

Venicus let out a surprised gasp before vanishing into the shadows again.

“If running around is all you’re going to do, then I’ll just destroy this formation of yours!” Jared said as he grabbed a pillar of light and absorbed it directly into his body.

He then repeated the same step with the remaining pillars of light and crushed the chess pieces on the ground.

Venicus’ position was immediately revealed, and he stared at Jared in terror.

## Chapter 385 Run

With his trembling voice, Venicus asked, “Y-You destroyed my Soultrapper Formation?”

“You call that a formation? Honestly, if this is all you’ve got, then you can forget about taking me in as your disciple!” Jared snapped back at him disdainfully.

“Don’t get so full of yourself, kid!”

Venicus was livid with rage.

He then retrieved a few black-colored bottles from his pockets and placed them down in front of him. There were five of them in total, and each one had a yellow seal on it.

Jared’s eyes lit up with excitement when he saw those bottles and figured out what they contained.

Oh? Master Venicus sure has a lot of interesting stuff on him! These are all going to contribute greatly to my cultivation!

After that, Venicus pulled out a piece of paper with a spell written on it.

“Come forth, all of ye damned souls!” he chanted while burning the paper in his hand.

When he tossed it aside, the five bottles began burning as well. Moments later, the entire arena was filled with the deafening cries and howls of ghosts.

Most of the people in the crowd were shivering in fear. Phoenix pulled Josephine into her embrace when she saw her face go pale.

The entire place gradually darkened as countless terrifying ghosts came flying out of the five bottles.

Those who had never seen such a thing before were utterly scared out of their wits, and some of them even fainted on the spot.

Having witnessed this sort of thing in the past, Tommy felt no fear as he stared at the ghosts in front of them.

As the souls continued to fly around Venicus’ body, he turned to look at Jared, only to frown in confusion when he saw how calm Jared was. “Are you not afraid at all?”

“These are but mere ghosts! What’s there to be afraid of? Come on, hit me with your best shot!” Jared replied with a cold chuckle.

Those ghosts would become a valuable resource for his cultivation, so he was actually hoping that Venicus would strike sooner.

With the way things were, Venicus had no choice but to clench his teeth and go all out.

“Attack!”

On his command, the ghosts charged toward Jared with their claws out, ready to tear him apart.

With a faint smile on his face, Jared waited until the ghosts got close to him before opening his mouth to suck them in.

Caught completely off guard, most of the ghosts were sucked into his stomach. The remaining ones made a desperate attempt to flee, but Jared wasn't about to let such valuable resources get away.

With a swift motion, he caught up to the fleeing ghosts and consumed them all.

Venicus' expression was twisted with shock and disbelief as he watched his trump card get nullified. In Crescent Sect, mages were only allowed to keep spirits as pets. As such, Venicus had went through great pains just to secretly keep those ghosts as pets.

Some of the people in the crowd got so disgusted by the sight of Jared eating the souls that they threw up on the spot.

Josephine felt a sickening sensation surge through her and ended up puking as well. She would probably find it hard to kiss Jared after watching him consume all those ghosts like that.

“Run!” Venicus shouted as he leaped backward and began running for the door.

Of course, he wasn't reminding the Jantz family members to run out of kindness. Instead, Venicus was hoping that Jared would go after them so that he could make his escape.

To his surprise, Jared ignored the Jantz family members and ran after him instead.

Seeing as Venicus was forced into retreating, Zachariah immediately tried to escape with his family members. They were so terrified that they didn't even bother bringing Wilbur's body with them.

## Chapter 386 Scuffle

The Jantz family was just about to make their escape when they saw Luke bringing his men and surrounding them.

“Zachariah, don't even think of leaving!” Luke spat.

“Luke, what are you trying to do? The Jantz family and the Wagner family have no enmity. So why are you stopping me?”

Zachariah was beyond exasperated.

“Zachariah, you've killed Bane in cold blood. Do you really think you can escape so easily?” Luke uttered coldly.



“You...” Zachariah pointed at Luke as fury boiled within him. Yet, he knew he stood no chance against Luke in his current condition.

“Zachariah, your time is up...”

Phoenix dragged her injured body and led her men to surround the Jantz family.

Leonardo looked at Zachariah and said, “Mr. Jantz, please leave now. I will hold them back...”

“Leonardo, please be careful!” Zachariah reminded him.

Leonardo nodded and roared, “Charge...”

At that instant, those from the Jantz family rushed toward the enemies while two elites escorted Zachariah.

“All of Phoenix Regiment, listen up! Let no one leave here alive! Kill them all!”

Phoenix’s voice was still as sharp even though she was injured.

“Yes, Madam!”

Those from Phoenix Regiment pulled out their weapons and met the Jantz family straight on.

“The Wagner family will help out too.”

Luke made a gesture, and his men joined the battle, launching an attack on the Jantz family.

Meanwhile, Luke went to stop Zachariah, standing against the two elites protecting the latter.

The entire situation soon spiraled out of hand. There were desperate cries everywhere as blood was spilled.

All the other families were intimidated, and they kept their distance as far as possible. They could not afford to get involved in this battle.

Outside the arena, Lizbeth looked toward Anthony when she heard the commotion coming from within the venue.

“General Long, we should—”

Anthony shook his head and cut her off before she could finish her sentence. “We are in charge of the border only. We should not stick our noses into what happens inside. It seems like Summerbank is going to undergo a drastic change...”

Lizbeth did not utter anything, but her gaze was filled with anxiousness. She was worried that Jared and Josephine might be in danger.

Back inside, the battle had been going on for over ten minutes. The Jantz family was on the verge of getting wiped out under the Phoenix Regiment and the Wagner family’s cooperation. Zachariah was overwhelmed with fury as he stared at the corpses on the ground. Yet, there was nothing he could do. His martial energy had been absorbed by Jared and had not recovered yet.

Just then, Jared came back dragging Venicus with him. Venicus lowered his head in terror, looking like a total loser.

Jared could guess what happened as he observed the piles of corpses on the ground. He threw Venicus right at Zachariah's feet.

Looking at the defeated Venicus, Zachariah knew he would not be able to escape death this time. After all, even his biggest ace card had been reduced to a pathetic state.

"Are you still thinking of running away?"

Jared stared at Venicus who looked utterly decadent.

"No, I won't run anymore. Please spare my life! And... and I'm willing to follow your command from now on! I will also give you this thousand-year-old ginseng!" Venicus shook his head immediately.

"What makes you think you deserve to be my follower?" Jared sneered as he cast an indifferent look at the old man. "The thousand-year-old ginseng will naturally fall into my hand after I kill you. So why should I let you live? Besides, you've probably harmed countless lives with your magecraft."

Jared lifted his hand as he spoke, ready to strike Venicus.

#### Chapter 387 Why Did You Stop Me

"You can't kill me. I'm a part of the Crescent Sect. If you kill me, Mr. Quillen will go after you!"

Venicus gazed at Jared fearfully.

"Are you trying to threaten me?" Jared furrowed his brows. "I hate it the most when people try to threaten me!"

Jared did not give Venicus the chance to say anything. He simply struck the latter down, killing him instantly.

After the deed was done, Jared bent down and took the thousand-year-old ginseng from Venicus' chest. His lips curled into a smile.

He kept the ginseng and shifted his gaze toward Zachariah.

Zachariah noticed Jared staring at him, and he immediately fell to his knees.

He was the head of the Jantz family of Summerbank and one of the four directors of Warriors Alliance. Yet, he was now bowing humbly in front of a young man in his twenties.

The crowd was staring at Zachariah with a bewildered look. A martial artist would rather die than get humiliated. Yet, the man before them was willing to humble himself just for survival.

However, Zachariah did not care what the world thought of him. For him, staying alive was more important than his reputation.

It's useless to keep a good reputation if I'm dead.

“Mr. Chance, please spare my life. I am willing to offer up all the herbs of the Jantz family to you. Many of them are over a hundred years old!”

Zachariah pleaded to Jared.

“I am the man who killed your daughter and son. If I let you go today, will you try to avenge them should the chance arises?” Jared displayed a cold smile.

“No, I won’t! It was my son and daughter who offended you in the first place. They deserved it. If I dare to take revenge against you, I deserve to die too...”

Zachariah was willing to take an oath. He was desperate to do anything to keep his life.

Jared looked at Zachariah skeptically. Why should I trust someone who doesn’t care for his children? If I let him go today, he might attack me secretly tomorrow!

“Mr. Chance, you can’t let him go. He’s a cunning man. He will surely come back to take revenge...” Phoenix immediately advised Jared.

“Don’t worry, I am well aware of what I should do.” Jared smiled and glanced at Zachariah. “If you had defeated me, would you have spared my life?”

Zachariah was stunned momentarily as he stared at Jared fearfully. Just when he was about to say something, Jared lifted his hand.

“Hold on a second...”

The second before Jared made his move, Anthony rushed in and stopped him.

Following behind him was Lizbeth. When she saw that Jared and Josephine were fine and the place was littered with the Jantz family member’s corpses, she felt relief in her heart.

“General Long, why did you stop me?”

Jared stared at Anthony with a confused look.

“Jared, if you kill Zachariah, his brother will hunt you down. When that happens, the entire Warriors Alliance will be doomed,” Anthony uttered sternly.

“His brother?” Jared furrowed his brows. He did not understand what Anthony was implying nor who Zachariah’s brother was.

On the other hand, Luke was left in shock upon hearing that. “Isn’t Derek dead? How could he still be alive?”

“Derek is very much alive. He is the instructor of Jadeborough now, and he is powerful!”

Anthony shook his head.

Everyone froze on the spot as they seemed to know who Derek was. Only Jared and his subordinates could not wrap their heads around it.

“Hahaha. You can’t kill me. If you do, my brother will kill all of your families...”

Zachariah, who was kneeling, suddenly jumped up and let out a boisterous laugh.

“Zachariah, don’t get ahead of yourself. You were the one who cast your brother away to become the head of the Jantz family. You even sent your men to kill him. Even though he is still alive, I don’t think he will avenge you. I bet he even wants to kill you!” Luke snorted.

#### Chapter 388 Do Not Reject Me

“Maybe you’re right, and maybe he does want to kill me. But he will never allow others to do so. If you kill me, and the Jantz family perishes, he will surely make all of you pay the price...”

Zachariah was overwhelmed with arrogance.

In truth, he had just found out that his brother was still alive as well. Since the latter had become the instructor of Jadeborough, it meant that he was strong. Zachariah figured his brother would not fear these people from Summerbank.

“You talk too much.”

Jared snorted as he stared at Zachariah.

With a single strike of his palm, he finished Zachariah off. The latter collapsed to the ground and stopped breathing.

The crowd fell into dead silence upon seeing that scene, while Anthony’s heart was filled with mixed feelings.

The death of Zachariah meant the end of the Jantz family. Should Derek come for revenge, there would be bloodshed in Summerbank.

After all, the instructor of Jadeborough had the support of many prominent families in Jadeborough. Many families wanted to invite Derek as a guest. Anthony knew about this because his friend in Jadeborough approached him after learning that Derek came from Summerbank in Jazona. The friend reckoned that Anthony, who came from the same hometown as Derek, would be able to have some sway over the latter.

That was how Anthony found out Derek was still alive and had done well for himself in Jadeborough.

Luke walked over to Jared. “Mr. Chance, I am beyond impressed by your strength. Hence, I would like to recommend you to become the leader of Warriors Alliance. If Derek really attacks Summerbank, I’m sure we will be able to fight back under your leadership!”

“Yes, we agree for Mr. Chance to become our leader!”

“I believe no one will oppose to that!”

Everyone chimed in with their agreement.

They had all witnessed Jared's strength with their own eyes. They knew that with such a strong elite as their leader, the Warriors Alliance's reputation would spread throughout Summberbank and beyond Jazona.

Jared swept a glance across the crowd and shook his head slightly. "I'm not interested in becoming the leader. If you guys don't mind, please let Phoenix become the leader. That being said, I promise I will help out if anything happens to the alliance!"

"Mr. Chance..."

Phoenix was startled as she did not expect Jared would nominate her as the leader of Warriors Alliance.

Jared waved his hand at Phoenix, signaling her not to say anything. He had made up his mind earlier about this nomination.

As his cultivating level increases in the future, he would need more resources. Hence, he needed someone who could get him the said resources.

After Phoenix become the leader of Warriors Alliance, she would be able to find a lot of resources for me.

"I agree. Zachariah is now dead and Bane has become a cripple. In fact, there's a high chance that Bane might end up dead too. If that happens, Phoenix and I will be the only directors left among the four directors. I admit Phoenix's strength is beyond me, so I agree with Mr. Chance's suggestion!"

Luke was the first to agree to the nomination.

Since Luke had said so, the other families and martial clubs did not dare to say otherwise. With that, Phoenix officially became the leader of the Warriors Alliance.

After the crowd was dismissed, Luke did not leave immediately. As the number of people dwindled, he approached Jared. "Mr. Chance, what you did today was an eye-opener for me. I hope I'll have the privilege to learn more from you in the future!"

Luke's attitude was respectful and humble, like a student facing a teacher.

"You're being too generous. I am not qualified to teach you. We can learn from each other, though."

Jared gave him a faint smile.

"Hahaha. That's fine by me. Please don't reject me then if I invite you in the future!" Luke let out a boisterous laugh.

## Chapter 389 They Are All Fake

"I won't." Jared shook his head.

Soon, Luke left too. Staring at Luke's diminishing figure, Jared felt the former was somehow mysterious and cunning. However, he did not see Luke as a bad person. After all, Luke had been helping him all along.

“Jared, please keep in mind what I said earlier. You should watch your back. If Derek knows about this, he won’t let you off easily,” Anthony uttered helplessly.

“I’m sure there are plenty of ways to solve the issue. There is no need to worry.” Jared smiled faintly.

Hearing that, Anthony did not know what to reply to him. He, too, soon left with his men.

When everything was settled, Jared did not take Phoenix and Tommy home. Instead, they headed directly to the Jantz family’s residence. Now that Zachariah was dead, everything in the Jantz family would belong to Jared. No one would fight over them with him.

Tommy was driving while Jared sat in the passenger’s seat. Josephine and Lizbeth were seated behind them. Meanwhile, a few cars followed behind. They were Phoenix and her men from Phoenix Regiment.

“Jared, why did you eat those... dirty things? What’s going on?”

On the way, Josephine could no longer keep the questions to herself.

Goosebumps rose all over her body as she recalled how Jared had sucked in those ghosts earlier. That scene made her feel like vomiting.

“What did he eat?” Lizbeth was curious.

Josephine did not know how to explain it. She kept staring at Jared, hoping he would give an explanation.

It was only then that Jared realized Josephine was at the scene when he consumed those ghosts. D\*mn it! She must have been disgusted and even frightened after seeing that.

“They were not dirty things. It was just an illusion used by the mage. Do you really believe there are ghosts in this world?”

Jared feigned ignorance and explained, “I mean, look here. There’s nothing in my hands, right? But I can conjure up those illusions right away!”

Upon saying that, a white mist appeared on his palm and instantly transformed into a scary-looking ghost. Josephine and Lizbeth paled in fright.

Jared then opened his mouth and sucked the ghost right into his mouth. In truth, the illusion was made by him using his spiritual energy. However, the ghosts that Venicus released previously were all real.

“There. See that? It’s all fake. Here, let me conjure a dagger now.”

Jared continued to explain as he created a dagger in his hand. Again, he took a deep breath and sucked the dagger into his mouth. “All these are made of martial energy. You won’t be able to tell because you’re not a martial artist.”

“I got it!” Lizbeth seemed to understand as she turned to explain to Josephine. “Josephine, you are not a martial artist, so you don’t know this stuff. An Internal Energy Grandmaster can transform energy into forms. Thus, they can create all kinds of objects. But they are all fake!”

After hearing what Lizbeth said, Josephine started to believe it. “I see. So they were all fake!”

Jared secretly let out a sigh of relief. Luckily she bought it. Or else I wouldn't know how to explain it. It looks like I will have to be more careful in the future. I can't let her see such things.

Tommy, who was driving, smiled secretly. If Jared failed to make her believe it, I'm afraid Josephine might refuse to get intimate with him in the future.

"What's so funny? Just keep your eyes on the road..."

Jared shot Tommy a look.

Soon, they arrived at the Jantz family's mansion. At the moment, the whole place was deserted. It seemed that the remaining members of the Jantz family had fled after knowing about Zachariah's death.

### Chapter 390 Air Of Grievance

Getting out of the car, Phoenix gazed at the Jantz family's mansion. She turned to Jared. "Mr. Chance, you still haven't found a place to stay in Summerbank, right? This place looks nice."

Jared nodded and accepted the suggestion. After all, he knew he could not keep staying at Lizbeth's place, especially now that Josephine had come too.

Seeing Jared nodding his head, Lizbeth felt disappointed for some reason. However, she immediately recollected herself from whatever inappropriate thoughts she had. Jared belongs to my good friend. I can't have any improper thoughts for him...

Walking into the mansion and looking at its luxurious design, they were somewhat amazed by all the antiques inside the building. What a sumptuous lifestyle Zachariah had!

Jared chatted with Josephine and Lizbeth in the living room while waiting for Phoenix and her men to scan the entire place.

A short while later, a subordinate of the Phoenix Regiment rushed to the living room. "Mr. Chance, Madam asks you to go over there..."

Upon seeing the subordinate's panicked look, Jared jumped up from the couch. "What's going on?"

"I... I am not sure as well," The subordinate answered.

Jared immediately left with the subordinate. Josephine and Lizbeth followed along as they were curious.

Before long, they came to a secluded courtyard in the mansion. Phoenix, Tommy, and the rest had surrounded the yard, their gazes filled with rage.

"Phoenix, what's wrong?" Jared questioned.

"Mr. Chance, please take a look for yourself." Phoenix pointed at a house in the middle of the courtyard.

Jared shifted his gaze toward the house. He was bewildered to discover over ten girls locked up inside it. The girls recoiled in fear when they saw him. It was evident they had been living in a great fright.

"What's exactly going on here?" Jared furrowed his brows tightly.

“Mr. Chance, I’ve already questioned them. These girls were all captured by Zachariah. The oldest among them is only eighteen years old.”

“Why would Zachariah capture so many girls?” Jared could not wrap his head around it. Even if he used them for sex, he wouldn’t need so many!

“They have no idea why they were captured as well. However, Zachariah used to send his men to pick two girls among them every day. They would dress them up and send them away. Those sent away never return. I suspect they are dead,” Phoenix uttered wrathfully.

As a woman, she pitied what these girls had experienced. Josephine and Lizbeth were livid too when they saw those girls recoil in fear.

At the same time, Jared was deeply troubled by Phoenix’s words, especially the part where she said those girls were dead.

“Get some of your men to take care of these girls and send them home. The rest of you, follow me!”

With that, Jared walked out of the house.

Standing in the courtyard, Jared closed his eyes as he chanted some words. In the next moment, he swiped his hands in front of his eyes. When he opened his eyes again, they were filled with red light.

He scanned the mansion for a while. His gaze eventually stopped at a spot not far away in the southwest.

With his eyes, he could see black smoke coming out from that place before turning into dark clouds in the sky. Those clouds did not fade for a long time.

“Why is there such heavy grievance in the air?”

Jared’s expression darkened as he withdrew his gaze.

In the blink of an eye, he ran in that direction. Seeing this, Phoenix and the rest immediately followed after him.

After running for a few miles, Jared stopped on a piece of land. There was freshly turned soil everywhere.

Jared scanned the land and discovered an earring within the soil. A few seconds later, he found yet another earring. His expression turned sour as a bad feeling rose within his heart.