

## The Man's Decree 411

### Chapter 411 Twins

"You didn't know that?" Luke was baffled.

Jared shook his head. "I'm not a martial artist, so I don't really know all that much about it."

Recalling the fight between Jared and Venicus, Luke realized that Jared was a mage instead of a martial artist.

"We martial artists have a very strict categorization system. Those who have not mastered internal energy cannot be called martial artists. Those who have mastered internal energy are then categorized into Beginner, Senior, Master, and Grandmaster. These four categories have nine levels each. This is why Phoenix, Bane, Zachariah, and myself have varying power levels despite us all being Internal Energy Grandmasters.

I am a level two Grandmaster, but Phoenix and Zachariah have probably reached level four. After Internal Energy Grandmaster, we have Martial Arts Warrior, Martial Arts Grandmaster, Martial Arts King, and Martial Arts Emperor. However, those are just rumors that I've heard. I have yet to see anyone of those levels!" Luke explained.

Jared finally had a rough idea as to how things worked in the martial arts world after hearing that lengthy explanation. So, it is quite similar to spiritual energy cultivation in the sense that both have strict rules on categorization. Hmm... I wonder what the corresponding category in the martial arts world would be for my Foundation Phase...

His train of thoughts was interrupted when Luke continued, "That is why I had my son train in Extreme Fist since he was a kid. I hope that he will someday be able to surpass my abilities."

A young man came in through the front door right after he said that. "Hey, Dad! I'm busy with training at the moment! This time, I'm going to perform well at the Martial Arts Gathering and bring glory to Extreme Fist!"

Jared gazed in the direction of the voice, only to go wide-eyed in shock when he saw a guy who looked exactly like Dominic. Had Dominic not been sitting right beside them at the time, Jared would surely have mistaken that guy for him.

"Mr. Chance, this is my second son, Jesse. They are twin brothers!" Luke said.

Jared simply smiled and nodded at Jesse in response.

Huh... Why is Dad being so respectful toward this guy? We're both similar in age, and yet Dad is addressing him formally... With that in mind, Jesse frowned in confusion and asked, "Dad, is this the special guest you told me about?"

"Hey, mind your manners! Come here and greet Mr. Chance right now!" Luke shouted angrily when he saw how arrogant Jesse was.

Not wanting to anger Luke any further, Jesse reluctantly walked up to Jared and said, "Nice to meet you, Mr. Chance..."

Jared simply nodded in response without saying a word.

“What the hell is with that attitude of yours? Are you itching for a good round of beating?” Luke scolded him.

“It’s very normal and understandable for the young to behave a little arrogantly, Mr. Wagner. You don’t have to do this...” Jared said.

He wasn’t bothered by Jesse’s attitude at all. Ever since Jared had ventured into the realm of spiritual energy cultivation, his mental state had changed over time.

“I’d be able to die without any regrets if my sons could learn to be more like you, Mr. Chance!” Luke exclaimed with a sigh.

Unhappy that his father was insulting him in front of an outsider, Jesse protested, “I’m a Master of internal energy now, Dad! I’ll definitely be able to surpass you in less than three years!”

Jared has killed a Grandmaster of internal energy like Zachariah with a single slap! How dare you brag about being a Master of internal energy in front of him?

With that in mind, Luke berated him, “So what if you’re a Master of internal energy? You’d better try to learn a thing or two from Mr. Chance later!”

#### Chapter 412 Too Slow

Although Jesse was furious, he sat down and ate lunch without saying anything further.

“Mr. Wagner, your son mentioned something called ‘Martial Arts Gathering’ earlier. What is that?” Jared asked curiously.

“Martial Arts Gathering is an annual event held by all the martial arts schools in Nuthana and Jazona. The main purpose of the event is to allow the young martial artists to get together and spar with each other. In order to motivate them further, winners will be rewarded with pills and precious herbs as prizes.

The Herb Palace is the one hosting the event and providing the prizes. There will also be tons of magical items and pills being sold at the venue of the event. That’s Herb Palace’s marketing strategy to promote their products. As the number of participants increased over the years, so did the amount of incredibly rare herbs and magical items!” Luke explained in detail.

“Oh? I didn’t know such events existed! May I participate in it as well?” Jared grew interested all of a sudden.

“Of course, you can! Any martial artist in Nuthana and Jazona below the age of thirty-five is allowed to participate. Unfortunately, old men like us can only watch from the side! However, I doubt any participant would even stand a chance at winning if you were to participate in it, Mr. Chance!” Luke replied with a wry smile.

Jared chuckled. “Haha! You give me too much credit, Mr. Wagner!”

Jesse simply rolled his eyes in disdain when he heard that.

“When will this Martial Arts Gathering be held?” Jared asked.

“Um...” Luke went into deep thought, but he couldn’t seem to recall the date. He then turned toward Jesse and asked, “Hey, Jesse, how many days left till the Martial Arts Gathering?”

“A week!” Jesse replied without even looking up at him.

“You little sh\*t...” Luke glared at him before flashing Jared an apologetic smile.

After lunch, Luke requested for Jared to teach Jesse a thing or two about martial arts. Unable to bring himself to say no, Jared could only head over to the Wagner family’s training hall with Luke.

He had already predicted that Luke was being polite and respectful toward him because he had a favor to ask.

Upon arrival at the training hall, Luke ordered, “Jesse, show Mr. Chance one of your forms so that he can give you some pointers!”

Although reluctant, Jesse had no choice but to do as told.

He then got into a low stance before stomping into the ground with his foot. Everyone in the area could feel the ground tremble slightly, but a deep footprint could be seen on the floor when he lifted his foot.

“Mr. Jesse really is a Master of internal energy! How impressive!” Clyde exclaimed happily.

The other servants of the Wagner family complimented Jesse as well, much to his delight.

Jesse then continued the demonstration of the Extreme Fist form, sending strong gusts of winds that could be felt up to a few feet away. Many deep footprints could be seen on the floor by the time he completed the form.

“Please give him some pointers, Mr. Chance,” Luke said respectfully after Jesse had finished his demonstration.

Jared nodded. “The strength and ferocity of Extreme Fist form are indeed very impressive. Unfortunately, you have sacrificed your speed for power. That form was way too slow. Remember, there’s no point in hitting that hard if you can’t land those strikes at all.”

Luke nodded in agreement after hearing that. Jesse’s strikes were very powerful, but they were slow because he deliberately put a lot of power behind each strike.

#### Chapter 413 Dodge Without Hitting Back

Jesse had a lot of pent-up anger from earlier, so hearing Jared call him slow caused him to lose his temper. “If you’re that good, how about you spar with me and see if I really am slow?”

“Hey! Watch your tone with Mr. Chance!” Luke freaked out when he saw Jesse behave so rudely toward Jared.

He was about to teach Jesse a lesson when Jared stopped him and said, "Calm down, Mr. Wagner. As I said earlier, it is normal for young people like him to be a little hot-headed. I'll just have a little spar with him!"

"Please have mercy on him, Mr. Chance!" Luke pleaded.

"Don't worry. I won't hurt him," Jared replied calmly.

Feeling reassured by his promise, Luke figured it would be a good chance for Jesse to learn a lesson on humility.

The arrogant and insolent behavior of Dominic and Jesse formed such a huge contrast with Luke's personality that he sometimes wondered if they were really his children.

"You should be begging me to have mercy instead, Dad! Don't blame me if I end up injuring your precious guest!" Jesse shouted with disdain written all over his face.

Luke simply ignored him as he knew Jesse would be humbled very soon.

Jared jumped into the air and landed in front of Jesse. He then placed both hands behind his back as he said, "You will attack me, and I will dodge without hitting back. This way, you'll get to see how slow you really are!"

Jesse paused for a few seconds before muttering furiously, "Don't get so full of yourself now! I'm not going to be responsible if you get hurt!"

Jared shook his head. "That's not going to happen!"

Jesse raised his foot and stomped at the ground, causing cracks to appear and spread in all directions up to dozens of feet away.

He then exhaled sharply, emanating a terrifying aura as he glared at Jared like a predator that was about to pounce on its prey.

A second later, Jesse threw a punch in Jared's direction. It was so powerful that it made a sonic boom as it cut through the air.

Even in the face of such a destructive punch, Jared simply stood there calmly with his arms behind his back. It was as if he didn't even care about the incoming attack.

Right as the punch was about to hit him, Jared tilted his head slightly to the side and evaded the punch with great ease.

Angered, Jesse threw yet another punch at Jared. This time, he aimed for Jared's stomach instead.

Once again, Jared was able to dodge it easily by stepping to the side. The next thing Jesse knew, Jared was standing right behind him.

"Argh!" Jesse screamed in frustration after missing two attacks in a row.

He then started throwing countless punches at Jared with both hands, but not a single one of them landed on him.

In fact, his fists couldn't even touch Jared's shirt.

In just a few minutes, Jesse had delivered over a hundred punches and missed every one of them.

Eventually, he stopped attacking and panted heavily as he had almost depleted his martial energy.

Jared, on the other hand, didn't even break a sweat. "Now, do you believe that your punches are too slow?" he asked with a smile while still keeping his hands behind his back.

"Hmph! You're just taking advantage of your agility! Do you even have the guts to trade punches with me? With that fragile body of yours, I bet I could break all of your bones with one punch!"

Jesse still refused to admit defeat.

"How are you going to trade blows with me if you barely have any martial energy left?" Jared asked with a smile before stepping lightly on the floor beneath his feet.

#### Chapter 414 Pointers

The ground shook violently like an earthquake, causing Jesse to lose his balance and fall down.

Half of Jared's leg was on the ground, and the cracks that resulted from his stomp reached as far as fifty feet.

He then pulled his leg out of the ground and calmly walked toward Luke while Jesse stared blankly at the crater that was about 3 feet deep.

Jesse swallowed in fear after finally realizing Jared's power. Holy sh\*t! This guy is probably at the level of Grandmaster of internal energy or higher! Now I see why Dad was so respectful toward him!

With that in mind, Jesse stood up and made his way toward Jared. He then knelt down and apologized, "Please forgive me for my rude behavior, Mr. Chance!"

Jared was a little surprised by his actions and quickly pulled him up to his feet.

Although the two brothers have arrogant personalities, they are humble enough to apologize and right their wrongs. It seems they aren't that different from Luke, after all!

"True power comes from your heart, and true form comes from your mind. That way, you will be able to train both speed and power at the same time instead of having to sacrifice one for the other," Jared said while patting him on the shoulder.

"True power comes from your heart, and true form comes from your mind..." Jesse mumbled to himself repeatedly.

Suddenly, his eyes lit up with excitement as he said, "Thank you for the pointers, Mr. Chance! I get it now!"

Jesse then ran toward the middle of the training hall and began practicing while muttering to himself, "True power comes from your heart, and true form comes from your mind!"

Feeling satisfied after seeing that, Luke flashed Jared a grateful smile and said, "Thank you so much, Mr. Chance! If you ever need our help, just let us know and we will do our best to assist you!"

"Don't mention it, Mr. Wagner!" Jared replied.

At that moment, Dominic came over and called out to him, "Mr. Chance, the stones have arrived. Could you please..."

Jared nodded. "Sure, let's go and take a look!"

Just like that, the two of them left in Dominic's car and headed over to a warehouse in the suburbs. Dominic stored his stones there as the store in the city was too small to fit such a large amount of stones.

A small, black car pulled up outside shortly after their arrival, and a white-haired old man came out of the car. He was wearing a pair of glasses and held a walking stick in his hand.

Dominic quickly ran forward to hold him steady. "Mind your step, Mr. Patterson!"

He was extremely respectful toward the old man as he carefully helped him toward the warehouse.

"I'm only doing this out of respect for your father, Dominic! An old man like me shouldn't be making trips like these anymore! This will be the last time I help you out!" the old man exclaimed in displeasure.

"But it'll be a huge loss for the stone gambling community if you retire, Mr. Patterson!" Dominic said respectfully.

"I'm too old now! Still, I heard you got yourself a very huge amount of stones this time. As much as I respect your father, I can't give you too much of a discount either. I want this much!"

The old man then held up a finger to his face.

"A million? No problem at all! It is a fitting price for your services, Mr. Patterson!" Dominic replied with a nod.

The look on the old man's face grew cold instantly. "What do you mean a million? I want ten million!"

"Ten million?" Dominic's eyes went wide with shock.

"What? Is this too much for you? From what I know, these are Hickoria stones that you have here. You're aware of the profit you could make out of them, right?" the old man asked.

"Okay, sure... Ten million it is, then..." Dominic muttered through clenched teeth.

After helping the old man toward a chair on the side, Dominic walked up to Jared and said apologetically, "This old man is Benjamin Patterson. He's an expert in the stone gambling community. We would all consult him whenever we purchase these stones. It's not that I don't trust you, Mr. Chance! Please don't get the wrong idea!"

"It's okay!" Jared replied with a smile.

## Chapter 415 Stone Assessment

After about thirty minutes of waiting, a truck arrived with several smaller cars in tow.

A middle-aged man came out of the first car. He had a diamond ring on his finger, a gold chain as thick as a thumb around his neck, and a cigar in his hand.

Dozens of bodyguards then came out of the other cars and made their way toward him. They were all dressed in suits and wore sunglasses, giving them an intimidating appearance.

“You sure are bringing a lot of bodyguards with you just to deliver the goods to me, Mr. Ferguson. Do you not trust me or do you not trust my family?” Dominic said with a smile as he shook hands with Isaiah.

“I am well aware of the Wagner family’s influence in Summerbank, but this truck contains high quality Hickoria stones! This stuff costs a bomb, so I can’t afford to have anything go wrong with the delivery!” Isaiah replied with a hearty laugh, revealing two gold teeth in his mouth.

“Haha! With your net worth, Mr. Ferguson, we could purchase all of Mount Hickoria and still have a lot of money left!”

Dominic continued to butter him up.

“You give me too much credit, Mr. Wagner!”

Isaiah was grinning from ear to ear when he said that.

Wow... Dominic may not like martial arts, but he sure has a knack for doing business! Jared thought to himself as he watched from the side.

After a brief exchange of pleasantries, Isaiah walked up to Benjamin at the chair and said politely, “Hello, Mr. Patterson! I’m surprised that you came here in person today!”

“These Hickoria stones are worth a lot of money, so Dominic invited me over to assess them,” Benjamin replied with his eyes still closed.

“We’ve been doing business for so many years now, Mr. Wagner. Do you still not trust me? Why did you invite Mr. Patterson over?” Isaiah asked in a half-joking manner.

“It never hurts to be more careful, Mr. Ferguson! Besides, these Hickoria stones really do cost a fortune!” Dominic replied with a faint smile.

“All right, let’s examine the goods first. As you know, I cannot guarantee that you’ll get gemstones out of these stones. There will be no returns nor refunds once you have assessed them and completed our deal!” Isaiah reminded him seriously.

Dominic nodded. “I understand, Mr. Ferguson!”

A truck then unloaded the stones at a designated area for inspection. They came in all sorts of shapes and sizes. To the untrained eye, they looked no different from regular stones.

“After you, Mr. Patterson...”

Dominic stepped forward to help Benjamin to his feet.

Benjamin nodded as he whipped out a magnifying glass and a small hammer.

As it would take forever to examine that many stones, Benjamin could only pick out dozens of them for inspection.

However, with such a small sample size, there really was no guarantee that the results of the inspection would apply to the rest of the stones. Just like all other forms of gambling, luck played a huge role in the world of stone gambling.

Suddenly, Jared frowned when Benjamin began examining the stones. He then walked up to the pile of stones and bent over to get a closer look.

Thinking that Jared was a subordinate that Dominic had brought along, Isaiah didn't bother to stop him.

After moving a few of the stones to the side, Jared found a shiny, oval-shaped stone about the size of an egg.

His eyes lit up with excitement as he slowly picked it up from the ground. The moment Jared's hand made contact with the stone, a surge of pure spiritual energy entered his body.

That oval-shaped stone contained more spiritual energy than jade which was over ten times larger in size.

#### Chapter 416 Is This The Spiritual Stone

"Is this the spiritual stone?" Jared's eyes widened in utter disbelief.

When Jared picked up the stone, he closed his eyes and tried to sense it again. Yet, he found that there was no more spiritual energy surging within the stone.

With the stone in hand, Jared asked Isaiah excitedly, "Where did you get this stone from?"

However, Isaiah merely scoffed in response and ignored his question.

Isaiah's silence prompted Jared to grab him by the collar. "Hey, where did you get this stone from?" Jared demanded again.

Immediately, a flash of anger flitted across Isaiah's face. In the blink of an eye, his bodyguards rushed forward. Upon seeing this, Dominic dashed forward to ease the tension.

"Mr. Chance, what's the matter?" In a haze of panic, Dominic yanked Jared away from Isaiah. "Mr. Ferguson, please forgive his actions. Mr. Chance must have gotten worked up after he saw the quality of the stones," Dominic said apologetically.

Isaiah snorted, "Hmph! For Dominic's sake, I'll spare this insolent brat." With a wave of his hand, the guards surrounding him retreated.

At the same time, Jared recollected himself and regained his composure.

“Mr. Chance, is the stone you’re holding a gemstone?” Dominic asked when he noticed the egg-sized stone in Jared’s grip.

“No, this isn’t a gemstone.” Jared shook his head. “There’s something unique about this stone. Did you get it from Mount Hickoria?” he asked.

“That’s right. Judging from the stone’s color and shape, it must have originated from Mount Hickoria. Nevertheless, the stone in your possession is a rare find. Even if there’s something in it, it wouldn’t be worth much. It’s too small!” Dominic explained.

Jared merely offered him a small smile and said nothing more. Dominic has no idea how important this stone is to me!

“I should visit Mount Hickoria when I have the chance. I might be able to find more spiritual stones there...” Jared mumbled under his breath.

Ten minutes later, Benjamin exclaimed excitedly, “This Hickoria stone is of the highest grade quality. Judging from how clear its emerald color appears, you wouldn’t be disappointed by its results if you open it up.”

Upon hearing this, Dominic dashed over. “Mr. Patterson, are you sure there will be jewels in these stones?”

“Of course, come and take a look!” Benjamin shone his torch on the stone, illuminating the green shine within it.

Carefully, he tapped the stone with a small hammer to peel off its outer shell. Once it was removed, the color of the Hickoria stone appeared even brighter.

The sight of the stone’s quality left Dominic overjoyed. I can’t believe there were such valuable stones amongst this small batch. There’s bound to be more in the car. I’ve struck gold!

“Mr. Patterson, thank you so much for your hard work. I will be sure to reward you handsomely. I’ll call you about it later,” Dominic said excitedly.

Benjamin nodded in reply as he sat back down and relaxed. Just like that, I’ve bagged ten million in my pocket.

“Mr. Wagner, didn’t I tell you earlier? These Hickoria stones are one of a kind. You’d be sure to earn a large profit if you buy it!” Isaiah said to Dominic.

Dominic grinned. “Mr. Ferguson, why don’t you name your price? How much for this entire batch of stone?”

“According to the rules, Hickoria stones are worth more than normal stones. Hence, I’ll sell this batch to you at three hundred million. Don’t worry; you’ll be sure to regain the money as soon as you obtain a few imperial jades from these stones. After all, Hickoria stones often have a higher chance of producing precious jewels.” As he spoke, Isaiah extended three fingers.

Dominic hesitated for a brief moment before he glanced at Jared. Since the latter was a majority shareholder, Dominic decided to ask for Jared's opinion, "Mr. Chance, what do you think about this transaction?"

"These stones are nothing but rubbish. They are barely worth thirty million, let alone three hundred," Jared replied nonchalantly.

Benjamin, who'd just closed his eyes, jolted in shock when he caught wind of Jared's bold statement.

#### Chapter 417 I Will Buy Them

On the other hand, Isaiah was enraged. "What are you talking about? Do you even understand how stone gambling works? I have a whole batch of Hickoria stones with me. You've got a lot of nerve, claiming that they aren't worth thirty million!"

"Dominic, where did you meet this foolish man? Amongst the dozen or so stones that I examined earlier, you could vaguely see the bright colors underneath the surface. Besides, I'm sure you also witnessed it with your own eyes. Now, this man dares to claim that they aren't worth three hundred million?" Benjamin rose to his feet and declared, "In my opinion, this batch is worth more than three billion! If you don't want it, I'll take it."

Earlier, Benjamin sang praises about the stones' quality. Now that Jared had blatantly said the exact opposite, Benjamin couldn't help but blow his top.

"Mr. Patterson, please calm down," Dominic said hastily. He glanced at Jared doubtfully. "Mr. Chance, there's no denying the high quality of these Hickoria stones. Furthermore, three billion isn't too hefty of a price. Why don't-"

"Are you doubting my words?" Jared interjected coldly.

"Not at all. How could I not trust you, Mr. Chance!" Dominic replied with a shake of his head.

"If you trust me, don't buy this batch of stones." Without another word, Jared strolled off to the side and continued to fiddle with the spiritual stone.

Jared's curt response left Dominic in an awkward position. In the end, the latter relented and regretfully informed Isaiah, "Mr. Ferguson, please accept my sincerest apologies. I won't be purchasing this batch of stones anymore."

Though Isaiah appeared startled, his look of shock was quickly replaced with one of anger instead.

"Dominic, even Mr. Patterson himself has testified for the stones' quality. I can't believe you're trusting the words of a mere youngster over Mr. Patterson's advice." Isaiah scoffed incredulously. "Since you don't plan on buying them, I'll just bring my stones somewhere else! I am sure some other customers will profit from these stones."

Although Dominic was reluctant to decline Isaiah's offer, he couldn't bring himself to go against Jared.

"Mr. Ferguson, let me take these stones then. I'll teach these youngsters a lesson. How could they let such an opportunity slip by?" Benjamin said as he walked toward Isaiah.

“Mr. Patterson, I am willing to sell them to you at a lower price of two hundred and fifty million. However, you’ll need to transfer the money to me on the spot.”

“No problem. I’ll send you the money right now,” Benjamin agreed enthusiastically. I can’t believe that he’s offering me a fifty million discount. This bargain is the perfect golden goose!

Even so, Benjamin didn’t have the funds to pay the entire payment and called a few of his friends to cover the leftover cost. He also contacted a few men to transport the stones back.

About an hour later, Benjamin finally obtained enough money and sent it all to Isaiah without a second thought.

The sight of the stones, now in his possession, left Benjamin overwhelmed with excitement. Nevertheless, his cold glare swept toward Dominic. “Let me show you the high quality of these Hickoria stones. How dare a youngster like you call them rubbish!”

Smugly, Benjamin ordered his men to bring forth a dozen of stones and cut them open. He was confident that he’d find precious gemstones within these stones.

Upon seeing this, Isaiah blurted, “Mr. Patterson, I have a long journey ahead of me. Hence, I’ll be taking my leave first. I wish you the best of luck with your stones.”

“Mr. Ferguson, don’t leave so soon. You’ll need to stay and prove them wrong!” Benjamin quickly held onto Isaiah’s sleeve.

Left with no choice, Isaiah was forced to remain by Benjamin’s side.

From afar, Dominic could only watch on helplessly. Despite his envy and admiration at seeing Benjamin open the stones, Jared’s refusal barred him from proceeding with the transaction and making a handsome profit.

In the blink of an eye, the stones were cut open. However, its insides left everyone stunned.

All the stones split apart to reveal nothing but empty air. These stones were nothing more than ordinary pebbles and rocks. Moreover, fissures appeared across the stone’s surface once it was opened.

Quickly, realization dawned upon everyone. The bright green and red colors they’d seen earlier appeared to have been painted on the stones. Hence, there was nothing of note in these stones.

#### Chapter 418 Wrong Judgment

“H-How is this possible?” Benjamin’s eyes grew twice as large. Like a madman, he shook the stones, hoping for something to appear within them.

“Crack open all of these stones right now!” he bellowed.

In no time, more stones were cracked open. Despite that, all the stones yielded similar results as nothing of value was found in them.

“There’s no need to open them anymore. It is nothing more but a waste of your time,” Jared remarked as he rose to his feet.

Languidly, he tossed the spiritual stone aside. He’d already drained it of all of its spiritual energy.

This unexpected turn of events left Benjamin dumbstruck. When the truth dawned upon him, he swayed on his feet like he was in a daze. After regaining his senses, he lunged toward Isaiah in a fit of rage. “How dare you lie to me! Give me my money back!” he snarled as he grabbed Isaiah’s collar.

Similarly, Isaiah dropped his respectful demeanor and pleasantries. He shoved Benjamin away and snapped, “Aren’t you aware of the rules in stone gambling? It’s not my fault that you made the wrong judgment!”

Once Isaiah freed himself from Benjamin’s grasp, he spun on his heel and intended to leave. Yet, Benjamin refused to give up. “Stop them! Don’t let them take a single step out of here.”

Quickly, Benjamin’s men rushed forward to surround Isaiah. Nevertheless, Isaiah had come prepared too. His bodyguards leaped into action against Benjamin’s subordinates. In the span of a few seconds, they’d defeated all of Benjamin’s men.

Isaiah snorted haughtily. “You brat, I haven’t forgotten about you. It’d be best if we never cross paths again,” he warned Jared in a menacing tone.

After the threat, Isaiah and his bodyguards left the scene.

Promptly, Benjamin crumpled to the floor as he burst into tears. He’d gone so pale that his skin appeared gray in color.

After all, he’d purchased these worthless stones by borrowing money from others. How am I going to return the money that I owe?

With a final glance at Benjamin’s weeping figure, Jared beckoned at Dominic. “Let’s go.”

Dominic nodded. Respectfully, he trailed after Jared as the duo departed elsewhere. After witnessing the events that transpired earlier, Dominic’s respect for Jared grew tenfold. If I hadn’t listened to Jared, I would have ended up in Benjamin’s shoes.

Along the journey, Dominic asked, “Mr. Chance, where are we headed to?”

“We are going stone gambling. I want to see every stone that Summerbank has to offer. I’m short of money right now,” Jared replied.

“All right!” Excitedly, Dominic heeded Jared’s instructions and brought the latter to the stone gambling street in Summerbank’s shopping district.

Throughout the entire afternoon, Dominic brought Jared to every stone gambling stall. Under Jared’s keen eye, every stone he picked contained precious jewels.

Since Dominic knew the streets like the back of his hand, the duo managed to see every type of jewel. These jewels ranged in color from imperial jades and blood reds to icy blues. Immediately, Dominic would trade these jewels for cash.

“Mr. Chance, we earned two billion this afternoon!” Dominic cried out in excitement when he sent Jared back home in the evening.

In contrast to Dominic’s elation, Jared leaned against his chair and closed his eyes for a much-needed rest. To him, two billion was still too little. Furthermore, Jared spent the entire afternoon exhausting his spiritual energy and felt incredibly drained.

After sending Jared home, Dominic took a portion of their earnings for himself before transferring the rest to Jared. Before Jared left, he reminded Dominic to acquire more stones, especially the ones from Mount Hickoria.

Truthfully, Jared wasn’t interested in Hickoria stones. Instead, he had his attention fixated on the spiritual stones. If he managed to get his hands on more spiritual stones, it meant that the discovery of spiritual stones in Mount Hickoria was not merely a coincidence.

The moment Jared stepped inside the house, he caught sight of Josephine, who was lounging on the couch. Upon noticing his return, she leaped up and hurried to his side. “I thought you went out for lunch? Why did you only return during dinnertime? I was getting bored out of my mind!”

“Where’s Lizbeth?” Jared asked.

“What’s the matter? Do you miss her?” Josephine questioned as she narrowed her eyes.

#### Chapter 419 A Family

Under Josephine’s intense scrutiny, Jared couldn’t help but feel exasperated. Sometimes, I genuinely can’t understand what’s going through a woman’s mind.

“I was just curious as to why she isn’t here to keep you company,” Jared explained.

“Lizbeth has her work to attend to. She can’t possibly keep me company every day. She has been skipping work for the past few days to stay with me. Have you handled all your matters in Summerbank? Why don’t we return to Horington tomorrow? I feel ill at ease leaving my dad alone at home,” Josephine said bitterly.

When Jared heard this, a slight frown graced his forehead. Since he hadn’t accumulated enough money and was yet to get his hands on the medicinal herbs he was reluctant to leave Summerbank so soon. Additionally, Jared planned to drop by the Martial Arts Gathering that would be taking place next week.

“Oh, if you still have things to settle, we can remain here for a few more days. I was simply making a suggestion,” Josephine hastily added when she noticed the troubled look that marred Jared’s face.

Smiling, he voiced, “It’s all right. I can take you back to Horington tomorrow. However, I won’t be staying there for long as I still have unfinished business here.”

After careful consideration, Jared decided that it would be a good idea to send Josephine back to Horington. She'll be much safer there. If she remains in Summerbank, the members of the Crescent Sect and the Fergusons might come looking for trouble.

Okay." Josephine nodded in agreement.

At the break of dawn, Jared contacted Phoenix and transferred all of his money to her. He also pled for her help in delaying the payment to Herb Palace. After repeated assurances that he would pay up the rest soon, Jared hung up the call and prepared to set off.

When Tommy caught wind of Jared and Josephine's plans to return to Horington, he quickly drove to pick them up.

"Tommy, there's no need for you to go back with us. You should look for a reliable person to assist you in organizing Templar Regiment." As Jared was aware of Tommy and Phoenix's budding relationship, he wanted them to spend more time together.

When Tommy caught onto Jared's implication, a faint blush dusted his cheeks. "Mr. Chance, I have personal plans to handle some matters regarding Templar Regiment as well. I'll tag along when you return to Summerbank."

Jared merely smiled in reply and said nothing more.

Hence, Tommy drove Jared and Josephine back to Horington.

It was already evening when they arrived at Horington. Instead of visiting Dragon Bay, Jared and Josephine made a beeline for the Sullivan residence.

"Dad, we're back!" Josephine called out excitedly the moment she stepped through the doors.

William, who'd been sipping tea on the balcony, lit up when he heard his daughter's greeting.

"Come on and take a seat." William waved his hand to signal them to come over.

Jared set down a bag on the table. Inside it was packed with Summerbank's local specialties. "Mr. Sullivan, I brought you a few gifts from Summerbank. Though I'm not sure if they'll be to your liking."

"Haha! Don't worry; I'll surely enjoy anything you've picked out for me." William heartily chuckled as he poured a cup of tea for Jared.

While Jared sat opposite William, Josephine sidled close to her father and leaned on his shoulder like a little child.

"Jared, you must have faced quite a myriad of problems in Summerbank, right?" William asked.

"Well, I have solved them all," Jared replied with a small grin.

"Don't try to shoulder all of the burdens alone. After all, we are a family. Please don't hesitate to ask us for any assistance that you might need," William advised.

"Sure." Jared nodded in affirmation.

All of a sudden, William reached into his pocket and brought out a bank card. He slid it over to Jared and said, "Jared, there's around five billion in this card. Although it's not much, please feel free to use it as you please. I heard that you've been struggling with money recently."

William's offer caught Jared entirely off guard. This five billion was the Sullivan family's entire fortune.

"Mr. Sullivan, I can't accept this. You spent your whole life building up the Sullivan family's industries. How could I possibly take your fortune?" Jared assumed that William had sold off all of the Sullivan family's assets.

"Jared, I overheard your phone call earlier. Knowing that you needed money, I contacted my father. Please accept it. Besides, I am the only heir of the Sullivan family. Eventually, I would inherit all of my father's fortunes," Josephine explained.

#### Chapter 420 Killing Everyone Who Stands In The Way

It was only then that Jared realized why William had asked him if he had encountered any problems.

"Jared, you are underestimating the Sullivan family. Although five billion is a lot of money, it didn't just come from the sale of my assets. In fact, a lot of it actually belongs to you, such as the proceeds from the sale of the revitalizing pills. Also, since everyone is aware of your relationship with Josephine, many businesses approached us for collaboration. Hence, those projects made us a lot of money too.

"Also, if it weren't for you, I wouldn't have been able to take over the Scott family's businesses at a low price. Therefore, you should take the money, as you deserve all of it. If it isn't enough, we'll think of another way. After all, we are family," William explained to Jared.

Warmed by William's gesture, Jared nodded as he kept up the bank card. At that moment, he had gathered enough money to pay Herb Palace.

When he saw Jared accept the money, William broke into a smile and continued, "Now that you're back, both of you should get some rest, as there will be a banquet at Glamor Hotel tonight. Mr. Grange and Mr. Lowe wanted to hold a dinner in your honor when they heard of your return. Also, there're plenty of tycoons in Horington who can't wait to ingratiate themselves with you."

Jared smiled wryly. In truth, he didn't enjoy attending such events. However, since it was on Walter and Glen's invitation, he agreed to attend out of respect for them. After all, both of them had done him many favors.

When William invited Jared to rest at the Sullivan residence, Jared declined. He preferred to return to Dragon Bay which was richer in spiritual energy. Ever since he had achieved Foundation Phase, he didn't get a chance to cultivate his strength.

Subsequently, William instructed Josephine to return with Jared. Right before they left, William reminded, "Josephine, you have to take good care of him. Also, I'm not someone conservative. Therefore, I'm looking forward to both of you having a child so that I can spend my time playing with my grandchild."

“Dad, what are you saying? We aren’t even married yet. How can you say such things to your daughter?”

Blushing in embarrassment, Josephine glared at William.

“That’s no problem at all. Both of you should get registered tomorrow, and I’ll organize the grandest wedding Horington has ever seen!” William suggested with a smile.

“I’m not going to continue this topic with you.”

As Josephine left with Jared in tow, William burst into hearty laughter while watching them go.

Having spent a long time on the road, Josephine was exhausted upon returning to Dragon Bay. While she lay down to rest, Jared transferred his money to Phoenix and ordered her to purchase the herbs as soon as possible.

After that, Jared sat down with his legs crossed and began his cultivation training. Ever since he was elevated to Foundation Phase, his demand for spiritual energy continued to increase.

Just when he started training, his phone suddenly rang. It was a call from Phoenix.

Once the call connected, Phoenix’s anxious voice rang out. “My Lord, something terrible has happened. All our subordinates within the Jantz family mansion are dead!”

“When did it happen?” Jared furrowed his brows.

“I think it happened in the morning. I made a mistake by not checking then. By the time I found out, they were already dead,” Phoenix explained, blaming herself for what happened.

As a result, Jared’s expression darkened. Even though he had returned, he had left some men behind to watch the Jantz family mansion. But now, all of those men had been killed.

“Do we know who did it? Could it have been Derek or a member of Crescent Sect? Or perhaps, someone else altogether?” Jared asked.

“I’m not sure. Nevertheless, since the perpetrator failed to find you there, he will definitely head over to Horington. My Lord, you have to be on your guard!” Phoenix reminded Jared.

“All right, I understand.” Jared ended the call after that.

Subsequently, his eyes were filled with murderous intent. I will definitely show those who stood in my way no mercy!