THE MAN'S DECREE

A Man Like None Other Novel Read Online Chapter 561

Chapter 561 A Lucky Man

"Why didn't you come out for a word with your grandfather before he left, Lizbeth? I'd thought that you girls weren't home!"

Jared did not answer Josephine as he gazed at Lizbeth in question.

"If he sees me, he'll make me go home," Lizbeth said with a giggle. "I don't want to do that!"

Jared shook his head helplessly. "Maybe you should."

"You haven't answered me, Jared," Josephine pressed on haughtily.

"Where are you planning on going?"

"There is an auction for antiques in Jadeborough. Mr. Grange has kindly extended an invitation to me."

"Sounds fun! We would like to come along," trilled Josephine.

"We're coming along," affirmed Lizbeth. "I have friends in Jadeborough. We'll be treated well there."

Jared gazed at them, the suspicion that they had planned to tag along the moment they heard the plan began to dawn on him.

"I'm not getting involved. You tell your grandfather that when you see him tomorrow." Without another word, Jared disappeared into his bedroom.

Luca, Walter's loyal bodyguard, arrived at Jared's residence early the following morning.

As soon as the car stopped, Lizbeth and Josephine burrowed in at once. Jared and Luca merely exchanged a helpless glance before the former got in after them.

Walter was slightly taken aback when Luca arrived with Josephine and his granddaughter in the car. However, he regained his composure quickly and merely smiled at them without saying anything.

In accommodation of his frail joints, Walter was offered in the passenger seat while Jared was forced to be squeezed between Josephine and Lizbeth at the back.

"Look at you—a lucky man flanked by two beauties," Josephine whispered in Jared's ear.

Jared was shocked speechless at the innuendo. He knew that the seating arrangements had been deliberately designed by Josephine to test him.

Lizbeth, on the other hand, blushed profusely. Aside from the incident of her rescue in the hotel, she had never been anywhere this close to Jared.

Trying hard to ignore his overwhelming masculine scent, Lizbeth kept her eyes glued outside and prayed that the others would not be able to hear her racing heartbeat.

Walter glanced at the rearview mirror and smiled at the look of embarrassment on Jared's face.

He knew his granddaughter well. Though Walter could tell how Lizbeth felt about Jared, he did not stand in their way. If Lizbeth ends up with Jared, I can think of no better man for her to be with even if she is one of many.

"Mr. Chance," Walter began in an attempt to ease the younger man's discomfort. "There will be many consulting geomancers hired by businessmen in this auction. Hence, there will be no shortage of masters plying their trade. In fact, the top geomancer from Zaprington, Boris Yonce, will be present too. He was personally hired by the richest man in his city to modify a talisman which had kept him unscathed in a horrifying car accident!"

"He was just the first. After him, more rich businessmen in Zaprington who valued their life or possessions treated these mages and geomancers with high regard. Of course, many charlatans jump at the opportunity to capitalize on this developing industry. However, some of them have actual skill."

"These are all gimmicks," dismissed Jared with a sardonic smile. "It is no easy task to create an object of such power."

"Crafting a true talisman requires one to manipulate the very laws of nature and the realigning destiny."

The knowledge and skills needed are so prodigious that even with all his expertise, the jade pendant that Jared had crafted for Josephine was entry-level at best in potency.

Walter did not attempt to justify his views further for fear of sounding churlish. The only sound to be heard after that exchange was the roar of the car's engine as it sped steadily on.

After five hours, the party arrived at Jadeborough. Jared gazed at the bustling city in wonder for Horington was incomparable. Even Jazona and Summerbank is no match.

Tall skyscrapers rose like islets out of the unceasing tide of traffic and were reflective of the frantic rhythm of life in Jadeborough.

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A Man Like None Other Novel Read Online Chapter 562 Ungrateful

Every single pedestrian looked like they were in a hurry as they rushed to complete whatever tasks they were assigned.

On the other hand, the patrons of the auction house were living in a completely different world which was a stark contrast to the bustling metropolis. Jausden Auction House was located in Jadeborough's most exclusive business district. It was a building over ten stories tall on a lot spanning over several dozen hectares. At that moment, it was swarming with rich men as they strode amongst the exhibits while appreciating them.

Every item on display had a price tag that made it inaccessible to those from average working-class. Even the rich tread with caution and kept their distance for fear that they might ruin any one of these items on exhibit which could cost a king's ransom.

"Let's look for a place to eat before attending the auction, shall we?" suggested Walter.

The party nodded eagerly as they had not eaten a thing throughout the journey.

Jared's phone rang at that moment. Theodore called and asked him if he was going to attend the auction.

Jared told him that he was already at Jadeborough, to which Theodore expressed his delight by extending an invitation to Jared and his party to dine with him.

Jared was about to reject it as it would involve the mass coordination of too many people but remembered suddenly that Theodore's influence might come in handy during his stay in Jadeborough. With that, he accepted the invitation.

Theodore was waiting at a restaurant with tasteful vintage decor.

Theodore stood up to welcome Jared and his party when they arrived.

"Mr. Grange!" roared Theodore with a jovial smile. "What a pleasant surprise to see you here as well!"

"General Jackson!" Walter snapped into a salute.

Even before his retirement, his had to salute Theodore for his rank was lower than the latter.

"There's no need for such formalities, Mr. Grange. You are an elder, so this isn't proper."

Lizbeth and Josephine greeted their host politely.

Theodore ushered Jared into the suite. "Mr. Chance, after you. Everything has been prepared before your arrival."

Without any more words exchanged, Jared and his party attacked the food with relish. We must be really hungry!

"Mr. Chance, there's a huge turnout for this auction," Theodore reported. "Even Sean Cooper will be here. I'll like to implore that you control your temper when you see him. I will also warn Sean accordingly so that he will not be allowed to lift a finger against you."

Though Jared was not afraid of the Coopers, it would not look good on him or on Theodore to pick a fight on such an occasion.

"Don't worry, General Jackson. As long as they steer clear of me, I wouldn't have any cause to fight them."

"Sean is a megalomaniac," complained Walter.

"If it weren't for me all those years ago, he would have died abroad and the Cooper family won't be as powerful as it currently is!"

The Coopers had gained a slow but steady foothold in Jadeborough with the unreserved help of Walter's resources and manpower back in the day. Both families were so close that even Franco had been engaged to Lizbeth. When Franco broke off the engagement, the Coopers had already become a powerful enough family in Jadeborough and had looked down on the Granges ever since.

When Walter stepped down, the influence of the Granges in Jadeborough was not as it was. Moreover, the cancellation of the engagement by the Coopers did them no favor. Walter had never recovered. Even at the merest of mentions of the Coopers, Walter's old grievances resurface like a fresh wound.

Lizbeth frowned. "There's no use bringing up the old sad stories, Grandpa."

Theodore was familiar with the tale of the Granges' downfall. "It is true that the Coopers were ruthless in their quest for expansion back then," he admitted with an awkward chuckle. "You weren't the only one used by them, Mr. Grange. Don't take it to heart."

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A Man Like None Other Novel Read Online Chapter 563 Good Judge Of Character

Walter sighed without commenting further. They'd used me all those years ago. What's the point of holding on to the grudge until now?

After their meal, Theodore personally escorted Jared to Jausden Auction House to prevent Sean from finding trouble with Jared.

Jared sensed the movement of spiritual energy upon setting foot in the exhibition hall. Though faint, it was enough to prove that there were indeed some authentic artifacts amongst the exhibits.

The vast space was filled with glass cabinets containing every antique one could imagine. Glittering under the yellow fluorescent bulbs, they told stories of their origins.

"Mr. Chance!"

Jared turned toward the source of the familiar voice only to discover that it was Tristan, who quickened his pace toward the former. "I didn't expect to see you here, Mr. Chance!"

Jared smiled at him. "When did you return, Tristan? How is Ms. Simmons?"

"I've arrived yesterday just to attend this auction," replied Tristan.

"Megan is doing well. In fact, she's been inducted into the Crescent Sect!"

Jared felt a huge weight lifted off his shoulders. After all, it was for his sake that her father, Dante, had sacrificed himself.

"Is this Mr. Chance, Tristan?" An old man joined them.

"Yes, he is, Grandpa," introduced Tristan before turning to Jared. "Mr. Chance, meet my grandfather. Samuel Baileys."

Jared nodded. "Mr. Baileys."

Samuel sank into a deep bow. "What a fine specimen of a man you are, Mr. Chance! It is the honor of the Baileys to be at your service."

Samuel's demeanor drew the attention of a large crowd. They could not comprehend how the patriarch of the powerful Baileys of Jadeborough could lower his voice and speak with so much courtesy to such a young man.

"Mr. Baileys has a good judge of character," Theodore said approvingly.

"No wonder the Baileys has such a long legacy."

It was obvious that Samuel was aware of Jared's true identity, which explained his reverence for the latter. It would do the reputation of our family well if the word were to get out that we are acquainted with an energy cultivator!

"General Jackson, you have flattered me. I am sure you could tell that Mr. Chance is no ordinary individual?"

As a testament to his discerning eye, Samuel had managed to deduce that Theodore, too, was aware of Jared's identity.

Theodore laughed boisterously as they exchanged knowing winks.

"This way please, Mr. Chance. So far, all of the exhibits you've seen pale in comparison to this. The real treasures lie behind this door." Samuel gestured smartly.

Jared nodded before following Samuel into the hall.

Before he took more than a few steps, Jared felt the icy-cold sensation of a murderous glare upon him which was followed by the appearance of a middle-aged man who was accompanied by a wizened, white-haired figure.

The younger man was the one who was staring at Jared as though intending to swallow him whole.

Returning the glare without a trace of fear, Jared knew instinctively that his silent adversary belonged to the Coopers.

Sure enough, Samuel stepped out and stood between the man and Jared. "What do you want, Sean?"

"I just want a word with the kid, Mr. Baileys. How quickly you jump in to the defense of your new master."

Samuel scowled. Incensed, Tristan strode forward at once. "Another word out of you, Sean, and I'll-"

"We adults are talking here, kid. Mind your manners!"

Sean's eyes narrowed and without warning, emitted a burst of an invisible force around him that forced Tristan to stumble backward.

Theodore shot out an arm and caught Tristan before the latter fell. "Not here, Sean. We're at the Jausden Auction House. Don't you blame me for being ruthless!"

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A Man Like None Other Novel Read Online Chapter 564 Top Priority

Sean smiled pleasantly. "I only want a word with the boy, General Jackson. Is that against the law?"

Theodore didn't say anything but glare at Sean.

Jared stepped out. "You have my attention."

Sean gazed coldly at Jared from head to toe. "No matter what kind of powers you have at your disposal, the Coopers will not let you go for killing Franco. I assure you that you will not be leaving Jadeborough in one piece."

Jared paid Sean's threat no heed. The onlookers were stunned at the realization that Jared was the one who had killed Franco.

How brazen is he to have killed a member of the Cooper family and then strutted back to their turf!

By that point, many had developed an interest in Jared's true identity. He is clearly somebody special to be able to provoke the Coopers by killing Franco, and for Samuel and Theodore to fawn over him in such a manner!

"If Franco's death isn't enough, I'll be happy to send more Coopers to meet him," Jared said with a sneer.

"How dare you!" Sean's eyes widened as his knuckles crackled menacingly. If Theodore and Samuel weren't there, I would have jumped on this little b*stard!

"You've got balls, kid. We'll see how things go." At that final threat, Sean turned around and disappeared into one of the rooms in the hall with the old man.

"Your safety in Jadeborough will be our top priority, Mr. Chance," proclaimed Samuel grimly. "The Baileys will spare no expense for your safety."

Jared smiled and nodded appreciatively before following Samuel into another room within the hall. However, the rest had to remain behind.

At first glance, the smaller room did not appear too dissimilar from the exhibition hall outside. The only difference was that the antique ceramics that were on display in the smaller room was much fewer in number. In spite of that, the spiritual energy was much stronger. Jared could almost smell the age of these items for they were far more ancient than anything displayed outside.

In the center of the room stood a large rosewood table surrounded by chairs. At the very center sat a well-mannered, bespectacled middle-aged man, who was accompanied by an old but serene-looking man.

"That's Galen Zane, Mr. Chance," whispered Samuel. "He's a businessman from Zaprington. Next to him is Boris Yonce, the most powerful mage in their city. It was said that Galen is here with an extremely rare talisman that required the expert examination of Mr. Yonce. As you might have noticed, only the elite of Jadeborough was granted entry into this room."

Jared nodded as he studied the other participants around the table. Though few in number, every single one of them was similarly accompanied by an old man. He hazarded a guess that they were hired to discern between authentic and counterfeit talismans. Even Sean and his geomancer were present.

Samuel led Jared to a seat across from Sean. On Samuel's other side sat a silver-haired geomancer clad in white. Despite being half-closed, his eyes somehow managed to emit a frostiness that made those seated around him shudder.

"Mr. Chance, this is Mr. Barnabus Holt, a geomancer under my employ." Samuel made the introductions before turning to the wizened figure. "Mr. Holt, this is Mr. Chance."

Barnabus did not even glance at Jared. "Is my service not sufficient for you, Mr. Baileys?" he said nonchalantly. "Why is a second opinion necessary?"

"You have mistaken, Mr. Holt," Samuel clarified hastily. "Mr. Chance is only here to watch. Your expertise is still required, Mr. Holt."

Though Jared was a cultivator, Samuel was certain that his guest was nowhere as experienced as Barnabus, who had spent years longer than Jared had been alive specializing in his craft.

"Hmm!" Barnabus grunted, seemingly satisfied by the explanation.