

A Journey 581

Chapter 581 Winter Has Its Charm

After the greetings, Atlas said he had something to show Archer before rushing off to get it. When the young man was gone, he turned to Lioran, who was watching them with a nervous smile.

He approached his friend and grabbed him by the ear, causing Nala and Kamari to look on in shock. Archer scolded the lion boy. "Why not tell me he's into men? I wouldn't have come here, you idiot!"

Archer put Lioran in a headlock before terrorizing him, which shocked the other two. Nala walked over to them and chopped the two on the head. "Stop playing around, you two. The Duke is hosting us as his guests. Show some respect."

After her scolding, a happy laugh was heard from behind them. Archer turned to see the Duke laughing.

This confused Nala, who looked at the man for answers, which she soon got. "Well, princess. To see the infamous white dragon messing around with the prince is refreshing. I thought he would be hot-headed and cocky, but he seems like a normal person."

Nala smiled and then started laughing, which lasted a couple of minutes. She soon calmed down and spoke. "Yeah, he's not like the stories."

The Duke nodded, summoning a maid to fetch some tea as they anticipated Atlas's return. Archer sampled the tea and found its flavor delightful, with a sweetness that he enjoyed.

They all started chatting about Archer's relationship with Nala, which pleased the Duke, who was happy that the kingdom had such an ally and wasn't bothered about his son's engagement because he knew the boy was different.

After some time, Atlas reappeared, clutching a map as he settled beside the Duke. He spread it out on the table between them before speaking, "I've heard that the College of Magic is arranging an expedition to the Unknown Continent. But that's not the only place that's lost to time. There are numerous uncharted regions out there, Archer, and while I can't embark on the journey myself, you can! If you agree to share some of the treasures you discover, I'll pinpoint more locations for you to explore."

When hearing this, Archer wondered why Atlas was making this offer. So, he decided to ask, "Why are you asking me? I'm sure the Lionheart Kingdom or even your father could find a group to explore them."

The Duke was the one to answer. "You see, these places are usually dangerous, and many explorers have gone missing after commissioning a quest for it."

Archer looked at the map and saw a large forest to the southeast of the west part of Pluoria, with red crosses circling it. But he shrugged and realized he could use his shadow form to travel through the forest once the tournaments were over.

"Okay, when I finish what I've got going on, I will return to the Lionheart kingdom and start the first treasure hunt," Archer answered after thinking.

Atlas smiled before folding the map and passing it to him alongside a communication device. He stored it in his Item Box before standing up. "I have to return to the empire. My girls are in a cafe with my food. But contact me whenever you want."

Nala and Lioran stood up while he opened a portal before speaking one last time. "It was nice to meet the both of you. It was a pleasant surprise, I must admit."

Archer stepped through the portal to appear near the cafe Ella was waiting out. Lioran looked at him and spoke. "Thank you for not attacking them."

He nodded after the lion boy spoke before commenting. "You're welcome. But I wonder why Atlas wants to be friends."

Lioran explained as they approached the cafe. "Well, since he likes men, they tend not to get too close to him. But I already know you have no interest in men, so it wouldn't feel weird being around him; Atlas is smart and devoted to his lover, a knight in the imperial army, to think about someone else."

When Archer heard this, he looked at the blonde boy who had stopped talking and teased him with a grin. "You hid that from me, you cheeky lion. Next time you do something like that, I'll cut your hair and throw you in the Nightmare Ant Nest for a week."

After teasing the lion, they entered the cafe to see Ella and the others chatting. Sera and Leira greeted him with a kiss, while Llynriel and Halime were too embarrassed as the place was busy.

The cafe's atmosphere was peaceful and smelt of freshly baked food, which caused Archer's stomach to grumble.

Sitting at an empty table full of food, which was his, he started eating like a glutton. Lioran joined him and tried to take something, but his hand got slapped by a slender white tail.

Lioran looked offendedly at him before laughing as Archer shared some cakes with him. As they ate, Ella and the other girls were filled with what happened in the Lionheart Kingdom, which made them laugh.

Sera asked Archer a question after she finished eating. "So you're becoming an explorer now?"

He shook his head while answering. "No. I want to relax until the tournaments start, which shouldn't be long now."lights

Leira laughed before commenting. "Well, that's if trouble doesn't find you. It seems to gravitate toward you, Arch."

Archer agreed with the cat girl. After that, the large group was joined by Llynriel's older brother, Alaric, alongside a few other students. Everyone was getting along with the girls off to one side, speaking while the boys spoke among themselves.

He was hardly talkative when it came to people except his girls. But this didn't stop Alaric from asking him a question. "Are you planning to return to the college?"

"Yes. I want to start tomorrow and attend some of the classes. They were interesting, but some bored me." Archer answered while he ate a donut-like treat.

After eating all the pastries, cakes, and other satisfying treats, Archer finally pushed away his plate. Satisfied, he leaned back in his chair, feeling the fullness settling in.

The aroma of the cafe's freshly baked goods lingered in the air. He glanced around at his girls and the others, all engaged in cheerful conversations.

Sera and Leira were sharing a quiet moment. Llynriel was chatting animatedly with her older brother Alaric, and Halime seemed lost in thought, occasionally stealing glances at the pastries she had yet to finish.

Feeling bloated, Archer decided it was time to settle the bill. He stood up and walked over to the counter, where a friendly waiter wiped the surface. Clearing his throat, Archer spoke up. "How much is the total for everything?"

The waiter glanced at the empty plates on Archer's table, his eyes widening slightly, and replied as he pulled out a small ledger. "Let me calculate that for you."

After a brief moment of calculations, the waiter said, "That will be thirty gold pieces, sir."

Archer nodded, reaching into his Item Box and pulling out the required amount. The waiter accepted the payment, offering a polite smile in return.

Once he paid, he asked Ella and the others. "Are you ready to leave? I want to go on a walk."

The half-elf nodded in agreement as she stood up, followed by the other five girls. Lioran saw this and quickly spoke. "Can we join you?"

"Yes. Hurry up, we're leaving, lion boy." Archer said as he exited the cafe after saying farewell to Cian and the new people he had met.

The city was blanketed in a serene layer of snow, and the buildings and streets transformed into a winter wonderland.

Archer, Ella, Sera, Leira, Llynriel, and Halime stepped out into the chilly air, greeted by the soft crunch of snow underfoot.

The cold breeze nipped at their noses, and the girls wrapped their cloaks around themselves. As they began their walk through the winter-covered city, the world seemed hushed, the usual sounds of the bustling streets muffled by the thick layer of snow.

Mana lamps glow warmly, and icicles glisten like crystal ornaments hanging from the eaves. Lioran flashed a playful grin at Archer. "Looks like winter suits you, Arch. Even the legendary white dragon can't outshine the snow."

Archer smirked, "I'll take that as a compliment, lion boy. Winter has its charm."

As they continued their walk, Archer led them toward a quaint winter market, where stalls offered steaming mugs of hot cocoa, roasted chestnuts, and handmade winter trinkets.

The aroma of spiced treats wafted through the air. He bought the group a round of hot cocoa, and they gathered around a table, sipping the warm, comforting drink.

After drinking, they returned to the domain while Lioran and the two lion girls returned to the college dorms. When Archer returned the rest of the ladies were up and about except Hecate who was at her shop.

Chapter 582 Dragon Orbs

Archer greeted all five girls, who smiled at him. Once that was over and done with, they relaxed until the moon shone overhead.

Frostwinter went into overdrive as it was close to ending and battered the land with more rain and wind. While sitting on a balcony overlooking the domain, Archer watched as the trees swayed and lighting boomed overhead.

Ella and Sia stepped out while carrying three cups of tea. The dragonkin woman spoke with a smile. "Here. Halime made some southern tea that will warm you up."

Archer looked at the two and motioned for them to sit, which they did. He picked up the cup Sia gave him and started drinking it. The liquid was hot, and when it went down his throat, he felt a warm feeling spread out all over his body.

When the half-elf saw his reaction, she smiled before commenting. "She said it can warm up any race."

"No wonder. It's like a fire is lit inside me." Archer replied as he turned his attention to the domain's landscape.

While sitting there, Sia started talking in an annoyed voice. "The emperor has asked me to head to the Mistwood Duchy once the sun rises. There has been an outbreak of beasts overrunning the border villages that need to be dealt with."

Archer affirmed, "Alright. I'll create a Gate to the city, allowing you to meet with your soldiers."

The wind howled, and rain lashed against the balcony as Archer, Ella, and Sia sat comfortably under the shelter Archer created. The cover shook as it deflected the relentless assault of Frostwinter's fury.

The trio sipped the warm southern tea that Halime had prepared earlier. The cups provided a comforting contrast to the harsh weather outside. The occasional lightning illuminated the landscape as they gazed into the stormy night.

Ella spoke, her voice barely audible over the howling wind. "It's incredible how fierce Frostwinter can be. The power of nature on full display."

Sia nodded in agreement, her eyes fixed on the uproar. "True. The Mistwood Duchy is likely facing a similar onslaught right now. The emperor's request couldn't have come at a more problematic time."

Archer leaned against the railing while watching the torrential rain cascading down. "At least we're shielded from this. Makes you appreciate the warmth and security."

They kept watching the storm get stronger. The three felt oddly calm, watching and staying safe on the balcony.

It gave them a great view of the wild weather. The storm seemed like a captivating show in their magical shelter, almost like a beautiful symphony.

As the moon and stars painted the night sky with a soft glow, Ella turned to Archer with a gentle smile before walking back inside the treehouse and telling him she would get something.

Sia watched her walk away and spoke in a caring voice. "Make sure to look after all of them, Archer. They are special girls who deserve to be looked after."

He nodded before responding. "Of course, I will. That includes yourself as well."

When Archer said that, he got a good idea. He closed his eyes and imagined a thousand violet orbs that could be easily broken to summon him in an emergency. With that, though, all the orbs appeared on the balcony.

His actions shocked Sia, who was covered in the glass orbs. Once he finished, he stored them all but one in his Item Box. Archer took the orb and handed it to the confused woman who didn't know what it was.

She looked at him with a puzzled expression before he explained. "I call these Dragon Orbs. If you smash it, I will be summoned to you in need. Plus, I know your love of being kidnapped, so it will be useful."

Sia stored the orb in her storage ring before playfully punching Archer, who started laughing. The older woman got closer and climbed onto his lap, facing him with a seductive grin.

The beautiful woman leaned into his ear and whispered. "Make love to me before I go, my husband. I'm going to miss you."

When Archer heard this, he wouldn't refuse such an offer and pounced on the giggling woman and lifted her dress to show her pink panties. He went wild and ravaged her until Ella reappeared.

The half-elf didn't know things would turn wild while she was getting some blankets, but before she could leave, Archer blocked the door so she couldn't leave. Ella smiled when she heard his voice. "You're joining El. Now come here."

After that, Archer made love to both women, who let out pleasure-filled moans and trembled with delight until they were in a daze. When the two couldn't carry on, they were lying on a large sofa on the balcony.lights

They used Ella's blankets to cover them and kept them completely warm, which helped against the cold air. A Brownie appeared and started a fire in a fireplace Archer created.

The storm outside intensified, and the howling wind created a symphony of chaos. Yet, on the treehouse balcony, Archer lay fast asleep, embraced by the warmth of Ella and Sia. The two women cuddled up to him and were warm.

Despite the raging storm, his shelter held strong, shielding them from the relentless assault of Frostwinter's fury. The trio lay under a comfortable pile of blankets and cushions, the soothing atmosphere of their enchanted haven shifting from the tempest outside.

As Archer was sleeping, he dreamt of a scene that made him happy. He was sitting in a garden while reading when a little girl ran up to him.

She caught his attention with her snow-white hair just past her pointed ears. Her blue dragon eyes shone with love as she spoke. "Papa. Can I read with you, please? Mother is with Pops, who keeps trying to hug me, but his bread tickles me."

When Archer heard her, he nodded, and the girl climbed into his lap. But she couldn't get those blue eyes or little white horns out of his head because they reminded him of Sia's. His eyes widened, but he asked. "What's your mama's name, sweetie?"

The little girl looked at him like he was stupid and answered annoyed. "It's Sia Wyldheart Papa! You're her husband and should know her name!"

Archer shook his head before hugging her, which caught the little dragon girl off guard, but she soon melted into her father's embrace. He then asked in a happy voice. "What's your name sweetie?"

She was going to answer, but the scene changed to one where he watched himself facing two little lion girls with swords and shields getting ready to fight. One of them had white hair and blue eyes, while the other had blonde hair with violet eyes.

'Nala,' Archer thought to himself when he saw them.

The three started fighting, and he could see the older him wasn't trying and letting the girls, who were surprisingly good at their ages, attack. They appeared to be eight years old, a surprising sight for Archer as he observed them.

What shocked him even more was that he looked similar but bulkier than his present self. However, the joy evident in the other Archer's smile indicated a genuine enjoyment of life.

Watching with a grin, Archer observed the tag-team efforts of the two lion girls as they launched attacks at him. The other Archer skillfully blocked their moves, offering advice along the way.

As time passed, the girls found themselves out of breath, but the alternate version of Archer approached them with a warm embrace. Their little tails swayed excitedly behind them, reflecting their happiness at receiving praise from their older counterpart.

After that, the scene changed again, a development that didn't catch him off guard. He found himself in a mountain range engulfed in flames, with a towering volcano not far away.

Glancing around, he spotted another little girl with fluffy orange hair and enchanting violet eyes. He couldn't help but notice the two small white horns and elf ears.

Archer didn't know whose mother this child belonged to, but he wouldn't worry about that now. He watched as the girl smashed some scorching hot rocks with powerful punches. But she continued until she turned to him with a bright smile.

The girl vanished from the spot before appearing before him and spoke in an accent he couldn't place. "Father. How did I do? I listened to what you said and can use more mana in my punches."

He looked at the girl and studied her. Archer could tell she was a dragon-like him, but there was something elvish about her. She was wearing leather armor and a summer dress underneath.

Archer guessed they were somewhere hot by the tan she had. He shook his head and asked in a sweet voice. "Tell me what your name is, princess?"

The girl gave him the same look Sia's daughter did before giggling. She calmed down and answered in a proud tone. "I'm Fyra Wyldheart. Daughter of the most handsome dragon in the world and Embera Duskfire, the greatest fire elf in the Duskfire Empire."

Chapter 583 What-If

Archer was confused because he had never heard of her but guessed that was for the future to figure out. After that, he smiled at Fyra, but before he could speak, the scene changed, and the girl vanished.

Now, he found himself in an unusual-looking living room. Archer surveyed the space, noting a blend of Thrylos and Asian Earth decorations.

As he glanced around, his confusion deepened when two women entered. Both were of Asian. The first, a charming older woman, possessed jet-black straight hair that reached her waist and captivating black eyes.

Her curvy figure, highlighted by a tight summer dress, drew his attention, especially with her massive boobs that were otherworldly.

Archer pondered to himself, his confusion deepening. 'How did I end up with an Asian milf? And why do they appear as though they're from Earth?'

He shook his head and turned his attention to the younger woman, sharing the same jet-black hair as the older lady but styled into a ponytail.

The younger woman's striking brown eyes were beautiful; Archer examined her even more, and while not as curvy as the older woman, she possessed a slender yet alluring figure.

Her modest-sized boobs were perfect for her, and she exuded a mischievous charm that stirred excitement within him.

Archer shook his head as he thought to himself again. 'Is this a dream or a vision?'

"It's a what-if boy. It all depends on the choices you make. Now, continue watching, as it might give you some encouragement. We shall talk after." A man's voice was heard in his mind.

He returned to the what-if scene and wondered how he could make it happen but shrugged. That's when the older woman looked at him, and a bright smile appeared on her beautiful face. "Anata. You've returned. Come eat. I've made breakfast."

The younger woman also beamed before embracing him as she spoke. "You're finally home from the quest, Danna-sama. Have you seen the others?"

Archer returned the hug, but then he heard a pitter-patter of footsteps, and three adorable little girls appeared.

They caught him off guard, prompting him to pull away from the young woman with a surprised expression. The older woman giggled, saying, "Oh, look, Natsumi. He's fallen in love with his angels all over again."

His attention shifted to the three little girls, all bearing his features. Two of them possessed snow-white hair like his own, along with the stunning black eyes inherited from the two women.

They had little white horns on their heads that reminded him of his own. The girl in the middle had black hair and violet dragon eyes like his own. They ran toward him when they saw him with big smiles on their faces, but just like before, the scene suddenly changed.

Archer was now standing in a clearing inside the domain, but it seemed different. There was a small village beyond the trees, which he quickly approached.

He walked for a while until he came across a sizable gathering of similar-looking children engaged in play within a field of flowers. What caught his attention was the realization that they were all girls, causing him to wonder about the boy's whereabouts.

But he shook his head, deciding not to dwell on it, and watched the new scene before him. Archer noticed a girl darting past, her dark brown skin contrasting with her white hair and captivating violet snake eyes.

Adorned in beautiful white snake scales, the sight of her triggered a reminiscent smile as Halime's image briefly flashed in his mind. His attention then turned back to the two women watching over the children.

One of them was indeed Ella, although she seemed older now. She wore a kaftan paired with sandals and sported a wide smile as she chatted with the other woman.

The second woman was adorned with striking sky-blue hair and a voluptuous figure. She wore a dress befitting a queen and seemed older than the half-elf. Archer knew he had never crossed paths with this woman before, attributing it to another what-if scenario.

Archer stopped watching from a distance and opted to approach them. The two women turned around, and when they saw him, two big smiles appeared, and they called him over.

However, before he could draw any nearer, he was engulfed by a swarm of children who rushed excitedly towards him.

Suddenly, the scene underwent an abrupt shift. Archer stood in a white room, confronted by a figure concealed in shadows.lights

Then, the same voice from earlier came from the figure before him. "Tiamat's chosen. I presented you with a glimpse of potential scenarios, but their outcome hinges on your future choices. The Terravians have extinguished countless worlds and demand reckoning, but your current strength is inadequate. It would be best if you to ascend to Demi-god status before reaching the age of twenty-three."

Archer was about to retort, but the voice continued. "The reason I called you here is to give you a heads-up. The attacks will ramp up throughout Thrylos, but the local forces can deal with them. The next two major incursions will happen in four years. Your home, Vassia, will be at the center of one, while the other will happen on Avidia in the Suncrest Empire. Now go white dragon, and annoy someone else."

The being waved his hand, forcing Archer to wake up on the balcony. He opened his eyes to see the shelter he created, blocking the rain from drenching them.

He went to get up but was stopped by something, causing him to remember sleeping out here with Sia and Ella. The two ladies were still fast asleep, so he moved them off him before sitting up.

Archer looked over the domain as he stretched his stiff muscles and saw it covered in a cold fog. He could barely see past the ring of trees that circled the treehouse.

But that's when he noticed a shadow passing swiftly through the mist. The shape resembled a majestic eagle, its wings outstretched, gliding gracefully through the cold air.

To his surprise, not just one but a small flock of these magnificent creatures soared past the treehouse, their wings catching the faint light filtering through the fog.

Amazed by the sight, Archer couldn't help but admire the beauty of the eagle-like beasts. Their feathers shimmered with radiant colors, and their eyes glowed a beautiful blue.

After the display, he decided to step back inside the treehouse. The warmth embraced him as he entered, and the familiar scent of something delicious filled the air.

Following the enticing smell, he found his way to the kitchen area where Halime was busy. The snake girl was engrossed in cooking, a serene focus on her face.

Archer couldn't help but admire her grace as she moved about the kitchen. Her short black hair was tied into a bun, and she was wearing clothes that resembled pajamas on Earth. He could see the fabric clinging to her thick waist.

But he turned his attention to the sizzling sounds of the stove, and the aromatic blend of spices hinted at a delightful culinary creation. Halime turned to face him with a warm smile as he approached.

She held a plate with a dish that looked remarkably like an omelet but had a unique, ethereal quality. The colors of the ingredients seemed to dance, and the aroma was comforting and enticing.

"Husband," she greeted him, her eyes reflecting a deep affection. "I thought you might be hungry. I made something special for you."

She put the plate in front of him, presenting the omelet-like creation. Archer took it, captivated by the tempting appearance and the genuine care in Halime's eyes.

Her soothing voice encouraged him to eat it. "Try it. I added a touch of magic to enhance the flavors. It's a recipe from my homeland."

Taking a bite, Archer discovered a new taste he now loved. The magical infusion elevated the dish to new heights, making it a heavenly experience for his stomach. After eating, his violet gaze turned toward the smiling Halime.

Archer spoke with a charming grin. "Is there any more? Can I have them all, my beautiful snake girl?"

She nodded, retrieving as much as she could carry, which brought a smile to his face. He gestured for Halime to come closer, and as she approached, he pulled her onto his lap and wrapped his arm around her waist.

He spoke as he finished the first omelet. "Have something to eat, Hali. It's delicious."

Halime shook her head before speaking as her brown cheeks got darker. "I've eaten already. I heard you on the balcony with Ella and Sia last night, so I thought I'd cook you something. I assumed you'd be hungry."

Archer's smile widened upon hearing her reply. Setting aside his meal, he gently lifted the girl's chin, turning her face towards his. Without wasting a second, he kissed her delicate lips passionately. She responded in kind, and the two engaged in a profound kiss.

His hands explored her slender form, encountering the exquisite touch of her beautiful black scales. She enjoyed the sensation, and as he touched them, a shiver ran through Halime's entire being.

Chapter 584 The Shadow Prince

Archer stopped kissing the snake girl, who was now blushing. But that didn't stop him from eating the omelets she made him. Halime sat there, watched him eat her breakfast, and was happy he liked it.

After that, she jumped up, kissed him, and cleaned the kitchen just as Ella walked into the treehouse. The half-elf let out an adorable yawn as she approached the table.

Halime gave Ella a plate with three omelets on it. When the half-elf saw this, she smiled before eating. Archer watched this with a curious look but soon realized he had to prepare for the day.

He went to freshen up after the intriguing visions and the sight of the eagle-like creatures gliding through the mist. After a refreshing bath, Archer emerged from the bathroom, a towel slung over his shoulder.

The comforting warmth of the treehouse enveloped him as he made his way to the living room. To his surprise, he found Ella, Halime, and Hemera engaged in conversation in the warm space.

Ella's eyes sparkled with a wisdom that went beyond her apparent age. When the three girls spotted him, they smiled before he asked. "Do any of you ladies want to go on a walk through the city?"

The half-elf and snake girl shook their heads as the half-elf answered. "Hali and I will rest until classes start, but Hemi said she wanted to stretch her legs."

Archer looked at the sun elf, who had a big smile on her pretty face as she stood up and went to grab her cloak. He waited a little until she returned wrapped up to fight the cold.

He extended his arm, and Hemera took it as they bid farewell to Ella and Halime, who smiled at the departing pair. Archer conjured a portal to Starfall City, and together, they stepped through.

Upon arriving on the other side, the snow was still falling, unlike last night's storm. Archer looked around and still saw many people walking the streets. The two of them started walking.

They strolled through the bustling streets of Starfall City, their surroundings alive with the vibrant energy of a city suspended among the clouds. The floating island above which held the imperial palace and all its splendor.

Their first stop was Guild Street, a bustling thoroughfare running through the city's heart. Lined with ornate buildings and colorful banners representing various guilds, it was a hub of activity.

They walked past storefronts and workshops, catching glimpses of artisans practicing their craft and traders haggling over magical artifacts.

Hemera remarked as they walked down the street. "Guild Street is always lively, Each guild has its own unique charm. You can find anything from enchanters crafting magical relics to alchemists concocting potions."

Archer nodded before he stopped paying attention to the surroundings and asked the sun elf a question. "Are you enjoying it up north? Or do you prefer it in Mediterra?"

She looked at him but didn't answer immediately and looked around for a second before dragging him somewhere. Soon, they came to a quiet park on the side of the Eventide River that runs throughout the empire.

The couple sat down, and Hemera looked out at the passing ships and spoke. "I miss home, but being with you and the girls is better. But I enjoy going to the college and all the knowledge it holds."

Archer smiled as he also spoke. "Yeah, the college is good. I find some of the classes boring, but others are good. I want to fight in the tournaments and use that to show the world why they should leave me alone and let me adventure."

Hemera laughed as a large trade ship passed by and sounded a horn as they approached the docks to unload their goods. The sun elf turned to him and asked. "Mata keeps asking about you, Arch. You must see her; she understands you are busy, but make time for her."

When Archer heard that, he nodded with a guilty smile before commenting. "I will do it this week. I honestly keep forgetting as things keep happening around me."

The sun elf giggled, leaning against his shoulder as they watched the ships sail by. Seated together, the couple observed dolphin-like creatures leaping in and out of the water. The sight reminded Archer of how distinct this world was from Earth.

After seeing that, the two continued chatting about books Hemera had found and wanted to show him. That's when she pulled out a black book that called out for Archer, who quickly took it, which shocked Hemera.

However, as she turned her yellow eyes to him, astonishment seized her as a shadowy figure appeared behind Archer. It leaned towards him, making contact before seamlessly melding into his form.

When Archer held the book, a screen popped up in front of him. [The Prince of Shadows has been found. Do you wish to claim your birthright?]lights

He was so confused that Hemera could see and asked in a concerned voice. "What's wrong, darling?"

Archer shook his head before responding. "What is this book, Hemi? It called me the Prince of Shadows?"

Hemera's eyes widened in shock. She quickly explained in a hurried voice. "Well, the book is from the Frostwood Continent and is said to come from a shadow cult's library that was wiped out by the Winterfang imperial family, whom the cult attacked numerous times."

"Why?" He asked in a curious voice.

The elf shrugged as she commented. "I'm not sure, to be honest. This happened hundreds of years ago, but the Brownies brought me this from one of the dragon-kin traders."

Archer acknowledged her with a nod and then resumed reading "The Shadow Prince" before embracing the birthright. The book calmed the prince, who would be granted the power to use the shadows and everything inside them, which spooked him a little bit.

He already used Shadow Shroud and Shadowspawn, so claiming something his system says belongs to him didn't frighten him. Archer accepted it, and suddenly, his world went dark, but all Hemera saw was him feint.

When Archer came to, he was standing in the same little park they were sitting in, but it was black and white. He looked around to see everything was motionless and grew concerned.

"So, you're the Shadow Prince, huh? It's odd, given that it typically selects humans. But who am I to resist the will of the first prince?" The voice of an old man came from behind him.

He turned around to see an old man standing there. Archer shook his head before commenting. "Who is the Shadow Prince?"

The old man laughed, but Archer raised an eyebrow, curiosity etched across his features. "First prince? What are you talking about?"

The old man began to pace around him, his gaze focused on the surroundings. "The Shadow Prince is a title passed down through generations. The shadows of the world choose their bearer, and this bearer wields the power to influence the balance between light and dark, good and evil."

Archer listened intently, absorbing every word. "So, I'm supposed to maintain this balance?"

The old man nodded, his long white beard swaying gently. "Indeed. The shadows and the light, they dance together, intertwined to keep the world in harmony. You, being a being of both light and shadow, have a unique role to play."

"So, guess what? Mana and the world picked me to be the white dragon, and now the shadows want me as their prince. What's the plan here? Am I destined to marry Gaia and the sky goddess and become a flying stone? Maybe I'll throw in juggling fireballs for good measure," ranted Archer.

He paced back and forth in the white and black world he found himself in, waving his arms in exasperation. "I swear, the universe has a personal vendetta against me! First, it makes me a white dragon to get a bunch of light fanatics chasing after me since I was thirteen, then shadows, and now what? Is it planning to make me the Demon King? Am I destined to engage in epic battles with heroes? What's next, a cape fitting session?"

He threw his hands up in frustration as the old man watched amusedly. "I mean, come on! I'm just a guy who wants a quiet life. I didn't sign up for this mayhem. There are no 'Adventurer Wanted' signs on my front door!"

As he ranted, he dramatically mimicked a sword fight. "Picture this: Archer, the reluctant White Dragon Demon King, fighting off a hero with a ladle. Because apparently, my destiny is to wield kitchen utensils in epic battles."

The old man raised an eyebrow. "Well, at least you'd be the most unexpected Demon King in history."

Archer sighed, "Yeah, great. That's just what I needed – a twist in the prophecy. Can't a dragon catch a break?"

"No. People like you only come along once in a planet's life cycle. You see Archer Wyldheart, or would you prefer Bennet? I can see you had a good life on Earth, and even if you complain about your life here, you're enjoying it very much." The old man said as he motioned for the bench.

Chapter 585 Peek At Us In The Bath

When Archer heard that, he was shocked, but the old man started laughing when he saw the expression on his face. "Don't worry, no one knows about your old life."

He sighed in relief when hearing that before the old man continued. "Now, you won't be able to use most of these powers until you reach the Rank of Demi-God. It will allow you to use shadows to your liking."

"Well, I do that already now. So what does it add to my current powers?" Archer asked with a curious voice.

The old man smiled before explaining. "Well, fate has definitely chosen you, boy. You found two of the original prince's spells like regular magic. Are you in possession of the spellbooks for them?"

Archer nodded as the man spoke. "Make sure no one gets their hands on them. Where did you get them anyway?"

"I actually found them in a random bookshop. When I came across them, I felt a strong desire to learn more," he replied, settling onto a nearby bench.

The old man stood up and walked to the river. "You're meant to be the next Shadow Prince in the upcoming war. The previous prince gave you his title and powers, and I think he knew you were coming and kept it a secret until now. As the second prince, I see you as the rightful heir, ready to become the third and hopefully final."

When Archer heard this, something popped into his mind, causing him to ask. "Who are you?"

The old man turned to face him but now was made up of shadow with glowing white eyes and spoke. "I am the second Shadow Prince Umbra. No one will remember me as my time was a millennia ago, but certain groups know of our existence and will try to stop you, but I know what you like and will deal with them properly."

He sighed, but suddenly, Umbra appeared in front of him and put his shadowy on his chest. Archer tried to step back but felt something enter his body just after that. He stepped back and spoke. "No, go forth and show the enemy what the Shadow Princes can do."

Everything went dark, and he found himself back on the bench with Hemera shaking him. As he opened his eyes, she recoiled in shock. Archer was taken aback and quickly asked, "What's wrong?"

"Look at your face, Archer! What happened to you?" The sun elf exclaimed.

With that, he used Mana Manipulation to create a mirror to see what Hemera was shocked about, and when he saw himself, he was stumped.

Archer's eyes were pitch-black, and his hair was jet-black, giving him the appearance of a more sinister version of himself.

He admired his transformed reflection in the mirror, prompting Hemera to giggle, but Archer sensed his aura was slightly different and more imposing, which made him happy.

However, the memory of what Umbra had done hit him, leading him to decide to check his status.

[HP: 28120>29500]

[Mana: 659690>665000]

[Strength: 26900>27500]

[Constitution: 25300>26000]

[Stamina: 26000>27000]

[Charisma: 20100>21500]

[Intelligence: 26050>27500]

[New Magic Learned – Shadow]

[New Skill Learned - Shadow Prince]

[Dragon's Domain: 6>7]

[Shadowspawn: 2>5]

[Draconic Synergy: 2>5]

Confusion briefly crossed his face when he saw his new status, but he quickly accepted it without dwelling much on it. His stats had slightly increased, and some of his spells and skills had leveled up.

Archer shook his head and turned to Hemera, who was still freaked out. However, she soon noticed something and voiced her concern. "Where did that black book go? Tell me, Arch!"

He smiled before explaining. "You're not going to believe it, but that book was from someone named the first Shadow Prince."lights

"Shadow Prince? Who's that?" Hemera asked with a curious voice once she sat down to listen.

Archer shrugged as he answered. "I don't know. The second prince, Umbra, didn't say much, except that I'd get into more trouble, which wasn't new for me. But the first prince chose me to inherit his powers."

Hemera's eyes widened, but he continued. "Now I'm the third Shadow Prince. I don't know who or what it is. Do you want to see my new form?"

The sun elf nodded with an excited expression. Archer stood up with a grin and activated his Shadow Prince skill.

He closed his eyes, focusing on the surge of energy within him. His body trembled as the shadows around him began to dance, responding to the call of the ancient power he was using.

A low growl emanated from deep within as the transformation took hold. Suddenly, shadows converged around him, spiraling upward like a dark tornado. His form became engulfed in an otherworldly darkness, obscuring him from view.

A spectral shape emerged from the shadows, growing taller and more imposing with each passing second. A newer version of Archer's shadow form was revealed as the shadows dissipated.

He stood at an astonishing ten feet tall, towering over Hemera, who looked at him with fascination. Archer's eyes were glowing with an intense violet light, radiating an aura of raw power.

The morning light reflected off his shadowy form, giving him an otherworldly, majestic appearance. Archer's razor-sharp teeth glistened, highlighted by a vivid violet glow from his mouth.

Each tooth seemed to carry the essence of shadows, ready to consume the darkness around him. The sheer presence of the transformed Archer sent shivers through trees that acknowledged the formidable force now standing in its midst.

With a swift, fluid movement, Archer tested the newfound strength of his limbs. As he moved, the ground trembled beneath each step, and the air seemed to ripple with his power.

The violet glow intensified, casting eerie shadows that danced across the area around them. When Hemera saw this, she smiled before standing up and approaching him. Archer watched this with a grin and spoke in a deep and ominous voice. "Do you like my beautiful elf?"

Hemera smiled before nodding her head as she poked his form that stood over her. He looked down as her finger entered his shadows. Archer felt it and chuckled before picking her up.

Hemera yelped as he did that, but she felt comfortable as Archer held her. But soon after that, he offered something he knew the elf would love. "Do you want to travel to the college through the shadows?"

With that, she excitedly agreed as they melded into the shadows and people started entering the area.

The world around them shifted as Archer navigated the hidden corridors of darkness with the grace of a phantom, and Hemera, nestled in his arms, looked around with wide-eyed wonder.

They moved through the shadows, unnoticed by the oblivious people who traversed the well-lit streets. Archer seamlessly transitioned from one shadow to another, his movements a dance with the darkness.

He easily traveled through Starfall City as Archer saw people shopping or working. But that's when he saw two strange-

looking men talking to people. Archer listens in and finds out they are church assassins.

With a sigh, he spoke to Hemera, who was still looking around. "There are church assassins here. Only two, but watch what I can do. So hold on, my princess."

Hemera nodded as he approached the two men and dragged them into their shadows with his creepy claws. When this happened, the shopkeeper is scared and rushes into the back, which causes Archer to laugh before dealing with the assassins.

Approaching the road that led to the college, he emerged from the shadows with Hemera still cradled in his arms. When he did that, he scared a merchant caravan as the guards and adventurers rushed to defend the people behind them.

Archer saw this and let out a creepy smile that showed all his teeth before vanishing into another shadow. Hemera wondered what he was doing and asked in a suspicious voice. "What are you planning?"

Archer chuckled before speaking. "Well, I want to scare the girls, and I can sense some of them in the college garden waiting for us."

The sun elf grinned as she giggled. When Hemera calmed down, she commented in a teasing voice. "You're a naughty dragon. They will never see you coming."

After speaking, the two traveled toward the college and saw students stepping through the entrance, but Archer passed by as he used their shadows.

Soon, they saw all the girls apart from Hecate and Sia, who had already left to complete her orders. The group sat on a few benches in a small, secluded garden as the sun beamed.

Archer managed to get close to them without anyone knowing. He moved to Nefertiti's shadow and started admiring her thick thighs and fat ass, but Hemera grinned before teasing him. "You're going to love this, aren't you? Bet you're going to peek at us in the bath."

"Now that you mention it, that's a brilliant idea, Hemi," he remarked before kissing the elf's forehead as he turned his attention back to the group.

Chapter 586 You Haven't Made Love To Him Yet

However, Talila soon said, "I can sense our husband nearby. I can't see him, though."

The others all started looking around, which shocked Archer, who thought they wouldn't be able to feel him, but then Halime commented in a confused voice. "I can't sense anything. How come you lot can?"

Before anyone could reply, Llynriel whispered as she played with her beautiful brown hair. "I can't sense him either."

When the two girls finished talking, they looked upset, but Ella quickly figured it out. "It's because of our dragon tattoos. We all are connected because of them, but now we know why you two can't feel anything. It's because you haven't made love to him yet."

After the half-elf concluded her remarks, Halime hesitated before opening up. "I told him I was ready. Will he be forceful? My mothers warned me it can be painful."

Teuila turned to her with a smile before answering. "Yes, it hurts because of his size, but he casts healing magic on us, so we don't feel it for long, but Archer is very caring. He doesn't force us into anything and enjoys it when we take control."

All the girls nodded except Llynriel and Halime. After chatting for a bit longer, Sera turned toward the wood elf and asked in a teasing voice. "When are you making love with your husband, Llyn?"

Llyniel shook her head before speaking in a quiet voice. "I want to wait until we're married. It's a tradition in our kingdom."

Sera's eyes opened as she smiled. But it was Nala who spoke up. "Archie will understand. He doesn't pressure us. Look at me; I jumped him and wanted to make love. I was aching for days after, but I loved it."

Afterward, the girls conversed about Archer, highlighting his playful and cheeky nature, qualities they genuinely admired. Hearing Nala's honest remarks, laughter erupted among them, knowing well the sensations of intimacy with Archer that often left them sore.

However, as they discussed Archer, a creepy feeling was heard, and suddenly, a pitch-black being appeared in the middle of them.

As the girls stared in shock at the ten-foot-tall shadowy figure with piercing violet eyes and a strange glow emanating from its mouth, an instinctive fear gripped them. They watched the being, their expressions a mix of apprehension and curiosity.

Abruptly, the towering silhouette made a foreboding, unexpected shift, prompting the girls to jump in unison, bracing themselves for the worst. Without hesitation, Teula, Talila, and Nala swiftly readied their weapons, preparing for a fight.

Ella swiftly armed herself with a bow while Sera conjured her claws, the group assuming defensive stances in the face of the mysterious movement.

But to their surprise, the shadowy presence began to transform, its edges softening and features becoming more defined. A radiant smile slowly materialized within the silhouette.

As the transformation continued, the shadowy figure revealed itself as Archer, his familiar and comforting presence emerging from the once-intimidating darkness. The violet glow receded, replaced by their husband's warm and familiar features.

His eyes sparkled with mischief, and a playful grin illuminated his face. They all saw Hemera in his arms while laughing. Relief washed over the group as they realized it was him. The girls exchanged glances, their initial fear giving way to laughter and smiles.

Archer lowered Hemera to the ground, who burst into laughter before speaking, "You should have seen your faces."

Teuila huffed at Hemera and remarked, "Don't laugh, you cheeky elf! How do you expect us to react when our husband suddenly appears looking like that?"

They all started laughing, but suddenly, the headmistress appeared in the garden they were hanging around in and eyed Archer with narrowed eyes before commenting. "What was that ominous feeling that washed over the college?"

Approaching Ophelia with a smile, Archer greeted her, "Headmistress, you look beautiful this morning."

She eyed him skeptically, emitting a huff before questioning, "Tell me what you did?"

"I'll spill the beans if you agree to let me take you on a date," Archer replied, producing eye rolls from the girls behind him.

Nefertiti commented in a jealous tone. "You lewd dragon! Why are you trying to woo the headmistress?"

Archer turned to the pink-haired girl with a grin. "Because she will become mine one day."

Ophelia listened to his words and got annoyed, but he asked. "Have you heard of the Shadow Prince?"

When the witch heard this, her eyes widened before speaking. "Yes. But it's an old legend that has died out. Why do you ask?"

"Because I've become the third Shadow Prince, and that's what you felt," Archer told her, which shocked the headmistress.

The girls were listening in and grew curious. Teuila asked while the others just looked at him with amazement. "How is that possible? You're a white dragon?"lights

Archer nodded proudly, "I'm a mana dragon, Teu. I can use all the mana I want while learning any spell or magic."

The quick-witted blue-haired Aquarian declared, "Don't you start calling me that! It's bad enough she does it."

She accusingly pointed at the giggling Sera, who couldn't resist teasing, "Teu, don't get so stressed. It's only a nickname."

Teuila turned to her with mock exasperation, "I don't want a nickname. Stop it, you cheeky dragon."

Watching the peculiar exchange, Ophelia couldn't help but comment before leaving, "Do you mind meeting me at my office once classes are finished?"

He replied with a grin, "Of course. I'll be there after college."

Acknowledging him with a nod, the witch vanished from the garden they were chilling in. After ten minutes, the bell went off, alerting everyone to the start of classes.

A lively atmosphere filled the air as they proceeded to class, vibrant chatter echoing around them. Ella, perpetually curious, couldn't resist probing Archer about his schedule.

"Hey, Arch, what class do you have next?" she inquired, her eyes sparkling with curiosity.

He paused momentarily while remembering his class before a mischievous smile crossed his face. "Questing and Adventure with Teuila, Talila, and Nala," he replied, emphasizing each name with a playful tone.

When hearing their names, they exchanged amused glances and shared smiles. After hearing that, the half-elf grinned and posed another question. "When are we going to start the dates again? If I remember correctly, it was Llynriel's and Hemera's turn."

"Oh yeah, I remember now. It was Halime and Talila - Sera and Teuila - Sia and Leira. I'll start taking you girls out after I meet with Ophelia," Archer replied.

They all smiled before stepping into the college, and when they did, they spotted Lioran and Cian walking past. The two stopped and greeted them. "Ah, Arch! There you are. We have Questing and Adventure now. Are you attending?"

He nodded at the lion boy, and that's when Cian spoke. "Do you think you'll clear the quests today?"

Archer shrugged. "Yeah. It shouldn't be a problem."

Cian nodded before Nalika, Leonora, and Cassie appeared with smiles. The large group walked down the main halls. Once some girls reached their classes, they spilt off after kissing Archer.

After saying farewell to most of them, they entered the Questing and Adventure class. The sight of the mostly filled classroom greeted them as they found their seats.

All eyes in the classroom shifted toward Archer and the girls as they entered. Archer proceeded to his desk, greeted by welcoming nods and hellos from fellow students.

Teuila, Talila, and Nala took their seats beside him, wearing smiles that echoed the camaraderie of the close-knit group. Samara stood at the front of the class as the girls settled in while explaining something.

She turned around at the sound of the door. A bright smile crossed her face as her eyes met Archer's. She raised her hand in a casual greeting and beckoned him over.

"Hey, Archer! Glad you could make it. It's been a while since I've seen you." Samara called out, her friendly demeanor evident.

He smiled at the woman before she turned her attention back to the class and began to announce. "I've managed to swing a few free periods for us. That means we have extra time to devote to your quests and adventures. You can use it for planning, preparation, or even diving straight into the action."

A ripple of excitement passed through the students as they absorbed the news. Samara's initiative was met with approving nods and murmurs of appreciation.

"So, let's make the most of it!" Samara concluded with enthusiasm, energizing the class for the upcoming opportunities.

Amidst the lively atmosphere, Archer caught the eyes of Teuila, Talila, and Nala. He nodded at the trio with a knowing smile, silently acknowledging their shared understanding.

However, his attention shifted as he noticed Zarina sitting alone with a moody expression. He walked over to the girl who looked at him with neutral eyes. He gave her a charming smile before speaking. "Hello, Zarina. How have you been?"

The redhead answered with a fed up voice. "I've been good. We going to complete the quests today?"

Chapter 587 Certainly Not From You

?Archer smiled before answering. "Yes. We will complete them all today."

Zarina looked at him and nodded in acknowledgment before standing up and following him back to the three waiting girls.

When they saw the redhead, they greeted her with smiles as Nala spoke inquisitively as she approached Zarina. "Why do you look so moody, girl? Do you need cheering up?"

"No. Certainly not from you." The moody girl replied.

Nala was annoyed and about to say something, but Archer whispered into her fluffy lion ear. "She's lonely, and no one speaks to her. Give her some breathing space, my lioness."

She nodded before turning to talk to the other two. Archer led them out of the room after telling Samara they would complete the quests. The older woman was happy with their enthusiasm.

After that, the four left the college and decided to travel from the road outside. When they arrived, Teuila was the first to talk. "So what's the first quest?"

Archer thought for a second and remembered the five last quests. There was the one north of Starfall, where they had to hunt down the Swamp Drake terrorizing the people.

Once deciding on the quest, he spoke to the girls. "We'll deal with the Swamp Drakes, then investigate the Bugbear ambush near the Shadowleaf Forest in the south."

All three agreed while he transformed into his dragon form and lowered a wing so they could climb up. Zarina was hesitant, but Nala grabbed her arm and pulled her onto him.

Once everyone was settled, Archer started to flap his wings before taking off. The group started their journey north to Riverwatch Town and ended the Swamp Drakes.

After flying for a while, Archer spotted a town on the horizon. He descended to the ground and landed with a thud before returning to his humanoid form after the three girls jumped off him.

They were a mile away from the town and started walking toward it as the sun hung low in the sky, casting a warm golden tint over the vast farms and grasslands that stretched out on either side of the road.

Archer led the four girls toward the town as they enjoyed the tranquility of the countryside. The air was filled with the sweet fragrance of blooming flowers and the distant sounds of birds chirping.

As they strolled along the road, they noticed the rhythmic clip-clop of hooves and wooden wheels creaking. Turning a bend, the group saw a line of merchant caravans traveling toward them.

Colorful banners fluttered in the breeze, and the merchants shouted greetings to one another as they moved their goods to market.

The caravans were transporting various wares and commodities. Barrels of ale, crates of fruits, and bundles of cloth were neatly organized on the wagons.

With weathered faces and cheerful expressions, the merchants engaged in friendly banter as they walked alongside their caravans.

Archer grinned at the sight, appreciating the bustling activity. "Looks like the traders are heading to the market. Always a good sign for the local economy."

As the group continued along the road, the landscape transitioned from open fields to clusters of farms. The gentle hum of life surrounded them, with farmers tending to their crops and children playing in the meadows.

Archer gestured towards the fields. "My kingdom will be just like this but even better."

Teuila, Talila, and Nala smiled as they bobbed their heads while Zarina had a confused look on her face before asking. "Kingdom?"

"The Draconia Kingdom to the East. It's a large island that's isolated from the outside world. I've let the dragon-kin live there instead of my domain." Archer answered the redhead.

Zarina nodded before returning to the road, and soon, the four were standing in front of Riverwatch. Nala asked in a curious voice. "Are we entering the town?"

Archer shook his head in response. He commented while looking around. "I'll summon the Tressyms and get them to search for the Swamp Drakes. After that, you three can fight them while I keep an eye out."

His three girls smiled while Zarina just looked at him. Archer shrugged as he opened a portal. The fluffy flying cats appeared and started rubbing up against them.

The redheaded, moody girl saw this and allowed a few of them to approach her. A grey Tressym started showing affection, which caused her to smile for a second.

She thought no one saw, but Archer did. He approached the distracted girl and whispered into her ear seductively. "Your smile is beautiful, Zari. You should show it more."

Zarina jumped back and scolded him. "Don't sneak up on a girl like that! And don't call me that! You pervert."

She moved away from him and stood near a laughing Nala, who witnessed it and commented. "You're are a playboy, Archie! You're a magnet for girls."

Archer grinned at her before ordering the cats to search for the Swamp Drakes. They agreed and flew off while he walked over to a nearby lake and created a seat using Mana Manipulation.

He created four more and grinned while gesturing for the girls to take a seat. Teuila was the first to sit and look at the Lake, which was peaceful, but she spoke as the others sat down. "Something's in the water. I can feel its anger."

Archer got a confused expression and used Aura Detector to scan the Lake when doing that, no signals came back, causing him to respond to Teuila. "I can't sense anything."

She laughed before explaining. "Lake, river, or sea beasts have all kinds of powers. Some are perfect at hiding and can't be sensed."

When he heard this, he got an idea. Archer grinned as he closed his eyes to send out mana waves that spread like a tsunami. As he did that, he started seeing Komodo dragon-looking beasts.

Archer was confused and didn't know what to think. So he scanned it.

[Flesh Eater]

[Rank: F]

After reading the monster's status, he instantly cast Element Bolts made from thunder. Crackling with electric power, the Element Bolts formed around him, ready to be unleashed.

"Get ready, girls," Archer called out to the four, and Zarina focused their attention on the Lake, anticipation gleaming in their eyes.

Archer released the charged bolts into the water. The Element Bolts streaked across the surface like violet lightning, targeting the concealed Komodas with shocking accuracy.

Upon contact, the bolts exploded in dazzling displays of electricity, sending ripples across the once-calm lake. The water churned as the Elemental Bolts penetrated the depths.

Electric currents surged through the beasts, momentarily stunning them and disrupting their predatory instincts. But Archer didn't give them a chance to attack, so he acted first.

After that, he turned to the four girls looking at him with the same expression, except for Zarina, who looked tired due to supporting everyone.

"I'll deal with these beasts," Archer smiled.

All four girls agreed with a step back before casting his spell. The mana erupted with blinding brilliance, transforming the once-calm lake into a storm of electrified chaos.

A roar accompanied the power surge, echoing through the surrounding landscape. The shockwave rippled across the water, sending waves crashing against the shores.

The Flesh Eater Komodas, caught in the explosion's heart, thrashed and convulsed as the overwhelming energy coursed through their monstrous forms.

The explosion subsided, leaving behind a transformed scene. Once a serene body of water, the Lake now crackled with residual energy.

Smoldering remnants of the Flesh Eater Komodas floated to the surface, their threat extinguished in the wake of Archer's powerful display.

As the electric charge in the air gradually dissipated, Archer stood amidst the aftermath, his breathing steady.

The girls and Zarina cautiously approached, their expressions mixed with amazement and gratitude. The Tressyms circled overhead, their feline forms undisturbed by the earlier spectacle.

Archer offered a confident smile, his eyes reflecting the residual glow of the elemental surge. "That should take care of the Flesh Eaters. Let's proceed with caution, though. There might be more danger ahead."

As the group continued their adventure, Archer killed many beasts until they arrived at the Tressym's point.

The forest embraced the group as they ventured deeper into its heart, shadows dancing on the path beneath the dense canopy of towering trees.

The air was thick with the scent of moss and earth, and the occasional rustle of leaves echoed through the tranquil ambiance.

Archer, leading the way with confidence, navigated through the labyrinthine trails. The girls followed closely, their footsteps muffled by the carpet of fallen leaves beneath their boots.

The sunlight filtered through the leaves above, casting a dappled pattern on the forest floor.

As they ventured further, the sounds of the forest transformed. The distant croaking of unseen creatures replaced Beast roars and whispers of the wind.

Teuila, ever watchful, spoke up. "Archer, I sense a change in the atmosphere. We might be nearing a swampy region."

He nodded before looking around them and realizing they were approaching the swamp.

Chapter 588 Dungeon

Archer and the four girls stood before a large swamp overtaking the forest, which baffled them. Zarina was the first to comment. "This shouldn't be here. The swamps are down south, not in the north."

Nala agreed with a nod before Archer spoke. "Somethings changed here. The mana feels wild and chaotic."

As he finished speaking, his Aura Detector pinged as something exploded out of the water, making the girls jump back, but Archer grinned and summoned his claws.

With a swift swipe, he decapitated the lunging beast while sidestepping the attack. It dropped to the ground with a loud thud, causing dust to fly everywhere.

Once it settled, the others joined him with curious expressions. Talila was the first to inquire as she took out her bow. "That thing appeared out of nowhere."

The others agreed, but Archer shook his head and explained. "It was there the whole time, waiting to attack. They are ambush beasts who hunt by doing this."

Teuila smiled as she spoke. "They are also in the Aquarian Kingdom. We call them Lurkers. But the meat is delicious. You should take it, Arch."

He smiled before storing it in his Item Box. After doing that, he remembered to empty it into his lair. He looked at the four girls and asked. "Do you ladies mind waiting here for a few minutes?"

They nodded while Zarina just stared at him with a deadpan look. Archer teleported into his lair below the treehouse, ignoring the redhead and her moody ways.

In the brightly lit cavern of Archer's lair, illuminated by the soft glow of enchanted crystals embedded in the walls, he stood amidst his ever-growing treasure horde.

With a satisfied yet greedy expression, Archer gazed upon the vast expanse of wealth that stretched before him. His lair was a treasure trove of accumulated riches from various quests, adventures, and conquests.

Stacks of gold coins formed small mountains, and gem-encrusted artifacts sparkled in the ambient light. The treasure hoard extended far back into the cavern, standing just shorter than Archer.

The gleaming wealth seemed to have a life of its own, casting shadows on the cavern walls. Archer's keen eyes traced the lines of golden goblets, ancient tomes, and ornate weapons littered the floor.

He walked deeper into the hoard, and the air carried whispers of the stories behind each piece. A king's crown from a millennia ago, a relic from an unknown kingdom lost to time.

A jeweled scepter that once was held by a long lost emperor that he found in one of the enemy royal family's vaults during the Mediterra war.

After looking around momentarily and getting lost in greed, he closed his eyes and expanded the lair. A shake was felt throughout the domain as it grew massive.

The horde now looked tiny compared to the extended chamber, and he wanted to ensure he had enough room to store more treasure. Once that was done, he emptied the Item Box, which caused a loud crash.

Lots of gold coins flowed out of it for a few minutes. This caused a loud noise that hurt his ears. Afterward, he walked toward the gem room and emptied all the gems he looted.

Once Archer finished that, he left the domain and rejoined the girls standing around as they kept an eye on the water. He saw a few Swamp Drake bodies lying around.

When he reappeared, Teuila, Talila, and Nala smiled while Zarina's blue eyes watched him with an unknown expression. Archer greeted the three girls with kisses and gave the redhead a charming smile.

He approached the water and sent a mana wave to search for the Swamp Drake nest. After a few minutes, he picked something up in the center of the swamp.

It looked like a cave, which confused him. He turned to Zarina and asked. "Do you know this area?"

She shook her head. "No. I know that a swamp is not meant to be up north."

Archer nodded before explaining to the four. "Well, there looks to be a cave at the center of the swamp where the beasts are coming from or their nest."

Teuila's eyes widened, which caused his attention, causing him to ask in a concerned tone. "What's wrong, Teuila?"

"It seems a similar incident occurred to a neighboring region of Aquaria. Out of the blue, a lake emerged and rapidly expanded. By the time the kingdom attempted to handle the issue, it was already too late. The once beautiful forest had become overrun with thousands of powerful beasts," Teuila shared, recounting the tales of traders she heard years ago.

When Archer heard this, he nodded before activating his Shadow Prince skill and transforming into his new form. When the girls saw that, they stepped back as they felt an ominous feeling wash over them.

Zarina was the most affected as she started trembling, but Archer reigned in his Aura and apologized to them. "Sorry, girls. Still not used to this form, it will take some time."

Nala, Teuila, and Talila nodded and calmed down, but the redhead was still panicking. The lion girl walked over to her and reassured her that nothing would happen to her.

When Archer saw this, he turned his attention to the swamp and summoned his shadow creatures, but nothing happened, which confused him.

But all of a sudden, they appeared all around him and stretched throughout the forest, shocking him and the girls encircled by the shadow creatures.

"They are protecting you. Pay them no mind." He said to the four before ordering them to hunt the Swamp Drakes and any other beasts that inhabited the swamp.

"Bring their bodies to me, my shadows!" Archer called out as the shadows rushed off to fulfill his orders.

Teuila watched as the creepy-looking shadow creatures dived into the murky swamp water, and shortly after, chaos erupted as dead beasts were thrown onto the shore.

Archer went around collecting them with his shadows before following the creatures. He slaughtered hundreds of beasts as he approached the cave in the center.

Ten minutes later, he arrived at the entrance of a dungeon. The distinctive mana from the area caught his attention, and it reminded him of the time he stumbled upon one down south when he was thirteen.

After seeing that, he got to work and started butchering the Swamp Drake and eating their hearts once they were dead. It took him and the shadow creatures a couple of hours to clear everything.

Once Archer was done, he returned to the waiting girls, sitting down and chatting, and when he suddenly appeared in his shadow form, it made them jump.

He laughed before Teuila walked over to him and playfully punched him when he returned to his humanoid form. He greeted all the girls apart from Zarina, who watched him kiss them.

Archer turned his gaze to the redhead, causing her to step back, but he approached with a teasing smile and spoke. "Do you want a kiss? I'm sure you'll love it."

Zarina got angry and snapped. "No, I don't want a kiss from a boy with dozens of women fawning over him. Playboy!"

He started chuckling before responding. "No need to insult me, Zari. I was only messing with you."

"Stop calling me Zari! It's Zarina." She barked out.

After teasing the redhead, he turned back to the swamp, wondered how to clear the water, and decided to evaporate it using Mana Manipulation.

With a wave of his hand, he created a heat wave made from pure mana that washed over the invading swamp, boiling the water to nothing and leaving the ground below dry as a bone.

Once Archer did that, the five of them started walking toward the dungeon entrance, and they soon heard a creepy sound coming from it, which spooked Nala out.

He turned around to see her tail straight, and her ears were facing forward as she listened for something. Archer noticed her body was tense, like she was ready to attack at any moment.

The others stopped walking as he approached her, grabbed her hand, and brought her back. Nala shook her head and looked at Archer with a worried look. "That place is evil and full of death."

Talila nodded before speaking. "The mana doesn't feel right to me. It feels like an infection."

Archer agreed before asking the four girls. "Do you want to come with me or return to the college?"

No one spoke or stood there, so he assumed they wanted to accompany him. So the group started walking again until they saw the dark entrance.

Without wasting time, he quickly sent Ella and the others a message, telling them he found a dungeon. Before they entered, the half-elf asked him not to go in because he would find trouble.

Archer reassured her they would be fine as they stepped into the darkness. The four vanished and reappeared in a chamber that was lit by torches.

As they started looking around, suddenly, something warned Archer to send the girls away, and that's what he did: he activated the tattoos.

Nala, Teuila, and Talila vanished from the spot but still saw the lurking beasts in the shadows lunge at them.

Chapter 589 They're Fine

Archer saw Zarina looking at the beasts who appeared from the darkness, but he quickly cast Cosmic Shield around her as the attackers slammed into it.

Once he protected the redhead, Archer activated his Shadow Prince skill and transformed into his second form. The beasts saw and felt his dark and ominous aura wash over them, causing them to stop the attack.

They directed their attention to him, yet his response was merely a smile that revealed his fearsome, razor-sharp teeth, instilling fear in both the beasts and Zarina, who visibly paled.

But Archer grabbed the scared girl and sliced the heads of the closest creatures, allowing him to meld into the shadows. He traveled through them until he got to an empty chamber.

When they arrived inside, he popped out of the darkness, but a bad feeling washed over him, causing him to cast Gate to the outside.

Just as Archer was going to step through, he saw a humanoid figure covered in a dark robe pointing something at him. He quickly stepped through and closed it behind him.

Once they were safe, he returned to his humanoid form and opened a portal to the domain. Zarina scrambled to get away from him with wide eyes.

Archer frowned and commented. "I won't hurt you, Zari. Just calm down."

Before entering the domain, he cast Mana Manipulation to collapse the dungeon entrance, allowing him to return when he's stronger and take out whoever that robed figure was while stopping anyone exploring it.

Zarina followed behind him, and when she saw the treehouse and the three girls who had vanished, she was sitting on a comfortable sofa chatting away like it was nothing. When they entered, Nala turned to him with a big smile.

She hugged him tightly while the other two walked over to them. Teuila and Talila greeted him with a kiss just after the lioness.

After that, Archer informed them of what happened, and all three agreed that getting out of there before they were attacked was a good idea. Once they were happy, Ella was informed of his arrival.

The half-elf and the girls were happy to get his message. But then, he got serious and told them, "We still have some quests to do, so let's finish them and go back to college."

Everyone nodded, but Teuila asked in a curious voice. "What have we got left?"

"Erm. Kill some Bugbears who keep ambushing villagers and traders, Kill a swarm of rats under a city, Some Trolls are causing trouble somewhere, and the Marauding Minotaur Subjugation quest, which we have to do with others which we will do with some adventurers and knights in the town of Shadow Pine."

"Where are we going first?" Talila asked as she stretched her arms, causing her silver ponytail to bounce everywhere.

"We'll deal with the Bugbears, then head toward Silvervein City to the west," Archer responded.

The girls smiled before he opened a Gate to the road that led to the college. They started heading south, but Archer got frustrated with the walking after a little while, so he told everyone to give him space.

Once they backed off, he whispered. 'Draco.'

A bright light shone and blinded the girls. The people passing by were shocked to a standstill as Archer's large limbs smashed into the ground and a long, slender tail that was so long that it uprooted some trees.

His carriage-sized claws dug deep trenches into the frozen ground with ease. He stretched out his massive wings that cast a shadow over the grasslands and road they were near, scaring some passing merchants.

A group of knights tried approaching, but when he turned his large head toward them and saw his massive violet eye glare, they quickly turned their mounts around and headed back to the city.

Archer internally laughed as he lowered his body. The three girls jumped up, but Nala dragged a moody Zarina behind her. Once they got comfortable, he took off and headed toward the villages near the Shadowleaf Forest.

He enjoyed flying and causing mayhem wherever he went. With a flap of his wings above, a city would cause destruction, but he chose not to because it would become a headache. The girls were enjoying the view from his back, and even Zarina was smiling.

Archer soared gracefully above the vast stretch of open grassland, which was pristine white covered in untouched snow. A peaceful scene was disrupted only by the rhythmic beating of his massive wings.

His white scales shimmered, reflecting the sunlight as he glided through the crisp, chilly air. Panic ensued as he descended toward a quaint village at the edge of the snow-covered fields with a forest on one side and the river on the other.

Villagers, bundled in thick layers of winter clothing, scattered like startled birds, their shouts and gasps mingling with the howl of the wind. Children clung to their parents, eyes wide with fear and astonishment, while livestock stampeded in a chaotic dance.

Archer's colossal frame shadowed the village as he touched down just outside its perimeter. His claws dug into the snow, causing the ground to quiver and sending shockwaves through the frozen landscape.lights

When Teuila saw this, she thumped him on the head, which didn't affect it apart from gaining his attention.

"Don't hit me, your brute! I am an innocent dragon!" He complained in a deep voice.

"Well, don't scare the people with an entrance like that! They were going about their day, and a dragon landed outside the village, which would make anyone panic. Think Arch, or people will be frightened of you."

After that, Archer saw a group approaching them and decided to tease them. The girls jumped off and waited for him to return to his humanoid form, which he shortly did and brushed his shirt off.

His skin and scales quivered as the chill made contact. Teuila, wearing a smile, handed him a cloak. With that, he wrapped it around himself and thanked her. "Thanks for the Teu."

The blue-haired girl nodded before a voice was heard. "Excuse me? What are you doing here?"

Archer turned and saw an old man standing with two younger men. He smiled at them before inquiring. "We're here to hunt the Bugbears. Now, if you don't mind."

He walked off toward Shadowleaf Forest and summoned his Shadow Creatures. Once they surrounded him, they stood out to the white landscape, shocking the villagers and causing them to flee the village.

Teuila let out a sigh as she reached his side. "Why bring them out here? Couldn't you do it inside the forest?"

Archer shrugged. "Don't worry about them. They're fine."

Once he was done speaking, he ordered them to find the Bugbears and report back to him. The creatures bowed as the tallest and scariest spoke. "Yes, Shadow Prince. It will be done."

His eyes widened alongside the other girls. Archer shook his head before commenting. "You can speak?"

"Yes. We woke up and were ready to serve the new Shadow Prince." The shadowy figure said as it waved its arms, and the horde of creatures rushed into the forest.

They pursued their Prince's target by weaving through the trees and skimming through the shadows. Archer glanced back at the creature trailing behind and gave a nod. "Alright, your name shall be Nyctros, the first commander of my Shadow Army."

Nyctros knelt and bowed, allowing Archer to see him more clearly. The being stood eight feet tall and was humanoid but made from pure shadow. He wanted to get more shadows and asked. "How do we increase our numbers?"

"Get stronger, Prince. That's all you can do."

Realizing it would take time, Archer decided not to hurry. After deciding, he told Nyctros to find the Bugbears with the others, who quickly rushed off.

Once Archer finished speaking to the shadow creature, he turned around to see the four girls staring at him with strange expressions, but the redhead commented with suspicion. "Are you evil?"

When the other three heard this, they started giggling, catching Zarina's attention. She turned on them, but Archer asked her a question. "What is good and evil, Zari?"

Zarina turned to him with narrowed eyes but answered. "I don't know. Why don't you tell me?"

He chuckled before using Mana Manipulation to create five chairs for everyone. After that, he explained. "Listen. In this world, there's no clear line between good and evil. It's all shades of grey."

The others exchanged glances, intrigued by Archer's words. Nala tilted her head in curiosity while Zarina, the redhead, watched him intently.

"What I do, some might see as evil. But others might see it as necessary or even good. It depends on perspective."

Teuila asked, "What are you trying to say?"

Archer leaned back, staring at the cloud-covered sky. "Imagine a city plagued by bandits. If I swoop in and remove the threat, the people there might call me a hero. But those bandits, or someone compassionate to them, might see me as the villain."

Zarina frowned, "So, it's all about how people see things?"

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When Archer heard the redhead, he smiled before continuing. "Exactly. People perceive actions based on their own beliefs, experiences, and needs. What one person considers evil might be a noble cause for another."

Talila said after no one else spoke, "But there must be some actions universally seen as good or evil, right?"

Archer smiled before speaking, "True, there are certain acts that most agree upon. But even those can be subject to interpretation."

Nala sighed, "So, we're all a mix of good and evil, depending on who's looking at us?"

He smiled, "Exactly. That's why I say there's no pure good or evil. It's all in shades of grey."

After that, Zarina went quiet before looking at him with ocean-blue eyes and asking, "What's the worst thing you've done?"

When hearing this, Archer started to think before speaking. "Well, I've set fire to castles and forts with hundreds of people inside. I've turned armies into ashes and reduced kingdoms to dust. I've done plenty, but listing them all would be a bother."

Once he finished talking, the shadow creatures returned, and Nyctros suddenly appeared in front of Archer, which scared Zarinna, who yelped.

Nala and Teuila laughed while Talila eyed the creature as she wasn't sure about it. Nyctros bowed before speaking. "Can I touch you, my prince? I can show you all the locations?"

Archer agreed, and the shadow contacted him, revealing several locations where the Bugbears resided. His satisfaction was evident when turning to the four girls. "Okay, we can go now. I know where they are."

There were camps spread out all over the forest, but all they held was the beasts and their food, which people butchered. He informed the girls of the locations and every detail, causing Zarina and Nala to pale.

Once Archer had finished explaining his plan, everyone agreed to it. Afterward, he transformed into his dragon form and took to the skies once the girls were on board. While flying, he cast a Cosmic Shield around them to protect them from the wind.

His keen dragon eyes scanned the forest below as he glided through the sky. The dense foliage hid the Bugbears, and Archer knew precisely where they were. While flying, the scent of the Bugbears, a mix of fur and decay, reached his nostrils.

Archer honed in on the first camp, where hundreds of the monstrous creatures mingled. Coming to a stop above, his massive wings created a gust of wind that sent them flying everywhere.

Inhaling deeply, he drew in the air tainted with the foul stench of the Bugbears. With a mighty exhale, he unleashed a torrent of searing flames that shot down and washed over the Bugbear camp.

A violet firestorm twirled, roared, and burned down the makeshift buildings and nasty creatures. Archer's dragon breath set everything on fire. That's when he saw the bright glow taking over the forest, visible for miles.

When this happened, the Bugbears were caught off guard, shrieked, and howled as the violet inferno consumed everything in its path. He maintained his position, the glow of the flames reflecting in his gleaming eyes.

The crackling of burning wood and the desperate roars of the Bugbears echoed through the forest, creating a dance of destruction. As the last embers faded away, Archer scanned the ashen remains of the camp below.

He saw that the once-thriving gathering of chaos had been reduced to smoldering ruins. The forest, freed from their presence, seemed to exhale a sigh of relief. After he was finished at the first Bugbear camp, he flew around doing the same to the others.

Soon, he was finished, and the forest had several burning infernos. Satisfied with the outcome, he looked south to Silvershade City and started flying toward it with the girls on his back, wondering what they could do if Archer were going to burn everything.

Archer flew for half an hour until he saw a large city nearby and landed close by. Teuila and the others jumped off his back before he returned to his humanoid form. After that, Nala asked as she looked around. "What's the next quest?"

"Rat extermination."

As he finished speaking, all four girls cringed, but Archer reassured them. "Don't worry, ladies. We don't have to step into the sewers. I have an idea."

They smiled before approaching the city and were stopped at the gate as the morning sun shone overhead. The sky was clear, but dark clouds were coming from the north, causing him to sigh.

Archer told them they were completing quests from the College of Magic and were let through by the city guard. Once inside, they were guided to the sewer opening while the man fled as they arrived.

Zarina commented as they looked at the entrance. I. "I hope we're not going in there. It stinks like death."

The other three agreed before Archer shook his head and opened a portal to the domain. He had the perfect beast for such a task. He called for the giant rats he captured in the Nether Realm.

Many giant rats surged out of the portal, and he directed them to kill all the rats in the sewer. A cacophony of squeaks echoed as they hastily departed. Having accomplished this, Archer faced the girls and the guard, who looked at him like he was crazy.

The guard shook his head and braked, too. "Why would you release even more rats, and bigger ones at that!"

"They are mine? I control them." Archer replied calmly to the man before finding a nearby bench and sitting down.

He pulled out some chocolate and started eating while the four girls sat beside him except Zarina, who sat on the next bench. The group only had to wait an hour until the Giant Rats returned covered in blood.

Archer sent them back to the domain when they were done before standing up and speaking. "That was quicker than I expected."

The guard who was still standing there looked at him with a shocked expression before he continued. "You can now get someone to clean up."

After speaking, he turned to the girls and informed them. "Do you want to sit on my back or wait in the domain? We have to head north to the town of Starhaven."

They decided to go to the domain, so he shrugged and summoned his wings. Archer took off and started flying north, and it didn't take him too long as he flew faster and faster. The landscape sped by, not allowing him to see anything.

Archer soared above cities and towns, instigating panic, yet he had already vanished by the time they gazed upward. The weather settled, maintaining its chill as he seamlessly merged with the outskirts of the town.

However, his relief was short-lived, as rain soon started, causing him to sigh before landing. After summoning the shadow creatures, he returned to the domain and told them to hunt the trolls.

Once he did that, he stepped into the domain and witnessed the sudden appearance of Ella, Nefertiti, and Llynriel. The half-elf hurried towards him with an enthusiastic smile upon spotting him.

"Arch! Prepare to return to the college. The headmistress is discussing the Arcane Tournament and asked you to attend. She mentioned dismissing the quests; she'll send some adventurers to handle the remaining ones."

Archer got excited when he heard that and greeted the six girls with kisses before winking at Zarina, who rolled her eyes. Once that was over, he opened a gate to the college and stepped through.

The others followed him to see a stream of students flow toward the auditorium, where the Professors were ushering people inside. When Archer arrived, people turned to him with either a smile or frown.

He ignored them when he saw the other when seeing Hemera, Sera, and Halime, who greeted him with a smile. The large group entered the auditorium and was told to sit in the middle, and some of them fought to sit next to him.

Archer smiled at this as Sera and Llynriel sat next to him. The others settled down as more students poured in to take their seats. When this happened, he turned to the wood elf, who was smiling back at him.

His hand snaked toward her slender thigh and held it, causing the elf to shiver. Her brown eyes turned to him and in a whisper. "What are you doing?"

"Nothing." He replied with an innocent smile.

Archer moved his hand further up her thigh, causing her to squirm as he was close to her panties. She was wearing an everyday dress, but he sensed the mana radiating from it, and he guessed it kept her warm in such weather.

He stopped thinking about it when feeling Llynriel's hand grab onto his arm. Archer turned to her, and she motioned for him to lean in, which he did.