

D. Extraction 371

Chapter 371 Shift

Vale's grip tightened on his weapon, his heart pounding with uncertainty.

He could tell that this new opponent was unlike the second-rate Arcanists he had easily knocked out just now. He had to take this seriously.

"Who are you? What do you want?" Vale replied with a steady voice while observing the man who had suddenly appeared.

The man exuded an aura of power and darkness, standing tall and imposing.

Although the Divine Sense couldn't tell his Arcane Path, Vale did not doubt that this person was a Dark Arts Practitioner.

The stranger had a lean and muscular build, his frame honed through rigorous training and battles fought. His jet-black hair was slicked back, accentuating his sharp features.

'A necromancer?' Vale guessed.

The man was dressed in a dark, form-fitting attire and flowing coat that billowed around him... This kind of appearance perfectly aligned with the Necromancers he had seen in the Archive's Recording Crystals.

Furthermore, the man had no visible weapons.

Perhaps, his Mystical Items were those intricate silver rings on his hands.

At this time, Gene and the other Third-Class Arcanists on board dared not to intervene as they could tell that they were no match against this person. They just signaled to Vale that they would prioritize saving the passengers.

'Hold on... Young Arcanist! We will soon dock in the nearest town! The police would catch these criminals once we landed!' Gene said, using his telepathy before he ran away back to the cabin.

Vale just ignored the Vice Captain as he couldn't help but feel a sense of unease as he assessed the stranger's appearance. Furthermore, he could tell that the Airship was not descending at all!

The Captain of the Ship might even be dead by now, or he was also an accomplice from the start.

Suddenly, the stranger's voice cut through the tension.

"You've proven yourself capable, young man. But I assure you, my power surpasses your wildest imagination. Just stay still and let me seal your soul. Once you wake up, you'll be back in the Academy... You'll forget what happened here, and you'll not be hurt."

'What?' Vale was a bit shocked as the man's words were scarier than he thought.

"You want to seal my soul? You're indeed a Necromancer. Are you working for that girl behind me?" Vale asked as he circulated his Dark Energy and readied himself to release his Planar Spells.

He wouldn't hold back this time.

The stranger's smile widened, his eyes glinting with a malevolent gleam. "Oh, who knows... I'm no one special, young man. Hmm... It seems that you don't want to make this easy. But I have another proposition for you. Join my Organization... I'll have a way to replace the shadow that was taken by your Headmaster. If you join me, you will no longer need to attend the Academy, and my Organization will teach you everything you want to learn. You will also have a lot of freedom in the process, so you don't have to worry about being confined."

"What?!"

Celina exclaimed. However, she immediately realized what she had done and covered her mouth with her hands.

It seemed that the second offer the man had given wasn't part of their agreement. Vale couldn't help but smile at his situation.

Vale's resolve hardened, his eyes narrowing with determination.

There was no point continuing this conversation...

"Dream on..." Vale declared as he summoned his Ghost Hands to shift the man's attention.

The stranger's smile faded, replaced by a cold, calculating expression. "Very well, Vale. If that's your choice, then prepare yourself. The real battle begins now."

As he said this, he looked at the three Ghost Hands and summoned three Vengeful Spirits to catch them... He then continued summoning ten or so White Ghost Servants to protect him from all directions.

Vale didn't think too much of this since, at the same time, he activated his Planar Spell.

Shadow Mutilation.

This Spell was then covered with another Dark Spell, Darkness Manipulation! With this layered Spell, Vale believed that the Necromancer would not realize that what he was targeting was his shadow!

In an instant, darkness coalesced around the man, swirling and twisting like malevolent spirits.

Then, the Darkness took the form of razor-sharp tendrils that aimed to sever the man's shadow, bringing about his demise.

Vale did not stop after casting three of his Spells. He could tell that the man could stop his Darkness Manipulation's attack. So, with nimble movements, he lunged forward, his Stormbringer Sword gleaming with deadly intent.

He aimed a precise strike, intending to cut off the man's shadow and end the battle.

Whoosh~

It was successful! He cut it!

However, to his surprise, the man did not scream in pain!

As he looked back, he realized that his opponent remained standing, seemingly unaffected.

Instead, it was his White Ghost Servant who crumbled to the ground...

The man's voice dripped with amusement, "Impressive... I didn't expect your sword to actually injure me just by hitting my shadow. What a peculiar sword... But you've underestimated me, young man. My Ghost Servants here will protect me. My powers extend beyond the realm of shadows."

Vale's eyes widened in realization, he didn't expect that the man could survive by using this kind of technique.

The man then launched his attack. He was indeed a master of death and dark arts, capable of summoning an army of undead!

Without hesitation, the man revealed his Necromancy. He raised his hands, summoning Death Knights, Zombies, and Skeleton Warriors to his side. The deck of the Airship became overrun with the chilling presence of his undead minions.

Vale knew he had to act swiftly, but he couldn't use his Blessed Water since they weren't enough to deal with these undead... His Divine Lightning would also destroy the Airship, so he couldn't use it.

'I should've extracted better Holy Arts...' Vale thought as he didn't expect that he'd fight against a Necromancer. His Dark Spells weren't good against them.

Having no time to think, Vale used his sword technique, Shadowblade Dance... It allowed him to move with unparalleled agility and strike multiple foes simultaneously.

He engaged in a fierce dance, his sword slashing through the undead with precision and grace.

He was tempted to reveal the real power of his sword. However, he changed his mind as an idea popped into his mind. He would aim for the Necromancer's items!

"Traceless Shift..."

Chapter 372 Death Knight

Vale tapped into the arcane energy within him, activating his Spell, Traceless Shift.

This ability granted him the power to manipulate the dimensional fabric around targeted items, allowing him to bring them to himself.

Vale took this Spell from an Evil Creature, and up until now, he couldn't fathom this mysterious Spell's principles. He only knew why it worked, but he had no idea how it was doing it.

Whom~

In an instant, Vale's hand reached out towards the Necromancer's Magic Robe, an artifact that enhanced the Necromancer's abilities, and the Mystical Rings that granted him additional powers. Through the manipulation of dimensions, Vale successfully extracted these items, weakening the Necromancer's capability and leaving him vulnerable.

After his Traceless Shift reached the Advanced Realm, it could now 'shift' multiple items at the same time!

As the Necromancer's items were whisked away, the balance of power shifted. Some of the Death Knights under the Necromancer's control were suddenly released, their connection to the dark magic severed.

The Necromancer was confused by his sudden disconnection with some of his summoned Undead, but it didn't take long before he realized what Vale had done.

The Necromancer's eyes widened in shock and fury as he realized the loss of his mystical items. His voice trembled with anger... "You dare steal from me? You will pay for this!"

This wasn't the first time he had encountered someone who was capable of stealing items since there were Mystic Arts Practitioners who could also do something similar. However, this was undoubtedly the first time someone succeeded in stealing something from him!

Unfazed by the Necromancer's threats, Vale stood his ground, the stolen Magic Robe and Mystical Rings in his possession. "Let's see what you can do without these artifacts..."

Vale muttered as he realized that 6 out of 18 Undead Beings had turned against their summoner!

In an instant, Vale gained some helpers!

It turns out that the man can only summon 12 Undead Beings without those artifacts.

'Watching those Battle Recordings was worth it...' Vale thought as he was aware that Undead Beings summoned by Necromancers wouldn't just disappear if they got weakened.

They would only vanish if the summoning Spell itself was canceled. In this case, the sudden disconnection of the Necromancer's artifacts had severed their connection, leaving the Undead Beings without guidance.

Of course, the battle was still not easy.

Vale fought with determination to extract the Necromancer alive! He no longer planned to kill him off so quickly!

He commanded Yvaine to stash away the Mystical Items he had stolen before charging forward, striking down the remaining undead minions and pressing the offensive against the enraged Necromancer.

During this time, Vale didn't get too close to the uncontrolled Undead Beings since they might also attack him.

Instead, he circled around them and fought against the Zombies and Skeleton Warriors.

"Hmph! I still have 3 Death Knights on me..." The Necromancer said as he cast another Spell on himself.

Bone Armor!

"Come, young man!" the Necromancer taunted, his voice laced with arrogance.

He only lost control of 2 Death Knights, 2 Shield Zombies, and 2 Skeleton Warriors. It wasn't a big deal for him.

Vale pressed forward, striking down the remaining undead minions with his Stormbringer Sword. His movements were swift and precise, his strikes calculated to weaken the Necromancer's forces.

'Just stay there, Necromancer... I'll deal with you once these Undead are done.' Vale thought as he ignored the Necromancer for now.

Although it was a common strategy to attack the Summoners first instead of the Summoned Beings, Vale knew that these Necromancers had Dark Spells that could keep them alive for a long duration.

With that in mind, he decided to target the Undead Beings to let the Necromancer spend more Dark Energy in the process!

Clang! Clang! Clang!

The battle intensified with clashes between Vale, the Zombies, and Skeleton Warriors. Though the Necromancer had lost control of some undead, Vale knew he had to cut down their numbers further.

Each swing of Vale's blade carried the weight of half of his physical strength and sword technique, but to his surprise, they weren't being crushed so easily!

'They're stronger than I expected...' Vale thought as his respect for the Necromancers grew slightly. He thought that these Zombies wouldn't be so powerful!

Vale had no choice but to use his whole Strength and Agility in the process...

However, it wouldn't be easy...

One of the Death Knights finally caught him!

The Death Knight lunged forward with a powerful swing of its massive sword.

'Hmm?'

Vale's reflexes kicked in, and he swiftly evaded the attack, narrowly escaping the deadly blade.

In response, he retaliated with a series of quick strikes, aiming for the gaps in the Death Knight's armor.

His Shadowblade Dance technique came into play, allowing him to move with unparalleled agility. He darted in and out, launching precise and calculated attacks.

The clash of steel echoed across the deck of the Airship as Vale and the Death Knight engaged in a fierce duel.

The Death Knight's movements were heavy and relentless, its strikes fueled by a deathly aura.

On the other hand, Vale relied on his nimble footwork and quick reflexes to evade the brute force of the undead warrior. It was a battle of finesse versus raw power.

Luckily, his Incorruptible Body was already Level 9, so the Deathly Aura and Corruption Energy that were trying to seep into his body were being negated.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Despite Vale's skill and determination, the Death Knight proved to be a formidable opponent.

Its unholy strength and resilience pushed Vale to his limits.

'So strong? What if I'm fighting against three or five Death Knights?! I'd probably have no other choice but to use the Stormbringer's real power or use my Divine Lightning...' Vale mused as he realized that they are tougher than the ones in the Dark Soul Tower.

The clash of their weapons sent sparks flying, each strike resonating with a force that shook the airship's deck.

Nevertheless, he knew that prolonging the fight would serve a dual purpose. Not only would it give him an opportunity to gather more information about the Necromancer's abilities, but it would also force the Necromancer to expend more dark energy to maintain control over his forces.

With this strategy in mind, Vale deliberately made the fight more challenging. He feigned vulnerability, allowing the Death Knight to land a few grazing blows, all the while observing the Necromancer's reactions.

The exertion on the Necromancer's face was evident as he struggled to maintain control over his undead minions.

'So it's like this...'

As the battle raged on, Vale's determination remained unyielding. He used this as an opportunity to increase his mastery in his Shadowblade Dance and keep the Death Knight at bay.

Chapter 373 Extracted

Vale soon realized that the Necromancer's Dark Energy had dwindled significantly.

It was because his Divine Sense could now pass through his defenses! It gave him feedback that stunned him a bit.

Dark Arts Practitioner with 10 filled Spell Lights.

The man had fewer Spells than he thought!

'It feels as if he had at least 13 or 15 Spell Lights...' Vale commented in his mind. 'I guess I have to end this now...'

Summoning all of his remaining strength, he unleashed a flurry of attacks, striking with precision and speed on the Death Knight's body.

The Death Knight, caught off guard by Vale's renewed vigor, faltered for a split second.

It was the opening Vale needed.

With one final, decisive strike, Vale's Stormbringer flashed with a lightning bolt before it found its mark, decapitating the Undead.

Vale only unleashed a fraction of the Stormbringer's power, but it was extremely effective against the Undead!

Bam!

The Death Knight crumbled to the ground, its dark energy dissipating into the air. The battle was won, but the fight against the Necromancer was far from over.

Vale stood, panting and with several beads of sweat on his body. However, he wasn't that tired.

He cast a determined gaze towards the Necromancer, his eyes filled with a burning resolve.

"Impossible..."

The Necromancer clenched his fist tightly as he realized that even after sending the Death Knight plenty of Dark Energy, it wasn't enough to defeat the student!

At this time, he realized that Vale was hiding a deep secret. Then, an idea came into his mind.

"You... You're not a student! You must be a trained spy sent by the Association... I can't be wrong! Killing you here would be my greatest contribution to the Faction."

The Necromancer shouted some rubbish words, but Vale ignored him once again as he shifted his attention to the remaining Undead.

With a stomp, he charged to eliminate them!

Boom!

As Vale swiftly dispatched the remaining Undead, including those who had lost control, he made a conscious decision not to extract their memory fragments.

After all, he would be vulnerable for a brief moment if he accepted the Memory Fragments of the Undead. He had no choice but to focus solely on eliminating the threat they posed.

The Necromancer, witnessing the destruction of his forces, felt a wave of shock wash over him. He had underestimated Vale's strength and resourcefulness.

"That sword can attack my shadow and spark with Lightning from time to time... It must be a Royal Rank item. A student like him can't possess that sword unless a huge organization is backing him. Tsk... Celina targeted a spy this time..."

Thud!

As the last Undead crumbled, Vale prepared himself for the final confrontation.

The surrounding air turned heavy as the Dark Energy around the airship thickened.

The Necromancer summoned all his power, pushing his Bone Armor to its limits and unleashing a barrage of Dark Spells.

However, he realized that Vale's Spell Disrupting Technique was activated once again! For some reason, all the Dark Spells aimed at Vale were destroyed!

This includes his attempt to secretly summon a Skeletal Mage!

It was such a blunder since he lost his attempt, and he had to wait for another 3 minutes to summon the Skeletal Mage!

"This is bad..." The Necromancer gritted his teeth as he faced Vale's attack.

Vale attacked him with his sword, but luckily, the Bone Armor was strong enough that it wasn't disrupted instantly.

"Hmm?" Vale raised his brow as he realized that his Spell Dispersion could not entirely dispel the Bone Armor. It seemed that he had to cast a focused Spell Dispersion to remove it.

The Necromancer then used a part of the Bone Armor as his staff to deal with Vale's onslaught temporarily.

With each clash of their weapons, Vale pressed forward, his movements fluid and precise. He skillfully evaded the Necromancer's attacks, countering with calculated strikes of his own.

The Necromancer, growing desperate, could sense his control slipping away.

Nevertheless, he wasn't too afraid of Vale's lightning sword or capability to cut his shadow, so he wasn't panicking. He was even relieved that Vale was fighting in close combat as he felt he could corrupt Vale slowly while staying within his 3-meter range.

Unbeknownst to the Necromancer, Vale had a secret weapon up his sleeve.

The moment Vale got closer, he immediately found an opportunity to touch him and activated his Divine Extraction System.

The moment his hand made contact with the Necromancer's body, a surge of energy coursed through his veins.

The Necromancer felt his strength wane as if his very soul was being drained away.

"W-what are you doing?!"

The realization struck the Necromancer like a bolt of lightning.

He had fallen into Vale's trap, unaware of the true extent of his opponent's abilities. Panic and fear flashed across his face as he struggled to comprehend what was happening.

"Soul Drain?! Impossible..." Even for an old Necromancer like him, Soul Drain required certain conditions, and one of them was being in complete focus without any distraction. He even had to prepare some ritual items to maintain his concentration for a prolonged period just to cast the Soul Drain Spell!

However, it seemed that Vale could do it almost instantly!

Of course, Vale liked the idea that the man thought that he was using a Soul Drain Spell instead of his Extraction System.

The Divine Extraction System worked its magic, siphoning the Necromancer's essence, weakening him further with each passing moment. The once powerful sorcerer was reduced to a mere shell of his former self, his dark powers fading away.

"You thought you could seal my Soul, look at you now..." Vale spoke with a voice filled with quiet resolve as he checked the notifications he got.

[Extraction Successful. Energy +50]

[Extraction Successful. Strength +0.25]

[Extraction Successful. Agility +0.15]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Corpse Explosion Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Incomplete Spell Light + 1]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Feign Death Spell Model]

[Extraction Successful. Incomplete Spell Light + 1]

[Extraction Successful. Complete Locate Corpse Spell Model]

[Extraction Failed.]

[Extraction Failed.]

[Extraction Successful. Energy +10]

[Extraction Failed.]

Chapter 374 Spell Replacements

After the Necromancer breathed his last, Vale took a moment to catch his breath, his gaze steady as he surveyed the aftermath of the battle.

He could no longer see Celina, but he didn't care about her for now. In any case, he would still see her in the Academy or elsewhere.

As he checked the notification once again, Vale couldn't help but smile as he saw the three Spell Models he had just extracted.

It must've been painful for the guy since he didn't control the extraction to weaken the pain he'd receive from having his Spell Model sucked out.

'Let's see...' Vale mused as he considered which of his current Spell Models would be replaced by the three new ones.

Without a doubt, he wanted all of the three new Spells, but he didn't have the Spell Light needed.

He only had 1 Vacant Spell Light and 3 Incomplete Spell Lights, so he needed one more to get a second Spell Light.

However, he didn't like the idea of having no Vacant Spell Light, so he decided to remove three undeserving Spell Lights from his collection.

The Corpse Explosion was a decent Spell since this was probably the safest way to destroy evidence. Furthermore, there wouldn't be a need to use an Incinerator or Sealing Technique to ensure that no Evil Spirit could possess the corpses that he might encounter someday.

The Feign Death Spell, on the other hand, was a better version of the Dead Heart Spell, so there was no doubt that Vale would save this Spell.

As for the Locate Corpse Spell, this was something that he really wanted as it might get easier for him to find corpses outside the Academy.

'Hmm... This is quite tough.' Vale silently thought as he decided to accept the Spells.

He removed his Cursed Breath for the Corpse Explosion, the Dead Heart for the Feign Death, and the Darkness Coil for the Locate Corpse...

He wasn't using the Cursed Breath, and the Darkness Coil wasn't that effective since he already had Dusk Imprisonment.

Then, he double-checked if there were still criminals on board that he hadn't extracted yet. He used his Ghost Hands to check them individually, and after less than five minutes, he felt satisfied and checked his current Attributes.

[Name: Kyle Marshall]

[Attributes: Strength 82.55, Agility 79.95, Intelligence 100, Vitality 78.80]

[Dark Arts: Spell Dispersion Lv7, Ghost Hand Lv7, Incorruptible Body Lv9, Darkness Manipulation Lv7, Spirit Vision Lv6, Light Absorption Lv7, Create Shadow Soldier Lv7, Moonlight Curse Lv7, Spectral Hands Lv4, Corrupted Chains Lv4, Active Curse Break Lv4, Dusk Imprisonment Lv4, Corpse Explosion Lv0, Feign Death Lv0, Locate Corpse Lv0]

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

[Celestial Arts: Call of the Divine Lightning Lv7, Shadow Mutilation Lv7]

[Summoning Art: Grimoire Attraction Lv6]

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

[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: 8,390]

[Divinity Points: 1982.3]

"Hmm... Now that I think about it, I didn't get any Memory Fragments from these guys. Is it because they're not in the Dark Soul Tower?" Vale muttered as he felt that it was such a waste.

If he could get their Memory Fragments, he could easily accuse Celina of being the mastermind of this attack. After all, those memories would leave him some clues about any physical evidence they've left behind.

In the end, he could only bring these people to the Faction for autopsy or any investigation to find out which organization they came from.

After the airship landed in the nearby town, a squad of the Order of the Evanescent Vessels awaited Vale and others.

The Vessels listened attentively as Vale and Vice Captain Gene recounted the harrowing ambush they had faced.

Furthermore, they confirmed that it wasn't just Celina who went missing but also the Captain of the Airship!

As Vale had previously thought, the Captain was part of this.

The Vessels could only promise to conduct an investigation and assured Vale they would leave no stone unturned in their pursuit of justice.

They assured him they would look for Celina and save her from her kidnappers.

'Seriously?' Vale couldn't help but shake his head as they concluded that Celina was a victim of this crime. Anyway, he couldn't really say otherwise since Celina was still part of the Vermont Family. He couldn't just pin the crime on her, or he might be the one to suffer.

Vale didn't want to stay here any further, so he decided to just board another airship heading back to the Academy.

Returning to the Academy, Vale wasted no time in seeking out the Headmaster. He felt a sense of urgency in relaying the events that had transpired on the airship.

While traveling back, he had a bad feeling that Celina wouldn't stop just yet. That problematic girl really wanted him to be her Personal Shadow Knight!

'She might even be starting a ritual to curse me... I need to hurry.' Vale thought.

Although he had an Active Curse Break, Incorruptible Body, and Spell Dispersion, he still felt the need of informing the Headmaster just in case.

With a determined gaze, he recounted the battle, the defeat of the Necromancer, and Celina's disappearance while he was in combat.

Headmaster Jean listened attentively, his expression grave with concern. According to the description Vale had given, the person he had killed might be the Silver Class Necromancer of the Vermont Family, Bone Fletcher.

Jean sighed at this as he realized that this matter might actually be serious.

Nevertheless, he still assured Vale that he would personally oversee the investigation and consult with the Vermont Family regarding the matter.

"For now, Vale, I must insist that you remain within the Academy grounds while I finish my investigation." Headmaster Jean said firmly.

Vale nodded, understanding the gravity of the situation.

Days turned into weeks as the investigation unfolded.

Vale could tell that there was already a result in the investigation, but it seemed that the result wasn't planned to be reported back to him.

It was only after a month before Headmaster Jean decided to disclose the result of their investigation to him.

Chapter 375 Puzzled

"Vale, I have received the results of the investigation." Headmaster Jean began, his voice steady but tinged with seriousness. "The person you encountered on the airship was indeed Bone Fletcher, the Silver Class Necromancer of the Vermont Family."

It was the first time Vale had heard this name, so he didn't think too much of it. As for the Necromancer being part of the Vermont Family, it didn't surprise him a bit.

'If this guy was famous, I could probably sell his items in an auction to earn a lot of money.' Vale mused.

"While Bone Fletcher's actions were undoubtedly heinous, it seems that he had acted on his own accord, without the knowledge or approval of the Vermont Family." Headmaster Jean continued, his voice filled with a mix of relief and concern. "The family has expressed their deepest apologies for the actions of their rogue member. They were glad that you've eliminated him."

Vale nodded as he looked at the Headmaster's expression. It seems that he still wanted to say something, but he was hesitating.

This was quite rare, so Vale couldn't help but ask.

"Is there anything else, Headmaster?"

Realizing that Vale had noticed something, Headmaster Jean could only sigh and reveal another matter.

"Morgan Vermont seemed thankful for your contribution, and he wanted to meet you. He invited you to visit the Vermont Castle."

Vale didn't hesitate as he answered immediately. "No, thanks... I mean—He doesn't have to thank me. I'll be busy since I missed a couple of days in my classes."

There was no way Vale would want to be alone with that legendary figure of the Dark Arts Faction.

The old man had so many legendary feats over the many decades he had been alive. Their history class had covered most of his achievements, and even up until their third year, they were still studying some of his achievements in the past.

Vale could only think that this person was already a Grandmaster Arcanist in secret. It means that he was dangerous!

Seeing how Vale immediately rejected the idea, Headmaster Jean couldn't help but chuckle as he had already guessed how Vale would react to this.

"Alright..."

Headmaster Jean understood Vale's thoughts and respected his decision not to meet with Morgan Vermont.

He knew the weight of such a meeting and the potential dangers that could arise. With a nod, he acknowledged Vale's response.

Jean had to do his best to cancel this meeting or at least delay it for years.

"I understand, Vale... Leave it to me. However, you can't leave the Academy for the rest of the year." The Headmaster said.

Vale hesitated for a moment before he nodded.

"I can do that..."

"Good. Your studies and your safety are of utmost importance. Just focus on your classes and aim for the number one spot for the Competition's participating students in your batch..."

"Yes, Headmaster."

Vale felt a sense of relief knowing that the Headmaster supported his decision. The thought of being in the presence of such a renowned figure in the Dark Arts Faction was both intimidating and unsettling. He preferred to keep his distance and concentrate on honing his skills within the familiar grounds of the Academy.

He still doesn't know many things about Arcane Paths, and his system may not save him if Morgan decides to do something about him.

Days turned into weeks as Vale immersed himself in his studies and training. He attended classes diligently, absorbing knowledge from his professors and refining his mystical abilities.

As for Celina, she had appeared in the Academy once again after two months, telling everyone that she was sick and had been taken by her family to recuperate.

Of course, Vale confronted her about the incident they faced, but he realized that Celina had wholly changed. She had even forgotten about the incident in the Airship and her desire to make him her Personal Shadow Knight.

'This is too suspicious... It's a good thing I didn't meet Morgan...' Vale thought as he felt that his ESP Spell had truly saved him this time.

It was as if he was meeting a different Celina!

It might be an act to fool him, but there was a higher chance that something happened to Celina. After all, her reckless action brought the demise of a powerful Silver Class Necromancer. This could also be a punishment for her previous actions.

Vale could not be bothered about this, so he just ignored her for now and focused on his studies.

His routine of daily life in the Academy provided a sense of stability amidst the uncertainty that loomed outside its protective walls.

During this time, Vale's friendships with his classmates had also deepened, and they supported one another through rigorous training sessions in the Ceremony Hall and Training Hall. Furthermore, they also studied together when solving challenging assignments their Professors gave.

Outside of classes, Vale continued his search for the Planar Spells, the Golden Spell Lights, and other Arcane Paths, especially the Psychic Path. He always visited the libraries, consulted ancient tomes, and delved deeper into the mysteries of Arcane Arts.

Though progress was slow, Vale remained determined to learn as much as possible while still in the Academy.

As time passed, Vale's skills grew, and he became more adept at handling his Magic Zone. His dedication and perseverance did not go unnoticed by his professors, who saw great potential in him.

Vale's effort finally bore fruit in the fifth month of the third-year class.

During the morning class, Vale heard Professor Zara announce the names of the students recommended to consume the second Darkness Possession Potion.

He had been eagerly waiting for this moment, knowing that the potion would enhance his Phantasm State's abilities and strengthen his magical prowess. With this second potion, he believed that he would be able to stop his nightmare!

However, as the names were called, Class 2 was surprised to hear Lisa Grayback's name among the chosen few.

The first batch was actually Vale Chambers, Leonore Roland, and Lisa Grayback!

Lisa, a quiet and reserved student, had always been underestimated by other students in the class because of her background. The news of her inclusion in the group to consume the second potion caught most of the class off guard.

Whispers filled the classroom as some of their classmates exchanged surprised glances. Warren Lawstein, known for his exceptional control over Dark Spells, and Dalton Stranway, whose Magic Zone had already exceeded 24 meters, were expected choices.

The fact that Lisa was selected instead left many puzzled.

Chapter 376 Stumble

Vale couldn't help but feel a sense of admiration for Lisa. He had witnessed her dedication and hard work in their training sessions. She possessed a strong determination to learn, and he believed that she deserved this opportunity to further enhance her abilities...

As the class settled down, Professor Zara addressed the students, sensing their curiosity and surprise.

"I understand that some of you might be surprised to see Lisa among the chosen few." Professor Zara began, her voice calm and reassuring. "But let me assure you that the decision was made based on careful consideration of each student's potential and progress."

She went on to explain the unique qualities Lisa possessed, her unwavering focus, and the significant strides she had made in her Dark Arts, especially in her Magic Zone's 2nd Phase. Furthermore, Lisa's Life Strand had increased a lot and this would ensure her survival.

Professor Zara further emphasized that the Second Darkness Possession Potion would not be wasted as it would surely amplify Lisa's strengths and enable her to reach new heights in her Dark Arts Mastery.

The class listened intently, their initial surprise gradually turning into acceptance, and some of them decided to just support Lisa. In any case, with their pitiful 4 or 5 Life Strands, they certainly couldn't compare to Lisa.

Chad Bulmung, a boisterous and outgoing classmate, couldn't contain his excitement. He leaned toward Audrey Hall, another close friend of Lisa, and whispered... "Lisa made it! I win! I always knew she had it in her!"

Audrey nodded." Yeah... I know she's talented but I thought it'll take a year or two. Tsk... Dalton and Warren were probably lazing around..."

As she said this, she handed over a small object to Chad. It seemed that these two were aware of this event and had bet on who would be selected to consume their Second Darkness Possession Potion.

Audrey had obviously lost and paid something to Chad.

Vale noticed the two's transaction but he just shook his head at their playful behavior and congratulated Lisa.

In any case, he couldn't help but feel a surge of joy as well. He remembered the countless hours Lisa had spent practicing and refining her Dark Arts in the Ceremony Hall.

'I hope this Second Potion won't be as deadly as before.' Vale mused. He hoped for this not just for Lisa but also for himself.

After all, the Darkness Possession they'll consume this time wasn't the same as the first one. The concentration would be higher and would have a stronger effect on their bodies.

In the meantime, Lisa was also overwhelmed by the support, but she was too shy to receive their praise and congratulations, so she just went silent and lowered her head.

As the classroom settled down, Professor Zara explained that the consumption of the potion would happen at the Ceremony Hall after the class.

The next classes passed quickly as Vale, Lisa, and Leonore followed Professor Zara to the Ceremony Hall to receive their potion.

As they walked through the hallway, excitement and anticipation filled the air.

The Ceremony Hall loomed before them, its towering doors beckoning them inside.

Vale couldn't help but feel that something had changed in the Ceremony Hall. It seemed that the Professors had prepared it as the Dark Energy around the Hall had gotten stronger or more concentrated.

As they rounded a corner, Vale caught sight of the other group of students from Class 3, led by their own professor, Professor Lucius. Vale recognized Leo Blaze, but had no idea about the names of the other two.

Leo Blaze, known for his arrogant demeanor, met Vale's gaze with a challenging smirk.

'What do you want this time?' Vale thought as his jaw tightened, his protective instincts kicking in.

Lisa was also taken aback by this man's presence as she worriedly looked at Vale. Without being told, she knew that Leo had a different idea about her friendship with Vale.

She could tell that Leo would want to mess with Vale because of their closeness. It was such a stupid reason, but Lisa could do nothing about it.

'This...'

However, before any confrontation could escalate, Leo stumbled and bumped into Vale after getting closer, causing him to lose his balance.

Vale's initial reaction was one of anger and frustration, but he quickly realized what Leo was thinking.

Taking a deep breath, Vale steadied himself, refusing to give Leo the satisfaction of a reaction. Instead, he met Leo's eyes with a calm and composed expression.

"Watch where you're going..." Vale said firmly, his voice devoid of aggression.

Leo, stunned by Vale's measured response, quickly recovered and offered an apologetic smile. "My bad, man. I didn't mean to bump into you. Just got caught up in the excitement, you know?"

As he said this, he looked at Lisa behind Vale. Initially, he thought of angering Vale as he wanted to show Lisa about his real personality.

However, Vale handled it well, and it frustrates him.

Vale nodded, accepting the apology. "No worries. Just be more careful next time."

The Professors didn't mind their exchange as Professor Zara informed Lucius that they'd be using the Ceremony Hall first.

Professor Lucius agreed with this and informed them that they would be waiting outside.

"Professor, can't we watch them consume their potion?" Leo asked as he wanted to see Lisa's face while she was in pain after consuming the potion.

He was already imagining it.

However, Professor Lucius just shook his head and looked at his student. Although Leo was quite talented, he really had an attitude.

Entering the Ceremony Hall, Vale's gaze swept across the room, taking in the sight of his fellow classmates. The Hall was silent as no other students were using the place for now. It was reserved for the first batch of third-year students who will be consuming their second Darkness Possession Potion.

Near the Main Formation Circle, Vale saw a familiar figure. It was Professor Zach of the Alchemy Division.

He carries a bag with him, which contains the Darkness Possession Potions they'll be consuming.

That's right. The potion, a concoction of rare and potent ingredients, was carefully prepared by several Dark Alchemists, and Zach Everette, from the Order of the Evanescent Vessel, would monitor them once they consumed the potion.

Chapter 377 New Notification

"Vale, you go first... Stand at the center of the Formation Circle and drink this potion." Professor Zara said as she handed the black potion to Vale. She inspected it first to confirm that it was the right potion.

Vale nodded, exchanging a glance with Lisa and Leonore. He could sense their nervousness, but he also saw the glimmers of excitement in their eyes.

Taking a deep breath, Vale positioned himself at the center of the formation circle. With steady hands, he raised the vial to his lips and drank the potion.

Gulp~

Almost immediately, he could feel the surge of power coursing through his veins.

It certainly tasted a lot better than the first Darkness Possession he consumed but he couldn't appreciate it.

He braced himself for the pain he had been warned about. As the power of the potion took hold, he felt a searing sensation, as if his body was being reshaped from within.

"Ugh..."

The pain was intense, but Vale fought through it, knowing that this was a necessary step to advance his Phantasm State.

Despite the discomfort, Vale's focus remained unwavering. He could sense his Magic Zone expanding and his Phantasm State growing stronger with each passing moment. The feeling of transformation was both exhilarating and humbling as he realized that the Phantasm State he had previously been proud of was, in fact, incomplete.

"This is the real Phantasm State," Vale silently acknowledged as he could feel the difference in the quality of his Magic Zone.

Suddenly, the pain started growing stronger, as if something inside him was being changed. He felt his Spell Models shaking as if they were about to be destroyed.

'This...' Vale felt alarmed as Professor Zara didn't mention anything about this at all!

Nevertheless, during the pain, there was a glimmer of solace.

Vale suddenly sensed that the number of Spell Light in his body started increasing... In a few seconds, he felt that he had 4 Spell Lights in his body! This continued until he had a total of 8 Spell Lights!

This side effect of the potion wasn't mentioned by Professor Zara and Alchemist Zach!

Of course, he was thankful for this and he wouldn't complain at all.

As the pain gradually subsided, Vale found himself feeling a lot better and his aura radiating with newfound strength. He had endured the effects of the potion, and though it had been a challenging experience, he knew it was all worth it.

He then quickly checked his body to see if there was a problem with his Spell Models...

"Whew~" After confirming that all of his Spell Models are fine, he couldn't help but feel relieved.

However, as he checked his Spell Lights, something unexpected happened. He received a new notification from his system!

This had never happened before!

[Eight Normal Spell Lights have been detected. Do you want to fuse the Eight Normal Spell Lights to get an Evolved Spell Light for 300 Divinity Points?]

"What?"

Vale's mind raced with excitement and curiosity. The opportunity to fuse his Spell Lights reminded him of the special Spell Light that was needed to record the Planar Spells!

That's right. The Evolved Spell Light might be the Golden Spell Light he was looking for! However, the presence of Professor Zara, Alchemist Zach, and his classmates made him hesitate. He didn't want to draw attention to himself, especially during such a significant moment.

"Is there something wrong?" Lisa worriedly asked after seeing Vale's reaction. Vale seemed shocked for some reason.

"N-nothing... I'm just overwhelmed by the changes made by the potion." Vale said as he immediately thought of a reply.

Suppressing his eagerness, he decided to postpone his decision to fuse until a more suitable time. He knew that the offer from the system would still be there, patiently awaiting his response.

Furthermore, there might be some noticeable changes in his body, and he couldn't allow the others to notice that.

"That's good... Your body was turning black a while ago. Did you notice?" Leonore asked.

This surprised Vale since, aside from feeling the pain brought by the potion, he didn't notice any other changes in his body.

"I did not... Was it normal?" Vale asked as he turned to the Professors.

"I think so." Alchemist Zach replied as he walked closer to Vale.

Professor Zara also approached Vale, their expressions filled with confusion. However, after some time, it had changed to satisfaction. They examined him closely, confirming that his condition was stable and his Phantasm State had indeed strengthened.

"Vale, you've handled the transformation remarkably well... With that, you'll be able to learn the Third Phase of your Phantasm State. Master it before the competition." Professor Zara commended, a hint of pride in her voice.

"Your Magic Zone must have expanded significantly. I can see great potential in your future path. You have to consider choosing the Alchemist Path."

Alchemist Zach muttered as his gaze remained on Vale's physique.

"I didn't expect that the potion would be so effective. You're lucky." He added.

Grateful for their encouragement, Vale nodded appreciatively.

With the confirmation of Vale's condition, Professor Zara turned her attention to Lisa, who was next in line to consume the potion. The atmosphere in the room shifted as all eyes turned to Lisa, anticipation mingling with a hint of nervousness.

"Lisa, it's your turn." Professor Zara said, her voice filled with encouragement. She then gave the same instruction as Lisa stood at the center of the Formation Circle.

Lisa took a deep breath, her hands slightly trembling. She recalled how Vale felt the pain after consuming the potion. Thinking she was about to experience the same, she couldn't help but worry. She exchanged a nervous glance with Vale, seeking reassurance.

Realizing what she was thinking, Vale smiled warmly, silently conveying his belief in her abilities. Gulp~

As Lisa consumed the potion, she braced herself for the painful experience.

The power surged through her veins, but instead of pain, she felt a surge of warmth spreading throughout her body. The transformation seemed to come more naturally to her as if the potion was unlocking the dormant power she had always possessed.

Chapter 378 Senior

As Lisa's body underwent the transformation, she could feel a surge of Dark Energy coursing through her...

'It's not painful... Is there a problem with the potion?' She mused in confusion.

The warmth that enveloped her was comforting, like a gentle embrace from the potion itself. It was the complete opposite of what she was expecting.

Then, her senses heightened, and her vision sharpened as she absorbed the potion's effect. For a brief moment, colors appeared more vibrant, and the sounds became more distinct. It was as if a veil had been lifted, revealing a realm of possibilities beyond her imagination.

"Incredible..." Lisa muttered. A newfound confidence surged within her, replacing her initial worries and doubts.

'Is this what Senior Lesley mentioned? Is this really my talent?' Lisa silently thought as she recalled what Lesley had told her before.

However, before she could think too much of it, she felt the Formation Circle shaking.

Whom~

Within the Formation Circle, her body was suddenly enveloped by Dark Energy.

The onlookers, including Professor Zara and Alchemist Zach, watched in awe as Lisa's transformation unfolded.

They weren't worried about the Dark Energy wrapping around her body.

They exchanged glances, acknowledging the unique nature of her experience. It was as if Lisa's affinity for the Darkness Path had found harmony with the potion, resulting in a seamless integration of power.

"So she also had a unique physique... No wonder she was improving so quickly." Professor Zara muttered.

"Indeed. It's probably a rare Dark Arcane Physique... I don't think even the Headmaster knows about her unique constitution." Alchemist Zach commented.

The other two students heard of it and couldn't help but feel enlightened.

According to their studies, three types of special physique suit the Darkness Path.

The first was the Dark Arcane Physique. This physique was associated with individuals who had a unique affinity for darkness and shadow magic. Those with this physique have a natural connection to the darker aspects of the arcane arts.

One noticeable aspect of this was that consuming the Darkness Possession potion was not painful for them. This was what happened to Lisa, indicating that she possesses a certain type of Dark Arcane Physique.

Maya Featherstar also had this type of physique, but it wasn't awakened because of the potion. Instead, it was most likely because of her bloodline.

The other was the Seamless Arcane Physique, often found among necromancers and practitioners of advanced dark arts.

Those with this physique undergo a rigorous training process and consume a specific potion to obtain it. One sample of this was the Enduring Body that the Necromancers learn in order to conquer the Dark Soul Tower.

This physique grants them a heightened resistance to physical and magical fatigue, enabling them to endure the intense rituals and spells associated with necromancy. Individuals with the Seamless Arcane Physique often have a well-toned and agile build, allowing them to seamlessly blend physical prowess with their mastery of the arcane arts.

Lastly, the Impure Darkness Physique. It was suited for those who delve into curses, hexes, and rituals involving entities from other realms. Practitioners with this physique have a unique connection to the forces of darkness, but it comes at a cost. They often exhibit physical signs of their affinity, such as pale or ashen skin, glowing eyes, or even some otherworldly features.

The Impure Darkness Physique could also be associated with a more robust and imposing build, reflecting the power and intensity of their dark magic.

Most of the students with unusual features had this type of physique...

Vale, standing at the edge of the Formation Circle, couldn't help but feel a surge of pride as he witnessed Lisa's transformation. He knew that Lisa would really become a great Dark Arcanist at this point. After all, not many students in the Academy could possess or even Awaken their Special Physique.

As Lisa's transformation reached its peak, the warmth that had filled her began to subside, leaving behind a sense of empowerment.

Professor Zara approached Lisa, her eyes gleaming with pride.

"You have truly embraced the essence of the potion, Lisa..." She said, her voice brimming with admiration.

Alchemist Zach echoed Professor Zara's sentiment, his voice filled with enthusiasm. "Your transformation was remarkable, Lisa. Ahem... You should consider becoming an Alchemist. I'm even willing to accept you as a disciple. Once you graduate, you're guaranteed a spot in the Alchemy Division of the Order. No—I think I can arrange for you to be a member in your seventh year in the Academy. How about it?"

Lisa's heart swelled with gratitude for the support and encouragement from her professor and the alchemist.

"Thank you, Professors. I'm indeed planning to be an Alchemist, Professor Zach. However, I want to meet Senior Lesley first before joining any Organization."

As she said this, her eyes widened as she realized something.

"Oh? Lesley? Is it the Lesley that had graduated here a few years ago?" Professor Zara asked.

"Mhmm? That monstrous girl?! You know her?" Zach was also surprised.

Lesley was quite famous since she achieved so many things for the Academy before. It was a pity that Lesley had only participated twice in the Twelve Academies Competition, or she would have achieved more accomplishments.

Realizing that she could no longer take back what she had just said, she could only accept it.

Lisa nodded awkwardly. "Yes, Professor Zara. I've heard so much about her achievements and contributions to the Academy. She's the reason I decided to enroll here. I believe meeting her would provide valuable insights and guidance for my journey as an Alchemist. For now, can you not tell anyone that I know her?"

The Professors weren't sure why she wanted to keep this matter a secret but still agreed to her request.

In the meantime, Vale, who had been silently listening, felt a mix of emotions upon hearing Lesley's name.

Lesley was the one who had fed him the Darkness Possession Potion that had literally killed him.

He had been avoiding Lesley ever since, fearing her curiosity and potential desire to dissect his body to understand his miraculous survival.

'This...'

Chapter 379 Eye

'No... It's different now.'

As Vale's thoughts raced, he realized that he had grown significantly during his time at the Academy, thanks to his Divine Extraction System.

He had become stronger and more skilled, and he now possessed the confidence to face Lesley, should their paths cross again. Vale took a deep breath, reassuring himself that he was no longer the same vulnerable young man who had once fallen victim to the Darkness Possession Potion.

"Vale? You looked pale just now. Are you alright?" Professor Zara asked.

"Ahh... I'm alright, Professor. I'm just shocked to hear Lesley's name. I've seen some of her battles in the Archive Room before. She's indeed a talented Alchemist. I didn't expect that Lisa knows her." Vale replied.

Lisa seemed to like what she just heard. She felt really proud that she had a connection to Lesley.

"Indeed! I knew you'd appreciate her as well. If you want to meet her someday, I'll introduce you to her. She likes talented people." Lisa said as she knew that Lesley would surely realize Vale's talent.

Vale wryly smiled after hearing this.

Alchemist Zach seemed to dislike being ignored as he interrupted.

"Haha... Lesley is indeed great. But I'm still better since I'm older and more experienced than her. You should consider again to be my disciple, Lisa. My offer wouldn't last forever."

He then shifted his attention to Vale.

"Vale, you can also consider becoming my disciple. I can tell that you have a certain type of Seamless Arcane Physique. It can even be better than the Enduring Body. It's probably close to the Tyrant Moon Physique or even an Innate Dark Sorcerer Body similar to Sir Morgan Vermont."

'It's actually Incorruptible Body... It's also considered an Impure Darkness Physique.' Vale thought as he smiled at the Professor.

"I'll think about it, Professor Zach. You should know that I already have a Master."

"Ahhh... Indeed. I hope that Senior Heinz is doing well. Haha..." Alchemist Zack laughed awkwardly after being reminded about Vale's master.

With the completion of Lisa's transformation, the attention shifted to Leonore, who now stood at the center of the Formation Circle, ready to consume her second Darkness Possession Potion.

She felt a lot more pressured since Vale and Lisa's transformation was quite evident. She was able to tell just from their fluctuation of energy that they had become a stronger Dark Arts Practitioner.

'I'll become the best Dark Seer... I can do this...' Leonore encouraged herself before drinking the potion.

Soon, the energy in the Ceremony seemed to intensify, mirroring the internal changes occurring within her. She could feel her Magic Zone expanding, reaching outwards like tendrils seeking to connect with the world around her.

As the transformation progressed, Leonore's presence seemed to grow more grounded and centered. The power that coursed through her was raw yet controlled, like a raging river flowing within the confines of a strong dam. She felt a newfound connection to the Dark Elements as if she could command the Darkness itself.

Vale and Lisa watched in awe as their classmate underwent her transformation. They could sense the immense power of Darkness radiating from Leonore.

As the effect of the potion was about to subside, a hushed silence fell over the room.

An otherworldly eye materialized above Leonore! It was the size of a huge metal door of the Hall!

Its presence was both awe-inspiring and unsettling, casting an eerie glow that illuminated the Ceremony Hall.

Vale and Lisa exchanged wide-eyed glances, their surprise evident.

As the eye hovered above her, Leonore remained unaware of its existence. However, everyone, including Professor Zara and Alchemist Zach, was taken aback by the sight.

"Dark Seer? She truly has delved deep into the Dark Arts. Has she made a pact, selling her soul in exchange for such power?" Professor Zara muttered as she immediately understood what was going on.

Alchemist Zach's brow furrowed in concern. "A Dark Seer? But isn't she from the Roland Family? Known for their mastery of curses? Why would someone from such a renowned family choose to pursue such a dangerous path?"

He hadn't really paid much attention to Leonore. As soon as he learned that she was from the Roland Family, he just assumed that she used her family's achievements to reach her current level. However, it seemed that he had underestimated her.

Vale and Lisa's confusion deepened. While they had heard of Dark Seers and the ability to see glimpses of the future, they had underestimated the gravity of Leonore's chosen path. The otherworldly eye that had just appeared was something they had never expected to appear during the Darkness Possession.

"Whew~"

Leonore, still unaware of the audience's reactions, felt an indescribable sense of comfort. It was indeed quite painful at the first few seconds of her consumption. However, it didn't take that long before she sensed her improvement.'

'I'm different now...' Leonore thought as she clenched her fist.

As Vale thought that Professor Zara and Alchemist Zach would tell her about the otherworldly eye, they actually ignored that fact and just congratulated Leonore.

Just like that, they decided to leave the Ceremony Hall.

This stopped Vale from asking Leonore about it. He wasn't sure if it would be insensitive to ask her about that.

'Is it a Forbidden Dark Arts?' Vale mused.

After all, it would make sense why they couldn't discuss this openly since the Treaty of Keslore stops them from practicing these Arts.

'Interesting... I guess it's not really prohibited as long as it's not known by the Association.' Vale silently thought as he recalled the scrolls that he got from the Dark Soul Tower.

To be honest, he also wouldn't pass if he got an opportunity to learn powerful Forbidden Dark Arts, especially if it was the Blood Magic or an ability to summon a Mysterious Entity that was stronger than Dark Spirits.

As Vale and the others exited the Ceremony Hall, they found themselves face-to-face with the Class 3 students who were waiting for their turn to use the Hall with Professor Lucius.

Leo, annoyed that they didn't get to use the Ceremony Hall first, couldn't help but mock them for their seemingly quick completion of the ceremony.

His tone was soft, as if he was trying not to be heard.

"They finished so early? I guess the potion didn't give them much development, huh..."

Chapter 380 Classes

Vale felt a surge of annoyance at Leo's remark but chose to maintain his composure. He exchanged glances with Lisa and Leonore, who shared a mix of frustration and determination. They knew that Leo's words were meant to belittle them, but they were confident in the growth they had experienced during the ceremony.

Leonore, always quick to respond, retorted... "Looks like you're in a hurry to get your turn, Leo. I think you won't even survive the Potion..."

The other students beside Leo were stunned. They were indeed worrying about the effects of the Potion on them. They had barely survived their first Potion, and even if the Professors told them they were ready, they couldn't help but doubt themselves.

They gritted their teeth in frustration as they tightly held the black pearl in their hands.

Professor Lucius, observing the interaction, stepped forward to intervene.

"That's enough... Since you're all in the same batch, you'll be working together someday. Unity within the Academy is important." With a calm yet authoritative voice, he continued to emphasize the need to support and respect one another, as they were all part of a shared journey toward mastery of the Dark Arts.

Leo, realizing that his comment had provoked a response, reluctantly backed down.

"Yes, Professor." He then offered a half-hearted smirk before turning away.

As Vale and his companions walked away, they couldn't help but consider waiting for Leo's group to see if they could really improve significantly from the Potion.

However, Leo might think that Lisa was waiting for him, so they decided to leave.

On the following day, Vale and the other students of Class 2 were taken aback by the news that the top Class 3 students had experienced a major setback. Rumors spread throughout their batch, revealing that the Class 3 students had not only failed to complete the Darkness Possession Ceremony but also suffered injuries.

This alarmed the other students who might be scheduled to take the Potion next week!

'That guy actually failed...' Vale silently thought as he confirmed the truth.

His curiosity was piqued, so he sought out more information about what had transpired. He discovered that the Class 3 students had underestimated the intensity and power of the Darkness

Possession Potion. In their eagerness to achieve quick results, they had secretly consumed a high-grade Dark Spirit Pearl before drinking the Darkness Possession Potion to get a higher dosage than recommended, hoping for a greater transformation.

However, the excessive dosage brought by the Dark Spirit Pearl had backfired, causing severe side effects and complications. The students' bodies had struggled to withstand the overwhelming surge of dark energy, resulting in injuries and a failed transformation. It seemed that their impatience and disregard for caution had cost them dearly.

Vale could only shake his head.

He was previously thinking of extracting this guy to make him suffer a bit, but it seemed unnecessary at this point. Instead, he focused on studying the several Mystical Items in his possession.

The classes he was receiving weren't quite enough, so he had to do some self-studies since he wanted to hasten the recovery of his pocketwatch.

In the meantime, Chad Bulmung led a rather peaceful and content daily life within the halls of the Academy. While he had not been selected by Professor Zara to consume the Second Darkness Possession Potion, he harbored no resentment or impatience. Instead, he remained focused on honing his skills and patiently awaiting his next opportunity.

Each day, Chad approached his studies with unwavering determination. He did not dare to be late or skip any classes, immersing himself in the vast world of magic and knowledge.

During the weekend, however, Chad would mostly stay within his dorm.

In his room, the sun gently filtered through the window, casting a soft glow on his study desk. As he sat there, engrossed in his books, his roommate, Marcus, entered the room with a mischievous grin.

He was from Class 4 and was quite an average student.

"Hey, Chad! Still buried in those dusty tomes, I see. What incredible secrets are you uncovering today?"

Chad looked up, a smile tugging at the corners of his lips.

"I'm just trying to study for the next exam."

Marcus chuckled, plopping down on his own bed. "Well, while you're busy communing with the darkness, don't forget to have some fun too. Life in the Academy isn't all about studying, you know."

Chad nodded, appreciating Marcus's perspective. He valued the balance between academics and enjoyment and knew the importance of maintaining a well-rounded experience. However, what he was reading right now wasn't just any book.

It was a copy of a book that he brought from his home. He wasn't allowed to bring this to the Academy since it contained a family secret.

It contains the full ritual that would grant him the Ghost King Body, a specific Impure Darkness Physique. The allure of this power was undeniable, promising to enhance his talents in Dark Arts to unparalleled heights. However, Chad was acutely aware of the drawbacks that accompanied this path, so he was studying it carefully before making his decision.

Apparently, the Ghost King Body, while granting him immense strength and talent in the realm of darkness, would render him vulnerable to arcane arts that had the ability to suppress or eliminate ghosts. Holy Arts and Lightning Element Arts, for instance, would pose a significant threat to him. Chad pondered the consequences of this choice, weighing the potential benefits against the inherent risks.

"You're right, Marcus. I'll make sure to take breaks and enjoy the company of friends. Speaking of which, have you heard anything about the Class 1 students who underwent the Darkness Possession Ceremony?" Chad replied as he casually closed his book and kept it in his drawer.

Marcus's eyes lit up with excitement. He certainly heard about Maya Featherstar, Philip Hoffman, and Crystal Ravinie's success.

The two then chatted for a bit before hanging outside.

In the next few days, Chad found himself in the Advanced Magic Circle Class, surrounded by his classmates.

As Professor Morton explained the intricacies of forming complex magical patterns, Chad couldn't help but feel a surge of excitement.

If he wants to obtain the Ghost King Body, he would need to master a certain Magic Circle.

Luckily, Professor Morton was about to test and teach them with advanced Magic Circles today.