

D. Extraction 231

Chapter 231 Appraised

[Extraction Successful. Energy +20]

[Extraction Successful. Agility +0.35]

[Extraction Successful. Strength +0.15]

[Extraction Successful. Incomplete Spell Light]

Vale stopped extracting the Elementalist as soon as he passed out. He had no plans of killing this person since he believed that he didn't deserve to die.

Furthermore, his companions had already noticed something wrong and were rushing to his side.

'Oh? Is that an Elemental Spirit?' Vale muttered after sensing something above him.

Without any hesitation, he used the Spirit Vision to observe it carefully.

Thankfully, his Spirit Vision had already reached the Intermediate Realm, so it allowed him to inspect the Elemental Spirit in a brief moment.

'A Wind Spirit, huh... Furthermore, it seems to have a wider range than me.' Vale silently thought as he analyzed the Spirit using his Spell.

Apparently, his Divine Sense and Phantasm State couldn't properly give him some feedback about this being.

His Divine Sense was most effective if used on humans, while his Phantasm State works perfectly on things or objects. As for the Spirit Vision, it works well on Spiritual Beings or similar beings, which is quite impressive.

'I wonder how Ashe reacted after realizing that his Spirit Vision Spell Model was gone...' Vale wondered but he swiftly shook his head to erase his random thoughts.

He saw that the companions of the man he just defeated had already arrived.

"You didn't escape?" The man, who seemed to be the leader of this group of Elementalist, spoke as he looked at Vale with a hint of vigilance.

He was expecting that this person who wore a demonic mask would escape as soon as he realized he had to deal with three more Elementalist.

The leader then shifted his attention to Reed and was relieved that he was still alive and seemed to have just passed out.

Vale smiled under his mask and replied.

"I was attacked by your companion... Do you think you can just kill anyone as long as they're alone? Are you a member of some Evil Cult?" He asked with a hint of mockery.

Of course, he knows that the Shockwave Spell that was used to attack him wasn't meant to kill him. However, Vale needs to exaggerate it to stay on the moral high ground.

As expected, the moment he said this, the female Elementalist immediately responded. "We have no intention of killing you! We just can't allow you to continue further. You might disturb us in our mission. You should be able to tell that our companion didn't have any killing intent when he approached you."

In her mind, she felt infuriated after being accused of being part of an Evil Cult by a man wearing a Demonic Mask!

She should be the one accusing him of being a part of an Evil Cult!

Of course, Vale didn't mind what she was thinking as he stood closer to the unconscious Elementalist. It is time to interrogate them.

"How can I tell whether someone has killing intent or not? I'm not an expert. Just tell me everything you know about this forest and your mission." Vale said as his aura suddenly changed.

It was simply his Darkness Manipulation Spell as he gathered the Dark Energy in the surroundings. Surprisingly, this area had an abundant source of Dark Energy. It may not be as rich as the Academy grounds, but it wasn't bad at all.

Nevertheless, as he gathered this energy, Vale appeared more intimidating as the three Elementalists hesitated whether to fight or cooperate.

In the end, Lester, the leader of the group, decided to reveal what they knew as long as Vale promised not to kill their companion.

It didn't take long before Vale learned the forest's secret.

"So it was the Night Flare Grass... What does it do?" Vale asked. It was his first time hearing of this precious grass, but since it was important to Elementalist, it must be something incredible.

Addison, the female Elementalist, decided to answer this question.

"The Night Flare Grass only appears if a Fire Elementalist has gone out of control..."

'Hmm?'

Vale was confused, but he remained silent.

Seeing that the man was unperturbed, she continued. "If his essence scattered to the Night Ember Grass, it would turn into Night Flare Grass, which can be used to create potions that extend life. As for Elementalists like us, it can strengthen our connection to the Fire Element. Night Flare Grass is also an ingredient to create a rare potion that replenishes our Elemental Energy."

Vale finally reacted after hearing this.

"It must be expensive then... No wonder you don't want anyone to discover it." Vale muttered.

However, he was also thinking about what she said about a Fire Elementalist losing control.

If he wasn't mistaken, she was referring to their Elemental State.

If the Darkness Path has Phantasm State, the Element Path has Elemental State. Similar to them, if the Elementalist exceeded their limit in their special state, they would have a chance of losing control of their powers and end up being controlled by the natural instinct of an Elemental Being.

"Expensive? A blade of Night Flare Grass is ten times more expensive than the tea leaves used by royalty... Of course, they're expensive." Addison replied mockingly as she realized that the person in front of them seemed to like money.

"Very well. I'll be collecting all the Night Flare Grass. You can head back now." Vale said as he waved his hand to the Elementalists.

He also felt that the Demonic Mask was already reaching its limit.

'I didn't think I could only wear this for 15 minutes. What a shame...' Vale commented as he turned around to leave.

Apparently, the Demonic Mask and the Demonic Dagger that he acquired from the leader of the Snake Brotherhood have been appraised by Yvaine inside his shadow!

She may not know their proper names, but she learned about their usage and negative effects!

Yvaine may not have the premonition powers like Lotus, but she has a power similar to appraisers!

Chapter 232 Grimace

"What did you say?!" Addison was infuriated as soon as she heard the man's words.

He actually wanted to monopolize the Night Flare Grass that they had waited to be fully nurtured! She couldn't help but feel angry at the audacity of this person.

Her Wind Fairy had already started creating wind arrows and was waiting for the signal to attack.

However, before Addison could command the fairy to attack, their leader hastily spoke.

"Stop, Addison... Saving Reed's life is more important. Just let the man leave." Lester said as he held Addison's arm.

However, Addison didn't want to listen as she knew that Reed had a Mystical Item that could protect his life. Using him as a hostage wouldn't deter her from attacking.

Realizing that the situation might go out of control, Lester sternly spoke.

"Look above you..."

After saying this, Addison looked above her only to realize that there were three huge and ghastly hands above them!

"Ahh..."

The terrifying hands were huge and about three times the size of her Wind Fairy!

Addison almost stumbled after seeing these hands... How come she failed to notice them?! They were obviously inside her Elemental State's Magic Zone!

Hunter, who was also preparing to cast a spell, calmed down as he watched the masked man turn around to leave.

He also failed to notice the Ghost Hands above them. Nevertheless, if Addison really attacked, there was no way he would allow her to face the masked man alone.

Luckily, the masked man didn't care about them casting their spells as he left swiftly. As soon as his figure disappeared, the Ghost Hands above them also dissipated like they were just illusions. However, they know for sure that those Hands weren't just there as decoration.

'Whew~'

Hunter heaved a sigh of relief as soon as the masked man left. He was actually feeling threatened even though the man was just standing without any hints of defense. He even turned his back on his possible enemies!

In his mind, his Fire Spell could reach the masked man before those terrifying ghost hands could reach him. It was quite odd since he couldn't tell where that person's confidence was coming from.

"What do we do now?" Hunter asked.

He had always trusted his instincts and knew that the masked man was dangerous. Chasing him right away might be dangerous for them.

"He was probably that Dark Arts Practitioner that caused trouble in the city. Should we report it?" Addison asked as she walked towards Reed.

All of them could tell that their companion just passed out and still steadily breathing, so they weren't concerned about his condition.

Lester shook his head at Addison's suggestion.

"If we report it to the city, all the Night Flare Grass would be gone by then. Even if there are still some remaining blades of grass, they would be taken by other factions, and we wouldn't benefit from it. Once Reed wakes up, we'll plan our ambush... We have no choice but to kill this person. We'll be using all our Elemental Talismans today to kill him."

Lester said with a sinister voice. He was the most frustrated among the group, but he was keeping it inside.

Since the man dared to take advantage of them, he would have to go all out. Furthermore, the man was most likely a wanted criminal, so they wouldn't feel burdened eliminating this type of person.

Addison and Hunter looked at each other and nodded in agreement.

They brought high-level Elemental Talismans with them and will use them to drown that masked man with powerful Spells. They just need to make enough preparations to ambush him and it could guarantee their win even if they face a First-Class Dark Magician.

At this thought, they checked their belt bags where they were keeping their precious talismans.

"..."

"..."

"..."

The three Elementalists went silent as they realized that their belt bags were missing!

"What happened?!"

"Where did it go?!"

"This... Was it stolen right in front of us?!"

Aside from feeling shocked, the three of them felt a chill run up their spine. If their bags were stolen without them realizing it, then that person could've done more if he wanted to mess with them!

At this time, Lester suddenly started panicking...

"No... No... This is bad! My Awakening Token is inside that bag!"

Addison and Hunter were stunned since this would cause a massive problem for Lester. The Awakening Token was their only chance of advancing their Elemental Affinity after their Elemental Baptism. This would allow them to become a Second-Class Elementalist!

This token cost a vast fortune and Lester probably needs another decade to save enough money to get this one again!

Addison, Hunter, and Reed didn't even have enough money to see this item in person!

"Not good... We should follow him quickly, or he might get away." Addison worriedly said. She could tell how frustrated their leader was.

He was previously hoping to use it together with the nourishment of the Night Flare Grass but all of it had come to an end after he lost his belt bag.

In the meantime, Vale had no clue about how these Elementalist were now grimacing.

As soon as Vale got out of range of the Elemental Spirit, he didn't immediately relax as he used his Extrasensory Perception Spell to create a film of energy to hide his presence.

He also used his full agility to run inside the forest before removing the Demonic Mask on his face.

"Yvaine, hide this mask for now." Vale immediately said as he leaned on a nearby tree.

Yvaine silently appeared beside him and opened the treasure box where he could keep his things. Seeing this, Vale carefully placed the mask back into the box.

Just like what he had guessed before, the mask had a mystical ability related to the summoning technique. It was based on the white flame that he found during Phantasm State's detection.

When Yvaine appraised the object inside his shadow, she learned that the Demonic Mask and Dagger were indeed strange. In Vale's opinion, they are what he could call an Equipment Set.

If he wore both of these items at the same time, he could summon a strange living white flame! He hadn't tried it yet, but according to Yvaine, the white flame was most likely a sentient flame, and he should be careful about it.

Chapter 233 Stabbed

Although this set of items has such a powerful effect when used together, it doesn't mean they're weak if used alone.

As a matter of fact, the Demonic Mask's passive effect allows him to strengthen all of his Spells by at least 20 to 25%.

From a certain perspective, it was definitely a lot better than the Energy Potion that Alchemist Sherah could produce in her laboratory.

After all, the Demonic Mask doesn't cause a significant strain on your body after usage. The only problem with the mask was the fact that he couldn't use it for long unless he repaired it.

That's right, both the mask and dagger were actually damaged. Vale had no idea how to fix it unless he brought it to an expert in the Academy. It may cause some problems if he was questioned about its origin, but that's the quickest way to do it.

He doesn't know anyone who could fix this outside the Vermont Academy anyway.

Of course, there's another solution to this, and that is to simply learn how to fix it. In his second year, he will study the fundamental reconstruction and creation of Mystical Items. Then, he'll have an intermediate study of it in his third year.

He might be able to fix it at that time since he would also do some self-study, but if in case he fails to do so, he still has an advanced study of this subject in his fourth year.

'The side effect of losing vision if used excessively was quite scary... I shouldn't use it again unless I fix the damage.' Vale thought as he recalled the side effect of using this mask.

The loss of vision may be temporary if he exceeded the limit, but it was still quite scary to think about it.

This was why when he felt that the mask was starting to cover his sight, he immediately turned around to leave.

'Anyway, I still earned quite a lot today. I hope their bags have some valuable things.' Vale muttered as he opened the bags one by one.

"Elemental Talismans? Not bad... They look a lot better than the ones I got from Brylle and the others." Vale muttered as he scoured the four bags. He didn't know what level of quality they were since he was not an expert.

Nevertheless, the paper itself feels a lot more expensive than the ones he got from students of Rakmiths Academy.

He also found some cash in them but wasn't too excited to see them since he wasn't lacking money.

Currently, most of his needs as a practitioner of Arcane Arts can be resolved by having enough Contribution Points. Whether they are Spell Models, Mystical Items, or knowledge, they could be found in the Academy.

As for having cash, he wouldn't need plenty of them unless he started going out of the Academy most of the time.

'Well, having a few hundred more is not a bad thing.' Vale silently thought as he estimated the amount of money he got.

It was only about six hundred zen, worth about the same price as a mid-grade Regular Mystical Item.

As he continued searching the bag, something finally caught his attention.

"Hmm?" Vale found a token about the size of his palm inside one of the belt bags. It wasn't heavy, but it was quite cold to touch.

Without any hesitation, he entered his Phantasm State and saw a blue ball of light inside it.

"This... Isn't this light mean it's connected to a certain realm?" Vale frowned as he recalled what he had learned in the Rudimentary Usage of Mystical Artifacts Class.

Without a doubt, this mystical item was a rare and precious one. However, this type of item is normally used as a sacrifice during rituals.

As for what ritual this token could be used, Vale had no idea.

Anyway, he didn't overthink about this since he still had other matters to attend... It is the collection of the Night Flare Grass inside this forest.

Vale then placed all the bags inside the treasure box with Yvaine's help, but he kept six Elemental Talismans inside his pocket.

It might be useful since he was about to enter an unnamed enchanted forest. He may not find robbers or bandits in this place, but encountering Evil Spirits or even possessing corpses inside wouldn't be surprising.

After all, any Arcane Arts Practitioners who die here for various reasons may not be cremated in time. Not being cremated or being sealed only means one thing, a perfect vessel for Evil Spirit.

As expected, as soon as his Phantasm State spread around him, he felt the presence of two horrifying beings.

'No wonder they were going here in a group... There could be danger ahead.' Vale silently thought as he recalled the group of Elementarists.

He then paused for a moment as he shifted his attention to the other things he had detected.

'If I'm not mistaken, the Night Flare Grass are those things emitting strong fluctuation of energy. There are indeed plenty of them. I should take as many as I can.' Vale thought as he decided to take the nearby Night Flare Grass first before dealing with those Evil Creatures.

Each blade of Night Flare Grass emits a faint red light which easily attracts the attention of nearby animals and people.

Without any hesitation, Vale collected the grass according to what the Elementarists said.

After collecting a total of 14 blades of grass, the Evil Creature finally noticed Vale's presence as it quickly moved towards him.

"Hmm? What a strange Evil Creature... Did it grow up here in the forest?" Vale muttered in surprise.

Currently, his Divine Sense allowed him to sense the movement of the Evil Creature. It was quite big, similar to the size of the Evil Creature in the Serenity Hall, but it moved like a monkey.

The creature uses the trees and branches to skip the obstacles and reach him as quickly as possible.

Boom!

As soon as it had arrived, Vale was already prepared to fight...

As the horrifying creature landed about 4 meters away from him, its chest was already stabbed with Demonic Dagger that Vale had just taken out from Yvaine's treasure box!

It happened so quickly that the creature didn't even notice the dagger stabbing into its chest and only felt a bit itchy at first...

However, after a few seconds, the dagger on its chest erupted with flames, and it was already too late to remove it from its body!

Chapter 234 Discovered

As the creature was burned alive, Vale could finally see its appearance, thanks to the light brought by the fire.

The Evil Creature still looked ugly and had a short growing horn on its forehead. It seemed to be a different species of Evil Creature if compared with the ones he saw at the Serenity Hall.

'Are their appearance depends on the corpse they possessed?' Vale mused as he looked at the creature who was struggling to remove the Demonic Dagger.

Unfortunately, this dagger was too evil. If you used Spiritual Energy or any Arcane Arts to remove it from your flesh, the fire it had created would get stronger and stronger, like a fire being dumped by fuel.

If you want to remove it, you have to temporarily withdraw your energy and remove it with your physical strength. It may be excruciating if the fire had already erupted, but that was the best way to do it if you didn't have a Mystical Artifact that was better than the dagger.

'So strong... I'm really curious how that small-time gang leader gets ahold of these items.' Vale thought as he backed away after seeing that the Evil Creature decided to stop removing the dagger and charged toward him instead.

He had to back away since using his Ghost Hands wouldn't solve anything. The Ghost Hands will just become another fuel for the dagger to strengthen its fire.

Nevertheless, this didn't mean Vale could no longer do anything after the fire erupted. He can still use his connection with the dagger to stop the flame. After stopping the flame, he could then strengthen it by holding the dagger once more by passing his Dark Energy to it.

However, he didn't have to do it now...

Bam!

The Evil Creature charged towards Vale, but the latter was faster and could dodge the attack. The creature struck a nearby tree, and surprisingly, the tree didn't catch fire. The nearby dry leaves also remained unaffected, showing how the demonic dagger could be so precise.

It must be remembered that this dagger is still a damaged one!

As Vale thought that the Evil Creature could still last for a long time, it struggled to stand back up and soon dropped to the ground.

The orange fire that the dagger had created also dissipated simultaneously.

'Thirty-four seconds... How impressive...' Vale silently thought as he counted how long the creature would last.

Vale then approached the creature for an obvious reason. He needs to extract the corpse and hopefully get some decent attributes. Although it was a pity that he couldn't extract it while it was still alive, it was still a good experiment since he learned plenty of things in this short battle.

He now had an idea of how strong his demonic dagger was. He learned that the dagger doesn't consume a lot of Dark Energy, and he could hide its presence with his Extrasensory Perception Spell. It was unlike his mask, which was easily detectable because of the terrifying aura surrounding it.

Lastly, he learned that the side effect of this dagger is quite bearable compared to the mask's temporary loss of vision.

Apparently, the demonic dagger only needed to be maintained by consuming gold. Based on Yvaine's estimate, a gold coin could last up to two or three months if the dagger wasn't being used. However, he would have to use a gold coin if its power was used even once.

It was so expensive to use, but at the very least, this high maintenance requirement would get better once an expert craftsman had repaired the dagger.

At the least, this can be used in an emergency if he lacks Dark Energy in a middle of a battle.

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

[Extraction successful. Energy +25 Agility +0.20 Intelligence +0.85]

"Oh? Intelligence attribute from an Evil Creature? What a rare sight..." Vale muttered as he saw the recently elusive intelligence attribute.

Apparently, Vale already had a decent grasp of what to expect in his extractions, depending on his target.

He already knew that extracting Intelligence Attribute was only highly possible if he was extracting corpses of Arcane Arts Practitioners, except those practitioners of Combat Arts and Knight Path.

On the other hand, living Arcane Arts Practitioners would mostly give him Agility with a low chance of Vitality and Strength. Intelligence had the lowest chance among them, based on his observations.

It wasn't a big deal since he could extract Spell Lights and Spell Models, so he was perfectly being unable to extract intelligence from living targets.

As for the Evil Creatures, he only had a chance to extract three of them, so it was pretty good to see that it was possible to get intelligence from them.

"Hmm? He's escaping?"

As Vale was renumerating over the Extraction he made, he realized that the other Evil Creature that was within his 150-meter Magic Zone started retreating and moving away from him.

He was planning to extract that Evil Creature alive, so he didn't hesitate to chase after the creature.

"You're not getting away." Vale said as he dashed toward where the Evil Creature ran.

With Vale's current Agility, not even a Slender Zombie, the fastest undead creature, could outrun him.

Needless to say, the Evil Creature, who wasn't used to such fast-paced movement, failed to escape from Vale's relentless pursuit. The darkness was nothing to him and he even felt comfortable chasing the creature while basking under the moonlight.

"Graaahhhh!"

The Evil Creature's cry was soon heard throughout the whole enchanted forest.

The birds, insects, and other land animals resting in their nest perked up. Some of them started scurrying away from the source of that frightening cry, while some curled themselves inside their nest, hoping not to be involved in the matter outside.

Unfortunately, this cry also attracted the attention of another Arcanist camping in the central part of the forest. She had unblemished pale skin and long black hair and was bathing in a stream when the Evil Creature's cry startled her.

Realizing that she was not alone in the forest, she immediately took her towel to cover herself. She then quickly returned to her camp to dress up while her Magic Zone spread throughout the surroundings.

"Find the source of the disturbance..." She spoke calmly, and soon, several Banshees adhered to her command...

Chapter 235 Coincidence

In Pludenn Street, Melthorn City.

"This is where he disappeared?" Clare asked after looking around the dark alley where rats and various bags of trash could be seen.

The smell was quite terrible, but she was completely unaffected and kept observing the surroundings.

"Yes... The Tracking Mark of my Divine Sense has disappeared here. I can't understand how he did that." Teresa muttered in a soft voice as she tried to recall how she sensed the disappearance of her tracking mark.

The moment she felt that the Tracking Mark had disappeared, she quickly tried to reconnect with it using various methods. However, she failed to do so, and she could only contact the detective she hired to follow Clovis' movements.

Unfortunately, the detective was also clueless. He had stopped monitoring Clovis after around 11 in the evening, which was included in his contract with the Untainted Sentinel.

"Did he receive some help? Who can even remove a Tracking Mark made by the Divine Sense? I heard that even the Pontiff would have a hard time doing that..." Clare commented as her interest in Clovis just doubled because of this incident.

She already had a feeling that Clovis was quite special since he could use Blessed Healing at such a young age.

Now that he was able to remove the Tracking Mark as well, she couldn't help but think about the young man's teacher. Perhaps, his teacher wasn't a Bishop but a Pontiff instead?

"We have to find him... I think that person is hiding a huge secret." Teresa commented as she couldn't believe someone capable of removing her Tracking Mark was hiding in the city without their knowledge.

This city is protected by the five prominent churches and seven of the twelve Elite Forces of the Twelve Arcane Paths.

An Arcanist capable of removing the Untainted Sentinel's Divine Sense mark shouldn't exist within the city.

"I understand. However, don't you think that we should report this to the higher-ups first? It's not like we can find that person with just the two of us. We need manpower to do this..." Clare suggested as she also realized the significance of this matter.

"Yes. I'll report this to the Church while you go ahead and inform the Sentinels."

"Alright... Are we going to issue an arrest warrant for him?"

"No need. We can't just make Clovis and his master our enemies. It will just cause some unnecessary trouble. Just inform them what happened, and they'll know what to do." Teresa instructed, and this time, Clare no longer asked questions as she left the dark alley.

Clovis' disappearance had ignited their desire to find out his secret.

In the meantime, the person they were looking for was celebrating his recent extraction.

"Incredible! Another Spell Model!" Vale exclaimed in excitement after seeing the notification he got. Aside from getting attribute points, the Spell Model that he got was like a jackpot for him.

He still had several weeks in his summer break and he already gained so much. Perhaps, once he returned to the Academy, he could already deal with those students within the top 20 or even top 10 of the Academy's Elite Rankings!

Of course, this was merely his guess considering the number of Spells he had recorded.

Anyway, since he got the very useful Traceless Shift from the previous Evil Creature, he was looking forward to the Spell he extracted.

He immediately checked his Neutral Ability to find the Spell...

[Neutral Ability: Extrasensory Perception Spell Lv6, Traceless Shift Lv7 Lightspeed Lv0]

Vale had no idea what Lightspeed was meant to do, so he swiftly checked the Spell Model to understand it.

The Spell Model doesn't look so complicated, and it only took 1 Spell Light in his body. Nevertheless, this leaves him with only 8 Spell Lights available.

Well, there is also an incomplete Spell Light, but it doesn't really matter. He knows that he'll still have a chance of extracting Spell Lights somewhere.

Anyway, he soon realized what the Lightspeed was used for, and he couldn't help but joyfully laugh.

"I didn't expect to get this from an Evil Creature. I should be hunting them every now and then." Vale said in excitement.

Finally, he can already say goodbye to his Mortal Rank Mystical Items. He could probably sell the Nymph Scale and Murloc's Gem at this point because this Lightspeed Spell was a Movement Spell!

There was no way he'd let it stay at the Elementary Realm as he was prepared to upgrade it up to the Advanced Realm in one go.

However, a familiar cold voice interrupted him.

"I don't think you should be hunting them. You're lucky that the ones you found were pathetic creatures."

Vale was shocked hearing her voice as this woman had escaped his senses until she spoke!

She was already about 10 meters from him, and it was a huge blunder for him!

'Someone who can escape from my Phantasm State's detection?'

Vale immediately recalled the woman he had met in the laboratory before while he retreated away from the voice.

"Since you're already here, I guess you already killed Larkin..." Cressida said as she looked at Vale with a mysterious smile.

"Hmm?" He was right. It was indeed Cressida. However, her words confused him momentarily.

Vale was baffled by such a greeting as he carefully looked at the beautiful but ghost-like woman before him.

"How did you know about my matter with Larkin?" He curiously asked.

He was sure that Larkin didn't leave any mark on him that would say he killed the man. He couldn't help but wonder if she used some premonition spell or something similar. Or perhaps, she has been observing him ever since he arrived at Melthorn City!

This idea sent a shiver up his spine since he had never detected her in the city.

Luckily, he seemed to be overthinking as Cressida replied with a calm voice. "I've met Larkin before, and I know his personality. Aside from that, Maya mentioned something to me. She said that you defeated him and had him expelled in the process. Do you know that your shadow won't be

returned if you get expelled from the Academy? He was definitely seething with anger as soon as he learned about his expulsion. If that happened to me, I'd also kill the person who did it to me."

Chapter 236 Best

Vale didn't know that the expulsion also meant being unable to regain the ripped shadow.

However, this confirms his guess that the removal of the shadow doesn't necessarily mean he gets attracted to attend the Academy. It is all up to the desire of the holder of the shadow.

'It's like a slave mark or something... How cruel.'

Vale sighed at this as he looked at Cressida calmly... She wasn't showing any signs of hostility, or perhaps, she was hiding it really well.

She looks really pretty and a bit scary. In his opinion, Denise looks much better, especially once she grows up.

Vale shook his head to erase his random thoughts as he had plenty of questions for Cressida.

He kept his vigilance up and decided not to ask her if she was here to make some trouble. Instead, he pried for information.

"Is there another way of getting my shadow back?"

Cressida looked surprised as soon as she heard his question. She thought that Vale would ask her about her reason for appearing here and how it was too much of a coincidence to be in the same forest on this night. She was even prepared to deploy her group of Banshee if he showed hostility.

However, the young man seemed unbothered by that and just asked her something unexpected.

After a moment of thought, she felt amused by his reaction and answered.

"There is definitely a way... I know three methods and one of them is to die and have someone revive you."

"..."

She answered like it was such a safe method, so Vale couldn't help but look at her seriously.

"That doesn't sound doable..."

He shook his head at this ridiculous solution. Although there is Planar Spell that could probably help him with that, this Spell was too suspicious, and he wouldn't dare to gamble his life just because of that.

"Haha... Of course... I didn't mean it in a literal way. Anyway, the other solution is to get it back from the Headmaster or Vice Headmaster who took your shadow... You can do this forcefully."

"I don't think I can do that..." Vale replied. He already knows this method, but facing a student practitioner is different from a genuine Dark Arts Practitioner.

Cressida smirked at this answer as she continued.

"Heh... I did it with the previous Headmaster. That's why I'm already complete." She replied with a hint of arrogance in her tone.

'With the previous Headmaster?'

Vale wasn't sure if she was merely being pretentious, but she sounded so confident about it. Nevertheless, this is indeed an important matter. There is actually someone who succeeded in taking their shadow back from the Headmaster before their graduation.

This is certainly interesting since it means that he wasn't the only one who wanted to get out of the bindings made by the Academy.

"I did with Master Sherah's help..." She added.

"I see... So you already have your shadow back... Can you tell me the third method?" Vale continued to ask.

"Of course! I can tell you that, and I'll even help you regain your shadow with that method. It will be a lot easier with my help. However, you have to give me your Dark Spirit." Cressida answered with a creepy smile on her face.

The aura around her had also changed as Vale couldn't help but mistake her for a Vengeful Spirit or a Banshee.

The smile was quite disturbing as he recalled his master's smile whenever he considered doing something absurd.

Vale shook his head as he summoned his Ghost Hands and prepared his Elemental Talismans before he spoke.

"That's impossible. I won't be giving my Dark Spirit. As a matter of fact, even if she wants to leave me, I won't allow it." He firmly said while coldly looking at this mysterious Dark Arts Practitioner.

He also didn't mind sounding so possessive of his Dark Spirit just to let her know that he was resolute about not giving up his Dark Spirit.

Furthermore, Vale immediately decided not to let her know about Denise's whereabouts. He was previously hesitating whether to let her know that she still had a little sister waiting for her, but now that he had seen that Cressida seemed to have changed, Vale wouldn't put Denise in possible danger.

"Haha..."

Cressida chuckled as she expected that he wouldn't give up his Dark Spirit. "I thought so... Then you have to give up knowing the last method. In any case, staying in the Academy is also better. You don't know how dangerous it is for Rogue Practitioners to roam in various cities. You can also stop being so cautious. Maya warned me not to mess with you, so I won't be taking your Dark Spirit."

She then paused for a moment as she looked at Vale's shadow... She seemed to be looking at his Dark Spirit before she finally spoke.

"I was searching for another Dark Spirit hiding in this forest. If you helped me find that Dark Spirit, I'll consider letting you know the third method." Cressida replied.

Vale heaved a sigh of relief after hearing this.

'I guess she wasn't that unreasonable...' Vale thought, but he remained vigilant.

Anyway, her last request sounded more reasonable. He just can't be sure if Yvaine would be willing to help him.

Vale then immediately asked Yvaine about it, but apparently, she didn't seem to mind if another member of her species got caught by Cressida.

"Fine... I'll help you, Senior Cressida." Vale answered as he looked at the ghostly woman, who seemed to have just taken a bath.

It seems that he would have a very long night and he may not even have a chance to sleep.

"Master Sherah, my Darkness Manipulation Spell has reached the late stage of the Elementary Realm." Maya said with a weak smile on her face. She was already tired but was still overjoyed by her impressive achievement.

A week passed, and while Vale and Cressida were together searching for the Dark Spirit, Maya returned early to the Academy to ensure that she would be the best Second Year student once the class started.

Apparently, on the first day of their Second Year class, it wasn't just their Spirit Strands that would be measured. It would include their mastery level in the exclusive spells they've learned.

Chapter 237 Puppet?

Dark Alchemist Sherah looked at her hardworking student with a smile and replied. "As expected of my student. The Light Absorption Spell will show its true might if your Darkness Manipulation is at the Intermediate Realm. Aside from that, the Shadow Soldier Spell would be a lot easier to record if your two Exclusive Spells are at Intermediate Realm."

Maya's eyes lit up after hearing her Master's words.

"Is that true, Master Sherah? Can my mastery over the two other spells affect my Spell Recording with the Shadow Soldier?" She asked in excitement as her tiredness suddenly disappeared.

"This is common knowledge. But even though I said it would be a lot easier, it would still take you a couple of years to record the third Exclusive Spell. As a matter of fact, any Spell Model that summons any special beings is difficult to record. Especially for the Shadow Soldier since it's a very special Dark Art."

Maya nodded at her words. She didn't mind the two years at all since she knew that this third exclusive Spell was exceptional.

If she can make her two exclusive spells reach the intermediate realm through the help of her Master's potions, she will certainly break a record! Some eighth-year students haven't even recorded the Create: Shadow Soldier Spell!

If she succeeds in recording the Spell in her fourth year, she'll definitely shine once she participates in the Twelve Academies Competition.

She can't wait to start the class and let everyone know she's the best in their batch!

'Vale Chambers... You took the limelight I should have had at the beginning of our first year. Your previous achievement glory will be completely forgotten this year, and my plan can finally move forward.' Maya silently felt smug as she looked at her Master gratefully.

It has been two weeks since Vale met with Cressida in the Enchanted Forest.

At that time, he noticed that the Elementalists were actually searching for him in the forest and wanted to deal with them.

Unfortunately, Cressida stopped him from doing so, telling him that he would just attract more trouble if he killed them.

Vale didn't argue with that since he also felt uncomfortable showing his Extraction to this woman.

He didn't mind the Professor and the Headmaster since, no matter what, they were acquainted with his Master Heinz, and they were aware that he was a 'test subject' in order to create a Branch of the Darkness Arcane Path.

Whatever he does, they wouldn't suspect too much if he blamed his Master for it.

However, it would be different with this person who wasn't aware of it.

"Found it..." Cressida said as she looked at the huge cave entrance about 300 meters away.

Over the past two weeks, they have stayed in various villages and towns surrounding the mountain range to rent separate rooms.

This is so they could search for the Dark Spirit that was staying somewhere in the forest.

The Dark Spirit that was around here doesn't stay in a permanent location, but they know that it roams around the forest...

Of course, during this time, Vale had already sold most of the Night Flare Grass that he found, allowing him to earn over 3 thousand zen in cash. Only a few of them were left in his bag, which he plans to use on his own.

They've also encountered two Evil Creatures, but Vale failed to extract them when they were still alive because of Cressida's interference. He can only be satisfied with their corpse extraction.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

As they got closer, Vale suddenly heard the sound of metal crashing on rocks as he realized that the cave was actually a mining place—No, it was most likely a manmade tunnel!

"There's a construction going on. It's probably for the railway, look." Vale pointed at the workers who were being supervised by a group of well-dressed people. They seemed to be nobles or business owners who were overlooking the construction of the railroad.

"Should we ask them if they encountered some paranormal activities around here?" Cressida asked as she looked at Vale.

Over the past two weeks, she noticed that Vale's vigilance around her had lowered. She couldn't help but feel happy about this because this was what she wanted to happen.

Vale hesitated whether to approach them.

"I'm not sure, but I feel like there's a problem here."

"Mhmm... You're right. Those people aren't normal businessmen. They're all Arcane Arts Practitioners. Especially the one wearing a blue coat. He looks intimidating."

"They're still about 200 meters away. You can tell?" Vale curiously asked.

He can't believe that Cressida has a wider range of Magic Zone than him.

"Of course not. I have my scouts." Cressida proudly replied.

This made Vale aware that her Banshee had already gone ahead to scout the area.

As they slowly got closer, Vale finally had a chance to use his Divine Sense. His range was about 170 meters, but it was enough.

Psychic Arts Practitioner with 10 filled Spell Lights.

Rune Arts Practitioner with 6 filled Spell Lights.

Rune Arts Practitioner with 7 filled Spell Lights.

Rune Arts Practitioner with 6 filled Spell Lights.

Rune Arts Practitioner with 7 filled Spell Lights.

Just like what Cressida said, the five were actually Arcane Arts Practitioners. Furthermore, four of them were Runecaster with a Psychic in the group.

"One of them is practicing Psychic Arts, huh... How rare..." Vale muttered as he was truly curious about the practitioners of this Arcane Path.

He had a vague idea about the Runecaster, but for the Psychic Arts Practitioners, he could only guess that they had some great mentality. They can probably use telepathy like it was nothing, or perhaps, bend a spoon with their mind.

"Did you just say one of them is a Psychic?" Cressida suddenly stopped in her footsteps as soon as she heard what Vale just said.

"Yes... Is there a problem with that?" Vale asked curiously. This was the first time he had seen her looking terrified.

She wasn't even afraid of staying in the forest in the middle of the night! She was also unafraid of ghosts or scary creatures since she was used to having Banshee around her.

"Not good... We have to leave this place now." She didn't answer Vale as she swiftly turned around to leave.

There was no way Vale would stay here, so he also planned to escape.

However, it was too late!

Several Rune Characters were triggered by their movement as the Runecasters discovered their location!

The man wearing a blue coat glanced at Vale before signaling to the four Runecasters to chase them.

Their action didn't escape Vale's senses as he even noticed the irregular breathing of the Runecaster. Their eyes were also dull and seemed emotionless, similar to a puppet!

Chapter 238 Undamaged?

"Did they find out my movement so early? Is it the Liquidators? Sentinels?" The man wearing a blue coat pondered as he tried guessing the identity of the intruders.

He was Christopher Gates and one of the members of the Order of the Oracle Hivemind. It was the Elite Forces of the Psychic Arts Faction and also one of the most problematic Orders among the twelve.

He was operating against the regulation set up by the Association of the Harmonius Arcane Paths, so he was vigilant about spies or intruders around the tunnel.

Whooshh~

"Hmm? This aura... They're not Sentinels or Liquidators. Are they spies sent by the Vessels?" Christopher was confused as soon as he noticed the woman's movement spell.

She moved like a ghost and if he wasn't mistaken, that was the Ghost Step of the Dark Arts Faction.

It is one of the basic movement techniques of the faction, and it can be easily recognized by how they appear like ghosts leaving some afterimage whenever they move.

On the other hand, her male companion moved like he just cast a Wind Haste Spell of the Elemental Faction.

However, he didn't feel any Elemental Fluctuation around him, so he could guess that it was most likely a Mystical Item's effect... If not that, then the man was probably a Knight and could just basically move fast because of his natural physique.

'What a weird combination... I've never messed with the Vessels because they're one of the most ruthless organizations. How come they're targeting me? Am I overthinking this?' Christopher felt frustrated as he wasn't sure about the identities of his intruders.

It was a pity that they were out of his Magic Zone's range, or he could've easily taken care of them and added them to his collection.

Christopher looked at one of the workers in the tunnel and gave a brief command.

"Tell everyone to continue working until they drop dead."

The poor worker didn't even complain and just nodded to the Arcanist.

"I will inform them, Sir Arcanist."

With that said, Christopher immediately left the place to follow his four Runecasters.

Although those four were quite strong if they worked together, the Members of the Dark Arts Faction were very tricky to deal with, especially if they were Curse Spell Experts.

None of them brought any items that could break hexes or curses, so they have to be very careful if they don't want to die a gruesome death.

In the meantime, Vale immediately used his Spell Dispersion to deactivate the Mystical Runes that they had triggered.

This affected the Runecasters' plan as they miscalculated the timing of their attacks.

Vale and Cressida had long fled the area before they even finished casting their Runic Arts.

Nevertheless, none of the Runecasters expressed their dismay as they simply reorganized their position to follow their tracks.

Vale found their actions quite robotic or machinelike.

"Cressida... Why are we fleeing? I think that two of us can deal with them." Vale said as he followed Cressida.

On the other hand, Cressida was looking at Vale curiously since she was sure that this young man wasn't using any sort of Movement Spell!

However, for some reason, he was able to match her speed, and he could even talk calmly while doing this!

This shocked her since she didn't expect Vale to use a Movement Spell that was so unnoticeable even if they were moving close together.

It took her quite some time before she gathered her thoughts as she answered Vale's question.

"We can probably kill those Runecasters with their current condition. However, we would be in huge trouble if the Psychic caught us. We will be doomed at our current strength." Cressida replied as she was determined to leave this place.

Her answer made Vale even more curious as she continued monitoring the people chasing them. From their distance, Vale could easily use his Ghost Hands and Shadow Soldier Spell. He can also try and use his top-grade Elemental Talismans to try and disrupt their movement.

"Is he that strong?" Vale curiously asked as he took out two of his Elemental Talismans. He was certainly not underestimating his enemies this time, but he also believed in his current strength.

Anyway, the Talisman that he had taken out was already appraised by Yvaine and confirmed that they both contain Fire Elemental Spells.

Of course, he couldn't understand the spell model drawn on it.

There was only one chance he could tell its content and it was when he triggered the Talisman itself.

"The moment we enter his Magic Zone, we will be in huge trouble. No matter what, don't look into his eyes. Use Dark Mist or Light Absorption Spell to hide from him. If your Dark Manipulation is already at the Intermediate Realm, just use it to cover yourself and run away." Cressida said as she

continued using her Ghost Steps... She could maintain using it for more than 10 minutes, and after that, she would have to rely on her normal running speed.

They had to put more distance from the Runecasters during this time, so she was now preparing to sacrifice her group of Banshee to deal with this.

On the other hand, Vale couldn't help but feel that the Psychic was just too strong.

'You're telling me that we will be defeated instantly the moment we enter their Magic Zone? Isn't that a bit too powerful?' Vale silently thought as he decided to launch a surprise attack with his Elemental Talismans.

In any case, he has plenty of these Talismans and he didn't mind spending a dozen of them to see how powerful they are.

Without any more hesitation, he tore the first Elemental Talisman and the information about the Fire Elemental Spell came into his mind.

He then obtained the power to control this Spell as he targeted the Runecasters who were relentlessly chasing them.

It was a Fire Pillar Spell and Vale could target an area instead of a person. With only a few seconds of calculation in his head, he targeted the area where the Runecasters would land.

"Take this..." Vale muttered as he released the Spell. He also focused his attention on the four Runecasters as he wanted to see how they would react to this type of attack.

To his surprise, the Fire Pillar Spell didn't stop the Runecasters from moving even after being hit! They were like machines that couldn't feel pain!

Chapter 239 Weird Physique

"What?" Vale was shocked as he even failed to maintain his speed.

Only when Cressida reminded her did he pick up his speed again to leave the place.

"How come they're unafraid of injuries? Although they have various techniques to heal their wounds, shouldn't they show some hesitation moving inside the Fire Pillar?" Vale couldn't help but comment after recalling what had just happened.

He can tell that the Runecasters were hurt since they reacted slower. The Fire Pillar activated the moment they stepped on the area he had targeted. It was a clean hit.

Although they managed to put up a defense in the end, it was already too late, as their skin and flesh had already suffered from the Fire Spell.

"Hmph... They're already out of their minds, so don't think about facing them in a close combat battle. They won't care about their injuries—Careful!"

Cressida immediately warned when she noticed the Rune Characters being formed in front of them. It seems they had already placed these Runic Arts around the area before they even started whatever they were doing in that tunnel.

Vale also noticed those Magical Texts formed by the Runecasters, and since he had no idea what they could do, he would have a more challenging time responding to their attacks. With that in mind, he swiftly used his Spell Dispersion to stop the activation of those Spells.

Pssht~

The Runic Arts were swiftly deactivated like an ember doused in water. This confused Cressida, but she remained silent while observing Vale's actions.

At this moment, Vale could tell that the amount of energy he used to stop the runes from activating was more considerable than stopping Dark Spells.

He could tell that Spell Dispersion which he could normally use for more than a dozen times was now limited to at least 7 or 8 more times!

He would have to use them carefully from now on!

At the very least, Vale finally had a rough idea about the strength of these Runecasters as he took out three more Elemental Talismans.

He used them consecutively, and as it turned out, the three talismans he had hastily taken out used the same Fire Spell, Searing Chains!

They were Tier 2 Fire Elemental Spells and should be worth around 4 thousand zen for each talisman!

Soon, three Searing Chains caught three of the Runecasters as they burned them alive, and the one who wasn't targeted didn't even help his companions as he used the confusion caused by the Searing Chains to activate a powerful rune art.

This Runecaster actually has a range of 70 meters, and as soon as he got into range, he used all of his strength to target Vale...

The latter didn't even feel anything, but he tried using his Spell Dispersion nonetheless. Unfortunately, the Rune was too fast for Vale, as he was hit by the attack before the Spell Dispersion activated!

"Vale, your body has been marked! That's a Rotting Rune!" Cressida was shocked as soon as she saw Vale's right arm marked by the Rune. She wasn't that surprised that the three Runecasters were killed since their mind was already being controlled and their reaction time had gotten a lot slower because of that.

Anyway, she was actually confident in deflecting various Runic Arts that were targeted at her. She had fought a few Runecasters before and she knew a proper way of dealing with them.

Furthermore, as a last resort, she could use her Banshee to transfer the Rune Arts marked on her. However, she can't do that with Vale since the latter wasn't contracted with her Banshee.

"This looks bad..." Vale commented on the Rune that was on his right arm. Of course, he remained focused on the Runecaster as he ordered Yvaine to sneakily attack the man.

Yvaine restrained the man's movement and even absorbed his energy before Vale finished him off with his Ghost Hands.

As he planned to extract the Runecasters, he felt the Psychic entering his Magic Zone, so he quickly informed Cressida to leave the place.

"Hmm? How come the Rotting Rune hasn't disappeared yet? I already killed the caster." Vale asked in confusion while they were running away.

All types of Dark Spells, including curses, would normally stop working when the spellcaster dies unless you use a Forbidden Art.

This is why Vale initially didn't mind the Rotting Rune that marked his body.

"Not good... It won't disappear with just that. You have less than five minutes to remove that thing. Can you ask your Dark Spirit to do something about it?" Cressida asked as she also secretly ordered her Banshee to delay the Psychic that was chasing after them.

They will certainly sacrifice themselves to accomplish this task, but as long as they buy enough time, the two of them should be able to leave the forest.

Once they left the forest, the Psychic would surely stop chasing after them.

"I can't remove it. It has already entered your body." Yvaine suddenly spoke in Vale's mind before he could even ask her.

·c0m "I see. Don't worry. I think I can do something about it." Vale replied with confidence as he remained calm even though Cressida was already looking so worried that he might die at any moment.

During his introspection with his Divine Sense, he actually noticed that his Incorruptible Body was fluctuating crazily...

Then, a dark aura also started gathering around his body.

This was similar to when he massacred the members of the Snake Brotherhood in the slums of the City's Southern District.

His Incorruptible Body was acting strange once again!

'It seems I don't have to spam the Spell Dispersion on this Rune. The Incorruptible Body was suppressing it really well. It might even help me increase its level. This is impressive...' Vale commented in his mind as he observed the mark on his right arm.

Cressida did the same and realized that Vale's right arm, which had started rotting, was acting weird. The Rotting Rune would glow to spread the effect on Vale's body, but his Dark Aura would also get stronger, and it suppresses the Rune. It could not spread on Vale's body at all!

Cressida's eyes lit up as she finally realized something.

'I see... No wonder you accepted Master Sherah's mission. You're not affected by the corruption of the potion, and you're also unafraid of the flesh-rotting Rune. You must have the Dark Spellcaster's Blessed Physique, the Tyrannical Saint's Physique! Furthermore, this physique has already reached its peak! I can't be wrong!'

Cressida looked at Vale greedily as she considered her options. She had to deal with the person chasing after them if she wanted to devour Vale to take his physique.

Chapter 240 Recovery

Vale didn't notice the changes in Cressida's eyes as his attention was on his right arm.

If in case his Incorruptible Body could no longer deal with the foreign substance that was rotting his body, he would have to use his Spell Dispersion to quickly erase it in his body.

"Hmm? I think that the Psychic stopped chasing us." Vale commented after realizing that the man wearing that blue coat had disappeared from his Magic Zone.

"That's good to hear. I sent four of my Banshee to sacrifice their lives. It was a warning to that person, and he probably realized that he'll be in huge trouble if he continued on his chase." Cressida calmly answered as she looked ahead.

They didn't stop moving even after this discovery until they reached a small village.

The village was quite lively because there were a lot of children playing outside their houses. To be honest, Vale was actually quite impressed by these villages in the nearby mountains and forests. Although they were all using Thatched Houses, they mainly were two-storey, and all looked beautiful with their green sandstone brick as their walls.

They don't seem to be poor families living here, and their place seems more like vacation houses for the rich.

"Stop right there..." As soon as they reached the vicinity of the village, someone in the village immediately stopped them.

It was as expected since not many people travel around this area. Even if there were, they wouldn't be coming from the forest but from the opposite side.

"We're travelers and we need your help. We've come here to see a doctor. My friend here has been cursed in the forest." Cressida said with her most gentle, pleading, and attractive voice.

The man, who was planning to collect some fees, immediately abandoned his idea as he allowed Cressida and Vale to meet their village's physician. He was easily mesmerized by the woman's beauty as he offered his help to escort them into the village.

"I don't need to be checked up, Cressida. I'm fine." Vale whispered as they followed the man.

"You may be capable of suppressing the Rune, but if you want to remove it completely, you might need the help of someone from the Holy Arts Faction... The ones in the Mystic Arts and Alchemy Arts may also be capable of helping you, but you won't find them in the places around here."

"Is that so..." Vale could only nod as he also thought that he might've missed something. This was the first time he fought against Runecasters after all.

They use magical texts to trigger some magical abilities and the Rotting Rune on his arm might have some other abilities that he wasn't aware of.

Soon, Vale and Cressida were brought to a house that had a strong scent of medicine.

Without a doubt, they arrived at the only clinic in the village.

"Doctor Bennett! I brought you some clients!" The middle-aged man, who brought them here, called out in a loud voice.

"Let them in... and don't shout! I have a patient here!" The doctor shouted back, which made Vale and Cressida look at each other.

After being gestured to enter, the two no longer hesitated and entered the house.

Of course, Vale remained vigilant as his Phantasm State was activated once again. With only a couple of minutes of cooldown, he has no problems using it multiple times a day.

He then found three people inside the house. Two were Arcane Arts Practitioners, and the other was just an average person sleeping in one room.

Holy Arts Practitioner with 6 filled Spell Lights.

Holy Arts Practitioner with 1 filled Spell Light.

'Hmm... They're indeed Holy Arts Practitioners. I guess they weren't as rare as I thought.' Vale mused as he thought that people who were practicing this Art would be difficult to find.

It turns out that aside from the Holy Arts Academy, their faction also has other methods to teach their followers.

Soon, the two were introduced to the doctor and his apprentice.

Doctor Bennet looked at Vale and Cressida with interest as if he realized their identity.

"My friend here was attacked by a Runecaster... It's the Flesh-Rotting Rune. Can you do something about it?" Cressida immediately asked as she found a chair to sit on.

"Ah? You're still alive? How long has it been?" The doctor curiously asked as he signaled to his apprentice to bring him his tools.

"Less than 10 minutes." Vale replied.

This confused the doctor even more as he hastily checked the Rune on Vale's arm.

"It's indeed the Flesh-Rotting Rune... You're actually capable of suppressing it... Is it through a Mystical Artifact? Did you complete a Sealing Ritual?" The doctor asked as he gestured for Vale to sit on the patient's bed.

Vale followed his instructions as he replied.

"It's a little trick I learned in the Academy. Can you completely remove it?"

At this time, he noticed that his Incorruptible Body's Spell Model had already been satisfied and stopped fluctuating wildly.

"A trick? A defensive spell? Anyway, I can remove it for only 450 zen... For some reason, this Rune appears to have weakened a lot. The caster was probably a newbie so you're lucky. If you got hit by an Intermediate or Advanced Realm Rune Arts, you wouldn't last this long."

The doctor said as he even calculated the fee for his service.

"Isn't that a bit too expensive?" Vale asked curiously. The price the doctor gave was similar to the four months' income of a factory worker in the city. This was certainly quite expensive.

Although he had plenty of cash, it didn't mean he no longer cared how he spent them.

"It's for the medicine I'll give you. Here, take this pill." The doctor said as he handed over a gray pill to him.

"It can repair your damaged skin and muscles... Normal pills don't work on Arcane Arts Practitioners so they're all expensive." He added after seeing Vale's doubtful eyes.

In the end, Vale could only receive the pill. After consuming it, the doctor also used a Holy Arts Spell that could cure diseases or wounds. It didn't take long before his right arm recovered and the Rune Character disappeared.

"Alright... You can leave now. I suggest that you find a place to stay for the night. This village is safe and that Runecaster won't dare to follow you here."

"Thank you, Doctor Bennett."

Vale was curious why he was so confident about it but decided not to ask too many questions.

After paying and thanking the doctor, Vale and Cressida quickly found a place to stay.

However, at this moment, Vale was warned by his Dark Spirit.

"The strange crows are back..."