

The Man's Decree 671-680

Chapter 671 Intruders At Midnight

"No. I can only absorb spiritual energy from nature and not from another human..."

Melanie shook her head.

Jared was left in bewilderment. He shifted his gaze toward Rayleigh. "Mr. Deragon, how about you?"

Rayleigh shook his head too.

Jared was utterly stunned by that. "Not only can I absorb spiritual energy, but I can also absorb all energies, including negative energy and even toxic energy. I can harness all of them for my own use."

"What? D-Doesn't that mean you can harness energy no matter what you do?"

Melanie let out a shriek.

On the other hand, Rayleigh seemed utterly composed. "Jared, that's your specialty. Only you can cultivate this Focus Technique. Please don't neglect this cultivation method."

Rayleigh left abruptly upon saying that. Melanie wanted to ask Jared some more questions, but she immediately caught up with Rayleigh after seeing Rayleigh leave.

Jared stared at the detoxification pills in his hand. Recalling what Rayleigh had said, he was more eager to find out his real identity. Why am I the only one who can cultivate Focus Technique?

He glanced at the bright moon outside. July the fifteenth was approaching. He had never waited so desperately for something to come. He did not care whether that day would turn out to be an opportunity or a danger, as he wanted to find out the truth no matter what.

Putting on his clothes, Jared walked out of his mansion. He gazed at the neon lights of Horington below the mountain. Although it was already late at night, the street was still full of traffic. Jared knew that one day, he would be separated from the city life forever.

When Jared was gazing at the city, two figures approached him swiftly. Jared had noticed them when they were around a hundred meters away from him. However, he thought they were Rayleigh and Melanie. Nobody would be there around midnight after all.

When the two figures were only thirty feet away from Jared, only then did the latter notice something was off. He realized their scents were different from Rayleigh and Melanie's. He could smell the strong traditional medicine scent on them.

Jared furrowed his brows as he turned around immediately. He saw two figures, one old and one young. The older man with a white beard was around his sixties, while the young one seemed slightly older than Jared. Both of them were wearing a grey tunic, and there was an image of an incense burner on their collars.

"Who are you guys? Why did you come onto my property at this hour?"

Jared stared at them cautiously. He was sure their intention was unfriendly as they were barging onto his property without permission.

The two figures did not respond to him, but they shifted their gazes toward the detoxification pills in Jared's hand.

"Mr. Knox, your analysis is right. This is the direction. Look at the pills in his hand. Those are not ordinary pills."

The younger man's gaze filled with greed.

The elderly nodded slightly as he glanced at Jared. "Kid, are you an alchemy master? Did you make these pills?"

Jared scanned those two men. He was displeased after knowing they were after the detoxification pills. Those pills were for Josephine, and there was no way he would give them to others.

"It's none of your business. Who are you guys? What makes you think you can come onto my property like this?"

Jared sounded utterly cold as he questioned the elderly.

"Kid, how dare you talk to Mr. Knox like that? Do you have a death wish?"

The younger man was enraged upon hearing Jared's tone.

When he was about to attack Jared, the elderly stopped him.

Chapter 672 Please Leave

"Kid, please don't misunderstand. We are from Medicine God Sect. We did not mean any harm. We inadvertently detected the spiritual energy from the pills. So we came here to have a look at them."

The elderly displayed a friendly look.

"Medicine God Sect?" Jared had never heard of them before. "Do you have anything to do with Herb Palace?"

Jared only knew Herb Palace was a place that the Baileys had in Jazona to collect herbs. Herb Palace was also still providing herbs to Jared constantly.

"Herb Palace?" The elderly seemed puzzled as he turned toward the younger man.

It was evident the elderly had no idea what Jared was talking about.

However, Herb Palace was indeed famous in Jazona and Nuthana. Many from the martial arts world would go there to find the herbs they needed. Since the elderly did not know about Herb Palace, it was clear that he was not a local.

The young man immediately explained to the elderly, "Mr. Knox, Herb Palace is merely a pharmacy. They make some low-grade pills as well. They have a good reputation in Jazona and Nuthana. However, that's only because it is touted by some people in the martial arts world, and the Baileys from Jadeborough are supporting it!"

The elderly understood right away. "Our Medicine God Sect has nothing to do with Herb Palace."

"Herb Palace only has a nice name. It is not qualified to be compared with Medicine God Sect. I can just make a call and get Samuel to destroy that place."

The younger man had contempt written all over his face.

"Donald, I brought you here to learn some knowledge. Please don't try to stir up trouble," the elderly reprimanded the younger man, whose name was Donald Yorkson.

Donald did not dare to utter anything more after hearing that.

Jared got interested in Medicine God Sect. What kind of group is that? They are so powerful that they can destroy Herb Palace, which belongs to the Baileys, just by making a call?

After all, the Bailey family was prominent and influential in Jadeborough. Not anyone could command them.

"I don't care if you have anything to do with Herb Palace. But this is my private property. Please leave right away. I am going to sleep."

Jared did not intend to entertain the two intruders.

"Kid, we came from afar to see the pills in your hand. Can you show them to us?" the elderly asked sincerely.

Jared immediately put the pills into his pocket. "No. You should leave now. You are not welcomed here."

Jared did not know who they were, and he did not know about Medicine God Sect. How could I possibly hand my pills to strangers?

"Kid, Mr. Knox has asked nicely. How dare you reject his request? You must be sick of living!"

Upon saying that, Donald gave off an intimidating aura. His aura moved swiftly toward Jared like a hurricane.

He wanted to scare Jared. Meanwhile, the elderly did not stop him this time.

A cold expression crossed Jared's face. "Do you want to get physical? Bring it on then."

Jared shook his body slightly and exuded a murderous aura. The two auras collided with each other.

Strong winds instantly replaced the peaceful night.

"I didn't expect you to have such strong power..."

Donald furrowed his brows slightly after the collision.

Jared was somehow impressed by Donald's power as well. Even though the latter seemed young, his power was much stronger than Tristan's.

Chapter 673 You Are Unworthy

"You are strong. However, you are still no match for me," Jared chuckled.

“Is that so? Well, I will have to test it out then.”

Suddenly, Donald jumped up and swung his palm towards Jared’s head. Everything happened so fast that he barely had any time to dodge it.

He seethed, “You are so dead.”

Narrowing his eyes, Jared exuded a murderous aura.

They were acquaintances and did not know each other very well. Besides, they did not have any feud with each other. Given so, Jared was taken aback by the man’s bold attack.

From a distance, Axton watched the scene unfold in silence. With no trace of emotions on the older man’s face, he did not seem like he had the intention to break up the fight.

Jared was seconds away from getting struck when he roared and punched his fist toward the sky. Instantly, spiritual energy exploded from his body and propelled his opponent backward.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

After retreating a few steps, Donald’s face turned pale. He could feel his internal organs burning and taste blood in his mouth.

“It’s my turn now,” Jared growled.

Clenching his fist, he threw a punch at the man before him.

The punch was so deadly as it cut through the air with a whistling sound. Upon seeing that, Donald panicked. Quickly, he flipped his right hand, and a bronze sword appeared in his arm.

The sword started to hover above his hand, and it sent a few blows toward the gush of wind from the punch. Instantly, a boom reverberated across the area, with sparks flying everywhere.

Swoosh!

There was a tearing sound as Donald staggered back. His clothes were torn, revealing a half-meter-long wound across his chest. Fresh blood spilled out from it.

As he stared at his injury, his eyes widened, and with all his energy, he screeched, “I’m going to kill you!”

Then, he let out a low roar, and the sword in his hands turned scarlet red. With a terrifying aura, it flew in Jared’s direction.

“Follow him.”

Multiple copies of Donald began to appear before Jared.

The sword he was holding also multiplied, and they all headed in Jared’s direction.

Seeing the figures around him, Jared frowned.

While he pondered what to do, the swords were already seconds away from him.

Given the situation, Jared quickly used his Focus Technique to protect himself with his spiritual energy. Atlas, he was a step too late as the sword had struck his body.

Clang!

After the sword made contact with Jared's body, it ripped Jared's clothes into pieces. The remaining cloth barely covered him.

Despite so, Jared had no visible injuries. His tanned skin still seemed untouched under the faint moonlight.

"Huh!"

With the sword back in his hands, the young man was stunned.

Even the older man in the distance stared at Jared with his mouth agape, surprised by the outcome.

Jared was just as shocked as the other two. He did not expect his body to be so strong that he had sustained no injuries.

It was important to note that he could not use his spiritual energy in time to protect himself. Therefore, it was all the work from his steel-like body.

"I told you that you are no match for me."

Smirking, Jared glared at his opponent and threw another punch at him.

At that moment, Donald had lost his senses and was unaware of the impending danger. He stood there without moving. No matter how hard he pondered, he could not understand how Jared was unscathed after his attack.

Looking at how Jared could finish Donald, Axton finally stepped in. "Enough. You have nothing against each other, so there is no need to fight each other to death."

With a flick of his wrist, he hit Jared squarely in the chest, sending him backward from the impact.

Chapter 674 Life Savior

Then, he patted Donald's shoulder. "Donald, you should reflect on yourself. I told you not to stir trouble, but you refused to listen to me. Today, you finally had a taste of your own medicine. Am I right?"

Donald's face turned a deep shade of red as he lowered his head in embarrassment.

After Jared moved a few meters back, he finally regained his footing. Then, he looked up to look at Axton.

He knew he was no match for the older man. After all, he could stop Jared without much effort.

"Are both of you planning to attack me together?"

Although Jared knew how strong Axton was, he did not back down.

"Hey, you have misunderstood me. How could I bully someone weaker than me? If I abuse my powers to corner a weaker person, I would be ruining the reputation of Medicine God Sect." The man hurriedly

introduced himself, "I am Axton Knox, an elder of the Medicine God Sect. He is Donald Yorkson, who is one of our disciples. We did not have ulterior motives when we came here and did not intend to steal your pill. I hope you don't misunderstand. Although I don't know what's your name, I hope we have a chance to exchange knowledge on alchemy."

Seeing how sincere Axton looked, Jared responded, "I am Jared Chance. Although I understand alchemy, this is not a pill I created."

He did not lie. Based on his skills, he could not possibly create a detoxification pill like this.

"Oh, I was still trying to figure out how a person as young as you could come up with such a high-tier pill. It makes sense now that you aren't the person who made it." Axton slowly nodded his head.

However, he suddenly froze and curiously looked at Jared. "W-What is your name again?"

"I am Jared Chance." Jared raised his brows in confusion, unsure why Axton would ask for his name again.

"Are you the person who is going to challenge Xander tomorrow?" Donald gasped.

Jared nodded. "Yes, that is me."

"Hahaha, as the saying goes, heroes are created from a young age. I never expected you to be this young. The truth is, we came to Horington to watch the match. Previously, I was curious about the man who dared to accept Xander's challenge. Little did I expect to run into the man himself," Axton mused while looking at Jared with respect.

On the other hand, Donald snorted, "Xander is currently a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Judging from your abilities, I think he could destroy you in one move. I can't believe you still have the guts to challenge him. Don't you know your limits?"

Still upset after losing to Jared, Donald could not help but ridicule him.

"How do you know how strong I am? I've only utilized one-third of my power earlier to defeat you," Jared mocked in response.

"You-" Agitated by Jared's words, Donald snarled, "Don't try to act tough! We shall see how you die tomorrow-"

"Well, you don't have to worry about it. Now, I have to invite you to leave since this is my place," Jared interrupted him with a cold expression.

However, Axton ignored Jared's request. Planting a smile on his face, he asked, "Hey, how about we strike a deal?"

"What deal?" Jared glanced at Axton and questioned.

"If I save your life, you will hand me the pill," Axton offered.

It seemed like he still wanted to take the detoxification pill from Jared.

"Save my life?" Jared looked puzzled as he could not comprehend what the older man meant.

“Tomorrow, you would most likely lose in the fight with Xander. You killed his son, so do you think he would spare your life in the arena? Even so, I could save you. If I intervene, I can send Xander running for the hills. Wouldn’t I be saving your life?” Axton reasoned.

Chapter 675 Sleep

After Jared heard his offer, he snorted, “How are you so certain that I would lose?”

“Well, I’m sure you would not emerge as the winner. Xander is a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Although he is new to it, and his powers aren’t as stable, he could still beat you easily. I think you are no more than a Fifth Level Grandmaster, so how could you defeat Xander? It’s impressive for you to be part of the martial arts world at such a young age. Nonetheless, you still have a lot to learn. Do consider what I have offered because you still have a bright future ahead of you,” Axton tried to persuade Jared, hoping the latter would agree.

After all, the Medicine God Sect did not often come across such a high-tier pill.

More importantly, he was interested in knowing the person who created the pill and how Jared was related to the person such that he could receive such a precious pill.

“I’m afraid you’ll be disappointed. I rather die in the arena than receive help from someone else. If there is nothing else for us to discuss, please leave.”

Although Jared did not know how strong he would be in his Transcendence Phase and the type of martial artists he could defeat, he knew he was more than a Fifth Level Grandmaster. That was proven when he easily defeated two martial artists of a lower level than a Fifth Level Grandmaster.

Hearing that, Axton glanced at Jared before he sighed, “You should reconsider what I said. Even if you are already in the arena, you can still seek my help. I will be watching the fight. I’m only hoping for a miracle as it would be a loss to lose a fighter like you.”

With that, Axton turned to leave. Then, Donald gave Jared a side-eye and scoffed, “How arrogant! You’ll probably beg for our help tomorrow.”

After both men left, Jared returned to his room and did not take Axton’s words to heart. Even if he could not defeat Xander, he did not think he would ask Axton to save him. After all, Rayleigh would be watching the match and could help him instead.

The next morning, Horington saw its most glorious day as a small city. Countless luxury cars and even helicopters had gathered in the area.

People from the martial arts world everywhere came to watch the deathmatch between Jared and Xander. From the modes of transport they arrived in, one could tell that there were many wealthy individuals in the martial arts world. It was no surprise as one would need substantial financial support to improve their skills and rise through the ranks.

There was already an arena in a stadium in Horington. Outside the stadium, Phoenix and Tommy had their men surrounded it. Other than people from the martial arts world, no one else could enter.

After all, it was a fight between two highly skilled martial artists. Even if one were a hundred meters away, the aftermath could kill a commoner. Only people that had the Grandmaster rank could enter.

At the same time, Luke led his men from Summerbank over to help Phoenix maintain the order. Spencer from Herb Palace also came. It was only natural that those who interacted with Jared had to watch such an important event.

At that moment, Theodore, Walter, and the Baileys were waiting outside Jared's mansion in Dragon Bay. They did not dare disturb Jared, who was still asleep.

"As expected, Mr. Chance must be full of confidence. Look at how he is still sleeping despite having such an important day ahead," Samuel could not help but comment in amazement.

Tristan whispered, "Grandpa, Xander is a Martial Arts Grandmaster. However, Mr. Chance—"

Although he knew Jared was an energy cultivator, Xander was much stronger. Besides, what worried Tristan the most was Jared's lack of time to train.

"Don't worry. I have faith in Mr. Chance," Samuel calmly responded.

e Chapter 676 Familiarize

However, not everyone was as composed as Samuel. In particular, Walter and William looked anxious. They knew how formidable Jared was but did not know his true identity.

"Dad, what are all of you doing here?" Josephine probed.

She and Lizbeth had rushed over only to see the group of them waiting outside the mansion.

"Jared is still sleeping, and we are afraid to disturb him," William explained.

"What? How could he still be sleeping so peacefully when he has a big fight in a few hours!"

Josephine's loud voice woke Jared up from his slumber.

"Ms. Sullivan—" Walter quickly interrupted Josephine. "Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Chance knows he has an important event ahead. That is precisely why we should let him sleep in and recharge."

Since it made sense to Josephine, she quietly backed away.

Despite so, Jared walked out of the mansion with a yawn minutes later. He froze when he saw all of them gathered outside waiting for him. Seeing so many of them there, he wondered how he managed to sleep through, unaware of their presence.

"What are all you doing here so early in the morning? Isn't the match in the afternoon?" Jared was curious.

"Mr. Chance, there are already many people gathered in the stadium. It might be good if you familiarize yourself with the arena first."

Samuel was first to speak up.

"I see. Let me wash up then. All of you can take a seat in the meantime."

After he washed up, everyone headed to the stadium with him.

When Jared arrived, he was shocked to see how packed the stadium was. His eyes widened at the sight as he did not expect so many martial artists to gather here to watch the battle between him and Xander. Some even traveled a long distance to witness the fight.

There was a lounge in the stadium where Xander was lying on a couch with his eyes closed. Sean and the Coopers also gathered there.

“Xander, you should not let him off too easily. Please teach Jared a lesson in the arena. Remember Franco and Gavin’s deaths?” Sean croaked while forcing a few tears to flow from the corner of his eyes.

“Are you telling me what to do?” Xander replied in a hostile tone with his eye still closed.

Immediately, his voice sent a chill down Sean’s spine, and the latter fervently shook his head. “Xander, I didn’t mean that...”

Since Xander became a Martial Arts Grandmaster, Sean feared him even more than before.

“Does Sylvester have any more news? Does the elder like the gift we sent this time?” Xander questioned.

“Sylvester mentioned that he was happy. Now that Sylvester has entered the ancestral hall, our family will finally have an immortal. I’m going to ask Sylvester to teach me how to be one. Then, we could marry tons of wives and have lots of sons. I guess no one in Jadeborough would dare challenge us anymore.”

Sean beamed with joy as he spoke.

Hearing what Sean said, Xander’s eyes flew open. He glared at Sean and spat, “Childish!”

At once, Sean trembled and said nothing more.

Seconds later, Jared and his supporters entered the lounge. He wanted to rest since it was not yet time for their match.

Seeing Jared appear before him, Sean turned livid and shot death glares in his direction.

Meanwhile, Xander calmly scanned the group that entered. When he spotted Samuel and Theodore behind Jared, he chuckled.

“I can’t believe the head of the Baileys and the General of Jadeborough’s Department of Justice is now someone else’s lackey. Isn’t your master a little too young?”

Xander’s jab at Samuel and Theodore did trigger them, and all they wanted to do was beat Xander into a pulp.

Despite so, they restrain themselves. After all, Xander was a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Even if they combined their powers and fought Xander together, they would not pose any threat to him. They might have the quantity, but one should not underestimate Xander’s martial prowess.

Chapter 677 Once And For All

Samuel and Theodore's silence only made Xander feel more gleeful. At the same time, Sean conceitedly stated, "You should all kneel before Xander and beg us while you have the chance. Perhaps, Xander will forgive you for your ignorance. In a while, when Jared loses in the fight, we shall see who else you can rely on."

In response, Samuel and Theodore's faces darkened, and they could only glare at Samuel. Although anger pulsed through their veins, they remained quiet.

They could only pray that Jared could beat Xander. As long as Jared won, the Coopers would no longer pose a threat to them. Besides, it would drag the Coopers' reputation through the mud, and they would not hold as much power as they did before.

"If the Coopers love arguing this much, I don't see any point in the match later. I don't like to fight with people who have no substance."

Scrutinizing the Coopers, Jared defended Samuel and Theodore.

"Jared, what the hell?"

Sean raged and was about to lunge for Jared. Since Xander was there, he was not afraid of the repercussions.

"Sean," Xander warned.

Instantly, Sean stopped in his tracks.

"Hey, there is only an hour to noon, and it is exactly how long you have to live. If there is anything you want to say, you better spit it out before we step into the arena. Otherwise, you will never have to chance to speak anymore."

Xander glanced at Jared. Once he finished speaking, he casually leaned back on his chair and closed his eyes to rest.

Ignoring his words, Jared took a seat elsewhere and quietly waited for the time to pass.

Meanwhile, more people streamed into the stadium. Everyone there was from the martial arts world and was at least a Grandmaster. Skilled fighters like Axton from the Medicine God Sect and even Rayleigh were sitting among the crowd.

Regardless, most people came because of how high-profile the battle became. First, it was rare for such matches to occur in the martial arts world. Secondly, Xander was a Martial Arts Grandmaster. Therefore, it attracted more attention to this showdown as people wanted to witness the power of a Martial Arts Grandmaster. After all, not many people could achieve that rank, and it was not every day you would see a Martial Arts Grandmaster show his skills.

"I heard Jared is only in his twenties. He is so young! Why would he take on Xander's challenge?" Some people in the crowd asked.

"He doesn't know his limits. I think this battle might only last a minute. Maybe Jared wouldn't even be able to hold out for a minute." As many people did not know Jared, they were scornful of his decision to accept the challenge.

“How is that possible? I heard Jared is strong, and he must be better than a Fifth Level Grandmaster. He must be a prodigy to achieve a Senior Grandmaster level at that age.”

“What is the point of being gifted? He would still end up dead in the arena.”

Many people in the crowd pitied Jared. Although they did not know him personally, they knew it was rare to have a person as gifted as him in the martial arts world. Therefore, it seemed like a waste for him to die that young.

Soon, the sun rose higher in the sky, and the heat caused everyone to perspire. Despite so, no one left as the match was about to start.

In the first row closest to the arena, Axton and Donald quietly sat there, waiting for the fight to start.

“Mr. Knox, do you think Jared could defeat Xander? If he can’t withstand the first attack from Xander and dies, we will lose the pill forever since we don’t even know where he keeps it,” Donald softly whispered to Axton.

“No worries, Jared would not lose that quickly. However, I know he won’t have a chance of winning. Still, I will step in to help him at the last minute because we can’t have him dead,” Axton replied.

“Mr. Knox, if so, we will offend the Coopers. In addition, if Jared refuses to hand over the pill, we will be at a disadvantage. We should have taken it last night. After all, no one saw it, and we could own it once and for all,” Donald ruthlessly stated.

To his dismay, Axton only shot him a stern look and said nothing.

Chapter 678 Village Of Villains

Little did Axton and Donald know that Rayleigh and Melanie had overheard their conversation from a few seats away. Although the two spoke softly, Rayleigh caught every word they said.

Melaine frowned and asked, “Mr. Deragon, they must be looking for your detoxification pill. Who are they?”

“They are from the Medicine God Sect. I didn’t expect people from there to be interested in Jared and Xander’s match,” Rayleigh muttered indifferently.

“Medicine God Sect?” Melanie was surprised to hear that. “I heard those people were arrogant and regarded themselves as superior beings. If they pride themselves as honorable people, why would they have such a greedy thought?”

“Hmph!” Rayleigh snorted, “When it comes to such benefits, nothing else would matter. Who cares whether they are upright or not? Have you forgotten who picked you up and handed you over to me?”

Melaine’s expression changed almost instantly. Sounding hurt, she mumbled, “You told me that Brody from the Village of Villains passed me to you.”

Rayleigh nodded. “There are rumors that people from the Village of Villains are wicked. However, when Brody saw you on the streets, he had the heart to take you in. Do you think he is a bad guy then?”

In response, Melanie shook her head. Recalling her past conversation with Rayleigh, she turned back to him and muttered, "Mr. Deragon, you mentioned you would take me to the Village of Villains if we had the time. I like to meet my benefactor in person."

"Yes. Let's speak about it after July 15. Who knows, I might need the help of those from the Village of Villains. The Deragons will not let Jared off so easily, and I don't think Mr. Draco and me are enough to protect him."

Rayleigh seemed sullen as he spoke of the situation.

"Mr. Deragon, who the hell is Jared? Why do you and Old Mr. Deragon have to go to such lengths to protect him?" Melanie curiously probed.

"It's for your own good to know as little as possible. Also, don't use your Seduction Technique carelessly. You have a natural feminine charm. If someone evil catches wind of it, it will mean trouble for you," Rayleigh reminded her.

"I understand." Melanie nodded her head in acknowledgment.

While they conversed, the crowd suddenly got all worked up.

"Xander has come out!" Someone beside them shouted.

Everyone else turned their attention to the arena and noticed Xander taking the lead to enter the arena first. He hopped up and landed lightly on his feet. Sean and the Coopers followed behind him.

"As expected, Xander has achieved the rank of a Martial Arts Grandmaster."

Someone stated in admiration, "It seems like the Coopers' power will only increase. Look at how all their family members are Grandmasters. There is even someone who is a Senior Grandmaster."

"Jared is a nobody in comparison. How dare he provoke the Coopers? He must be courting his death."

On the other hand, some people pitied Jared. "Ah, he is going to lose his life at such a young age. How sad."

The crowd discussed among themselves but kept their eyes glued on the arena. They knew that Jared would appear soon, and they wanted to see who he was.

Immediately after Xander made his way to the arena, Jared and his men emerged from the lounge.

Following Jared's appearance, the entire stadium stood up. Everyone was craning their necks to catch a better glimpse of Jared, curious about who the daring man was.

"What? Is that young man standing at the front Jared? He looks like a fine chap."

"Isn't that Samuel from the Bailey family walking behind him? That is Theodore Jackson, the General of Jadeborough's Department of Justice too. How do they know Jared?"

"No wonder Jared dared to accept this challenge. I see that there are people who are backing him. But even with the Baileys and Jadeborough's Department of Justice support, Xander would not let him off. I bet his will to avenge his sons would seem more important."

The spectators were taken aback.

Chapter 679 A Single Strike

Jared slowly made his way to the arena while everyone in the stadium sat down and quietly waited for the match to begin.

“Jared, do you have any last words? Tell me before you step into the arena because I will not let you leave here alive,” Xander taunted Jared.

As he spoke loudly, all the spectators could hear him. They all expected the fight to end only when one was dead.

“That is also something I would like to ask you. Do you have any last words then? Let me or any of your men know while in the arena because you will not get out of there alive.”

Jared glanced at Xander, unfazed.

“Preposterous!”

Xander took one step forward, and the entire arena shook. Even the audience could feel the tremors. As a result, many people started shaking.

Boom!

Xander’s step sounded like thunder and caused a white trace of dust to rise into the air. It formed a shape of a sharp sword and headed for Jared, who was standing ten meters away.

Xander used all his internal energy to deliver that one blow because he did not want to waste his time fighting with Jared. After all, he was a Martial Arts Grandmaster. As he wanted to prove his martial prowess, Xander had to kill Jared with one blow in front of the spectators from the martial arts world.

As the fight had started, the audience could not help but gasp. Many people there had not witnessed a Martial Arts Grandmaster fighting, and it was stunning to see it in person.

Bang!

The energy waves moved toward Jared, and suddenly, a loud explosion filled the air. Everyone’s ears buzzed due to the sheer volume of the impact.

Instantly, smoke and dirt covered Jared’s body, and the aftermath had spread across the arena. People sitting in the front row felt a strong gush of wind hitting them. Before they knew it, their chairs shattered into pieces.

Despite that, no one got hurt since only skillful martial artists had the guts to sit there in the first place. As such, they could handle the impact.

“It’s over! Wow, I think this is the fastest match I’ve ever seen. Jared could not even deflect that,” some spectators exclaimed in shock.

“I don’t think a Senior Grandmaster could handle the attack from Xander earlier. Am I right?”

“It’s way too strong. A Martial Arts Grandmaster’s powers do live up to its name.”

The rest of the audience had seen the mess in the aftermath of Xander's attack on Jared in the front row. Since Jared was in the arena, he would likely receive a more deadly blow. Therefore, no one thought he had the chance to survive.

Having similar sentiments, Josephine started to sob at the sight of the destruction. After recovering from the shock, she wanted to run onto the arena, but Lizbeth stopped her.

"Jared, you can't die!"

Josephine howled at the top of her lungs, attracting a lot of attention.

Samuel, Theodore, and others looked grim too. Their palms were sweating as they silently prayed that Jared could survive the blow given his identity.

"Hmm, how dare he pits himself against the Coopers? Doesn't he know where he stands?" Sean scoffed while eyeing Samuel and the rest in glee.

"M-Mr. Knox, isn't that too fast?" Donald stammered in shock, seeing Jared's figure disappear under the dust and smoke.

Axton frowned and shook his head in disappointment. "I didn't expect Xander to be that strong. It seems like I've overestimated Jared."

"Mr. Deragon, Jared-"

Meanwhile, Melanie's mouth hung open as she looked stupefied by what had happened. It was not what she expected, as Rayleigh did not even have the chance to strike.

Chapter 680 Delay

"Don't worry. Jared is fine. Even if he isn't as strong as Xander, he will not lose so quickly."

In contrast to the rest, Rayleigh seemed calm.

As the dust slowly settled, those with sharp eyes noticed a figure standing in the middle of the arena.

Soon, more and more people noticed that Jared was still standing in the arena. It turned out that Xander did not defeat him with that blow.

It seemed like only Jared's clothes were torn and tattered, and the bronze breastplate on his chest had a huge dent.

Seeing Jared alive, another wave of shock moved across the crowd.

Josephine was no exception. She stood out from the rest as she started to cry even more.

"H-How is that possible? Isn't Jared a Fifth Level Grandmaster?"

Axton was astounded by the sight of Jared standing in the arena unscathed. He was sure that he did not make the wrong judgment. How could a Senior Grandmaster like Jared escape such a forceful blow from a Martial Arts Grandmaster? It was intriguing how he could still stand safe and sound in the arena.

At that moment, only Jared knew that his internal organs had suffered the most. Although the bronze breastplate deflected some of the impacts of Xander's attack, he still suffered from some internal injuries.

He was frantically trying to use his Focus Technique to treat himself with spiritual energy. Instead of puking out the blood built up in his throat, Jared suppressed it to put up a strong front.

"Is that all you had? I would persuade you to kneel and admit your mistake now. Perhaps, I could spare your life."

Jared stood there, shooting lasers out from his eyes.

Although he looked battered, the crowd was in awe of him at that point.

How many people could survive an attack from a Martial Arts Grandmaster?

"Jared, don't be so full of yourself. I swear I'll kill you today."

When Xander realized that Jared emerged alive from the blow he delivered, he felt his heart race with anxiousness. Initially, he had the confidence that he could win from the start.

However, seeing how things unfolded, his confidence began to fade. Nonetheless, Xander knew he could not back out with the martial arts world watching him. Even though he was enraged, he did not dare to make another move on Jared.

The more Jared acted that way, the less sure Xander felt of himself. He grew more cautious as he assumed Jared had something up his sleeves and was purposely trying to agitate him.

Little did he know that Jared intended for that effect as he needed the time to recuperate.

Both men faced each other for a while, but no one made a move.

The tension in the stadium was palpable, and it only grew. No one dared to make a sound. Since it was a decisive match between two skilled fighters, everyone wanted to avoid agitating any of them.

Soon, Jared's internal injuries began to recover slowly under his Focus Technique. At the same time, he also managed to calm himself down.

"Mr. Deragon, why aren't any of them striking?"

Melanie turned to Rayleigh, looking quite frustrated with the situation.

"Jared is injured, and he is trying to treat himself," Rayleigh grimly spoke.

From the start, he could tell Jared had suffered from internal injuries. However, the audience did not notice it as Jared hid it well.

As time passed, Xander started to notice what was going on.

"Da*n it. You fooled me. I see you were trying to waste time."

Xander had a moment of realization as coldness flashed across his eyes. Then, he leaped up, and like a hawk, he spread his arms and flew toward Jared.

In midair, he closed his arms, and the audience could see Xander activating the energy of heaven and earth combined with his own energy. Then, he created two giant-like hands, slamming them into Jared.

Jared frowned in response. Using his palm like a knife, he tried to cut through the air with all his might.

Smash!

A faint green light could be seen cutting across the giant hand-like energy.