

D. Extraction 121

Chapter 121 Result

"What is it, Professor?" Vale asked after seeing his professor nodding a couple of times.

Stella sighed once more as she answered.

"It's about the Spirit you summoned... It just mentioned that the gates of the spirit world opened for it to be summoned by you."

Vale was still honestly confused.

"Isn't that the same thing with all the other's summoned spirit? How would they get summoned if the gates don't open?"

At this question, Stella shook her head as she explained again.

"Normally, the summoned spirit should get to hear your summoning prayer. At that time, it gets to choose whether to allow the gates to be opened by the summoner and let itself be summoned. However, in the case of your Dark Spirit, it was the rulers of the Spirit World who had decided to send the Dark Spirit at your request through your prayer."

"W-what? There is something like that?" Vale asked in surprise.

Aside from Professor Stella's teachings about the Spirit World, Vale has no background in this subject since the books he read didn't tackle things related to the Spirit World. The books he read were mostly focused on the Darkness Arcane Path or the Dark Arts used by the Practitioners and several Dark Alchemy books.

"Yes... It happens in rare cases when the sacrifice to the rulers of the Spirit World was very attractive or if the one in the ritual is blessed by the Spirit World... Right, there are also cases that it would randomly happen for unknown reasons. However, the latter is extremely rare... There were only three instances recorded in our history."

Professor Stella paused for a moment as she stared at Vale's shadow...

She can't feel the presence of the Dark Spirit no matter how she tried. She can only give up as she shifted her gaze back to Vale.

"Why do you think she was sent to you by the rulers of the Spirit World?" Stella solemnly asked.

She knows that Vale didn't use a high-quality sacrificial ritual so the first reason can be eliminated. She can only think that Vale is blessed by the Spirit World or he was just lucky at the time he chanted his prayer.

Vale wryly smiled at this as he started scratching his head.

"Professor, I also wanted to know... I tried asking the Dark Spirit just now but it seems that it wasn't aware of the reason as well... It only knows that it had to follow the opened path."

Stella realized that Vale was indeed clueless about this so she can only try to investigate.

She continued asking him about the method of his ritual including the Oardic words he said.

"That worked?" Stella frowned after hearing Vale repeat the prayer he chanted.

"Yes... Professor. Is it odd? Was it not supposed to give a response with that prayer?"

Stella didn't immediately reply as she tried to make sense of Vale's ritual.

"I will repeat what you said to make it clear. After you made a Magic Circle that was passed down by your family, you started your chant... Glorius Gates of the Spirit World. Hallowed Maker of the Soul Society. The Nameless Guardian of the Harbingers. I, a devout follower of the Eternal Darkness, wish to open the gates of the World of Spirits... I wish to call for a living spirit residing in your world that wants to befriend me..."

"Yes." Vane gently nodded after confirming that she didn't make a mistake.

"Then that's weird. If you decide to call the three powerful beings of the Spirit World without a decent sacrifice like your blood or other materials, then it shouldn't work. You only used a bottle of human bone power... Although it was from an Arcane Arts Practitioner, it doesn't have much value from those beings except to the conscious Gates... Even if you use your blood, a low-level practitioner like you won't receive a response at all..."

"..."

"Was it because of the magic circle then?"

"Maybe... Unfortunately, I can't tell you much about it unless I ask my mother." Vale replied.

"I'm not interested in this circle. It's enough for me to understand the reason why your summoned spirit is special... Right, Dark Spirits are known as the Spirit World's soldiers. They are powerful beings so maybe you're one of the Blessed Ones of the Spirit World and they sent it to you to protect you." Stella added but her tone made Vale realize that she was just messing with him.

eglesnovel "I hope so..." Vale can only reply as Stella allowed him to leave the class since he's done. He can take his time outside while waiting for the next class.

Vale shook his head as he decided to just stay in the classroom to watch his classmates. He promised not to spread the prayer he used.

With that said, the two of them returned to the classroom as the assessment continued.

It didn't take long before the others managed to summon a spirit...

Unfortunately, only six more students aside from Vale managed to summon a docile or friendly Spirit.

It was Aubrey, Lisa, Warren, Dalton, Chad, and Leonore.

The previously proud Neil Sommerhalder can only get a passing grade after summoning a tiny willful spirit. It can't be considered as friendly but it also can't be considered as hostile... At most, the spirit he summoned likes to prank people...

It was the same for the others and a few of them even summoned a hostile one...

A battle almost occurred but Stacy and Cliff were vigilant and took care of it in time.

"I'm sorry..." Blair Etton, the guy who was interested in having a female Variant, felt disappointed at the result of his assessment. He was one of the students who summoned a spirit that wanted to possess their body!

Although their possession wouldn't last for long, it is still considered a hostile spirit.

"It's alright... You'll learn from your mistakes if you continue to study. In any case, this assessment won't heavily affect your grades for the rest of the year. This is just the beginning of your path. I'm even impressed that there were only a few who made a mistake."

Professor Stella said to try and console those who had failed.

The three next subjects also made their monthly assessments but unlike Professor Stella's style, they can only know whether they passed the exam or not at their next class.

Chapter 122 Secret Identity

Everyone was tired after the monthly assessment...

The Intermediate Arithmetic Class made them dizzy, the Fundamentals of the Magic Zone's assessment made them feel so drained, and the Physical and Health Education made their bodies hurt.

Apparently, the professor of the last class made them exercise in the gymnasium instead of having a written exam about health and the physical body.

It seems to be very effective for their own health but it is also unlike what they have thought. They have memorized the physical activities that Arcane Arts Practitioners must do. They memorized how to stay physically fit and other various things but in the end, the assessment wasn't about memorization but an activity.

"That was so exhausting... I can't... I'm going back to my room." Aubrey said tiredly as they went out of the classroom.

As a spellcaster, she thought that she would only have to master her spells and learn how to use her Magic Artifacts. However, it was far from the truth and they have so many things to do.

"Hey, you haven't eaten yet. You didn't take your breakfast and you ate too little at yesterday's dinner. You have to force yourself to eat or it will be bad for your health. Remember what we've learned." Lisa reminded as she held Aubrey's hand.

"Ughh... Fine..." Aubrey thought of it and she indeed feels a bit hungry.

As soon as they entered the cafeteria and smelled the scent of food, Aubrey immediately felt her hunger as she even walked passed Vale and Chad to get her tray of meals first.

As their started eating, the students from other classes had also arrived as they all looked tired and hungry.

Today's monthly assessment seems really difficult for everyone.

"It's Maya... I barely see her in our cafeteria." Chad commented silently after seeing the student representative enter the cafeteria with her entourage of followers. Some of them are her classmates and a few of them were students of the higher years.

eglesnovel`c,om Vale wanted to ignore the commotion she created just by entering the cafeteria but he can't do so...

The Dark Spirit that was hiding in his shadow suddenly reacted because of her presence.

"What?" Vale was confused as he glanced in Maya's direction.

It may have been a coincidence as Maya also briefly glanced at him the moment he raised his head to look for her.

"I knew it... She's really conscious of your presence. This is not the first time she did that, right?" Chad immediately said as soon as he noticed Maya's eyes turning to look at Vale.

"You're creepy... Why do you keep observing where she looks at?" Aubrey grunted at his words as she doesn't believe it.

She also keeps stuffing food in her mouth all this time since she wanted to finish early so she can rest on her soft bed as quickly as possible.

"Ugh... It's not that... I just can't help but notice her. You know she's beautiful. It would be even weirder if I don't look at her." Chad argued as he felt that he was just being observant and not creepy at all.

Vale smiled at this as he decided to agree with his words.

"That's normal, I guess. However, I don't think that she's conscious of me. Instead, she probably noticed something." Vale said as he ordered his Dark Spirit to keep hiding in his shadow.

For some odd reason, the Dark Spirit seems to be wary of Maya Featherstar or perhaps, the ones surrounding her.

"Kehehe... I think she wanted you to notice her improvement. Didn't Professor Stella mention that Maya has lower strands than you? I think she was working really hard to surpass you." Lisa commented on the side.

She rarely joins this kind of topic so Vale couldn't help but look at her.

"That may be so... Right, you mentioned that you'll record the Active Curse Break, how was it? I didn't hear any news after you informed us about it." Vale shifted the topic since someone might hear them talking about Maya. It might seem rude if that happens.

Luckily, his classmates understood his intention as they just talked about other things.

Lisa already recorded the Active Curse Break and Ghost Hands successfully. She had actually asked for a Professor's help to learn it first before she record the Darkness Manipulation spell.

"Which professor was it? I'll ask them as well in case I need to record another spell." Chad asked.

"It was our Professor in Arithmetic Class, Professor Ravinie..." Lisa replied.

"Ahh? He can help with Spell Recording or do you have a certain connection with him?" Aubrey asked as she was surprised to hear that Lisa was quite close to a Ravinie.

Lisa is a commoner and the Ravinie Family isn't just a powerful clan in the Dark Arts Faction but also a noble family acknowledged by the Kingdom.

The current head of the Ravinie Family is an Earl of the Millton Kingdom!

Aubrey viewed these people as proud individuals who wouldn't think of getting close to a commoner like Lisa. Although she's quite talented, Professor Russel Ravinie should have some form of aversion to her.

"No... He's the one who approached me and asked if I wanted some help regarding my Spell Recording." Lisa explained.

This baffled Aubrey even more but she decided to just remind Lisa of her thoughts.

"Lisa, be careful of him... He might have some ulterior motives I'm unaware of. I just can't believe that someone from their family would be so kind to someone who isn't part of the nobility. Well, unless you have a secret identity we're unaware of." Aubrey added as she tried to avoid referring to her friend as a commoner.

Although she doesn't have any bad intentions, Lisa might feel offended being called like that in the academy where all of them should be equal.

"I don't have a secret identity... I just lived a normal tragic life, someone who doesn't even know their real parents. This is probably common in some areas of the kingdom bordering other nations." Lisa wryly smiled as everyone realized that it was indeed not easy for her.

After some hesitation, she added.

"Right, I will be wary of the Professor from now on... Thank you for your reminder."

Chapter 123 Unreal

Vale woke up early the next day.

It was only four in the morning and the sky is still dark outside.

He thought of going to the nearby garden first to pass some of his time but as soon as stepped out of his room, he heard a familiar voice inside his head.

The voice was telling him to get visit him in the person's room, the Headmaster's Office.

Vale wasn't sure why the headmaster was trying to call for him this early but he didn't question him and just continued on his way.

In the hallway, he didn't meet any students and only saw a few custodians cleaning up the place. If he wasn't mistaken, some classes of the higher years would even end early in the morning so it wasn't that surprising that the custodians would mop the floor and clean the surroundings in shifting schedule.

The custodians would simply ignore him so he didn't bother them as well.

As soon as he arrived outside the Headmaster's Office, Vale was beckoned to come in.

"Vale, the door is unlocked, just get inside." Headmaster Jean spoke as Vale twisted the door knob and slightly opened the door.

For some reason, he felt nervous entering so he was taking his time. He couldn't tell what was wrong so he wanted to be careful.

As soon as he had glimpsed what was inside, Vale was speechless as he gaped at the beautiful sight...

'Corpses... Three female corpses and they're even naked. Why did the Headmaster call me here?' Vale was shocked as he can only make a guess.

Headmaster Jean probably took his Master's words seriously!

"H-headmaster, did I arrive at an inconvenient time? I can come later." Vale suggested as he tried to show that he has no idea why he brought three female corpses here.

"Don't worry, Vale... It's only the two of us here. I heard from Heinz that you need to see some corpses every other week or you might have some withdrawal symptoms. This is your reward."

"Cough! Cough! Cough. I think you misunderstand him, Headmaster Jean. Withdrawal symptoms? I don't have that kind of thing. I... I really don't know what withdrawal symptoms you're talking about, Headmaster." Vale shook his head as he explained himself.

However, Headmaster Jean didn't buy it at all.

"Heinz told me that every week that he can't show you any corpses, you would keep asking him about it and even monitor the dockyard for the delivery of corpses. He even mentioned how you were trying to talk to the Variants under his command to bring you corpses. Right, he also mentioned how you would check the corpses that are being sent to the town and the academy first since you're not satisfied with the corpses sent to the factory..."

"T-this... Headmaster, that may be true but it's not what you think at all." Vale answered with exasperation.

"Of course, of course... It was my mistake. You don't have to get mad at me. Just take these corpses with you since they're my gifts after you've done a great job. This is also a form of encouragement so you can focus properly and prepare for your duel against Larkin Nevil. He will be a tough one but I'm sure you can deal with him. Heinz wouldn't let you go if you're still incapable of beating a mere Slender Zombie."

Headmaster Jean replied and he obviously doesn't believe anything of what he says regarding his "attraction" to the corpses.

Well, it's really difficult to explain unless he tells him about the system he has...

However, telling him about the extraction system wouldn't just make things complicated but it will also become very dangerous for him.

Someone might even try to forcefully take it away from him through a series of rituals and experiments in case it was leaked.

Vale can only sigh in the end since he also wanted to extract the corpses that is already in his hand's reach.

"Headmaster, I'll just take a look at them briefly and you can take them back after..."

"No need, you can take your time and I'm planning to send them to your room later..."

'So you can continue enjoying yourself.' This is probably what the Headmaster wanted to add.

As soon as Vale realized what he was trying to do, he instantly paled as he felt that if his roommates notice three naked female corpses in his room, his reputation would certainly go down the hill. He wouldn't even have the courage to face his fellow classmates as he would die in embarrassment...

"No!—I mean, Headmaster Jean... You don't have to be that considerate. I'm already fine checking them out for a few seconds."

Headmaster Jean was silent for a moment before shaking his head.

"It's up to you... I'll go outside for a moment... You can take your time, I'll only come back in half an hour, or do you need more time?"

"Ugh..." Vale was stumped as he saw the Headmaster leave the room.

Vale was thoroughly unable to follow the Headmaster's thoughts.

In the end, Vale can only quickly extract the corpses so he can leave the room as quickly as possible.

As soon as he touched the first female corpse, he waited for his system's notification...

However, to his surprise, there was no reaction at all.

"That's weird..." Vale muttered as he tried once more.

After confirming that it was really ineffective, he tried the other two corpses... Unfortunately, he got the same result.

Vale frowned at the sudden unsuccessful attempt. This had never happened before. All the human corpses that he had tried to extract would always be recognized by the system.

'W-wait... It can't be—'

As he was holding the corpse's body, a sudden thought came to his mind as he worriedly tried to activate the other function of the system... He was worried that his Divine Extraction System has completely disappeared!

He quickly checked his attribute panel and like what he feared, he can't access the system!

'No... This can't be...'

eaglesnovel.com At this time, the door of the office suddenly opened.

He thought it was the Headmaster but to his surprise, he saw his classmates watching him... They were Lisa, Leonore, Aubrey, Chad, and even Maya can be seen behind them!

They were looking at him in shock followed by an expression of disgust!

Chapter 124 Reality

"Haaa!"

Vale's eyes suddenly opened as he looked around and realized that he was still in his bed.

He was sweating profusely as many thoughts came into his head as he recalled being seen by his classmates sitting down with three naked female corpses.

It was such a terrible memory.

"Thankfully... Whew... It's all just a dream... Just a dream." Vale muttered to himself to calm down.

He then swiftly checked his system and confirmed that there is nothing wrong with it. He was able to see his attributes unlike in his dream.

Everything just felt so real as his heart was still beating crazily. He then carefully checked his body and confirmed that he didn't wet himself on his bed.

"What the heck was that? Why did I even dream of it? Ugh... That is so scary..." Vale sighed as he slumped on his bed to calm his raging heart.

After a while, he checked his pocketwatch placed on the lamp table near his bed.

After confirming that it was only five in the morning, Vale relaxed for a moment.

He then went to the washroom to clean himself to leave early. He wanted to have an early breakfast...

However, as he got outside, Vale's heart thumped loudly as he heard the headmaster's voice...

He was being called to the Headmaster's Office!

Vale's eyes went wide as he unconsciously stepped back thinking of running away and ignoring his call.

However, the Headmaster's magic zone can definitely reach him and could tell what he was doing. He has no way of escaping so he can only visit the Headmaster.

"What a coincidence... I also dreamt of being called by the Headmaster... That's weird." Vale's steps suddenly halted as he looked at the hallway leading to the office.

For some reason, the dream he just saw felt like a prophecy as he passes the custodian sweeping on the floor.

This doesn't feel good at all.

As he looked at the door of the Headmaster's Office, Vale silently prayed that he won't see three naked female corpses inside waiting for his presence.

As soon as he heard the Headmaster's signal to enter, Vale nervously twisted the doorknob and pushed it open.

'No way...' Vale wasn't able to enter the room as he saw a cadaver bag inside the room.

It may be different from the dream he had but the fact that there is still a corpse inside this room made him nervous.

Headmaster Jean noticed Vale's behavior and smiled at him knowingly.

It was as if he could read his mind. However, based on his dream, this Headmaster had a complete misunderstanding of his "hobbies."

After the door closed, Headmaster Jean started speaking.

"You're already shaking with excitement. Heinz is indeed right... It's been a while since you've seen a corpse so I'm sure that you'll like my gift. This corpse is quite special. She's from the Holy Arts Faction and part of the Untainted Sentinels. Among all the corpses we've collected, she's the only one with an intact body since my niece was the one who dealt with her."

Vale jolted at the sudden explanation.

He understood that this corpse isn't easy to go by so it will be very rude to reject this present.

As he heard the latter part of his words, he couldn't help but imagine Lesley's cold beauty... However, the Headmaster might have another niece so he decided to ask.

"Headmaster, I heard from Master Heinz that Lesley was your niece... Was it her who killed this lady?"

"You're right... She had only recently graduated but she was already capable of dealing with a 5-year member of the Holy Arts Faction's Order. Isn't she amazing?"

"R-right... She's exceptional, Headmaster..."

"Yes... You can take this corpse back to your room but I'll have to take it back later this evening. The seal on her body would only last 15 hours and after that, an evil spirit might possess her." Headmaster Jean explained.

"B-but... I don't think it's appropriate, let me just inspect the body for a few seconds. Besides, I can't carry this corpse back to my room without being noticed by people" Vale replied as he steps forward to start his extraction.

"Haha... Do you think I didn't know that you've become a blessed of the Spirit World? You can simply ask your Dark Spirit to carry the corpse for you. It can hide the corpse inside your body..."

eaglesnovel.com Vale was stunned as soon as he heard these words. He had never heard anything about it. Even Professor Stella didn't mention it to him.

"Is that true, Headmaster?" Vale asked.

"Yes, don't be shy and communicate with your Dark Spirit now. Take your time. Right, since this is the first, it might take a few minutes so I'll leave to take care of something. I'll be quick."

"Yes, Headmaster." Vale replied as he started speaking to the Dark Spirit hiding in his shadow...

However, a sudden realization came into his mind. In his dream, the Headmaster left as well and he was exposed to his classmates doing something with a female corpse.

'Hurry up!' Vale commanded the Dark Spirit since he felt that the dream might come true but in a different way like how he should be presented with three corpses but has only been presented by a single corpse.

The Dark Spirit understood his thoughts as it immediately came out of his shadow and surrounded the cadaver...

Vale then heard the Dark Spirit complain about the bag. Apparently, the bag can't be brought into his shadow.

It seems to be a Mystical Item that has a natural counter against the Spirit's storing ability.

With this in mind, Vale opened the cadaver bag to reveal the beautiful female corpse.

"As expected of the Holy Arts Faction... They look sacred even if they're already dead." Vale muttered as he touched the cold body.

As soon as he did this, his system was triggered.

[Human corpse has been discovered. Would you like to extract it?]

Chapter 125 Hidden Ability

"Yes..."

Vale answered without any hesitation.

[Extraction successful. Energy +30 Agility +0.75 Intelligence +1.05]

"As expected of the Headmaster... I extracted two attributes at the same time. They're also incredibly high." Vale muttered after the successful extraction.

He knows that his extraction with humans would get lower and lower the stronger he gets. This is the reason why he didn't exceed a hundred in his attributes yet.

However, this woman still has still given him a whole number signifying that she's out of his current level.

At the same time, that he did this, the Dark Spirit also stored the body inside his shadow after wrapping it with a dark energy.

Then Vale heard something from the Dark Spirit.

"Hmm? What did you say?" Vale asked after not understanding the Dark Spirit's thoughts.

Apparently, the Spirit just revealed that the Corpse's soul energy had somehow weakened and almost disappeared before the body was stored inside the shadow.

"Did it not happen because you moved it in my shadow?" Vale asked.

After hearing a negative response, Vale can only make a guess, his extraction somehow extracted the Soul Energy of the corpse...

'Is this the requirement for extracting corpses?'

This would also make sense since he's unable to extract a body multiple times. He can only do a single extraction of a corpse. This only means that he was extracting something out of the corpses and it appears that it's the soul energy of the corpses.

This also made him question whether he could extract Wilfred's body at that time. After all, Wilfred's soul was taken by the Headmaster. Would he be unable to extract the body because of it?

Vale was curious to find an answer.

Nevertheless, he immediately cleared everything as he folded the cadaver bag and placed it in the corner of the room.

As he opened the door to leave the room, he realized that Headmaster Jean and Maya Featherstar were walking together as they seem to heading back to the Headmaster's Office.

"Headmaster, Vale just came out of your room... He looks nervous as well." Maya halted her footsteps and reported it to the Headmaster as if he didn't see it happen.

Vale realized that Maya was somehow suspecting him of entering the Headmaster's office without permission!

Vale decided to ignore her since it was probably normal to react like that. Instead of talking to her to prove himself, he shifted his gaze to the Headmaster and spoke unhurriedly.

"Headmaster, I'm done with the task, I'll be returning to my room now." Vale calmly said as Maya, who was waiting for the Headmaster's response, realized that she was jumping to conclusions.

eaglesnovel "Great... Train harder so you can deal with that Larkin." Headmaster Jean said.

"Yes, I will do so." As Vale said this, he didn't even bother looking at Maya as he continued on his way.

Maya Featherstar felt her face turning red in embarrassment as she quickly spoke before Vale gets too far.

"I apologize for that. I was just surprised. Recently, someone tried to enter from the window of my room so I'm a bit agitated right now." Maya explained herself.

No wonder she was talking to the Headmaster about this...

'Wait, is she supposed to talk with it to the headmaster immediately?' Vale mused since he doesn't really know the protocol about this.

Anyway, he doesn't have the time to fool around with her so he only nodded and left immediately.

This made Maya feel extremely baffled. She was always the one in control of the conversation and always felt superior. However, Vale's uncaring response to her felt extremely new to her.

Well, she can't really blame Vale right now, since his mind is currently recalling his dream...

"This is weird... Did I get involved with someone who can give me prophetic dreams or signs of the future?" Vale thought as he walked quickly.

He believed that the dream he had just now is a prophecy. Although it wasn't exactly accurate, it was still very similar.

The Headmaster invited him to his office to reward him with a female corpse and another student came to visit the Headmaster at his office.

Although the dream exaggerated things a little bit, it is still relatively the same.

'Dark Spirit are you the one who had given me that prophetic dream? Is it your mystical ability? You can give me some sort of revelations through dreams?' Vale asked continuously.

Aside from the Dark Spirit, he didn't get involved with some other people or mystical items that would give him such a gift...

If it's not the Dark Spirit, he can't think of anyone who can give him such a prophetic dream.

Unfortunately, the Dark Spirit didn't respond after asking about the dream. It didn't deny his claims but it didn't confirm it as well.

Vale was at a loss since he can't understand the Dark Spirit's intention for staying with him.

He only knows it wasn't thinking of harming him since he's somehow connected to the Spirit. If he was harmed, the Dark Spirit will also gravely suffer at this point.

Anyway, after this matter, Vale's monthly assessment continued.

Since they have already completed the assessment for the Elementary Spirit Law subject, they have two hours of free time to prepare for the next subject...

The Basic Usage of Mystical Artifacts!

This subject is probably one of the most important subjects during the first year since dealing with Mystical Items can be very dangerous for various reasons, especially if they were Mystical Items created by Dark Arts Practitioners.

Professor Harrison arrived on time as everyone nervously waited for the type of assessment they were about to take.

Luckily for them, they noticed that Professor Harrison didn't bring any materials whatsoever so she probably won't ask them to use a Mystical Artifact or even have them repair one.

Shirley Harrison looked at the students in her class and calmly spoke.

"For your assessment, it will be simple... I have a mirror here and will show you ten Mystical Artifacts. If you answered at least 8 of them correctly, you passed. It may sound simple but the tricky part is that Mennena would be the one showing the items to you.

Chapter 126 Mysterious Mirror

Vale and everyone else were confused.

They know that Mennena is the spirit of the mirror. However, they can't tell how would it differ if she's the one showing the mystical items and if it was the Professor.

"Professor Harrison, what's the difference?" Neil suddenly asked as he was also baffled.

"The difference? Mennena knows how you'll fail the assessment but I don't. Alright, who wants to volunteer first... You only have 15 seconds to identify each Mystical Item. Remember, I'm not asking you to tell me their usage or how they are made. I only need their names and that's enough."

Vale frowned at this since in the end, it's all about memorization. In any case, this is still an Arcane Academy so memorizing things should be quite normal.

"I'll go first..." Lisa raised her hands confidently.

This surprised their classmates except Vale, Aubrey, and Chad who knows how diligent Lisa was. Since she's the only one in their class that doesn't belong to any family with a background in mysticism, she has to double her efforts and would always stay in the library even if she no longer has a duty to be stationed there by her club.

"Alright, Lisa Grayback. Come forward and touch the mirror so we can begin. You're the only one capable of seeing what has appeared and you can write your answer on the mirror itself using your finger. Then, Mennena would let me know if your answer is right or wrong."

"I understand, Professor..." Lisa answered as she stepped forward.

She heard her classmate's encouraging words as she nodded in acknowledgment.

Vale felt that this exam would be quite boring for those who are waiting but they realized that the Mirror will actually shine bright if the answer is correct and turn dark if the answer is incorrect.

Lisa only managed to get seven correct answers as she returned to her seat with a pale face. She failed the exam!

"Don't worry... This is just the first assessment. It wouldn't matter as long as you pass the last few assessments we have in our class." Chad reminded her as he tried to cheer her up.

However, to their surprise, the next students didn't even get seven points!

Even Chad, who tried to comfort her only got 4 correct answers!

Lisa was actually impressive for having seven points!

Almost half of the class has already completed the exam but Lisa remained to be the highest scorer.

"Isn't this a bit too difficult?"

"We're just unlucky since it's completely random..."

"No... It was definitely Mennena causing us trouble. That Spirit probably knows the extent of our knowledge."

"What? Do you think it's possible?"

"Of course... Mennena is a special Spirit residing inside the mirror. It can do more than just show images of Mystical Items."

"Whatever... In the end, if we memorize all those Mystical Artifacts we won't be this troubled."

The ones who had completed the test couldn't help but complain about the difficulty of the exam. They didn't expect to be unable to get a passing score in such a simple subject.

Vale listened to them as he was already not expecting a passing grade. He would probably be happy to get seven points similar to Lisa's score.

Leonore was soon called out and scored 7 points followed by Aubrey who scored the same points.

It appears that this is the limit of this assessment.

Soon, it was Vale's turn.

He copied his classmates' actions and touched the mirror to begin the exam...

As soon as he did this, he saw the first image shown by Mennena. It was a bag that is emitting a faint yellow glow.

'An easy one at first, huh...'

Baleful Knapsack.

Vale wrote his answer in the mirror. Then, the mirror made a reaction by brightly glowing in a matter of 2 or 3 seconds.

Then, the assessment continued as Vale identified the mystical items.

eaglesnovel.com Spirit Pearl Necklace. Dark Knight's Torch. Flimsy Glaive. Dreamwhisperer, Trinket of the Night. Tranquility Goblet.

Vale had seven correct answers so he already felt satisfied.

Nevertheless, Vale didn't relax as he remained focused...

The eighth mystical item that the mirror showed was a cane. If Vale wasn't mistaken, it was the cane used by the Headmaster!

Vale had no idea what it was so he can't answer this question.

'Did she even teach us about this item? I'm pretty sure this is the first time she had shown us this cane.' Vale frowned at the sudden realization.

No wonder Lisa and Aubrey failed to get a point from the 8th item onward!

As Professor Harrison reminded him of the time, Vale can only write what's in his mind.

Headmaster's Cane.

As expected, the mirror did not shine anymore as it turned dark.

"Whew... So Vale can also make a mistake..."

"Indeed. I thought he was about to be famous again."

"There's still the ninth and tenth question."

"Let's watch for now..."

Neil and his friends were obviously relieved after seeing Vale fail.

Vale might be stronger than them in terms of Spirit Strands and Dark Spell Mastery, but they are still confident with their studying habits so they should have a better score than him.

The ninth item was another familiar object... It was the furnace in the factory and he knows this very well.

However, this wasn't taught in class so Vale felt reluctant to answer.

'This is definitely the Quince Furnace... However, it's not appropriate to guess this correctly.'

In the end, Vale wrote an incorrect answer.

Arcane Furnace.

Then, the tenth item showed up.

Once more, Vale was greatly shocked...

"Professor, can you see the item that Mirror is showing to me?" Vale asked curiously.

Instead of using his time to think of an answer, he actually asked the Professor instead.

"Hmm? I can't... However, Mennena knows the coverage of our assessment, she shouldn't show you something impossible to be answered."

"I see... I understand, Professor." Vale answered with a gentle nod as he decided not to answer the tenth item.

This baffled the class since the others would at least try and guess the answer.

As Vale returned to his seat, he couldn't help but feel puzzled by the mysterious mirror artifact.

The tenth item that was shown to him was actually the book called The Forbidden Practice of the Unlighted!

Chapter 127 Question

Lisa looked at Vale curiously as she felt that he seemed troubled after the final item was shown to him.

She had no idea what was shown to him but it seem to have a deep connection to him or perhaps, it was something that he had personally seen before and had experienced its mystical ability.

'Should I ask him later about it?' Lisa mused as she couldn't help but feel curious.

Vale has always been a mystery to her after learning more about Spirit Strands and Spell Mastery...

When she first entered the academy, she can't really appreciate Vale's high Spirit Strands since she doesn't know much about them. This includes his Advanced-Level Mastery of his Ghost Hand Spell that he had shown to everyone.

However, after knowing plenty of things through her professors, classmates, and books in the library related to such topics, she can already tell how awesome Vale's achievement was as a 14-year-old student.

"Dalton Stranway." Professor Harrison called out.

Lisa then watched attentively as she knows that this guy is also quite special.

Right now, there were already four students with a score of 7 points so she was curious whether he could exceed their scores or not. Perhaps, the only remaining students she thought of getting a passing score were Dalton, Warren, and Jody who knows plenty of things.

Unfortunately, she was thinking too much. Dalton only scored 5 points and Warren only scored 6 points.

As for Jody, she only got 4 correct answers!

Lisa suddenly had to readjust her understanding of her classmates' intelligence...

'Having a high Spirit Strand doesn't seem to mean having high intelligence... It's unlike the book I've read. Or perhaps there's a catch?'

Lisa mused as she felt puzzled at the result of this assessment.

'Well, having high intelligence doesn't mean you'll be omniscient. You still need to study things and learn them through normal methods.'

The exam for this class was soon over and it was confirmed that no one passed.

Nevertheless, Professor Harrison wasn't bothered by it as if she was expecting this result.

Before she left the classroom, she reminded her students.

"Getting a perfect score in my assessment will be very difficult from now on so I'll be considerate and wouldn't mark your grades as failed."

After she left everyone was baffled for a moment... However, someone soon realized what was going on...

Leonore looked at Vale amusedly and muttered. "So she made it difficult so someone won't think of getting a Class Advancement Exam... No wonder it was so strange."

As soon as she said this, everyone's eyes lit up in understanding.

Perhaps, the professors have already heard about Vale's plan to skip the Intermediate Arithmetic Class!

The Professors don't seem to like this idea and made changes to their exams and made it even more difficult!

"So it was Vale's fault..." Lisa chimed in as she teased Vale.

Chad and others followed after and Vale didn't seem to mind all these jokes. He knows he was just being teased and took it lightly.

The next assessment soon followed.

It was from Music and Arts Class and although it was a difficult exam, it is within acceptable range, unlike Professor Harrison's impossible-to-pass assessment.

They simply have to write down several dance and musical rituals done by humans in the past that have been transformed into modern rituals.

These things appear quite random for them and they probably wouldn't use this in the near future... Nevertheless, Vale found this type of knowledge very important since he wouldn't be staying here in the academy forever.

He would soon get out of here after he takes his shadow from the current Headmaster. It may not be in this year but it'll definitely happen in a few years after he accumulated enough "favor" from the Headmaster.

"Vale, let's have our early lunch..." Lisa invited Vale after seeing that he was still seated.

The others have already stood up and rushed to the cafeteria since they were all hungry.

Vale then stood up and followed the others.

At this time, he also recalled something he was curious about...

Since Lisa seem to know plenty of things he decided to ask her about the matter that's been on his head over the past couple of days.

"Lisa, have you heard about the Arena Master in the Academy?"

Vale asked softly. He can still recall how the Headmaster called the President of the Battle Arena Committee an Arena Master. He has delayed researching it since he thought of asking Secretary Nadine about this after their next meeting.

However, after recalling how Lisa has been studious all this time, Vale thought of asking her instead.

Chad and Aubrey listened to their conversation but didn't make any comments.

They didn't seem surprised after hearing the word Arena Master so they must be aware of it as well.

Lisa then thought for a moment as she recalled what she had read about it.

"Arena Master? Well, I only know that you can only get that title after winning 10 duels in a row... Those duels must be in the same batch or in the higher years to be counted. Right, I seem to have read that your Club President must have this title to be elected."

Lisa replied.

Vale thanked her for answering this as he finally had some clarification about this matter.

'Arena Master, huh... I wonder what benefit they'll get from having that title.' Vale said inwardly. He knows that the Academy wouldn't be so stingy in giving rewards so he felt a bit curious.

In any case, their group didn't take long to finish their meal. It was a couple of pieces of buttered bread, a slice of meat, and a cold pudding...

After they returned to their classroom, it was time for their assessment of the Darkness Arcane Path.

As they were expecting a difficult exam, Professor Lucius Angelart simply told them that recording the Darkness Manipulation is already their assessment.

Instead of giving them a difficult exam, the Professor decided to lecture those who hadn't recorded their third Dark Spell yet.

However, before he did that, he looked at Vale and asked seriously.

"Student Vale, you're the only one who had recorded the Dark Spell ahead of schedule. Since you've passed perfectly in my assessment, are you planning on taking Class Advancement Exam in my class?"

Chapter 128 Secret Organization

"No, professor... I won't be taking your Class Advancement Exam." Vale answered immediately without any hesitation. This shocked his classmates for a moment as they thought that Vale would immediately take the opportunity.

They all looked at Vale as if they didn't recognize him anymore.

"That's weird... Is he really that Vale?"

'Perhaps, he's not really that impressive... What is he afraid of?'

'I'll be taking that opportunity if it was me.'

'Well, he's not omniscient so he's probably unaware of many things. He's only lucky to have an advanced study in arithmetic.'

This is the thought of some of his classmates as they heard Vale's answer.

Professor Lucius looked at Vale for a moment before asking once more.

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, Professor." Vale answered.

"Very well... Just in case, I would like to ask if there are others who had finished recording the spell?" Professor Lucius asked everyone this time.

After not hearing any answers from his students, he understood that Vale was still the only one who had finished the Spell Recording.

"Alright... I want everyone to record the spell as quickly as possible. If you haven't recorded the spell within the next weeks, I will bring you a stronger version of Darkness Pill to help you with the recording ritual. It will greatly help you to ease the burden brought by creating the Spell Model but the pill isn't for free. You have to pay 5,000 zen per piece..." Professor Lucius explained.

The price may not be that expensive for those rich merchants and nobles but for some of them who came from a poor family, they were obviously frightened by this amount.

This includes Lisa who was worried about not being able to purchase the pill.

Currently, most of them were only using the free Magic Circle in the Ceremony Hall. It should give them a 30% chance of success rate in their Spell Recording but it is obviously not enough to have a successful Spell Recording.

"Professor, why are we in such a hurry? I heard from our seniors in the Second Year that they were only required to learn the Darkness Manipulation Spell after two or three months. Not even two months had passed in our class." Neil suddenly said as he has a connection to some higher years.

This question is also something that many of them wanted to ask.

Luckily, Neil has a thick face and would always ask questions without any hesitation.

"Let's just say that the peaceful era might come to an end soon... What would you do?" Professor Lucius asked.

This question alarmed all of the students as so many thoughts immediately surfaced in their minds.

Neil thought for a moment as he answered matter-of-factly.

"We need to get stronger of course... Although the Dark Arts Faction has many strong practitioners and the Order of the Evanescent Vessels is incredibly powerful compared to the other Secret Orders, they still have limited numbers. Our own strength is what will matter in case we're at war once more."

Professor Lucius nodded at this as he continued.

"He's right... Your own strength won't betray you. Although this thing won't happen any time soon, it can still happen."

"Professor, what about the Treaty of Keslore? Is it about to lose its effect?" Vale asked this time. He can't imagine that the Treaty would just be disregarded like that.

That treaty is the one that made their Dark Arts Faction "accepted" as part of the Arcane Paths making the eleven members of the Association of the Harmonius Arcane Paths into twelve. Vale believed that it would at least take another generation or two before changes can be made to this treaty, especially if the current king was replaced.

"It's still effective... However, a huge disturbance has been happening in some other Factions. Some of them are being blamed on our Dark Arts Faction even if we don't have relation in those incidents."

"What? Someone is trying to blame our faction?" Chad asked in surprise.

"Yes... However, since we are also attacked by these mysterious individuals, their suspicion of us has weakened a lot."

"Ahh? Who dared to attack us?" Leonore asked with genuine surprise.

The Dark Arts Faction may have suffered from the previous war but that was because they have no allies!

They were fighting multiple factions while on their own. They even get to make these factions suffer tremendously and they had no choice but to agree with the treaty that Morgan Vermont suggested.

Although the treaty suppressed them because they were banned to practice some dangerous Dark Arts, they were at least able to grow in other branches of the Dark Arts and multiplied their practitioners by over twenty times in just a few years.

In short, Leonore knows very well that the current Dark Arts Faction is scarier than it previously was.

Professor Lucius shook his head at this question and answered.

"We don't know as well... It will soon be posted on the bulletin boards of your clubs so you'll know more about it. Anyway, I'll let you know a few things about them now. It's a secret organization and as you expected, we don't even know of their official name. We only know that this organization is comprised of multiple rogue practitioners of different Arcane Paths..."

"What's their goal professor?" Chad Bulmung asked.

"We don't know... We only know that this organization sent a few people to our Academy to find and steal something. It's a pocketwatch with an unknown purpose. If you have any information about a mystical pocketwatch with strange abilities, then you have to immediately let us know."

Professor Lucius solemnly said.

In the meantime, Vale froze at this sudden revelation.

He didn't know that the Academy was actually attacked and this matter might even be related to his golden pocketwatch!

'Are they searching for my pocketwatch? This is dangerous...' Vale's mind raced quickly as he knows that he has to do something about it...

Although he's not hundred percent sure that it was his pocketwatch that was being tracked, there is still a high chance of it happening.

Currently, the pocketwatch is just placed on his room's study table and could be found easily.

At this time, Vale's eyes lit up as he recalled his beautiful Dark Spirit.

'Right... Dark Spirit, can you bring a mystical item in my shadow?'

Chapter 129 In Trouble

Vale frowned after he felt the Dark Spirit's reaction.

"Why is that?" Vale muttered.

The Dark Spirit wasn't speaking to him but he can feel her intentions, her needs, and her emotions.

As soon as he asked the previous question, he felt the Dark Spirit's repulsion over mystical items. She can't store any mystical items in his shadow at all just like what happened with the cadaver bag. It was quite baffling so Vale couldn't help but be curious about it.

In the end, he decided to have a heart-to-heart talk with his dark spirit later this evening.

He hadn't done so last night because he had so many things on his mind because of the assessment... In any case, he has so many questions with his Dark Spirit... He would ask her about her real appearance, her powers to give him prophetic dreams, the power to store things in his shadow, and her repulsion to mystical items.

Without a doubt, all of these things were something he wanted to clarify since these were matters that he could never find in the books.

The class soon ended and everyone couldn't help but discuss the secret organization.

Some of them even started guessing the name of this organization based on the clues they have.

"Do you think they're called the Rogue Spellcasters?" Chad suggested.

"That's a lame name... I think they're called the Time Stealers Organization instead. Perhaps, the pocketwatch they're searching for can control time." Jody suddenly suggested as she joined Vale's group going to the cafeteria.

Well, her group of friends decided to immediately return to their dormitory and didn't bother to have their lunch.

Since she doesn't want to eat alone, she joined Vale's group instead.

"Time Stealers Organization... That sounds awesome alright... As expected of our journalist classmate." Lisa commented as she thought that this name sounded cool as well.

She then paused for a moment before she added.

"Right, I think they can also be called the Thirteenth Path..."

At this suggestion, everyone's eyes lit up, and looked at Lisa with new light...

"Thirteenth Path sounds cooler!" Jody reacted as she felt that this name idea might be useful in her future mystery-type articles.

"Indeed... That's a good one, Lisa... I can't even think of a proper one." Aubrey added as she doesn't have a good naming sense at all. Even her dog was simply named Gran which means Gold in the Oardic language.

"How about you, Vale? Can you try to give them a name?" Jody asked as they all found an empty table to gather.

Their meal for today wasn't that appetizing but would certainly give them energy for their club activities if they have one today.

They have beans and bacon with savory eggs, fried potatoes, and toast. It seems like a breakfast meal but no one would complain.

"..."

Vale started scratching his chin as he wasn't able to answer since he didn't think of any names at all. After a few moments, he tried...

"Well... How about the Villain Order?" Vale suggested after thinking for a while. It's definitely a bad name but at least, he tried.

"That's not going to work, Vale." Chad commented.

"That's a bit too direct but that's a good try." Lisa chimed in.

Vale could only chuckle as he knows that it was not a good name as well. In any case, he was thankful to know that there is actually a huge organization that is possibly aiming for his pocketwatch.

At first, he thought that they were simply gangsters who were looking for an expensive-looking pocketwatch.

However, that is obviously not the case after learning that several factions were attacked because of their search for this item...

Of course, it's still possible that he was imagining things and they weren't searching for his pocketwatch... The possibility is only high but it wasn't certain yet.

After their lunch, some of them visited their clubrooms while Lisa went to the Ceremony Hall to apply what she learned from the Professor.

Although she doesn't have any Darkness Pill to help her, it's not impossible to simply rely on the Magic Circle so she decided to try it for now.

In any case, Vale also promised to help them this coming Sunday in case they still failed their spell recording.

"Vale, you should go to the club tomorrow!"

A familiar voice suddenly called out to him as he was returning to his dorm.

It was Philip Hoffman, his batchmate in the Battle Arena Committee.

Vale turned to his back and asked.

"What's in the club tomorrow?"

Philip was actually not alone and behind him was Priscilla. It seems that they were returning to the Seven Pillars Garden as well.

"Did you forget? We're tasked to clean the Archive!"

As soon as he said this, Vale felt excited. He had almost forgotten about it! Thankfully, Philip reminded him today or he would've missed it if he felt lazy going to the club.

"You're right... Let's clean the Archive Room together." Vale answered with a meaningful smile on his face.

On the other hand, Priscilla seem to be frowning as she looked at Vale with a complicated gaze.

"Priscilla... Are you not happy that we're going to clean the Archive Room?" Vale asked.

"Aahh... It's not like that. Well... You see, I saw your girlfriend and she seemed to be troubled. She's surrounded by a few senior students and I'm not sure if she was acquainted with them... However, I might've seen her terrified... Can you check if she's really alright or I'm just imagining things?"

"..."

Vale didn't immediately react.

He certainly has some female friends but not a girlfriend...

At first, Vale thought that Priscilla was making a joke but as she continued, he realized that she had mistaken something and that she was serious about this whole thing.

Vale took a deep breath as he processed these things quickly in his mind.

"Are you referring to Leonore Roland?" Vale asked with a hint of helplessness in his voice.

"Yes." Priscilla answered with a gentle nod.

Vale wryly smiled as he continued.

"I understand... First of all, she's not my girlfriend. I'll be in deep trouble if she has a fiancé from a high nobility. Where is she? If she's in trouble, we should call for a Professor's help."

Chapter 130 Clarification

"Wait... Leonore is not your girlfriend?!" Philip asked in surprise.

"No... I'm only 14! What are you thinking!" Vale couldn't help but raise his voice as well.

Furthermore, only his body was 14 but his mind or soul is older than that!

He doesn't feel comfortable with this thought since his modern mind wouldn't allow him to do so. It may be normal here to get married early due to traditions and bloodline matters but as much as he can, he would certainly avoid it.

"Fourteen is already not a bad time for a relationship... If it works well, you can just married at 16 then---"

"Stop... Stop... We need to search for Leonore first." Vale interrupted Philip's next words as he knows it already. It may not be prohibited by law but his mind is prohibiting him...

It wasn't appropriate at all. He may consider some romance in his life but that would happen if he's already at the right age so he wouldn't get burdened by his conscience.

At the moment, he's more interested in corpses that he can extract...

'Ugh... What am I even thinking...' Vale shook his head as he cleared his thoughts.

Priscilla also looked at her brother with a meaningful gaze to make him stop.

She then explained where she found Leonore and everything she witnessed at that time.

Of course, hearing that his classmate may be in trouble, Vale didn't hesitate to offer help.

If those seniors were really messing with Leonore and they didn't misunderstand their intention, he wouldn't mind helping her... No matter what, Leonore has been kind to him and she's also very approachable...

Currently, their group is heading to the West Pavilion Garden, or known as the Red Crow Garden because of the wooden sculpture at its center spot.

This garden is near the Ceremony Hall so it wasn't surprising that there were first-year students here that have gathered.

'Right... I should inform someone.' Vale immediately reminded himself.

If Leonore is really in trouble with some higher years, he knows that he would also be in trouble if he meddled with them without any preparation.

With this in mind, he spoke to his Dark Spirit and gave it an instruction.

Then, he also asked Philip to get a Professor that he knows.

Luckily, they were still in the Hoffman Family which is the same Clan as the Headmaster. It shouldn't be a problem to get some help with their reputation.

"Alright... There's an Elder in the Ceremony Hall, I'll inform him quickly." Philip said as he swiftly left Priscilla and Vale. He knows the importance of this matter as well.

Although this academy has rules that should protect its students, it's not a guarantee that will make you safe inside this Academy of Dark Arts. It can be easily understood just by recalling how Vale killed a fellow first-year student a few weeks ago.

'Where is she?' Vale muttered as he looked at the garden... It was spacious with many ornamental plants. It's also filled with tall wintergreen boxwood shrubs that are blocking their view. Vale only knows that the garden is also designed to have five spots where people can gather...

At its very center was the pavilion with the Red Crow sculpture...

'Tsk...'

Since he can't find her, he decided to just enter his Phantasm State and search for Leonore's whereabouts.

"They're on that side... Behind the center pavilion." Priscilla pointed as she seem to have a huge range of magic zone or perhaps some other means that he wasn't aware of.

In any case, Vale also realized her location and she's indeed surrounded by six other students.

"Let's go quickly..." Priscilla said as she suddenly moved faster...

Vale then felt the fluctuation of dark energy and realized that she was using a movement spell!

"Movement Spell?!" Vale asked in shock.

He thought that he can only learn it in his third year in the Academy!

'Ugh... I want to learn that too...' Vale bit his lower lip as he watch Priscilla.

However, the latter seems to have noticed that Vale doesn't know a movement spell so she quickly realized her mistake and returns.

"Ahem... Aren't we prohibited from using Dark Spells?" Vale asked weakly after seeing her return.

Priscilla didn't seem bothered by this reminder as she replied with confidence.

"It's fine as long as the Ethics Committee won't catch you. Hold my hand."

She then offered her right hand to Vale.

"..."

Vale didn't immediately take her hand. He hesitated for a couple of seconds before he swiftly grabbed her hands.

'It's warm...' Vale thought as the last female body he held was cold.

Vale sighed inwardly as he can't believe that this is what he was thinking. He should be worried about his classmate right now.

Well, it has been a while since he held a warm hand so he felt like this is some sort of unique experience.

Vale then observed Priscilla's movement spell...

It seems to be a Movement Spell with a high level of mastery considering how he was also affected just by holding her hand.

He also noticed how his feet were sliding easily on the ground while Priscilla was dragging him. Dark energy has gathered under his feet and he doesn't have to move at all!

He simply allowed Priscilla to lead him to the location!

He even found a field-type spell that seems to be the reason why it was difficult to locate them...

Vale then decided to use his Spell Dispersion to remove this suspicious spell. He doesn't know what more it can do so it's better to remove it.

"We're here..." Priscilla finally said as she saw the group gathered around Leonore.

They have really chosen a spot where other students would rarely come by. Furthermore, Professors would rarely go around this area so they actually dared to Leonore!

Currently, she was already on the ground holding her left cheek...

It can be easily guessed that Leonore was slapped or punched by one of the senior students.

"Hmm? Did you call your boyfriend?"

As soon as they arrived, one of the seniors also noticed their presence.

On his coat, were 7 eight-angled stars showing that he was a 7th-year student of the Academy.

His aura was different from the violent Larkin Neveil of the 6th-year, it was incredibly still and deep like an ocean...

Even Vale can tell how different this guy was compared to the other students. His aura was close to his Club President, Noah Featherstar!