

D. Extraction 331

Chapter 331 Examination (3)

Dalton Stranway was called next by Professor Stella. She was looking at Dalton with an expectant gaze, gesturing for him to start.

Snap!

Without any incantation or chant, Dalton snapped his fingers to activate the Darkness Manipulation Spell.

Then two beautiful Dark Lotus Flowers appeared beside him...

After doing this, he looked at Vale calmly and nodded.

This action alarmed many students. He ignored the judges and other students to look at Vale!

Aubrey was the one who was shocked the most as she stepped back from Vale.

"Leo winked at Lisa... That's understandable since Lisa is cute. However, Dalton and Vale? W-what's going on?" Aubrey muttered softly but Vale had certainly heard her.

He wanted to smack her head for overthinking Dalton's action, but Chad had already flicked his finger and hit Aubrey's forehead.

"Ouch!" Aubrey touched her forehead while looking at Chad like she was about to cry.

"Hey. You're embarrassing Vale... Dalton is just challenging him to make something better." Chad said with a sigh.

"I know! I'm just teasing them." Aubrey answered.

"Ahhh... I'm sorry." Chad immediately apologized.

Lisa only chuckled at this as she found this interaction funny.

As they were chatting, Dalton had already finished his second Spell... It was Spectral Hands, and it seemed that he was really challenging Vale at this point.

After all, everyone in the class knows that Vale has Ghost Hands. Since he summoned the Spectral Hands while looking at Vale, they could certainly tell that Dalton was looking for a fight.

"Lisa Grayback!"

As soon as her name was called, the hall immediately went silent.

This made Lisa feel nervous even more.

"You can do it, Lisa." Aubrey whispered as Vale, Chad, Blair, and even Leonore, spoke softly to encourage her.

"Isn't she the commoner who passed the public recruitment?"

"Incredible... She didn't quit yet?"

"She's cute. Someone must be protecting her."

"Heh... Are you talking about Leo? Didn't he winked at her a while ago?"

"Ohh! Is that true?"

Those words weren't said out loud, but since Lisa's Phantasm State was active, those words were very clear to her.

'Don't mind them... Just show your best performance to everyone.'

While Lisa was walking up to the stage, he suddenly heard Vale's voice inside her head!

'Telepathy?!'

Lisa immediately turned her head and looked at Vale in surprise.

Her action had obviously garnered some attention as they also looked at Vale curiously.

'Ahem... Focus. Don't mind me... ' Vale immediately said, as he didn't expect Lisa to have such a strong reaction.

Lisa seemed to have noticed her mistake as she quickly turned her head back and stood at the center of the stage.

Professor Stella then gestured for her to start.

Lisa closed her eyes and took a deep breath... It took her a few seconds to ready herself before she triggered her Spell Model.

As soon as she opened her eyes, the Dark Energy that surrounded the stage started manifesting and turning into a visible arrow...

As many of them thought that it was too simple for the examination, they suddenly realized that several more Dark Arrows appeared beside her.

Soon, a total of 30 Arrows were formed as they floated around her!

It didn't end there, Lisa pointed up as the arrows flew upwards and hit the ceiling before vanishing into thin air!

"Incredible... You could really save your Spell Lights with the Darkness Manipulation Spell. It can be used for defensive, support, or even offensive moves."

"Indeed... Unfortunately, I can barely manipulate my Dark Energy. It will probably take me a few more years to copy that."

"Hmph... She's still a commoner. After she graduates, she'll just become a mercenary or work as a bodyguard for other families."

"Hahah... That's true... I hope I can hire her."

Vale sighed after hearing those words as he etched in his mind the faces of these people.

He would consider using his Touchless Extraction with these people later on.

Lisa then continued with her next Spell. It was a Darkness Coil...

Since a target was needed to cast the Spell, she aimed the Spell at the dummy that was prepared on the stage.

Unlike the Dusk Imprisonment that drains the target's life while being wrapped by the dark energy, the Darkness Coil would bind the target and stop them from using their Spell Lights.

Nevertheless, the image of the Darkness Coil normally depends on the caster. In Lisa's case, her Darkness Coil looks like a black python wrapping over the dummy and squeezing it tightly.

It was a simple performance but since the image of the Black Python looked real, everyone could tell that her Mastery wasn't just at the early stage of the Elementary Realm.

Whew~

Lisa heaved a sigh of relief as she left the stage. She felt that she had a decent performance just now. She believes that she may not enter the top 10, but it's possible to enter the top 20 with that performance.

"Aubrey Hall!" Professor Stella announced,

Aubrey went to the stage and tried to create a Full-Body Armor similar to what Warren had done. However, as she manipulated her Dark Energy to create a helmet, she stopped herself from doing it and felt satisfied showing her face to everyone while her body was covered with Dark Armor.

For her second Spell, she used her favorite Spell, the Dire Chains.

It was the one she had used against the Evil Creature before, and it was already at the peak stage of the Elementary Realm.

Leonore followed next as she used her Dark Manipulation Spell to create a flying sword and used her Flesh Bane spell, which wasn't visually appealing at all.

Finally, it was Vale Chambers' turn.

He walked onto the stage calmly, wearing his black coat with silver buttons over his uniform. He looked at the three professors who were the judges of the test and bowed respectfully.

As soon as he finished his greetings, Professor Stella gestured for him to start.

Vale didn't hesitate and spoke softly.

"Darkness Manipulation."

Whoosh~

With the activation of the Spell, everyone witnessed how his Spell created a cape or cloak of Darkness that draped over his shoulders and covered his body.

It was a marvelous sight but it wasn't just that.

The Cloak of Darkness was dark, with a cold and sinister aura surrounding it. Vale didn't notice, but his Incorruptible Body seemed to react to how he activated his Spell!

The audience gasped as they realized that if they ignored its sinister aura, Vale's Cloak would be more beautiful and elegant than Leo's stiff Cape of Darkness!

Lisa was also a bit stunned as she felt that Vale was competing with Leo instead of Dalton, who was challenging him openly a few minutes ago!

Chapter 332 Examination (4)

'What's with this Aura?' Professor Stella silently thought as she looked at Vale's Cloak of Darkness. Many other students had tried to create a cloak, mantle, or cape that was made of Dark Energy a while ago. However, only Vale's Cloak seemed natural as it swayed perfectly around him.

Furthermore, the Aura that was emitting out of it appeared to be pure Dark Energy.

As she was inspecting Vale's cloak, Stella suddenly heard a voice inside her head.

'Mhmm... The Aura is similar to the Dark Spirits. Did he assimilate with his Dark Spirit, Stella?'

It was Professor Zara Zane who had asked.

Stella shook her head and replied. 'I'm not aware of it, Zara. I also can't feel the presence of the Dark Spirit, so I'm sure that he wasn't borrowing its powers.'

'I see... Cyrus and Mark are thinking the same thing. I guess Vale just had a natural affinity with the Dark Attribute.'

'Oh... What are their thoughts? Their faces don't look good.' Stella asked.

'They were curious about the cloak... It doesn't seem like it is made for a defensive move. We're trying to inspect it, but it's too pure... or something is blocking us from inspecting it.'

'Alright... Do you want me to ask him about it?' Stella asked as she was also curious.

'No need. Just let him finish. It'll be embarrassing if we can't even probe the cloak he made.' Zara said as she looked at Vale curiously.

She didn't mention it to Stella, but she actually had another guess why they couldn't probe Vale's cloak of darkness.

'Does he also have an Advanced Realm Mastery over the spell? Isn't it too ridiculous? Ugh... What am I thinking...!' Zara shook her head to erase her random thoughts.

Stella didn't know what she was thinking as she could only nod and let Vale continue.

The other students watching him also felt shocked after seeing Vale's Darkness Manipulation Spell.

The Dark Aura that his cloak was emanating was something familiar after all.

"This is too sinister... It's almost as if he's an Evil Creature."

"Ahh... Now that you mention it, there's a semblance."

"Fools... That's definitely an aura similar to the Death Knights, not Evil Creature."

"Isn't that the same?"

"Both of you are wrong... That's definitely an Aura from the Spirit World! I promise!"

"It's the Aura of Corruption!"

The students started arguing in suppressed voices as they tried guessing what they were seeing and feeling.

Vale heard them clearly but simply ignored them and continued with his second spell.

As soon as he canceled the first spell, everyone watched him with bated breath as they were curious about his next spell. After all, most of them know about Vale's story...

At the beginning of his first year, he was known by his batch because of his high Spirit Strands, which exceeded Maya's score.

Then, he became known as someone who had his talent depleted and could no longer improve. After reaching his second year, his amazing Power Strands and Life Strands were known by everyone.

Now, they wanted to see whether he still deserved his title as a genius.

'Let's see what you got, Vale...' Maya thought as she watched Vale cast his second spell. She was actually infuriated at him after he decided not to meet her Master to discuss something about Cressida's disappearance.

In the meantime, Vale raised his hand and whispered a few words to cast his second spell.

The Second Spell was something he had hastily leveled up by a few times just a few minutes ago.

It was the Moonlight Curse that he had extracted from Neil!

He pointed his palm toward the ceiling, creating a bright sphere of light that hovered above him. The sphere emitted a silvery glow that filled the entire hall with moonlight.

The students and the professors who were watching his performance gasped in awe and fear as they felt the curse of the moonlight seeping into their bodies. They felt their skin turning pale and their veins black, their energy, or perhaps stamina, being drained by the spell.

"What is he doing? He's cursing everyone in the hall!" One of the students shouted as he immediately realized what was going on. He was familiar with the Aura emitted by the spell since he also had an early-stage Elementary Realm of this same spell.

"W-why is the Isolation Formation Art not working?!" Zara jolted as she stood up from where she was seated. She also recognized the spell as soon as the bright sphere of light appeared. However, she wasn't worried at first and was only alarmed as soon as she felt that she was also affected by the curse!

The stage had a Formation Circle to ensure that any curse, hexes, dark magic, or anything related to dark arts wouldn't harm the audience. They didn't notice that it was broken, so they failed to react quickly.

"Stop him! Stop him now!" Professor Mark Morton yelled as he prepared to cast a spell. He didn't bring any Mystical Item with him, so he would have a slower casting speed than the other professors.

"Is he insane? This Moonlight Spell is too risky. It comes with a price... He's risking his own life and everyone else's with this spell!" Professor Cyrus said as he raised his hand to cast a spell and stop the Moonlight Curse.

Nevertheless, amidst the panic that Vale's performance created, some students were still enjoying the scene, deserving to be called a student of the Dark Arts.

"Wow, he's amazing! He's using a Dark Spell that affects everyone in such a large area!" One student exclaimed.

"Awesome... It can affect so many people. Is this an Advanced Realm? I can feel I'm being cursed."

"He's affecting over a hundred people at the same time... What a fearsome Spell!"

"Vale! You can stop now. We know that you're the best already. Cough... Cough..."

Vale smirked as he saw the effect of his Dark Spell affecting everyone in the hall.

He had shown them a power spell and hoped that he'd get the Contribution Points reward for this examination.

It didn't take that long before the professors quickly cast a counter-spell, purifying the moonlight curse and restoring everyone's health.

They were shocked and angry at Vale's reckless and dangerous act, but they also had to admit that he was a talented and formidable student.

Chapter 333 Examination (5)

"That was too dangerous, Vale..." Professor Stella couldn't help but mutter after confirming that the Spell was finally dispersed and that although it affected many students, the Curse was immediately broken thanks to Zara's powerful Active Curse Break.

Vale didn't speak or leave the stage as he glanced at the Professors that were judging the examination.

After Vale's performance, these three professors were stern and displeased. They immediately asked him to explain himself and why he used such a dangerous and reckless Dark Spell.

Zara, Mark, and Cyrus looked at Vale as if they were about to apprehend him if he answered poorly.

"Professors, I simply followed your instruction. I used my best Dark Spell for everyone to see. It's not my fault that the Formation Circle was poorly made and couldn't stop the Spell of a second-year student like me." Vale answered and passed the blame to the Formation Circle, which was supposed to stop the Dark Spells from affecting the audience.

The professors shook their heads and sighed.

They spoke with each other for some time as they wanted to hear their colleagues' opinions about Vale's performance.

"He's being arrogant and irresponsible..." Mark sternly said.

He didn't like the fact that Vale still caused some trouble to them.

"He had endangered everyone's lives with his Dark Spell. That's Moonlight Curse, and it's probably at the Advanced Realm. He needed to learn humility and discipline, or else he would never become a true master of the Dark Arts." Cyrus added after some thought.

Zara, on the other hand, smiled at their reactions and commented. "I also think that Vale had gone overboard this time, but I can't really blame him. He needs to show off. Furthermore, showing that Advanced Realm Moonlight Curse is perfect for this occasion. If I had that Spell at that age, I would use it every day."

She said this with a soft laugh making the other two professors mesmerized by her beauty.

The three professors then discussed this matter for a few moments while Professor Stella remained on the side, waiting for their decision.

Of course, while they were doing this, the students also couldn't help but discuss what they'd just witnessed. Many of them couldn't help but shudder after recalling how the Moonlight Curse affected them.

"I've seen a Moonlight Curse before, but it wasn't that awesome. The caster would normally borrow the power of the moonlight during the nighttime and not create a moonlight! I wonder if this is the peak stage of the Intermediate Realm or if it already reached the Advanced Realm."

"Heh... It must be the Advanced Realm. Even the Formation Circle failed to stop it. Furthermore, I have an Anti-Curse Amulet with me, but I still got affected." Another student added.

On the other hand, Neil Sommerhalder was speechless by Vale's performance.

He had a vague feeling about the Moonlight Curse that he had seen. He wasn't sure about it, but he felt that Vale was mocking him while casting that spell. He wasn't too sure, but he seemed to have felt Vale's gaze a while ago.

"I lost my Moonlight Curse... However, Vale suddenly had them... Did he not destroy my Spell Model at that time and take it instead?" Neil muttered, but he couldn't really ask someone about this.

It was too ridiculous. He wouldn't even believe that such an ability existed. If he ever confided to someone, they would just certainly laugh at him...

'No... I think Celina might believe me. She's also from the Vermont Family. Perhaps she knows something about a Forbidden Spell?' Neil thought deeply as the other students continued praising Vale's performance.

"That was insane! I wonder if we'll actually die if the Curse wasn't broken by the Professors." One student said while still trembling.

"That's true. But I wonder if Maya can do a better one." His classmate replied. His voice wasn't loud but it was enough for everyone to hear.

"Hahaha... I'm sure that Maya can do better." Leo Blaze suddenly said while clenching his fist tightly. He doesn't want to admit it, but Vale's Dark Spell was indeed better than his.

If it was Maya who had done that, he wouldn't feel infuriated, so he could only hope that the Student Representative could perform better.

Soon, the professors finished discussing the matter.

In the end, they decided to just issue a warning, and if he ever repeated such a stunt again, he would face serious consequences.

This decision surprised many students. They were curious when Vale would ever have a chance of repeating this mistake. Are they going to do another examination similar to this?

Then, their decision was quite meaningless.

Some students accepted this decision, but of course, there were also others who didn't like such a light punishment.

However, Zara's next words stunned them.

"After this examination, we will allow five students to challenge Vale if you didn't like what he had done... If you defeat him, you'll get 2 Contribution Points, while we deduct Vale's contribution points if he loses. It doesn't matter if he doesn't have enough points, we can just put negative points on his record."

This decision garnered mixed reactions from the students. Their decision obviously angered Vale's friends, but the others found this as a great opportunity.

Vale looked at the professors with a curious gaze. He wasn't sure why they suddenly came up with such a stupid idea.

As he was about to speak, he suddenly heard Professor Zara's words inside his head.

"Don't think that this is unfair. We didn't say it, but if you win against the five students we've chosen, we will take you as our disciple. You can choose among the three of us. Just nod at me if you understand."

Vale was speechless with the 'reward' they'd thought of giving to him.

'Did they think I'll get excited from that?' Vale sighed after a few moments.

He changed his plan. Instead of disagreeing with the duel, he decided to get a better reward.

'Professor Zara... Can you give me a different reward? I already have a Master... So, can you allow me to see corpses instead? The more, the better.' Vale replied using his telepathy.

Zara was stunned as soon as she heard Vale's reply. It wasn't because of his request but because he could also use telepathy!

Chapter 334 Examination (6)

Zara looked at Vale in shock as she couldn't help but wonder how many Spell Models does he have right now.

She heard from Professor Stella that Vale has Ghost Hands, Darkness Manipulation, Light Absorption, and a defensive spell that she wasn't sure of. Then, Vale showed the Moonlight Curse a while ago.

After that, Vale started using Telepathy!

For a second-year student, that's already quite a lot of Spell Models considering their Spirit Strands shouldn't be able to handle so many Spell at this age.

"This young man is really special... No wonder Professor Gale has been interested in him... I thought she was exaggerating, but it must be true. Ugh... Did they do it already? If it's Professor Gale, I don't think that even Vale could resist her.' Zara immediately shook her head as she reached this thought.

"Ahem... I'm surprised that you can use Telepathy. You've hidden yourself really well. Alright, let me discuss it with the others." Zara said as she talked to Mark and Cyrus.

Vale didn't have to wait long as she heard Zara's reply almost immediately.

"They agreed to it. We can discuss the corpses later once you've won. It's good that Professor Cyrus and Mark already have a collection they're ready to show you."

Vale felt satisfied with this reply as he returned to his position.

"V-Vale, are you alright with that?" Lisa suddenly asked worriedly.

In her opinion, Vale acted with the rules. Although his Spell affected the audience, it shouldn't be his fault that the stage had a weaker protective measure.

"I'm fine, Lisa... It's also a good opportunity for me to test my Spells." Vale replied.

Chad, Aubrey, and his other classmates were also worried for him.

They had already heard a few students in other classes talking about how excited they were to fight Vale.

They even heard that Leo Blaze would want to volunteer.

"Oh? He didn't get scared even after showing off my Moonlight Curse?" Vale asked curiously. Although he thinks that Leo had decent skills, it was just enough for the usual standard of Second-Year Students.

He didn't seem that impressive at all, aside from his thick face for winking at Lisa while in front of many.

"Yes... I think someone said you can't use the same Spell again after 12 hours or so. Ahem... Is that true?" Chad asked in a soft voice.

However, Aubrey smacked the back of his head this time as she scolded him. "You can't ask something that private! Furthermore, the others are listening... What if Vale can use it again? Wouldn't it be better if they get surprised?" Aubrey explained while shaking her head.

Chad apologized at this while Vale and Lisa just laughed it off.

In the meantime, Maya was observing Vale and realized that he wasn't nervous at all. It even seems that he was looking forward to the duel when he went off the stage just now.

'Is he that confident?' Maya frowned as she silently observed Vale.

Even though she learned top-tier Dark Spells from her family, she wasn't that confident in winning every battle, especially if her set of Dark Spells had been exposed.

Since Vale had been famous during his first year, his set of Dark Spells had already spread throughout their batch. Everyone here was basically aware of his Dark Spells by now, so it shouldn't be impossible to defeat him in a duel.

'Unless he hadn't shown all of his Spells yet.' Maya silently thought as she glanced at her classmates, who were eager to have a duel with Vale.

Vale's prominence in his first year had different implications for every student.

Some of them started taking Ghost Hands as their support-type Dark Spell, while others started avoiding it to find something that could defeat it in a battle.

Most of her classmates were in the latter part as they all watched Vale's battle against the Slender Zombie. They all believed that Vale consumed the Earth Eclipse Potion at that time, so he was able to overpower the Zombie with his brute force.

Now that the same potion was no longer being sold to the Exchange Hall, they believed that they had a better chance of overpowering Vale in a duel.

'They'll probably be in shock... I don't even want to fight him.' Maya thought to herself as she recalled Vale's unnatural physique. Vale's physique was just too unfair.

Even her Master wanted to obtain his special special physique, so it wasn't surprising.

She looked at Professor Stella, who was looking at her with a gentle smile.

'No... I'm not interested in fighting him! Find someone else!' Maya wanted to scream at her, but she couldn't use Telepathy. She could only shake her head at the professor, showing her refusal.

In any case, the examination continued as Class 1 hadn't been called yet.

This time, Professor Stella called Philip Hoffman to go on the stage first.

Philip was viewed as a cool and handsome student, so several girls started cheering for him as soon as he got up the stage.

His Darkness Manipulation Spell allowed him to create a spinning sphere of Darkness before he expanded it to create a spinning barrier around himself.

This performance was impressive, so even Vale couldn't help but nod in approval. He would consider using this technique if he needed a defensive move someday.

As for Philip's second Spell, he actually used something that wasn't visually appealing. It was the Severe Ailment Spell!

The Severe Ailment Spell was a type of Curse Spell that targets a person's or animal's immune system.

Naturally, it didn't have any visual effects, so most of the students didn't like it.

However, the Professors, including Vale, noticed that Philip's Curse Spell had already reached the Intermediate Realm. Furthermore, Philip was able to control the Spell to hit the dummy stealthily.

No one had noticed that he had used the Spell until the dummy showed signs of being infected by the curse.

'No wonder he chose to use this Spell...' Vale thought to himself as he looked at Philip going down the stage.

"Priscilla Hoffman!" Professor Stella called out as the next student came up.

Priscilla performed her spells with joy and enthusiasm but lacked precision and timing. Her Darkness Manipulation seemed to be in its early stage of the Elementary Realm, including the Blind Curse she used as the second Spell.

Vale looked at her curiously as he couldn't help but ponder...

'Aubrey and Priscilla seem to have similar concerns, they're purposely holding back.'

Chapter 335 Last Examination

Vale wasn't sure why they were holding back with their performance today, but he didn't have plans to ask them why. They must have something in their mind, so he decided not to point it out.

The exam with Class 1 continued, and Vale realized that there were indeed many talented students in this class.

This is especially true with Maya's group of friends.

Goldie Forrest created a gorgeous coat with her Darkness Manipulation Spell, followed by the usage of Ghost Apparition Spell. The Apparition wasn't that popular, but anyone who has this Spell could be a scary opponent, especially if she reached the Intermediate Realm of this Spell.

Crystal Ravinie and Ana Chalton, the other two loyal friends of Maya, had also performed well with their Darkness Manipulation Spell but only showed a weak but high-level Spell on their second Spell.

Soon, Vale heard their conversations as they went off the stage and stuck closer to Maya.

"Maya... If you're planning to challenge Vale later, make sure not to use a spell with a long cooldown. Also, don't show your most lethal Spell." Ana reminded. She knew that Maya would be called in just another minute or so, and she must not let Vale know her real strength.

"What?" Maya was shocked momentarily before shaking her head.

"I'm not planning to have a duel with him. You guys can go ahead and volunteer."

As she said this, Goldie and the others looked at her in surprise. They couldn't believe it.

If there was someone who could defeat Vale in a duel, they believed that it was guaranteed to be Maya Featherstar. As for them, they only believe that they have at least a 75% chance of winning against him with all their preparations.

"Aren't you the one who was the most eager to show who's the real boss of the Second Year?" Goldie asked softly.

Maya's face suddenly turned red after hearing this. She quickly blocked Goldie's mouth with her hands.

"Sshhh... What are you saying? I'm not trying to be a boss... I just want to defeat him since I believe I have learned plenty of things in my family and shouldn't disappoint them. I want to do it by performing better in our Academic Classes, not in a duel." Maya immediately explained, hoping not to cause a misunderstanding.

Luckily, as she glanced in Vale's direction, it seemed that he was too focused on watching their classmate performing his second Spell, Dark Mist, and didn't hear their conversation.

Soon, Professor Stella called her out.

She was indeed the last student for this exam, and she could somehow understand why.

As soon as she stood on the stage, she used her Darkness Manipulation Spell to create a disk made of Darkness on her feet!

Then, she used the disk to float a few inches off the ground!

It was only about 4 or 5 inches, but it certainly surprised all of them!

"Whoa! Maya is indeed the best in our batch!"

"Of course... I've never doubted her."

"She wasn't that showy, but she really deserves to be the student representative."

"Indeed. She doesn't go around and seek duels here and there... unlike a certain someone who wanted to be a center of attention and even challenged our seniors."

Vale heard their words and knew that he was the one they were talking about.

He simply glanced in their direction and remembered their faces before shifting his attention back to Maya's performance.

In his mind, he believed that he could do it as well. He knew that once he tried it, he would do better than Maya...

'This exam is really good... I learned a few more uses of the Darkness Manipulation Spell.' Vale thought to himself as he recalled all the other techniques he had seen.

The Full-Body Armor, Spinning Barrier, Floating Sword, Multiple Arrows, and now, a Floating Device!

The Darkness Manipulation Spell truly deserved to be called the core of the Dark Spellcasters.

"Vale... I think Maya performed better this time." Chad muttered.

This time, Aubrey didn't disagree. She even nodded with Lisa after hearing this.

"Indeed. I never thought that it was possible to do that." Vale replied nonchalantly.

However, his answer shocked Aubrey and Lisa as they looked at him with doubt. Even Leonore, who was silently listening behind them, couldn't help but look at Vale curiously.

"That's impossible... Are you telling us you can't do that?" Aubrey muttered.

"I see... So there's something you can't do as well." Lisa said with a bright smile on her face while nodding continuously.

Vale was stunned momentarily as they seemed to have misunderstood his words.

He certainly said that he didn't think it was possible to do that, but he didn't mean he couldn't.

Anyway, he decided not to explain himself and just shook his head and continued watching Maya.

After she finished her trick with the Darkness Manipulation Spell, she continued with her second Dark Spell.

She looked at the Professors judging the examination before she triggered her Spell.

"Dark Nova..."

As soon as the Professors realized what Maya aimed to do, they quickly acted and reinforced the stage's Formation Circle!

"Y-you!" Zara was shocked as she saw Maya adamant about the usage of this Spell.

Mark and Cyrus also grunted as they poured their Dark Energy into fortifying the defensive Formation Circle they placed on the stage.

They wouldn't make the same mistake again!

Boom!

The Dark Nova created a powerful explosion that made the hall tremble...

Luckily, this was much easier to deal with than Vale's Moonlight Curse which could bypass their defenses.

Professor Stella clenched her fist tightly as the hall was surrounded by a bright light followed by darkness.

Crack... Crack... Crack...

Soon, the barrier created by the Formation Circle started shattering due to the sheer power that Maya had released.

However, Stella ignored it. She looked worried and immediately went to the stage to check Maya's condition. She covered herself with Dark Energy to bypass the defensive circle and grabbed Maya's shoulder.

"You idiot... Dark Nova uses your Life Force... This is just an exam! Why are you so determined?"

Maya looked weak after using that Spell, but she still smiled and replied.

"I won't be joining the duel... I need to take a rest, Professor."

Chapter 336 Duel (1)

"W-what?" Professor Stella was shocked as she didn't expect that Maya would be so against the duel that she'd rather injure herself.

As she was about to scold her student, she heard Zara's voice inside her head.

'Stella, how's her condition?' Zara asked worriedly.

'Not good... Her life strands went down for sure.' Stella answered as she started inspecting Maya's body.

'I see... Don't worry too much. She's from the Featherstar Family. They have a way of increasing life strands a lot faster than others as long as they haven't reached their twenties yet. Maya must be aware of this, so she's not too worried.' Zara explained.

'That's good to hear.' Stella heaved a sigh of relief after hearing this. She then carried Maya to bring her to the infirmary and let her get some rest.

Maya's friends hurriedly went over as well, but after Stella assured them that Maya was safe, they could only return and wait for the final part of the Examination.

Since the Examination has already ended, Zara can replace Stella to take care of the duel that is about to happen.

"Not good... We're planning to have Maya and Vale fight. Now that she's injured, who's going to deal with that student?" Cyrus asked with a weak voice.

"Philip might be able to do it. There's also Leo, who has learned a decent set of Dark Spells." Mark replied while looking at the students.

"Let's not worry about that for now. First, let's announce the students who will receive the 2 Contribution Points for their performance." Zara suggested.

Mark and Cyrus looked at each before agreeing to Zara.

The three then stood in front of everybody and announced the 30 students who would receive the contribution points.

Everyone in the class turned silent as they waited for their names to be called. They were hoping that they would also learn their ranking in this Examination.

Unfortunately, Zara explained that the names to be called out weren't in a specific order but completely random.

The excited students immediately calmed down because of this.

Soon, the top scorers were called.

The top 30 had mostly come from Class 1...

To be exact, 15 students from Class 1 were included in the top 30.

"As expected... Everyone in Class 1 came from the core families of the Dark Arts Faction."

"Indeed... It would be more embarrassing if they failed to dominate here."

"I heard that some of them already learned the Darkness Manipulation Spell before entering the Academy."

"That's not true... However, they learned much earlier about the Spell Models and the existence of Dark Energy."

Vale listened to them silently while he congratulated his classmates who had been included in the list like him. They were Dalton, Warren, Leonore, Lisa, and Aubrey...

"If you're unconvinced with your result, we are giving you a chance to duel against Vale Chambers... If you win against him, you will receive 2 Contribution Points. We are doing this as we know you're holding your grudges after Vale affected you with his Moonlight Curse. Instead of keeping it inside you, I recommend that you challenge Vale to let it out."

Zara announced as she tried to make it sound like it was really Vale's fault for having this duel segment in the Examination today.

One of the students immediately took this opportunity as he shouted.

"Allow me! I challenge Vale to a duel!" The one who spoke was Leo Blaze.

Vale didn't feel pressured as he looked at Leo calmly...

"He used Dark Flame a while ago. It's a Tier 2 Dark Spell. Be careful, Vale." Aubrey reminded me as she looked at Leo.

Lisa hesitated for a moment before she spoke. "I heard that Leo has Mystical Items that protect him from Curses and any Corruption-Type Spells... Avoid using these spells when facing him."

Lisa and Leo were both members of the Library Committee, so it wasn't that surprising if she knew a thing or two about him.

Vale thanked the two for their words as he went to the stage. He then looked at Zara and used his ESP Spell's Telepathy to ask her a question.

'Professor Zara, I can accept more than five challengers. So if you like, you can find more challengers. It didn't matter if they were third year or fourth year. However, I should get access to more corpses.'

As Vale said this, Zara looked at Vale looking stunned.

Vale wasn't sure what she was thinking, but he could make a guess.

Zara hesitated for a moment before passing the message to Professor Mark and Cyrus.

The other two didn't like Vale's confidence as they looked at him with scorn...

After some time, Zara replied.

"Very well, defeat Leo and the others first, then we'll set a schedule with your fight with other students in the higher years. The two professors may not like your guts, but I'm the opposite. I like your confidence, Vale. If you were selected to attend the Twelve Academies Competition, you must have this confidence, or you'll just die there..."

As she said this, Zara cut off their connection, and Vale could no longer speak to her using telepathy. It seems that she used a spell to block off any Telepathy Ability pointed at her.

'What? I could die in that competition... Why? Isn't that a friendly competition between the twelve academies?' Vale was a bit speechless, but he didn't have the time to clarify her words.

In the meantime, Leo was ready to be in a battle as he stood opposite Vale, waiting for the announcement to start the duel.

Cyrus stood at their center and looked at the two students before announcing the rules of the duel.

"You can use any Dark Spells and Mystical Items that you have. However, any help from the outside would result in disqualification... Moving off the stage will also disqualify you." He paused for a moment and waited to see their reaction.

Seeing that they don't seem to care, he continued.

"Any questions?" Cyrus asked one last time.

"Ah, yes! I have a question!" Leo raised his voice as he seemed to have recalled something and pointed at Vale. "Vale has a Dark Spirit Summon. Can he use it?"

"Yes... If you have a summon, you can use it as well." Cyrus answered without hesitation.

"Don't worry. I won't send out my Dark Spirit." Vale said with a smile.

"Tch..." Leo just grunted at this since there was no way he would believe his opponent.

Seeing that there were no more questions, Cyrus no longer wasted time as he announced the start of the duel.

Chapter 337 Duel (2)

The students inside the Assembly Hall were filled with anticipation and excitement as the two second-year students stood on opposite sides of the stage. They were about to start a duel, and perhaps, this duel would determine the strongest second-year student right now.

Lisa clasped her hands as she waited for the battle to start.

"Don't worry. Vale would win." Aubrey said with a smile as she looked at Lisa, who seemed to be very nervous.

Lisa nodded at this as she also felt that Vale had a higher chance of winning.

Soon, Vale and Leo walked to the center of the stage, where they faced each other with a distance of about ten meters between them.

They stared at each other intently as they prepared for their duel.

Leo felt a surge of adrenaline and excitement running through his veins. He knew that Vale was a formidable opponent who had defeated other students with his unusual fighting method. Vale had even defeated a Slender Zombie, so he knows that he has to be wary of Vale's strength.

In the meantime, Vale does not care about Leo's motives or feelings.

He only cared about winning the duel...

'Should I even use a Dark Spell?' Vale mused to himself.

After some hesitation, he felt that he did not need any Spells or weapons to deal with this guy. He only needed his speed and strength, which should've exceeded the limits of many Knight Arts Practitioners.

Vale smiled slightly, as he waited for the signal to start.

Leo didn't know why Vale smiled like that, but he felt a surge of anger and hatred burning in his chest. It felt as if he was looking down on him.

Leo looked at Lisa and muttered softly. "I will show you that I'm better than this guy..."

Many didn't hear his words, but Vale didn't miss that...

'Alright... You need to be beaten up.' Vale thought to himself.

As soon as Cyrus announced the start of the battle, Leo smirked wickedly and activated his Dark Flame Spell.

He raised his right hand, which was covered by his black glove. The glove was actually a magical item that enhanced his Dark Flame Spell by at least 10 to 15 percent. With the help of his glove, it allowed him to freely manipulate Dark Flames within his Magic Zone with minimal effort.

Leo felt the dark flames coursing through his veins as he waited for Vale to make his move...

Seeing that Vale was also waiting, Leo no longer hesitated as he made the first move.

A ball of Dark Flame shot out of his hand, flying towards Vale at high speed.

Vale reacted quickly, dodging the Spell by moving to the left.

He sprinted towards Leo, closing the distance between them.

Leo was not surprised by Vale's dodge. He had expected him to be fast and agile since he had witnessed Vale's fight against the Slender Zombie.

He had also prepared for his close-range attack.

He again pointed his right hand at Vale and shouted, "Dark Flame Wave!"

A wave of dark flames erupted from his hand, sweeping across the stage. This Spell was still the Dark Flame Spell, but because of the Mystical Glove he was wearing, he could change its form according to his desire.

Vale saw the wave of dark flames coming at him. He knew he could not dodge the attack this time and had to face it head-on.

'His Dark Flame doesn't have a cooldown?' Vale felt a bit surprised, but that was it. He wasn't worried at all.

He gathered his strength and jumped over the wave of Dark Flames, landing behind Leo.

He swung his fist at Leo's head, aiming for a knockout blow.

"Y-you!"

Leo sensed Vale's fist coming at him. He knew he could not dodge the attack, so he had to counter it with his own attack.

He turned his head slightly and opened his mouth, spitting out a stream of dark flames at Vale's face!

Whooshh~

'What? That's possible? Is this better than the Cursed Breath?!' Vale thought to himself as he felt the heat of the Dark Flames on his face. He raised his arm and slapped the stream of Dark Flames away from his face using his left palm.

face. He could avoid or endure it, but he decided to deflect it with his hand.

He raised his arm and slapped the stream of Dark Flames away from his face using his left palm.

Vale then continued his fist at Leo's head, hoping to end the duel with one hit.

Bam!

Leo felt the impact and shock of Vale's fist on his head.

'Y-you!' Leo couldn't believe it. His face was filled with indignation as he looked at Vale.

He still has two other spells he could use and two more Mystical Items in his possession that he hadn't activated yet!

However, despite all of his preparations, he still fell to the ground, unconscious and defeated.

Thud!

Vale stepped back as he waved his hand in his face... It seemed that the Dark Flame Breath was still on his face, giving off some weird scent.

"Whoa~"

The audience gasped and cheered as they witnessed the end of the duel.

"Awesome! I knew it!" Chad said with a laugh as soon as he saw Leo dropping to the ground.

Aubrey nodded at this as she looked at Vale in a new light. "How cruel... You didn't even use your Dark Spell. Why'd you have to disrespect him like that?" It was followed by a chuckle as she couldn't help but find this duel funny.

Vale smiled as he looked at Professor Cyrus, who nodded and announced. "The winner is Vale Chambers!"

Except for Leo Blaze's friends, the others clapped and cheered. They congratulated Vale for his fantastic performance.

However, Neil didn't like how Vale had won the battle.

"Professor, please rethink your decision. This is a battle between two Spellcasters, however, Vale didn't fight like a Spellcaster! He must be disqualified!" Neil shouted.

He wasn't sure how the others would react, but luckily, Leo's friends started chiming in and raising the same concern.

They looked at Neil gratefully as they requested the Professor to disqualify Vale and give the victory to Leo.

Chapter 338 Knight

Vale sighed as he heard Neil's voice.

He was no longer surprised that Neil came up with another reason to annoy him.

For some reason, his classmate really hated him ever since... At this point, he was already considering Extracting everything from him so he could just send this young man back to his family in the Rune Arts Faction.

Professor Cyrus was also a bit shocked by the sudden request to disqualify Vale.

As she was about to answer, she heard Stella's voice inside her head and realized what was going on.

'So it was like that...' Cyrus shook his head after understanding the situation.

In his opinion, Neil was just jealous and resentful of Vale, who had surpassed him in practical and combat aspects of Dark Arts.

He had always tried to find faults and flaws in Vale's performance and methods.

Now, he saw an opportunity to discredit and humiliate Vale in front of everyone.

"He didn't use any spells! He only used his physical abilities! That's not how a spellcaster should fight! That's cheating!" Neil exclaimed once again as he realized that the professors were silently discussing the matter.

"Please, disqualify Vale!" Leo's friends added.

They hoped that their complaint would make Professor Cyrus change his decision and give the victory to Leo instead of Vale.

The audience murmured and whispered as they listened to their claims.

A few of them agreed with Neil's group, but it could be seen that the majority disagreed with him. However, this majority didn't speak and just watched what would happen.

Of course, there were still others who were confused and curious why this was happening in the first place.

As for Vale's friends, they didn't seem to care about Neil's protest. They were pretty confident that Vale had just proven that Leo didn't deserve to experience his Dark Spell. The disqualification was just out of the question.

After some time, Professor Cyrus clapped his hands, creating a loud sound that silenced the audience.

"Enough!" he said sternly. "I have heard your protest, but I do not agree with it."

He looked at Neil and Leo's friends with a serious expression.

"Vale did not cheat or break any rules. He used his speed and strength, which are part of his abilities as a spellcaster. He did not need any spells or weapons to win the duel. He won fair and square."

He looked at Vale with a proud expression.

"Vale showed us that there is more than one way to fight as a Spellcaster. He showed you, or us, that there is more than one type of Dark Art in this world. Lastly, he may not have said it, but I can tell that his physique is born from a successful Dark Arts Ritual..."

He looked at the audience with an authoritative expression.

"He deserves our respect and admiration, not our doubt and criticism."

He stomped his feet on the ground, creating another loud sound that signaled the end of the discussion.

"The winner is still Vale Chambers!" He declared firmly.

The rest of the students clapped and cheered as they accepted Professor Cyrus' verdict.

Vale smiled and bowed again as he thanked Professor Cyrus. He also thanked Zara and Mark, as he knows that they've been discussing their verdict using their telepathy.

Now that it was settled, Professor Cyrus continued looking for his challengers.

The next one who volunteered was Warren Lawstein, his classmate in Class 2. Perhaps, Vale only had to worry about his Severe Ailment Spell that could inflict various diseases and conditions on the target, such as fever, nausea, paralysis, and more. As for the man's Ghost Hands, he knows that he could just ignore it.

In the battle, Vale even decided to get hit by the Severe Ailment Spell as he tried to see how much he would be affected by the Spell.

To his surprise, he only felt a slight discomfort in his body as he sensed Warren's Spell hitting him.

He shrugged it off easily... Perhaps it was due to his high Strength and Vitality or that he possessed an Advanced Realm Incorruptible Body.

'It seems that Intermediate Realm ailments or curses will no longer work on me...' Vale thought to himself as he saw Warren looking at him nervously.

This time, Vale didn't use his Spell once against him as he just dashed forward and grabbed his arm...

"I surrender..." he whimpered before Vale could do more damage to his arm.

Professor Cyrus sighed at this as he announced the victor once again.

'Warren isn't bad... He's even better than other second-year class' Student Representatives in the last 3 or 5 years. This Vale is just too strong...' Cyrus thought to himself, already considering which fourth-year students he would send to challenge Vale.

Anyway, the next second-year student to challenge Vale was Dalton Stranway. He was then followed by Philip Hoffman. Unsurprisingly, Vale also won the matches against them, giving the impression that Vale was truly undefeated.

There were still two students in Class 1 that were better than Philip in terms of Spell Mastery and Spirit Strands, but they decided not to participate, saying that they have nothing against Vale Chambers.

In the end, the last student to challenge Vale was Neil..

This surprised Aubrey and the others as they knew that Neil was avoiding any direct conflict or battle against Vale.

Neil would always find fault in Vale's actions, but that was it. This was the first time Neil had challenged Vale to a duel!

"Vale... I know this is a good chance, but make sure not to kill him." Chad suddenly said in a low voice.

As a matter of fact, Aubrey and Lisa had the same concern, as they didn't really want to see their friend killing a classmate.

After all, although they are in the Dark Arts Academy, they aren't evil people...

Seeing how his friends were looking at him, Vale helplessly smiled and nodded.

'Don't worry... I'm not going to kill him... I'll only make him unable to continue studying here.'
Vale added in his mind as he watched Neil getting on the stage.

He noticed that Neil didn't seem afraid even after he defeated the four top students in their batch. It was quite baffling, so Vale used his Spirit Vision to inspect him carefully.

After a few moments, he finally realized what was going on.

'Seriously... Is Celina behind this?' Vale thought to himself as he looked around to see if Celina was watching.

Chapter 339 Slipped Away

Vale was right.

He found Celina at the corner of the Assembly Hall, smirking at him. He wasn't sure when she appeared, but she seemed really satisfied.

'Is she happy because she thinks I'll be her Shadow Knight in the future?'

Vale vaguely guessed as he already had an idea of how Celina thinks of herself. Perhaps, she was feeling happy that her "future" Personal Shadow Knight was capable of winning against the top students of his batch.

As for the item she had given to Neil, it was probably a test for him... or perhaps, she really wanted him to be defeated by Neil so he could see the value of the Vermont Family.

Vale shook his head to erase his random thoughts as he stared at Neil.

Aside from the familiar Protector Amulet he was carrying, he still had three other Mystical Items on his body, making him threatening under normal circumstances.

The Assembly Hall buzzed with anticipation as Vale Chambers and Neil Sommerhalder stepped onto the stage. This will be the final duel, and everyone was excited to see the match and broaden their horizon.

Vale's unique fighting style truly opened their eyes. He seemed to be using support-type Spells that helped him boost his speed and strength, which was very uncommon among Spellcasters.

Watching his battle was always exciting as they gained insight into dealing with melee fighters like him.

'Is he not going to use his Spells again?' Professor Cyrus thought to himself as he saw Vale's preparations. In the end, he was also looking forward to how Vale would win now that Neil has several Mystical Items with him.

The crowd hushed as he raised his hand, signaling the start of the battle.

"Eat this!"

Neil wasted no time, his hand slashing through the air as he called upon the shadows to manifest his dark spells. He was using his bracelets to assist him with casting Spells...

Rotting Chains slithered from his fingertips, aiming to ensnare Vale and drain his vitality.

However, Vale was agile and nimble. He evaded the chains with graceful leaps and rolls. He relied on his keen reflexes and physical prowess to outmaneuver his opponent.

The crowd erupted into gasps and cheers as Vale showcased his acrobatic skills, narrowly dodging each ghastly chain.

This was really something they would never see in normal Spellcasters' duels.

With a flash of determination in his eyes, Vale closed the distance between them. His muscles tensed, and he launched himself at Neil, delivering powerful strikes and swift kicks. Vale's martial arts don't seem to be that good, but each of his strikes releases a powerful force.

That's right. Everyone could tell that Vale's kicking postures or close combat skills weren't at the level of a professional, but since he was strong and fast, his techniques didn't matter at all.

Neil struggled to defend himself, but since he was prepared for it, his other mystical item produced a Dark Barrier around him, protecting him from suffering severe injuries.

'Not good...!' Neil gritted his teeth as he realized that he couldn't properly access his Spell Models while being relentlessly attacked.

His spells faltered as Vale's assault pushed him to the brink. He couldn't cast his Ghastly Ailment and Spirit Hands as he focused on defending against Vale's onslaught!

The crowd watched in awe as the battle unfolded before them. Vale's fists and feet became a blur of motion, each strike landing with precision and impact.

The Assembly Hall reverberated with the sounds of their clash, echoing the fierce determination of their rivalry.

Crack... Crack... Crack...

Neil's defensive mystical items started being destroyed as Vale continued with his attacks!

'Y-you...!' Neil couldn't believe it.

Despite his possession of three Low-Grade Mystical Items, he found himself outmatched by Vale's sheer physicality and unwavering resolve.

'Just what kind of training did he do to reach this point?!' As he reached this thought, he felt his soul and everything in him being sucked!

As he was about to surrender, Vale delivered a final blow, a powerful roundhouse kick that sent him sprawling to the ground.

The Assembly Hall erupted into cheers and applause as Vale stood victorious, his chest heaving with exertion and triumph.

Professor Cyrus immediately stepped forward to declare Vale, the winner and checked Neil's condition.

'Tsk... Not good... I should've stopped the battle before that last kick landed...' Cyrus thought as he realized that Neil's condition was really bad.

He immediately called Zara to give Neil some first aid before sending him to the infirmary.

In the meantime, in the corner of the Assembly Hall, a first-year student almost fell to the ground after witnessing the result of the duel.

"No... it can't be! How is this happening?"

Celina's hands clenched into fists, her nails digging into her palms. The weight of her miscalculations bore down on her, and she struggled to maintain her composure. Just like that, three Noble Rank items in her collections were destroyed!

Her eyes darted around the Assembly Hall, searching for a glimmer of hope, a chance to salvage her wounded pride. But all she could see was Vale's triumph, his victory shining like a beacon in the sea of disappointment.

'I made a mistake... This Neil is too foolish... How can you be defeated by someone who's only using support-type Spells? Tsk...' Celina silently thought as she saw everyone congratulating Vale on his well-deserved win.

Her gaze narrowed, resentment burning within her. After a few moments, she started calming down.

'It's not my fault... Neil is just too weak.'

"This isn't over, Vale. You may have won this battle, but I'm far from finished."

As the crowd dispersed, Celina slipped away, her mind filled with a newfound determination. She would have to reassess her strategies and find new ways to assert her family's dominance.

The setback only fueled her desire for power and control.

With a steely resolve, Celina retreated into the shadows, plotting her next move.

The failed plan might have bruised her ego, but it had also ignited a fire within her, a burning ambition to prove her family's might and secure Vale as her Personal Shadow Knight.

Chapter 340 Fundamentals

After getting back to his dormitory, Vale checked his current Attributes.

[Name: Kyle Marshall]

[Attributes: Strength 70.35, Agility 68.25, Intelligence 100, Vitality 68.40]

[Dark Arts: Spell Dispersion Lv7, Ghost Hand Lv7, Incorruptible Body Lv8, Darkness Manipulation Lv7, Spirit Vision Lv4, Light Absorption Lv6, Create Shadow Soldier Lv7, Cursed Breath Lv4, Moonlight Curse Lv7, Darkness Coil Lv4, Spectral Hands Lv4, Corrupted Chains Lv4, Dead Heart Lv4, Active Curse Break Lv4, Dusk Imprisonment Lv4]

[Holy Arts: Divine Sense Lv7, Blessed Healing Lv4]

[Celestial Arts: Call of the Divine Lightning Lv4, Shadow Mutilation Lv6]

[Summoning Art: Grimoire Attraction Lv6]

[Transformation Art: Human Shapeshift Lv7, Beast Shapeshift Lv4, Voice Manipulation Lv4]

[Martial Art: Meridian Access Lv7]

[Mystic Arts: Arcane Armor Lv6, Soul Bind Lv2]

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

[Available Energy: 1168]

[Available Divinity: 2797.80]

He had to use 384 Energy Points to upgrade his Moonlight Curse from Level 6 to Level 7.

As for the other missing Energy Points, he used them to upgrade those level 0 to level 4, so he doesn't have any level 0 Spells in his Spell Models anymore. With regards to Neil's Spell Models, Vale didn't bother keeping them at all. Aside from the Energy Points and Attribute Points, he discarded everything from him.

He then upgraded his Arcane Armor to Level 7 since this was really a useful Spell.

After feeling satisfied, Vale even forgot to even change his clothes as he fell asleep with his uniform on.

The next morning, Vale started the day with an early morning class, Ethical Spellcasting, taught by Assistant Professor Machley. The class focused on the responsible and ethical use of Arcane, delving into the history of magical mishaps and the importance of considering the consequences of their spells.

Vale really liked this class as it would always remind him that all Spells that are recorded in their bodies don't just give power. The Spells they are using have negative effects.

It may not show up in the first three or five years, but the Spells could affect the minds of the casters depending on their chosen path.

This is why some old Rogue Arcanists could be so extreme with their title, whether they are Runecaster, Elementalists, Priests, Beastmaster, or others.

Today, Vale learned that most of the Tier 3 Dark Arts weren't being learned, not because they are very difficult to learn but because the negative effects may be too much for the Arcanist...

"Professor, what should we do if we want to safely learn Tier 3 Dark Arts?" Lisa asked curiously. The rest of the class had the same question, so they looked at their Professor expectantly.

"That answer is simple, but you may not have a chance to do it.." Machley answered with a smile.

Lisa squinted her eyes as she realized what she was trying to say. "Will it be very expensive?" She asked.

Assistant Professor Machley nodded at this and replied. "To safely learn a Tier 3 Dark Arts, you need a stronger version of the Darkness Possession. That way, the negative effects of the Spell Model could be neutralized by your physique."

She paused for a moment to look at their surprised expression before continuing. "I won't be suggesting you do that if you're not prepared since the second Potion of the Darkness Possession would be deadlier than the previous. Furthermore, the Dark Alchemist, who could make this potion, could only produce about 3 or 4 potions per year, and the large clans are currently monopolizing this potion."

"You might have to consider working for them if you want to get a chance to Record Tier 3 Spell Models. In any case, once you work for them, they can also freely remove your unneeded Spell Models if you want them changed. It isn't that bad working for the families that had started the Dark Arts Faction." Assistant Professor Machley said with a gentle smile on her face as she continued on with the class.

However, Vale couldn't help but raise his brows after hearing the Assistant Professor's suggestion to her students.

'Why does it feel like she's recommending us to work for these families?' Vale thought to himself. Lisa also had the same expression as they couldn't help but look at each other.

Nevertheless, they just went silent and listened to the class.

'Professor Machley was probably working for these noble families. I wonder if she has a Tier 3 Dark Spell I can extract...' Vale thought.

Of course, he wasn't serious about this intrusive thought but simply curious about her.

As the class continued, Vale learned a few more things about the ethical way of using Arcane Arts.

He was at least learning a lot in the Academy, so his resolve to disappear after he got back his Shadow was starting to weaken.

During lunchtime, Vale met up with his classmates, Lisa Grayback, Aubrey Hall, and Chad Bulmung, at the Academy's courtyard. Today, they decided to eat in this place instead of the crowded Cafeteria.

They shared stories about their club activities, discussing the latest news they read in the Academy Publication and exchanging tips on studying for upcoming exams.

This time, Vale realized that many things were going on in the Academy.

The Library Committee was planning to have an event in the Library called Summer Reading Challenge.

The Sixth-Year students were also preparing to head to the yearly Twelve Academy Competitions, and according to the news, the Arts Academy was expected to be in the bottom three, together with the Psychic Arts and Transformation Arts Academies.

sixth-year students of this batch weren't that impressive. The Dark Arts Academy was expected to be in the bottom three, together with the Psychic Arts and Transformation Arts Academies.

Chad also shared that the Dark Soul Tower of the Academy seemed to have a huge activity over the past few days, but he wasn't sure what was going on there.

On the next day, Vale attended Introductory Alchemy, led by Professor Zach Everette... That's right. He was the Captain of the Order of the Vessel's Alchemy Division, and there was no way Vale would forget this guy.

Vale was a bit surprised, but since Zach was indeed a Dark Alchemist, he certainly deserved to be teaching.

"Good morning, class! Welcome to Introductory Alchemy. I will be replacing Professor Harrison for a few weeks. I'm Zach Everette... Call me Professor Everette." The Professor gently smiled as he introduced himself.

"Today, we'll be diving into the world of potion-making. Alchemy isn't just magic. It is an art and science where precise measurements and careful mixing can create extraordinary results. Let's begin, shall we?"

The class nodded in anticipation, eager to learn alchemy from this new Professor.

"Our first potion for today will be something similar to the Healing Elixir of the Holy Arts Faction, called Second Breathe Potion. It is a fundamental potion with mild healing properties. This potion can mend minor wounds, alleviate pain, and promote overall well-being. But remember, accuracy in measurements and the proper sequence of ingredient additions are crucial."