

D. Extraction 301

Chapter 301 Bandit

"Vale can you use your Spell to isolate our surroundings?" Priscilla asked.

Vale didn't question her as he simply used his Darkness Manipulation, Spell Dispersion, and Extrasensory Perception Spell.

"Done."

"Thank you, Vale. You saved my brother. I didn't forget our deal. I'm wondering if Philip already told you about the Arcana?" Priscilla asked.

"Not yet. I didn't even mention our deal to him." Vale replied with an awkward laugh.

Philip also chuckled at this as he didn't mind how his sister requested Vale to rescue him. As a matter of fact, Vale Chambers had been the topic of their conversation most of the time when they were together.

It has been like that ever since they witnessed how Vale defeated Bryle Genio of the Rakmiths Academy.

It was no wonder Priscilla relied on Vale to rescue him.

"I was injured and we're busy running away so we didn't really have the time to talk about it. If it's only about the Arcana, I can tell Vale about it. In any case, the Secret Organization must've taken that information from me as well." Philip replied with a helpless smile on his face.

"We can talk about it later. The two of you can catch up first. I also need to settle my things." Vale said as he showed his luggage. It was the wrapped sword and cane. They were his spoils in the battle a few days ago and they had to be maintained in case these Mystical Artifacts started going out of control.

Priscilla nodded at this as she stood closer to Vale.

"Thank you again, Vale. Thank you for saving my brother and risking your life for him." Priscilla said as she hugged Vale.

Vale also wrapped his arm around her, feeling a bond of friendship and trust between them.

After a few seconds, Vale looked at Philip, who smiled and joined them in the hug.

Three days had quickly passed after Vale and Philip returned to the Academy.

At this time, the three Cardinals of the Church of the Three Paragons arrived at the secret base of the Thunder Emperor, feeling nervous and uneasy. They had come to ask for his help in a matter of utmost importance and urgency.

Cardinal Lucius looked at the mountain ahead of them and couldn't help but comment. "I still can't believe that his territory is on top of this Fog Mountain."

"Mhmm... It feels suffocating." Cardinal Sophia added.

Cardinal Marcus nodded as he held his staff tightly.

They went silent after this as they remained vigilant.

They had to retrieve the Divine Sword, a sacred relic that had been stolen by the Masked Devil Incarnate, a mysterious figure who could wield all kinds of Arcane Spells. It didn't matter what kind of Artifact he used to be able to wield Spell from different Arcane Paths, it was still threatening for them so they needed the help of the man who proclaimed himself as the Emperor.

The Divine Sword was the key to unlocking the secrets of the Paragons and they needed it more than the Celestial Body they have in their church.

The Thunder Emperor may have a bad personality but he was still someone who honors his words.

He was a powerful and feared Elementalist who would even dare to fight against the Order of the Lore Hunters of the Elemental Arts Faction.

He had a reputation for being ruthless and cunning, but also for being a master of lightning magic. This was the reason why he even called himself an Emperor.

If their estimation was right, he was one of the few people who could match the Masked Devil Incarnate in terms of strength and skill.

The Thunder Emperor also had a personal interest in the corpse of the Celestial Being, as he believed it could be a source of his own power and destiny.

'Since we no longer have a use for the Celestial Corpse... I guess this is a good chance to employ the Thunder Emperor and strengthen our ties with him.' Cardinal Lucius said as he also sighed at the current situation of their church.

Even though they are considered to be one of the five Prominent Churches of the continent, they were actually the weakest among them in terms of authority and power.

They can't even rely on their Pontiff at this moment.

Whoosh~

A cold breeze passed as they soon entered the territory of the Thunder Emperor, which was hidden in a remote mountain range that was also filled with fog all year round.

They were soon escorted by a group of guards who wore black armor and helmets that covered their faces. They carried spears that crackled with electricity.

'These mountain bandits are more equipped than our knights.' Cardinal Sophia commented in her mind.

They led them to a large hall where they saw a throne made of metal and wires. On it sat a man who wore a black cloak that covered most of his body. His face was partially hidden by a mask that resembled a hawk's beak.

His eyes glowed with a blue light that matched his hair. He held a staff that emitted sparks and thunderbolts.

He was trying to showoff his power.

He was the Thunder Emperor, or what he would like to call himself. However, he was simply called a Mountain Bandit by the others. Obviously, those who openly call him Mountain Bandit were already killed.

'I wonder how arrogant he'll be after this meeting.' Cardinal Lucius silently thought.

The Emperor was only 26 years old but had achieved so much. He was narcissistic and difficult to deal with since he always like to be above the others.

He looked at them with an expression of contempt and curiosity.

"Welcome, cardinals of the Church of the Three Paragons. I'm honored by your visit." He said sarcastically.

"Thank you for receiving us, Thunder Emperor. We appreciate your hospitality." Cardinal Lucius said politely.

He wanted to call him Mountain Bandit but he controlled himself from doing that.

"Cut the pleasantries, old man. I know why you're here. You want me to help you find and kill the Masked Devil Incarnate who stole your precious Divine Sword." The Thunder Emperor said bluntly.

Well, although it wasn't in the newspaper because they have suppressed it, the Emperor must've planted some spies near the Church.

"Yes, that's right." Cardinal Sophia said boldly.

"And why should I help you? What's in it for me?" The Thunder Emperor asked.

"We are willing to offer you anything you want in exchange for your assistance." Cardinal Marcus said eagerly.

"Anything I want? That's very generous of you." The Thunder Emperor said mockingly.

He then smiled wickedly and said.

"Very well then. I'll help you on one condition: You give me the corpse of the Celestial Being."

The three cardinals sighed. They were already expecting this and prepared to give up the Celestial Corpse. However, they still hoped that the Emperor would request something different.

They had no choice but to agree to his terms.

They nodded reluctantly and replied. "We agree to your condition. You help us retrieve the Divine Sword and kill the Masked Devil Incarnate, and we'll give you the corpse of the Celestial Being."

The Thunder Emperor laughed loudly and said:

"Excellent. I'm glad we have a deal... Please take care of the Celestial Corpse until then."

He then stood up and said, "Now, let's get to work. I'll need some time to prepare and gather some information. I'll contact you when I'm ready to make my move..."

He paused for a moment as he looked at their reaction. "Ah, do you think I didn't know that even Sherman failed to capture this guy? So don't make me hurry. Until I contact you, stay out of my way and don't bother me."

He then waved his hand and said. "You may leave now. My guards will escort you out."

The three Cardinals glared at him but they still left the hall, feeling a mix of relief and dread.

They hoped they had made the right decision.

Chapter 302 Glasses

Ring. Ring. Ring.

Lisa Grayback woke up to the sound of her alarm clock, which was set to 6:00 am. The alarm clock wasn't some sort of Spell but a Runic Device that she had brought with her to the Academy.

She got this during the summer break since most of her classmates were using them so she had to try it as well.

"Ugh..." Lisa groaned and stretched her arms, feeling tired and sore. She had stayed up late last night, studying for a test on the Intermediate Spirit Law.

She knew she had to ace it, or else she would lose her only advantage.

She got out of bed and put on her uniform, which consisted of a black skirt, a white blouse, a red tie, and a black blazer. She then wore the coat or what she would like to call her Magician Robe on top of it which is considered to be a Regular Mystical Item.

She also wore a silver pin on her chest, which had the symbol of the Vermont Academy, a shield with a book, an eye, and a snake.

She brushed her teeth and combed her brown hair, which she tied in a ponytail. After fixing her hair, she looked at herself in the mirror and sighed.

'Not good enough... Should I join Aubrey and the others in their evening routine?' She considered for a moment.

She wished she could look more attractive and confident, like some of the other girls in her class. But she knew she was just an ordinary girl, with ordinary features. She knows that she can only compensate by working hard with the talent she had.

She grabbed her backpack and left her dorm room, which she shared with two other girls who were also commoners.

Well, they are commoners but unlike her, their family has connections with the Dark Arts Faction so before they attended the Academy, they already recorded a Spell Model.

The two were still asleep, as they had different schedules and classes.

Lisa walked to the cafeteria, where she got a simple breakfast of toast and coffee. She ate quickly and headed to her first class, which was Ethical Spellcasting.

She arrived at the classroom, which was located in the main building of the Academy. The Academy was a large and impressive structure, made of stone and glass. It had five other buildings, each

dedicated to a different branch of Dark Art: Rituals, Dark Alchemy, Dark Magic, Necromancy, and Essential Corruption.

Lisa's class was in the main building where the first-year to third-year students are.

She entered the classroom and took her seat in the back row. She preferred to sit there, as it was less noticeable and less crowded. Furthermore, Vale Chambers was close to her.

She didn't have many friends in her class, as most of them were from noble or wealthy families who looked down on commoners like her. They thought she didn't belong in the academy, which was supposed to be for the elite and gifted.

The only exceptions are Aubrey, Chad, Leonore, and Vale. Of course, there are still a few of her classmates who just didn't know how to talk to her since they have no topic of conversation.

She ignored her lively classmates and focused on the teacher, who was a young woman with blond hair and blue eyes. She wore a blue robe and a hat that had the symbol of Dark Summoning on it. She was Assistant Professor Machley, an alumnus who had just graduated a couple of years ago.

"Good morning, class. Today we're going to review your Darkness Manipulation that you should have mastered by now. I hope you've been practicing it diligently." She said.

She then proceeded to write some words on the blackboard, it wasn't through some marker but through her manipulation of Dark Energy.

"The Darkness Manipulation is probably the Spell that you would use every time when you face other Arcanists. This is the most versatile Dark Spell that can be used for various purposes. To cast this spell, you need to focus your mind not only on your Spell Model but also on the Dark Element you want to manipulate, and chanting some words may make it easier for you if you're just starting to master it. The more you concentrate and the more vivid you imagine your control, the stronger and more precise your spell will be." She explained.

She then turned to the class and said... "Now I want you to practice this Spell in pairs. One of you will cast the spell while the other will observe and give feedback. You will switch roles after five minutes. Use these targets as your aim. I want you to wrap these dummies with your Dark Energy" She pointed to some wooden dummies that were placed at the front of the classroom.

This confused the class since the activity seemed very simple. There was no challenge doing this since all of them should be able to do this much.

"I can see your confusion... However, these dummies will reject your Dark Energy so it will be tricky... This is actually a training meant for third-year students but due to the recent incidents and the changes in the schedule of the Twelve Academies Competition, we will have to train you guys differently."

As soon as the class heard this, they couldn't help but feel excited since they were actually advancing their training!

"Great! Let's begin, Professor."

"I'm excited. I'll be attending the Competition!"

"Hmm... The students in Class 1 would probably fill in the numbers."

"Hey! We have Vale and Leonore here! I'm sure they'll enter."

"T-that's true..."

"What about Neil?"

Assistant Professor Machley then clapped her hands and announced the start of the activity.

The class got up from their seats and formed pairs. Lisa looked beside her and realized that Aubrey had somehow partnered with Chad in reluctance.

She couldn't help but panic as she looked around. She felt a pang of loneliness and frustration as she realized once again that she didn't have many friends here.

She then noticed that there was one person who was also alone: Vale Chambers.

Vale Chambers sat next to her in class. He had black hair and eyes that contrasted with his pale skin. He wore glasses that made him look smart but also nerdy.

He was quiet and reserved, rarely speaking or interacting with anyone.

'W-wait... When did he start wearing glasses?' Lisa felt confused as she stared at Vale's eyes.

Chapter 303 Activity

Lisa had always been curious about Vale, as he was very different from the other students. He was incredibly powerful and could be considered to be on par with their senior students.

Although many students doubted him after stagnating with his Spirit Strands, he didn't seem to care about it. As a matter of fact, he didn't seem to care about grades or status, or popularity either. He just did his own thing without bothering anyone.

He also had a mysterious aura about him that intrigued her.

Lisa took a deep breath as she reminded him about the activity.

"Vale, we need to participate in the activity. Should we pair up?"

He looked up at her with surprise as his mind seemed to wander off.

"Hi... Lisa. Yes, let's work together... What's the activity again?"

Lisa wryly smiled as she was right, Vale wasn't listening to the assistant professor at all.

'I thought all the boys are interested in this gorgeous and young professor? Does he have a different taste with girls?' She mused.

"Ahem. The activity was quite simple. We just have to take turns using our Darkness Manipulation spell..." Lisa then explained what they should do and added the assistant professor's reminder that the dummy would actually reject their Dark Energy in the process.

Vale nodded after understanding what they have to do.

With his current mastery of the Darkness Manipulation Spell, this wouldn't even pass as an exercise for him.

Anyway, they quickly began to practice the Spell taking turns to cast and observe.

Lisa went first. She entered her Phantasm State and focused her mind on the Dark Energy surrounding them and chanted...

"Darkness..." This was her own chant. Spellcasters don't have to chant their Spells as long as they access their Spell Models. However, by creating your own chant, your control and casting speed was said to greatly improve so she was doing it.

Then, her dark energy that seemed to be a tiny black flame appeared at the tip of her finger. She aimed it at the target and released it. The black flame flew towards the target and hit it, leaving a small "scorch mark" before spreading throughout the whole dummy.

However, before it even covered half of the dummy, a repulsive force seemed to have been triggered as Lisa's dark energy started dissipating.

Well, it was actually the same with the others.

"W-what? How come it's retreating?"

"What kind of Mystical Item is this?"

"It must be a Royal Rank item!"

"Fool... Even a Regular Mystical Item would be enough to shatter your Spell." Warren teased Roswell who immediately jumped to the conclusion that the dummy was a Royal Rank item.

"If I'm not mistaken. There's a talisman that rejects the Dark Energy inside the Dummy... It won't be effective forever but it's enough to deal with our Darkness Manipulation Spell." Leonore explained after seeing how she also failed to cover the whole dummy.

Assistant Professor Machley didn't respond to this and simply smiled at her students.

At this time, Lisa finally heaved a sigh of relief knowing that it wasn't only her who was having a hard time.

"How was that?" She asked Vale.

Vale nodded and replied. "Not bad. But you can do better. Before you release your energy, try to expand them inside you. Make it bigger and stronger. Then, don't focus on just wrapping your Dark Energy... The professor only said to wrap it but it's better to think of it as filling the dummy with your Dark Energy instead."

"Fill it up?" Lisa nodded as she seemed to understand what Vale was trying to say.

"Okay. Thanks for the advice. It's your turn now." She added.

However, Vale shook his head. "Just try again. I'll be watching."

Lisa didn't argue and just agreed with him. Anyway, she knows that Vale was monstrous and perhaps, this training was just too simple for him.

She took a deep breath as she tried once more, following his suggestions. This time, she managed to make the energy stronger and hit the target with more force.

As soon as the dummy was almost filled or covered with Dark Energy, it started to recede once again. She failed but she was happy with the result.

She immediately looked at Vale with an expectant smile. For some reason, she wanted to be praised after improving with just a simple instruction! She believed that she deserves praise from the best student!

'Eh?'

She suddenly realized that Vale was looking at her awkwardly...

'No, it seems that his face was turning red. Is he embarrassed? What happened?'

"Ahem... You did well. Good job. Keep it up." Vale said as he then stepped forward and took his turn.

He closed his eyes as if he needed serious concentration to do this. It was quite baffling but no one noticed this since they were all busy aside from Lisa who was watching Vale intently.

Snap!

Vale simply snapped his fingers and the dummy started to be covered in darkness immediately.

He didn't summon a tiny surge of Dark Energy like Lisa! The dummy was covered in darkness instantaneously!

However, when only a tiny fraction was left in the dummy, the Darkness suddenly receded making Lisa feel pity about it.

As she was about to comfort Vale, she heard him chuckling.

"I almost destroyed the Talisman. I didn't know it would be destroyed if I filled the dummy with Darkness Energy... It's a good thing I noticed it immediately. Don't worry, you can continue practicing, Lisa." Vale said with a hint of a smile on his face.

Lisa didn't understand it at first but after a few seconds, she realized that Vale had deliberately canceled his Spell!

"T-thank you?" She responded.

"Haha... No problem. You can continue now, Lisa."

Lisa wryly smiled at this as she agreed to Vale.

They continued to practice, or perhaps, Vale continued watching her practice.

During this time, Lisa felt that she had gotten closer to Vale. Aside from talking about the Spell, they found that they had a lot in common, such as their love for books and their curiosity for magic.

They enjoyed each other's company and had fun throughout the whole class

She felt a bond of friendship and respect forming between them.

However, she didn't notice that someone was watching them from afar, with a look of interest and amusement.

It was Aubrey Hall who had forced the two to become partners in this activity. All this time, she was looking at the two secretly, and seeing how they were so close together by the end of the class, she couldn't help but feel proud of herself.

'Well, well, well. Looks like Vale has found himself a girlfriend. How cute.'

Chapter 304 Too Much

"Captain, you've been observing Vale for a few days... Are you still curious about him? Why don't we just ask him directly?" Elena asked her captain as she saw him observing the second-year student once again.

"Can't you tell that this person is too suspicious? His current statistics reported by the Professors were too weird. Those Spirit Strands, Life Strands, and Power Strands were too much! What if he was already controlled by a Psychic from the Secret Organization? Even if not, this student might've been replaced by a Shapeshifter already." Zack replied in exasperation as he felt baffled at this student.

His team's Spells and Mystical Artifacts fail to scan or evaluate Vale's status. This wasn't something that would normally happen as it means that Vale's Spirit was too high or that he was using a Mystical Item that stops them from probing him.

Just being untraceable already says a lot to them since no second-year student would bother to hide their current strength with high-level Artifacts. As a matter of fact, they would normally be proud of their achievement and wouldn't use any Mystical Items that block people from sensing the amount of their Dark Energy, the number of Spell Lights, and their Artifacts, especially inside the Academy.

Normally, they would only be conscious of this when they reached their fourth year or sixth year since there would be plenty of practical subjects during these years.

"I don't think he's a Shapeshifter though... The only thing that changed about him according to his classmates was the glasses he was wearing. However, Headmaster Jean confirmed that it was due to a mystical item Vale had been using. It seemed to affect his eyes as kept using it." Elena explained.

"Is that so?" Zach responded as he looked at her.

"Yes... Unfortunately, even the Headmaster doesn't know which Artifact it was since Vale doesn't have plans to reveal this item yet."

Zach sighed at this as it seems that he really had no other choice but to force Vale to reveal his true identity.

Zach Everette was a member of the Order of the Evanescent Vessels. Specifically, he was the Captain of the Order's Alchemy Division and a master of Dark Alchemy.

He had blond hair that was turning white from the roots, a sign of his extensive use of Dark Alchemy's Mutation Inducement. He was in his late twenties but looked older than his age.

He came to the Vermont Academy for a mission related to the previous infiltration of the Secret Organization into the Academy, but he also had another goal, which was to meet the disciple of Dark Alchemist Heinz Becker.

According to the information they gathered, the disciple was Vale Chambers, a second-year student of the Vermont Academy. He was only 15 years old, but he was a prodigy in terms of his Attribute Strands.

He wasn't sure if Vale was already this talented when Heinz Becker had noticed him or if Vale evolved into something after Heinz helped him.

Zach took a deep breath as he followed Vale after his class ended.

Zach had heard of Vale's reputation and was curious to see how great he was. If possible, he also wanted to use him to meet Heinz Becker so he could learn from the great Alchemist.

He had a feeling that Heinz had recently made a huge breakthrough that could change the course of Dark Alchemy, so he wanted to learn of it first.

He soon found Vale in one of the open laboratories, working on an experiment. He knocked on the door and entered without waiting for an answer.

These laboratories are meant for the Introductory Alchemy Class of second-year and third-year students. This class existed to ensure that when they reached their fourth year, they wouldn't be overwhelmed or scared of choosing to walk in the path of Alchemist.

"Hello there..." Zach said with a smile. "You must be Vale Chambers, the disciple of Heinz Becker."

'He's finally here...' Vale silently thought as he looked up from his work and showed a frustrated expression.

Of course, he recognized the man who had appeared as Zach Everette, the Captain of the Order's Alchemy Division. He had seen his picture in one of the files that Heinz had given him.

Thankfully, the Headmaster already informed him about this person so he was no longer surprised that he was being watched.

"What do you want?" he asked coldly.

During the past few days, he had been using his Spell Dispersion and ESP Spell to ensure that no one would probe him and discover his secret. Although he knows that his natural high Intelligence could block these types of investigative spells, he would still use his defensive spells from time to time to increase his success rate.

He even had to wear his Demonic Mask inside his room when this person tried probing him last night using a powerful probing artifact.

The problems in his vision had gotten worse because of that!

"I'm here to talk to you, Vale Chambers." Zach said.

"I'm interested in your work, and your potential. Aren't you working on a unique potion? You should've heard about me since I conducted a few seminars with your seniors for a few days in the field of Dark Alchemy, I can help you." He added.

Vale shook his head at this as he didn't need any help or someone to analyze his creation. In the first place, he was only doing some minor adjustments with his Healing Medicine or Holy Water that he could make through his Blessed Healing Spell.

He was simply trying to make its shelf life longer. He couldn't ask other Professors about this since they would question his possession of Holy Water and the source would obviously be questioned.

"My work is none of your business, and my potential is not for you to judge." Vale bluntly said as he was already feeling annoyed after being interrupted and being probed in secret for a few days.

"Oh, come on," Zach said. "Don't be so rude. We're both blessed with talent in Dark Alchemy, after all. We have something in common."

"We have nothing in common, Senior. I'm not going to specialize in Dark Alchemy either. I'm just here to restudy what I've learned in my class." Vale replied.

"Is that so?" Zach curiously said. "Then why did you accept Sir Heinz Becker's help? He's not exactly a noble mentor, you know. He's a madman who experiments on living beings and creates abominations."

Vale sighed as this person was obviously unaware of how he really met Sir Heinz.

"Master Heinz? I don't know why you suddenly brought him up but he's a genius who pushes the boundaries of Dark Alchemy and Dark Arts..."

Zach went silent after hearing this as he tried probing Vale once again. He used his Spirit Vision and Dark Sense but once again, he failed.

This time, Vale wouldn't pass it up. He endured it when he did it sneakily. However, he blatantly tried to inspect his body like a pervert in front of him.

Vale looked at the man in front of him and spoke coldly.

"Senior, I don't think you're allowed to do something like that. You need to be taught a lesson."

Chapter 305 Ritual

Zach stiffened after hearing what Vale had just said. From the way he looks, he could tell that Vale was being serious about this.

However, he also noticed something.

'Wait... Did he really sense my probing Spells? Even the Professors here would barely notice anything after I probed them with my Spirit Vision. How did this kid—'

"Senior, you know that it's impolite to suddenly use your Spell without their knowledge even if it's not harmful to the target." As Vale said this, he immediately summoned Yvaine, his Dark Spirit.

Yvaine had gotten a lot stronger perhaps because she had secretly absorbed a part of the Divine Sword's power inside her. Her cold and deathly aura emanated throughout the whole laboratory and her Darkness Cloak seemed like a huge mantle waving through the wind.

'This...'

Zach's face turned serious as soon as he saw this Dark Spirit. Dark Spirits weren't commonly seen but for a Captain of the Alchemy Division, he certainly had many chances to meet them.

At the very least, he had seen over a dozen of them, and all of them have one common thing. They are all aggressive and difficult to control. They can do complicated instructions but they would compensate with their combat ability and power.

Nevertheless, the one in front of him was different. When he looked at the female spirit, she was emanating hostility but also intelligence.

That's right... There was a light in her eyes that made Zach shudder. Those eyes weren't something he could find in other Dark Spirits!

As soon as she stared at him, he was instantly frozen...

Of course, Vale was aware that Yvaine's Deathly Gaze wouldn't last for long since her opponent was still a strong Dark Alchemist with a high Spirit Strand.

The moment Zach was caught in surprise, he swiftly used his Ghost Hands and experimented on him...

In the blink of an eye, one of his Ghost Hands appeared and touched Zach's shoulder.

"Stop!"

Perhaps, Vale's action was too aggressive so Elena, who had been secretly watching everything, could no longer resist as she appeared in between the two.

"Student Vale, I know that my Captain offended you. However, it's not appropriate to attack him because of that. If he really wanted to harm you, he would simply ask the Order's Curse Experts to curse you with the hair we found on your desk. Furthermore, Captain Zach didn't even activate his defensive spells to show that he's unwilling to fight." Elena immediately explained as she covered her with Dark Energy. It is to protect herself from the Dark Spirit's gaze.

"I understand, Senior. I'm not planning to harm him either." Vale replied as he retracted his Ghost Hands and ordered Yvaine to return to his shadow.

Just now, he tried triggering his system when his Ghost Hands touched Zach.

Unfortunately, his system didn't acknowledge this contact, and the Extraction System was not triggered.

'Is it really impossible to do some touchless Extraction?' Vale mused as he ignored the woman in front of him.

Extracting numerous people was quite an exhausting process since he had to move and touch his target until the process was over. Doing it a few times may be tolerable but for a hundredth time, it could be quite exhausting and dull repeating the same process over and over again.

This is why he had been trying to deepen his connection with his Ghost Hands and hopefully use them as his hands' extension when he needed to extract people.

'Perhaps I still lack enough practice? Should I consider trying this out in the town? No one would be able to see my Ghost Hand if they can't enter their Magic Zone anyway...'

Vale felt that this was a good idea so he decided to just end this farce. He also had to quickly finish his experiment with his Holy Water, after all.

"Alright, Seniors from the Order's Alchemy Division... Please stop using your Probing Spells on me again. If you try it again after this warning, I won't just report it to the Headmaster but I'll also act myself to ensure you won't be able to do it again." Vale finally said as he returned to his experiment.

Zach, who was finally able to react, clenched his fist in frustration as he looked at Vale with a hint of disappointment.

"Tsk... It might cost me a lot but I have no choice but to get someone who can fairly test Vale for me. I'm sure he has a unique physique that made Sir Heinz accept him as a disciple... However, I need Vale to cooperate if I want to study his physique.'

As he reached this thought, he turned his back and left the laboratory without a thought.

Elena apologized to Vale once again before following her captain outside.

Vale, on the other hand, didn't glance at them as he continued doing what he was needs to do.

It took him almost two hours of experimentation before he felt satisfied and kept his Modified Healing Water.

'Mhmm.... Not bad. Do I actually have talent in Alchemy?' Vale thought to himself as he left the laboratory.

Based on the aura he saw using his Spirit Vision, the Healing Water should last for at least 5 days before its power dissipates.

Well, all potions that are made through Spells or mostly made of ritual and formation, wouldn't have a long lifespan. They would dissipate quickly and it's the same for Vale's Healing Water that was made using the Blessed Healing Spell.

However, after some adjustments to what he recently learned in their Alchemy Class, he managed to increase his Healing Water's lifespan by 2 more days.

As soon as he returned to his dorm, he thought of taking a shower to refresh himself but he suddenly felt the Divine Sword!

'Not good!'

Vale quickly moved as he shouldn't be sensing the aura of the Divine Sword in the first place! He locked the door of his room and went to check the Divine Sword that was about out to burst with energy...

"Yvaine... Suppress it for a bit. I just need 20 seconds!" Vale commanded.

Yvaine swiftly acted while Vale immediately moved his bed.

Underneath his bed was a formation circle, similar to the one he was using in the Animus Haven Hall.

After that, he carried the sword that was being suppressed and placed it at the center of the Formation Circle.

As soon as he signaled Yvaine to stop suppressing the sword, Vale immediately started the Sealing Ritual.

"Hallowed Spirit, the ruler below the Eternal Darkness, hear my voice in my time of need

Lead me so I can bring darkness into my encumbrance...

I request this of you with true devotion... Empower me with your glorious soul.

Seal this Mystical Item with your unlighted flame!"

Chapter 306 Sealed

The sealing ritual he used was the one that Heinz taught him when he previously decided to seal his Golden Pocketwatch.

The Sealing Ritual itself wasn't that strong, according to Heinz, but perhaps, because of Vale's unusual connection with the Spirit World, the seal that he made had a different level of intensity.

Vale had noticed how effective it was, especially when he tried resealing the Pocketwatch that was slowly recovering its power.

However, it seems that he had underestimated the Divine Sword. The seal barely lasted for a week, and Vale had to redo the sealing ritual.

This time, Vale prayed really hard, hoping that the sealing ritual would get stronger that way.

Whom~

Vale suddenly heard a familiar sound confirming that the ritual was completed. The Formation Circle he made had also disappeared confirming that the seal was successful.

"That was close..." Vale sighed as he slumped on the floor. He was really nervous a few moments ago when he felt the Divine Sword's lightning energy.

If the Divine Sword's power were fully released, perhaps, his room wouldn't just be in a mess but the whole dormitory building. He could only imagine the trouble he'll get into once that happened.

"Thank you, Yvaine... You did well." Vale said as he appreciated her work this time. The Dark Spirit simply nodded and returned to his shadow.

She didn't really like talking, so Vale just got up and took his sword before he fixed his bed.

He looked at the Divine Sword using his Spirit Vision, and if he compared it to the previous seal, the one he made today seemed stronger.

'Interesting...' Vale silently thought.

The only problem was that this sealing method wasn't really that great from the start. After all, the only medium he used was the silver powder from the Formation Circle he made aside from the prayer he chanted.

The other Sealing Rituals would require expensive tools and ingredients, and some would even sacrifice the lives of animals.

On the other hand, Vale barely spent his money on this sealing ritual. What he needed to learn was a stronger sealing method.

It wouldn't just be for the Divine Sword but also for the Mysterious Golden Pocketwatch in his possession.

"I guess I should ask Professor Shirley about this. Or should I try asking Professor Lucius instead?" Vale mused as he wasn't sure which Professor to ask about this.

In the end, Vale postponed his plan to practice his touchless Extraction and focused on finding a better sealing method.

'Touchless Extraction can wait... I need a new sealing method as quickly as possible.'

It was unfortunate that they weren't teaching this in class yet, so he had to work harder in order to learn a new Sealing Method.

On the next day, Vale looked at his sealed Divine Sword and Golden Pocketwatch as soon as he woke up. Seeing that there were no signs of wear and tear on the seal, he heaved a sigh of relief as he washed himself to get to the morning class.

He was already proud of his successful sealing.

Although he hadn't asked any Mystical Item Appraisers yet, he knew that the sword was a masterpiece, and it was probably a Sovereign Rank Item considering how it easily absorbed his Divine Lightning.

Tracie Coulston didn't exaggerate when she called it a Divine Sword at all.

It was a weapon that could channel his Dark Energy and unleash powerful spells. Although he hadn't tried using it, he knew he could do it if he wanted to. As for the price he had to pay, he believed it was his Vitality, so he decided to postpone experimenting with it.

"Alright! That's all for today..." Professor Morton said after finishing his Intermediate Darkness Path Class.

Vale's thoughts were interrupted as he heard the Professor's words. He immediately stood up and followed him out of the class. He decided to ask Professor Morton about his problem...

The Professor seemed doesn't seem to be in good health compared to when they were in the first year.

He was now a tall and thin man, with pale skin and dark eyes. He seemed like an overworked worker now that he observed him again. He wore a black robe and a silver pendant around his neck. He learned several dark arts, such as curses, necromancy, and spirit manipulation, so Vale knew that this Professor was also knowledgeable of the Sealing Rituals.

He may not be a master of each field, but he was approaching it.

He was also one of Vale's favorite teachers, always encouraging his students to explore the mysteries of magic and not just the Dark Arts.

"Professor Morton, I have a question for you." Vale said as he approached him.

"Ah, Vale Chambers, the prodigy of the second year. What can I do for you?" Professor Morton asked with a smile.

Vale smiled stiffened after being called a prodigy... No wonder Chad, Aubrey, and the others are calling him that way.

"Ahem... I want to know if there is a way to improve my Sealing Ritual. I have completed it on my Mystical Item, but I feel that it is not enough. Is there a better method?" Vale asked eagerly.

Professor Morton looked at him with curiosity. "You have completed your Sealing Ritual? Ah, did you learn it from your parents? Perhaps from Sir Heinz? That is impressive, indeed. May I see it?"

Vale hesitated for a moment before shaking his head.

"I'm sorry, Professor... I can't show it yet."

Professor Morton helplessly smiled at this young student.

"Fine... Can you at least tell me how you sealed it?"

Vale didn't mind this answering this, so he explained to him how he learned from Master Heinz's guidance and how he had performed the Sealing Ritual.

Professor Morton listened attentively, nodding and praising him for his knowledge of such a difficult ritual.

Apparently, what he did was actually more difficult than using expensive materials and special Formation Circle or Spells to seal a Mystical Item.

After all, not everyone would be heard in their prayers, unlike Vale.

"You have done very well, Vale." Professor Murton said.

"You have created something that even 10th-year students could fail... But you are right, there is always room for improvement."

He paused and looked at Vale seriously.

"Tell me, Vale, do you know what the Sealing Ritual that you've done does to your item?" He asked.

Vale nodded. "It seals the energy inside the sword, preventing it from leaking or being stolen by others."

"That is correct. But do you know how it does that?"

"Yes? I think I'm borrowing the power of the Hallowed Spirit, the Ruler below the Eternal Darkness..." Vale answered cautiously. He wasn't sure at all.

Professor Morton smiled.

"That's right... This is very reliant on the existence that you've called. It could also be dangerous, but I won't be talking about that for now."

Vale nodded as he listened attentively.

"There is another method of sealing that is more advanced and more secure than the one you used."

Professor Murton looked around before he leaned closer to Vale and whispered in his ear.

"It is called the Soul Bonding Method."

Chapter 307 Threatened?

"Soul Bonding Method?" Vale repeated as he had never read or heard anything like this before. Nevertheless, it sounded cool, so he expected this method to be more beneficial than the one he was using.

"That's right... Do you value that Mystical Item you sealed?" Professor Morton asked suddenly.

"Of course. It's really important. I think I will use it more often in the future." Vale answered after some thought.

"Then, that's perfect. After all, the Soul Bonding Method isn't just a Sealing Method. It's also a method to properly control Mystical Items. I'm guessing that the item you needed to seal was probably too strong for you, or you can't handle its adverse effects." Professor Murton said.

Vale nodded at this since that was indeed the case. The Divine Sword wasn't something he could control at the moment. Perhaps there was a ritual or requirement to make it docile, but he had no way of asking Tracie about that right now.

"So that's indeed the case. This Soul Bonding Method creates a link between you and your Mystical Item. If you make a perfect Soul Bonding Process, it will even allow you to control this item with your mind. However, that will be a bit tricky."

"Why is that, Professor?" Vale asked.

"It's better if you ask the person who's an expert on this. She's Professor Gale Evans, and she teaches in the fourth and fifth year's Soul Path class... I'm sure she can help you if you pay her or something. Alright, I'll leave now. I still have a class."

Professor Murton said he didn't even wait for Vale to answer as he turned around and left.

"Thank you, Professor!" Vale still appreciated the Professor's help. He finally had an idea of what to do. Before going to the clubroom, he decided to meet the female Professor after class.

Even if the female Professor refuses to teach him, now that he has learned about the Soul Bonding Method, he could just research it or even ask his seniors in the clubroom in case they know this method. Furthermore, he can also use his Contribution Points to request some seniors to teach him about it if he becomes desperate about it.

Vale finished his morning class, and Lisa and the others invited him for lunch. Realizing that he didn't eat his breakfast, he immediately agreed as he also bonded with his friends.

For some reason, he noticed that Aubrey was quite energetic today as he laughed and teased Lisa for something he wasn't sure of. On the other hand, Lisa was taking it lightly as she simply pouted at her friend before continuing to eat.

Soon, Vale found himself being blocked by a familiar student.

"Uhhh... Celina? Do you need something?" Vale asked as Celina blocked his way to the higher years' building.

Since the two of them had different tasks in the club and other schedules, they would rarely meet up, even if they were clubmates.

Celina smiled at Vale, and he could tell that it wasn't a kind smile.

"Senior Vale, It's been a while... I've been really curious about you over the past few weeks."

"Oh... Was it because I rejected you?" Vale asked. He wasn't really surprised at this point.

"Rejected? Haha! You're making it sound as if I confessed my feelings to you... Anyway, that's also one thing. You rejected my offer. After all, I don't think you'll have a better job than becoming my Shadow Knight after you graduate here. I'm sure you'll change your mind someday once you realize how great my family is."

"Mhmmm." Vale just nodded at her as he doubted that would happen at all.

Seeing how uninterested he was, Celina felt insulted as she gritted her teeth in annoyance. It took her a few seconds to calm down as she smiled once again and said. "I heard everything from Senior

Neil... It was quite interesting how you used your Dark Spirit to suck his energy and even destroy his Spell Models."

Vale was confused at first, but he soon recalled how she was talking about his previous Extraction on Neil at the library. He had almost forgotten about it.

"What do you mean? I'm not involved in that... You should know that Dark Spirits have a unique presence. Summoning them out would easily be noticed by everyone."

"Hmph! I think you had forgotten that the Vermont Family are the ones who had a better understanding of the Dark Spirits. No other clans know about the Dark Spirit that we do. This means that I know that when a Dark Spirit reaches a certain level, they can suppress their energy and hide in other people's shadows aside from their contractors. I'm sure that you're the one who did that to Neil!"

Vale shook his head at this, as there was no way she could prove it anyway. It's not like she was there carrying a recording crystal.

As long as he denies such allegations, she couldn't do anything.

"I see... Unfortunately, I didn't do it."

"Hmph! I know you did it. However, I will be lenient for you this one time." Celina said as she turned and walked passed Vale.

This momentarily confused Vale as he thought this girl would become so difficult.

It seemed that she had a plan in her mind, but right now, Vale couldn't be bothered about it, so he headed straight to the higher year's building.

He would think about her matter once she did something stupid.

He soon found Professor Gale Evans in her office, which was located near the Dark Soul Tower, one of the most isolated buildings in the academy. As far as he knows, only Necromancy Branch students can enter that place.

Anyway, Vale knocked on the door of her office and waited for her response.

"Come in."

An icy voice said from inside.

Vale opened the door and entered the office. He saw a middle-aged woman sitting behind a large desk, surrounded by books and papers. She had long silver hair and piercing blue eyes. She wore a white robe and a gold necklace with a purple gem. She looked at Vale with a stern expression.

"Who are you? And what do you want?" She asked with a stern voice.

'I guess this will be a bit difficult.'

Vale thought as he bowed slightly and introduced himself.

Chapter 308 Errand

"Good afternoon, Professor Evans. My name is Vale Chambers, I am a second-year student. Professor Murton introduced you to me... He mentioned that I could ask for your help." Vale said politely while observing the Professor's expression.

"Hmm?"

Professor Evans raised an eyebrow. "My help? With what?" She asked.

Vale felt that although she sounded irritated, it might just be her voice and because she was also busy with what she was doing. Perhaps it was not a good time for her, but since he was already here, Vale decided to just try.

If he was rejected, he could just go for plan B.

"Ahem... I have completed my Sealing Ritual on my Mystical Item, but I want to know if a better method exists. Then, Professor Morton told me about the Soul Bonding Method and said that you are an expert in it. I was wondering if you could teach me how to do it. I'm willing to pay the price for an advanced lesson." Vale explained as he looked at her with unwavering eyes.

Professor Evans looked at Vale curiously as if she was trying to recall who he was. His name sounded familiar, but she couldn't remember.

She then closed her eyes for a moment. Once she opened them, her eyes had already turned white.

It was quite a frightening sight if others saw this, but Vale had seen something scarier. He could tell that the Professor was using a Spell similar to the Spirit Vision.

"Mhmm... Interesting. Your Spiritual Strength seems stronger than mine. With that level of power, I think even a Sovereign Rank item wouldn't cause you a big problem. What kind of item are you trying to seal?" Professor Evans asked curiously as she put down her pen.

Vale stiffened for a moment as that was certainly a valid point. With his current Spirit Strand, he could suppress most of the Mystical Items that exist out there.

Master Heinz had also mentioned something similar to this when he found out that his Golden Pocketwatch had a very weak effect on its user.

After some thought, Vale answered. "Ahem... I'm not planning to use that Mystical Item for a while, Professor. I can't just keep it somewhere else without proper sealing or restrictions as it might cause trouble or even attract bad spirits while it was unattended."

"That makes sense..." Professor Evans nodded as she continued asking about the Sealing Ritual that he had made.

Vale expected this already, so he swiftly explained how he had performed the Sealing Ritual taught to him by Master Heinz.

Professor Evan listened attentively as she found nothing wrong with Vale's method.

"Do you know what the Soul Bonding Method does?" She asked as she leaned on her chair. It seemed that Vale had really caught her attention now. Her previous thoughts of sending him away were no more as she probed Vale's knowledge.

Vale nodded as he repeated what he heard from Professor Murton.

"It creates a link or bond between my soul and my Mystical Item rather than a seal. Based on how he explained it, this bond seemed stronger and more stable than just creating a normal Seal to suppress the item."

"That's right, it allows for a mutual exchange of energy and information between you and the mystical item. This bond also protects you from the negative effects of using that Mystical Item, as it creates harmony between your soul and the item." Professor Evans said.

"However, you can't use this method on any Mystical Item. The item should be strong enough to bear the connection you'll make using your soul." She added.

"That should be fine. The mystical item I sealed shouldn't lose to some high-rank Mystical Items." Vale replied.

"That's good... The next requirement is for the user to have a powerful soul and spirit. You don't seem to have a problem with that, so it will now depend on your compatibility with the item."

"Compatibility?" Vale repeated.

To be honest, he wasn't sure if he was compatible with a sword. He knew that wielding a sword wasn't something he could underestimate. He had tried swinging the divine sword before, but he wasn't really feeling anything special using it.

"Yes." Professor Evans said. "Every Mystical Item at the Royal Rank and above has a soul of its own. Wait—Calling it a soul might be too much for you." She immediately corrected herself as soon as she saw how shocked Vale was after claiming that a mystical item had a soul.

"Let's just call it their Essence. The Mystical Items at such a level have an Essence where you can link with them... This linking process is some sort of communication between you and the mystical item. If you feel the compatibility, you can create a bond that is stronger than any seal you'll ever see."

She looked at Vale intently.

"But there is a problem with this method," she continued. "If you are not compatible, you will not be able to create a bond, or worse, you will end up harming your soul or the artifact's soul, or both. Are you sure you want to learn this method?"

Vale expected this much. He even felt more inclined to do this Soul Bonding Method. So he didn't hesitate to answer.

"Yes, Professor. I will do my best to learn this method. Right, can I actually do it with multiple Mystical Items?"

"Of course. It's fine as long as your soul can bear the burden of having it linked with a Mystical Item. However, I advise that you only think of having a single Soul-Bound Item. It's also for your safety."

Professor Gale Evans explained as she started writing something in her notebook.

As soon as she was finished, she ripped the paper and gave it to Vale.

"Get all the items in the list if you want to learn this method."

Vale's eyes lit up as soon as he heard this.

'Finally...' He immediately took the paper and checked its content. However, he finds its content odd.

'Hm? These things can be used to start the Soul Bonding Method?' Vale felt hesitant as he realized that what was written in the paper was mostly food.

Professor Gale grunted as she noticed Vale's confusion.

"Ahem... They're not related to the Soul Bonding Method. Just get everything on the list, and once you return, I'll give you the book you need to study. Hurry up! I don't have money, so use your wallet to purchase them."

Chapter 309 Removing Spell Models

"Y-yes, Professor... I was just curious if you missed something from the list." Vale said as he looked at the list once more.

The items were so random. He didn't expect that she would give such a simple instruction. He was only told to run an errand in exchange for the Soul Bonding Method, which was a valuable piece of knowledge. He wouldn't even mind using his Contribution Points to purchase this knowledge.

"Now that you said it, let me add a few more things. Give me the paper." Professor Evans said as Vale handed the paper.

Vale wanted to slap his mouth for saying those words as the Professor indeed added a few more things!

"Here... I'll give you until later tonight to get all the things here. You can leave now." Professor Evans said after writing for a couple of minutes.

Vale just briefly glanced at the items before he nodded. "Yes, Professor! Thank you for your guidance!"

As soon as he left the room, he immediately checked the items on the list.

The list included things like:

A dozen fresh eggs

A pound of bacon

A loaf of bread

A jar of honey

A bottle of milk

A bag of coffee beans

A box of tea leaves

A bunch of bananas

A basket of strawberries

A cake with chocolate frosting

A pack of candles

A spool of thread

A pair of scissors

A needle and a thimble

A book of crossword puzzles

A deck of cards

A bottle of perfume

A silk scarf

A pair of earrings

'What the... It's just filled with random items. Is she being serious?' Vale sighed at this as he had no choice but to follow her for now.

In any case, he had earned a lot of money before, so he didn't mind spending even a couple of thousand. Furthermore, the things she was searching for weren't Mystical Items, so he wouldn't have to spend a lot of money. He only needs to spend his time searching for all of them.'

'It will probably take me a few days to get all of this on my own.' Vale thought as he decided to get some help.

As he was thinking who to ask, he recalled something important... It was a perfect time to use his connections with other people.

With a plan in his mind, he immediately went out of the Academy to visit Vice Captain Ashe. Since he already had a lot of practice, he's already quite confident doing some Focused Extractions.

Furthermore, Vice Captain Ashe had a lot of helpers in the dockyard. Most of them didn't have many things to do, especially if no Airships were docking or leaving the yard.

As soon as Vale's figure appeared in the dockyard, Vice Captain Ashe immediately sensed his presence as she quickly went out to welcome Vale.

"Hey! I thought you'd already forgotten about our deal!"

"There's no way I'd forget that. Thanks to your suggestion, I was able to learn more about my Spell."

The two then continued chatting for a while as Ashe escorted Vale inside her squad's office. Currently, Captain Cleo could not be seen as he left on a mission together with two other members of their squads.

Soon, Vale informed Ashe about the list of items he needed to purchase. He explained that he wouldn't be asking for a fee if she could help him collect them before sunset.

"Mhmmm? They're quite simple to find... Alright, I have someone take care of it." Vice Captain Ashe said as she didn't even question why Vale needed those things.

She just called for someone who seemed to be a porter working in the dockyard and handed over the list to him.

Vale then recalled the money needed to purchase these things. He planned to provide the required cash, but before he could fork out his money, Vice Captain Ashe gave the porter a bundle of cash.

"Alright! I'll call the others now. How long do you think you need to do the cleansing?"

"Cleansing? It sounded as if I would be exorcising them... Anyway, I needed at least five minutes or so." Vale answered.

"Only five minutes? That's quick?" Ashe replied in shock as she asked Vale a few more questions. She had already used a signal to ask her friend to come and they were just waiting for them to arrive.

After 15 minutes or so, a group of people finally arrived. There were a total of four people, and all of them were girls. Ashe had certainly called her small group of friends.

They all looked excited as they were looking forward to removing their unused or already useless Spell Models.

"Ashe! We're here! I'm so excited..."

"Ahh? Is it this kid?"

"Impressive. He looks so young! I can't believe he bested you in your duel."

"Ashe, are you sure we're not interrupting your conversation? Ahem, we can arrive later, after an hour." The last girl said as she looked at Ashe and Vale with a meaningful smile on her face.

The three other girls also changed their expressions as they looked at Ashe with wide eyes.

"Hey! Are you being serious now?" Ashe shook her head as she introduced Vale to them.

"This is Vale Chambers. I must remind you all that you can't underestimate him. He already removed my Spirit Vision Spell Model, and you can look at me now. I'm all good. Aside from being weakened for a while, I didn't suffer permanent injury whatsoever." Ashe explained, just in case they were doubting the young man in front of them.

Vale politely nodded at the girls who were older than him. He could tell that they were members of the Order as well, but they seemed to be on a different squad.

"Alright! Start with me, Vale. I just want to remove my Dead Heart Spell Model."

The girl who said this has tanned skin and reddish hair. She also had a few scars on her slim body. As soon as she announced what Spell Model she wanted to remove, her friends seemed shocked as they looked at her with an inquisitive gaze.

"Hey, stop staring at me like that. Dead Heart Spell may be a decent life-saving Spell, but I already found a Mystical Item that could replace that. If I could use my Spell Light for something else, then that's better. You all know that I've wanted to record a strong Curse Spell, right?"

Chapter 310 Delayed

"Oh! Are you sure about that, Carol? I think Dead Heart is still good... Ugh, whatever, it's up to you... What Curse Spell are you thinking of recording?" Ashe curiously asked.

Vale was also curious, so he listened attentively while observing the woman in front of him.

"Hehe, I'm thinking of recording the Vision Bane. The Dead Heart isn't that great anyway... It could work against 3rd and 2nd Class Arcanists, but it won't be easy to use against a First Class Arcanist. During our work, I noticed that our targets are just getting stronger and stronger. I've probably only used this Spell less than five times within five years." Carol replied as she sat beside Vale.

"That's true... However, Vision Bane? It requires 10 Spirit Strands and 6 Life Strands, right? That would be tough to record." Ashe commented.

"Yeah... You'll probably need a month or two to record that."

"I guess it would happen in another six months since you need to recover after Vale removed your Dead Heart Spell Model."

The others also agreed.

Carol knows this as well, but she already made up her mind.

"I'm ready now, Vale... I will trust you on this. Well, if you did something wrong or inappropriate, I'm sure my friends here will not make it easy for you."

Vale wryly smiled at these words, but he still nodded.

"Alright... I need to touch your hands while doing this." Vale said as he offered his hand.

"Hmm... That's fine. Is this going to be painful?"

"Not really... However, you will feel weakened. That's all." Vale replied. He could certainly weaken the intensity of his Spell Model Extraction so his target wouldn't feel pain.

However, he didn't bother doing it with others, so they would just pass out in pain in the process.

Carol heaved a sigh of relief after hearing Vale's words as she closed her eyes and waited for her fate.

At this time, Vale also focused on Carol. He confirmed the number of her Spell Lights and each of their location.

"Can you pour your Dark Energy into the Dead Heart Spell Model?" Vale asked. He needed to find the exact Spell Light.

After all, even though he knew that Carol had 9 Spell Lights according to his Divine Sense, he didn't know what spells were inside these Lights.

"Got it..." Carol replied as she guided her Dark Energy to her Dead Heart Spell Model.

Using his Spirit Vision, Vale was able to locate the Spell Model he needed to extract.

"Thank you. You can relax now. I'll start the Extraction." Vale said as he started doing his ritual.

He repeated his chant in his mind before he started his Extraction.

[Living Human has been discovered. Would you like to start the Extraction?]

"Yes... I will extract the Dead Heart Spell Model."

[Extracting...]

As soon as Vale saw this notification, he was momentarily shocked. After all, this is the first time he got a delay on his system's Extraction.

This had never happened before.

Nevertheless, he remained focused on his task as he kept his attention on the Dead Heart Spell Model.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +40]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Dead Heart Spell Model]

As soon as Vale saw the successful Extraction, Vale immediately let go of Carol's hands just in case the system continued extracting her.

The moment he did this, Carol slumped on the couch. She didn't just suffer from the sudden removal of the Spell Model but also the Energy that was taken from her.

Her friends immediately checked her condition as they prepared several bottles of medicine and Mystical Artifacts meant to help her recover faster.

This was actually quite effective as Carol woke up after three minutes, and her eyes were already filled with energy. Although she still looked weak, she still looked excited.

"How is it?"

"Are you still in pain?"

"Can you check your Spell Models? Perhaps Vale made a mistake..."

"Right... Now that you mention it, what do we do to him if he removed Carol's Shadow Soldier Spell or other important spells instead?"

"The answer is obvious. Of course, we'll skin him alive." Ashe answered.

The other girls whispered in their conversation, but Vale could obviously hear them since they were talking too close to him.

In the meantime, Carol had already entered her Phantasm State as she checked the Spell Lights in her body.

'Finally!'

Soon, she confirmed that she still had 9 Spell Lights, and one of them was already empty. She checked which spells remained and confirmed that her Dead Heart was missing!

She also confirmed that all her remaining Spell Models are in good condition and nothing was damaged in the removal process.

"You did it, Vale! Thank you! Right, how much was the fee for this? Ashe didn't tell us about it." Carol said in excitement. She wanted to pay for Vale's service immediately but didn't know if Vale was even looking for money.

"It's alright... I already mentioned the payment to Ashe." Vale answered.

"What? That's it? Are you sure? You only requested to run an errand. It's not even worth 500 zen! Are you sure about it?" Vice Captain Ashe asked Vale since, now that she considered it, that price was too low for his service!

"Five hundred zen? That's too low! You shouldn't be shy about charging us for your service."

"That's right, don't lower the value of your service. Especially if it's this excellent!"

"Even if we're your friends, you should know how to separate business and relationship. You'd be taken advantage of by other people at this rate."

The girls thought the same, as they also didn't want to owe Vale too much. There were four of them who needed Vale's service, and they may not be sure how he was doing it, but it's certainly not as simple as it seems.

'This...'

Vale was a bit speechless as he even heard some genuine advice from them, making him flattered.

Of course, he was also feeling guilty since he was taking their Spell Models and Energy! They may find their Spell Models useless, but definitely not for him!

"Alright... Let's talk about the payment after I complete the job."