

The Mans Decree Chapter 455

Chapter 455 Women In The Village

“Something caught up, and I have to put the trip on hold. But I want you to buy more stones from Mount Hickoria!” Jared said to Dominic.

“Sure. I’ll go to Mount Hickoria myself and check out the stones!”

After Dominic left, Jared told Josephine about Ingrid’s wedding. She knew a trip to the village might not be pleasant, but as someone who understood Jared, she agreed right away.

They then started their journey and drove back to Jared’s hometown.

His hometown is a village in Horington that used to be a small settlement, but its landscape had drastically changed due to the development in the last few years.

Jared saw many houses were slapped with a demolition notice to make way for development projects. That was why Benedict insisted on getting his hands on the family residence!

Children were running around in the village. Jared did not know anyone of them since he had not returned for many years.

“Hey, taking a break from work?” He rolled down the car’s window and greeted the seniors who were sitting by the curb.

Jared knew who they were. After all, he grew up in the village and stayed here until middle school. He only moved out when his father was transferred to work in the city.

The elderly folks walked over to take a closer look. One of the middle-aged women instantly recognized Jared. "Aren't you Jared? I thought you were still in jail? Since when were you released? And now you're driving a Mercedes-Benz?"

She studied Jared from head to toe.

Jared responded with a wry smile. "I came out of jail not long ago."

"Oh. Did you come back to attend the wedding? Ingrid's husband is super rich, and he's the boss of a big company! Maybe he can help you find a job. All right, all right. I'm not gonna disturb you anymore." The woman waved her hand in the air.

Jared nodded and rolled up the window. He then looked at Josephine and said awkwardly, "That's how blunt women in the village speak, but they don't have any bad intentions. She used to boil eggs for me when I was a child!"

Josephine responded with a grin but kept mum. Perhaps, she was not used to the way villagers spoke.

Soon, Jared arrived at his family's house. After parking his car in the courtyard, he took a glance at the residence that was made up of five individual buildings. My parents must have given the house a fresh coat of paint.

"Dad! Mom!" he shouted from the courtyard.

Standing in front of the house and calling his parents brought back childhood memories.

As a child, Jared used to call out to his parents when he returned from school. He would then dump his bag in the corner of the courtyard and run out to play.

"You're back!" Hannah came out of the room and greeted her son.

"Hello, Mrs. Chance." Josephine greeted her with a grin.

"Josephine! Glad to see you. Come on in!" Hannah nearly jumped with joy.

She initially thought someone as rich as Josephine would not want to step into their lowly village. Even though Jared promised to talk to her about it, Hannah did not expect her to

come. That was why Hannah was overjoyed when she saw Josephine standing in front of her.

“Where’s Dad?” Jared asked.

“He has gone to Sarah’s to help with the wedding!”

That was how life in the village was. Villagers would always do their part to support a wedding. Family members living in the same village would contribute even more to make the event a success.

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Chapter 456 Demolition

Hannah showed Josephine around as soon as they entered the room in an effort to make her feel more at ease. At the same time, Jared drifted in and out of the rooms drunk on nostalgia.

“Take a good, long look, son,” sighed Hannah. The house is coming apart soon. I don’t know where we’ll go to once they evict us.”

“Aren’t they going to rehouse you, Mom?”

“Hah!” exclaimed Hannah scornfully. “They didn’t even subsidize our rent. Some of us have been living here for decades and they are only giving us about a hundred thousand per home. That’s what we’re worth to them. Though we should be grateful that other villages receive much less compared to us, it’s hard to feel too optimistic when our future is that uncertain. Besides, your father and I had just forked out so much for the renovation and it’s going to get torn down just like that!”

"Come to Horington with Dad," Jared suggested. "The place in Dragon Bay is still vacant anyway. I haven't had the time to drop by and sort things out over there."

Hannah glared at her son. "Though Josephine's family is rich enough to let you live in a huge house like that, you can't be sitting on your hands all day, you hear me? You can't be spending all of her money for the rest of your life. Be a man!"

"You are mistaken, Mrs. Chance. Actually-"

"I know what to do, Mom," Jared cut across Josephine. "I'm working on it!"

"It's sweet of her to not look down on us, you know." Hannah gazed fondly at Josephine. "You must treat her well, son. If I hear that you do anything to hurt her, I will disown you."

How rare it is to find a nice, polite girl from a rich family who does not mind our poverty!

Josephine smiled reassuringly. "Jared has been good to me, Mrs. Chance. I'll twist his ear off if he hurts me!"

"Yes, yank it right off!" Hannah reciprocated the smile. "Inform me when you do. I'd like to get in on that."

"I'm your son, Mom!" Jared protested despite being secretly delighted at how quickly the two most important women to him bonded. "Are you ganging up with Josephine on me?"

Josephine burst out laughing at Jared's expression.

"Jared! Jared!" A young female voice suddenly came from outside the house.

Jared recognized his cousin's voice at once and dashed out to meet her.

Ingrid was several years younger than him. From as early as she could remember, she had been inseparable from Jared, who had gotten into more fights than he could remember to protect her from her own mischief. Despite being cousins, they were closer than most siblings.

It's been years. I wonder how my favorite cousin is doing?

A tall girl, five foot nine at the very least, greeted him when he arrived outside the room. Her ponytail bounced excitedly at his appearance, revealing two deep dimples on either side of her cheeks when she beamed.

"Ingrid?" Jared asked in disbelief.

Ingrid laughed. "Don't you recognize me, Jared?"

"I don't," he murmured in a daze. "You were half this height when I last saw you. Look at you! You're as tall as I am now!"

Jared walked around Ingrid and stood back to back with her to measure his height against hers.

It's been around five years. She was only fourteen the last time I'd seen her. How quickly has she grown!

"You grew slowly, that's all," she teased in return. "Watch out, I'll be even taller than you in another two years! By the way, I'd heard word that you were back. Is that your Mercedes parked out front?"

Jared smiled mysteriously. "It's a friend's!"