

A Glitched 931

Chapter 931 Grandpa Is Actually Nice?!

"Looks like you girls have been having some fun, huh?" Zack walked in accompanied by Mist.

"Oh, Zack! The only man I don't mind seeing their ugly face..." Aquarina sighed in relief, petting his head.

"Ugly face?!" Zack cried, offended.

"You're handsome, don't worry!" Mist smiled back at him.

"Hahh... She's always such a bully, honestly." Zack sighed, comforted by his cute girlfriend. "A-Anyways, I saw you girls getting flocked by playboys, what's up with that?"

"A bunch of idiots trying to get the chance for arranged marriages or something." Aquarina said. "They got spooked away anyways!"

"We've been mostly enjoying the food, it's really good actually." I said with a giggle. "A-Anyways, Mist, are enjoying things?"

"Oh? Yeah!" Mist said. "I've grown a bit used to ignoring people's glares, I just feel safe as long as I'm with Zacky. He holds my hand tightly, and lets me grab his arm... So I don't care about the rest of the world!"

"If anybody tries to do something to her they'll meet my fist." Zack said, gripping his fist tightly.

"C-Calm down a bit there, you might incapacitate some of the people here with a mere punch, we've grown a bit too strong now." I laughed. "Anyways, where's Celeste and Celica? And Lara and Luck?"

"They're over there, the four of them had not stopped eating the meat section since we got here!" Mist said, pointing at them enjoying the food.

Lara was not eating meat though but was right at the side on the vegetable section, she found meat most of the time quite gross, but loved veggies.

"Oh, I guess they're happy on their own little world." I laughed.

"Big sis!"

Suddenly, Zephy and Nephilim walked in from behind. Zephy jumped on my legs and didn't let go, while Nephilim constantly tried to drag him away from me.

"Young lord, it's not good to do this in front of a crowd... You're going to embarrass my master." She said.

"It's okay, it's fine." I laughed, as I lifted Zephy up and helped him get piggybacked. "If it's my cute brother we're talking about, then it doesn't really matter that much!"

"Big sis you're piggybacking me?!" Zephy was amazed. "Oh wow, you're as strong as dad too?!"

"Of course, if I can beat Rank 9 foes I can surely lift my brother and give him a piggyback now and then!" I giggled.

"Yaaay!"

Zephy was happy as I lifted him up, and he was beginning to use my head like a drum, tapping it to make sounds.

"H-Hey! Don't do that, you pesky little...!"

"Hehehehe!"

He kept giggling playfully, so I couldn't really get angry at him...

"Attention everyone, the King has a few words to say." Suddenly, Francois, who my mother told me was the actual Minister of Finances, stepped in, bringing the attention of all the nobles.

My grandfather stepped in, as he suddenly glanced at me, calling me with his hand to come over...?I felt slightly frozen once he did the gestures.

Like, was he really calling ME to get there?!

"Can I bring Zephy?" I asked him without making a sound, he read my lips easily.

He nodded.

"Okay Zephy, better behave in front of grandpa."

"Okay..."

I quickly put him down into the floor, as the two of us walked in, he held my hand tightly as he saw many eyes glaring at him.

"Today, we're commemorating an incredible feat, something that nobody of us has ever accomplished in the last five hundred years, the defeat of a Demon Lord by the hands of these young brave heroes." He said, suddenly and gently tapping my shoulder. "And of course, my second youngest granddaughter, Sylph, is among these heroes. I've heard from the Previous Heroes, and even her friends already, and everyone agrees in how amazing she is, and how her leadership has brought everyone together more than ever."

The nobles glanced at the scene in surprise, their eyes directed towards me... And Zephy, who was just as confused as I was. Where was this leading to anyways?! Was he just really praising me to get along with me now?

Suddenly, Aquarina, Zack, Mist, Celeste, Celica, Lara, and Luck stepped into my side, called by Francois, as the King suddenly summoned a huge golden scroll.

"And because of their amazing intelligence, strength, talent, and the leadership of the friend that brings them all together, I've decided to give her and all her friends a special, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, to enter in the most prestigious academy in the entire continent." He said. "The Merlinus Academy of Magic, Alchemy, Crafting, and Swordsmanship!"

"Oooh..."

"Those children are going to the academy?!"

"Wait, even the demons?"

"T-This is unheard of!"

"I can't believe what I'm seeing."

"T-This..."

"Wait, what?!" Celeste asked in surprise. "My King, us too?"

"Yes." The King nodded. "All of you, demons, anima, elves, humans. You're all welcome to the academy. This is a special scroll, once you sign it, you'll be able to go to the academy for the usual three-year scholarship, completely for free, and with all other things paid. This is my gift to all of you, to reward you for your efforts, and for saving our country. You're unseen heroes, and I shall reward your feats."

"Grandpa..." I felt moved. "Thank you..."

"And Sylph..." He suddenly added, with a lower tone of voice. "I'm... sorry, for having been rough back then. I was testing you, but over time, I've realized that wasn't the way. I first had doubts, but I should have never doubted you. My grandchild, you're an incredible person, and I want you, one day... become someone that could change the world."

His emerald eyes glanced straight through my soul, as I felt even more moved... All this time I always had a slightly negative view on him, but over time I've also changed it after my mother always told me about his feats, and about how hard he worked to protect the country.

"I honestly would prefer if you just called me Sylphy!" I giggled. "And it's fine, I know you're a good grandpa deep down!"

"S-Sylphy..." My grandfather was suddenly moved to tears, as he hugged me tightly with his enormous and bulky arms.

"Guakh...! G-Grandpa?!" I felt shocked by his shown of affection.

But above all, he was so strong I felt like I was being asphyxiated by his bear hug!

Chapter 932 Free Scholarships For Everyone!

Like that, we were given free scholarships for the Academy... Which we already planned to go to, but that it seemed to be extremely expensive, and we didn't even know if we could bring the rest of our friends because it seemed quite racially strict.

But if it was one made by the King himself, I really doubt the Academy can do much about it, they'll have to simply accept it, the most prestigious or not.

I guess we'll be going to this academy once Aquarina's done with her training. Though I don't know what I will even do while waiting for her return...

Maybe going through my own little training adventure wouldn't be so bad. I'll have to talk with mom about it, perhaps something big could come out of it.

Nonetheless, after the entire party was done, we moved to the rooms in the castle, where we immediately went to sleep as soundly as we could, we were very tired, it has been a long day.

This time, I didn't had any weirdly lewd dreams, thankfully... Or not.

And once the morning's sunlight emerged across the finely decorated glass windows, I slowly opened my eyes, stretching my arms.

"Well, yesterday sure felt long, good morning Sylphy." Alice said, speaking at long last.

"You've been awfully mute lately.." I said while squinting my eyes.

"Sorry, I just didn't wanted to bother you. Things were becoming more important, and a Spirit like me butting in wasn't fitting, right?" Alice giggled.

"Huh? Is that so?" I wondered, raising an eyebrow.

"A-And I'm not really that good at speaking with other people..." Her body made of light floated around, then resting over the bed. "Sorry... I guess I haven't gotten that good at speaking with others as I thought. The other Spirits and your Familiars are easy to deal with but everything else... feels rather hard."

"Well, it's fine, not all of us are as charismatic as I am." Ignatius materialized at my side, sitting over the bed too. "Hence why you should had let me speak to the public! Why didn't you let me even speak a word with the King?!"

"Because you don't have anything to do with them! And you're such a troublemaker that I bet you would had enraged others." I crossed my arms, reprimanding him.

"Hmph, I don't know what you're talking about, I am a perfectly ethical and incredible person myself." He said while fending ignorance to his shortcomings.

"Even after all these years you're still a stubborn egg." Alice laughed, petting his dragon head. "Though you've surely softened a lot. Remember when he used to roar and fight back all the time?"

"Yeah... I don't know what to say regarding that." I laughed. "He was quite angry..."

"Not like I have much of an option now!" He complained. "I've given the chance for a second life now, so I better stop fighting over nothing..."

"How rare to see this dragon be honest for once." Suddenly, a crow appeared from the window and landed inside, quickly turning into a white-colored cat.

"Oh, Furoh! How was the trip?" I asked him.

All my Spirits and Familiars were usually free and could go anywhere they wanted. However the Spirits were more restricted because they needed my Mana to work properly, and if they get annoying, I usually put them inside the Soul Scape for a while.lights

Though most of the time, they go on their own accord. And as of Familiars, they too, can go anywhere as long as they have... well, the intelligence to take care of themselves. Furoh and Nephilim are quite free, and go anywhere they want, but usually stick with me.

Furoh had said he wanted to check the capital so he set off for the entire night after the party, where he had stealthily participated as a young elf boy he had copied from outside the capital, using the opportunity to eat a lot of food, interact with people, and so on.

My other Familiars such as Scarlet, Sapphire, Glutton, or Violet are... Well, they're rather unique. They're still attached to me as if they were my equipment and items and prefer to stay close to me if possible.

Even if Scarlet and Sapphire can speak, they're quite childish, so its better if they stick around instead of going on their own too! And let's not even talk about Glutton and Violet, who can't even talk and are very much baby-like, exceptionally with Glutton, he's like a puppy.

"BARF! BARF!" Glutton greeted Furoh while licking his face.

"I can't believe you're a mimic like me, little Glutton, you're very different!" Laughed Furoh, suddenly shapeshifting and mimicking his appearance.

"BAARF?! WAAGH..." Glutton was shocked to see his equal!

"Well it depends in the kind. Glutton is also not exactly... The same as you, he's more like a monster mimic than a demon mimic, very different." Beelzebub appeared, yawning a bit. "He's also quite unnatural because he used to be an inert item and was given life and a soul thanks to Sylph's powers..."

As he appeared, we all looked at him with teasing smiles.

"W-What? Why are you looking at me like that?" He asked angrily.

"Hehehe, I'm lookin'!" Natoria giggled, appearing and sitting by my side, she was still the size of a four-year-old kid, with a humanoid shape, resembling a girl made of wood, branches, leaves and flowers.

"Well, aren't you happy?" Ignatius smiled as he asked that question.

"Happy for what? What are you on about?" Beelzebub was really confused or was pretending to be confused.

"You know what." Alice laughed. "Don't try to act like you don't know..."

"I have no idea what you're talking about!" Beelzebub was losing his mind.

"That the demons are being accepted more now! And that soon, everyone might see them in a completely different light!" I said, sighing. "Geez you're really stubborn! Also the demons are going to the academy! The freaking academy! Isn't that amazing? If they do well and gain even more fame... Won't things change even more? Aren't you happy, big bug?"

"W-Why should I care about them?!" He suddenly groaned, seemingly embarrassed. "Though... well, I guess I'm... yeah, I guess it's alright. Thanks for helping us Demons, even after everything, Sylphy."

"Heh, don't even think about it." I smiled back.

Like that, a new day started.

Chapter 933 A Grandfather That Opens His Heart To His Grandkids

After waking up and taking a bath, we meet with the rest of our families in one of the many terraces around the castle, the one closest to the flower garden in the back. Grandpa, Auntie Aina, and Grandpa were also invited to this breakfast.

Grandpa's figure was imposing, but now that he took off his armor and his crown, he looked rather normal, just a huge elf man packed with muscles... Wearing a green, rather loosen shirt and brown pants with sandals.

Wow he sure looked different.

"Thank you for coming over to our little breakfast, father." My mother said with a smile.

"Ah, well, we were here already so it wasn't anything too much to ask for." Grandfather shrugged.
"Sylphy, how was the night? No discomfort in the bed?"

"E-Eh? Ah, yeah, all's fine. The bed was really good, soft, and fluffy!" I said with a giggle.

"I see... Zephy?" He asked big brother the same.

"It was fluffy Grandpa!" Zephy said, sitting over his lap for a couple of minutes by now.

"I see." He kept his stoic, almost expressionless face, but he seemed rather softened by my little brother.

He stopped drinking tea and then caressed the boy's head gently.

"Hmm... Well, if you ever feel like... living somewhere else, or in the capital. There will always be rooms here for you two." He said. "Ahem... I mean, if you ever want to, I'm not saying you should come over to live with us. Well, that would be great too, but I know you have your responsibilities back in Agartha and... But if you ever need to move, you can..."

"It's okay, honey." Grandpa held his big arm. "He's trying to say that you're welcome in our home at any time! You could come over to live with us forever and we would fine with that too!"

"Thank you for the hospitality, grandpa, grandma." I smiled. "I'll consider it once I grow older, maybe!"

"Ooh..." Grandpa suddenly got a bit happy about that. "You must consider it thoroughly!"

He really just wanted to spend some time with us...

"Ganpa, if I stay here will I get to eat tasty snacks like yesterday?" Zephy asked, biting on small min apple pie.

"But of course, you will get the best food this country can offer every day." Grandfather said confidently and stoically.

"Father, that's enough..." My mother laughed. "They're my kids, so they're staying with me..."

"You can also stay... if you want, Faylen." He said. "Ahem... Well, it's up to you. I am not trying anything, okay?"

"Okay~" My mom laughed. "He never changes, he still has difficulties talking the simplest of topics when it comes to personal things."

"Faylen, I have no such difficulties." Grandpa said with a stern look on his face...

"Anyways, father-in-law, maybe we could consider coming here for a month or so, so the kids can kick off and get used to the capital before they come for the academy." Said my father.

"Hmmm... That would be ideal. So when are you kids coming to stay for a month?" Grandfather quickly summoned a golden grimoire out of nowhere. "This is the Grimoire of Truth; it is a powerful artifact that can record anything and has an infinite number of pages. In ancient times, it was used to store spells, but I use it to write appointments. It has a very useful dingy sound whenever something is coming closer."

"T-That's the Grimoire of Truth?!" Even Shade lost his composure as he muttered those words. "To think the King's using them for notes..."

"Well you're no different with your Grimoire of Records!" Sighed Nepheline.lights

"Hahaha, yeah!" Aquarina laughed.

"Father, we're still thinking about it, calm down." My mom said.

"Heh, you're sure excited about your family now, huh?" Arafunn laughed, teasing grandfather.

"C-Cut it out Arafunn." Grandfather sternly said. "They're good kids, so I want them to... well, to have fun in the capital. And usually, well, my other grandchildren are all grown up, and those that are still young are scared of me, and their parents usually are too scared of me too so... Ahem, I was getting a bit off-topic there."

"Ganpa is not scary, no?" Susanna asked curiously. "He's just big!" She sat down on grandpa's other leg.

"That's right, I am just big because I need to be strong to protect my family." Grandfather said with a serious as rock face, yet he gently caressed Susanna's blonde hair.

He had a soft spot for his grandchildren...

"Ahh, I'm still nervous. I can't believe we're having breakfast with the king..." Zack muttered.

"Just go with the flow and eat to your heart's content!" Mist said, munching on the sweets and pastries, as maidservants brought new things over and over.

"These teas are so good too, and the donuts go so well with them!" Said Celeste. "My King, your bakers and tea blenders are sure talented."

"Thank you, I've chosen the best ones qualified for the job." Said the King sternly. "Celeste, I'm glad our food is of your liking. If you ever want something more endemic of demon cuisine, we've been working on demon tribe menus, we've got a few demon chefs that joined our kitchen recently, they come from countries of the Demon Continent and the Araburn Continent."

"Ohhh? You're really putting it in effort, gramps!" Celeste laughed.

"D-Don't call him like that, Celeste!" Lara panicked.

"Gramps..." The King muttered. "No, it's fine... Children will be children." He let it go easily.

"I wonder if there are anima chefs?" Asked Luck.

"Yes, there are quite a few! Most of the things you're eating are made from Anima chefs, they're usually better than elves because of their keen, heightened senses! The best chefs out there are all Anima people." The King said pridefully.

"Woow..." Lara was amazed. "Maybe I could become a chef once all the hero job's done..."

"You're already thinking about that?" Luck was surprised of Lara's carefree mindset.

"Well yeah! Sylphy's parents and Aquarina's parents are all free now and they're dedicating themselves to other things!" Lara said. "It's fair we think about it too, no?"

"Hahahah, well, I guess..." Luck laughed, amazed on Lara's lighthearted remarks.

"Never change, Lara." I said with a giggle.

"More importantly, I wanted to talk something with you children." My mother suddenly interrupted the peaceful breakfast.

Things were getting a bit serious now...

Chapter 934 A Small Journey For Everyone

"Hm? About what?" I wondered.

"Well, I've been considering something when I learned about Aquarina's training, and I think everyone would benefit if they went through their own training, to perhaps separate and go on their own adventures." Said my mother. "I am not saying this out of just nowhere, there are certain things you can learn from people that is far away, and power to acquire from inheritances as well."

"Yeah, we talked about this with your mom too." My father added. "It is ideal for all of you to go through a small journey, learn from the world and its experiences, and also to meet important people so you can gain experience and knowledge yourselves."

"E-Eh? Is that so?" I wondered. "This is a bit sudden..."

"Well, if things are going to be like this, I wouldn't mind... But where would I go to?" Zack wondered curiously.

"Will I have to separate from Lara?" Asked Luck, feeling slightly sad. "C-Can't she come along?!"

"Well, we've been thinking about things ourselves..." Said Ninhursag. "But you and Zack will come with me. There's a special Inheritance, the inheritance of my people I want you to obtain, of my ancestors, in fact. Zack who is my son, and Luck who is the Hero of Beasts would be the best candidates, it is located within the Continent of Humans, Gallatea."

"An Inheritance even I can get?!" Zack was excited. "I thought it was something only heroes could get..." He started gripping his fist.

"Lara..." Luck glanced at Lara sadly.

"It's fine!" Lara smiled. "I want Luck to get much stronger so you can protect my back! And in exchange, I'll also get super strong myself!"

"Hmm..." Luck seemed rather sad. "Okay... If that's what I need to do to get stronger, I'm willing to go to the end of the world!"

"Good boy." Ninhursag smiled. "It is an inheritance not even I have stepped into, although I might be the last of my kin, a tribe of Ancient Humans with shapeshifting magic powers, my Ancestors once prospered in far away mountains, using their powers to travel and survive. It's going to be a rough journey, be prepared."

"W-What about me?" Mist asked, feeling rather left out.

"And me?" Lara asked excitedly.

"You two will come with me." My mother said. "Both Lara as a Saint, and Mist as a powerful Priestess qualify to learn from my teachings in a small journey of pilgrimage. If we have the opportunity, we will also visit the Fountain of Light, the Divine Inheritance of the First Saintess. Where I completed its trials to inherit a part of her powers, which might be possible for Lara, and even Mist."

"Wow..." Lara was amazed. "Really?! So cool! Let's do this Mist!"

"Y-Yaaay..." Mist seemed sad she'll separate from Zack. "I-I guess... I-I'll give it... my all...!" She was trying really hard to not worry Zack, who seemed very excited about the whole thing.

"And us?" Celeste wondered.

"Oooh, we'll be taught by Shade?!" Celica asked, gasping.

"Although it would certainly be useful, I am going on a trip with my daughter and my wife, so I can't go with you two, nor bring you along, girls." Shade apologized. "Sorry."lights

"Oh no, you two and Sylphy are going somewhere else completely!" My mother smiled. "You'll be visiting one of our old friends, you know her as the Witch of the Blue Mountain."

"Really?!" I asked in shock. "W-We're finally meeting her! The one that has been doing our equipment for so long..."

"No way!" Aquarina was amazed. "I also wanted to meet her... not fair."

"Isn't she also one of the heroes?" Zack asked.

"Indeed." Grandfather said sternly. "She is... quite a handful. Half elf, half dwarf, she prefers her dwarven heritage, therefore she has been living in her mountain for many years. After two hundred years, she gained the title of "Witch of the Blue Mountain". And because she's half elf, she has quite a long lifespan."

"Wow, a half elf and half dwarf, I never thought that could be possible." Celeste was surprised. "Well, I wonder what we can learn from her?"

"All sorts of hexes, alchemy, crafting, and golem creation, which are essential for all three of you girls." My mom said.

"W-What about Zephy?" I asked. "You're not leaving him out, right?"

"He will come with me, and your father will accompany you." My mother had everything planned. "After around eight to twelve months, we'll meet again... Is that okay with you?"

"Well... we'll live for much longer than a couple of months but I think I'll miss you a lot." I sighed, feeling a bit sad, but I had to bear with it. "But if that's necessary... I think I can do it."

"I won't see daddy in that long?!" Zephy started to cry right away. "Uwaah... Daddyyy...!" He quickly ran towards father's embrace.

"Hahaha, I never thought you'll miss me that much! Calm down... There, there." My father laughed a bit. "You'll have fun with your mother, calm down. It will be fine. Once she comes back, we'll go together to meet my family! How about it?"

"W-Wow, really?!" Zephy was shocked.

"The Mercenary Family where you come from, Allan?" My grandfather asked. "Hmm, I've heard a lot from the Firebrand Family, a prestigious family of mercenaries who has birthed the strongest human warriors out there. They're well know for their red hair, which both Sylphy and Zephy have inherited."

"Indeed, father-in-law." My dad said. "I think they're a good family, so I need my children to meet them and learn from them, especially my father and my mother, both master of the sword and of fire magic."

"Hmmm, I approve of such decision. I think it will be enlightening for the kids." My grandpa said. "Though... I wonder if it could be possible for one day to invite them over?"

"W-Well, I don't know about that..." My father said. "They wouldn't really like to come over from so far away... Ahh, but I'll try my best to convince them!"

"Thank you." My grandpa nodded. "Hector Firebrand, your father... He's well known for being an incredible Master Swordsman, I would like to meet him one day, and clash blades with him." Grandfather smiled for once.

"Seriously..." My mother facepalmed.

Chapter 935 Shopping All Kinds Of Materials

After mother's decision, we ultimately ended agreeing. Some more willing than others, we understood the important purpose behind these, and we couldn't just reject the opportunity to become stronger and learn more about other people and the world around us.

Zack and Luck were especially excited about this, as they wanted to grow much stronger to probably catch up with us. Mist seemed slightly nervous about it, Lara was just as lax as ever, happy to just go along with the flow.

Aquarina had made a whole tantrum about it before but was now accepting it more easily. Celeste and Celica were okay with it, though Celica said she'll miss her mom, Celeste was fine with going anywhere, apparently.

And much like Celica said, I think I'll miss my mom too... I'll be there for about a year, and that's a lot of time for me! Some people can say whatever they want about elves living so long time feels very fast for them so years are like hours or seconds, but that's totally a lie, my perception of time is quite slow, as everyone else's perception, so a year feels like an eternity to me.

And that might extend to two years regarding Aquarina... A-Almost two years of not seeing her, it's freaking horrible! How can I live without her kisses and her hugs and her cuddles? I'm going to absolutely die.

But... I cannot show this part of my thoughts to my friends, even less Aquarina, or I'll make her doubt her resolve. I cannot do that, I need her to think everything is fine, and that I'm totally alright with her leaving and growing stronger than ever before.

As I said before, I just have to enjoy these last months before the end of the year, with her at my side, until the day of departure.

After breakfast we decided to go out and have some fun with all my friends, now that we were in the damn capital, we were going to enjoy it!

The entire city was many times larger than Agartha, filled with all sorts of beautiful places to visit, huge plazas, large markets, a gorgeous port area, countless of restaurants, and even magic artifacts used for entertainment are gathered in a single area which is called "amusement park", where both families and couples gather.

"So where should we go now?" I wondered, wandering around the streets close to the castle.

Grandpa and grandma decided to stay in the castle, as they usually make a big fuss whenever they step out, our parents decided to stay too, so we were on our own on this big, very big city.

Perhaps in the past my mother would have never considered this, but we were so strong they were sure we would be absolutely alright even if we were left stranded in the middle of the sea.

"I want to go to the port! I heard there's a lot of amazing products, spices, ores, weapons, armor, food, veggies, from all around the world!" Mist said. "I also heard there's a lot of demons that have just arrived bringing products. I want to see if we can talk..."

"So you want to know about them, huh?" Wondered Celeste. "I guess that's not a bad idea, all things considered... How about it?"

"Sure!" I said. "What about you, Celica?"

"Sounds interesting..." Celica said. "I want to find out how the people of the Demon Continent live..."

As Demons born in the Human Continent, they had no idea how the Demon Continent even was, and certainly, I had little idea how it was myself, so it was quite interesting to see the perspective of others.

"Alright then, let's go there, we can also pick up a bunch of items too." Zack agreed.

"I heard there's a few good restaurants over there, from mom." Aquarina said. "I want to go check them out once we get there! How about we eat once we're done?"

"Sounds good." Lara giggled. "Oh wow, there are a few Anima here and there!" She began running around the streets, glancing at all the people.

Although the vast majority were elves, there was also a great variety of tribes of all kinds, seeing so many living together like this really made us feel like we were in some sort of fantastical place.

Even back at home, non-elves were still very few...lights

"Hey Lara, don't go running away like that! Wait a bit!" Luck ran behind her, as we followed them into the port.

The sea waves and the salty wind of the sea quickly hit us like a truck, accompanied by the screams of many merchants trying to sell their products.

An immense variety of all kinds of sea creatures caught just this morning adorned most of the stalls, but then there were huge shops filled to the brim with all sorts of materials.

Ores and crystals I had never seen before were being sold, some cheaper than others. I ended going on a buying spree getting whatever I found interesting, for my future projects.

"Look at this Sylphy!" Lara suddenly ran towards me and showed me a huge rainbow-colored piece of crystal... but it was no normal crystal.

"Wait, is that a...?!" I muttered, checking the information.

[Rainbow Spirit Crystal (S Grade)]

A Unique Spirit Crystal grown within the depths of the Spirit Mountains at the southwest area of the Demon Continent. Grown after many eons of absorbing the spiritual energy of the Soul Crystals found underground, said to be the crystalized parts of the First Demon King, these curious-looking spirit stones contain multiple elements within them, giving them their beautiful color.

It is a top-notch material to create all sorts of magical equipment, be it weapons, armor, or accessories, and it can further enhance the power of Spirit Magic or Contracted Spirit Familiars if feed to them.

When imbued with Mana, the crystal will shine incredibly brightly, emanating the light of all the colors it contains on all directions, which might be able to distract or temporarily blind enemies.

"A-Amazing! A Rainbow Spirit Crystal?! It possess like six elements into one!" I was shocked I missed this. "You bought it, Lara?"

"Yeah, I spent all the money I brought; you can buy it for me... for a bit more!" She giggled mischievously.

"Ugh, you sure are cheeky... But alright, I'll pay!" I said.

She really got me there...

"Wait, is it alright though? You could benefit from it, I've read its information, if you feed it to your spirits, they might grow even stronger." I said, keeping a look at the rest of my friends and Aquarina, who were close by looking everywhere.

"I know but I also know you can make something even better out of it!" Lara said. "I kind of guessed what they could do once I grabbed it; the spirits were going crazy about it... But you gifted me that amazing scepter, which is already making my magic so strong, and that potion too, oh, and the system! You've done a lot! So I don't mind..."

"Yeah you sure don't mind, reselling it to me at even pricier price..." I said.

"Hehehe, sorry, but this is how I usually made money sometimes..." She giggled. "I'm trying to save money for when I grow up, so we can get a house with Luck!"

"Aw, that's cute. Okay, you convinced me, take my money." I laughed.

Chapter 936 Mysterious Jaw Demons

After saving the huge crystal inside of Glutton, which I'll most likely use in something else, I continued my shopping spree, looking for compatible materials for my familiars evolutions.

I got myself a variety of the rare Spirit Stones, which were available. The rarest of them were usually Earth, Darkness and Poison, the forest had those ruins where I found Nephilim, which were filled with spirit stones of mostly life, nature, fire, and light elements.

Meanwhile, the Fishman King's Dungeon had Spirit Stones of Ice and Water, and sometimes fire too, but Earth, Darkness and Poison were still the rarest, so I made this opportunity to get a bunch of those.

Darkness and Poison Spirit Stones are very common in the Demon Continent, so I made sure to buy them from the merchants coming from there. I saw many different and distinct tribes of demons I had never seen before; some had the heads of animals with muscular blue skinned bodies, others were like humanoid reptiles with tiny wings, and there was another that was a huge elephant-like person.

"OOHOHOHO! You sure buy a lot, young lady!" Laughed the elephant-like man. "Thank you for your preference! Darkness and Poison Spirit Stones are very common back home, but even here, not many buy them either, you've saved my business by buying so many!"

"Ah, it's nothing, really!" I giggled. "I'm glad to see people from the Demon Continent here, I'm glad to do business with you!"

"Oh, wait, before going away, please take this as a souvenir." He said, suddenly giving me a bottle, which had two huge eyes inside floating in a green liquid. "These are Mimic Eyes! I heard you were looking for these from another fellow merchant around the corner."

"Ehhh?! You had these hidden?" I asked in shock.

"Well, they're quite precious, so I was planning on selling them at a high price in the auction, but let's say I'll let you have them." He said. "O-Of course, the souvenir comes with a price, it took a long while to get this one."

"Hmmm..." I checked the eyes authenticity, the man was well-mannered, but he could be trying to swindle me.

[Dark Mimic Bottled Eyes (B+ Grade)]

A pair of big eyes extracted from a Dark Mimic inhabiting the Demon Continent's Dungeons.

These eyes possess a potent magical power, which allows them to change colors depending on the material you synthesize them with.

They're ideal materials for glasses or accessories and can harbor large quantities of Mana inside.

If processed well enough, equipment made with these items can change their color depending on their environment, helping the wearer meld with the background and enhance their stealth.

Oh, they're authentic! Nothing can escape these eyes, so I guess I've gotta buy it!

"Alright, name your price." I said, getting on my bantering mode.

"Each eye would be one million gold." He said. "T-That's the most I can lower the price!"

"Hmmm... I'll give you one million and five hundred for both. They're good but they're B Grade, not A Grade. If they were higher I would pay more." I said.

"Eh?! B-But young lady..." He sighed, trying to act sad. "A-Alright, how about one million and nine hundred?"

"One million and six hundred..."lights

"T-That's...! Don't you need them desperately?"

"It seems you also need to sell them desperately..."

"Gulp..."

He quickly realized I knew he was lying. These eyes are not all that sought after, he wouldn't get more than a million for both in the auction.

"I'm doing you a favor; you won't get more than a million in the auction for these. Elves mostly buy magic catalyst. It is a good item to craft stealthy equipment, but we've got magic for that here." I laughed. "I need them to evolve my familiar, and I think you're a nice person, so I want to compensate you for your efforts."

"..." The man sighed one last time before giving me his last price. "T-Then one million and... seven hundred?"

"Alright, alright, you win." I laughed, paying him quickly. "Have a nice day!"

"Y-Yes..." He nodded, counting the big coins. "Hahhh... Why do I feel like a little girl made me for a fool?"

I made my way back to my friends, after having looked around the entire area surrounding us, I had bought the pelts necessary for Furoh's evolution, and I also got the eyes of a mimic, I need the tongue and some other organs... which won't be easy to get.

"Sylphy! Did you get what you wanted?" Aquarina showed up, carrying a bag with blue jewels, brown jewels, and some ores. She was also eating a whole grilled squid covered on a spicy sauce.

"Yeah, mostly, although I'm still missing a ton of things. And naturally, nobody has dragon materials." I shrugged. "What did you get?"

"Oh, I got some magic jewels and ores, mom said I'll need them to begin my new physique refinement." Aquarina said.

"Oh, I see! I wonder if the Dragon Heart you got might negatively affect that?" I wondered, a bit worried.

"Don't worry! Mom said that it won't affect anything. It might even give me an even stronger ability or physique later on. I'll get super strong, you'll see!" She was really excited.

"You're already super strong! But I'm glad you're aiming for higher heights." I giggled, giving her a kiss. "Let's go grab a bite now that we're done- Ah, your lips were all spicy!"

"Hehehe, it is what you sought for giving me a kiss!" She was after all eating a spicy grilled squid on a stick... "Now come, I'll cover your face with spicy sauce!"

"Uwaagh!" I ran away from her as we encountered the rest of our friends, who were gathered around Mist.

She was talking to a Demon again; she had been talking to every Demon that came from the ships as she could. Yet everyone was giving her the same answer.

"Sorry lass, I'm glad you've grown outside of our continent, honestly... But I don't know of any other Jaw Demon out there, nor where their village could be..." The huge reptile-like demon sighed.

"O-Oh... Thanks anyways!" Mist said, forcing a smile.

It looks like her tribe is either very secretive, or...

She might be the very last one of them.

But I don't really want to think that's the answer!

We ran to meet Mist, who was really sad. Zack was comforting her with his hug and everything, but she didn't seem to be cheering up at all.

"Hmm, well, there are so many of our tribes spread across the continent that they might just be very secretive. Not all of them have become too sociable, you know? Like to go to the big cities and stuff?"
Asked Celeste.

"Yeah! Don't worry about it." Celica said, petting her head.

"Hmm... I hope so..." Mist sighed.

"A-And even if you were to be the last one... You said we would have a family together later, right?" Zack said while blushing. "S-So I'll make sure we have a lot of kids... t-to keep your tribe going."

"E-Ehh?" Mist suddenly blushed. "Z-Zack, how can you say that? Perv!"

Mist instantly changed her expression, getting as red as a tomato and pouting.

"Huh? B-but you were the one that said we'll have a lot of kids!" Zack cried, feeling overwhelmed as Mist angrily started hitting his chest with her small hands.

"Idiot!" She said while pouting. "D-Don't say such stuff out loud... Dummy."

"S-Sorry." Zack laughed. "At least that made you change that expression you had." He hugged her back.

Aww, they're so cute! I'm dying.

"Hey lovebirds, let's go grab a bite." I said, walking towards them.

"It's a pity you couldn't find much info, but I'm sure we'll find something eventually!" Aquarina said.
"Don't worry Mist, you got us."

"Yeah, don't ever think you're alone!" Lara said angrily. "We're friends, right? Also we look a bit similar too, no? Maybe I'm of your tribe?!"

"Lara you're an Anima..." Luck facepalmed. "But yeah, Mist, don't lose hope."

"Thank you guys..." Mist sighed. "I'm glad to have all of you with me! I really love all of you!"

She really cheered up, even telling us she loved us, she was such a cutie pie.

"Alright then, let's go eat. I know you always get happy when you fill your belly." Zack touched Mist's belly and grabbed it a bit.

"Okay but you invite." She giggled, giving him a kiss.

"Sure, anything for you." Zack gave her another hug.

Oh my god they're going to kill me... these two are too wholesome.

We moved to the restaurant of Mist's choice, a place named "Ergreven's Seaside Dishes", it was a huge restaurant whose entire building was made inside a large ship the owner once sailed the seas with, which he converted into this particular place.

The entire restaurant was full of people, it was very popular, we wouldn't had been able to get ourselves some seats if I wasn't the Princess, the owner immediately walked outside the moment the receptionist recognized me, apparently the entire broadcast that the King did made everyone know who I was...

"Princess Sylph! Please, through here! We'll immediately take your order!" Ergreven, a green-haired elf man said, bowing his head and walking back to the kitchen.

"It sure nice to be a princess sometimes, huh?" Celeste teased me. "You get all this godly treatment for free! I'm envious~"

"Right? I wish I was like Sylphy for at least a day!" Celica giggled.

"You girls are exaggerating, with this position comes a bunch of responsibilities too! It's not all just benefits." I said. "Anyways, let's order something good!"

"YEAH!" Everyone cheered.

At the end, because I was feeling generous, I ordered most of the menu. Zack also ordered a few plates for Mist, as he promised he would invite. The plates came rather quickly, a variety of delicious seafood endemic of the capital.

Enormous grilled squids covered on green and red sauce, balls made of batter and octopus tentacles, covered on a black colored, sweet, and savory sauce, small fishes on sticks, covered on crunchy breadcrumbs and deep fried, shrimps done the same way, huge grilled fishes, fried potato slices covered on melted cheese and oregano, piping hot sea bounty stew, with huge clams, and more!

And it was all so delicious! We started eating like we've never eaten for a whole year, devouring every dish we grabbed, the flavors were so good and the food was so fresh too! Usually you'll eat fish after several hours of being caught and killed back in Agartha, but in here it was clear they were very fresh, probably killed right before being cooked.

I remember seeing several barrels and huge wooden boxes with sea water and living fish inside, so they got the freshest food out there... Living in here and eating this every day would be a bliss.

"Nom, nom, nom! Oh, this lobster so nice! And the shell is crunchy and tasty." Mist was devouring a huge lobster grilled with tons of butter and garlic on her own, drinking a cold tea with lemon and orange juice right after. "Phew... so good!"

"It really is!" Zack was eating a whole shark on his own, which was grilled completely and cut down into big chunks. The head looked a bit gross, but the meat was very soft and had a unique flavor compared to other fish.

"I love these octopus balls, and the fried shrimps are so crunchy!" Aquarina was having the time of her life.

"And that's not without talking about these!" Lara said, eating the sea bounty stew, and some of the fried potatoes with melted cheese. "These potatoes are so good! Cheese is fine too. I dislike meats but fish and mollusks are fine!"

"Glad you're finally eating some protein for once..." Luck laughed, eating a variety of grilled fishes. "Hmmm, these ones reminds me of how my brother made grilled fish."

"I like the cheesecake, and the apple pie!" Celica was actually eating the desserts...

"Is everything to your liking, young lady?" The chef appeared again, checking on us.

"It is! I would give this a ten out of ten! Five stars!" I said, giving him a thumbs up.

"Oooh!" The chef was incredibly pleased for some reason. "T-Thank you very much!" He lowered his head. "W-Would it be too much of a bother to write that down somewhere? So we can have it in here, it might increase the restaurant's popularity even more..."

"Oh? Sure." I nodded happily.

"Thank you! Thank you!" He was really happy.

I guess even a small recommendation from a princess will do wonders to business.

Chapter 938 Let's Spend Time Together

Having finished our big meal, we walked through the beach while drinking ice cream. The sun was slowly setting, and the beautiful sunset was really something else, and quite romantic.

Aquarina held my hand as she glanced the sunset at my side, while our toes felt the warm sand below our feet, the cold waves of the sea sometimes catching our legs and making us feel slightly refreshed, it was awfully hot today.

The rest of my friends were enjoying it at their own pace, Lara and Luck, and Mist and Zack were kind of like us right now... I guess it was really quite a romantic scene.

"The capital is really beautiful." Said Aquarina. "Though I wonder why it is so close to the port?"

"I've heard that's because this is how the King can protect the entire frontier. After all, the reason why people from other continents were able to enter was because he opened them up." I explained.

"So like gates? And how does he even do that?" Aquarina was interested.

"I don't know the details myself, but I think there might be some huge monoliths or something underwater, and he controls them with his amazing magic power." I explained. "Though... Well, as I said, I'm not too sure how it works."

"Wow..." Aquarina was sure amazed. "I wonder if I could one day protect the country too, I can control water, right? Maybe one day... if I can control the entire seas, I could protect everyone?"

"Hahaha, that's a bit exaggerated, you shouldn't feel forced to protect everyone either." I smiled. "Eventually, people might think your protection is too oppressive, and grow tired of it... It is better to concentrate on a smaller scale, than anything. But I'm sure your powers would be able to protect those you love."

"Hmm!" Aquarina nodded. "You're right... I don't want to use these powers to harm innocents either... I want to protect people. Back then, I really went mad, and I could almost have done something I would always regret. I've been thinking about this..."

"So that was it, huh?" I said. "Don't worry, as long as you learned about it and just don't repeat it in the future, it should be fine. Your mom did well in reprimanding you for that too, but at the same time, I think you're beginning to understand what responsibilities truly are if you have already accepted the fact you're going away for a while..."

"Sylphy..." Aquarina felt surprised by my words. "You might be right... Yeah." She gripped her fists. "Though, still... I'm sorry. What I did was dumb and I kind of ended making you feel embarrassed too, right?"

"Okay, your apologies are accepted." I giggled. "Don't feel so guilty, it's alright. Let's just enjoy the moment, dummy."

"Fine, then I'm going to kiss you all over your face, hehe." Aquarina said, as we sat down over the beach's sand and kissed for a while...

I never get tired of her kisses, each one is a bliss that makes me want to hug her and love her even more, honestly...

There was some other people in the beach too, maybe they recognized who I was too, but I couldn't care less if they saw me making out with my girlfriend.

They can spread all the rumors they want...

"I know there are still a few months left before departing but... I'm going to miss your lips." She said, smiling at me coquettishly.

"Me too." I caressed her face.

"Let's make sure we kiss a lot before we depart! I'm going to give you two years' worth of them!" She said, kissing my neck and rubbing her nose on my nape. "Mooch, mooch~"

"Hehehe, that tickles~" I couldn't help but giggle at her teasing.

We played around the beach for a while, we ended even bathing on the sea a bit, but it was already night, we walked back to the castle where we took a bath and had a big dinner with my family again.

Mom said we could stay for a whole week here, but that she had to go back home tomorrow because she had to maintain everything... We ended accepting that offer, because not only I wanted to enjoy this time with my friends, but I wanted to make memories with Aquarina we'll never forget.

"Alright then, make sure to behave with your grandfather and the rest of your family too." My mother said. "Allan, you can stay with them if you want to."

"I can? Ah, well, sure honey. Though I'll miss you..." Dad said.

"It's fine, you can go with mom too." I smiled. "We'll be fine, don't worry."

"You too mom, dad!" Aquarina said. "Just go back home if you want!"

"R-Really? Is it okay?" Her father, Shade, wondered, a bit worried to leave his daughter behind.

"It's fine, let the girl have her week with her girlfriend." Nepheline smiled. "I bet they want to make a lot of memories!"

"Yeah!" Aquarina said. "Don't worry about it daddy!"

"Hmm... Fine." Shade sighed. "But make sure to behave too. Especially because this is not your family, so you can't act cocky nor spoiled. Be respectful with everyone here as well."

"Yeah, you'll have to promise us that at least." Nepheline nodded.

"Sure, I'll behave and be a very good young noble lady!" Aquarina said.

"Fufu, so cute." Grandma giggled. "Don't worry you two, we'll take good care of little Aquarina. I'm so happy?she and Sylphy are girlfriends too, I wonder if they'll get married in the future? Ahh, so cute! Imagining the two girls grown up in bride clothes... Let's make sure to have a big party, honey."

"Hmm, we'll sure make something big." The King said with an expressionless face.

They were surprisingly open-minded about our relationship, but I guess it is because of the King's younger brother that they have grown to accept same sex relationships quite quickly...

"Aren't they two cuties when together?" Arafunn giggled. "Make sure to build many beautiful memories, Sylphy, Aquarina. I'll be cheering for you two!"

"Thank you uncle!" I smiled.

Chapter 939 Grandparents That Like To Spoil Their Grandkids

We spent the rest of the week visiting many places, building up memories together as friends and also with my Aquarina, and also, we gathered and found materials. I visited the port almost every day because there was always a new ship arriving and bringing new products.

I've been gathering materials one after another of anything that could be useful for my familiars evolutions, but even after a week, I haven't been able to get everything I wanted. I managed to get a Mimic Tongue, some entrails, a star-nosed mole eyes and nose, and its claws, and also the stinger of a demonic wasp, and its venom.

Sadly, the other materials I needed were nowhere to be seen, so everything was still incomplete... I can maintain the materials indefinitely inside the Inventory, so that's alright for now, but I feel slightly disappointed in that regard...

Oh well, I couldn't have hoped to get as many materials as I got this week though, so that by itself is a big win, in my opinion.

I'll have to find other ways to get the other materials I need... Moving to the Demon Continent is really in my last to-do list right now, so I've gotta just keep looking for merchants coming from there.

But aside from that not-so-important stuff, I spent a really nice week with my friends, especially Aquarina. We tried out a bunch of restaurants, explored the beach and even swam through its beautiful and colorful coral reefs, where I gathered new species for my dungeon, and we also went to the amusement park, the history museum, and the monster zoo, where they had many interesting monsters tamed, to show to the masses for amusement.

Thankfully, Aquarina got herself all the ingredients she needed to quick start her new Physique improvements, but she'll use them much later once she gets there, so for now she'll just save them.

Although I thought I could not get what I wanted easily, the King suddenly accepted a request I had asked him out of just pure spoiled cockiness.

"Oh, so you need these materials for your familiars evolutions?" He wondered, reading the paper with the list. "I see, I'll do what I can to find them. I've got my connections. I'll contact you through your mother whenever I find something."

"Ehh? R-Really?" I was honestly shocked of how easy it was to request this to my grandfather! "T-Thank you so much, grandpa!"

I couldn't help but hug his belly, he was way too tall to hug him properly though.

"Ah... Well, it is nothing much, really." He said with a serious tone of voice, although he couldn't hide he felt slightly embarrassed. "Have a nice trip back home. You can come meet us whenever you feel like it."

"Yeah dear, please come back any time you want!" Grandma said, kissing my cheeks. "We'll always be here waiting for you! Your grandparents love you!"

"Will do!" I said happily, as I walked inside the airship. "Bye-bye!" I waved my hand, as the airship's gate slowly closed.

I saw my grandparents slowly become smaller and smaller as the airship flew into the skies, until I couldn't see them any longer...

Through this week they had acted like my parents, I've grown slightly more fond of them, to the point I feel slightly sad to go away from them now.

But well, I'll go back to mom and dad, which I also miss a lot, so I guess it's alright...

Though, I'll make sure to come back later, coming to visit them once every two months wouldn't be so bad, right?

Once inside the airship, I walked back with my friends, as we sat down in the many seats. There weren't many people with us, after all not many went to Agartha.

"What did you give your grandpa?" Wondered Aquarina.

"Oh, it was the list of materials I was missing, he surprisingly accepted looking for them!" I was amazed.

"Wait, really?" Aquarina asked. "Damn, you're so spoiled! I can't believe it." She started laughing.

"Your grandpa might seem all serious but he sure loves you." Zack laughed. "Through the entire week he never changed his face expression, he was honestly a bit scary..."

"I-I agree..." Mist nodded.

"Well, despite appearances, grandpa seems to be rather kindhearted. He just... likes intimidating people sometimes, us included?" I wondered, still trying to figure out grandpa's true deal.

"He sure loves intimidating!" Lara said. "But the spirits are always fond of him, he's always surrounded by many of them, though nobody can notice, not even him..."

"So not even the King can see all the spirits you can?" I wondered. "Lara, you're sure amazing..."

"Don't say that or she'll get all cocky again!" Luck warned me.

"Hahaha! Maybe!" Lara got immediately cocky.

"Too late..." Luck looked into the window next to him, sighing.

"Guh, I couldn't find any clues about the Jaw Demon Tribe though." Mist said, feeling slightly sad again. "Where are all of them? I wonder if mom... was really the last?"

"It's too early to say that." Celeste said. "One day we'll go to the Demon Continent and look for them ourselves, okay? Will that make you stop crying so much, baby Mist?"

"I-I'm not a baby!" Mist said angrily, quickly cleaning her tears. "And fine, you better keep your promise, big sis!"

"Hahaha, sure, sure~" Celeste laughed a bit at Mist's energetic demeanor. "Big sis will do it for you."

"I miss mommy though, I wanna get back home asap!" Celica said.

"I also miss Ninhursag..." Zack said. "Don't you miss Mary, Mist?"

"A-Ah, I do... She's like my mom too." Mist smiled a bit. "Ah! I never thought about asking her! Maybe she knows about the Jaw Tribe?"

"We could try asking her then." I nodded. "Mary and Lucia could know one thing or two. Lucia can talk now after she was healed, so I'm sure she got things to say."

"Yeah, yeah!" Mist said. "Uwah, I'm so dumb, maybe they even meet my mom!" Mist was really excited.

I really hope we can find some clues, so she can be a bit happier.

Chapter 940 Alice Is Quite The Glutton

Once the airship arrived back home, we were greeted by our families at the airport, mom and dad, Aquarina's parents, Ninhursag, Lara's uncle, Celica's mother, and Mary came to see us.

"Welcome back you guys!" Laughed my father. "Oh, Sylphy!"

"Sylphyyyy!" Zephy ran towards me at the same time as my dad.

Both hugged me tightly, as my father lifted me off the ground and gave me a big kiss in my forehead.

"I missed you! How was everything?" He laughed.

"Ugh, daddy I'm already grown up, do you have to keep lifting me like that? It's embarrassing!" I said, feeling like a baby... He laughed it off and gently let me go, as I hugged my little brother. "Did you behave, Zephy?"

"I did! I was a good boy and studied magic and swordsmanship!" He said. "Big sis, let's spar later!"

"Oh?! Sure thing! I like that confidence!" I laughed. "Mom!"

"Hello dear." My mom hugged me and gave me a kiss in my cheek. "How was the week with your grandparents? Did father and mother behaved?"

"Of course they did... you treat them as if they were kids." I said, laughing a bit more.

"It's because sometimes they really behave like ones..." My mom sighed. "Anyways! Let's go back home! There's a huge feast waiting all of you."

On our way back home, I heard Mist talking with Mary.

"Mary, do you know about my mom?" Mist wondered.

"E-Eh? Your mother, dear?" Mary wondered slightly timidly. "I... Well, I do remember a bit about her... It's... this is the first time you ever ask me about her. I thought you didn't really cared..."

"Maybe I didn't before but... lately, as I grow up, I kind of wish I could have meet her..." Mist said. "Can you tell me more about her?"

"S-Sure if you want to... Our encounter was rather brief..." Mary said, looking rather sad. "Are you sure... about this? She... you know that she's no longer alive... I didn't wanted to talk about this because... it might make you sad, and..."

"It's fine... I know mom's no longer here, but I wanna know about her!" Mist said. "So, please?"

"...Okay." Mary nodded, caressing Mist's white hair. "I'll tell you anything I know about your mom, dear, if that would make you happier."

"Thank you!" Mist hugged Mary. "And don't worry, you're like my mom too! I love you as my mom!"

"M-Mist..." Mary smiled faintly. "I love you as my daughter too, dear..." She hugged Mist. "I'll always be there for you, if you ever need to talk about anything, okay?"lights

"Okay!" Mist seemed happier.

Zack smiled in the distance as he walked with Ninhursag, sighing in relief that things went well.

"You seem relieved... Did something happened while I wasn't around?" Ninhursag asked him.

"A-Ah, well... some things." Zack said. "Mist have been looking for clues about Jaw Demons, she got this sudden urge to really want to meet people of her tribe... She asked every single demon we found back in the capital, but nothing. Some didn't even knew there was a tribe named Jaw Demons, and it was their first time seeing one with Mist..."

"I see, so the girl wants to know more about her brethren..." Ninhursag nodded. "It was only natural Mist would begin to wonder these things, just like you once asked me about your parents so much. It was hard, I barely knew about them, so I had to ask Nepheline for almost all their information..."

"Hahaha, you did a good job nonetheless." Zack laughed alongside her. "Thanks for working so hard on something like that, you didn't even needed to do that yet you did."

"I just wanted to make you a bit happy, I know how it feels to lose your parents, your entire family even... Wondering how they were, what they did, how they spent their days..." Ninhursag said. "I lost them when I had already spent many years with them, but even now, I do wonder those things from time to time..."

"I wonder if there's more Skin Changers out there, maybe near the inheritance?" Asked Zack.

"I've gone there multiple times, there's nobody, only abandoned ruins..." Ninhursag said. "But don't worry, it's not like I'm sad about this. I've already accepted these things, and I am just happy to be with everyone else, and with you. I'm very happy that... you think of myself as your mother, Zack. Even though I did such a sloppy job at that..."

"Ninhursag- O-Of course, you're my mom..." Zack nodded. "And I'm really happy that you raised me as your son too... Even after all those encounters that I didn't even knew were you, you always were there for me."

"Yeah, and I'll always be." Ninhursag smiled gently, petting Zack's hair. "Maybe it's because of this that I wanted to share the inheritance with you and Luck... Even if you're not exactly one of my tribe, I see you as one now, and I want their last legacy to live within you."

"Thanks... I'll make sure to treasure it, with my life." Zack nodded.

"You better do." Ninhursag laughed a bit.

Once we made our way back home, I felt somehow really relieved... I didn't knew how much I missed this place. Well, I was also out for over a week when we went to deal with Arachne's army, but still... being back home does gives me an indescribable feeling of calmness and peace that cannot be easily described.

The big manor, the beautiful flower garden surrounding the house, and of course, my small workshop nearby, my things were a bit dusty, but nothing that a few [Clean] Spells cannot clean later.

We moved immediately to the big feast! As much as the food was good back in the Capital, I missed mom's cooking quite a lot. It will always remain in my heart as something delicious and precious.

"You sure seem really happy, hehe." Alice giggled, as she was sitting at my side eating as well.

"Well, it's not like you aren't either!" I laughed. "Look how many mini fruit pies you've eaten already, you're quite the glutton now..."

"Burp... T-That's not it! I'm just replenishing energies!" She got slightly angry.

