

Esper 261

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Chapter 261: Hard Time || Second Strongest Vampire

"Did I stutter when I said I don't care what others think? I am going to take Rias and Jane with me, no matter what happens," Rudy uttered with a serious look on his face.

Nyxia raised her brow of one eye and squinted her eyes as she glared at Rudy.

"What's with that look? Is that supposed to scare me?" Rudy asked jokingly.

"Do you know why I am the second strongest?"

"Because you are strong, duh?"

"When I say strongest, I don't mean in strength. You can be strong in everything. I am not strong when it comes to strength. But my vampire abilities are far more evolved than any of the vampires in this world. I am the fastest and smartest."

"Before I gained the title of the Mad Queen, I was called the Wise Sage for the contributions I have made for this world and the vampires. Every book written in this world has to be permitted by me."

"I am the most knowledgeable. I know every little secret of everything you can ever think of, including the creation of life and the destruction of death. I know of the races you have never heard of. There are races that no one has ever seen. I know the origin of every race and how they come to be. I know how many stars are in the world, and I know how many get destroyed every day."

"..."

"I contain the power no one can achieve. I have both the knowledge and the experience. Do you think someone like you who got his powers a few weeks ago, who doesn't even know how to use his powers properly nor the limitations, can win against me? That's laughable!" she said in a haughty tone and with a proud, confident look on her face.

"Is it weird that I found what you just said more interesting than your life story you said a while ago?"

"Don't change the topic!"

"Whoa! Calm down. Why are you so agitated all of a sudden? Isn't it normal for a girl to leave her home and live with the man she marries?" Rudy asked with a curious and confused look on his face.

"That's a different thing!"

"Wow. So it's the same custom here too. I mean, the couple stays together, so it doesn't really matter where or who they live with," Rudy uttered in a low voice. "So, what's your problem? You may hate the human world and the humans, but you cannot use that as an excuse to stop me."

"Can't you bring your loved ones here in this world? That would solve the problem, right?"

"That's not happening." Rudy shook his head and said, "They all have their own life and goals to achieve. I can't steal that from them in the name of love. Besides, Jane has already agreed to go with me. And once Rias wakes up, I will tell her everything and convince her to join my harem."

"Hah?!" Nyxia scoffed out loud and said, "Good luck with that."

"Thank you!" Rudy said with a forced smile. "I really needed that."

Nyxia frowned her face and glared at Rudy.

Rudy grinned before smirking and said, "Not going to lie, the face you make when you are angry is hot as fuck. I feel like purposely making you angry just to see that face."

"Wha—!" Nyxia gritted her teeth with a flushed face, seemingly flustered, but she couldn't do anything else but glare at him.

"This is even better," he smirked from the corner of his lips.

"Gah!" Nyxia splashed the water on Rudy and said, "I am starting to dislike you."

"Glad to know it's working," he smirked wider.

"..."

"Anyway, Jane has already agreed to be with me, so I just need to ask Rias. And if both of them agree, you can't stop me, okay?"

"Why do you get to make such rules when you are in my world, my palace, my bathhouse?" Nyxia asked with a judging look on her face.

Rudy shrugged his shoulders and slowly moved from one edge to another.

"It's not like you can stop me," he said without looking at her. "You yourself said that you don't possess any strength."

"I also said that I possess dangerous vampire abilities. Do you want me to charm you or cast an illusion on you?"

Rudy turned to Nyxia and said, "You can't charm me, but tell me more about the illusion."

"Look me in the eyes, and I will give you a practical example."

"Oh?" Rudy locked his eyes with Nyxia and uttered, "I don't think it will work on me, though."

Ripple~! Drop!

Nyxia was sitting on the other side of the pool, but when Rudy blinked for a split second, she was in front of him, or rather, between his legs.

"See? I told you it wouldn't work on me," Rudy uttered with a chuckle. He couldn't move his gaze off Nyxia's two mountains with erect pink peaks.

Nyxia caught Rudy staring at her assets and asked, "Do you like them?"

"Who doesn't..." Rudy replied without taking his eyes off them.

Nyxia spread her legs and showed him her clean and alluring cave.

"What about this place?"

"Well..." Rudy pointed his gaze at his erect raging snake and said, "I don't think it can become any harder. And it's giving me a 'hard' time too."

Nyxia licked her lips and said, "Do you want me to help you out?"

"I won't be answering that. If I say yes, then I am doomed. Jane will go into a full yandere mode. And if I don't answer, I will get blue balled. And everyone hates that." After a brief pause, Rudy continued, "I always make my own choice when the options are limited, or I am out of them. And currently, the third option is to stay quiet, so even if Jane caught us, I could blame everything on you."

"Oh?" Nyxia climbed on Rudy's legs and got on his lap.

"I will say you charmed me or took control over me."

"Jane would never dare to speak against me, so I am safe no matter what I do."

"Then please yourself. I am all yours."

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Chapter 262: Twist over Twist

Nyxia pressed her body against Rudy's and wrapped her arms around his neck.

"What do you want me to do?" Nyxia asked with a seductive smile on her face.

"Do some exercise that requires our bodies to become one," Rudy replied.

Nyxia brought her face close to Rudy's lips and said, "Let's start with our lips first."

"Sure."

Nyxia opened her mouth and blew cold air on Rudy's face before moving her face to her ears and saying, "But you know what?"

"Wh...at?" Rudy asked hesitantly.

"I have been asking you to please me and my body ever since we met, but you turned me down each time by passing different comments."

"..."

"Don't you think it would be fair of me to blueball you?" she whispered in his ears.

"Don't do that. I am giving you my body, and you can do anything You want with it. You won't get a second chance, ever. So if you blueball me, you are going to suffer till the day you die."

"What a shame~" Nyxia licked Rudy's ear before moving to his cheek and saying, "You are currently in an illusion. And everything we do here won't ever be real."

"Huh? Wait, what do you mean? Didn't your illusion fail?" Rudy asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"No."

"Since... when... ?"

"From the start. When you said 'I doubt it would work on me' or something along the lines," Nyxia responded.

"Wow... I never realized. Isn't illusion supposed to be a fake perception or something? Here, I can feel your weight on my body. I can feel your boobs rubbing against my chest. I can feel your cold breath whenever you speak. Everything is so real that I can't tell the difference. And we are even having a natural conversation. How am I supposed to figure out if it's an illusion or not?" Rudy asked sincerely with a curious face.

"What you're referring to is not an illusion. This is the real and the most deadly illusion. Didn't I tell you that I am the most powerful when it comes to the vampire abilities.?"

"Just curious, what would happen if we had sex in this illusion? Would we feel good?"

"If I kill you in the illusion, would you die?" Nyxia asked.

"Don't ask such scary things. I am a normal teenage boy who has to live his life and meet beautiful girls. Become a billionaire and live a peaceful and luxurious life."

Drop! Ripple~!

Rudy came back to his senses and saw Nyxia wasn't sitting on the opposite edge where she was sitting before she cast an illusion.

"Are you looking for me?" Nyxia asked, peeking from behind.

"...!" Rudy let out a weary sigh and muttered, "I am experiencing the feelings I got when I met Rias for the first time. She had scared the shit out of me in that house."

Nyxia had her arms around Rudy's neck, but from behind as she was sitting on the ledge. Her legs were on Rudy's thighs, almost touching his crotch.

She moved her hands to Rudy's hair and played with his hair.

"Uhh..." Rudy let out a deep sigh and facepalmed himself before muttering, "What are we even doing?"

"Relaxing?"

Rudy wasn't going to let Nyxia play with him, so he rubbed his head, and as he had expected, his head was between Nyxia's cave. When he rubbed his head, Nyxia pulled Rudy's hair by mistake.

However, she was only trying to stop Rudy by grabbing his head, but she ended up pushing it against her cave.

"Nnn—!" She moaned strangely.

Rudy smirked after that and asserted his dominance.

Nyxia moved her feet from Rudy's thighs and squeezed his snake with her feet.

"...!"

She was giving him a footjob.

Without wasting any time, she started moving her foot up and down.

"You are awakening weird fetishes inside me," Rudy said calmly and enjoyed the pleasure.

However, when Rudy's snake started to twitch, she stopped moving.

"Hey..." Rudy glared at Nyxia and said, "You are going to regret this."

"Arara~ Someone's angry," she teased in a cheeky manner.

"You have no idea who you are playing with."

"So do you." Nyxia's opened her mouth and elongated her fangs, which looked longer and sharper than Jane's.

She was about to bite him on the neck but suddenly stopped. Her eyes widened as she saw a mark appearing on Rudy's neck that soon turned into a shape of fangs with a shackle-like symbol on them. Then, two fangs appeared and covered the fangs and symbols in them.

"....!" Nyxia changed her mind and smirked from the corner of her lips. She stopped touching Rudy to avoid direct contact with him and thought, 'That's an alternate mark upon a marriage ritual, which has been prohibited from using like 50,000 years ago. Did Jane mark him? Well, obviously. But I don't think she is aware of what she did. If it was only a marriage mark, it should be visible all the time, but this other mark is...'

'Not only did she marry and mark him, but she also marked him with something else. Maybe she was possessive when she did that. The partners used to use this mark to show the rest of the world that they belonged to each other.

It was also used to avoid cheating and unfaithful partners since this mark won't allow them to get intimate with someone other than their partner. Jane probably did this without knowing, but... Well... this is going to be fun.

It was Jane who stole him from Glorias, and now she wants to monopolize him. Oh, my Lord. I don't know who to root for. I love Glorias, but Jane is my favorite. It's a shame that they are in love with the same man, who already has a harem.'

Nyxia smirked even wider and thought, 'Interesting. Very interesting! I can't wait for Glorias to wake up!'

"Ahahahaha!" Nyxia laughed maniacally."

"What's with that laugh?"

"Oh, my sweet boy..." Nyxia nipped on Rudy's ears and whispered, "Do you know, all this is an illusion too?"

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Chapter 263: Reality Check

"What?!" Rudy exclaimed.

"You are currently in an illusion too."

"What do you mean?! Did you not end the illusion a while ago?" Rudy asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"I did, but that was an illusion inside an illusion," she whispered calmly.

"What the— fuck?!"

"Did you take me lightly when I said I am the master? I can do things you have never imagined. I am not saying I would win if we fought, but I can outsmart you in your every move," Nyxia said while nibbling Rudy's ears.

Rudy was feeling so good that his attention was getting diverted by the pleasure.

"Since when am I in the illusion?" Rudy asked in a curious and calm voice.

"Since the start."

"Oh. Ever since you entered the pool?"

"No. Ever since we first locked eyes with each other in the vampire academy. I had charmed you long ago, and the requirement to trigger the illusion was that we needed to see each other naked, which we did."

"..."

"But for some reason, my charm had no effect on you. I am not trying to exaggerate when I say I am more confident in my charm ability than the illusion, but you somehow managed to resist my charm. You have a strong mental resistance, I must admit."

Nyxia finally stopped nibbling Rudy's ear and moved his head up so he could look at her face, or rather into her eyes.

"However, you need to work on the illusion. Perhaps it worked because you have never been in an illusion before, and you never expected such a thing to happen. But that's not an excuse. You must keep your guard up, even when you are with your loved ones since that's the only moment when one would expect you to not be on your guard," she said in a calm and anxious voice as though she was concerned about Rudy.

"..."

Rudy was lost in Nyxia's charm, but he came back to his senses after seeing tears in her eyes.

"Why... are you crying?" he asked with a confused look on his face.

"Shhh!" Nyxia placed her hand on Rudy's lips and moved her face close. She kissed her hand that was on Rudy's lips while gazing into his eyes, making him more confused and emotional at the same time.

After the kiss, she raised her head and kissed Rudy's forehead before spreading her beautiful patterned wings.

"Tell me... one thing..." Rudy wiped Nyxia's tears and asked, "Did the conversation we had and the time we spent together, was all an illusion too?"

"It was a real illusion. Everything we did was real. Everything I said was true with no lies. And the moment we shared was also real. But... in an illusion." Nyxia bumped her forehead onto Rudy's forehead and uttered in a very low voice:

"You foolish boy, what am I going to do with you?"

"Uhh... I have never been so confused before."

Nyxia hugged Rudy and whispered something in his ears that made his mind blank for a split second. When he came back to his senses, he was sitting alone in the pool.

"If the illusion has ended... where did she go...?"

As Rudy was dazed, the bathhouse door suddenly opened with a creaking noise, and Jane walked in.

"Hey, you already got in the pool."

"Yeah..."

Jane rushed to the pool and slid inside. She swam a little and sat beside Rudy as his wet body touched Jane's half-wet body.

"What's wrong? You seem lonely. Were you missing me?" she teased with a grin on her face.

"How much time has passed since we last saw each other?"

"About less than a minute? I followed you right after you left," Jane answered.

'So that's the true illusion. It makes me wonder if Nyxia truly came here or was it all my dream. I mean, obviously, she was here. But still... illusions are scary...'

Jane noticed Rudy's erect snake and touched it with her hands.

"Mister Dick seems energetic."

"Yeah, can you help it out? It's looking for a place to stay for a while."

"Too bad. The only place I know is locked right now. Try 24 hours later."

"You are still hung up on that, huh? Rudy sighed.

"I made a challenge, so I will have to complete it," Jane shrugged.

"But Dick is suffering because of your challenge. Is that how you treat your customer? Dick will give you a low star review at this rate."

"I... can use my hands if you want..." Jane muttered.

"Use your mouth."

"No." Jane shook her head and said, "I want to relax and enjoy. You might not know by sucking it tires my jaw. I didn't say this last night because I was too excited, and it didn't actually hurt at that time. I was even having trouble eating, so I only drank blood, your blood."

"Fine. It's better than nothing."

Jane began giving Rudy a handjob while Rudy closed his eyes and relaxed.

Jane was also lost in her thoughts, as though she was pondering on something.

"Oh!" she suddenly exclaimed and stopped moving her hand.

Rudy opened his eyes and asked, "Why did you stop?"

"I just recalled something!" She turned to Rudy and said, "I am so stupid!"

"Self-realization is indeed a nice thing," Rudy nodded.

"That's not it! I am talking about the time you brought the ghost girl to the forest to have sex with her!"

Rudy's eyes widened after hearing that, and he asked, "How... do you know that?"

"I was there! I was watching you two, and I also shot a spell on you to make you impotent. But it didn't work." Jane sighed deeply and muttered, "If I had recalled this sooner, I would have already known you had a harem."

"What the fuck did you just say?!" Rudy asked, his face twitching from all the sides.

"Hmm? Why do you look so angry?" she asked with an oblivious look on her face.

"You... you tried to make me impotent?! You tried to kill Mister Dick?!"

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Chapter 264: Returning?

"You seriously tried to do something like that?!"

"That was before I met you or Mister Dick."

"But how could you even do something like that? And how did you not recognize me? I may not remember anything, but you knew everything. And you still—"

"You were far away, and I didn't see your face. I was seeing your soul and simply made an assumption. I didn't know it was you."

Rudy still couldn't believe Jane would do something like that, even to a stranger. Sure, scaring them away was an option, but punishing them in such a way was a horrendous act.

Rudy then recalled the strange sensation he had felt when he was about to penetrate Angelica's cave, where he also felt like someone was watching them.

Not to mention, it scared Angelica, who was the ghost, so they had to go back home.

"After you suddenly disappeared from the forest, I stood on the spot where you were trying to do... that. I smelled the scent, and it reminded me of you, but of course, I wasn't sure it was you. I have never smelled a human before, so I used to think all humans smell the same. But, after you mentioned the ghost living inside you, I thought maybe that was you."

"Okay, that makes more sense as to why you didn't know it was me. But that changes nothing. What if your spell had worked? You would have killed Mister Dick even before you met it, you know?"

Rudy's doubts had cleared, and he wasn't angry anymore. Jane didn't do it on purpose, and she didn't know it was Rudy. But her punishment still wasn't justified.

"But it didn't work. And besides, it would have been your fault, to begin with. Why would you even come to a forest to do that? And that too in the middle of the night," she said nonchalantly, seemingly not regretting or feeling sorry for what she had done.

"You know, it's really amazing that we are actually in love with each other despite having a former enemy-like relationship," Rudy muttered.

"Because we both wanted the same thing, and we worked hard for it. And you know..." Jane placed her head on Rudy's shoulder and calmly said: "I think it's because I hated you that I fell in love with you."

"Hmm?"

"My hate for you turned into love. For some reason, I can't hate you. Maybe because you gave me what I needed? Love."

"..."

"Of course, it's not like I wasn't loved before. Grandma Nyxia, Grandpa Virgil, and Rias love me, but they are a family. I have friends too who love me. Really..."

Jane smiled distantly and said, "My friends were the best. When everyone criticized me for being a dhampir and a cursed child of the blue moon, they befriended me. I had the same haughty attitude at that time too, but they still stayed with me. Thanks to them, I was happy."

"...?" Rudy played with Jane's hair and asked, "Why are you referring to them in the past tense? Are they not your friends anymore? Or perhaps, they passed away?"

"No, they are still alive. But I haven't seen them in over ten years. They are the knights of this kingdom, so they are busy dealing with the issues," she replied calmly.

"But you should still be able to meet them, right?"

"No, I don't know what post they are serving, and mind you, this kingdom is vast. The city you are seeing is just a small portion of it, and this palace is not the real palace. The true royal place is not beautiful like this one is. It's scary."

"Nyxia lives there?" Rudy asked curiously.

Jane nodded and said, "She kicked everyone out of the palace and sent them here. Although that happened 2000 years ago after her husband died."

"How did her husband die?"

"He was murdered, or so I have heard. No one knows the real cause of his death. But Grandma was devastated. She also tried many forbidden rituals to revive him, and the legend says that she was able to reincarnate him."

"Reincarnate? As in dying and being reborn? That's some straight-up scary shit. I do not doubt the legend, but for Nyxia to do something like that..."

Rudy recalled how Nyxia had described her powers and how she talked about legend and myths.

'If she was truly successful in doing something like that, why was she flirting with me? When she mentioned her husband, I could feel the love, sadness, and loneliness in her voice.

Without a doubt, she loved him dearly. She also said that the only man she had been with was her husband. So she wouldn't make moves on someone else, unless...'

'No, no, no.' Rudy shook his head. 'You are thinking too much, Rudy. You are a human, and your mother is Rebecca.'

"Well, her love story is not something one would admire. But her husband was probably commendable since he managed to melt the Mad Queen."

"True..."

Jane squinted her eyes at Rudy and uttered, "And you did too."

"I didn't."

"Hmph! If I catch you cheating on me with any other vampire except Rias, you better be prepared to face my wrath," she said with a proud and confident look on her face.

"What would you do? Kill me?" Rudy scoffed jokingly.

"No. But I will..." Jane whispered something in Rudy's ears.

"Wow... calling you a yandere would be an understatement now..." Rudy muttered.

After relaxing in the pool for a few more minutes, they got out and washed each other's bodies.

Rudy's plan was to finger Jane while washing her body and stop before she orgasmed to make her desperate. However, Jane had already seen through him and didn't let him wash her.

But Jane gave him a handjob to Rudy, so he was satisfied for now. Still, he wanted Jane to lose her challenge as he didn't want to stay a virgin for 24 hours. It was an impossible task for him, and his super libido wasn't going to like that.

After taking a bath, they both made their way to Jane's room, which was cleaned perfectly by Niti.

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Chapter 265: Vampire's Thirst

Rudy jumped on the bed and lay down, but Jane fixed her hair in front of the mirror on the vanity table.

Rudy looked at her and smiled.

"Just like a normal girl..." he muttered.

"Why are you staring at me like that?" Jane asked without looking at Rudy.

"I am waiting for you to finish and get on the bed. Then, I will tie you up and have 'fun' with your body," he said jokingly with a grin on his face.

"Jokes aside, what are we going to do now?" Rudy asked calmly. "I can't go out, or your so-called relatives will see me, which you don't want to happen. What am I supposed to do for two weeks?"

Jane brushed her hair, but she was doing it awkwardly, making it obvious that she wasn't used to that.

"Rias will wake up in two days, which I am excited about. But spending all day in this room, when you have made a stupid challenge, I will die by boredom," Rudy groaned. He rolled on the bed like a kid and messed up the blanket and the bedsheet.

"It's my fault you are stuck here. And I can't even help you..." Jane sighed.

She threw the brush on the table and turned to Rudy with messy hair.

She then gulped nervously and muttered, "Can I drink your blood?"

Rudy raised his brows and squinted his eyes as he shook his head.

"If you made a no-sex challenge. I will also make a no-blood-drinking challenge.

"Is that revenge?"

"Yes."

Jane squirmed and said, "Don't you like it when I suck your blood?"

"I can ask you the same. Don't you like it when Mister Dick ravages your place?"

Rudy and Jane stared at each other without saying anything. Both of them were waiting for the other one to give up.

"Fine then. Hmph!" Jane flicked her hair haughtily and said, "I will drink the animal's blood. There is plenty available."

"Are you going to break your promise?" Rudy asked with a judging look on his face.

Jane chose to force Rudy to give up. However, she underestimated Rudy.

"Sure, go ahead and drink whoever's blood you want to drink."

"...!" Jane was baffled as she clearly never expected to hear that from Rudy's mouth, especially after how he had reacted when he asked her to drink only his blood.

"Are... you sure...?" Jane asked while stuttering like crazy. She had no idea what was happening or what she should do next.

"Yeah. Go ahead."

Jane was truly thirsty, and she wanted to drink blood. It was a natural reaction that occurred to all the vampires.

Just like how humans felt an urge to drink something cold after getting out of a hot spring or a hot bath or shower, vampires also felt an urge to drink blood.

That was why Nyxia had tried to drink Rudy's blood but stopped after seeing the ritual mark, which appeared when she tried to drink his blood and disappeared soon after.

Jane was desperate to drink blood, and she couldn't hold the urge.

"I will really do it..." Jane muttered.

"Yeah, go ahead," he shrugged.

Jane felt betrayed as Rudy was forcing her to break his promise. Feeling dejected, she turned around and walked to the door. She opened the door and was about to leave the room, but:

"But remember," Rudy uttered aloud.

Jane stopped on her track and slowly turned to Rudy, who was seemingly waiting for the right time to say that.

"If you drink someone else's blood and break the promise, I will also break my promise and sleep with other vampires," he said with a smirk on his face.

"...!"

"Niti seems to be a perfect candidate, but maybe I should taste Nyxia too," he smirked wider.

Jane frowned her face and glared at him like never before. She closed the door behind her without breaking eye contact with Rudy and spread her wings.

"..."

Her fangs elongated, and she snarled at him, just like how a predator would do to its prey before hunting.

"Ummm, princess? You look horrible right now," Rudy commented. "If you make a face like that, you will get wrinkles."

However, Jane didn't listen to Rudy and flapped her wings, flying to the bed and pinning Rudy down.

She buried her fangs into Rudy's neck and started drinking his blood like a maniac. It was as though Jane had lost her sense of thinking and become a blood-thirsty monster.

She was sucking his blood with crazy force, almost rivaling Rudy's healing ability to create new blood in his body.

However, Rudy was enjoying that wholeheartedly. After all, he did that on purpose.

One might think it was stupid for him to make Jane angry like that, but that was his aim all along.

Since Jane had made a no-sex for 24 hours challenge, Rudy also made a no-blood-drinking for 24 hours challenge, and Jane just went against the rule and broke Rudy's challenge. Hence, he could break Jane's challenge too.

Sure, there were many other ways to do it, but Rudy chose the fastest and the easiest way, which was also pleasurable for him.

While Jane was busy sucking his blood, Rudy swiftly penetrated his snake in her cave. Of course, she was wearing clothes, but she had lost her worldly senses and never realized that Rudy's snake had invaded her cave.

It wasn't until Jane came back to her senses that she realized that she was plugged up by something hot.

"..." She licked the blood from her lips and realized what she had done. She felt petrified for losing her senses and wanted to apologize to Rudy. But her guilt vanished soon when her cave twitched in pleasure.

"Wha..." She looked down to see Rudy's snake coming in and out of her tight cave. "What are you doing?!"

"Oh? Princess is back to her senses," he said with a grin on his face. "You suddenly went crazy, so I thought I should calm you down by filling you up."

"I was thirsty for blood! Not your cum!" she hissed.

"Now, now. If you don't want this, then you can push me away. I won't stop you."

Jane wanted to get away from Rudy, but she gave in to the pleasure and stopped resisting.

'I had already failed the challenge, so there was no point in acting tough.'

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Chapter 266: [Bonus] Late Night Dinner

It had been hours since Rudy and Jane started their session, and both of them had orgasmed multiple times. They continued without having any sense of time, and when they stopped, it was already past midnight.

"Should we bathe again?" Jane asked while fixing her clothes.

"Nah, it's fine." Rudy sniffed Jane before kissing her and said, "I like your smell."

Jane sniffed Rudy and said, "You smell a lot like me too."

"That's a plus then. It will help me hide my human scent."

"True."

Rudy placed his hand on his stomach and said, "Do you think I can get any food in the dining hall?"

"I am not sure. But let's go there." Jane dragged Rudy's hand and walked him to the royal dining hall.

"Are you hungry too?" Rudy asked calmly.

"I drank a lot of your blood, so I don't feel that hungry. But I do want to eat with you." She smiled at him and added, "It would be like a candlelight dinner, right?"

"I am surprised you know what that is. But this is not the first time I have seen a human custom in this world."

"You can say there are many common things."

Jane and Rudy reached the hallway of the dining hall, and the lights were on for some reason.

'Is someone inside?' he wondered. 'I wouldn't mind running into a royal or a noble.'

He smirked.

However, when they reached the door, it was empty with leftovers and dirty plates on the dining table.

'Tch! It seems I missed them again. But well, I will meet them sooner or later.' Rudy had promised Jane that he wouldn't do anything to the royals or the nobles, and he was going to fulfill that promise.

However, things could change if 'they' start a drama. Rudy could base everything out as self-defense and clean some trash.

Rudy glanced at Jane and asked, "Is it normal for the lights to be on?"

"It's not unusual, I guess..." she muttered.

They entered the dining hall and checked the pot casseroles.

"Hmm. It's not enough, but this will do..." he muttered.

"Are you sure?" Jane asked with an anxious look on her face. "I am not hungry, so I will just watch you. But if you want more, then I can order the maids to make some dishes for you."

"Do the vampires sleep at night?"

"Yes," she nodded in response.

"Then, it's fine. I don't want to wake the maids. They are probably tired after working all day."

Rudy sat on the chair and pushed all the dirty plates away. He stacked them in one place and pulled the pots close to him using telekinesis.

Jane smiled at him and rubbed her hand on his head before saying, "This kindness inside you is warm. I like how you worry about the people you don't even know."

"I am not worried about them. I am just being mature." Rudy shrugged and said, "For example, if there was no food available, I would have asked you to wake them up."

"Hmm... fair..." Jane grabbed one pot and noticed the food was cold. "Do you want me to heat them up?"

Rudy raised his brow with an amused look on his face and asked, "Have you ever actually stepped a food in a kitchen?"

"No..." she replied while averting her gaze.

"Have you ever cooked?"

"No... but heating food is easy, right?"

"It's not, actually. I can't recall how many times I have messed up."

"Then will you eat cold food?" Jane bit her lips and said, "I will call the maids, after all."

"There is no need." Rudy raised all the pots in the air using telekinesis and used pyrokinesis over them to heat the pots.

"See?" he said with a grin on his face.

Jane gave up with a sigh and sat on the chair beside Rudy while he enjoyed his meal.

A few minutes later, Niti walked into the hall and saw Jane and Rudy.

"Princess?" she muttered with a surprised look on her face. "What are you doing here too late?"

"Come on, Niti. What does one do in the dining hall?"

"My apologies for asking such a question. I was shocked." Niti looked at the food Rudy was eating and said, "Why are you eating the leftovers? You should have called the maids to cook new food for you."

Rudy swallowed the bite he was chewing and asked, "When was this food made?"

"Around 6 hours ago..." Niti replied.

"Then it's fine. Moreover, have you eaten?"

"No, I was here to do just that. I was here to wash the dishes and eat the leftovers, but..." Niti stopped and noticed the stacked plates on the table.

"Oh! This food was supposed to be for you?" Rudy grabbed a clean empty plate and said, "Come. Eat."

"I would never!" She bowed down and uttered, "Please eat as much as you want. Don't worry about me."

"I am almost done. Come. Eat the food while it's hot."

Niti glanced at Jane with a troubled face, but Jane nodded and said, "What are you waiting for?"

Niti sat beside Rudy and started eating slowly. She was feeling awkward, but she managed to stay calm.

Rudy nudged his elbow to Jane and said, "Can I have something to drink? Preferably, something cold?"

"Like...?"

"Uhh... milkshake?"

"How do you make it?"

SIGH!

"Nevermind..."

Niti heard the conversation and said, "I will make you one."

"Thank you, but finish eating first."

A few minutes later, Niti finished eating and went to the kitchen to make a milkshake for Rudy.

Jane was pouting as she didn't get to help Rudy.

Rudy looked at the stack of dirty plates and wondered, 'Niti has been working since the morning, and she still has work to do. Where are the other maids? The place is so big, and I have surely seen at least a few dozen maids walking around. So why is Niti doing all the chores? I thought she was Jane's personal maid.'

Rudy had a faint idea why that was happening.

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Chapter 267: Blood Moon Trees

Rudy spread all the dirty plates and pots in the air and used the mixture of hydrokinesis to wash the dishes.

When Niti returned with a glass filled with a milkshake, she was left speechless to see all the plates were washed and cleaned. Not only that, but Rudy had also cleaned the table.

"Why... would you do all that? It was my job..." she muttered in confusion.

"Don't get the wrong idea. I only did that because I was bored. I do it at home, and this is the best way to learn to control my powers precisely. They help me get a better judgment," he stated.

Niti nervously glanced at Jane from the corner of her eyes and saw she didn't look happy about it. Of course, she was glad that Niti's work was done by Rudy, but she was displeased that Rudy did it for Niti's sake.

It was but a simple feeling of every girl in love; jealousy.

"Here..." Niti handed a glass filled with a milkshake to Rudy.

"Red... or is it pink...?" The color was lighter than red but darker than pink.

"Uhh..." Rudy turned to Jane and asked, "Please tell me it's not the blood mixed with milk."

"It's not," Niti answered instead of Jane. "It's pure milk and a blood moon fruit."

"And... what is that fruit made of?"

"It's a natural fruit from a tree."

"Why is it called the blood moon fruit?"

"Ahem!" Jane cleared her throat to bring Rudy's attention to her. Then she haughtily flicked her hair and uttered with a proud face:

"They are called the blood moon fruit because they only grow once a year under the full red moon, which is the blood moon week for us vampires, which is the current week. It is said that the blood moon tree was the first thing to be created in this vampire world. Of course, the Lord created it for us vampires, and it was also a substitute for blood.

However, the vampires didn't like it. They wanted the real world, which angered the Lord. In the end, Lord created a few animals which milked blood instead of milk. That was to decrease the bloodshed in this world and maintain the ecosystem. If the vampires started hunting the animals for food, they would go extinct. Unlike the human world, where there are animals dangerous to humans, in this world, vampires are the most dangerous.

Yet, there were a few rebellious vampires who wanted to drink human blood. So they sneaked out and began hunting the humans until the Lord found out about them and crucified them.

Some say that it was the reason why the Lord had forbidden making contact with the humans. But I believe that wasn't the whole story."

'Yeah, that's not the full story. Nyxia told me the other reasons as well,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

Jane smiled innocently and waited for Rudy to praise her. But Rudy did something else.

He turned to Niti and said, "So in the end, it's blood and milk."

"You can say that, but it's not the real world. The fruit is a delicacy to the vampires, and they are rare and expensive since there are only a few trees shared between the kingdoms," she responded calmly.

"You can grow more trees, right? I am not a botanist, but I know many things about how plants and trees work. In fact, that was one of the first things I learned in biology."

"Mitochondria is a powerhouse of the cell..." he muttered.

"We can't grow the blood moon trees," Jane interjected. She frowned her face at Rudy and continued, "Many tried but failed. It's nearly impossible to grow it."

"Nearly impossible is not impossible."

Jane frowned her face even more, but Rudy ignored her and drank a sip from the glass. His eyes widened as he gulped down the entire glass in the second sip.

"Damn, that was awesome!"

"I am glad you liked it."

"Can I get one more glass?" he asked with a resolute expression.

"Ummm... we are out of blood moon fruits. Today is the second night, and more fruits should arrive soon," Niti responded.

"I see. Please make me a few glasses when they arrive."

After that, Rudy tapped on Jane's shoulder and said, "Let's go."

He walked a few steps towards the door but stopped and turned around when he didn't hear Jane's footsteps.

She was still sitting on the chair with puffed cheeks and a glare in her eyes.

SIGH!

Rudy used telekinesis and carried Jane into his arms. Then, he walked out of the dining hall while carrying Jane like a princess.

"Would you stop pouting and glaring at me at the same time? It doesn't make you look scary. I find it rather cute."

"You have to pay attention to me when I am around. Why were you flirting with Niti in front of me?" she asked in a gloomy voice.

"How was that flirting? I was asking her genuine questions."

"You could have asked me."

"You know nothing about food, so I didn't ask you. And you did answer my question about the blood moon tree history. So what's this drama about?" he asked with a curious and confused look on his face.

"You didn't praise me for my answer."

"I was thinking of rewarding you on the bed instead," he uttered casually.

"Oh." Jane's anger vanished within a second.

Rudy carried Jane to her room, but he stopped halfway and decided to enjoy the cold breeze and the night scenery from the balcony.

"It's truly so beautiful. I was so angry last night that I didn't pay attention to anything."

"Are we going to sleep or have 'fun' all night?" Jane asked with an excited face.

"Neither..."

"Huh?"

"Let's go back."

"Back where...? Do you want to visit Rias?" she asked curiously.

"No, I will do that in the morning. Right now, I want to go back to the labyrinth."

Mitochondria is a powerhouse of a cell!

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Chapter 268: Returning to the Labyrinth

"Labyrinth? Why do you want to go there at this time?" Jane asked with a conflicted look on her face.

"Before you jump to a weird conclusion like an insecure girlfriend, we just had sex for hours. Otherwise, I would still prefer to spend the night and have fun," Rudy asserted in a neutral tone.

"Oh? So you are saying that you are tired of my body now?"

"I did not say that." Rudy turned to look at Jane, only to find her grinning at him.

Rudy pinched and pulled Jane's cheek as she said, "Stop pretending. I can't tell when you are joking and when you are not."

Rudy climbed the ledge and shot a glance at Jane before jumping down. Jane watched Rudy land with a smile on her face before spreading her wings and flying away.

Rudy jumped again and flew beside Jane while practicing his new flying technique. He was keeping the movements of his hands and legs still to avoid the friction in the air. However, the change in his speed wasn't much, so he stopped doing that.

"So? You didn't answer my question. Why do you suddenly want to go there?"

"Just curious and bored... I guess?" Rudy shrugged.

'After my chat with Nyxia, I am more curious about everything. And the only place I can find answers is the labyrinth. Maybe I should have stayed there and seen who it was.

Whoever it was, they surely knew the passage. Even Jane got lost, but I don't blame her since she went there after a long time.'

Rudy began guessing the person, but he didn't know many vampires to begin with, so the only people he could suspect were Nyxia or Virgil.

Rudy suddenly smelled a sweet fragrance that was being carried by the cold breeze. He instantly recognized the smell and turned to Jane.

"Is that smell from the blood moon fruit?" he asked to confirm.

"Yes," she nodded in response.

"Can you take me there? I want to see what the tree looks like."

"Sure. It's not far away, but I can't take you close. You will have to see them from afar."

Rudy followed Jane and stopped when she stopped.

"There it is."

He followed Jane's gaze and saw a garden full of Blood Moon Tree. The fruits were shining red while beating as though they were alive, and they looked even more imposing under the red moon.

"Hmm? There are so many fruits already. Why wasn't there any available in the palace? Don't the royals get prioritized about all this stuff?" Rudy asked without moving his gaze from the garden.

"You are not wrong about that. But there are many rules to harvesting the fruits from the tree. There is a certain time between the night and the morning that separates the day from night. And only then are they only allowed to harvest the blood moon fruits," Jane explained calmly.

SIGH!

"I honestly don't know what to say about these rules. But they must exist for a reason, so I think I should say something inappropriate." Rudy hugged Jane from behind and uttered, "Can we go there?"

Jane leaned back and enjoyed Rudy's embrace before asking, "What do you want to do by going there?"

"I want to burn the trees," he snickered. "I am joking. I want to see the trees. Maybe I can grow them?"

"How? It's not an ordinary plant. And earlier, you said you were a botanist- which I assume is something related to the science behind the plants. But don't forget this world works on magic, not science. And so does that tree."

"That's not what I meant." Rudy squeezed Jane's breasts and said, "My powers technically allow me to do anything I wish for. Directly or indirectly, my wish gets fulfilled."

"That sounds like you are blessed." Jane smiled with a soft chuckle and muttered, "A love between a cursed and a blessed. Doesn't that sound romantic?"

"Hmm. More like poetic, but I don't and can't argue with that." Rudy activated his see-through ability and scanned the area around the garden.

"It's full of guards hiding perfectly in their spots. If we approach carelessly, they might get in trouble," he muttered.

"Shouldn't it be 'we' might get in trouble?"

"Of course not. Why should we get in trouble?"

"Anyway, we are getting late. Let's go to the academy and return before the morning. There is a function at the royal palace, and I must attend it."

"How can you tell when it's morning and when it's night? There is... or are, no suns here. And everything looks the same to me. I haven't seen a clock either," Rudy asked curiously.

"It's the sky. It changes, and an invisible layer is formed between the moons and the sky." Jane groaned and muttered, "It's hard to explain."

Rudy hugged Jane tightly and teleported to the labyrinth, or so he wanted to, but they teleported to the statue in the vampire academy.

"Hmm..." Rudy hummed in amusement and uttered, "That's strange. This has never happened before. Was that yet another teleport malfunction?"

He wondered.

"What?" Jane asked with a puzzled look on her face. "Did you not intend to teleport us here?"

"I tried to teleport us to the labyrinth. But..."

"Maybe it's because of the phenomena I told you about?"

"Or perhaps that place doesn't exist in the current time and has changed into something else."

"That's what I said..."

Jane quickly triggered the secret passage and jumped before Rudy.

"Someone's in a hurry." Rudy jumped right after Jane, and they landed within a minute.

"Are you okay?" they asked each other.

"Is it just me, or did we land a lot sooner this time?" Rudy asked.

"You are not alone."

They both glanced around and were left astonished after realizing it was an entirely different place. Sure, they had already expected that. But it wasn't a labyrinth anymore. Rather, they were in an open desert that had its own moon and stars in the sky.

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Chapter 269: Stranded

"Where are we?" Jane muttered as she glanced around. "I have never used the secret passage at night, so this is my first time here. But rather than a labyrinth or an underground, this looks like an entirely different world."

"It's another dimension. Most likely, the secret passage activated a portal, and we ended up here."

"What should we do?" she asked in an anxious voice. She spread her wings and flew in the air to see the vast area.

Rudy did the same, but he flew higher than her since he could see farther than her.

"There is nothing but sand everywhere. What type of world is this?" Jane hugged herself and muttered, "I don't like this place. It's making me nauseous, for some reason."

Rudy lowered his gaze and uttered, "I don't feel anything. Is it because you are a vampire, and the desert represents the sun? I mean, deserts are hot because of the sun, and the vampires are weak against the sun."

"That could be it. It's my first time in such a place. But there are deserts in the vampire world too. Although they are cold."

"Yeah, it's night here, so you are safe. And actually, this is my first time in a desert too. I have been to the sea beach, forest camping and hiking, and recently to the mountains and snowy mountains too."

Jane looked up at the sky and saw a full white moon. But suddenly, it turned blue, and she felt as though her powers were being sucked.

Rudy noticed Jane shivering, so he followed her gaze and looked up, but he couldn't find anything strange. For him, the moon was still white.

"Jane?" Rudy tapped on Jane's shoulder to get her attention.

"Huh?" Jane blinked and turned to Rudy with a pale face. She tried to tell him about the blue moon, but when she looked at the moon again, it was white.

"Hmm? What's wrong? If you don't like this place. Then I can teleport us back to the palace. There is no need to worry," he said in a calm voice.

"No, I am fine. Just feeling a little dizzy, I guess."

"Are you thirsty or hungry? I just ate and drank the best milkshake of my life, but I suddenly feel hungry and thirsty as though I have been starving for days."

A brief pause later, he said, "This place is under a magic spell. Or it might just be because of the desert, but I am leaning more on my former reason."

Jane gulped down and placed her hand below her neck before nodding.

"Yeah. I feel thirsty..."

Rudy pulled his collar down his shoulder and said, "Go ahead and drink my blood."

"Are you sure? Aren't you thirsty too?"

"Well, I can't drink your blood, so I will create some water with my powers," he replied with a soft scoff.

"Okay."

Without wasting any time, Jane hugged Rudy and buried her fangs in his neck. She closed her eyes and began drinking his blood while savoring every sip of it before swallowing it.

She opened her eyes slowly because she felt as though someone or something was watching her, and sure enough, she saw someone.

A black cloaked figure was standing far away on the sand with a staff in its hand. There was a shining blue orb on top of the staff and a few small blue orbs circling around the figure.

Suddenly, its eyes glowed blue, and so did Jane's, even though her eyes were red.

Rudy lost his balance and fell to the ground with Jane on top of him.

THUD!

"Are you okay?!" Jane asked with an anxious look on her face before looking in the direction she saw the figure, but it was nowhere to be seen. Just to confirm, she glanced around everywhere, but it wasn't there.

"Yeah, I am fine..." Rudy sat up and placed his hand on his neck to feel something wet.

Even without looking, Rudy was sure that it was his blood. His wound didn't heal.

'What just happened? I suddenly felt dizzy after Jane sucked my blood and fell down. This has never happened before. I always feel weak but not dizzy, and I never lose control of my powers.'

Rudy tried to stand up, but he was too weak to do that.

Jane, on the other hand, had started quivering in fear after what she had just seen. Out of all the colors she could have seen, she saw the blue color that she hated the most.

Jane hated herself for being a cursed child more than anyone else, but she never blamed herself or her mother for it. It was fate's fault.

Rudy tried to use hydrokinesis to drink water as he was feeling more thirsty after Jane sucked his blood. However, the water didn't appear.

He tried to use his other abilities and came to the conclusion that he had lost his powers for some reason.

'Should I tell Jane about this?' Rudy glanced at Jane and noticed she was already scared. 'Let's not worry her more.'

Rudy removed his hand from his neck, grabbed a sand fist, and rubbed his neck with it.

'The bleeding had slowed down, but it still stings. I feel weak too. As I had expected, there is magic cast on this place.'

'But I was able to fly before...' Rudy somehow managed to stand up and tried to fly, and sure enough, he was able to fly.

'So I haven't lost my powers fully. This place is weakening my powers, not sealing them. But if I spend more time in this place, who knows what might happen.'

Rudy could use his basic powers that didn't require mental stress, such as flying, super strength, super speed, and super senses, but he was unable to use telekinesis, healing, and the rest of his powers.

However, he was worried about only one thing that mattered the most in their current situation.

'Can I teleport back or not?'

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Chapter 270: Way Out

Teleportation was the most important thing for him as there was no exit for anything in his sight for miles. He could spend his time in the desert, but Jane couldn't.

He was more worried about Jane than himself as she seemed afraid for the reasons he wasn't aware of.

Rudy grabbed Jane's hand and closed his eyes. With the hope he had left, he wished to teleport back to the palace from the bottom of his heart.

He slowly opened one eye and hoped to see Jane's room, but unfortunately, they were still in the desert.

'Now I am regretting coming here. But let's not say that. I am conflicted. Should I tell Jane that my powers are currently limited? But that would obviously make her more anxious than she already is.'

"Shall we walk around for a while to see if we find something?" Rudy asked with an awkward smile on his face.

"Okay..." Jane replied hesitantly.

Rudy walked straight, but Jane pulled his hand and said, "Let's go the other way."

Rudy was walking in the direction Jane saw the figure, so she chose the opposite direction.

'Should I tell him about what I saw?' Jane asked herself. 'First the moon and now that figure. What's going on? Was that real, or am I just seeing things? I don't understand. But if I was real... why did I see it? And who was that figure?'

Should I ask him to teleport us back? I don't like this place, and it's giving me chills. But... he wanted to come here, so I shouldn't ask him...'

Even if Jane had asked him to teleport them back to the palace, Rudy wouldn't be able to do that, and he would feel guilty for getting Jane into that mess.

After walking for a few minutes, which seemed like an eternity to both Rudy and Jane, they saw something in the distance, but none of them could figure out what it was.

Its size was small, and it seemed as though it was somewhat buried under the sand.

"Should we go there?" Rudy asked Jane.

Jane nodded and muttered, "We are walking that way too, so it's in our way."

Rudy was a little anxious as he didn't know what he could do with his limited power.

While they were walking, Jane saw something in her peripheral vision. She hesitantly jerked her head to the side to see the same figure standing not far away from her. It was as though it was watching them from the start.

It was looking directly at Jane with its pearl-like blue eyes. Nothing else was visible under the clock except its eyes. And now that the figure was closer than before, Jane realized how big and scary it was.

It was almost double the height of a normal adult human.

Jane rushed to Rudy and pointed her finger at the figure.

"Rudy!" she yelled.

"Yes?" Rudy turned around and followed Jane's finger. "What?" He asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"Can't you see the figure standing there?!" she yelled in panic.

Rudy squinted his eyes and even activated his see-through ability, but he couldn't see anything or anyone.

"No. There is no one there."

"What do you mean?! It's standing a few meters away from us!" She shouted. "It has been following us!"

"..." Rudy furrowed his brows and glared exactly where Jane was pointing her finger, but he still couldn't see or feel anyone.

He didn't want to make it seem like Jane was seeing things or trying to prank him, as he was sure that she wouldn't do something like that in their current situation. Furthermore, the panic on Jane's face looked real.

The figure raised its staff and plunged it into the sand as it walked a step forward.

"It's moving! It's approaching us!" Jane yelled and grabbed Rudy's hand to run.

She dragged him with her as she glanced back and forth between the figure and Rudy.

After running for a few seconds, the thing in the middle of the desert was in the clear view.

It was a closed door with nothing behind or surrounding it.

"That's the way out!" She yelled and ran faster with Rudy.

It wasn't as though she had another choice. She wanted to run away from the figure and the desert.

As she was running, she glanced at the moon and noticed it was closer than before. It slowly turned blue, and an indescribable face appeared on it.

Rudy had it enough. He stopped Jane and frowned his face at the figure he couldn't see.

"How dare you scare my Jane like this. Show yourself to me, and I shall rate how scary you are!" he yelled.

"What are you doing?! Why are you provoking it?!" she yelled at Rudy and ran to the door.

She turned the knob, but it wasn't turning.

BANG! BANG!

She banged on the door, but nothing happened. Even though the door looked delicate, it was sturdier than the iron.

Jane glanced back and saw that the figure was approaching when with hasty steps while swinging the staff in the air.

"Come on!" she yelled.

Rudy touched the knob and the door opened with a bang. There was a cave, a dungeon, or a labyrinth on the other side of the door. It was impossible to figure out, but it was underground, with a proper floor and a pathway.

"...!"

Without wasting her time, she pushed Rudy inside first as it was small and only one person could pass through at a time. Jane jumped in after Rudy and sighed in relief.

She immediately closed the door and stepped away from it.

"Are you okay?!" she asked with a concerned look on her face after seeing Rudy on the ground.

"Yeah, I am fine. What about you? Are you—!"

Before Rudy could even ask how she was, the door behind her suddenly opened and pulled Jane out before either of them could react.

ZAP!

- Awakening.