

EMPEROR 251

### **Chapter 251 A Young Boy?**

Davis lifted up the cup and drank the contents as he closed his eyes, enjoying it as he tasted every bit of the sour yet sweet drink.

To him, it vaguely tasted like a mix of something between lime and vanilla.

He gulped it in its entirety and nodded in satisfaction as he felt his energy circulating in harmony.

"Thank you, Natalya..." Davis uttered and gave back the cup.

It flew towards the plate that Natalya held and positioned on top of it. She bowed slightly showing off the demeanor of a maid as she went back and excused herself out of the room.

As Natalya went outside the room, her face revealed an astonished expression.

'He truly is a young person...'

After being a maid-like existence for Davis a month, she finally started to believe that this person was a youth and not an old man in disguise.

There were plenty of reasons for her to believe that but the most plausible reason for her was because he hasn't touched her yet.

Although quite narcissistic, being confident of her looks and figure, she found it really odd that he didn't make any kind of action on her.

It's not like she wanted to be assaulted, it's just that she found it extremely weird that he didn't do anything to her considering that they two were the only people to stay in this residence.

Being the only woman in this residence had her on her toes all the time. She was so nervous that she considered all the worst possible outcomes that she could come up with!

'He could've fed me an aphrodisiac and had his way with me considering that he is a Peak-Level Earth Grade Alchemist, but he didn't even show an inkling of interest towards me...'

Feeling stupid for getting all suspicious towards her benefactor, she couldn't take it anymore and asked about his real identity yesterday by gathering all her courage.

Although the other party didn't reveal his name, hearing him casually speak that he was just about 15 years old left her feeling lost and ashamed.

After repeatedly glancing at his face for about a day and a half which she first thought that it belonged to an old man disguising to be young, she finally understood that he was really just a young boy.

'Such a person saved me?' Natalya laughed to herself in embarrassment but that laugh soon disappeared when she thought of the events two weeks ago.

Some assassins stealthily entered the residence and tried to kill both of them. At that moment, it was night and she had just entered her room to rest.

The instant she entered the room, she heard footsteps behind her which she immediately thought that it belonged to Davis who had sneaked in to violate her.

That was when she realized how much she was wrong when the person behind her had his long blade pointing towards her, reflecting the light of the moon.

She was instantly scared to death that her muscles didn't respond to her as she realized the cloaked person pointing the blade at her blatantly reveal the energy of a Body Transformation Stage Cultivator.

At the same time, she felt the fear of death encroaching her heart, leading her to close her eyes in helplessness.

Not a sound was made but the death that she had expected didn't come in her way no matter how much she waited.

Opening her eyes in doubt, all she saw was the body of the assassin lying in a pool of blood while a familiar figure flew above it.

Her eyes instantly recognized Davis, who held a Scythe in his hands while gazing at her calmly.

After that, she heard him say, "Aren't you lucky? Looks like this assassin had a habit of teasing his targets..."

Thinking back to that night, Natalya sighed at that playful smile hanging upon his lips. That was the moment she knew that this person was strong as a monster.

'Natalya, ah Natalya... He has saved you 3 times already! If you can't look after yourself anymore then you should just kill yourself...'

Being the first daughter of a family, she naturally had her own variant of pride and morals.

She believed that getting more and more indebted will make her unable to extricate herself from this person.

Her only worry before was about her womanhood, which she could now tell that the other party had no interest towards her.

Taking a deep breath, she entered her room and decided that she will serve this person until he no longer requires her to be of service.

...

Davis moved his hand, picking up the book again, continuing to memorize its contents. Soon, night fell and Davis massaged his glabella, relieving the pain he felt.

'Looks like my soul force has been finally exhausted...' Davis thought.

Without taking a single bit of rest, he continued to memorize the contents of the books for a month, which had finally exhausted his Soul Sense.

He lazed back, plopping onto the floor. He looked tired but had a smile tugging on his lips.

He had managed to not only memorize but also digest the contents he learned exactly at the same time.

This made his foundations in Alchemy to be incredibly stable, at least if one considered that he was just a Peak-Level Earth Grade Alchemist.

Smiling lightly, he thought of the several thousand books he bought that had information on Low-Level Sky Grade to High-Level Sky Grade Alchemy.

It was time for him to take those out and digest its contents.

He still had soul force which he could dig out by draining his willpower but doing that will severely impact his soul essence which may or may not end up being disastrous to him.

But on second thought, he decided to study tomorrow since his soul force was thoroughly exhausted.

He got up and jumped to the bed as he let out a groan of pleasure from closing his eyes and stretching his body.

He turned his body and opened his eyes to look at the ceiling while thinking about the events that occurred in this month.

### **Chapter 252 Roxley's? How Convenient...**

This month, Davis had been too busy to even worry about anything else.

After he bought the residence, he picked a room and started to learn alchemy from the First Layer.

Since he was well versed in the Alchemy from the Second Layer, it only took a month to digest the contents of the First Layer.

This helped him become proficient until up to Peak-Level Earth Grade Alchemy, even when compared to the ones in the First Layer since he possessed the knowledge of the alchemists of the Second Layer as well.

But two weeks ago, he did face an assassination attempt which he later found out that it was executed by the Roxley Family.

He did expect this to happen and wasn't surprised and even quickly put an end to it, saving Natalya in the process.

Honestly, he was engrossed with learning and his reactions were late. So he thought that she would be dead by the time he finished killing the 2 assassins who came to kill him first, but it wasn't like that to his surprise which ultimately ended up in him saving her.

He guessed that the assassin who went to kill her surprisingly had other thoughts other than instantly executing the target.

'I wonder what's with her? Sneakily glancing at me all the time...' Throwing the incident in the back of his mind, Davis thought as he rubbed his chin.

Looking back, all she did was deliver him spirit juices during rest time which didn't even last for a minute every day and glance at him curiously from time to time.

Other than this, from using his Soul Sense, he noticed her doing menial jobs like cleaning the whole residence every morning, sitting in front of a water pond that's filled with fishes, sighing from time to time while glancing at the sunset.

All this caused him to feel that she was at loss with what had happened to her before she met with him.

'Well, without her information, I wouldn't have gained this residence at all...' Wryly laughing, he thought of doing something to help her come back to her senses.

He was fortunate that he saw that little hesitant gesture of hers at that time, otherwise, he would've been still staying in one of the inn's right now, wasting his spirit stones every day.

If he had spent 100 Low-Level Spirit Stones daily to rent the room of Arashi's Luxurious Inn for protection and other purposes, he would have incurred a cost of around 3,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones in a month, which was very less compared to the 25,000 Low-Level Spirit Stones which he had used to purchase this residence.

But what if he had to stay for a year in Arashi's Luxurious Inn? Wouldn't he incur a cost of 36,500 Low-Level Spirit Stones? Buying a residence would be more cost-efficient and cost-saving in the long run.

Besides that, there were many reasons to purchase the residence.

First, as an alchemist, he would make a name for himself in this Xuan Capital and to that, if he stayed in a room of an Inn, that would be disreputable to his name.

Second, if he was invited by a certain power to stay at their residence, he would be indebted to them, which he didn't want.

Third, since this residence is his, he could freely make changes to his needs and throw out any people who came to visit him out of fake courtesy or threat.

There was another reason as well, but that wasn't in his priority of reasons because it was related to Natalya's mental health, not his.

So far, the only disadvantage he got was inevitably offending the Roxley Family, but he realized that it was not a problem.

Mostly because of the quality of the assassins they sent against him.

He figured that it might've been the low-level figures in the Roxley Family that might've wanted the residence.

If not, they would've sent powerful enemies against him the first time, leaving him no chance to live.

Now that it failed, he figured that they would stop sending assassins against him or employ even more powerful experts, which depends if they valued this place a lot.

He thought that they would most likely go for the former considering that this place doesn't have much value in the eyes upper echelon of the Roxley Family.

Just when he was about to sleep, his Soul Sense which covered the whole residence since the incident, suddenly reacted, alarming his senses.

In his view, he saw a pigeon sized Magical Beast fly through the outer courtyard swiftly before coming to a stop in front of his residence.

The magical beast looked left and right before staying still like it was waiting for someone.

Davis noticed that and saw a little piece of letter tied to its leg. He swiftly arrived in front of it and took the piece of letter from its leg, reading it.

A smile inevitably formed upon his face as he let the bird-like magical beast fly away.

Surprisingly, the message was from Tina Roxley indicating that she took care of the problem that originated from her family.

She didn't apologize nor did she send any kind of compensation but just wrote a few lines indicating that she took care of the problem.

Davis didn't know why but this woman gave off a good impression as if she was looking out for him but at the same time, he also got the feeling that she was keeping tabs on him.

He silently chuckled and was not surprised by her family's intelligence network as they did manage to find him in a small residence.

After all, he already gave his nickname to her, which was Scythe.

'Why is she helping me? Did she send this letter make me owe her one?'

Thoughts swirled around his head. He couldn't figure out what this woman was thinking, 'Maybe, the Roxley Family isn't full of evil people...'

Thinking about figuring out one's thoughts, his focus returned to Natalya.

'I've left her to her own devices for a month, and if this keeps up, she will become reliant on me or someone else.' Davis contemplated and decided to give her some advice for his sake so that she won't bother him when it's time to leave.

Getting off the bed, he went to her room which was located far away from his room in terms of walking distance.

The residence housed about 34 quarters which had many rooms that were usable by 34 families, each consisting of parents and children.

Other than that, there were also a large number of small rooms used for other purposes.

### **Chapter 253 Virtue?**

After Davis arrived in front of her room, he knocked on the door.

After a few seconds of silence, a trembling voice echoed out, "... Who is it?"

"Scythe..." Davis replied in a casual tone.

A few seconds passed before the door opened.

Davis shot a look at her, wondering why this woman was trembling. Then he blinked and realized that it was night time and a man visiting a woman only had one meaning most of the time.

"Say, can I come in?" Davis asked calmly, hiding his awkwardness.

Since he came, it would be even more suspicious if he left without saying anything.

Natalya had her eyes wide, her heart increased its beat at a faster rate.

"Yes..." She meekly uttered as she held the door.

Davis came in as he glanced at the empty room. Other than the bed and a table with some utensils, there was nothing else.

Only a faint fragrance lingered that said that it was a woman's room.

Seeing that there were no chairs either, he went and sat on the bed without commenting on anything. Just as he sat and turned to glance at her, his eyes widened.

\*Plop\*

Natalya went on her knees and bowed down her head to the ground, "Young Master Scythe! I promise to serve you until my life ends! You can order me around and ask anything of me other than my innocence..."

Davis had quite a pissed off expression on his face but turned into a pitiful one as he thought about her current situation.

When he thought from her point of view, he could more or less understand her desperate outburst.

After all, she was entirely helpless against him in case he decided to do something malicious to her.

He took a slight breath and said, "I'm not going to ask anything of you nor am I to do anything to you."

Natalya became startled. She raised up her head and looked at his young face.

Davis was not wearing a mask, only a black robe that hid his figure below the neck.

"Also, other than buying ingredients for me to concoct spirit juices, I would advise you to buy some cultivation manual and resources that help you to increase your cultivation."

"Didn't I hand you over 3000 Low-Level Spirit Stones? This is enough for you to get to the Fifth Stage in Essence Gathering Cultivation on your own."

Davis looked at her mouth go agape in shock, but still continued, "I know it's hard to forget about the past but you don't need to forget it."

"Instead of forgetting you should accept that it had happened and move on or go out and venture around investigating with that puny cultivation of yours."

"But if you do the latter, you will absolutely die or even have a worse ending. So I advise you to stay here and cultivate till you feel you have the strength to investigate your past by yourself."

"Also, there's no need for you to call me master, young master, young lord anymore... Just call me Scythe as the former options are quite annoying considering that your position is not something like my subordinate or subject."

Natalya kept calling him with different honorifics and he was quite annoyed by it.

Davis furrowed his brows as he asked, "Do you understand?"

Natalya nodded her head slowly, indicating that she understood while her facial expression indicated that she was at a loss.

"So tell me, what do you want to do in the future?"

"I..." Natalya moved her lips but thought hard and contemplated his words for a few seconds yet wasn't ultimately able to make a decision, "I don't know..."

His furrows deepened, "Tell me, what do you feel about staying in this residence?"

Natalya suddenly went silent before hanging her head low. The next moment she looked back at him and uttered, "I feel grateful for letting me stay in this place and thankful for having such a wonderful person as my benefactor..."

Davis was amused, "Your previous actions don't match up with your latter sentence..."

Natalya blushed in shame, "That's... I didn't know what benefactor has on mind. So when benefactor came here, I instantly thought..."

Davis sighed as he shook his head in fake disappointment, "So you were having naughty thoughts all month long..."

"No! It isn't like that!" Natalya desperately shouted, a little hurt that he thought of her this way.

"I don't understand one thing though..." Davis suddenly uttered.

Natalya got startled before she asked, "What?"

"Why are you so desperately trying to protect your innocence? Do you already have a man in your heart?"

"No, I don't have any such person in my heart!" Natalya quickly replied as she patted her breast.

"Then why are you so desperate? Objectively speaking, becoming my woman seems like a big opportunity for you who has no one to hold on to... Excuse me but, I find this really weird and suspicious..."

The woman in front of him had gathered all her courage to repeatedly remind him to spare her despite him showing no signs of being a sinister person.

Was she trying reverse psychology by acting cute, innocent and frail? Rather than trying to think, he decided to straightforwardly ask.

"I just want to know your intentions..." Davis calmly questioned.

Natalya looked at his eyes that were full of curiosity, a while later she sighed, "Before that, I want to ask whether if you had considered about your prospective wife's virtue."

"No..." Davis casually answered. Although it was not the truth, it was technically correct because he already knew about Evelyn's virtue.

There was no future wife for him to consider as she was already one in his mind.

"No wonder benefactor doesn't understand. Pardon my rudeness, but I think benefactor is still young."

Natalya took a deep breath and explained, "I am a woman who is only willing to lose my innocence to the person who I am going to spend my life with, not to some grand person who is just powerful but doesn't know how to reciprocate my feelings."

"I'm willing to work for that grand person but not live..."

Davis's eyes widened a moment before he uttered in understanding, "I see..."

The common and innocent people here highly valued morals and a proper way of life rather than living however they wanted to with their lives.

Although this lessened individuality and independence, this helped male and female promiscuity to lessen to a great degree in a wide sense.

In this world where billions of people were available for a relationship, why would they want to live with a morally depraved person? Instead, they felt that they should wait for the right person for them, even if many years passed as they could live for a long time with the help of cultivation.

### **Chapter 254 Little Sister?**

Davis didn't take offense on her insult at the latter part of her previous sentence to his heart. In fact, he even understood her ideology.

These people could wait a long time for the right person but could the mortals with an average lifespan of 100 do the same?

It wasn't realistic, so the mortals had to compromise on the requirements for their partners, it was especially so in the liberal countries where promiscuity was prevalent.

The people here didn't face much discrimination when their ages were wide apart, so they could choose their partners with a wider age difference and to their liking; both male and female.

This was the difference between those who had time and those who did not.

Everyone had their own convictions and their way of living. It was always difficult to say what is right and what is wrong when everything could be easily painted in grey.

"A woman like me would rather die than have her innocence taken..." Natalya uttered with determination oozing out of her eyes, her words also forming a threat to her own self and Davis.

Davis couldn't care less about her threat but thought about the woman he had killed after arriving at the Cloud Spring Mercenaries.



She had pleaded to almost everyone to end her life because her husband had died. Was it because their love exceeded a level that he could comprehend?

Davis couldn't put his fingers exactly on it but could say that Natalya was the same type of woman as her.

He looked at Natalya in admiration and left silently because when he thought if he would end his life for Evelyn, the answer remained vague and baffling to him.

Also, her conviction aligned with his as well. What is there to live without love and happiness? He didn't know the answer but that was why he was searching for it, wanted to experience it and the partner he chose to share his love and happiness was none other than Evelyn.

After a while, Natalya, who was indulged in her own dream of determination suddenly realized he was not there anymore, "Wait... why did I tell this to him?"

Natalya felt her head getting dizzy as she felt confused by her own thoughts.

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The next day, morning.

Davis woke up in a refreshed state. His soul force was half replenished because of the rather energizing sleep while he circulated Sacred Luminance Mist subconsciously.

He extended his Soul Sense and confirmed that there were no vulnerabilities around the residence and also checked on Natalya, who was currently sleeping peacefully as if she had never before.

'Oversleeping huh? Looks like yesterday's talk at least had some effect...' Smiling to himself, he stretched his body and sat on a lotus position, circulating his Soul Forging Cultivation Method.

Suddenly, his Soul Sense which was active around the vicinity of the residence almost at all times picked up a figure touching the walls of the residence.

He stopped cultivating the soul and slightly extended his senses to cover the one who touched the walls of the residence.

He instantly recognized that it was a woman as her figure appeared in his mind.

The woman kept her hand on the walls and looked at it as if she was reminiscing about something.

She wore a dark blue robe and an opaque veil which accentuated her figure, making her appearance beautiful to look at, especially her eyes.

'...This woman looks like Natalya...' Davis instantly recognized as his Soul Sense was able to see through her veil.

The woman took her hand off and made her way to the entrance of the residence.

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"Wake up..."

Natalya opened her eyes as she quickly jolted up, "Who!?"

"Relax, it's me, Scythe..."

Natalya relaxed after understanding the situation as she instantly thought, 'It's a Soul Transmission...'

Although it was not the first time she was experiencing it, the voice resounded as if it was in her head, giving her a big scare.

Thinking that she had been woken from being overslept, her face blushed in shame.

Just when she got up halfway, her body trembled after hearing the message that echoed in her head.

"Seems like your little sister is here at the front entrance..."

Just at that moment, she heard a young feminine voice echo around the residence, "Is there anyone here?!"

Hearing that voice, her body froze.

'It's my sister, she really has come...' Natalya thought incredulously, her expression differed with a mix of hate and hurt.

"I've come to speak to the master of this residence!"

Natalya heard it again, causing her to come out of her reverie. She quickly draped the black robe over herself, donned a mask as she quickly left to the front entrance.

Arriving in front of the wide door, she hesitated a moment before opening it.

She looked at the figure in front of her as tears almost formed in her eyes. Then she remembered how her father abandoned and sold her for the sake of protecting the person in front of her.

Resentment quickly formed in her heart, prompting her to coldly ask in a deep voice, "What do you want?"

The woman in front of her had a gaze of cautiousness, her nerves on the edge on seeing a masked person.

Even so, she slightly bowed as she clasped her hands, "I am Fiora Astoria, second daughter of the previous master of this residence."

She lifted up her head and displayed a portrait, "I have come here to inquire whether if my elder sister has appeared around this place..."

The portrait had the facial features and the body shape of Natalya.

Behind the mask, Natalya squinted her eyes, "There's no person like that around here, you can leave..."

Fiora took a frail breath as she uttered, "Is that so..."

A slight wave of sadness flashed past her eyes.

She kept the portrait inside her spatial ring and hesitantly opened her mouth, "If you see my elder sister around one day, please tell her to find us in Pavlos City."

Saying so, she turned around to leave but looked at her again, "Please don't mention that to anyone else..."

Natalya nodded her head, feeling complicated. She watched her little sister leaving her step by step as seconds passed.

'Is she feeling guilty for selling me out?' Natalya thought to herself, not sure what exactly was going on.

Fiora kept her head down as she walked away, thinking to herself, 'There's no way my sister is dead! There's something fishy about this whole situation!'

She walked straight, getting lost in her thoughts when suddenly she felt a heavy palm strike behind her back.

Her eyes turned wide as she spat a mouthful of blood on the ground as her knees bent.

She immediately revolved her energy but was horrified to find out that her cultivation was sealed!

Looking back, her face turned into one of shock as she saw 3 middle-aged men and an old man smiling at her ruthlessly instead of the masked person she expected.

### **Chapter 255 Let Me**

At the entrance of the small residence, Natalya was shocked!

Just before her little sister could leave her gaze or the street, some people stealthily came behind her and silently placed a strange paper on her back as they attacked!

She immediately recognized who they were, especially when she saw the old man.

Milos Astoria! An elder of the Astoria Family, and also a High-Level Earth Grade Inscription Master!

Inscription Masters were highly recognized although not to the level of Alchemists, they still held authority as they possessed the ability to make inscriptions that enhanced the ability of various items.

There were many types of inscription masters and the strange paper; the strange paper he used was nothing but the inscription he made; a type of seal. He was a person that her main family highly valued, even more than the other elders!

Even though he only had a cultivation of Peak-Level Revolving Core Stage, his achievements in the realm of inscriptions were enough to give him the title of elder!

Fiora looked behind as she clenched her teeth in anger, "Cowards, you don't dare to fight a woman face to face?! Even going so far as to seal my cultivation!"

Milos laughed, "I can't underestimate a genius after all. Besides, it's your fault for not paying attention to your surroundings."

The other three middle-aged men also laughed with him, looking at her pitiful figure in disdain.

"Then again, you and your parents tried to abandon the main family members by hiding away at someplace? You're all a disgrace!" Milos uttered in an angry tone and pointed at the residence, "You guys even dared to sell the property without asking for the permission of the main family!?"

\*Bam!~\*

"Ahhh!" Fiora shouted in pain as she flew and planted her face on the surface. She spat a mouthful of blood in the process.

Milos came behind her and lifted her head up by dragging her hair, "Where are your parents?"

"You're all courting death!" Fiora gritted her teeth, her eyes were red with rage.

Milos just smiled, absolutely looking down on her with contempt.

"You think you can get away with this!? The city guards will arrest you in any moment now!" Fiora spat back at him, her eyes shooting daggers.

Milos grinned sinisterly and asked with a teasing expression on his face, "Fiora, do you see any guards around you?"

Fiora's heart skipped a beat. She instantly wondered why there were no guards who showed up to save her, but now she understood.

"Unfortunately, the guards also need to live their lives, so you can not blame them alright..." Milos laughed as he shook his head.

"You bribed them?" Fiora questioned him in disbelief, failing to think that they would go this far.

"Ha! Little girl, all I had to do was give them some benefits to make them turn a blind eye to this situation. Of course, we can't kill you, otherwise, they'll forget about those benefits and do their job as guards, after all, they don't want to lose their lives either."

Fiora's face turned pale. She had disguised herself, came out sneaking without informing her parents.

Realizing that she had no way to contact them, her face quickly revealed an expression of panic.

Mustering every bit of strength she had, she activated her battle aura and shoved his hand away from her head.

Getting caught off-guard, Milos got pushed off a few steps back.

"Old fart! You're only 150 years old, yet you look already old! Just die!" Fiora shouted as she slashed with a dagger.

Milos's face went ugly as he heard the insult! He instantly retreated another few steps back and dodged the incoming blade.

His palm formed a wind gale before directly blasting it at her.

"Arghh!" Fiora shouted in pain as she got blasted away! The impact caused her to fly towards the residence!

"Get her, we're leaving." Milos held his anger in check as he said.

He didn't forget to hold back, otherwise, this one gale of his would be enough to slice her into critically wound her.

That said, the gale he had launched managed to injure her and cleave her clothes at some parts, exposing her pale skin.

In front of the entrance of the residence, Natalya watched her sister getting beaten without doing anything!

When she saw her sister getting cleaved by the gale, her eyes turned bloodshot!

Even though she resented her little sister, this wasn't something she could keep watching without doing anything no matter what.

Just when she took a step forward and was about to interfere, Davis came behind her while placing his hand on her shoulders and shook his head, indicating that she shouldn't interfere.

Natalya's body trembled!

Just when she was about to plead him to let her go save her sister, she widened her eyes as she saw Davis disappear from her view!

The very next moment, he appeared in front of her again but to her astonishment, she saw a battered figure on the ground.

She widened her eyes as she silently muttered, "Fiora..."

Having no sense of what happened in a split second, Fiora looked at the masked black-robed figures in confusion.

A moment later, she realized that someone of these two had saved her.

"You!" A shout came from outside the residence.

Milos came in front of the entrance but didn't dare to enter. Mostly because of the rules of the city, plus, he could see how fast the black-robed man was and estimated that he wouldn't be a match even if he fought.

He uttered with a humiliated expression on his face, "Sir, I have no idea about who you are, but interfering in the matters of the Astoria Family doesn't seem to be appropriate, no?"

Davis turned to look at him, his voice deep, "And you're bullying a younger generation in broad daylight? Why don't you find this appropriate?"

"Sir, this matter doesn't concern you! Give her back and we from the Astoria Family will let bygones be bygones."

Davis let out a sigh as he stepped back and bowed slightly, "We'll let bygones be bygones then..."

Milos grinned as he thought that his speech had been successful. Even so, he didn't let his guard down and signaled the men behind him to follow him as he walked into the residence.

Natalya panicked, not understanding what her benefactor was doing! Fiora had gone pale but wasn't surprised by the outcome.

A lone man with a slightly stronger cultivation wouldn't dare to offend a family that had equal prowess to him.

### **Chapter 256 Saving Fiora**

Fiora knew that if one tried, then that lone person would be crushed by the numerous members of the said family.

That's why most men form a family, prioritizing quantity over quality once they reach the top of their strength and visible potential.

The four men walked past the gates and got closer to Fiora when suddenly a black-robed figure stood in front of her.

Fiora got startled, wasn't this the masked woman that she spoke with?

"What's the meaning of this?" Milos furrowed his brows as he asked, the energy revolving around his body creating a thin form of a shield. The others also followed suit and increased their defenses.

Davis sighed again as he spoke, "I would've preferred them to get closer but this does as well..."

'Soul Suppression Art!' Davis thought in his mind as he cast the technique.

\*Boom!~\*

The pressure from his soul force immediately took the four men off-guard, causing them to lose their balance as they all plummeted to the ground.

Their energies dispersed as they were all unable to muster any form of resistance and had an expression of horror on their faces.

The pressure utterly caused them to be unable to move, and lose all hope. They weren't even able to let out a voice as they tried their best to not lose consciousness.

Such is the power of a soul when it has far outclassed the souls it is facing. It was literally an example of an higher being bringing a lower being under its control.

Davis glanced at Fiora as he asked, "If I remember correctly, didn't the city rules state that one can kill outsiders in their residence for trespassing?"

Fiora had already been frozen stiff. Even without having faced with the brunt of the pressure, she could sense it all the same.

In her fear, she tremblingly thought before she answered, "Yes..."

Davis smiled lightly when she saw her tremble in fear. Actually, he had already learned of the city rules two weeks ago. After all, he had faced an assassination at that time.

The four men on hearing what he said, trembled like pigs that were about to get butchered!

"Shall I kill them?" Davis questioned once again, his voice resounding to both the sisters.

Fiora nodded her head without the slightest hesitation, there was only hate in her eyes as she failed to consider them as blood relatives.

Natalya also nodded her head after a moment of hesitation.

Davis was surprised by both the sisters.

One was ruthless in her decision while the other, even though soft, was resolute.

He was most surprised at Natalya because he knew that she was a pushover, basically a softy.

He could see that the drastic changes that happened in these two months in her life had changed her a lot from the first time they met. After all, she had pissed herself from fear when Davis released his battle aura at that time.

Now, she could even nod her head at the prospect of killing her own blood relatives.

Davis looked at her in satisfaction. If his blood relatives were like this, then he wouldn't mind killing them off either.

He didn't do anything other than turning back and walking off into the residence.

Seeing that, the two sisters were perplexed.

'Did he decide not to kill?' Such thoughts were running in their heads.

A few seconds passed but they suddenly realized that the people who were struggling to get up, suddenly go stiff as they stopped trembling.

Both of them opened their mouths in fright as they had no idea of how he killed them. They looked in the direction of the residence and found that he was nowhere to be seen.

They realized that his killing methods were related to his Soul Forging Cultivation and their reverence and fear towards him only increased when they assumed that it was the case.

It was especially so for Natalya. She now held utmost respect and reverence for him.

After all, he had saved his sister without even asking anything of her. She felt so immensely grateful for his help.

Davis directly dispersed their souls with Fallen Heaven as he was disinclined to use any more effort to kill them.

As he went back into the residence, he thought of continuing with his cultivation but remembered that there were corpses in the courtyard.

He was partially worried that the guards might somehow realize but when he extended his Soul Sense, he saw Natalya storing up their corpses in her spatial ring.

Davis satisfactorily nodded at her action and looked at the injured Fiora.

"Invite her to the house if you want to treat her injuries. If your identity is found out then I will ask you to leave." Davis sent Natalya a Soul Transmission.

When Natalya heard it, her face turned complicated, thinking that the person known to her as Scythe was nice to her.

When she heard the latter part of the Soul Transmission, she felt that it was only right as she was the one who was imposing herself on his kindness.

Davis simply returned to restoring his half-empty soul force. Actually, he wanted to hear Fiora's part of the story to unravel what had happened to Natalya and this seemed like the best circumstance to naturally ask about it from her.

He asked Natalya to treat her so that he could later listen to her part of the story.

"Stand up and follow me, we'll treat your injuries inside the house since the master has recognized you as a guest..." Natalya coldly uttered after she finished calming down her emotions.

She wanted to let Fiora know that her elder sister was here, standing right in front of her with the flow of things, but Davis's latter half of the message made her change her mind.

Additionally, she once again remembered what Davis said to her long ago, that something was wrong with what had happened to her. To this, she had her own doubts as well after pondering on it over a lot this month.

### **Chapter 257 Having a Guest**

Fiora nodded her head in reply after hesitating for a while, mostly because she slightly believed that these people wouldn't harm her since they had gone out of their way to save her.

As for the identity of the person in front of her and the person who went into the residence, she didn't dare to probe.

Besides, when she checked her injuries, she realized all those scars had given her a miserable makeover.

As a woman who is in bloom, she naturally wouldn't want to look miserable in the public's eyes.

After following her into the residence, Fiora looked at the scenery around her in a sad light. This residence had once belonged to her family, yet they were so pressurized that they had to sell it and make their living in another city.

This kind of feeling invoked her killing intent towards the main family.

Natalya silently led her into an empty room. Fiora went into the room and stared back at her.

"I'll go get the medicine..." Natalya uttered and left after closing the door.

Fiora kept looking at the closed door for a while before muttering in a rueful tone, "This is my room..."

...

Davis naturally wasn't willing to peek on Fiora, so he didn't let his Soul Sense penetrate the room she stayed in but covered the whole residence.



After a while, Natalya came inside his room and asked for the medicine which he then gave after instructing not to divulge her identity at any circumstances.

He expected her to refute but Natalya actually bowed her head and replied, "Thank you for saving my sister, even going so far as to heal her injuries while giving her a place to stay."

"Don't mention it." Davis waved his hands and after a second, he said, "Let her heal for a while, then we'll ask what exactly had happened to you. I'll do the questioning, so don't interfere under any circumstances..."

"Yes!" Natalya replied in a thankful tone as she bit her lips, inwardly moved. She didn't think that this person who had saved her would be so accommodating to her.

After all, she as a person had already experienced the cruel reality of the world. The more he treated her better, the more indebted she felt.

Davis naturally wanted to know her past, so he could send her out safely and continue with his cultivation.

Even though it would be lonely, he preferred it that way unless it was Evelyn or his family accompanying him.

Having a woman alone with him for a long time didn't seem too feasible as he would only be disappointing Evelyn if she found about it.

After all, the vice versa was also true.

...

The knocking sounds of the door echoed out.

Hearing it, Fiora replied hastily, "Come in!"

After saying it, she realized that she had panicked and calmed herself down quickly.

The door opened and Natalya entered the room. She held a round cup with some paste on it.

Fiora looked at it suspiciously, wondering whether if it was laced with poison.

Natalya noticed her scrutinizing gaze and silently laughed to herself as she knew what was going on in her sister's mind.

She extended the cup and said, "Don't worry, if we had wanted to do something, you wouldn't be able to resist either..."

Fiora gulped as she wryly smiled, "I can see that is the case..."

Of course, when Natalya meant 'we', she naturally had only considered Davis, because even with her full strength she wouldn't be able to deal with her little sister.

Fiora took the cup with an unsure gaze and brought it towards her face. When she sniffed a fragrance of the paste lightly, she could feel her injuries slightly twitch in ecstasy, as if it would heal itself in the process of taking in the fragrance.

Seeing that there were at least no bad effects on the surface, she resigned herself to fate and started to apply the paste on her open wounds.

A cooling effect immediately spread when she applied the paste on her wounds. It even felt pleasurable to a certain degree.

Thinking that it was the real deal, she started to apply it at every wound on her body.

Just when she finished it applying on the skin where no clothes were covering, she tried to remove her clothes so that she could smear the paste on the wounds not visible to the public's eyes.

Then just when she was about to remove her clothes, she noticed that the masked person was staring at her intently from the side.

When they both realized that they were staring at each other, Fiora blushed slightly while Natalya inwardly laughed to herself.

The situation became incredibly awkward for Fiora, and instantly she started having doubts about whether this person was a woman or a man. Even though the latter's voice sounded and looked feminine, there were numerous arts and techniques out there to disguise oneself and it was no secret.

"... Excuse me, but if you could please leave, it would be a great help..." Fiora hesitantly said as she could not probe the other's identity.

"Oh? If you're worried about your body being seen by me, then your worries are unfounded since I am a woman..." Natalya seriously said in a deep womanly tone but deep inside, she was keeping herself from bursting into laughter.

Fiora hesitated whether to believe her or not, she had seen people who possess to mimic a womanly voice even though they were men.

She couldn't possibly ask the other party to remove their mask, could she? If it were so easy, then they wouldn't be wearing masks in the first place, even in their own residence.

She truly thought that if she were to somehow know their identity, she knew that the next moment she would be hunted down by them.

So she didn't dare to ask but instead said indirectly, "I am also insecure in showing my body to a woman, can you please leave..."

Natalya laughed inwardly and thought of teasing her more, but decided not to as she left.

Fiora inwardly released a sigh of relief and continued with patching up her wounds.

Even though it seemed funny to Natalya, Fiora was sweating a lot from nervousness.

She couldn't help but think what if that masked person suddenly pushed her down and ravaged her.

If Natalya were to know her thoughts, then it would be making her day light up with full of laughter from reminiscing this exact moment in the future.

**Chapter 258 My Soul Sense Is Always Active**

While returning, Natalya sighed as she didn't think she could instantly withhold the animosity she had for her little sister after this event.

It was like, her hatred for the latter was a lie in the first place. She quickly returned to Davis's room and saw him cultivating.

She didn't say anything but just removed her mask and watched his young look in admiration.

She had maids serving her before in the past and the reality placed before her left her laughing at the irony of her own fate.

But she was thankful that there was at least a person who was not unscrupulous beyond means, saving her from that cruel fate.

'Part of the reason why he had saved me was maybe that he had felt pity for me...' Natalya thought, contemplating why he had saved her from that place.

She then remembered that at that time, she had wet herself from fear, causing her face to turn into a blush.

She closed her eyes and shook her head, removing those thoughts away from her head. When she opened her eyes, she saw Davis looking at her suspiciously.

Her heart skipped a beat! His gaze once again reminded herself of how she wet herself in front of this person.

She couldn't help but turn conscious once she thought of that matter!

"What's wrong?" Davis asked, not understanding why she was acting weirdly.

Before this he looked at her suspiciously, thinking that she had divulged her identity to her little sister, but he realized that it didn't seem to be the case when he noticed her face flush red.

"Eh? N-nothing... That's right, I came to report that she had finished applying the medicinal paste which benefactor had given."

Seeing her getting all clumsy and avoiding his gaze, Davis was amused. He could tell that she was hiding something from him.

Thinking that it could be a small matter and even something personal for all he knew, he brushed it off and said, "She should have healed half a day later. That's when we'll start questioning her, you get it?"

Natalya nodded her head obediently

"Also, stay here. I don't want you going around talking to her which might inadvertently leak your identity."

Natalya heavily nodded her head, indicating that she also had the same thought. After all, she was sure that she would make a mistake at some point.

Suddenly she had a doubt which she promptly asked, "What if she runs away sneakily?"

"Don't worry, I have my Soul Sense active at all times, so it is impossible for her to escape..."

"I see..." Natalya turned relaxed but suddenly her eyes widened!

'I have my Soul Sense active at all times? Then does that mean he saw me while bathing!???' Natalya felt the world spin around in tremor.

When she incredulously cast a gaze at him with her wide eyes, he had already continued with his cultivation session.

Of course, Davis didn't peek on her when she bathed because he had other things to do, like... yes, studying.

...

Half a day later.

Fiora stood up after her injuries had healed, getting ready to leave. A lot of time had passed since she sneaked out of her house and any more delay will cause her parents to be worried.

She donned a new dark blue robe that she took from her spatial ring and it looked similar to the previous robe she wore.

Opening the door to leave, she stepped out of the room. Seeing that it would be rude to leave without saying anything, she thought of searching for them to bid farewell.

But before she could start searching, her eyes caught sight of the masked black-robed person in the hallway.

She walked towards her and bowed slightly in embarrassment, "I am incredibly grateful for your kind help, and have nothing of value to return the favor."

"I am young and I believe I will grow stronger in the future, so please consider this as I owe one. In the future, I will definitely aid you people as long as it doesn't concern something extreme..."

Natalya was stunned, her words were vague but it definitely had deep meaning and gratitude behind it, saving herself from any cruel requests that she might be asked upon in the future.

Natalya's eyes glazed and somehow, she felt proud of her sister. Even so, she suppressed her emotions and said, "Mister Scythe hopes to see you, follow me..."

"This..." Fiora hesitated but nodded her head thinking that it was better to follow the rules of the house, "Alright..."

Natalya turned around and brought her into Davis's room. In front of the bed where Davis sat on was a red-colored mattress.

It was previously the place where Natalya sat, and now, Fiora went ahead and sat upon it on Natalya's instruction.

Davis slowly opened his eyes, and at that exact time, he fully restored his soul force by circulating the Sacred Luminance Mist.

He couldn't help but think that the timing was perfect.

"What is your name?" Davis asked as he gazed at Fiora's face.

He had worn a mask as he knew that Fiora was coming to his room since he was the one who informed Natalya to invite her.

Fiora opened her mouth, not averting her gaze, "My name is Fiora Astoria. I haven't had the chance to thank benefactor for saving me from the likes of my own family, though ironic, it embarrasses me to say this."

"It doesn't matter anymore since I've already killed them, what I want to know is why you have come here? I've heard that you're looking for your elder sister?"

And as the rules stated, neither the guards nor the Astoria Family came to trouble him in his residence.

The guards literally turned a blind eye towards the incident as they have taken the bribe, and as for the Astoria Family.

Maybe, the Astoria Family didn't even know the whereabouts of the four, making them unable to trace them back to Davis.

Fiora was stunned and she thought he was going to help her find her elder sister but a moment later, she didn't dare get her hopes up too much.

But she was more than willing to share her plight to grasp the chance to save her elder sister.

### **Chapter 259 Fiora's Side Of The Story**

"Yes, I am looking for my elder sister because I believe she is missing... I want to get deep into this matter but I realize now that my cultivation is not up to the mark..." Fiora said sarcastically, mocking herself for her weakness.

At the same time, Davis and Natalya noticed something abnormal about her statement.

"You believe? That means you don't know what happened to your elder sister?" Davis pointed it out.

Fiora nodded her head in frustration, "Yes, no matter how I think about it, it doesn't make sense."

"What do you mean?" Natalya who was standing on the side asked with an eager tone but then she stiffened.

She abruptly received a Soul Transmission from Davis, who was reprimanding her for interfering with the conversation.

She instantly panicked and shut her mouth, thinking that she had done something wrong.

Davis originally thought that her interference will make Fiora to be cautious but it seemed like it had the opposite effect.

Although Fiora looked at Natalya suspiciously, she continued, "Two months ago, a certain powerful person came to our residence, seeking my elder sister to become his disciple."

"My parents immediately rejected his proposal since we're going to another city, but we saw her leaving with that person of her volition the same day."

Her face withered and her expression dulled.

"My parents cursed her to not return, especially my father, who was badly hurt by her selfish behavior at that time."

She gave off a weak chuckle and added, "Even I saw her leaving with a wide smile on her face as if the only one who was worth following would be that person who invited her to be his disciple."

Sighing gently, she continued, "Then a week later, that person came back to our residence and placed an urn on the floor, telling that his disciple died from not being able to cultivate the fire cultivation manual he had her inherit."

"My father out of rage attacked him but instantly realized it was useless. That person was too powerful and looking out for our safety, our father immediately took us into hiding."

"My parents mourned for her death but I wasn't ready to believe the bullsh\*t that person spoke! There is something obviously wrong! Even now, my sister could be alive somewhere, held captive by that person."

"I need to find her before its too late..." Fiora clenched her teeth, her small fists trembling in helplessness.

Natalya was stunned. She couldn't believe what her little sister had said. She immediately wanted to refute but was held back by Davis's Soul Transmission again.

A cold sweat broke out behind her back, thinking that she had almost revealed her identity.

"I see, that person, could you... identify?" Davis asked.

Fiora nodded her head in happiness. This meant that this person was willing to help find her elder sister, and to her, this couldn't get any better.

Sadly, little did she know that her elder sister was beside her the whole time.

She took out a paper from her spatial ring and drew out the facial features of that person.

Handing it over to Davis politely, she returned to sit on the red-colored mattress.

Davis looked at the figure and narrowed his eyes. He had no idea who this person was but he had his doubts flare when he showed that portrait to Natalya using a sleight of hand.

Natalya lightly shook her head, indicating that this wasn't the person who took her when her father sold her.

He thought for a moment before saying, "I need your help if we are going to find your elder sister..."

Fiora's face lit up in happiness, "Tell me, what should I do..."

"Get your parents to draw a portrait of that person and bring it here tomorrow, it will do. You can leave now..."

Fiora turned confused thinking whether if that's all that she needed to do but she still nodded her head and promptly left the residence.

After she left, Natalya muttered to herself in disbelief, "I really didn't do anything she said, she is lying... Yes, she is lying."

She looked at Davis and uttered, "Please believe me! What I said is the truth! I saw my father clearly selling me to that man. Even my mother and Fiora were laughing behind my backs!"

Natalya was afraid that this young man wouldn't believe her anymore and abandon her thinking that she was a deceitful woman.

Davis raised his hand, "Calm down! I believe you..."

"Phew..." Natalya heaved a sigh of relief when she heard his words.

Davis shook his head, "But I think your little sister isn't lying either. Her expression was too real to fake it..."

Natalya turned confused, "But..."

If what her sister said was the truth then wouldn't what she said turn out to be false?

"I don't think she was lying or is your little sister a devious person who can lie without even batting an eye?"

"I... No..." Natalya bit her lips.

Davis nodded as he felt the same from their short interaction, "Don't worry. I still believe you and I partly believe in her words too."

"If both of you are speaking the truth, then there is obviously something wrong with both of your stories... If we were to figure that out, we can clear the misunderstanding."

Natalya blinked as she took off the mask, "Misunderstanding? What do you mean?"

"Since you can't recognize the portrait, then most likely there is something mysterious about that man. I'm starting to think that he is skilled in the law of Illusions..."

Davis mused that the mysterious man had either achieved elementary proficiency or Level One Intent in the Law of Illusions.

Illusions were categorized to be part of the Primary Laws, and below the Fifth Stage, all Illusion Laws were at the elementary level. Only when a person reaches the Fifth Stage would they be able to comprehend and improve the laws to Level One Intent and above.

"Illusions!" Natalya's eyes widened in realization! If so, then the different scenes they witnessed could be explained!

But then she noticed the problem, "How are you going to verify that the scenes we all saw are Illusions?"

Davis smiled at her question, "Didn't I ask your little sister to bring the portraits drawn by your parents to me tomorrow? Although simple, if the faces you all saw were different, then it is naturally an illusion..."

Natalya widened her eyes in realization. So, that's why he had asked her little sister to do such an absurd task.

### **Chapter 260 I Am Willing**

A moment later, Natalya's face turned beet red as she realized that she thought of him to be stupid for requesting her little sister to do that absurd task.

She sighed as she was finally aware of her gullibility. No wonder that group of people was able to play her to death, even fooling her family in the process.

'Strength is indeed everything!' At this moment, this saying deeply entrenched in her mind and the need for cultivation arose in her heart.

She turned to look at Davis and thought of becoming his disciple but instantly realized that this person in front of her was not only younger than her but also mysterious. She knew nothing about him other than his age.

The words she wanted to let out went back inside her throat as she gulped and hesitated.

On one side, she was afraid that this person would abandon her if she were to annoy him anymore and on another side, she badly wanted to get strong. This made her feel distressed. Deciding to not bring out this topic now, she slowly breathed out a sigh of relief.

...

The next day.

Fiora, as asked upon, brought the portraits to Davis with a confused expression on her face.

As expected, all three portraits were different.

She had asked her parents to draw that hateful person's face but they refused. It was only after she said that she would make the latter pay in the future for the sake of their elder sister did they unwillingly relent.

Assassin organizations did exist everywhere, so they didn't find it weird that she wanted that man's portrait.

Natalya opened her mouth wide agape as she looked at Davis. She was astonished and awed by the fact that the person who was less in age to her was able to deduce this much with just a little amount of information!

Davis explained his deduction to Fiora to which she also felt that it was the case.

"There is no way my elder sister would follow a man just because he is strong!" Fiora smiled as she said, but her expression didn't last long when she realized that her whole family had been a victim of that person's illusions.

Suddenly, she narrowed her eyes at the portrait and pointed at it, "I recognize this person. He lives just a few kilometers away from ou... this residence."



"Maybe the answers to where my elder sister is all with him! We got a lead!" Fiora exclaimed with excitement etched all over the face.

Davis furrowed his brows, thinking that there was something wrong. He felt something didn't add up and with her being able to recognize a portrait, it just felt even more not right.

Why would that mysterious person who was proficient in illusions leave an obvious hole in his almost perfectly executed plan?

Instantly, a thought flashed past his mind!

A bait! That mysterious person had left a hole in his plan for someone!

Davis turned to look at Fiora, "No, it's likely a bait."

"Bait? Bait for whom?" Fiora asked back, not understanding.

Davis chuckled, "Of course, for you..."

"Me?" Fiora was visibly shocked!

"Didn't you say that your mother drew that portrait?" Davis asked.

"Yes..." She nodded.

"Then why wasn't your mother able to recognize that person?"

"That... I don't know..." Fiora turned confused.

"Then it's obvious that someone has set up a trap for you since you're the only person who can recognize that man."

Fiora's lips trembled, "Why would they do that?"

"I don't know. I can derive a lot of reasons but the most probable one would be that you're valuable merchandise to them."

"Mer... merchandise!?" Fiora's lips trembled even more as she repeated it.

Then what about her elder sister?

Fiora found it hard to fathom what exactly might've happened to her elder sister at this moment.

"Sigh, forget it, it's already been two months. The chances of your elder sister being alive at this point are almost zero." Davis said, wanting to stop her from getting into trouble.

"... No... She is alive..." Fiora uttered with her trembling lips, all the while thinking that it was her fault.

"If you're thinking of saving your elder sister by investigating the bait, then I assure you that at the end of the day, you will only be a captive, just like your elder sister." Davis suddenly said, breaking her resolution to save her elder sister.

"Not only will you be held captive, but even your mother and father will be silenced using various means."

"Tell me, is it worth it?" Davis asked coldly, like a demon who tempts the victims at night.

Fiora trembled visibly from hearing his viewpoint.

Davis wanted Fiora to give up and leave this city. If so, he could send Natalya to them in the future without causing any problems. It was a win-win situation for both of them, but it wasn't so for Fiora in her thoughts.

No matter what she did, it would lead to a tragic fate, unless she went away with her parents to another city while she had the chance.

But that would mean abandoning her lovely elder sister. Both of the options seemed tragic enough to scar her for life.

Her eyes darted around searching for a way to break through this tragic fate.

She herself completely realized that her puny cultivation wouldn't be of any help in saving her elder sister at this moment.

If so, what else could help? Her mind thought hard and the final conclusion she reached left her reeling in despair.

'Is there really no other way...?' Even so, she didn't give up and thought truly hard but wasn't able to come up with a solution in her mind.

Davis looked at her, waiting for her to comply with his wishes and return to her parents.

Fiora's expression changed every few seconds, displaying sadness, frustration, despair, hesitation and finally determination.

Her clear eyes gazed up at Davis as her eyelids trembled, "Mister Scythe, please save my elder sister..."

Davis had already thought of what to say if she asked, but just before he could decline, he heard her voice.

"In exchange, I... I am willing to... s-sleep with you..."

Fiora's face blushed with a deep red hue. The deep sense of shame and disgust she felt at herself multiplied by a few times.

Natalya was shocked beyond compare! And so was Davis!