

D. Extraction 261

Chapter 261 Problem

'What? You're not fond of killing animals, but aren't you completely unaffected if it's other humans?' Vale was a bit stunned after hearing Headmaster Jean's mutterings.

He didn't expect that this scary Headmaster would be this eccentric.

'Was he going easy on them because they were transformed into animals? Ugh... What a weird Headmaster.' Vale could only shake his head at this since this only proves that all Dark Arts Practitioners have some sort of weirdness in them.

Nevertheless, Vale witnessed how strong the Headmaster really was.

While he was using his Shadow Soldier to deal with the fake student of the Academy, he also started using three more Spells to deal with the three Bears!

'Four Spells at the same time?' Vale looked at the Headmaster with great interest.

After all, he was only capable of doing some dual casting.

As a matter of fact, he had been practicing his Tri-Casting for quite some time now.

At the moment, if he used his Lightspeed followed by his Ghost Hands, casting a third spell, like Spirit Vision, would cancel his Lightspeed Spell or the first Spell he cast.

Even if he fully concentrated, the third Spell would only last for a brief second which was utterly useless. At the very least, using a Mystical Item as his third Spell could be used as an alternative.

It was such a difficult task, and he could probably surpass his limit after a few months or years of practice.

'Incredible... Headmaster was using Shadow Soldier, Darkness Manipulation, Corruption Chains, and another dark spell I'm not even aware of... Wait, is that—'

Boom!

The Bear charging at the Headmaster, suddenly crashed to the floor. Vale's eyes lit up as he briefly saw what had happened.

The moment the Headmaster triggered the Dark Spell on the ferocious Bear, Vale realized what was the fourth Dark Spell that he was using.

"Shadow Marionette!"

Vale exclaimed.

Shadow Marionette was the fourth Academy-Exclusive Dark Spell that was optional for the students. The students were only required to Record the Darkness Manipulation, Light Absorption, and Shadow Soldier.

This fourth Dark Spell was extremely difficult to record, and some Professors don't even have this Dark Spell recorded on their Spell Lights.

The moment the first Bear crashed to the ground, the two others followed as their dropped head first to the ground.

However, this didn't end their lives.

Poof... Poof... Poof...

Suddenly, the three ferocious bears that were supposedly unconscious disappeared, leaving the crashed floor in full sight.

Headmaster Jean didn't need to speak as Vale already knew what to do.

With the activation of his Divine Sense, he immediately located the three Shapeshifters.

Vale didn't speak with his voice as he used his telepathy while his Divine Sense was active since he didn't want to inform the enemies that he was capable of seeing through their disguise.

'Headmaster, they turned into objects as you expected... They turned into one of the broken stones.'

'What an impressive ability... Let them stay there for now. Let them think that we can't find them. I'll take care of Mark first.' Headmaster Jean replied.

He was impressed by both of their skills.

Vale's perception spell and the shapeshifters' ability were something he'd rarely encountered... Perhaps, even the Order of the Evanescent Vessels members would fail to sense these Shapeshifters as well unless their Spirit Vision or other detection spells had reached the Advanced Realm.

Vale couldn't help but smile at this plan as he even acted surprised at the sudden disappearance of the Shapeshifters.

"Headmaster, where did they go?" He asked while trying to look around.

"They most likely escaped. I'll deal with this foolish student first." Headmaster Jean cooperated as he attacked Mark with all his might.

He knows that the three shapeshifters were injured because he used his Shadow Marionette on them to control them for 2 seconds, enough to crash their heads to the reinforced floor of the building.

They were lucky that there weren't any pikes or sharp objects near them, or he would have used them to put a hole in their heads.

'I guess we're done here, huh...' Vale silently thought as he could already tell how this battle would end.

The intruders in front of the Academy are slowly getting captured or killed by the Professors and the members of the Order.

Although there were also casualties on the Dark Arts Faction's side, there were only a handful of them, excluding the guards who were killed in the first encounter.

In the meantime, while Vale was watching the Headmaster capture Mark and secretly monitoring the three Shapeshifters, someone had finally noticed his disappearance within the classroom.

"W-what happened?! Did he get captured by the enemies?" Professor Shirley asked in shock as she looked at the people beside Vale's seat.

The empty seat in the back row was in perfect condition, so she could tell that Vale didn't have a chance of fighting back when he was 'captured.'

'Not good...'

She immediately returned to the Class as soon as the matter in the hallway was dealt with, and she certainly did not see anyone going out of the classroom then.

Only when Leonore tried looking for Vale did everyone realize that he had actually disappeared.

Unfortunately, the students around Vale's seat also had no idea when Vale had disappeared.

"P-professor, do you think he was targeted by those intruders?" Leonore asked in concern.

Vale was simply too excellent. Perhaps, the Secret Organization had heard of his talent, and they targeted him to bring him to their Organization.

"T-that's..." Lisa wanted to deny Leonore's guess, but that was actually quite possible.

Considering Vale's talent, he would undoubtedly be desired by an Organization that didn't care about your Arcane Path.

They were all aware that the Secret Organization came from different Arcane Paths and could care less about their enemies. Forcefully recruiting Vale was certainly something they were capable of.

At this point, Professor Shirley was already feeling worried, so she decided to inform the other Professors in the nearby rooms.

"Vale disappeared?" Professor Morton frowned as he heard Shirley's claim. He also swiftly used his Spirits to look around the surrounding area.

"Then what are we waiting for?! Let's search for him! Inform the Vessels outside!" Professor Stella immediately said as she was also worried about Vale's situation.

As for the person they were looking for, he still had no idea about the problem he had caused.

Chapter 262 Captured

"Hmm? What are they doing?"

Vale immediately noticed something was wrong when he sensed the restless professors and students inside the Academy's main building.

Although he wasn't monitoring them, he couldn't help but notice their actions since they were still inside his Magic Zone.

They seemed to be worried about something, so he couldn't help but reveal his telepathy to ask Professor Shirley.

"Professor, is there something wrong?" Vale asked while using his Extrasensory Perception spell to communicate.

"..."

Professor Shirley didn't immediately answer, or perhaps, she actually couldn't answer.

After all, the Professor must also find Vale's location through her Magic Zone to reply with her own telepathy spell. If he was outside her Magic Zone, she would fail to answer back.

'I'm about 40 to 45 meters away from the Professor. Is that her limit? Isn't that a bit too low for a third-class Spellcaster?' Vale thought.

As he was pondering about this, he suddenly recalled how he had just disappeared from the classroom because he used his Lightspeed and ESP... For sure, no one would've noticed his escape at that time.

Now that everything calmed down, they have probably noticed his disappearance!

Thump...

Vale couldn't help but slap his forehead as he immediately spoke to the Professor.

"Professor, it's me... Vale Chambers. Headmaster Jean called me to do something, so I went out after finding an opportunity while you were all busy. I'll be back after I finished my assignment from him."

With that said, Vale noticed that Professor Shirley had calmed down, and she seemed to have informed his classmates about it as well.

He was right. They were indeed looking for him because of his sudden disappearance.

After resolving this matter, he finally focused on the matter in front of him as he guarded the door of the Armory.

Soon, Mark was captured by the Headmaster, and his left and right arm was cut off to ensure he could no longer cast any Mystic Arts.

It was a bit cruel, but it was necessary.

After that, Vale informed the Headmaster of the location of the three Shapeshifters, who probably thought that they would be able to get away with their tricks.

Since they were injured and Headmaster Jean caught them by surprise, the Corrupted Chains bound them quickly, and this time, Jean made sure to restrict them until they returned to their human forms.

Poof... Poof. Poof.

Three men in their fifties appeared. They were all pale, and their skin had already turned purple because of the Corruption.

"Headmaster, can I take a closer look at them?" Vale asked after everyone was captured.

"Of course. However, they're not corpses yet, and you can't turn them into one." Headmaster Jean immediately reminded as he recalled that Vale was interested in corpses.

"I'm aware, Headmaster. I'll just put them to sleep." Vale answered while shaking his head.

Jean looked at the young man silently for a moment before he nodded.

"Very well. Take your time."

At this answer, Headmaster Jean also surveyed the surroundings and informed the people outside about his successful capture of the intruders.

He was actually quite tired already as these Shapeshifters' powers had exceeded his expectation. Perhaps, if he weren't here in the Academy, these three could do anything they wanted before Isaac and the others could arrive.

Soon, rushing footsteps could be heard as one of the members of the Vessel finally arrived at the scene.

It was Ashe, the Vice Captain of the Sixth Squad.

The moment she arrived, she witnessed Vale touching the four captured people while he was grinning like a fool.

She wanted to say something to Vale about her missing Spirit Vision Spell Model, but since the Headmaster was present, she first acknowledged his presence.

"Headmaster Jean, we've also settled the matters outside. However, there was one more Shapeshifter among the enemies, and we failed to sense his presence until he captured someone."

In a fortified castle in the eastern region of Millton Kingdom, a group of cloaked men were kneeling at one knee behind a young girl who was busily eating her food.

As soon as the young girl heard the report of the cloaked men, she dropped her utensils and glared at the squad leader.

"We only captured one of our four objectives? We sacrificed dozens of our men for this! How come you've failed this terribly?! We have a spy inside the Academy, and we have made a year-long preparation!" A blonde teenage girl who seemed to be from a noble family complained to the cloaked person behind her.

She was eating the sweet pastries on her table, and now that her mood had soured, she wanted none of it, and she was even tempted to pour her hot tea into the man.

"This is so infuriating..." The young girl clenched her fist as she controlled her emotions.

The squad leader had just reported that they had basically failed to accomplish their A-Grade Mission even though they had arranged four First-Class Shapeshifters and five Second-Class False Priests!

"Hu!"

Looking at the man's eyes, she knew that he was also disappointed by the result of their mission. She could only close her eyes as she calmed her breath. She didn't really like to cause a scene as much as possible.

'All of these people are idiots... I should've asked Uncle Howard to join the mission.'

After calming down, she slowly asked. "Which one did you capture?"

The cloaked man heaved a sigh of relief as soon as he noticed that the young miss was able to calm down.

"Young Miss, we captured Philip Hoffman..." He answered.

To be honest, even Philip Hoffman's capture had almost failed. They were simply lucky that this young man was actually quite late and wasn't in the central area of the Academy when they arrived.

"Philip?! You captured him?!" The young miss was shocked as she thought that the objective they captured was the Mystical Items they were looking for.

Apparently, their attack on the Vermont Academy was meant to take two Mystical Items and two Students.

The easiest target was supposedly the Mystical Items, so she was expecting that they were the ones they managed to take, at the very least.

"Bring him to me... No, tell me where he is. I'll come instead!"

Chapter 263 New Method?

Thud!

Priscilla dropped to the ground as her knees weakened after hearing the bad news.

The Secret Organization captured her twin brother, and none of them knew why he was targeted! At the very least, Priscilla couldn't think of a reason at this moment.

"We will find them, Priscilla. Get yourself together. He's definitely alive since they had a chance to kill him a while ago, but they decided to sacrifice three of their men to take him." Cleo, the captain of the sixth squad, explained to the young student.

He went here with a few members of the squad to inform Priscilla of the situation and to ask her if she had an idea why Philip was taken away.

However, he failed to consider her emotions since they were in a hurry.

A female squad member immediately went to Priscilla's side and consoled her.

"Priscilla, I'm Bell from the Ames Clan... You know that we're experts in curses and hexes. I managed to Curse one of the people who captured your brother. It could last for six hours, so I'm sure we'll know their base soon. We've already sent people to track them and informed the Vessels outside to be on guard. Right now, we just need information on why he was captured. Do you have any idea?" Bell asked in a soft voice.

"Let's first bring her to the infirmary. There are also many ears here." Cleo suggested as Priscilla was still unable to answer.

Bell agreed to this as she assisted Priscilla.

The whole class had, of course, heard their conversation so all of them could sympathize with their classmate.

Maya, who was seated in the front row, couldn't help but feel puzzled.

The Hoffman family may have produced strong Spellcasters like the Headmaster, but there were plenty of stronger Spellcasters from other families.

One of them was obviously her family.

'Philip was targeted by the Secret Organization? Is it because of his talent? That's weird. He seemed just like an above-average student. He wasn't outstanding in any way.' Maya pondered as she couldn't think of a reason why a powerful criminal organization suddenly targeted Philip.

They even sacrificed so many powerful Arcanists just to take him with them!

'They also had plenty of chances when Philip was outside the Academy. Why didn't they capture him at that time and wait for him to enter the Academy?' Maya couldn't help but feel suspicious of this unusual event.

It seems that they were missing something but she could only hope that this will also be noticed by the members of the Vessel.

At the moment, she had no plans of getting involved further as she needed to focus on her own growth.

In the meantime, Vale was delighted after realizing that he just extracted a Transformation Spell.

"I'm quite lucky..." Vale muttered as he checked the Spell Models within his body.

He got the Human Shapeshift Spell, and he was already satisfied with that. There was even an incomplete Object Transformation Spell from his extraction a while ago, but he rejected it since it would just unnecessarily occupy his limited Spell Light.

Apparently, there are different Transformation Spells for Humans, Objects, Plants, Animals, and some Creatures. Considering this, getting the transformation spell for humans was quite lucky for him.

As for Mark, Vale didn't get much from him besides the incomplete Spell Light that at least completed one of his unfinished Spell Lights, adding another slot for him.

As for the Spell Model, it was an incomplete Push Force Spell that he also rejected. This Mystic Art's Spell can only push the target, and the force would depend on your energy.

It was quite useful in some way but not for him, so he didn't hesitate to trash it.

"Vale... Can you check the whole Academy to see if other Shapeshifters are still lurking around?" Headmaster Jean suddenly asked, interrupting Vale's thoughts.

"Y-yes, Headmaster." Vale immediately answered.

However, as he was about to leave the place, Ashe suddenly appeared in front of him.

Vale felt nervous as he obviously did something quite unacceptable to this woman. He experimented on her and extracted not only her attributes but also her Spell Model and Spell Lights. She certainly worked hard on these things, so Vale knows that she had probably been stressed out after learning what had happened.

"Is there something I can help you with?" Vale asked with a fake smile.

"Heh... You can act so innocent, huh... It doesn't look like you could destroy other people's Spell Models." Ashe said while smirking.

As expected, this woman wanted to get revenge.

Vale wanted to apologize for that, but Ashe interrupted him.

"I don't mind that you destroyed my Spirit Vision spell. I also wanted to replace it with a better spell. It was perfect for me."

"..."

Vale was dumbfounded as she stared at the woman carefully. He wanted to see if she was being sarcastic.

Ashe noticed his reactions as she smiled. "Since you can destroy a Spell Model safely, can I ask you to destroy my friends' Spell Models as well?"

"..."

Vale didn't immediately understand what was going on. It took him a few more seconds to process what she had just said.

"You want me to destroy others' Spell Models?" Vale repeated as his mind raced.

Indeed, there are many Spellcasters who made stupid decisions when they were young and recorded pathetic Spell Models.

Even if they are not Pathetic, perhaps these Spells were already useless to them or wouldn't work in their combination of Spells anymore.

There could also be other reasons, like finding a better spell, or they just wanted to free up one of their Spell Lights.

With Vale's extraction, he can indeed safely remove this from them!

Unfortunately! He doesn't have that kind of precision ability yet!

His Extractions at the moment are random. He couldn't control what he should extract or what he should not.

'No... Perhaps, I'm not using the system properly? Am I too reliant on its auto-extraction process? Can I actually control my extraction? Am I wasting its full potential?'

Vale straightened his back at this thought as an idea popped into his mind.

Chapter 264 Curious

The idea of being able to extract what he wanted was great, and Vale knows that really well. It made him excited just by thinking about it, but there was a problem.

How could he do that?

Does he need more Divinity Points to evolve his system, or perhaps, he can control the Extraction if he practiced enough?

'This is interesting...' Vale mused.

He felt that this was worth studying for and he planned to look more into it after this invasion matter was settled.

"Hey! What are you thinking so deeply? Did you think I'm not aware of what you did to me?" Ashe suddenly asked as she saw Vale deep in his thoughts.

Vale jolted at the reminder as he smiled.

"Senior Ashe, I apologize for what happened. However, that ability of mine can't be controlled yet. Perhaps, if you give me some time, I can help you with the elimination of your unwanted Spell Models." Vale replied after giving some thought.

"You can't control it? Am I lucky that you destroyed my Spirit Vision and not my other Spells?" Ashe immediately felt shocked at this thought.

"Ahem... It was like that, Senior. In any case, I need at least a few months to study my Spell. I'll inform you once I get to control my Spell."

Ashe then noticed the Headmaster's gaze as she could only nod at this answer.

"Very well. I'll be contacting you again..." Ashe paused for a minute as she realized how troublesome it would be if she had to look for him.

She immediately changed her mind.

"No, if you're confident you can control your skill, you can look for me at the dockyard. Our sixth Squad will be stationed there for the whole year. If you need someone to test your Spell, I can also look for some prisoners you can practice on. However, you have to get the Headmaster's permission for that."

"Thank you, Senior Ashe! I will not disappoint you." Vale answered with a smile.

He certainly wouldn't waste such an opportunity. If he could really control his Extraction System, then he would have plenty of customers he could extract from.

After all, the number of Arcanists who wanted to change or remove their old Spell Models didn't just come from the Dark Arts Faction.

If he does this well, perhaps he can 'help' other practitioners of different Arcane Paths.

Soon, the invasion of the Secret Organization was settled by the Academy Officials and the Faction's Order of the Evanescent Vessels.

A total of three Squads were now stationed in the Academy instead of only two Squads.

Furthermore, the new Squad that was sent to the Academy had some experience dealing with the Shapeshifters, so their previous stealthy intrusion would no longer be repeated.

Furthermore, the security in the Academy heightened by a few levels as several experts that came from the Faction arrived at the Academy to repair the Formation Circles.

Unfortunately, because of the damage that was done, the Academy suspended the class for a week.

It was quite uneventful for the other students because they could only do self-studies and could only visit a limited area on the campus.

However, for Vale, it was such a busy day.

"Thank you, Headmaster Jean." Vale said to the man in front of him.

"It's alright... However, why do you want to see all those corpses even if most of them can no longer be recognized?"

Vale went silent for a moment as this was the first time that the Headmaster was truly interested in his actions. After all, in his previous extractions, the Headmaster simply thought that it was his hobby, as per Master Heinz.

However, it seemed that he grew some suspicions after he requested to see the corpses of the members of the Secret Organization before they got cremated.

Of course, Vale had already prepared a reason for this, and he didn't even have to think too much.

'Yvaine, come out.' Vale said to the Dark Spirit hiding inside his shadow.

After Yvaine came out, Vale looked at the Headmaster.

"It's because of her, Headmaster. The corpses still have some remnant Arcane Energy around them. This Dark Spirit feeds on them to recover some of her energy. I'm just helping her." Vale said, which made the Headmaster nod in agreement.

This is the same reason he gave to Sir Isaac Vermont, and as expected, it worked well with the Headmaster.

Thankfully, none of them have Dark Spirits, so they can't really find fault in what he says.

"Very well. You have to take care of your Dark Spirit... I'm sure she'll be helpful in the Twelve Academies Competition."

"I will definitely take care of her. We'll both get stronger for the Competition." Vale replied.

"Mhmm... Speaking of getting stronger, I heard from Professor Shirley about your absurd results in your Spirit Strands..." Headmaster Jean curiously said as he looked at Vale from head to toe.

He could feel that the young man had completely transformed after the summer break. He didn't know how he did it, but Vale seemed to have other secrets he wasn't aware of.

"Was it thanks to Heinz's experiments?" He probed.

Vale stiffly smiled after hearing this.

'I guess it's normal to grow suspicious. Even with Master Heinz's experiments, my growth was simply too fast. However, I can't really give other reason.'

"You're right, Headmaster Jean. Perhaps, it's also thanks to my natural talent." He replied.

"That's true... In any case, you should visit your clubroom... I heard that you're a close friend of the twins. You should be aware of what happened to her brother."

Vale's mood suddenly changed as he recalled what had happened to Philip.

Philip was a great friend and they had naturally grown closer together. After all, at the end of every month in the past year, they would visit the Archive Room with his sister to watch recordings of other Dark Arts Practitioners battling against other Practitioners.

"Yes, Headmaster. Is Priscilla in the clubroom?" Vale asked. He hadn't met Priscilla since he heard the news, so he certainly wanted to see her.

"You're right. She still hadn't mentioned any valuable information about why her brother was targeted. If you learned anything, let us know." Headmaster Jean said.

Chapter 265 Secret

Vale was a bit shocked after hearing the Headmaster's words.

In his mind, the Headmaster should be aware of the twin's secret since they were from the same family.

'Why would they even tell me about their secret if they didn't tell you anything?' Vale thought but he still slightly nodded to the Headmaster.

Anyway, what Philip and Priscilla said about their family seemed true. The twins weren't in the main branch of the Hoffman, and that they were only able to study here because of their own efforts...

They may have received recognition from Hoffman Family's Main Branch, but they were still in a complicated position in the clan.

In any case, Vale still asked the Headmaster about the things he knew about the situation with Philip before leaving his office.

Soon, Vale found himself headed to the clubroom.

He already used his Phantasm State and confirmed that Priscilla was indeed alone and seemed to be waiting for someone.

Knock. Knock.

Vale knocked on the door to inform the person inside that someone was about to enter.

"Priscilla, I didn't know you were here. Are you alone? Where are our seniors?" He asked.

Priscilla then looked at Vale with a faint smile and answered. "They were at the Assembly Hall. That place was unaffected by the previous incident, so the club recruitment still continued there."

Vale nodded at this. He had forgotten about the Club Recruitment for first-year students. It seemed quite interesting to recruit some first years, so he would probably visit the stall if he didn't have much to do.

"I see... Right, I heard about what happened to your brother. I just spoke to the Headmaster about it, and it was unfortunate that they have a way to prevent him from locating him through his Shadow. They've really made enough preparation." Vale sighed as he couldn't really do anything about it either, especially since they weren't even aware of his exact location.

"Yes... I heard that the curse used by the Vessels had also disappeared after reaching a forest. However, I'm still relieved that my brother's Shadow hasn't yet disappeared from Headmaster Jean's collection. It means that he's still alive and waiting to be saved." Priscilla weakly said.

She was probably worrying about this for several days, so it wasn't surprising that she wasn't in good condition.

"Indeed... I also heard that no one knows why he got captured. It was really baffling."

"I couldn't think of a reason as well. Perhaps, it wasn't even for ransom since the family didn't receive any information from them... Did the Headmaster ask you to find more information from me?"

Vale wryly smiled at this and nodded.

"Yes... He was just worried about you two, so he wanted more information."

"Hmph... He should be aware of it. He's just asking you to probe me if I told anyone about it." Priscilla said.

At these words, Vale suddenly felt a chill behind his back as he swiftly used his Phantasm State and Darkness Manipulation to isolate the area.

Since his Darkness Manipulation had already reached the Advanced Realm, the spell would sense anyone who tries to peek through them.

"Ahem... Although the room has Formation Circle to protect us from leaking information outside, I think it's much better to use this spell to hide our conversation from the others." Vale immediately said as he took a deep breath.

"Are you surprised?" Priscilla asked.

"Yes... I didn't know that you really have such a complicated relationship with the Hoffman family. Although it feels dangerous, I'm inclined to know what is going on."

Vale said with interest. He didn't expect the Headmaster to be aware of the reason Philip was captured but acted unaware in front of him and the Order of Evanescent Vessel.

Furthermore, Priscilla wasn't allowed to tell the reason... Perhaps, the Hoffman Family was watching her to ensure that she would reveal their secrets!

"Don't worry... I revealed it because I knew that no one was watching me anymore. Do you want to know what's our secret that I can't reveal to the Order?" Priscilla asked while looking at Vale.

At this point, Vale was really curious. He can choose to say no and stay out of trouble, but it would bother him in his sleep. Furthermore, he was already at the point that even First-Class Arcanists wouldn't scare him anymore.

'Right... I'm only scared of the Headmaster since he basically has my Shadow. I can name dozens of powerful curses he could use on me with that piece of Shadow. However, if he doesn't have that, I may not necessarily be in trouble if I faced him in battle.' Vale thought while looking at the pretty but weakened Priscilla in front of him.

She looked quite pitiful but also looked elegant and beautiful.

After a few considerations, Vale finally nodded.

"Yes, I want to know your secret. Perhaps, I can even help you. No, I'm not bragging. I might really help you with my current abilities. You should've heard the rumors that the Shapeshifters' abilities are useless to me... Those rumors are accurate. My detection ability is unmatched." Vale said with a confident look on his face.

For some reason, he wanted to look reliable in front of this girl. Now that he had gotten strong enough, he felt that doing some good deeds didn't sound that bad.

As expected, as soon as he said this, Priscilla couldn't help but smile.

"Your detection ability is unmatched? That's quite a big word for a second-year student." Priscilla chuckled as she felt it was too much even if Vale was a talented student. In any case, she decided to just accept it since it wasn't every day to hear Vale boasting about his skills.

Vale just smiled at this as he sat in front of her.

After some hesitations, Priscilla bit her lips as she decided to reveal their secret to her friend.

For some reason, she felt that Vale's luck was incredible, and perhaps, he could share his luck with them and save her brother in the process.

"Vale, do you remember the ranks of the Mystical Items?" She asked.

"Of course. From the weakest, it was the Regular, Mortal, Noble, Royal, and Sovereign Rank... Wait, don't tell me..." Vale's eyes lit up as Philip and Priscilla's secret might have something to do with the Sovereign Rank item! If that were the case, then they'd really be targeted by any organization!

Chapter 266 Convinced

Priscilla smiled after seeing Vale's reaction.

However, she immediately shook her head as she corrected him.

"No, it's not about the Sovereign Rank item. It's probably something above them."

"Above the Sovereign Rank?"

At this point, Vale was truly stunned as he almost blurted out the Immortal Item... However, he suddenly recalled one of the legends he had read about the Mystical Items.

"Are you referring to the legendary Arcanas?" Vale asked curiously. Although there were records that say that Arcanas exist, no one had really seen them in person.

He couldn't even imagine what kind of Power you'll get if you possess one.

Priscilla nodded slightly after hearing Vale's question.

"This... Isn't this too dangerous? Why did you tell me about it?" Vale couldn't help but feel nervous after knowing such a huge secret.

"Don't worry. I won't let the others know... In any case, I can't tell you anything more than that since we're also unsure if it was really one of the legendary Arcanas. However, if you help me save my brother, I could tell you more about it." Priscilla said mysteriously.

"Ahem... You want me to save your brother? I think that you're overestimating me." Vale couldn't help but look at Priscilla with a strange gaze after hearing what she had just said.

"I'm not overestimating you. If I'm not mistaken, you have a powerful background supporting you in secret. There was no way your Power Strands, Life Strands, and Spirit Strands would get so incredibly high with your skills and talent alone. I'm not asking you to make a move yourself. If you could ask your supporters to help us, then I'll tell you more about the Arcana." Priscilla said seriously as she looked at Vale with determined eyes.

"..."

Vale was a bit stumped after she pointed it out. Indeed, his progress was too incredible. Everyone in the Academy who knew about his progress probably thought the same thing.

Seeing that Vale wasn't answering, Priscilla believed that she hit the nail and continued.

"You don't have to keep it secret. Your showing fast progress means that you and your supporters have a goal in mind. If you help me save my brother, I'm sure that the secret of Arcana will be helpful to you."

Vale wryly smiled as he couldn't really save Philip since he had to attend classes, and it was just too dangerous, considering that Philip was probably in a fortified prison of the enemy.

After taking a deep breath, Vale answered.

"I'm not really sure why you're trusting me so much. I may have someone helping me, but it won't guarantee anything. Furthermore, we barely know anything about our enemies."

"If you really can't help us. Then there's nothing I can do about it." Priscilla weakly smiled as she leaned on her chair.

Vale went silent for a moment as he considered the things he could do in this situation.

Saving Philip on his own was certainly close to an impossible task... However, perhaps it wouldn't be so bad if he decided to just help other people to save Philip. With his current set of skills, it doesn't sound impossible at all.

In the end, Vale believed that this was a worthwhile task. After all, if he gained a clue about the Arcana just by saving a kidnapped person, he'd be willing to save everyone who got kidnapped. If he could extract an Arcana, his sacrifices would be worth it.

"Alright... I'll try to look into it. Philip is also my friend, so I also wanted him to be saved. Even if I can't save him personally, I'll do everything I can to help." Vale said as his voice was filled with righteousness.

"Thank you, Vale."

After their small conversation, Vale was thinking of returning to his room to practice his Extraction Precision.

However, a stern but pretty lady blocked him in the hallway.

She was Clara Campelle and the Treasurer of the Battle Arena Committee.

"Senior Clara, I thought that you were in the Assembly Hall for the club recruitment?" Vale asked with a smile.

Clara squinted as she looked at Vale's face for a while.

"Mhmm... You look decent... You have to go there as well. Benedict and Bailey can't properly recruit first-year students because of their scary looks. You look more pleasing to the eye, so guard the stall with Nadine."

"Cough... Cough..." Vale didn't know whether he should be happy for the compliment coming from this pretty senior.

Nevertheless, he still agreed since he was still a member of the Club and he had to participate in such activities. Since he was benefiting from the Archive Room's recording crystals, he didn't mind doing some work for the Club.

"I will visit the Assembly Hall now, Senior Clara."

"Alright... You have to recruit only one student. Once you do that, you no longer have to bother returning to watch the stall." Clara reminded.

"I see... Did we have a recruit already?" Vale asked curiously.

Clara shook her head at this, implying that there were no successful recruitments.

"There aren't a lot of students this year. Only 60 first-year students enrolled, so recruiting even one of them is difficult. Haaa~ They should really lower the standards and stop feeding those poor commoners with that deadly Darkness Possession." Clara complained as she started walking away.

'No wonder...'

Vale also agreed to her words since the Dark Arts Faction eventually had to change their method. Nevertheless, he also knows the reason why the Darkness Possession was needed.

Aside from it helping people awaken their talent in Dark Arts, it also ensures that the Dark Arts Faction would not be flooded with undeserving practitioners, and it also ensures the exclusivity of the Dark Arts to the selected Families.

Vale heard from Master Heinz that the elders of the Dark Arts Factions were really against the public recruitment that was forced on them by the Association in the Treaty of Keslore.

Anyway, Vale headed to the Assembly Hall and realized that it was so busy. The place had also become a hangout area where all types of students came just to see this year's cute and fresh first-year students.

'Ah... I forgot to ask about our stall's spot...' Vale thought as he felt dazed seeing so many people.

He was about to use his Phantasm State to search for Nadine and the others when suddenly, he felt a soft and supple body bumping on his back.

Chapter 267 Serve?

Vale raised his brows as he looked behind him.

Although the place was crowded, it wasn't to the point that someone would just bump into you. He couldn't help but feel suspicious about this as he observed the young girl in front of him.

She wore a uniform with a single star on her right chest so Vale could guess her year.

She had short red hair, a pale complexion, and was quite chubby compared to other female students at her age. Nevertheless, Vale felt that this girl wasn't simple. His Extrasensory Perception Spell was warning him, and he wouldn't ignore that.

"I... I'm sorry... I wasn't looking." The young girl said as she apologized to Vale. However, she looked at the young man she had bumped into and noticed that he wasn't buying her explanation, so she pointed to a nearby stall.

"The Fortune Telling Club is giving a free service to the first 15 first-year students to visit their Club... I was too focused on their signage. I'm sorry."

Vale looked confused at this as he looked in the direction she pointed.

Indeed, he saw that the Fortune Telling Club members were doing free divination for a few students. They seemed to be using what was similar to Tarot Cards, which was quite interesting.

He even saw Leonore assisting the students that were lining up.

"Are you planning to queue in their line?" Vale asked as he stepped back to give way to the first year.

"N-no, Senior. I'm just curious whether they're really capable of divination like the Mystic Arts Practitioners or they were just having fun." The student said in a soft voice. She certainly didn't want to offend the members of the Club, so she was being careful.

"Well, it's not impossible that their divination can be accurate at times since they were performing some rituals, and they also call for mysterious existences to help them with their prophecy. It's a different method from the Mystic Arts and the Holy Arts, but they're certainly capable... I heard they were called the Dark Seers in our Faction."

The young girl's eyes lit up after hearing Vale's answer. She couldn't help but feel that he was knowledgeable.

"I see... So it was like that." She nodded at this and looked at the young man once more, and asked. "May know what club you are in, Senior?"

At this point, Vale couldn't help but smile as he introduced himself. Perhaps, he can even recruit this mysterious girl before going to their stall.

"You can just call me Vale. I'm just a second-year student... I joined the Battle Arena Committee. Do you want to check my Club?"

Vale said as he used his Divine Sense to check the status of the girl.

Soon, a surprising feedback came from the spell.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 4 filled Spell Lights.

'Ahh?' Vale was stunned as soon as he discovered the number of Spell Models recorded by this girl.

This was unexpected since first-year students were only allowed to record two Spell Models before entering the Academy. After all, they are worried that the students wouldn't have enough Spell Lights for the three Academy-Exclusive Spells and Branch-Exclusive Spells.

Of course, Vale didn't show that he noticed it and just acted normal.

Thankfully, the girl was interested in the Battle Arena Committee, so he invited her to check the stall with him.

At this time, he already learned of her name. It was Celina Vermont.

That's right. The Vermont of the Vermont Academy.

He wasn't exactly sure, but she seemed to be related to the legendary Morgan Vermont of the Dark Arts Faction. This may also be the reason why she was allowed to have four Spell Lights.

As a matter of fact, she might've even recorded the Darkness Manipulation and Light Absorption Spells already.

"Whoa~ You brought a first-year?" Nadine looked at Vale in shock.

Even Benedict and Bailey couldn't help but respect Vale's dedication to the Club. To be honest, they didn't care if they had a recruit this year since many of the members still had several years before they could graduate.

It doesn't really matter if they have a year or two without any recruits. Nevertheless, a new recruit would certainly make their clubroom lively, so they were happy to see a new face.

"Ahem... She hasn't decided yet, Senior Nadine. It's up to you to persuade her." Vale replied to Nadine.

Nadine raised her chin on this as she felt confident recruiting people. She shifted her attention to the girl beside Vale and suddenly froze.

"..."

Her eyes blinked for a moment as if she wanted to see whether she was seeing the right person.

"Aren't you Celina Vermont? You're the Student Representative of your batch, right? You're supposed to be in the Student Council. Are you still looking for another club?" Nadine asked.

This was the first time Vale heard about this, as he couldn't help but look at Celina once more.

"Yes, Senior Nadine. I heard that there weren't that many tasks in the Student Council anyway."

Celina then paused for a moment as she seemed to be hesitating to say something... Nevertheless, before the others could ask, she took a deep breath and continued. "If it's alright, can I hear more about the Club from Senior Vale?"

Nadine's eyes lit up after hearing this. "Of course! Vale is one the finest students of his batch."

Benedict and Bailey also gave Vale a knowing smile as they nodded in agreement.

"Ahem... The three of us plan to take a break, so you can use this place to chat." Nadine said as she stood up to give her seat to Celina. The other two club members also followed and immediately left the stall for Vale to manage.

'Seriously... Have these guys forgotten that one of our members' life is in danger?' Vale couldn't help but shake his head at their carefree manner.

Anyway, this was also something he liked about this Club, so Vale had just accepted the task.

As soon as the Seniors disappeared, Vale sighed as he used his Darkness Manipulation to isolate their surroundings. He didn't feel satisfied even with this, so he also used his Extrasensory Perception Spell to sense if there was anyone trying hard to listen to their conversation.

After doing all of this, Vale finally faced the young girl and asked curiously. "Alright, Celina... No one can hear our conversation in the little dome that I made. You can tell me now why you approached me."

Celina's eyes widened. "Ugh... Was it too obvious?"

Before Vale could even answer, she continued. "Anyway, it's not really important... I want to meet you and am also interested in this Club."

"You want to meet me?" Vale asked.

"Of course! You weren't aware of it, but the status of your Strands was out of proportion! You've also made a deal with the Headmaster to return your Shadow in consideration of your future talent. However, I'm here to change that..."

This time, Celina was already speaking in a haughty voice as she continued. "I want you to give me that Shadow and serve me. Become my Personal Shadow Knight!"

Chapter 268 Challenge

Vale was speechless by the sudden job offer from a student younger than him. It was so unexpected that he didn't know how to react.

'Is this a common thing among Dark Arts Practitioners?' Vale mused as he looked at the young girl with a questioning look.

"I heard your situation from the Headmaster, and you're perfect as my Personal Shadow Knight." Celina added.

"I'm perfect?" Vale repeated. He decided to humor this young girl for now.

Seeing that Vale didn't reject her immediately, Celina nodded and smiled.

"Yes! Your family background can be ignored, so it's good for me. Furthermore, you are just an experimental subject by a mad Alchemist who dreamed of having a new Branch of Dark Arts. You must want to get away from him, right? Then, I'm already at the age where I need a Shadow Knight protecting me in secret. My father has been asking me to select a few from his retainers, but I know that you'll be perfect for the job since you're really strong according to the Professors."

To be honest, it sounded pleasant to Vale's ears how she complimented him at the latter part of her words.

"Really? I'm not strong though... You have to find an older Knight if you want to be protected. Perhaps an eight-year student would do." Vale answered after some consideration.

"Hmph... I don't like them. They're too old for me. You look nice and weren't far from my age, so you'll do."

Vale looked at the young girl as he couldn't help but feel impressed by her confidence in her delusions.

'A typical spoiled brat from a prestigious noble family, huh... I wonder what the Headmaster is thinking. He should know this will happen after this girl started asking for information about me.'

"What would I gain if I become your Shadow Knight?" He asked.

"Of course, you will have the honor of protecting me, the Future Dark Sorceress of the Faction! You will earn a lot of money and access to many Forbidden Dark Arts. Furthermore, I can let you meet my Great Grandfather! Right! I can also bring you to many sacred places that normal practitioners could only dream of entering."

Celina said with a proud look on her face.

'Money and chance for meeting your great grandfather? That's probably enticing to someone else but not to me... Well, unless I can extract him.' Vale thought after hearing Celina's proposal.

As for the offer of getting access to the Forbidden Dark Arts, he already has The Forbidden Practice of the Unlighted, where all the Forbidden Spells of the Darkness Arcane Path are listed, so he didn't even consider it.

"That's quite tempting for the other practitioners, Celina. However, you can't recruit me with that. I also have other plans, so I can't work as your Knight in the Academy. You can probably look for others. How about Maya? Have you asked her?"

Vale replied.

He also prepared himself to be scolded by the spoiled young girl, but he was surprised that she just chuckled after hearing his rejection.

'Am I not clear enough?' Vale thought.

"Hmph... I know that you'll reject me since you weren't from the faction and were recruited outside. You're clearly unaware of your position and how great it is to serve me. That's fine... I know you'll change your mind."

Vale helplessly smiled at this as he was slowly losing his patience. After a sigh, he replied to the young girl.

"I'm an outsider, and I can't see the value of being your Personal Shadow Knight... So isn't it more the reason you shouldn't select me? I also don't think that my decision will change."

Vale replied. He was still trying to recruit this girl into their club, so he decided to calm down and reason with her.

Celina shook her head at this as she looked at Vale seriously.

"Alright, Senior Vale... You can now tell me your price to change your decision. I know that you're just trying to put more value on yourself to make yourself expensive. I heard it from my butler. It's the style of the business-minded commoners who wanted to take advantage of their rich employers."

Vale's mouth twitched after hearing what she had just said.

'Do I look like I'm negotiating? This kid...' Vale was speechless as he decided to just be clear to her.

It seems that entertaining her for too long made his intentions unclear.

"Celina, listen to me. I'm not trying to negotiate with you. I think that your butler just wanted to let you know about the possible intentions of other people. It doesn't mean that all people with humble background you encounter have those thoughts."

Of course, Celina didn't give up as she still tried to entice Vale into becoming her Knight.

In the end, Vale had enough and thought of an idea.

"Are you confident with your Spirit Strands?"

"Of course! Hehe... I already have 21 Spirit Strands. I heard that your Spirit Strand got stuck to 25, right? It is still high but definitely not enough to become an elite. Furthermore, even though you have a decent Power Strand and Life Strand, it's not enough. However, with my help, your Spirit Strand will surely experience massive growth!" Celina said.

As a matter of fact, she wasn't interested in Vale's Spirit Strand. What she wanted was his high Power and Life Strands, which is perfect for a Shadow Knight.

'I see...' Vale gently nodded.

As expected, the others weren't aware of his Spirit Strand's growth because the invasion of the Secret Organization interrupted his assessment. Because of that, no one had seen his Spirit Converging Crystal or how many strands he actually made.

The Professors were also busy with the Academy's reparation and couldn't be bothered to reassess his Spirit Strands. Aside from that, they were also worried about Philip's situation, so they couldn't spare their time to check.

"How about this... If I have my Power Strand and Life Strand twice your current Power and Life Strands, you have to give up on me and also give me a chance to enter the sacred places you mentioned a while ago without being your Personal Shadow Knight." Vale said with a teasing smile.

"No way! I know you have over 15 Strands or more on both Strands! That's not fair! How about you double my Spirit Strands with your Spirit Strand, and I'll accept it, huh?" Celina replied as she raised her chin while looking at Vale.

Chapter 269 Concentrate

Celina smirked as she thought that her challenge would give him a headache.

However, her smile froze as soon as she saw him smiling.

"I can accept that condition..." Vale suddenly said, which made the young girl feel a chill behind her back.

"Y-you..." Celina squinted her eyes as she looked at Vale. She had a bad feeling about this.

'No way.'

She was momentarily speechless as she considered whether Vale was just bluffing and messing with her.

She wasn't even serious about that ridiculous challenge. However, now that Vale accepted it, it would seem that she was too indecisive if she just backed out.

Furthermore, doubling her Spirit Strands means that Vale should have 42 Spirit Strands!

Which 14 or 15-year-old would have such a ridiculous number of Spirit Strands?!

Was he conceived by a human and a spirit?!

Celina's eyes widened as soon as she reached this thought.

'R-right... I think I heard of this before...' Celina felt that she had discovered the young man's huge secret. According to what she heard from the conversation between her great grandfather and her father, there were instances when humans, mostly women, would conceive a child from Spiritual Beings, Demonic Beings, or even Mystical Entities that came from a different realm.

The child born from the forbidden affair would normally have an appearance close to the humans, but some parts of them differ. They could still be identified with their unique traits, so they would typically become a subject of scorn and would be killed before they could even mature.

Nevertheless, others were born that looks entirely like any other child born from both humans.

'Vale was probably one of them... A child born from a mysterious entity and a human... The Chambers Family must be investigated! I have to tell this to Father!'

"Fine! I'll accept that! However, we don't have a Spirit Converging Crystal that exceeds 40! There was no way to test your limit. How about this? I'll request my father to get a Spirit Converging Crystal with a 50-Strand limit. That should arrive in a few days. We'll go ahead and assess your Spirit Strand on that day."

"Mhmm... That's fine. However, you should join our club."

"Deal!"

Celina said as she offered her hand to Vale.

Vale accepted it as they shook their hands.

'Oh? You're being sneaky?' Vale thought as he used his Spell Dispersion to stop Celina from probing him.

"It's not polite to use that Spell." Vale warned.

Celina seemed unperturbed as she explained. "Ahem... It was a habit taught to me by my butler. I'm trying to change that already. It won't happen again."

"Fine... Then fill up this form so you can officially join the club... Senior Nadine will explain all the other matters in the club. I'll be leaving now." Vale said as he canceled his Darkness Manipulation spell that was isolating them before using his telepathy to inform Nadine that Celina already decided to join, and she needed to brief her about the club.

Nadine seemed surprised by his sudden contact through telepathy as he forgot that she wasn't aware that he had such an ability. In any case, Vale decided not to explain too much as he left the Assembly Hall after he saw Nadine and Celina chatting with each other.

He just let Nadine handle the rest of the recruitment process.

On the next day, Vale woke up early as he had to practice the precision of his Extractions... He couldn't do it without a sample, so he had to be early and visit the dockyard for the supplies of the corpses. Although there wasn't any success in his training, he felt that he already had a better grasp of what he should do to have a precise extraction.

Luckily, the class was still suspended, so he had a lot of free time.

"Vale! You're here again. Aren't you being a bit too serious about this? I thought the rumors were fake." Ashe said with a chuckle while holding a cup of hot tea. She saw Vale entering the dockyard even though the sun hadn't fully risen yet and she couldn't help but tease him.

"Good morning, Vice Captain Ashe. I guess the Sixth Squad would stay here for a long time, huh..."

"Yes. So expect me here having a cup of tea every morning. The other members didn't like meeting with other people, so they're mostly hidden in their posts."

"No wonder I don't see the others... I guess that's also a good thing for the members of the squad. It's better not to expose their identities, especially if they have missions outside." Vale commented.

It was already normal to have a short chat with this Vice Captain since she basically runs the whole dockyard. She was the one who could decide who could be allowed to enter or exit the dockyard. This also includes the airships that were using the dock, so he had to be respectful.

"Heh... You're thinking too much. They're just being lazy... In any case, look at the gray Airship. That's the one with a supply of corpses. They're all sealed using a Paper Talisman so you'll have an easier time touching them."

"Cough... Cough. That doesn't sound appropriate, Vice Captain. Anyway, what's the difference with the paper talisman?" Vale asked as he swiftly changed the topic.

The methods taught in class were only the freezing and ritual sealing methods to preserve corpses. He hadn't heard about the Talisman method.

Vice Captain smiled at Vale's reaction and replied. "These corpses came from Lushfort... That's where our Necromancy Branch is located. They're using Paper Talisman to preserve corpses there. You'll understand what I'm saying once you visit the corpses."

"I understand." Vale didn't waste any more time as he decided to enter the Airship.

After entering, he easily found the morgue since this wasn't his first time here.

Soon, Vale saw the corpses as he finally understood what Ashe was telling him.

"They're similar to the Jiangshi that I've seen before..." Vale commented in his mind as he recalled some information from his past life.

Nevertheless, this didn't stop him from his experiment. After he realized that there were a total of 20 corpses he could extract, he couldn't help but smile.

This is the largest number of corpses delivered over the past week...

'It seems that Lushfort was a decent place to farm attributes.'

He then approached the first corpse and gently touched its shoulder.

'Concentrate... I just want to extract Intelligence... Just Intelligence, nothing more...' Vale repeated in his mind like a mantra as he triggered his system.

Chapter 270 Not Forgotten

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

Vale closed his eyes as he answered the system.

'Yes...'

At this time, his mind wasn't just repeating his mantra. He was also trying to sense the 'Spirit' or the Intelligence of the Corpse.

Recently, he discovered how the Spirit Converging Crystal and revealed his number of Spirit Strands.

He felt how the Crystal works, and he was using the same idea to sense the Corpse's Spirit Strand or Intelligence.

In a way, he was trying to replicate how the Spirit Converging Crystal detects his Intelligence and turns it into a Spirit Strand.

Technically, if his theory works, he could also use this method to extract Power or Strength Attributes and Life or Vitality Attributes.

As for the Energy, Agility, Spell Models, and others he could extract, he would think about it once he could accurately extract Intelligence or Strength Attributes.

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Agility +0.05]

'Ugh... I failed again. And the Extraction is also too low. Is it because of the way they're sealed? Or maybe I'm doing something wrong?' Vale sighed as he saw the result.

Anyway, he didn't give up after a single failure. He continued with his extractions as he wanted to get used to the sensation of extracting attributes.

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

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Strength +0.05]

"Continue..." Vale muttered as he didn't stop.

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

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Strength +0.05]

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

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

He then continued with his extractions as he immersed himself in the sensation of the Attribute gains... Although the attributes he extracted were close to zero, they would be a considerable gain once accumulated.

...

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Agility +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Strength +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

"Ohhh! I'm doing it." Vale exclaimed as soon as he got four consecutive Intelligence Extractions. It feels as if he received enlightenment after being immersed in the Extraction.

'I think I'm getting the hang of it.' He thought.

Of course, it might just be some coincidence since it was natural to have a higher chance of getting Intelligence Attributes from the corpses of Arcanists. However, the fact that he started feeling the 'Spirit' strand of the jiangshis or bodies made him realize that what he was doing wasn't a waste of time.

With this in mind, Vale continued. This time, he was more determined and focused.

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

'Yes.' He answered calmly.

[Extraction successful. Intelligence +0.35]

'This...'

Vale suddenly felt an indescribable relief and satisfaction as soon as he saw the result of his Extraction.

This time, he knows that he really succeeded. After all, the Intelligence he extracted was way higher than what he could get from the normal system extraction. Even the Energy Points had disappeared because of it!

'The attribute increased from 0.05 to 0.35. This is so much better...' Vale felt delighted as he didn't mind the missing 5 Energy Points.

The increase shows how his concentration on extracting only the Intelligence Attribute was successful.

'So that's how it is... I should only start the Extraction once I feel connected with the Spirit. Furthermore, I have to keep my grasp on it until the extraction delay is finished.' Vale silently thought as he tried to recall how he had succeeded just now.

Luckily, he could still extract nine corpses, so he felt confident he would get a decent result once he was done.

'Extract...'

[Extraction successful. Intelligence +0.35]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Intelligence +0.35]

[Extraction successful. Energy +5 Intelligence +0.05]

[Extraction successful. Intelligence +0.35]

[Extraction successful. Intelligence +0.35]

[Extraction successful. Intelligence +0.35]

[Extraction successful. Intelligence +0.35]

"I did it..." Vale muttered as he leaned on the wall, feeling dizzy after his Spirit increased drastically after some extractions.

Although there were some mistakes at first, Vale finally had a clear grasp of extracting Intelligence from the corpses.

He may still have a long way to go before he can extract Spell Models, but this was certainly a good start.

Vale looked at the corpses in the morgue, and he couldn't help but feel grateful to them. Without their assistance, there was no way he would learn this trick.

'Right... I should also thank Ashe for leading me to this method of Extraction. If she didn't suggest this, I'd probably blindly think that the system's Extraction was absolute and couldn't be changed.'

Vale smiled at this thought as he thanked the corpses once more before leaving the Airship.

When he came out, Ashe could no longer be seen, so he just headed back to the Academy.

This time, he was planning to meet the Headmaster.

However, before he could do that, he sensed someone's gaze drilling into his back.

"Hmm? I almost forgot about you..." Vale softly muttered as his gaze turned cold.

Neil Sommerhalder woke up early as he planned to rent the training room for the whole day to practice his spells. He thought to at least have a late-stage Elementary Realm Dark Spell in the next three months or in the second assessment of their Spell Mastery.

Although the first assessment of their Spell Mastery wasn't done yet, it would be completed in the next couple of days, and he had no hope of increasing his mastery on that day.

Instead, he was focused on the second assessment to surprise his classmates.

'Eh? Isn't that Vale? Where is he going?' Neil was curious as he followed his classmate from afar. He didn't disguise or use stealthy spells to himself and just acted like a typical student.

He knows that he would look suspicious if he tried to hide his presence. In any case, they are in the Academy, so he knows that Vale will let his guard down and won't mind his stalking.

He was indeed right! Vale didn't notice him!

What made him speechless was how he saw Vale meeting with a beautiful member of the Order of the Evanescent Vessel in the Dockyard near the Academy!