

The Man's Decree 481

Chapter 481 A Bee

However, Jared shook his head. "Mr. Snyder, we don't desire anything from you. We only hope that you can take us to see your new vein mine!"

Jayden's expression darkened instantly. He looked at Jared sternly and said, "Who are you? How did you know about the new vein mine?"

Seeing Jayden's expression, Dominic explained quickly, "Mr. Snyder, we heard about it in a restaurant. Many people were discussing this."

Jayden calmed down slightly upon hearing Dominic's explanation. Suddenly, he shouted angrily, "Damn it, the news still leaked somehow!"

"Please don't worry. We don't desire anything from the new vein mine. After all, there are only the two of us. We can't compete with you or the other two families for the vein mine. I only want to look at it out of curiosity," Jared explained.

After hearing Jared, Jayden decided to be frank with them and said solemnly, "I need to warn you. It is dangerous to visit the vein mine now. There might only be one family left standing in the end. If you visit the mine with me, I don't have the power to protect you!"

"Don't worry. We can protect ourselves. All you have to do is bring us there," Jared replied.

"In that case, we shall set off tomorrow. However, you must not hold me responsible if anything happens to you. Since both of you saved my daughter, I will prepare a feast tonight to show my gratitude. You can also stay here tonight. We shall depart early tomorrow morning," Jayden said.

Jared nodded and did not refuse Jayden. Since the Snyders were familiar with Mount Hickoria, it was good to go with them. Furthermore, Jared had a hunch that the vein mine could have something to do with the spiritual stone.

After that, Jared and Dominic sat in the living room by themselves. No one bothered with them. It showed that the Snyders did not believe that they had saved Tessa. They probably thought Jared and Dominic were only passing by and grabbed the opportunity to claim rewards.

Meanwhile, Tessa changed her clothes and returned to the living room. She sat on an adjacent couch and regarded Jared carefully. "Did you save me? You don't look like a skilled fighter."

Even Tessa found it hard to believe that Jared could save her from those highly skilled abductors.

Since Tessa did not believe him, Jared found it pointless to explain. He ignored her and sipped his tea quietly.

On the other hand, Dominic looked at Tessa brightly and tried to keep the conversation going with Tessa. He seemed eager to please like a puppy.

Although the Wagner family had some authority in Summerbank, they were nothing compared to the Snyders. The fact that the Snyders owned mines was enough to subdue most of the Wagner family.

“Ms. Snyder, I heard that you have prepared a new song. When are you going to release it? When will you be having a concert in Summerbank? I will attend it with a hundred of my men! Ms. Snyder, are you taking a break at home, or are you searching for inspiration?” Dominic kept asking questions after questions.

Tessa seemed impatient as she answered some of them but ignored others.

Buzz, buzz, buzz...

At this moment, a bee appeared from out of nowhere and flew around the living room.

“Ah...” Tessa screamed and turned pale. “A bee, a bee...”

One could see that Tessa was afraid of it.

Dominic saw the bee and knew that it was his chance to get on her good side. “Ms. Snyder, don’t be afraid. I will protect you!”

Then, he grabbed a cushion from the couch and used it to hit the bee. However, he kept missing the bee and turned the living room into a mess.

Meanwhile, Tessa curled up fearfully at the corner of a couch with her face pale from fear. She was stung by a bee as a child and developed a phobia.

On the other hand, Jared had been sipping tea quietly throughout the commotion. Suddenly, he frowned and seemed annoyed. Then, he flicked a finger and caused the bee to drop to the floor.

Chapter 482 We Are Your Fans

“You damn bee! How dare you scare Ms. Snyder. I’ll crush you...” Dominic acted immediately and stepped on the bee to kill it. Then, he threw it into a trash can.

“Ms. Snyder, don’t be scared. I have killed the bee!” Dominic said proudly.

However, Tessa did not respond but looked at Jared in shock. She had seen him flick a finger and caused the bee to drop. He was not even looking at the bee.

That is incredible. I’m in no doubt that Jared is a highly-skilled fighter. He must be the one who saved me!

Tessa adjusted her clothes and scooted near Jared. “Did you say that your name is Jared Chance?”

Jared nodded but did not say anything.

“Why won’t you look at me? Are you scared of me?” Tessa teased Jared when she saw that he refused to look at her.

“Scared of you? Why should I be scared?” Jared looked straight at Tessa. “It’s just that I have a girlfriend.”

“What a loyal man. It is hard to find a trustworthy man like you nowadays.” Tessa chuckled.

She developed a sudden interest in Jared.

Before she could say anything else, a servant came to the living room and said, “Ms. Snyder, Mr. Wagner, the feast is ready.”

Tessa patted Jared’s shoulder. “Let’s go!”

Jared followed Tessa to the dining room. The Snyder residence had one floor dedicated to the dining room and kitchen. It felt like a restaurant, and they had at least a dozen chefs working for them.

It was so lavish that Jared’s mansion in Dragon Bay was nothing compared to the Snyder residence. The life of the super-rich was truly beyond what ordinary people could imagine.

The dining room had a table of six meters in diameter covered with various delectable food. There were dishes of every kind, and they smelled delicious. Only a mine owner could be capable of dining in such extravagance.

“Mr. Wagner, Mr. Chance, have a seat,” Jayden said casually when he saw Jared and Dominic.

After Jared and Dominic chose their seats, Tessa came and sat beside Jared. Dominic couldn’t help but feel envious of him.

Jayden frowned when he saw Tessa’s choice of seating, but he did not say anything.

“Henry, is Mr. Jenson here yet?” Jayden asked.

He seemed to be waiting for someone.

“Sir, he should be here soon,” Henry answered.

Suddenly, a servant led an elderly in a white martial arts uniform into the dining room. His eyes gleamed with authority. A gang of men in black martial arts uniforms also followed behind him.

“Mr. Jenson, thank you for coming here...” Jayden rushed out of his seat to welcome him.

“Mr. Snyder...” George greeted respectfully. “Please have a seat...”

Jayden courteously invited George and his group of men to the table.

“Sweetie, why are you still sitting there? Come meet Mr. Jenson, the practitioner of Form-Intention Fist,” Jayden said to Tessa.

Tessa stood up quickly and said, “Nice to meet you, Mr. Jenson!”

George replied with a chuckle, “Haha, nice to meet you too. Ms. Snyder, I’ve seen you on TV before. You look even more beautiful in person. Many of my subordinates here are your fans. Later, they will ask to take a group photo with you and request your autograph.”

“No problem!” Tessa responded with a smile.

“Mr. Snyder, who are these two gentlemen? I don’t think I’ve seen them before.” George pointed to Jared and Dominic.

Jayden explained quickly. “Oh, they are stone gambling tradesmen from Jazona. They bumped into my daughter today and saved her. Come, let’s have dinner!”

Suddenly, a muscular man in his early thirties shouted beside George, "Who dares to harm Ms. Snyder? Do they have a death wish?"

"Ms. Snyder, this is my senior disciple, Daxton Ford. He has acquired more than seventy percent of my skills. Furthermore, he is a loyal fan of Ms. Snyder." George introduced the man.

Chapter 483 Catching A Bullet

"The abductors are all dead. Although we still can't confirm who did it, I strongly believe that the Fergusons and the Larsons sent them," Jayden said.

"Mr. Snyder, don't worry about it. Let us help you with this matter and make those two families pay. I will give them a taste of my iron fist and avenge Ms. Snyder!" Daxton waved his fists and looked at Tessa with fiery determination.

"Haha, I shall trouble you and Mr. Jenson. However, I heard that the Larsons hired many Grandmaster rank fighters. Therefore, it is better to be more cautious. I even used my connections and obtained a few of these." Jayden used his finger to outline a gun.

George smirked and said, "Mr. Snyder, guns pose an even lesser threat to us than daggers. Furthermore, guns are useless against Grandmasters. They only give you a fake sense of security!"

"Mr. Jenson, are there people who are not afraid of guns?" Jayden found it hard to believe that there were such people.

"Mr. Snyder, if you don't believe me, you can try to shoot a bullet at me!" George offered calmly.

"How can I do that? I can never use a gun on you, Mr. Jenson!" Jayden shook his head immediately.

"Mr. Snyder, you should give it a try. My mentor is not afraid of guns. He can move faster than a bullet," Daxton said from the side.

"Mr. Jenson, I..." In actuality, Jayden was curious about it too and wanted to give it a try.

"Bring it on. I should demonstrate my abilities to you, Mr. Snyder. Otherwise, I feel uncomfortable receiving such a large sum of fee from you," George replied.

Then, he got up from his seat and stood at the side.

Jayden ordered a servant to bring him a gun. He unlocked the safety lock, aimed it at George, and said, "Mr. Jenson, I shall fire a shot now!"

"Sure, aim it at my right chest!" George thumped his right chest.

Jayden was thinking of doing the same thing. If he aimed at George's right chest, George would not die if there was a mishap. However, if the bullet hit his left chest, it could pierce his heart and kill him immediately.

Therefore, Jayden aimed the gun at George's right chest and pulled the trigger.

Bang!

In the split of a second, George leaned to a side before immediately returning to his original position.

There was not a wound on his body. The bullet did not get him.

“Amazing!”

Daxton shouted, and everyone soon clapped and cheered. Even Dominic was stunned.

However, no one noticed that the bullet recoiled after hitting the smooth granite pillar behind George. It now changed direction and shot toward Jared and Tessa.

The bullet was too fast for anyone to see, but Jared noticed it instantly. He reached out and grabbed it in his fist.

Tessa jumped in shock beside Jared. She was stunned to see the bullet on Jared’s palm. However, Jared did not make a scene but quietly pocketed it as if nothing happened.

Meanwhile, everyone was cheering for George. Jayden said happily, “Mr. Jenson, with you here, I believe no one would dare to stop the Snyders tomorrow, hahaha...”

Then, the feast began. Jayden kept toasting George but ignored Jared and Dominic. On the other hand, Tessa kept chatting with Jared and offered him food. She treated him as if he was an old friend.

“Dad, I want to follow you to the vein mine tomorrow.” Tessa suddenly mentioned to Jayden.

“Stop with this nonsense. It is not a vacation trip but a dangerous journey. You have better stay at home!” Jayden scolded Tessa.

Chapter 484 Group Photo

“I’m going. Don’t worry. Jared will protect me,” Tessa declared.

She was now confident in Jared’s abilities.

Jayden opened his mouth to say something, but George beat him to it. “Mr. Snyder, will these two young men be going with us too?”

“Yes.” Jayden nodded.

“Mr. Snyder, aren’t you sending them to their deaths? I don’t have the resources to guard a few more irrelevant people,” George said sternly.

Jayden was embarrassed as he said, “Mr. Jenson, they insisted on going. Furthermore, I’ve told them that I would not be responsible for their safety. Therefore, we don’t have to be concerned with their protection.”

“All right then.” George did not say anything else after that.

However, Daxton stood up and said, “Mr. Snyder, you should let Ms. Snyder join us. I will personally protect her and ensure that no one can harm her. I fear these two young men are not even in the position to protect themselves. Therefore, we can’t trust them to protect her.”

Daxton looked at Jared in disdain. Tessa had been offering Jared food and chatted with him all through dinner. It made Daxton angry.

“In that case, I shall entrust her to you.” Jayden nodded.

After dinner, George and his men surrounded Tessa to take pictures with her and ask for her autographs. Even Dominic went over to them for the same.

However, Jared left quietly and went to a nearby pavilion. He sat there while listening to the birds chirping and viewing the stars. It felt serene.

As Jared was engrossed in the peaceful surrounding, Tessa came over to him and asked, “Are you sure you don’t want to take a photo with me or ask for my autograph?”

“No, I’m not interested,” Jared answered without hesitation.

“You...” Tessa did not expect Jared to be so blunt. She was so surprised that she could not speak.

“You brat! How dare you speak to Ms. Snyder like that? Furthermore, how can you not stand to greet her?” Daxton scolded.

He had followed Tessa secretly to the pavilion and was shocked by how Jared spoke to Tessa. He burst into fury and rushed forward to grab Jared.

Tessa did not realize Daxton was following her. She wanted to shout to stop Daxton, but it was too late. Daxton grabbed Jared’s left shoulder to hoist him up.

However, no matter how hard Daxton tried, he could not move Jared even a little. Instead, Daxton’s face and neck flushed from exertion. He felt embarrassed that Tessa had seen everything.

“I can’t believe it!” Daxton saw Tessa looking at him. Therefore, he grabbed Jared with his other hand and pulled hard to move him.

Unfortunately, he still could not move Jared at all. Jared remained seated quietly as if no one was disturbing him.

Soon, Daxton was covered in sweat. He exerted all his strength to move Jared.

“Hahaha...” Tessa began laughing when she saw Daxton’s flustered appearance.

The laughter made Daxton feel humiliated. Therefore, he was determined to try even harder. He bent his knees from the exertion and gritted his teeth. Veins popped on his forehead.

“Get up now...” Daxton shouted ferociously. His eyes were bloodshot with fury.

However, no matter how hard Daxton pulled, Jared remained as still as a mountain. He did not budge an inch.

“Get lost!” Jared ordered coldly. Suddenly Daxton felt a wave of colossal force assailing him, sending him flying backward.

“How... How is this possible?” Daxton looked at Jared in shock. He refused to believe what just happened.

He wanted to charge forward again to attack Jared. However, Jared stood up and left.

“Hey, don’t leave! I still want to talk to you!” Tessa chased after him.

Jared ignored her and returned to his assigned room.

Meanwhile, Daxton came to Tessa with a gloomy expression. “Ms. Snyder, I’m feeling a little unwell today. Otherwise, that brat wouldn’t stand a chance against me!”

Tessa ignored him and turned around to return to her room.

Chapter 485 The Mountain God

The following morning, Jayden gathered a large team to head to Mount Hickoria. There were a few men in coveralls carrying rope and ax. They stood out oddly among the crowd.

Dominic explained to Jared that these men were experts in searching for access to the vein mine. Despite knowing the vein mine’s location, they could not carry out mining unless they could find its natural opening. If they tried to create one by force, it could destabilize the vein mine, causing many problems and strange incidents.

After that, dozens of people began to head to the mine. Tessa asked to sit in the same car as Jared. Then, Dominic drove their car toward the foot of Mount Hickoria. Once they were there, they would have to go up the mountain on foot.

Soon, they arrived at the foot of Mount Hickoria and got out of the car. Previously, they thought that Mount Hickoria was not so tall compared to other mountains. Now, it towered into the sky, and clouds covered its peak. Everyone prepared their gear and started heading up.

They had just walked for a short distance when Jared saw a house made of slabs of bluestones. There were a large number of fruits and cakes placed around the house. Furthermore, there were candles lighted before it.

Many people from the team knelt on the ground as if to pray. Jared was curious about the sight.

Why is there suddenly a house in the middle of the forest? Furthermore, why are so many people praying to it?

“Mr. Chance, they are praying to the Mountain God. People would pray to the Mountain God before going up to search for the new vein mine. It is similar to a fisherman’s superstition,” Dominic explained when he saw Jared’s puzzled expression.

At this moment, Jayden led his team to stand before the house and set out the prepared offerings. Then, he lighted three candles and bowed before leading everyone to kneel before the house.

Even Tessa knelt on the ground with them. One should know that she was a superstar and was used to people waiting on her hand and foot. Yet, she knelt on the stone floor without hesitation and prostrated herself humbly.

After the offering ceremony, the Snyders finally met the Fergusons and the Larsons.

Jared also saw Isaiah, whom he had met not too long ago. There was a bearded elderly beside him. He wore sunglasses and seemed to be blind. However, Jared could feel an immense wave of spiritual energy from him. It was tremendously stronger than a mage's.

Could he be a cultivator? Jared could not help but keep looking at the elderly.

Suddenly, Isaiah noticed Jared and Dominic. He said in a surprised tone, "Both of you are here too?"

Dominic quickly greeted Isaiah and replied, "Mr. Ferguson, we are just curious about the mine and came here to check it out."

He did not want to offend any of the three families. After all, the new vein mine had nothing to do with him. It did not matter which of the three families obtained the mining rights. Dominic would still need to work with them.

"Just checking it out?" Isaiah sneered and said, "Good for you. This mountain is an interesting place. Perhaps all of you will be staying here forever."

Isaiah's words carried killing intent as he glared at Jared coldly. He had wanted to get rid of Jared for a long time. Now that Jared came to him of his own volition, Isaiah could not wait to dispose of him.

Dominic shuddered when he heard Isaiah's words. However, he kept smiling and said, "Mr. Ferguson, one shouldn't hold grudges. Although we were wrong concerning the matters in Jazona, we can still collaborate, can't we?"

"Bah! What collaboration? Once I find the mine's opening, why would I still want to collaborate with troublesome people like you? I'll teach that brat a lesson today and make him pay!"

Isaiah shouted and gestured two of his subordinates to charge at Jared.

Chapter 486 Savior

"Do you guys have a bad history?" Tessa asked while looking at Jared.

"You can say that," Jared replied calmly. Clearly, he wasn't bothered by Isaiah's threat.

"You brat! If you kneel and beg for my forgiveness, I will consider sparing your life. How dare you come to Salinsburgh after offending me?" Isaiah sneered.

"Salinsburgh is not your home! I can come whenever I want!" Jared argued nonchalantly.

Meanwhile, everyone was shocked by Jared's attitude when he talked to Isaiah.

Given that the Fergusons, the Snyders, and the Larsons were the most powerful families in Salinsburgh, no one dared speak to them in such a rude manner.

Isaiah was stunned for a while and furious. After all, he felt embarrassed that a young man retorted him before the three families.

After a while, Isaiah glared at Jared and said, "Today, I'll let you know whether Salinsburgh is my turf! Kill him! Kill him now!"

The next moment, the two subordinates of Isaiah sped up and threw a heavy punch at Jared.

Surprisingly, Jared stood still and didn't move an inch as though he didn't see them at all.

Feeling anxious, Tessa rushed toward Jared to ward them off. "Don't kill him!"

"Sweetie, what are you doing?"

Jayden frowned when he saw his daughter rush to defend Jared despite the danger.

"Dad, Jared saved my life before, so I can't watch him die. Besides, if words of this incident get out, our family's reputation will go down the drain!" Tessa explained to Jayden anxiously.

Deep down, Jayden didn't believe that Jared was the one who saved Tessa. Nonetheless, it would be inappropriate if he didn't do something at that juncture.

As Jayden hesitated, Isaiah's subordinates didn't stop attacking and continued to spring upon Jared.

Right before they hit Jared, Daxton, who only observed the fight from the side, bellowed and rushed to Jared's front.

"How dare two Seniors lay a finger upon Ms. Snyder?"

With that, Daxton threw his strong punches with both fists.

When his punches clashed with their fists, a strong wave of energy sent Isaiah's subordinates flying. They spat blood out of their mouths and stopped breathing after falling to the ground.

Isaiah's expression turned grim upon seeing it.

Meanwhile, Daxton looked at Tessa smugly and asked, "Ms. Snyder, are you all right?"

"I'm fine. Anyway, you're superb!" Tessa shook her head and responded.

Daxton's face flushed after Tessa complimented him. He patted his chest excitedly and made a promise. "Ms. Snyder, no one can ever hurt you as long as I'm here. I'll kill anyone audacious enough to try that."

As Daxton spoke, he didn't forget to shoot a provoking glance at Isaiah.

Isaiah was irritated and shouted at Jayden, "Jayden, what is this? Is he related to your family?"

"Isaiah, Mr. Chance saved my daughter's life. For my sake, please let it pass. Also, don't forget what we are supposed to do for coming here to go to the hilltop!" Jayden reminded Isaiah.

"Da*n it. Two of my men have died. How dare you ask me to let it pass?" Isaiah said while gritting his teeth.

"Enough! It's getting late, yet we haven't found the entrance to the vein mine yet. It'll be dangerous if we can't find it and have to stay in the mountain. Also, we are unsure how many of us can leave the mountain safely. In that case, why must we argue now? If the young man is still alive after we go down the mountain, you'll have all the time to seek revenge!" Cristopher stood out and tried to deescalate the situation.

Chapter 487 Stuck Forever

Three of them knew that their families would engage in a bloody battle once they found the vein mine. Before that, no one wished to fall out with the other.

“All right. I’ll let you live a little longer!” Isaiah sneered and brought his men to go uphill.

Immediately, the Larsons also left with their subordinates, leaving Jayden and his men behind.

“George, how powerful are these two families?” Jayden whispered to George.

“There are as many as six Grandmasters who belong to the Fergusons. However, I can’t read the elder with a goatee. We don’t have to worry about the Larsons, for they only have three Grandmasters,” George said confidently.

“Thank you, Mr. Jenson!” Jayden was ecstatic after hearing George’s analysis.

Meanwhile, Jared chuckled silently upon hearing it. Although George was a good martial arts fighter, he was terrible at reading people. After all, Jared could tell at a glance that the Fergusons had ten Grandmasters, while the elder was probably a master of magecraft.

Besides, the Larsons had nine Grandmasters, the strongest of which was over two meters tall. Although the tall and sturdy guy always had a blank gaze, he was as strong as George.

It’s too early to tell who will win in the end! Jayden is too optimistic about the situation!

After walking for a while, Tessa came up to Jared and whispered, “Jared, you have to follow me closely when we enter Devil’s Forest. You won’t be able to escape once you’re lost!”

“Devil’s Forest?” Jared was stunned.

“The forest is spooky. A lot of people entered the forest and went missing. Besides, no one had ever found the bodies of the missing persons. Therefore, we call it Devil’s Forest. Anyway, don’t worry about it. Just follow me closely, and you’ll be all right. My team has several guides who always hunt in forests and they have even entered Devil’s Forest many times!” Tessa explained to Jared in the hope of soothing his worries.

“Okay, I got you!” Jared replied and flashed Tessa a faint smile.

At that time, Daxton, who wasn’t far away, observed how Tessa and Jared interacted. His expression turned cold, while his eyes burned with jealousy and hatred.

Since the spiritual energy was more than downhill, Jared used the Focus Technique to breathe in as much of it as possible.

When everyone saw a forest, the Fergusons and the Larsons went missing. Hence, everyone thought the spooky forest had consumed them.

“Be careful and don’t stray from our group and don’t wander around. If you’ve lost your way in Devil’s Forest, just stay where you are, use a signal gun, and wait for rescue!” Jayden reminded everyone in a loud voice.

Once Jayden finished, someone began distributing signal guns to everyone. One had to pull the trigger to shoot a red signal and red smoke into the sky.

Since the lush trees blocked the sunlight, the forest was pitch-black like a beast had opened its mouth wide, waiting to devour its prey.

“Mr. Chance, I... I’m a little scared!”

Dominic gulped, beads of sweat forming on his forehead.

“It’s fine. Just follow me closely and stop worrying,” Jared comforted Dominic.

After nodding in response, Dominic followed Jared while gripping the signal gun tightly.

Tessa was a few meters in front. She would turn around occasionally to check on Jared and the rest, worrying that they couldn’t catch up.

Suddenly, one of the subordinates of the Snyders came up to Tessa and said, “Ms. Snyder, Mr. Snyder wants you to go to the front and stay with him.”

“I’m not going. Tell my dad that I’ll walk with Jared and the rest!” With that, Tessa sent him away.

Tessa had her worries. Since Jared and Dominic were outsiders, Jayden would probably abandon them if they had lost their way. If she walked with them, Jayden would have no choice but to take care of all of them.

Chapter 488 Into His Embrace

Smiling, Jared could tell what Tessa was thinking, and he changed his views on her.

Their surrounding became much dimmer after they entered the forest. To prevent any danger to the group, the Snyders’ elites and George’s apprentices flanked the party.

Meanwhile, Isaiah, who was ahead of the group, smiled deviously at the elderly man beside him. “Shall we start now, Mr. Mikkelson?”

In response, Bruce nodded before clutching a tree nearby by its trunk and forcefully tearing off a piece of bark from it.

The elderly man then knelt on the ground and grabbed a handful of leaves. After Bruce chanted something, they spontaneously burst into flames.

For some reason, the heat did not seem to bother Bruce at all as he added the tree bark to the fire.

Lastly, Bruce took out some powder from his pocket and threw it into the fire as well.

Poof!

Immediately, the flame went out, and thick white smoke rose from the ashes.

After randomly picking up a branch, Bruce bit his finger and dripped his blood on the branch. Then, he started drawing something on the ground.

Before long, the drawing of a tiger appeared, and it seemed to be alive somehow.

“Roar!” After making a fearsome noise, the tiger suddenly disappeared.

Bruce continued to draw more of the ferocious creature, and like the one before them, the drawings all miraculously disappeared.

Isaiah, along with the others, dropped his jaw when he witnessed the seemingly impossible occurrence.

“Phew!” The elderly man threw the branch away and let out a sigh of relief after drawing a dozen tigers. “It’s done. None of them will be able to leave the forest now.”

When Bruce got back on his feet, his forehead was already drenched in sweat.

“Excellent job, Mr. Mikkelson!” exclaimed Isaiah, who respected Bruce even more after witnessing how powerful the elderly man was.

After Isaiah and the others left, the forest was suddenly shrouded in thick fog.

At first, the group thought it was only normal, given the humidity of the forest.

However, the fog quickly went from being waist-high to completely engulfing everyone. On top of that, it got so thick that the group had trouble seeing each other.

At that moment, everyone started to panic, and Jayden was less than happy about it.

“Damn it! Where the heck did this fog come from?” cursed Jayden with a scowl.

“Mr. Snyder, I think we should tether ourselves to each other with a rope. Otherwise, we might get lost.” Like Jayden, George did not appreciate the supposed natural occurrence either.

“Good idea.” After nodding at George, Jayden hurriedly ordered everyone to do as the man suggested.

“Roar!”

Suddenly, the group heard a feral roar, and it instantly put them on edge.

“What’s that? Since when are there beasts in the forest?” voiced the hunters leading the way.

They had been to the forest more times than they could count. However, they had never come across any beasts capable of letting out a roar like that. That was clearly the roar of a tiger!

“Jared? Jared!”

It was bad enough that she could not see the people around her; the roar made Tessa even more panicky, so instinctively, she started calling out for Jared.

Suddenly, Tessa could feel somebody grabbing her shoulder, so she screamed like a little girl.

“It’s okay. It’s just me,” Jared comforted Tessa, who immediately threw herself at the man in order to feel safe again.

When Dominic saw what happened, his eyes widened so much that his eyeballs almost dropped out.

Chapter 489 How Dare They Ignore Me

Jared did not expect Tessa to do something like that. For a moment, he did not know what to do. Even though she was so close that he could smell her, Jared tried his best to calm himself.

“I’ll hold your hand, so just close your eyes and follow me. No matter what you hear, keep your eyes shut tight, okay?” instructed Jared.

Having decided to trust the man completely, Tessa responded with a nod and shut her eyes as she was told.

“Mr. Chance, do you have any idea what’s going on? Why would there suddenly be fog?” inquired Dominic curiously.

“This is not fog. Now close your eyes and only open them when I tell you to. No matter what you hear, don’t move a muscle. Got it?”

Dominic knew he had no choice but to listen to Jared, so he, too, followed the man’s instructions.

“Roar!”

The group got even more afraid when they heard the beasts coming closer and that there was a pack of them.

“Ah!” Almost everyone jumped when they heard a scream coming from not too far away.

Shortly after that, they started hearing more screams and the sound of people cursing while running away.

Terrified, Jayden hid behind George because only then did he feel safe. As for George, he had already taken up a stance and was ready to face danger head-on.

At that moment, Jared suddenly appeared before Jayden with Tessa in hand. Despite the thick fog, Jared did not seem to have any trouble navigating around.

“Mr. Snyder, order everyone to stay where they are and close their eyes. It doesn’t matter what they hear; all they have to do is stay still and keep their eyes shut,” instructed Jared once again.

Jayden was impressed that Jared could still find him in their situation but was curious why the man requested that he and the others shut their eyes. “What? Why would we do that?”

“Do you know how much danger we’re in right now? We’re being surrounded by ferocious beasts! Yet, you want us to close our eyes and remain still? We’ll be sitting ducks!” exclaimed George, upset by Jared’s seemingly absurd request.

“Dad, you have to trust Jared. He’s a very capable man,” chimed in Tessa.

Unconvinced, Jayden then pulled his daughter to him. “Don’t be ridiculous! As long as Mr. Jenson’s here, not even the beasts can get to us!”

“They’re merely mindless animals. If they come anywhere near us, I’ll make sure they pay for it!” assured George confidently.

Jared shook his head helplessly when the two refused to place their faith in him. These so-called beasts are just illusions. Their only purpose is to strike fear into people’s hearts and cause confusion.

Since most of the group insisted on fending for themselves, Jared had no choice but to play it by ear.

Roar! All of a sudden, a tiger with colorful stripes showed it to Jared and the others with its teeth bared.

Jayden was scared out of his wits when he saw the beast, so he quickly called out to George while Tessa held on tightly to his arm with her eyes shut tight. "Mr. Jenson!"

George saw the tiger as well, so he immediately shouted at it to get its attention.

However, the shouting did not seem to affect the beast, which continued to roar at Jayden and the others. It was as though the animal could not see or hear George at all.

"How dare you ignore me, you filthy beast!" George felt humiliated when the animal disregarded him and got upset, so he rushed forward and took a swing at the tiger.

To George's surprise, his fist passed through the target as if it was made of air.

Chapter 490 You Can Open Your Eyes Now

Since George hit nothing but thin air, the momentum he had built up caused him to slam into a big tree.

Fortunately for George, not many saw the embarrassing outcome because of the fog.

Holding his injured arm, George finally figured out what was going on when he saw the seemingly ferocious tiger once again. "I get it now, Mr. Snyder. These tigers are just illusions; they're not real! That's why I couldn't hit it."

Then, the man hurriedly ordered the others, "Everyone, close your eyes and cover your ears. No matter what you hear, don't open your eyes unless I tell you to."

Even though Jayden did not know exactly how the illusions worked, he decided to issue the same command to his people.

Everyone in the group was confused by the seemingly ridiculous order but did as they were told anyway.

After glancing around, Jared opened his mouth and sucked the thick fog into his belly. Even the vicious-looking beasts could not escape the strong pull.

It did not take long before Jared restored the forest to the way it was. However, everyone around him still had their eyes shut and ears covered, afraid to move a muscle.

"You can open your eyes now," stated Jared calmly.

Slowly, the people opened their eyes and realized that the fog and the beasts had disappeared. It was as if nothing had happened at all.

"Do you believe me now, dad? I was right about Jared!" said Tessa proudly when everything was right as rain again.

"I'm sure he just figured it out sooner because he came into contact with the beasts before I did, Ms. Snyder. I knew they were illusions too as soon as I tried to hit one," argued George.

"Mr. Jenson is right. He figured it out right after he tried to attack one of those beasts. What did that boy do?" Jayden quickly nodded in agreement with George because he knew how important it was for him to be on the man's good side.

“Mr. Snyder, two of our men went missing!” reported one of the Snyders’ servants.

“They must’ve disobeyed our order and were scared off by the illusions. I’m afraid that we’ve lost them to the forest for good then,” explained George.

As soon as the man was done talking, the group heard the sound of two signal flares firing up to the sky.

Since the flares were fired from somewhere not too far off, Jayden immediately sent his people to find the missing men.

Jayden slapped the two men violently when they finally rejoined the group.

“Didn’t you hear my order?” roared Jayden.

The subordinates shivered in fear and dared not look their boss in the eye.

“Mr. Snyder, we have to get out of here as soon as possible. I believe our enemies summoned the fog to slow us down, so we must not let them get their way,” reminded George.

“You’re right. Let’s get a move on.” Jayden then commanded his people to continue moving forward.

Meanwhile, Isaiah and the others had already made it out of the forest and were breathing in the fresh air on the mountaintop.

Bruce was even more excited than the rest because he could feel the abundant spiritual energy there. This is the perfect place for cultivation!

“Get ready! We’re going to find the entrance to the mine,” commanded Isaiah.

Hurriedly, Isaiah’s people then gathered their tools to carry out the order.