

Beast Master 841

Chapter 841 Task Successful

Karl discretely went over to inform the younger Dryad that there was work waiting for her at home before checking on the rest of the people at the Guild House.

The assigned tasks for the teachers from Lared had been a stunning success. Not only had they managed to find an inscription that would increase the ability of a trade skill by over thirty percent, they had managed to find one that would improve any trade skill that the wearer had.

It wasn't a flat thirty percent improvement in all aspects, but a thirty percent chance of creating a higher quality item, which was even more impressive in some ways than just increasing the chance of success or the maximum capacity of the items created by the skill.

Thirty percent more than low Overlord was still an Overlord Ranked item. But an Epic Overlord Ranked item versus a Rare Quality Overlord Ranked item were worlds apart.

"That is excellent work. If we combine this with a few other Runes, we should be able to reliably produce enhancement items for crafting professions." Karl noted.

The four teachers smiled. "There is only one problem with that. Take a look at the items that we made."

Karl inspected them again. "I don't see the issue. One made by each of the four of you, at Royal Rank, though you used Monarch Rank Mana Jade, which is a bit of a waste."

Moirra nodded. "That's the problem. We couldn't bring them up to more than Royal Rank, and they bonded to the creator the moment that they were crafted. You can't sell these, they appear to be an exclusive item for Runic Craftsmen."

Karl sighed. "Well, that is a bit of an issue. But they're going to be remarkably useful for the four of you, and the others as well. But we need to work on getting Loros to the Commander Rank first."

Loros cleared her throat, but Karl patted her on the head. "I know you've got it in you, despite the bloodline limitations. A few trips to the Dungeon should help you grow, and you'll be able to say that you experienced the dungeon in all its glory.

How many others at your power level can say that?"

Loros frowned. "None that have working brain cells. Well, maybe one. I seem to recall that the little Gecko's father threw her into the dungeon once to work as a cleanup helper for a four-person group. She didn't die, but nobody saw her for weeks after that."

Karl extended his senses to see how the little lizardfolk cleaner was doing, and found her in the backyard, hanging laundry on the line with Caretaker Jo.

The pair of them had become quite adept at moving around the house without being seen or heard. They were almost part of the furniture. Always there, never in the way.

Except when Lotus was bored.

The gecko girl was one of the few people her size, and she loved having others to play with who weren't taller. But Wendy was always busy, and Caretaker Jo was too kindhearted to complain that her assistant had been stolen.

Wendy was more optimistic. "Do you really think that going in the Dungeon would do something useful? I might only be a Commander Rank Mage, but I could surely do something useful."

Karl thought about that for a moment. "That's right. You're a mage. There is no reason that I can't teach you mage type skills. With a few combat spells, you should be relatively safe to accompany them, even though the standard mobs are a full Rank above you."

The Oni Demon smiled at the idea. Her brothers would have never let her anywhere near the Dungeon, much less inside it. She was only just beginning to realize how reliant she was on others. Even at work, she usually waited for Loros to tell her what they were making, and did that until they changed tasks. Then she would catch herself just mindlessly doing what she was told, like the 'Wendy Doll' that the System had called her when she got her Runesmithing skill.

She wanted to be more than that, but it was such an ingrained habit that it was hard to break free of.

"You know, we could spend the rest of the day making store items, and then go tomorrow. If we went with Remi and Thor or Remi and Dana, we should be safe enough and able to do the whole dungeon." Wendy suggested.

All the golems seemed like the best idea. Karl nodded. "I don't see why not, as long as they agree. And why don't I teach you some new spells as well?"

Wendy nodded, and then went to stand under Karl's hand. She was still under the impression that the head pats were part of the skill and not just because Karl enjoyed it.

Dana resisted the urge to laugh, and Thor chuckled at her enthusiasm. The little Oni Demon knew what was important in life.

{Pack Master Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Golem] will be transferred to the precious Wendy Doll.

{Pack Master Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Chain Lightning] will be transferred to the precious Wendy Doll.

Karl realized that he didn't actually know a suitable barrier spell for mages, but Wendy didn't have any problem with Chain Lightning, so he tried the next best thing.

{Pack Master Karl Offers Knowledge} Skill [Refreshing Lightning Barrier] will be transferred to the precious Wendy Doll.

It actually worked. Perhaps Demons with an appropriate Elemental affinity were easier to transfer Beast type skills to?

Wendy giggled, and her eyes glowed blue as she activated [Refreshing Lightning]. "I am all that is Lightning!" Thor came out of his space in human form to hug the girl and pat her head.

"Excellent work. That was my first skill ever, and not many people can use it." He explained.

"Oh? We're Lightning Friends now." Wendy decided.

[This one is precious. We need to make sure that she doesn't get injured.] Thor informed the others.

[That's not a problem. I will take good care of her. But she has golems now, we should test them out.]
Remi agreed.

Thor picked Wendy up and carried her to the side of the house where the casting wouldn't bother anyone. He wanted to see what she summoned for Golems too.

Chapter 842 Wendy's Golems

Thor set Wendy down when they were facing open space.

"Alright, focus on what you want for Golems, and then cast the spell. How they appear the first time is normally how they will appear every time after that, so be sure that it is what you want." He instructed.

That was what the Karl told people when they did it for the first time.

Wendy focused hard, and then a pair of small Cerro, no more than a metre and a half tall, appeared in front of her. They were gloriously green, with lightning crackling on their horns.

"Oh, excellent choice." Thor commended her, while Wendy stared at them.

"I got baby Thor Golems? They're adorable." Wendy replied.

"Was that not what you were trying for?" Thor asked, confused.

Wendy shook her head. "Sorry. I was thinking of powerful Guardians, like the Gargoyles on the wall. These are good too, though. They do the same job, and they look so friendly."

They were definitely friendly, rubbing up against Thor's legs as he stood behind Wendy, and begging for attention.

"Interesting. Perhaps if you have specific skills, you get a different Golem type? You have my starting spell, and it will extend over your Golems, so it might have affected how the Golems formed. We will have to study that in the future. But for now, congratulations on summoning your new Golems. You now have both powerful defenders and reliable transportation."

Wendy's eyes glowed with lightning, and she tossed herself up on the back of one of the Golems.

Then she led them out to the front of the yard for the schoolkids to play with.

The kids were in a great mood now that there were new playmates for them, and the Golems were just as happy as the young Thor had been to prance around and let people pet their heads or rub their scales.

It was actually kind of endearing to watch, a moment of nostalgia for the group, who all remembered when Thor had been much less serious and responsible.

The little Cerro were still trying to get Thor to come play, as they recognized him as one of them, but Thor just snorted in amusement, reminding them that he was the Pack Protector right now and not free to play with the children.

Well, maybe later.

But right now, they were discussing important matters, like whether it would be safe to take the younger Guild members to the Dungeon as they were.

They didn't have proper armour, but that could be counteracted by sending the right people along with them, or keeping them safe further from the Ogres. Most of the monsters in the Drodh Dungeon didn't

have long ranged attacks, so if the two lower Ranked members stood five metres back, they should be safe enough.

"Who would go with them to the Dungeon? We can only bring three if we send them both." Dana asked.

Remi came out of her space. {I will go with you and them. I should be more than strong enough to deal with some silly Ogres now.}

That was hard to argue with. As she had three Bodyguards, all at Overlord Rank, and powerful area effect magic of her own, she would be a great option.

Added to Dana, who had three different types of protectors, and could fly to attack from above, they weren't even short on a tank.

Thor recognized that right away, and relaxed a little. Sister Remi could take care of the littlest pack members for him today.

Lotus raised her hand to volunteer. "I can go with you to keep everyone healed. That should be enough support that we can take care of them. Unless Tessa wants to go instead?"

Tessa had stronger supportive magic, but they probably wouldn't need it. {This should be fun. I'm totally going to crush those Ogres. Maybe I can try out my flood skill on them. Can Ogres swim?} Remi asked.

Wendy raised her hand. "I don't know about Ogres, but they're much taller than I am, and I can't swim."

Remi considered that. {I can carry you and Loros. Then you're up out of the water. Lotus can be a tree, and Dana can fly.}

"Or you could just not flood the dungeon." Dana suggested.

Remi sighed, and Lotus patted her on the shoulder. "You can flood it and see how that goes after we have cleared everything else out."

That put her in a better mood.

The teacher came down a few minutes later with a sandwich in each hand, and was immediately swarmed by children.

"Is there a reason that nobody took over my classes for the day? The teacher being sick shouldn't be an excuse to slack." She asked.

"They were worried about you, and possibly exposed to a curse, so we kept them here near the healing altar. Besides, see how concerned they were about you? How could we say no to such adorable begging?" Karl joked. The teacher rolled her eyes, then bowed to Lotus. "High Priestess, thank you for your assistance in removing my curse. I will be more careful in the future."

Lotus smiled and shrugged. "The guards are scouring the beach now, looking for more cursed items that might have washed up after the recent battles. With some luck, it won't happen again.

But we are closer to the school than the clinic is, so if you happen to have sick students in the future, a short class field trip to the Guild House would save countless sick days."

The students gave Lotus a suspicious look. Why was she giving the teacher ideas about how to stop them from faking illness to get out of class?

"Thank you Priestess. I should take these little ones back to school to finish out what remains of their school day. Everyone, say goodbye to the nice Darklight Host people and the Cerro hatchlings."

That took nearly fifteen minutes, but eventually the teacher had them all herded out of the courtyard.

Remi turned to Loros and Wendy. {Are you ready to go to the Dungeon? It's still early, so we can go and come back before dinner.

You've both got the [Bracers of Fated Encounters], right? That should help you bypass bottlenecks. So, you might start growing quickly with the rewards from the Dungeon.}

It didn't take a genius to realize that Remi was informing them, not asking.

Chapter 843 Commander Loros

{Loros Has Reached Commander Rank}

Those were the words that let everyone else know that Remi's plan to drag the crafters through the dungeon had merit in aiding their growth rate.

The chefs prepared another festive dinner, but when the girls came back, both of the under - ranked members looked more than a little traumatized.

"Loros, congratulations." Karl greeted the Sculpting Obsessed Demon with a hug.

Loros smiled faintly. "A Commander now, but at what cost? I can still smell the burning Ogre. And the screams. How do you get the screams out of your mind?"

Karl patted her head, while Remi hugged Wendy, who looked to be in a similar state of shock.

"Right, I forgot that this would be your first exposure to battle. Trust me, it gets better. Soon, you will forget all about the horrible parts, and you will only remember what you gained from your trip through the Dungeon.

You're now a Commander Rank Loros, when you never thought you would manage to advance again. You can make Commander Rank items for sale and stock the shop with them. You will get extra respect from the people in town as a Commander Ranked crafter.

Plus, so many more people will want to see and purchase your sculptures." Karl soothed the traumatized Demoness.

The last part really seemed to hit the spot.

Being an Obsession Demon, she was focused on her work above all else.

After a few minutes, they began to calm down. Wendy had realized by the time that they got back that everyone else here had been in the dungeon more than once, and had likely seen worse. So, it didn't seem as horrible any more. After all, if Lotus could still be Lotus after spending so much time in there, it couldn't be all horrible, right?

But Loros' transition was more dramatic. Once she began to calm down, and it sank in that she was really a Commander, and had surpassed her bloodline limitations, even if it was only by a little bit, she was fired up to create new sculptures.

The pair of sculptors returned to the workshop, where Karl could hear Ashbringer hard at work. Cara and Rae had dropped off huge amounts of Overlord Rank ores for him to work with, along with an assortment of rough gems. They had kept the best ones for making Spell Gems to add into the weapons later, but he had requested that he get a selection of larger gems to be used as a mock-up for the weapons he was making.

They wouldn't be permanently mounted, but used to shape the weapon for the gems that would be added during the Runecrafting process.

He looked up and smiled as Karl entered. "I think that we will have some surprises for the auction next month. With the quality of the ore that we have to work with this time, I think we can make a couple of strong Epic Grade Overlord weapons, or perhaps an actual Artifact. I have some ore here that should hold up to that level of enchantment, and I know you can do it, with the sort of weapon you turned out for the Divine Dragons. A weapon at that level donated to the city would secure us a spot of honour at every event for the next decade.

The growth of an Artifact isn't unlimited, unless it can absorb outside energy, but it's not unreasonable to think that a Totem or Mythic Demon would be able to slowly pull an Overlord Ranked Artifact Grade weapon up to their level." Ashbringer explained.

Karl smiled. "Are you thinking that we need a stronger presence in the city? Perhaps a few more strong ties to the leadership?"

Ashbringer shrugged. "Well, I have come to enjoy this forge. It wouldn't be bad to spend a century or two here."

That whole timeline seemed off to Karl. But Demons lived a lot longer than humans were expected to. Though, Karl knew that the powerful could live longer, as many of the Totems on the other continent were already well over a century old.

What the scaling was hadn't really been studied, but if he could keep up his growth rate, reaching a hundred and fifty or two hundred wasn't unreasonable.

So, a hometown to claim would be a great benefit, no matter how much he travelled the Dragon Isles after this.

He could travel freely now with [Portal], so once he had seen the world once, he could always go back.

Karl realized that he had gotten sidetracked and thought of an answer for Ashbringer. "Do you think that we should keep going for powerful weapons? We could make armour for them instead. Increasing their survivability instead of their combat output. That seems like it would gain us just as much goodwill, but much less animosity.

Weapons only do any good if you're attacking. But if we make them armour pieces, they can survive ambushes, and enemies of the city won't blame us for their loss. That would all be down to their inability to defend against the leaders' attacks, right?"

Ashbringer smiled. "Oh, that's good. You do know multiple damage reduction and barrier skills that can be added to armour. Even putting [Limited Invulnerability] onto an ornate torso plate would be a game changer for the Totems."

Karl nodded, and Ashbringer began to draw a plan on the chalkboard behind him. "If it's intended to be bonded and equipped, I can size it for the girls. Then I only need a quarter of the materials or less. The way that my skill works, it has to fit someone, but the girls can try it on without bonding it, and that will let us finalize the item.

In fact, I will make armour for them as well, so they don't feel left out. A chain mail vest with delicate links can go under most clothing and is very flexible. A scaled vest is less flexible, even on a silk base. But it would also be an option. The chain would require fewer materials, though."

Karl considered their options, then sighed. "If we had a leather worker, it would be easier to make armours. We can use Rae's silk for base layers and padding, but hardened leather would use up a lot of the materials Hawk has stored as inedible, and make for good armour as well."

"Why not just teach Rae? It's not that much different from cloth fashion, and we can get you the books on how to harden the leather with magical materials. They're available at the Library." Ashbringer offered.

[See, I told you that you can get more than Priestesses at the Library.] Remi reminded Karl, while silently observing the sculptors, to make sure they were recovering mentally from their first trip to a dungeon.

Chapter 844 Library Visit

Karl smiled. "Well, if I'm going to go to the Library, I should prepare a gift for them as well. There is nothing that Librarians like more than new books. If I donate a new tome to their collection, it will keep the Inscriptionists busy for weeks."

Ashbringer laughed. "That's just devious. But are you sure that you'll have something that they will actually be so excited to get their hands on?"

Karl nodded. "I have a number of strange and esoteric skills. They are quite useful within their niche, but they're not part of any other class's base skill tree, as far as I know."

Karl headed back to the house and took out his writing supplies, startling the professors, who were working at the large table on the second floor.

"Are you making something new?" Moira asked.

"Not really. I'm making a skill book for the Library, a peace offering to reduce the cost of the tomes that I am going to request. I want to get Rae some books on leather armour and clothing creation. She's already a master with silk, as an innate skill of her species, but blending that with leather armour

creation would give her a much wider set of options for her fashion." The professors laughed at the thought of such a terrifying beast sedately making armour, but somehow it did suit her personality. "Speaking of Rae, where has she been? I haven't seen her in a while." Moira asked.

Karl smiled. "I'm sure she takes that as a compliment, but she's right behind you."

The professor turned around quickly, alarmed that she hadn't noticed, and Rae laughed from the third floor, where she had been watching the Alchemists in the Library Space.

"You are an evil, evil man." Moira muttered.

"It was funny, though. You should have seen the look on your face."

Rae walked down the stairs, visible and in humanoid form. "Most of the time I am invisible. It's not surprising that people don't see me. Actually, I would be shocked if anyone did see me, other than Karl." Rae explained.

"Why him? Because you are bonded?" Mash, Moira's husband and fellow Runesmithing apprentice, asked.

"No. Because he has Soul Sight. Without that, I think I could hide from him, even if he could sense where I was through the bond."

Karl kept writing as they discussed the ways that a monster who was both invisible and incorporeal might possibly be detected. The Professors had realized that it might actually be a major security breach of the Academy. How many creatures had managed to find their way past the wards on the Academy? They could have dozens of spies in the school and not know it.

But if they worked on the answers with Runic items, they should at least be able to detect intruders more effectively, even if they couldn't see them.

Karl finished the [Bestial Regeneration] book, and got to his feet. "Rae, did you want to come with me to the Library? I will be picking out trade skill books for you to learn how to add leather to your decorations."

Rae shook her head. "Take Remi. She likes Libraries more. She will also want you to buy many more books to fill out the knowledge that she can't find in our house Library."

The house's Library had a wide variety of introductory tomes and trade skill volumes, including basic leatherworking. But Rae hadn't learned much from that, as it was mostly about how to cut and sew leather properly, and not how to make it into magical armour.

So, Rae and Karl made their way through the streets of Drodh before dinner, intending to make a short trip to the Library, and order any books that Remi needed, or thought that Rae might need.

Hopefully, they wouldn't already have [Bestial Regeneration] in their inventory, as that would increase the value of the tome and buy them extra goodwill. If they did, Karl could always come up with another skill to bring them based on what they said they were short on.

The Library was quiet when they arrived, with only one Demon looking for a specific tome. Though, calling it a 'Library' didn't seem to be correct. It was more of a combination book repository and bookstore, with some books for sale, and others only for browsing within the building.

"Good evening. Do you have a membership?" The receptionist asked. "In fact, I do not. What are the requirements to become a member?" Karl asked.

"There are three stages of membership. First is our Basic Member, which allows you to purchase tomes from the Library. It is free of charge with your first purchase. Second is our VIP member, which has a one gold annual fee, and allows you to browse the stock tomes in the building. Third is the contributor membership, which receives a discount on purchases as well as the right to browse tomes. That is more for Inscriptionists, as it requires donation of a tome that you have personally created. What is your trade specialty?" The receptionist asked.

"I am actually a Rune Master, but I have a skill that allows me to create Skill Books on a very limited basis. In fact, I expected that your Library might have such a requirement, so I made one for today.

This is a tome of [Bestial Regeneration], just completed." Karl explained as he placed the book on the desk.

"It even still smells like ink and new paper." The Receptionist replied, shocked.

It wasn't often that someone actually took up the third tier of membership. Even most of the Inscriptionists in Drodh City only sold books to the Library. They weren't willing to donate one, just for a discount on books that they could make themselves, given enough time reading in the Library with a single gold VIP membership.

"You're seriously willing to trade a tome? Oh, let me see if we have this in stock." She murmured, while Remi draped her head over Karl's shoulder to distract herself from the urge to wander.

Ever since her advancement and physical transformation, her curiosity had skyrocketed. Like all that energy being stuck in a smaller body was amping up her emotions.

Chapter 845 Books!

The Librarian returned with a Totem Ranked Magic Demon that Karl vaguely recognized from the Garden Party at the Castle.

"Oh, Overlord Karl. You can make skill books? How fortunate. I had thought your skills might be limited to Runic Items." The Demon greeted him.

Karl checked the name using his system interface before responding.

"District Overseer Rashid, it's a pleasure to see you again. Skill Books aren't really my specialty, but I do have the ability to make a few per month, on skills that I already know. A curious System Skill intended to help advance my team.

I brought you an interesting skill today, I believe." Karl replied.

"Indeed. There is not a single copy registered to the Library with that Skill name, so I came to see if it had been misreported.

But it is correct. And the restrictions are not as harsh as I had feared, given the names. Though, it's a bit insulting that it considers all horned or feathered demons to be compatible with a skill for beasts.

Incubi as well, though I don't see why they should be named individually, as they also have horns."

[...] Remi's amused non answer in Karl's mind made him laugh. There were many reasons he could think of that the Incubi might be named individually from other types of 'bestial' creatures, but the Librarian's deep violet blush had the District Overseer rolling his eyes.

"I noticed earlier that Demons are widely compatible with skills intended for beasts, as long as their Element matches. For example, an Oni Demon I met here is compatible with multiple beast originated Lightning Element skills."

Overseer Rashid looked impressed. "You actually identified one as an Oni Demon? Most of the Greater Demon species disguise themselves when they are going about their daily lives, so that others do not make trouble for them, with requests and pleading."

Karl smiled. "It came to light after I had hired a member of their family for a job."

Rashid snapped his fingers. "That's right. You hired Miss Wendy as an apprentice sculptor, and her father made the barriers on your Guild House. I should have remembered that. That family will be quite the force when they are fully mature. Most of their species don't hit any bottlenecks until the peak of Totem Rank."

Karl had known that Wendy was powerful, being a Commander and still not a teenager, but a peak Totem Rank species potential was surprising.

The District Overseer was staring intently at the book, and Remi began to giggle.

{It's four hundred and three pages. How fast is your hand speed?} The Demon smiled, while the Receptionist gave him a confused look.

"You are quite right, Miss Remi. It would take me some time to copy this if I used it. But that skill is so tempting, that I might just do it anyhow.

But what did you come in looking for? Certainly, today's visit wasn't just to receive a membership." Rashid replied.

"We actually require tomes on crafting magical leather armour. One of our Guild's Artisans wants to expand their skills, and it is an open niche for us." Karl explained.

"You have weapons, jewellery, potions, utility items. However, your Guild sells no leather items. Yes, you are correct, there is a reliable place for them among your Guild.

We have many such tomes. Do you want Skill Books, or do you want textbooks?"

"Both, I think. The target is Overlord Rank without a trade skill, so advanced Skill Books might be suitable. But having textbooks on the topic to supplement might be helpful. They already have skills with fashion and clothing, so leather armour won't be too large of a change." Karl explained.

"Who would that be? I can't guess which member you mean." The Overseer muttered, mostly to himself.

"The Lady Rae, our Blood Destruction Demonic Spider."

Overseer Rashid nodded, and the Receptionist gasped. "An Overlord Ranked spider monster? That's... sorry. I'm sure she's a lovely person."

{I'm sure she will laugh when I tell her so.} Remi agreed, and the Receptionist sighed in relief before she realized what Remi had actually said.

"Rae is a sweet person. She's just got personality quirks. But do we have the appropriate skill books? And what might they cost?" Karl interjected.

"Right, yes. We have all the skill books and textbooks that you might need. You can work out the details with the District Overseer while I retrieve them." The Receptionist insisted, then vanished into a back room.

"There are four skill books in total for the [Master Leatherworker] trade skill progression. All of which we have in stock. Plus two textbooks on magical armour creation, based on different disciplines.

While I have no doubt that you actually have enough coin to pay for such an extravagant purchase, perhaps we could make a trade for items?" Overseer Rashid suggested, his feathers ruffling in excitement.

"Oh, what did you have in mind? I have a few items complete, and I can make you something custom from a blank if the cost is higher than what they're worth."

The Totem Rank Demon smiled happily as Karl immediately grasped the issue.

The entry-level skill books were not expensive. But a Master level trade skill book? That couldn't even be used by someone under Royal Rank, and they had to have an extreme compatibility with the skill already.

Most likely, the Spider would use the ones she could, and then save the last one or two for later when her skills had improved.

"Can you make a library assistant?" The Demon asked, curiously.

"That sounds more like a skill request. I could probably teach you how to summon one, yes. But putting one on an item? It would be difficult to make an autonomous one without the spell taking up an entire suit of armour."

Rashid sighed. "I was afraid of as much. And as great as a [Living Armour] item would be, that's far beyond the cost of the books you need, as well as being thousands of hours of work."

"What do you need it for?" Karl asked, wondering if he could do something with runes.

"Just general Library stuff. Cleaning, dusting, arranging books."

Karl thought about it for a moment, then smiled. "I can do half of that. How about an item that will clean and dust the Library on activation?"

There were dozens of examples of that in the [Dwarven Runecrafting] book. Mostly so that the Dwarves didn't have to clean up spilled drinks, mop floors and other such mundane tasks. Karl had studied enough of those runes to make a cleaning item.

"Would that even be a Rare item?" Rashid asked.

"I don't know. Give me a moment to make it and we will know." Karl replied with a shrug.

There was only one way to find out. And he had some statues carved out of Monarch Ranked Mana Jade.

Chapter 846 Domestic Runecrafting

Karl took out one that was carved to look like Lotus' dragon form.

It was on an oval base, which gave him plenty of room on the bottom to carve. So, he quickly planned what he needed. Cleaning intentions, organization, water for mopping floors, wind to keep everything dry and dust the books, with a modifier for gentle strength, so nothing was damaged.

That still left him with some extra space, so Karl added runes for repair, removing stains, and refreshing mana, but targeted to items being cleaned so that it would give a gentle nudge of mana to failing ancient artifacts, which helped keep them stable.

Karl took a pencil and drew the runes, then quickly carved them with a claw, before adding mana to activate the whole thing. It was a complex concept, to be certain, but when he finished, the dragon statue's eyes glinted blue, and he knew that his efforts had been acknowledged by one of the Gods.

{Epic Grade} [Statue of Tidiness] Cleanliness is next to godliness.

Karl looked at the item description in amusement for a moment, then handed the little white and red dragon statue to Overseer Rashid.

"Why don't you try that out and see if it's worth the exchange? If not, I can supplement with something I have in stock." Karl offered.

Overseer Rashid pushed a bit of mana into the statue, and a ball of blue magic formed around the dragon, before soaking into the statue, making it look like a living Blue Dragon.

Seconds later, a gust of wind spread through the building, causing books and papers to shift around, but not at random. Scrolls slotted back into cabinets, books left on tables returned to carts, floors began to shine with a freshly washed gleam, decades of dirt and grime were removed from the sides and tops of bookshelves, while dozens of lost and forgotten manuscripts were recovered from hidden spots and behind shelves. Within a minute, everything was perfectly clean and organized, and Karl heard a happy draconic rumble from the statue, before it faded back to a plain Mana Jade statue.

{I think that worked wonderfully.} Remi noted.

"I don't remember some of these scrolls. Where did this come from?" Overseer Rashid asked as he walked to a cart, where an ancient scroll was neatly rolled and freshly cleaned.

He picked it up carefully, and Karl could hear how brittle the paper was.

The Magic Demon cast a spell on it, and the ancient parchment glowed with energy, then became visibly less faded.

Rashid unrolled the scroll, and then his eyes opened wide in shock.

"This is... impossible." He muttered.

Remi slid over to look over his shoulder, and read the notes.

It was a list of spell ingredients and instructions for an Orcish Shamanistic Ritual to pacify a major storm at sea.

{How long have the Demons held the city?} Remi asked, startling the Demon with her presence mere centimetres from his face.

"About four thousand years. This must have been left when we took and renovated the city. Then it was shifted around until it ended up here in the Library, which was built about a thousand years ago, replacing a smaller Library in the compound of the Castle.

How it survived all this is a mystery, but we don't know a lot about ancient Orcish Shamanistic magic. But would you mind backing up a little bit? Your tongue is dangerously close to the paper."

Remi backed up, then sighed. {Naga don't drool. But I do apologize for forgetting about personal space.}

She was not, in fact, sorry. Not at all. However, she did move to the other side of the table to examine the scroll.

"Remi is a Shaman." Karl explained, as the Overseer was beginning to wonder what had her so intrigued by a scroll written in Orcish.

The Receptionist came out with the books, and stared in shock at the Library. The floors were actually gleaming, and there was no dust anywhere. Even the drapes over the windows were freshly cleaned.

"What happened while I was gone? I swear it was only a few minutes." She stammered. "Overlord Karl granted us a most curious statue. It not only cleaned the Library, it organized the books onto the carts for return to the shelves, and it recovered the lost and forgotten tomes that had vanished behind or on top of the shelves."

"That is wonderful. There are a number of tomes that we have been unable to find for the entire time I have worked here, but the security spells insist that they are still in the Library."

She placed the books on a counter and went off to look for the lost tomes.

"She's going to be incredibly frustrated when she realizes that the spell didn't remove any of the books from the hidden compartments and secured drawers." Overseer Rashid whispered.

"Or when she realizes that her romance novel is no longer hastily stuffed under her desk, but placed in the middle of the reception counter and freshly cleaned." Karl agreed.

Remi grabbed the books they had purchased and placed them on the shelves on her altar, then looked around the Library. {I think I need to come back here later. There are so many good things to read.} She informed Karl.

"Well, the Library is open from dawn to dusk five days a week. I will give you a VIP card." Rashid agreed.

He grabbed one from a drawer under the Reception desk, and cast a spell that bonded it to Remi.

"Overlord Karl is recorded as a Donor already, no need to carry a card. But it appears that I have a lot of work to do.

I need to make copies of this skill for use and distribution. Once the Lord and the Governor learn that so many Demons can learn a regeneration skill, it will be in massive demand for the army.

Do you know how effective it is?" He asked.

Karl nodded. "It's not as good as a minor healing spell, of the 'heal over time' sort. But it will close major wounds in a matter of minutes. There is a stronger version, [Trollish Regeneration], but it's got a much more restrictive usage set."

"Is that the healing ability you have? I heard that you shrugged off blows like nothing during the battle on the docks." Karl smiled. "I have limited Invulnerability, and a special constitution. My healing abilities are on an entirely different level."

Chapter 847 Master Rae

Karl returned to the Guild House with Remi and their haul of new books.

Rae had already grabbed the first of them to test. [Master Leatherworker] Skill Book was her first option. Starting with the most powerful, until she found one that she could use properly. But she had a strong suspicion that she would be able to use this one right away, and then she would be able to make magical decorations for her ladies.

The only hesitation that she had was about whether it was better to try in public, to see if the Spider Goddess would let her succeed the first time out of sympathy, or to do it in the darkness of her web, where she was the most comfortable.

After a few seconds of consideration, the web won out, and Rae took the book back with her and transformed into her natural form.

She might be a whole new kind of spider now, but she was still a spider. Spiders had the most benevolent Goddess, who wanted them to be happy. So surely, she wouldn't have to suffer long trying to learn how to decorate her humans properly.

Rae settled into a comfortable spot on her web and flipped the book open.

Knowledge instantly flooded her mind, informing her of all the knowledge that a Master Leatherworker needed to make clothing, armour and various forms of equipment.

That was excellent to know. Many of those items could be made with Spider Silk just as easily, and gain the same sort of enhancements.

It also taught her a lot of technical equipment that Rae hadn't known existed. Better types of harnesses for Hawk and Thor, pouches and storage devices, including some that would hold more than they looked like, if you found the right materials or spells. That could likely be done with Karl's runes.

But the variety of braided whips... That was pure artistry. What sort of benevolent soul had created this book for her? Whips made of her own silk would be perfect, and there were runes to allow you to control them like a tail or tentacle.

If the rest of the group knew what sort of ideas Rae was getting from the new trade skill book, they would be much more concerned than celebratory. But for now, only the beasts knew that she had already succeeded in gaining a skill.

Before she came out, she wanted something to show off her new skill. If only she could decide who to decorate first.

The vampire. Mick was adorable in the Lolita dress that Rae made her wear to work, but it was very un-vampire like with the ruffles and the parasol.

If she made something more vampire for her, that would be good. She was a Blood Knight, a self-healing warrior class with high agility. So, she would be a suitable candidate. If only she had her baby Rogue handy. Maybe Karl could open a portal to send gear back to her.

First, she would pick a piece of leather for a bodysuit, and modify it to be super stretchy. That was easy, and it could be done with a skill and no extra chemicals or steps. That was significantly better than the introductory skill. Then she just had to cut it to shape, slide it over the mannequin, add the leg, forearm and chest plates. That kind of looked like Overlord Tabitha. Maybe they had the same high mobility fighting style? Now boots, and gloves with hardened leather to socket gems into. The base armour piece was finished in under twenty minutes as Rae immersed herself in her work. Now she just needed Karl to add Runes to it and make some gems with skills to increase the vampire's fighting ability.

Oh, and ventilation. Numerous little holes would make it less water-resistant, but it would keep the wearer from overheating. The Vampires didn't really give off much body heat, but Rae didn't know if they could still sweat.

A silk liner would make it more comfortable, so Rae added a bit more to her design.

Then Remi passed her a pair of gems.

[Karl made these earlier. They're for weapons, but they should be fine on armour.]

[Haste] and [Shatter]? Not terrible options. Rae fit them into the armour's bracers, and then used her new skill to integrate the gem buffs into the bonus of the armour. It wasn't as good as a full Runic armour piece, but it was a Rare Quality Overlord Rank armour suit.

[Leather Bodysuit of Nimble Blows] Adds attack speed and Agility. Physical strikes by the wearer cause the [Shatter] effect, creating damaging vibrations through the target's body.

Rae came out in her humanoid form, and walked straight to Mick.

"Put this on. I made it for you with my new skill." She demanded.

Mick nodded, not seeing a reason to argue with Rae.

The bodysuit fit her like a glove, and Ophelia whistled in appreciation.

"What sort of cosplay is this?" The vampire asked, blushing bright red in the face.

"A warrior in our hometown wears armour just like that. It's perfect for agility fighters. It's Overlord Ranked, and it gives excellent combat bonuses.

You could wear your dress over it if you wanted, I guess?"

Mick considered that. No, that would just look like it was some sort of weird fetish. But this bodysuit was entirely too form-fitting. Then Rae got a great idea.

"You can wear robes over it, like everyone does at the temples. Let me find you one in Guild colours."

It only took a second, Rae had made lots of them for her clerk, in case she complained about the cute frilly uniform dress.

White on the left, black on the right, the simple hassock was patterned like Karl's tabard, but without the decorations. A black rope tied it at the waist, and now she looked like a battle nun, with the visible leather armour on her neck and hands. Lotus smiled. "That actually looks good on you. But Rae, does she have to wear Guild colours at all times?"

Rae nodded. "Yes. You always wear green. So, I don't see why she shouldn't wear Darklight Host black and white."

Ophelia chuckled at the confused look on Mick's face. "It's Rae staking her claim on you. If you're wearing Darklight Host colours, that means you're one of her people. I'm sure that we can get her to give you an all white or all black one." She suggested.

Rae reluctantly handed both colours of hassock over. It would be better if the Vampire would show off her cute new stretchy armour, though.

Maybe Rae should make some for herself.

Chapter 848 Spreading Popularity

With Rae's new skills, their shop needed some new sections. They had set everything up for magical accessories, but they also had silk available, and they could make custom armour. Convincing Rae to make a Commander Rank sales piece wouldn't be easy, but they could make a mannequin to advertise their custom armour services. There had to be those who preferred leather armour in the city, and they weren't prohibited from selling the actual bolts of silk, which would be insanely expensive.

A few dressmakers and merchants would certainly buy up any stock that Rae made, and when it was at lower qualities, she could make huge amounts of silk cloth without running out of energy.

So, that was her first contribution to the shop.

Ten rolls of Commander Rank silk in nine solid colours and one black roll with pink cherry tree blossoms on it were arranged along the wall when the first customers came in the next morning, looking for potions. The word of the silk spread quickly, though the visitors didn't know if there was anything special about it.

Simply having access to high-quality silk by the bolt was enough to draw in customers. The first of which was the shopkeeper whose dress shop they had halfway cleared out when they first arrived.

"Lady Rae, it's a pleasure to see you again. Though I must say, it's a relief to know that you weren't planning to open a fashion shop here at the gates." The woman greeted her when she saw the transformed spider lurking at the back of the room.

"I thought that it might be better to offer the raw Silk instead. Take a look, and tell me what you think. You will find no lumps or imperfections in my silk. If you wish a different grade, I have inventory all the way from Commander to Overlord Rank, and can make custom colours with a small delay." Rae agreed.

The dressmaker admired the corner of a roll of golden silk, trying to determine how it had gotten so bright golden. She had never seen a dye like that before. It was actually a result of Rae using her [Camouflage] skills on the silk as she produced it, which gave the silk a metallic lustre that was nearly impossible to replicate with a natural dye.

"It looks like the silk is made of liquid gold. That is beautiful. How long is the bolt?" She asked.

"I made each bolt ten metres. I wasn't sure what was the standard here, but that should make a dress for most species." Rae explained.

"That sounds right. How is this to work with?" The dressmaker asked.

"Not the easiest for weak people. It is a Commander Rank silk, so it is quite resistant to penetration, but there are runic needles that will let you do it without a skill. You might need one, and some enchanted scissors to cut the pattern as well."

The dressmaker nodded. "I have some. Occasionally, I do use Monster fur as trim, and it needs them. I will take the bolt of liquid gold, the black and the..."

She paused and then went to inspect another bolt.

"That's not pale grey, it's gossamer white over a black roll core. So thin, it's almost like air. I will take that bolt as well."

Rae nodded, and Davis silently wrote the price on a piece of paper.

For expensive purchases when there were others in the shop, it was polite not to speak the cost out loud. That way, nobody knew for certain who got a discount or how much of one.

In this case, she did get a small discount, as her shop was one that Lady Rae had bought many dresses from in the past.

She had only been gone a few minutes when a merchant wagon stopped on the street out front, and a powerfully built young Overlord Ranked Demon in mage robes with gold embroidery stepped inside.

"Good morning. I am told that I can place a custom order here, to be collected upon my return to town." He announced.

"Indeed you can. What did you require?" Davis asked.

"I have a daughter who will be joining the ranks of monster control adventurers in a few weeks time. I would like to procure her the finest set of equipment possible. Money is no object."

Davis sent a Guild message, and Karl came down to greet the merchant.

"My name is Karl, and I am responsible for custom orders. Might I inquire as to your daughter's class, elemental affinities and specialty?" Karl asked.

The Demon looked impressed. "She is a Golem Mage. Her elemental affinity is Earth, and she is currently at the Royal Rank, but I would like the finest quality of equipment that you can create for her."

Karl nodded. "So, my thought would be a leather armour suit with mobility, robes, two rings, two bracelets, a necklace, earrings, and a staff or wand. Which does she prefer?"

"Definitely a staff. But no need for earrings, I have an heirloom set for her."

Karl nodded. "I can make a complete set, designed for synergy and enhancements to an Earth Golem Mage. I guarantee none of the stats will be inappropriate for her class and specialty. How are her defensive skills? I would assume that she has [Earth Barrier] or an equivalent?"

The mage nodded. "Indeed. But I have heard that you are capable of adding spells to your staves. Lared Academy gave her a [Fireball] staff that your shop made."

Karl smiled. "Congratulations on raising a valedictorian. So, we can say that she doesn't need a [Fireball] related item, but I believe that we can come up with something suitably rare. Or would you prefer not earth Element?"

The merchant thought about the answer for a few seconds. "Earth Elemental Attack Magic if possible. She relies almost entirely on her golems and fireball for attacks. But her fire affinity is not strong."

"I know just the thing. We do require a deposit for custom orders, but the majority of the price is due on collection. Your order should be able to be collected in four days."

The man looked shocked at that, and Davis smiled, then cleared his throat. "Sir, we have the base items in stock, they only need to be custom altered to your requirements. Much like having a dress altered instead of tailored in a new design."

The man nodded, then placed a picture of his daughter on the counter. "If you can choose a set of robes that will suit her lovely visage, I would appreciate it. My princess deserves the best."

Davis nodded politely, and passed the picture to Karl.

That was a succubus. No doubt about it. The tail was a dead giveaway.

"Alright, I believe that we know just what she will like."

Chapter 849 Clothe The World

The next few days passed mostly peacefully, though Rae was constantly restocking her bolts of silk at a rate that was giving Mick heart palpitations. A remarkable feat for a vampire.

The bolts of Commander Rank silk sold for dozens of gold each, and they had moved hundreds of them through the shop in the first week. Even by the standards of Overlord Ranked vendors, they were insanely profitable.

"Karl, I have finished the leather armour. Are you finished with the Runes on the mage robes?" Rae asked, as she appeared in the main room of the second floor.

"Indeed. I have them all done. I just need to finish up the staff now. The rest is complete."

Dana came up to see what they had made, and then stopped to stare at the outfit in Rae's hands. "What is that? You can't be expecting anyone to wear that in public." She insisted.

It was mostly black gossamer silk, with strategically placed leather straps to keep it from being obscene, then with leather sleeves for the arms and legs. It came with knee-high laced boots, with a practical riding heel, and elbow length stretchy leather gloves that shimmered in the light, as if freshly oiled.

Rae scoffed. "I did ten hours of research into Succubus fashion, and determined this to be the perfect design. Plus, it goes under the mage robes. Look, I even made a cute leather collar to hang charms from."

Karl nodded. "And I enchanted it with mana storage and damage taken reduction. It reduces base damage taken by four hundred points, and as far as I can tell, that is the maximum for an Epic Grade Overlord Ranked piece."

Then he took out a heart-shaped Earth Gem with a gold loop at the top and attached it to the ring at the front of the collar. "This is a gem of [Stone Bullets]. It will give her an Overlord Ranked attack spell, and she won't have to take out her staff to have it available. Instead of putting the attack spell on the staff, we gave the staff a Void Gem of [Damage Nullification]. A new hybrid skill that I worked out with Cara.

It doesn't stack with [Void Body] unfortunately, but it ignores the first three percent of your health in damage, then reduces damage taken by another four hundred points. Combined, the whole set has over a hundred percent more Skill Power, and a huge amount of mana storage and regeneration."

Dana stared at the outfit in amazement. "Alright, I will admit, that is impressive." She sighed, ignoring the overly sexualized design for the armour that Rae had picked. At least the robes were completely normal black Mage robes with pale green Overlord Ranked runes on them.

The items were moved to the Store Vault, a subsection of the Guild Bank, and Rae grabbed Dana. "You're up next. I got the others this morning. I will make all new armour for everyone but Ophelia. She wanted metal armour." Rae insisted.

"Oh? Alright, I won't say no to a custom set of Overlord Ranked armour. Our gear was getting behind what we were selling at the shop anyhow." Dana agreed.

"What about this style?" Rae asked, with a book from her space suddenly in her hand.

"Where did you even find that?"

"The book of fashion says it's a Wrath Demon bridesmaid's outfit. But it's cute, right?" Rae asked.

Dana pulled Rae down to her height and whispered in her ear.

"OH! I understand now. I will make you a set anyhow, but not for battle. I will just make you regular adventurer armour for wearing under new robes like the ones you have then."

Karl wondered what the two of them were looking at, but decided it was better to find out later. Rae had made him leather pants and a long double-breasted coat with a leather tricorne hat. Then it was finished with a silk shirt and waist sash. She had been deeply impressed by how fashionable a species known as the Wave Riders was, and thought that the fashion would go well with Karl's furry form as well.

Every minute of Rae's day was filled with fashion as she finished her work, but the others were also dedicated to their work. Ophelia had even started a new Guild program.

She was doing morning training in the backyard with a group of local youth who wanted to join the guard. Letting the kids build up combat skills in advance, while allowing the Berserker to blow off some steam on durable targets.

Little Butterfly was assisting them with illusions, turning the backyard into a training ground during their workouts, or making sand sparring rings without damaging the immaculate grass of the yard.

They were going to need a larger space soon. But Little Butterfly was limited in what she could do for a training ground as dangerous as a bunch of Monarchs and Royals sparring. If she used [Illusionary Domain] it would shatter during combat. But she could borrow Karl's skills to put a barrier on the sand of a sparring ring without overextending her skills.

The Butterfly considered using the [Tiny World] that she had learned when Karl did and using multiple illusions inside, but that was a lot of work, and her body couldn't sustain that much mana flow yet.

Given time, it would be no problem. Unfortunately, even with all the assistance from the Beast Space, most of the mana that the butterfly could use was dedicated to survival and growth from her newborn phase.

At least nobody tried to damage her Library space. She didn't have the mana to be repairing it all the time.

Growing up was a pain, and it took far too long. Little Butterfly didn't understand how others of its species managed it without an extra dense mana flow and a protective space.

But, in reality, they didn't. They all died within a day of their transformation, so an adult phase Glasswing Illusionary Butterfly was essentially nonexistent. It was the end of life for their caterpillar phase, not a new beginning.

Chapter 850 Cute Order Filled

Finally, the merchant returned for his custom order, with his daughter in the wagon.

They were inbound with a whole caravan, but came through the gates before the trade goods were checked, so they could do their business with the Darklight Host right away.

"Merchant, it's good to see you again. Your order is complete and waiting." Davis greeted them.

He placed the boxed order on the counter, but the shape of a staff was hard to hide, even in a box.

"You ordered so much. I told you, Dad. We will get items from the monsters as we eliminate them, there is no need for you to go all out at the start."

The Overlord simply patted her head indulgently. "But I am told that this is the best of the best."

The girl rolled her eyes, clearly used to his indulgent behaviour. Then Rae came down and smiled at her.

"Oh, this is good, would you like to go to a private room to try everything on, then surprise your father?" She asked.

The other few customers in the shop looked relieved. The excited shouting of an overwhelmed teen succubus was hard on sensitive ears.

Rae didn't wait for an answer as she grabbed the bundle and escorted the girl up the stairs.

Davis bowed to the girl's father. "It is all custom-made Overlord Ranked equipment, and specifically tailored to the fashion sensibilities of a Succubus. I can assure you that not only will she be the best protected, but the most fashionable member of her team."

Fortunately for all of them, the rooms were mildly soundproofed, and the shouting and cheering was only faintly audible from downstairs. There was no hiding the happy tears in her eyes when the girl came running down the stairs with a staff in her hands, and leaped up on her father to wrap him in a hug and plant kisses all over his face.

"Daddy, I love it. It's beautiful, and so powerful."

The demon gently set her down to get a better look. The robes were fully covering, as he had hoped, but the odd collar at her neck, with the amber coloured heart gem, caught his attention.

"It's an attack spell gem, and the necklace is a damage reduction item. The staff is also damage reduction focused. You see, many will interpret the use of a staff as preparation for combat. But in reality, all the offensive power is available without the staff, and the benefits of the weapon are entirely defensive, other than the Skill power and mana storage." Rae explained.

"It's an attack spell gem, and the necklace is a damage reduction item. The staff is also damage reduction focused. You see, many will interpret the use of a staff as preparation for combat. But in reality, all the offensive power is available without the staff, and the benefits of the weapon are entirely defensive, other than the Skill power and mana storage." Rae explained.

"Practical boots, durable gloves, it's everything that I had hoped for. And in thick Overlord Ranked silk, it should be warm enough for cool evenings, as well as an extra layer of defence on its own." He noted.

Rae smiled. "I don't expect an Earth Mage to take a lot of damage, as Earth Barriers are known for their durability to begin with. But it's best to keep your Princess safe."

The succubus mage laughed and took down the hood of her mage robes, revealing a golden chain that ran between her horns and held a translucent silk cloth headscarf covering her hair.

"It's fire-resistant, waterproof, and Overlord Ranked, so it won't be easily cut. Not as good as a helmet, but it can easily be layered with a barrier spell without disturbing her hairstyle." Rae explained.

"Is there a full suit of armour under there?" The father asked.

The succubus nodded, and raised her robe to show off her boot laces, then her sleeves to show her gloves. But Rae didn't miss that she didn't show off the rest, even though that was the part she was happiest about in the changing room. Perhaps her father didn't approve of high fashion?

The merchant handed over a bag, and Davis tapped it, then nodded. "Thank you for your patronage, Sir. Please do come again if you have additional requirements."

Once they left, Rae stole the bag to see what good things they had gotten.

It couldn't be money, the bag wasn't big enough.

Well, there was some money, glowing light blue coins of a strange metal, but mostly it was in Overlord Ranked magical gems.

That was perfect, she needed Karl to make more of them into Runic Gems so that she could add them to armour pieces.

She wasn't the only one that needed them. Ashbringer also had a number of weapons ready for upgrading to Overlord Ranked, thanks to the materials they had brought back from the Stone Crushers, and the city would be coming soon to pick up weapons for the Auctions.

It would be fun to surprise them again.

The customers left, and one of the other Demons came over to speak to Rae.

"Those collars, with the damage reduction. Do you happen to have more of them? Or was that a special ordered item?" He asked.

"That was an Overlord Ranked custom full armour set order, with jewels and staff. But I have a few test pieces with lesser bonuses left." Rae offered.

Hawk had a lot of Commander Rank boar hide in his space left after eating the good parts. So, she had been using it to practice.

From the doorway, Loros raised her voice. "We also have a number of the heart pendants with various bonuses on them, if you want to add them to an existing necklace. I am just bringing them in for the shelves."

The charms had given her and Wendy a great idea. Instead of full items, which many might already have, they could add a charm to another item, and make something mundane into powerful magic.

Many of the Demons had fashionable nonmagical jewellery. A small magical charm could be added to that without ruining the fashionable impression, but while gaining the magical bonus.

Mostly, these were 'charm' items. Ones with runes for charisma, luck and wit. Designed to make the wearer seem more likeable, and avoid stumbling on their words in conversation. But they had made a few for more combat oriented purposes.

Wrath Demons in particular thought that everything should have a combat purpose. They were even known to bring weapons to bed, just in case.