

The Man's Decree Chapter 446 (The Man like none Other chapter 446)

/ [The Man's Decree](#)

Lionel sat among the audience. His expression suggested that things were not going his way as he clenched his fists anxiously.

"Mr. Chance..." he called out softly to Kai from behind.

The former was obviously trying to get him to make a move at that crucial moment to rescue Jesse. That was the more appropriate course of action because Kai was within the age range, and Lionel himself wasn't.

Kai said nothing, but he nodded slightly. He would not have let anything bad happen to Jesse, even if Lionel hadn't asked.

Lionel sighed in relief when he saw that nod. Given Kai's strength, Baldy over there can be twice as strong, but it still won't be a problem.

At that moment, Jesse had already backed up the edge of the arena. Both his arms were numb, so he could only move instinctively to deal with Baldy's incessant attacks.

"Get off the stage, punk!"

Baldy grinned and swung a punch to hit Jesse in his chest.

If that hit were to land, Jesse would, without a doubt, fall out of the arena. He would either die or suffer serious injury.

The audience frowned upon seeing that. Jesse was one of the most skilled martial artists of the next generation. He had a great shot at winning the tournament. Yet, despite his skills, Baldy's attack had overwhelmed him.

All they saw was how Baldy's fist would land on Jesse's chest soon. There was no way to avoid it. Just then, a figure instantly zipped to the stage and grabbed Baldy's wrist.

That ferocious punch was halted just like that.

Baldy was surprised. He tilted his head and realized the one who had stopped his attack was the young man from Extreme Fist Gym.

"What now? Are the two of you going to go up against me simultaneously?"

Kai released his hold on Baldy and sneered. "Jesse has been defeated, and he is raising his white flag. I shall be your opponent now."

"Thank you, Mr. Chance. You saved my life."

Jesse's forehead was covered in sweat. Being that close to death had left him weak with fear.

"Go on, get out of here," instructed Kai calmly.

Jesse nodded and jumped out of the arena.

Baldy, however, narrowed his eyes cautiously while scanning Kai from head to toe. That guy grabbed my wrist with ease without even a hint of a struggle. He is definitely stronger than he looks.

"I have gone through many battles and am exhausted now. As per the rules, I am allowed a break and let someone else fight you."

Baldy couldn't tell how strong Kai was, so he wanted the latter to fight someone

else first. That way, he could observe the fight from the side.
"Oh, you're not tired. I bet you're just scared," replied Kai while smiling. "Here, I'll fight you with one hand behind my back."
Kai waved at Baldy with his other free hand.

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That taunt was infuriating. There were dozens of witnesses there, and Kai was claiming he could beat Baldy with one hand on his back. Baldy would surely become the laughingstock if he were to back out now.

When the audience saw that, they started murmuring among themselves. It intrigued even the few elderly men on the stage. Spencer was the only one who stared calmly at Kai.

Tristan had snuck in with his men. They were hiding among the crowd, glaring icily at Kai. On the other side, Franco narrowed his eyes in amusement as he stood among the spectators with his men.

"I can't believe you're that arrogant, punk. It doesn't matter how powerful your family is. Any deaths and injuries inflicted here are free from all legal repercussions. No one can come after me if you die by my hand." Baldy glared murderously at his opponent.

He didn't know who Kai really was, so he was worried about getting into trouble if he accidentally killed the man.

"Oh, don't worry. No one will come after you when that happens."

The Man's Decree Chapter 447 (The Man like none Other chapter 447)

[/ The Man's Decree](#)

"Good, I'm glad to hear that," replied Baldy. He roared at the next moment, and his skin started turning darker. The veins on his forehead were slowly revealing themselves as well.

Then he attacked. The punch he threw was so strong it was as though a tsunami was going after Kai.

Jesse, who was watching off the stage, turned a little pale. If Baldy had used that punch from the very beginning, he likely wouldn't have lasted as long as he did.

Kai grinned mockingly upon seeing Baldy's punch. He waited until the man was right in front of him before launching his counter-attack casually. All everyone saw was how weak Kai's punch seemed, and it looked as though the two were on different levels.

However, when their fists met, it created a massive force of energy. Even the few elderly men on stage had to tap into their internal energy to withstand that force. They literally swept most of the audience off their feet and overturned every table and chair.

Crack!

It was a crisp sound.

When everyone regained their composure, they saw Baldy's arm had bent in the most peculiar way. He stood rooted in the arena, looking ghastly pale. His eyes shone with immense fear as he stared at Kai.

"I-I admit-"

Baldy realized Kai was stronger than he could possibly imagine, so he was quick to admit defeat.

Unfortunately, Kai cut him off with a slap.

Slap!

Half of Baldy's face became red and swollen. All of his teeth fell out of his mouth, and the intense pain prompted him to scream in agony.

"I know you want to concede defeat, but there is no way I'll allow you to do so."

After saying that, Kai punched over and attacked Baldy once more.

Baldy roared loudly. He used his other hand to defend himself as much as possible. All he wanted was to flee, but his legs had already sunk into the arena, so he couldn't move at all.

Argh!

Kai's punch landed on Baldy's chest and penetrated his body before exiting from the other side. Crimson red blood dripped from Kai's hand.

Baldy's eyes bulged in disbelief and hatred as his body went limp. Obviously, he died on the spot.

The entire place turned quiet after that. Everybody turned their attention from Baldy to Kai, who scanned around and asked, "Anybody else want to come up here?"

No one dared to say anything. Baldy was strong, but Kai had killed the guy easily with one hand behind his back. If anyone else were to try, they'd just die on the stage.

"What a bunch of losers..."

A man made his way to the arena.

"Huh? Isn't that Derek Jantz?"

Many recognized the guy because it was a huge deal when Derek was kicked out of the family years ago.

Spencer narrowed his eyes in silence when he saw Derek getting up on the stage. However, the elderly man sitting beside him spoke up.

"Derek Jantz, this is the Martial Arts Gathering, and the arena has its rules.

Anyone over thirty-five years old is disqualified. You are way too old to be there. Leave now!"

To everybody's surprise, Derek simply sneered and replied, "Spencer Schmidt is in charge. He's not complaining, so what are you barking about, you old man? You have no right to talk right now."

He waved his arm nonchalantly. A powerful wave of aura zipped over to the elderly man, who frowned and immediately tapped into his internal energy. Even then, he was sent flying out of the arena, and his chair was pulverized.

Everyone was surprised upon seeing that. Only someone of incredible strength was qualified to be a judge. Derek had sent the old man flying with a single wave of his arm.

Spencer was furious. The Herb Palace was the one hosting the Martial Arts Gathering. Derek's behavior was a direct insult to the host and his earlier words, in particular, had utterly embarrassed Spencer.

The latter said nothing earlier because he wanted the former to teach Kai a lesson. However, Derek wasn't just going after Kai. He was mocking Spencer as well, and that was something the latter would not publicly endure, especially since Tristan was observing everything from the shadows.

The Man's Decree Chapter 448 (The Man like none Other chapter 448)

[3 Comments](#) / [The Man's Decree](#)

"Derek, the rules hold, and I am the one who listed all those rules. Do you really want to challenge them?"

As Spencer spoke, he moved gracefully over and stood right in front of Derek.

When Kai saw what was playing out in front of him, he moved to the side to give the two men space to fight. He knew Derek was there to seek vengeance, but he wouldn't mind letting them fight first. He would benefit from their fight, anyway.

"Oh, to hell with your stupid rules. Don't assume you can boss me around just because the Baileys are supporting Herb Palace. I can still slap you to your death," growled Derek in distaste.

Spencer was a skilled medical practitioner, and his combat prowess was just enough to reach the Grandmaster rank. He was undeniably weaker than Derek. Hence, he was fuming a little when he heard those words.

"Oy, Derek Jantz, do you realize the Baileys are not people you can afford to taunt?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Tristan jumped out of the audience and landed on the stage. He had a few subordinates with him. Every single one of them exuded a powerful aura. It was clear that they were all in the Grandmaster rank. Derek's expression stiffened a little when he saw Tristan there. "Thing is, Mr. Bailey, that Kai guy murdered a member of my family, so I must kill him to avenge his death."

The audience gasped after hearing what Derek had said. Many were aware of how Zachariah was murdered, but they knew nothing specific. In fact, no one but those present at the scene that day knew what had happened.

Now that Derek had shared that information, the audience realized that Kai, who killed Baldy with a single punch, had also killed Zachariah. No wonder he was so gutsy and dared to fight Baldy with only one hand.

"I don't care about your revenge. The Herb Palace is the host of this Martial Arts Gathering. I will not stand idly by if you insist on destroying it," growled Tristan. "Can't you make an exception this one time? Derek is here as the Coopers' guest, after all."

After saying that, Franco made his way to the arena as well. He also had a bunch of subordinates who were all in the Grandmaster rank.

The sudden emergence of those men had the younger martial artists feeling ashamed of themselves. Jesse, in particular, had clenched his fists as his eyes shone with surprise.

He had always thought of himself as one of the top fighters among the younger generations. Unfortunately, Tristan and Franco showed up, and they were both stronger than he was. They might even be stronger than his father, Luke.

At that moment, Jesse finally understood that he had been an ignorant man. I guess the world is much bigger than I thought, and skilled fighters are more abundant than I had imagined.

Tristan and Franco showing up had undoubtedly saddened the younger martial artists in Jazona. When Kai was the only powerful one there, they could assume that he was an exception and an outlier. The continuous emergence of Grandmasters who were in their twenties. That was a little difficult for the others to ignore their own obvious weakness.

Tristan didn't respond directly to Franco. The former simply turned to Kai and said, "This is how the situation is right now. If you agree to my terms, I will help you deal with this matter. If you don't... well, I'm sure you know what the consequences will be."

He was blackmailing Kai in broad daylight for the recipe. It was the perfect opportunity to make that threat.

Kai sneered in distaste. "They're just a bunch of idiots. I'm not afraid of them." Tristan was taken aback when he heard what Kai said. Derek was much stronger than Zachariah, and the former had Franco on his side. They also had a few subordinates who were ranked as Grandmasters. Kai, on the other hand, was on his own. I can't believe he has the guts to say something like that! "Okay, in that case, I'll sit back and watch the show."

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Tristan led his men to the side of the arena. Spencer followed closely behind and whispered, "Mr. Bailey, are you really going to let Derek kill Kai? If that happens, we won't be able to get the recipe."

The Man's Decree Chapter 449 (The Man like none Othere chapter 449)

[/ The Man's Decree](#)

"Don't worry, I will rescue that punk after they beat him up. We must crush his ego to get what we want," replied Tristan calmly.

After Tristan left with his men, Derek glared at Kai and growled, "I will avenge my family's death today, and glory will return to the Jantz family's name!"

As he spoke, he moved forward to attack Kai, but Franco reached out to stop him.

Franco grinned calmly at Kai. "We meet again. My, what a small world." He had met Kai once at Lizbeth's parents' place. At the time, Franco found Kai's aura to be strong. He knew the guy was powerful, but he didn't expect Kai to be the one who had murdered Zachariah.

"Yes, it truly is a small world," replied Kai icily.

"Tell me what Tristan wants from you. If you do so and agree to follow my lead, I will have Derek spare your life. You won't have to owe the Baileys anything, either."

Franco knew Kai had something Tristan wanted. Otherwise, Tristan would not have gone up against the Coopers for a guy like him. Whatever Kai has with him must be extremely valuable.

Derek shot a silent look at Franco. If the latter requested it, he might just let Kai off the hook, because he and Zachariah weren't actually that close. In fact, Derek himself might've killed Zachariah if Kai hadn't beaten him to it.

The so-called vengeance was just an excuse to kill Kai. Derek would make a claim to be the head of the Jantz family after killing him, and his would officially be a part of the Coopers' power in Jazona.

"Are you sure you'll do that?" asked Kai.

"Of course. Everyone knows I always keep my word," replied Franco as he tapped his own chest confidently.

Tristan tightened his fist and frowned. He didn't expect Franco to make a move like that. If Kai were to accept the Coopers' terms, it would be a huge loss to Tristan and his family.

"Okay, then I'll tell you what's going on," replied Kai while smiling in amusement.

"You see, Tristan here wants to be my lapdog, but I don't want something so ugly, so I turned him down. He keeps badgering me about it, though.

"That being said, I will consider letting you be my lapdog if you beg me for it."

The audience laughed endlessly. Tristan, however, looked utterly infuriated. Franco was burning in rage as well. "You're messing with me!"

"What if I am? Men like you mess with women's hearts all the time, so it's just karma. Jerks like you aren't even worthy of being my lapdog," replied Kai as he sneered in distaste.

He was obviously talking about how Franco had backed out of his engagement to Lizbeth.

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"You are so freaking dead," growled Franco through gritted teeth. He turned to Derek and ordered, "Kill him and tear him apart!"

Derek's aura flushed out the second he received Franco's orders. It engulfed Kai right away.

"I will tear you limb from limb, you punk!"

Derek was like a bloodthirsty monster who had his sights on Kai.
“Wow, this dog sure can bark, but I know better. Barking dogs like you have no bite.”
Kai harrumphed and flushed his terrifying aura out of his body as well.
When their auras clashed, a whirlwind formed.

“Back up!” ordered Franco. He led his men to the side of the arena upon seeing how everything was playing out.
Kai and Derek stood in the same spot. With them as the epicenter, an insanely powerful whirlwind spread out.
It didn’t take long before Derek started sweating, but Kai remained standing there calmly. It was as though the latter didn’t need to do anything to flush that powerful aura out.
“Is that all you can do?” asked Kai. He noticed Derek’s condition was deteriorating, so he further mocked, “Given how weak you are, you are not worthy of even being a lapdog.”
“Ah, I am so going to kill you!”

Derek had lost his composure from the continuous taunting.

The Man’ s Decree Chapter 450 (The Man like none Othere chapter 450)

[/ The Man’ s Decree](#)

After shouting aloud, Derek swung his arm at Kai. Its huge shadow towered over the man like a mountain.
That punch left the arena shaking, and even the strong stones holding it in place were cracking. The audience at the side started feeling the pressure as well.
“Kai!” Both Lizbeth and Josephine shouted, and they wanted to rush over to him.
“No one is allowed to make any move.”

Kai was quick to stop them from doing anything because they could not help, anyway.
Tristan and Franco, who were at the side of the arena, turned to the ladies. They were both stunning, so it was only natural others would stare. However, one look was all it took to get both Tristan and Franco to glow.
The two men realized the jade pendant on Josephine was what they were after the entire time.
Neither hesitated. Both Tristan and Franco jumped to get to Josephine.
“Ah!” Josephine instinctively shouted fearfully.

Lizbeth quickly attacked to protect her, and Jesse did the same. The two of them were ready to stop Tristan and Franco from getting to Josephine.
Unfortunately, they weren’t nearly as powerful as Tristan or Franco. Strong martial energy pushed both Lizbeth and Jesse out of the way before they even got close.
Just then, Kai, who was still fighting, saw what was happening. His eyes immediately glowed with anger and cruelty as he jumped down from the arena.

“Don’t even think about fleeing, punk.”
Derek’s punch was already close by then.

“F*ck off!”

Kai was in no mood to fight.

Slap!

Derek flew right to the ground. It seemed Kai’s slap had landed and locked him in place in the arena.

Many were stunned to see that. They knew how powerful Derek was, and they couldn’t believe Kai had slapped him right back to the center of the arena. I guess he is so much more powerful than I imagined.

Lionel, in particular, was shaking fearfully. He was comparatively weak and puny, and he had the audacity to taunt Kai earlier. If Jesse hadn’t shown up, Lionel would likely have already died.

Kai hopped out of the arena quickly, but Tristan and Franco had already reached Josephine. They went after her jade pendant simultaneously.

A red light suddenly flashed out from the jade pendant and sent both men flying backward. They backed away for over ten steps before they finally stopped.

“Wow, that really is an amazing item...”

The glow in their eyes intensified.

Kai had made his way to Josephine’s side by then. The jade pendant kept her safe, but the entire incident scared her and turned her pale.

“You’re okay now, Josephine,” cooed Kai as he held her tightly.

“Kai...”

She was trembling, even as she rested in his arms.

Kai sensed that, and the cruelty in his eyes became more intense. He glared at Tristan and Franco.

“You will both die for going after the woman I love!”

His body exuded a terrifying, murderous aura as soon as he finished speaking.

Everyone around him could tell he was out for blood, and they were all frightened to their cores. They couldn’t stop trembling.

Tristan and Franco frowned as well. They tapped into their internal energy to combat that terrifying aura. Despite that, they couldn’t stop themselves from shaking.

Franco’s men had dragged Derek off the stage by then. They saw how the guy was bleeding from every pore, and his eyes were wide open. Yep, he’s definitely dead.

The Man’s Decree Chapter 451 (The Man like none Other chapter 451)

[/ The Man’s Decree](#)

Tristan, Franco, and everyone else didn't witness Derek's death. However, the fact remained. Kai had slapped him to his death and had done so within such a short time frame. That proved just how powerful Kai truly was.
"We'll join forces to kill that punk. We can discuss the matter regarding the jade pendant later."
Franco realized Derek had died, so he negotiated a deal with Tristan. He planned on killing Kai with Tristan's help.

Who would've thought that Tristan would take a step back instead? He bowed to Kai and said, "I am so sorry for my previous actions. I didn't mean to scare or hurt her."

Tristan's words instantly put Franco in an awkward position. It was obvious Tristan was just trying to con Kai into killing Franco for him. If the two of them had joined forces to kill Kai, they would have to fight each other again for the jade pendant. On the other hand, if Franco were to fight Kai alone and deplete Kai's strength... Well, Tristan would benefit if he attacked afterward.
"You sly b*stard!" Franco cursed at Tristan before waving at his subordinates.
"We'll fight the guy together and get the jade pendant."
"Eddy, keep an eye on that woman. Do not let her get away."

His angry roar prompted the men to go after Kai together. They had ignored Tristan completely by then.
"Lizbeth, stay with Josephine."

The first thing Kai did was to have Lizbeth keep Josephine steady. Eddy saw how Kai had let go of Josephine's hand, and his eyes shone slyly. He moved to the side and went after her from a blind spot.
"You are so dead."

Kai's expression turned icy as he redirected his attention. He had already reached the Foundation Phase, so he didn't care about the Grandmasters at all.
Eddy didn't want to fight. He tilted his body to the side and tried to escape. Kai is on his own, whereas we are a group of Grandmasters working together. All I need is to wait until he is distracted. It'll be much easier to snatch Josephine away then.
Eddy saw a flash when he was backing up. Kai was gone.

Panic flashed past Eddy's eyes immediately after. He backed away even faster, but his back knocked into something.
He was dumbstruck when he turned around and realized that the "thing" he knocked into was actually Kai. I can't believe he's already behind me.
Bang!

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Kai swung his arm over and aimed for Eddy's head. Brain matter spewed everywhere soon after.

Kai didn't just stop with Eddy, though. He showed no signs of slowing down and went after Franco and his subordinates right away. Kai was like a gust of wind. The only difference was that as he swept past Franco and the others, agonized screams would fill the air. Franco's men were on the floor and moaning in pain when Kai finally stopped. The men looked as though they were in excruciating pain, and their face seemed to be distorting from their struggle. It didn't matter, though. They wouldn't survive for much longer, anyway. It was pin-drop silence after that. No one dared to say anything because those were powerful Grandmasters, and even they were dying. "Run!" shouted Franco. He turned around to flee right after.

Kai was much stronger than he had anticipated. Unfortunately, Kai's figure blurred over as soon as Franco turned around. The former chased Franco and kicked the man's back. Then he placed his other leg on top of Franco's head. "Kai, y-you can't kill me. I am a member of the Coopers. My family will never forgive you if you kill me!" Franco's eyes were shining with fear, and he was threatening Kai to save his own life. "I hate it when others threaten me." The latter exerted more force on his foot.

Franco was scared out of his mind. He quickly shouted to the crowd, "I am a member of the Coopers in Jadeborough. If anyone rescues me, my family will surely reward them handsomely." Everyone knew that being in league with the Coopers would bring about abundant fame and fortune. However, no one dared to step up because Kai was too strong.

The Man's Decree Chapter 452 (The Man like none Other chapter 452)

[/ The Man's Decree](#)

Franco was even more scared when he saw how no one was budging. "Oy, Tristan. Save me! If you do, the Coopers will bow down to the Baileys." He was begging Tristan at the time because his head was already sinking into the ground. If Kai pushed any more, Franco's head would surely break. Tristan's expression shifted a little, but he didn't do or say anything. "Well, looks like no one will save you. I'll just send you off to hell then," replied Kai nonchalantly. "No, no!" shouted Franco. He suddenly thought of Lizbeth. "Lizbeth, Lizbeth! Save me. Please save me. We used to be a couple, and we loved each other. Please save me in honor of that love. I have loved you this entire time. I only canceled our engagement because my family forced my hand. That is why I am engaged to another woman now. Please, save me..." Lizbeth's entire body trembled. Her eyes were filled with tears because she truly loved him all those years ago. At the time, she thought he was her one true love and assumed he was her knight in shining armor. She never thought he'd turn out to be the man who hurt her the most?

Kai got even angrier when he heard Franco talking about that. The former already felt bad for what happened to Lizbeth, and mentioning the incident only further infuriated him.

"You worthless jerk. Die!" growled Kai.

"Wait!" shouted Lizbeth all of a sudden.

Kai turned to her and stared strangely.

She walked over and took one look at Franco in exasperation. After that, she turned to Kai and requested, "Will you spare his life?"

"But, Lizbeth, isn't he the jerk who hurt you?"

Kai didn't understand why she was helping Franco at all.

"Please spare his life. I loved him in the past, and this is my way of freeing myself. Now that I have saved his life, any debt and connection between us will be cleared."

Lizbeth's tears rolled down her cheeks. It was obvious she used to love Franco deeply.

Kai retracted his foot and sighed in annoyance. He turned to Franco and warned, "Leave. Never show up again because no one will be speaking up for you anymore."

Franco sighed a long breath of relief before he stood up and ran away. He never turned back to even look at Lizbeth.

After Franco left, Kai shifted his gaze to Tristan. "Well, you guys were waiting for me to exhaust myself before you attack. Now that everything is done, you can make your move."

Tristan's heart skipped a beat when he sensed the hostility in Kai's gaze. The former shook a little and forced a smile on. "It's as I said earlier. Everything is just a misunderstanding. I have no qualms with you, so why would I attack?"

"Aren't you after this jade pendant? Don't you want to retrieve it? Also, don't you want the recipe I have with me?"

Tristan frowned. He honestly didn't know how Kai knew they were after the jade pendant.

Could it be... Is Kai the mysterious man who rescued Sonia?

That hypothesis cleared everything up for Tristan right away. Given Kai's strength, he can definitely rescue Sonia from right under our noses.

"Well, the jade pendant is with you now, so by right, it belongs to you. Why would I steal it then? As for the recipe... well, I can only return disappointed since you refused to share it with me. I would never do something as barbaric as forcing your hands," lied Tristan while forcing a smile.

Kai scoffed in distaste when he saw that stupid look on Tristan's face. "You may be above that, but I am not. Listen to me closely. The Herb Palace is to deliver every medicine in possession to Summerbank. If they don't, I will annihilate them."

After saying that, Kai ignored Tristan's scowl and turned around to leave with Josephine.

Lizbeth, Jesse, and the others followed closely behind. Other members of the audience left as well. Everything that happened was simply too much for them.

"Mr. Bailey? What do we do?" Spencer asked.

"Stall them for a few days. I have to discuss the matter with my family," replied Tristan before he left with his subordinates too.