

## Esper 521

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#### Chapter 521: Meeting Lu Bela

Rudy told Rusher to inform Maria that he would be back in a while after meeting Lu Bela. But he didn't know where to go as Lu Bela could be at UBC's official headquarters or the Lu Bela syndicate estate.

He was about to call Lu Bela and ask, but before he could do that, a car parked near him, and the backseat window rolled down.

Of course, it was Lu Bela, and dealer Kim was driving the car.

Without speaking anything, Rudy opened the door and sat in the backseat as if he owned the car.

"How nice of you to 'coincidentally' happen to be passing by the Ross Syndicate street," Rudy remarked.

"Oh, no. I was here to pick you up."

SIGH!

"So there is no sarcasm in artificial humans?" Rudy sighed.

"May I ask why do you look so annoyed?"

"How did you know I am in the Underworld? I arrived at night and teleported directly into the Ross estate. There is no way for you to know that I was here unless you are stalking me."

Lu Bela pointed her gaze at Rudy's phone — which was in his hand as he had taken it out to call Lu Bela earlier— and said, "You have the underworld app installed on your phone, and that app tracks your location and sends them to the UBS headquarters."

"Talk about privacy."

"It only tracks the gamblers in the underworld."

"Well, whatever. It's not like other apps don't do the same. Why did you want to meet me? And actually, I was going to visit you today for a... question."

"Please go ahead."

"No, you speak first. My question is going to be long."

"It's about the Ross Syndicate. The war is avoided, but they are still at risk," Lu Bela stated. "I will send Under Blades for their protection, but that's not a permanent solution. You should do something about it."

Rudy shook his head and responded, "That's not for me to decide. Ruby is the leader of the Ross Syndicate, and she makes all the decisions. If you want something, you will have to ask her yourself."

"Very well. Now, please, tell me what you want. I would be more than happy to help you out loud," Lu Bela asked with her utmost sincerity.

"There was a robbery a few weeks ago, and two of the robbers are still on the run. I want you to find me their details."

"Umm... I don't understand why that is something you should get involved with?" Lu Bela wondered with a confused look on her face.

"They had advanced-slash-futuristic gadgets. And I believe the Underworld is the only place where they are sold," he remarked with a judging look on his face.

"That might be true, but you do realize that there are hundreds of underworlds in the world, right? This one is just a small fraction."

"Yes, I know. But you are the secret ruler of all the underworlds. Hence— surprise surprise— I came to you."

"I understood. I will look into the robbers you have asked me to. Is there anything specific you would like to mention so we can run them through the database to—"

"Oh, no. You won't find them on the database. I already tried that. I didn't see them personally, and they were wearing masks, so you can't find them in the database. But I tracked down a number that was from the Underworld.

But I am damn sure it wasn't an actual number, as it doesn't exist. So you will have to find them somehow... which is very hard."

Lu Bela rolled down the window and looked outside before turning to Rudy after a few seconds.

"My Lord, you do realize that you are asking for something impossible, right?"

"I very much do."

"The only way to track them down is to hunt down the merchant, who won't be here for another two weeks. Can you wait until then?" Lu Bela asked in a neutral tone.

"It's not like I have any other choice," Rudy shrugged.

"Alright. Consider it done in two weeks, my Lord. I am happy to have to help you."

"Actually... there is one more thing... request... favor.. whatever you might want to call it. I want to know how this artificial human thing works. The clones... are nothing but a lump of meat until data is installed in them through the core, am I right?"

"Indeed."

"So... can I... umm... suppose, a soul goes inside the body, will it be possessed? Will it come to life?"

"I am afraid that's not possible. The body can only work through the core that stores all the information. If you can turn the soul into data, then the body can become alive."

"But... what about the soul then? I am looking for a body for a soul. Can you make a body that can be possessed and used by a soul without any consequences?"

"I am afraid that's not possible, my Lord," Lu Bela shook her head. "A soul can't keep a body alive."

"But can you at least try? It's very important for me. And if you manage to pull that off, I will forgive you and do anything you want. If your wish is to die, then I will kill you. Please, Lu Bela, make this possible."

Rudy wanted Angelica to have an actual physical body so she wouldn't feel alone or left out by anyone. She was always with Rudy and inside his body. It was no different than a cage for her where no one could even talk to her.

Sure, she could make herself visible and manifest a physical form, but that was temporary. She had to be with Rudy to collect energy from him to keep her form. Rudy wanted a permanent solution; he wanted Maria to be alive.

Lu Bela nodded and said, "Understood. I will assign a team to research on that and create bodies without cores. I will try my best to make you happy, my Lord."

"Thank you. I am truly glad I didn't kill you back then."

After that, Rudy teleported straight to Ross Estate.

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#### **Chapter 522: D for Disband**

When Rudy returned to the Ross estate, Maria still hadn't returned from her room. He had a firm idea why, but he still went to check on her regardless.

He stopped in front of her closed room and heard Ruby and Maria talking.

"Why are you leaving, Maria?" Ruby asked Maria.

"I am married to Rudy, and I have no reason to live here."

"How can you say that?! What about me? Are you going to leave me behind?!"

Rudy activated his see-through ability to watch them to ensure things didn't go wrong.

"What else do you want me to do? Stay here?" Maria shrugged.

"Yes! I want you to stay here! Please, we dreamt of this time together, didn't we?" Ruby held Maria's hand and said, "It's our dream, and we are so close to fulfilling it."

"It's not." Maria shook her head and calmly said, "It's not my dream anymore. My only dream now is to have a family with Rudy."

"What about me, then?! What am I supposed to do now? All my life, all I did and was told was to train, train, and train. So one day I could become the leader of the Ross Syndicate." Maria banged her fist on the wall and sobbed, "But now everything is destroyed and my only friend— you, are also not by my side. How am I going to make it through all this?"

"You don't have to..." Maria wiped Ruby's tears and gently smiled at her. "That was never our dream, remember? Our dream was to be together even when we grew up. That's what every childhood friend, brother, or sister dreams of— to be with their loved ones."

It is true that we were told to be the next ruler of the Ross Syndicate, but why are you still trying to do what someone else wants from you, hmm?

Ross Syndicate is on the brink of death, so let it die. You will finally be free from everything. You don't have to do anything. Why don't you live your life freely and enjoy every second of it?

If you still insist on rebuilding the Ross Syndicate, you will live a hellish life, you know? Look at what happened to... your father and grandfather. When was the last time you saw them smile, huh?

They were the most fearful leaders in their prime, but now they are nothing. They lived their lives under stress and pressure. People try to kill them, and they will live the rest of their lives in fear. I don't want you to end up the same as them.

So please, Ruby. Don't walk on the same path. Sometimes, power is not everything," Maria calmly said to her while looking into her eyes.

Everything Maria said was improvised by Rudy. He used telepathy to share his words with Maria, which she spoke to Ruby. Rudy could have told Ruby himself, but that wouldn't have had any impact on her.

Ruby placed her hand on Maria's hand and asked, "What am I supposed to do then? You are taking away my reason to move forward and then asking me to move forward?"

"Do nothing. Just stay low and be happy. Enjoy your life."

"I can't." Ruby shook her head and said, "I can't, Maria. I am not you. Would you still be saying the same thing if you had never met Rudy? You wouldn't have changed. Your goal would have been the same as mine.

But now you have him. You have a lover... a husband. You have everything. You are already happy with him. So now you don't want anything. You have a reason to leave everything behind. But not me. I don't have anything. If I leave behind the only thing that matters for me, I would have nowhere else to go."

"That's..." Maria lowered her gaze to break eye contact with Ruby and thought, 'She is right. If the Ross Syndicate disbanded, we would most likely lose this estate and everything else related to the Ross Syndicate.

We still have a lot of wealth to live happily, but Ruby won't be content with money. What should I do that would make her give up on rebuilding the Ross Syndicate. I have to give her a reason rather than an excuse.'

Maria pondered for a few seconds and then thought, 'Rudy already has a harem, so adding one more girl won't be any problem, right? In fact, I think it would be for the best if Ruby joined Rudy's harem. Rudy is so kind and caring, so Ruby would be happy if she joined his harem.'

"Tell me, Maria. What am I supposed to do?" Ruby asked.

"Well... why don't you... come with... me?" Maria suggested hesitantly.

"What?"

"Come with me. You can live with me."

"But... you are married. Are you sure you still want me around?" Ruby asked with a puzzled look on her face.

"Yes," Maria nodded. "Rudy will take good care of you."

'Oi Oi!' Rudy let out a weary sigh and muttered, "What is Maria thinking? I never thought my harem member would bring me more harem members. And Maria was so against Ruby marrying me before. It seems the idea of harem really put her worries at ease.'

"Will Rudy be okay with this?" Ruby asked curiously.

"Don't worry about that."

Ruby pondered for a while and said, "Okay. I will come with you. But don't hate me if I steal Rudy from you."

Maria grinned and said, "Ever since we were kids, we have always shared everything. So I wouldn't mind sharing my husband with you."

"Wha..."

"But don't you dare try to steal him."

Rudy left soon after and waited for them in the living room of the outer area. He had already called Rusher and asked him to bring the remaining important members of the Ross Syndicate.

Once Maria and Ruby returned with their luggage, Ruby stood in between and asserted, "I, Ruby Ross, the leader of the Ross Syndicate, have decided to disband the Ross Syndicate from this moment."

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#### **Chapter 523: Recent Suspicion**

Disbanding the Syndicate was the only way to avoid wars and assassinations against the Ross Syndicate. If there was no syndicate, nothing would happen. It was indeed a harsh solution, but it was also the safest one.

The only thing Rusher cared about was protecting his family. He had given up on the Syndicate a long time ago, so he wasn't against the idea of disbanding the Ross Syndicate.

The remaining members discussed between themselves and happily agreed to Ruby's decision.

After that, Ruby informs her family that she is leaving with Maria and Rudy. At first, Nyara was against it, but she reluctantly agreed as she knew Ruby was the best person she could entrust Ruby and Maria with.

Soon after, the Ross Syndicate was evicted in the next few hours, and everyone left. Rusher, Nyara, and his parents left the Underworld and took a flight overseas to spend the rest of their lives in a safe house in the safest area of that country. And Lilim had moved in to the Lu Bela syndicate as per Rudy's orders, so she could watch the progress of Rudy's recent request to Lu Bela.

Rudy, Maria, and Ruby took one remaining car from the Ross Syndicate— that belonged to Maria— and drove to the water park where Maria and Ruby were supposed to leave for the next few days.

Ruby was speechless to see other girls there. She thought he had scammed Maria, but he later asked Maria to tell Ruby everything as he had something else to do.

He tapped on his chest and asked Angelica whether she was awake, and Angelica responded with a no. He asked her to come out and enjoy the girls so she wouldn't feel lonely.

He promised to pick her up at night and left. But he decided to drop by Reina's office and spend some time with her. She told him that the builder had sent a blueprint of the amusement park, and now he was asking for the money.

Rudy was going to pay, but Reina stated she had already done that. So Rudy decided to withdraw fifty thousand dollars from Maria's account— which was actually his account where he stored all his Underworld money.

He tried to give the money to Reina, but she refused to take it and said that it was her parent's dream and she wanted to use her own money. She didn't want to rely on Rudy, where she could handle things on her own.

Of course, she relied on Rudy for other things, but Rudy wanted Reina to be completely dependent on him, which he later realized was hurting Reina's pride. So he decided to let Reina take control of everything.

It was still noon when all that happened, and the school hours were about to end, so Rudy decided to head to school so he could at least go home with Alice and Janet.

When he checked his phone in the morning, there were many missed calls and messages from Alice and Janet. Alice had mentioned that she and Janet went to school together after he didn't respond to her calls.

Alice was aware that Rudy could be busy with many things, so she decided to leave him alone without disturbing him further, but that wasn't the case with Janet.

Janet was furious that Rudy had broken his promise twice within the same week, but she couldn't do anything about it. She understood after Alice told her about his circumstances, which was a lie as she couldn't tell her the truth without Rudy's permission.

Regardless, Janet was still upset. She was more sad than angry at Rudy. So she captured a photo of her and Alice, where she posed and showed him her middle finger. And then sent the picture to Rudy from Alice's phone.

Rudy was happy seeing Alice and Janet were getting along fine. But now he had to go pick them up. He teleported and waited near the school for a few minutes before he heard the bell ring.

A few minutes later, students began to come out of the school, but those who had the club activities stayed behind. Fortunately, neither Alice nor Janet were in any clubs.

Rudy waited for a few minutes until he saw Alice and Maria finally coming out of the school gate, but for some reason, they were glancing around as though they were looking for someone or something. He hid behind the wall and waited for them to come near so he could surprise them.

However, they weren't surprised. The vampire gang and the other girls in the harem had exchanged their contact information. So when Rudy dropped Maria and Ruby there, Rias had already told Alice everything.

Alice knew Rudy better than anyone as they were childhood friends. So she had expected Rudy to come to pick her up. But unfortunately, Janet also saw that message as she was with Alice.

Janet asked her many questions, so to avoid answering them, Alice ended up saying that Rudy might be on his way to pick them up. That's why they were looking for him after leaving the school grounds.

Since they couldn't find Rudy, Alice assumed she was mistaken, but soon after, Rudy jumped in front of them to surprise them, which was effective, just in a different way.

Rudy walked home with Alice and Janet while talking with them, although it was Janet who talked the most.

He dropped Janet at her house and teleported to the vampire gang with Alice as she wanted to meet the newest member of Rudy's harem.

Just like the first time, Rudy decided to leave the girls alone to discuss the harem. He wanted to join them, but he had something really, really important to do.

He wanted to confirm something which he had been curious about for a while. So he teleported behind the tree of the cemetery and walked to Jessica's grave.

He glanced around to ensure no one was around, including the ghosts. However, as soon as he reached Jessica's grave, he was once again surrounded by the ghosts.

"I knew it. You all are guarding this grave, aren't you?" Rudy asked the old man.

"We cannot answer that."

"Well, whatever. You can't stop me from doing what I am here to do."

Rudy searched through the grave to look for the old wallet and found it buried under the sand. He dusted it to see the logo of the wallet and then took out the new wallet Eric had given him.

"They match..."

TING!

Once again, Rudy's ear caught a chiming sound, and he realized he had triggered something that awaited him to activate it.

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#### **Chapter 524: (Un)Pleasant Twist**

"Now you have done it!" the old man's ghost said.

"Done what?" Rudy asked with a confused look on his face. "I just want answers."

"There are things in the world that are better left unknown."

"There sure are, but believe me, my existence is all-knowing, so I got to know everything."

"Whatever you do next, you will solely be responsible for it. Don't blame others for what's coming next!"

"Can you calm down? I am actually— for once, confused as fuck, and I am thinking of answers." Rudy compared the wallets side by side and nodded, "Yup. They are the matching copy."

He opened the old wallet and saw the paper like he had for the first time. The ghost had stopped him last time, but now he wasn't going to stop, no matter what happened.

He slowly took out the paper and immediately regretted doing so.

"You have got to be kidding me...."

The paper was the family photo Rudy had taken from the polaroid camera.

"Why...? How? I only took four photos. One copy for me, one for mother, one for Lucy, and one for Joe. So what is..."

Rudy stopped on his words as he realized what was happening. He gulped down anxiously and looked at his new wallet. Then, he made a small cut on the symbol on the new wallet, and the same cut appeared on the old wallet he found on the grave.

"So this is my wallet... but... if so, then this grave is... mine? No, obviously not. Jessica is... was mom's sister. But why does this grave have my wallet, and why is it old?"

Rudy had already realized it, but he didn't want to admit it as it was out of his expertise. For the first time in a while, Rudy had no plans and no possibilities. After all, it hinted at time travel.

"What the fuck?!"

"We warned you, but you didn't listen. Now, you are responsible. You are to blame!"

"What do you mean? What blame and what responsibility?" Rudy asked with a puzzled look on his face.

The old man's ghost pointed his finger at Jessica's grave and said, "You are the reason why this girl will die!"

"Wh..at? But she died... eight years ago." Rudy covered his mouth as his eyes widened.

'Why do I know that? The dates on the gravestone are unreadable, so how do I know? I didn't know about it until now.'

Rudy turned to the old man's ghost and asked, "Tell me everything you know!"

"Oh, we don't know anything. But had you not checked the wallet, his girl would have been alive and well. You killed her!"

"Okay, that makes no sense. Even if this girl truly died eight years ago, that is not my fault. I was like ten years old— err... what the—"

Rudy sat on the ground and muttered, "Why don't I remember that? This grave belongs to my aunt; I am sure of it. So if she died eight years ago, I should remember her, right?"



Considering my house's circumstances when I was a kid, my aunt should have been living with us, so why don't I remember anything about her? And not just this life, in my past life too. I didn't have an aunt. At least, mom never mentioned anything about her till the day I got into the accident.

So... does that mean she didn't die eight years ago? That has to be the only solution I can think of. Yeah, I must be mistaken or just assuming things."

"We were simply asked to guard this grave, and only one person was allowed to visit this grave," the old man's ghost stated.

"Who asked you?"

"You should know."

"..."

Rudy let out a big sigh and got up. He placed the wallets in his pocket and said, "I am going home."

Rudy glanced around to check if someone else was around before using his powers, but he was surrounded by ghosts.

He used his vision abilities, but he couldn't trigger them.

"Move!"

The ghosts didn't move, so he decided to teleport against his wishes. However, he couldn't teleport for some reason.

"..."

Ultimately, he decided to fly away, but much to his surprise, he couldn't fly either.

'What the fuck...'

Rudy tried to conjure fire, but it didn't work. He used his vision ability again, but that didn't work this time either. After that, he tried various abilities but none of them worked. It was almost as though he had lost his powers completely.

'No need to panic, Rudy. Calm down.' Rudy closed his eyes and thought, 'Your power is nothing but your mental energy. You are panicking right now, and that's affecting your mental stability. So calm down, and everything will be alright.'

Rudy kept his eyes for a while until he felt confident to open them again. But when he did, all the ghosts had disappeared.

"That makes one thing better."

He jumped in the air and sighed in relief after he was able to fly.

"That was easy... but scary..."

Rudy flew to his house, but something felt off about the town. Rudy was in a hurry and he wanted to see Rebecca so badly that he didn't pay attention to anything.

He could have teleported directly, but he felt that his powers might still be unstable, and he would end up teleporting somewhere he shouldn't.

He landed near the block and walked the rest of his way to the house in a hurry.

"Hmm? Why... does everything looks... a little different?" he wondered. He looked to his side and saw the houses were newly made.

"Uhh... no. It can't be happening."

Rudy rushed home, but the door was locked.

'Mom must be sleeping. There is still some time before Lucy returns home, so no wonder the door is locked.'

"I don't have the key with me as it's usually in my bag..."

Rudy used telekinesis to unlock the door and went inside. He walked into the living room, and he was left baffled after noticing that the house was missing many things.

"Please don't tell me that I..."

Rudy walked to Rebecca's room, but the door was open, and the room was empty.

"Excuse me, mister! Who are you, and why are you in my house?!"

Rudy turned around to see a little girl glaring at him with a furious look on her face.

'I... have time-traveled... again....'

### [Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

#### **Chapter 525: Jessica**

"What is your name, little girl? And how old are you?" Rudy asked calmly.

"Why should I tell my name to a stranger who broke into my house?!"

"Uhh... I am not a stranger, actually."

"Then who are you?"

"I asked first, so you have to answer first." Rudy was using a kid's logic while talking with a kid.

"My name is Jessica!"

'So she is...' Rudy smiled at her bitterly and clenched his teeth to control his emotions.

"I am... R... Robert. Nice to meet you. Now, answer my next question. How old are you?"

"I am 15!"

"You are not fooling anyone with that height," Rudy chuckled wryly.

Jessica squinted her eyes and responded, "I am seven!"

"I am... well, 23 years old."

"You cheater!" Jessica hissed.

"Hmm?"

"You didn't answer my question!"

"But I did. You asked me who I am, and I introduced myself, didn't I?" Rudy said calmly.

"I didn't ask your name!"

"Well, when someone asks 'who are you?', then it's usually the name. But I get what you are trying to say." After a brief pause, he said, "I am a friend."

"Friend of who?" she asked with a judging look on his face.

"Your..."

"My?"

"Rebecca. I am Rebecca's friend."

Jessica squinted her eyes and asked, "Why would sis have an old man as her friend."

"I am not an old man."

"You said you are twenty-three, and anyone over twenty is considered an old man."

"No, they are not. People over twenty are called adults, and you should respect them."

"No way. Sis says that adults are the most evil people in the world."

"Well, she is right, but I am a good adult," he said while stepping forward.

Jessica stepped back a little and said, "A good adult does not enter someone's house when no one is in there. How did you even get here? The door was locked."

"You sure talk like an adult even though you are seven years old. I was expecting you to talk in broken words, but you colored me surprised."

"Praising me won't change my mind," she said with a little flushed face. "But I will allow you to wait for sis here."

'So gullible...'

"Where is she, by the way?" Rudy asked curiously. "And... umm... what date is it today, again? I forgot to check my calendar before leaving."

"It's the 21st."

"Of?"

"September."

"Of...?"

"...1989..."

"...!"

'I am nineteen years back in time? What the fuck! How did this happen? What triggered it... no, it's the wallet that triggered this, but why nineteen years? Did something happen nineteen years ago?

I won't be born for like a year and a few months, so this is not where I find out about my real biological mother. Keep all that aside, how did I come back in time?

Is it one of my powers? No, time travel sounds simple, but it's impossible. I know I am the last person who should say this since I have already time traveled once, and this is my second time.

But it's not under my control. The first time travel clearly wasn't, but this one... did my powers trigger it with the help of the wallet? And is that the reason why I had lost my powers for a minute or so in the graveyard?

And how the hell am I supposed to go back? I don't know how to time travel, so it's out of my control. Don't tell me I will be stuck here? Technically, I was also stuck in 2008, but I never thought of anything, as that's what I wanted.

It was the best time where I could change mine and the girl's future. But this... timeline... why? I cannot be stuck here for decades. I will have to find a way to go back, but how?'

Rudy had so many questions he wanted the answers to. But worrying about something that wasn't in his control would not help him in any way, and Rudy was aware of it. So he stopped thinking about it and focused on something else that was in his control.

"Why would you ask me about year and month?" Jessica asked with a judging look on her face. "Who are you, mister?"

"I am Rebecca's friend. And the reason I didn't know about the month and a year is that where I am from, we follow a different calendar," he said calmly.

Jessica didn't completely believe what Rudy said, but her suspicion of him decreased slightly.

"Anyway, where is Rebecca?"

"School."

"Oh... right. But... umm..." Rudy looked at the sky through the window and said, "Isn't it too late to be at school?" he asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

He didn't want to sound desperate or suspicious, so he had to talk to her calmly.

"She is on a school trip."

"When will she be back?"

"Today. In a few hours. The school trip was a one day to the neighboring towns."

"Oh. I see."

'Now she is talking like a kid. Was she putting up a tough act because she thought I was an intruder?' Rudy wondered.

Rudy glanced around the house to see if he could find something useful that could help him get his answers.

"Can I get something to drink?" he asked.

"Water," Jessica nodded.

Rudy sat on the couch and waited for Jessica to return with a glass of water.

'If mom was truly 29 years old in 2008, so she should be 10 years old in 1989. I don't know what. She was like that at that time, but I think I won't get any answers from her. So I will have to ask Jessica since she already trusts me.

Mom always told me that my supposed-father died when I was three years old, and she even has his pictures. And even Anthony and Elenor seemed to know him. So if mom is not my biological mother, is he my actual father? If not, then who is he?'

Rudy had even more questions than before. And he was going to get all the answers.

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#### **Chapter 526: Two Sisters**

A few seconds later, Jessica returned with a glass full of water. She was taking steady steps as she had filled the entire glass, literally. The water would spill from the glass if she moved her hand even a little.

"..." Rudy enjoyed her slow walk and smiled after seeing Jessica trying her best. But when she entered the living room, her feet hit the mat, and she tripped.

However, Rudy used his powers to hold the glass and the water from falling to the ground while he grabbed Jessica and saved her from falling.

"Careful there." He carried Jessica with one hand and placed her on the couch after grabbing the glass from the air.

"..."

Rudy noticed Jessica was breathing heavily, so he crouched down in front of her and calmly asked, "Are you okay?"

"Yes," Jessica shook her head.

"You are supposed to nod there," he chuckled softly.

"I was scared..." she muttered.

"Of course you were." He smiled gently at her and patted her head. Then, he sat beside her and said, "It's natural."

He handed the glass to her and said, "Here, drink some water. It will help."

Jessica held the glass with both hands and slowly began taking small sips from the glass.

Rudy bit his lips and clenched his fists to calm his anger. For some reason, he was feeling furious at himself and the circumstances.

He waited for Jessica to finish drinking, although she only drank half a glass and placed it on the table.

"Can I drink it?" Rudy asked.

"Yes."

Rudy drank the rest of the water from the glass and let out a sigh as he relaxed on the couch.

Jessica glanced at Rudy from the corner of her eyes and asked, "What are you to, my sister?"

"Hmm? I already told you that I am her friend."

"But why would she have an old man as her friend?"

"Stop calling me old man. Either call me by my name or use pronouns." Rudy closed his eyes as he leaned on the couch and rested his head on the back.

"What is your name?"

"I already introduced myself a while ago, come on~" Rudy sighed with a groan. "It's Robert."

"You are lying!"

"..." Rudy opened his eyes in surprise and asked, "Why would you think that?"

"Your face doesn't look like Robert."

"Wow... so now their faces should match their names, too?"

Jessica squinted her eyes and asked, "Are you lying, mister?"

"Yes."

"I knew it!"

"Pipe down. The name doesn't matter, does it?"

"It totally does!"

Rudy looked into Jessica's eyes and said, "My name is Rudy."

"It doesn't suit your face."

"Well, thank you."

"How did you meet my sister?" Jessica asked curiously.

'I am being interviewed by a kid...'

"I met her in school."

"Are you dumb?"

Rudy pinched Jessica's cheeks and said, "What did you say?"

"You are so old, and you still go to school. You have to be dumb, right?"

"I am a teacher at her school."

"Oh! So you are smart?!"

"Damn right."

"But if you are her teacher, then why are you not on the school trip, and why you had no idea about it?"

"I... am a new teacher. I haven't officially started teaching yet."

"I see."

"Good, good."

"Wait! Does that mean you will also teach me one day?!"

"Yes."

Jessica's face turned pale after hearing that. She gulped down anxiously and asked, "Will you... give me bad grades?"

"Why would I do that?"

"Because I called you an old man..." she uttered in a low voice.

'Hmm~ I can use this to get more information,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"I will forgive you if you answer me some questions," he said calmly. "Who is the man of this house?"

Jessica tilted her head to the side in confusion and asked, "What does that mean?"

'I guess I will have to be more direct.'

"Where is... uhhh... Albert? Is he your father?"

"How do you know about that?!"

'I will take that reaction as a yes.' Rudy hummed in amusement and thought, 'So my supposed-father—Albert, is actually mom and Jessica's father. Mom had told me that he died when I was three years old, so that would be in... err... 1993 or 1994.'

In other words... he should be alive right now.' Rudy smiled at Jessica and asked, "So, where is he?"

Jessica's face turned gloomy as she muttered, "He stopped coming home a few months ago."

"Uhh..."

"He used to come home twice every week, but he completely stopped visiting us a few months ago," Jessica repeated herself, this time loudly.

"Wait... so who else lives here?"

"It's only me and my sister..."

'Are you fucking kidding me?! A seven-year-old and a ten-year-old girl living alone without any adults? How are they surviving, and what the fuck is wrong with the old man?!'

"What about your mother? What happened to her?" Rudy asked calmly.

'Mom has never talked about her mother, so I know nothing about her. I have always been curious about mom and her family, even in my past life, but mom never answered me properly.'

Jessica shook her head and said, "I have never met my mother. I don't even know her name."

"So, how are you two surviving?" Rudy couldn't keep the question to himself. He wanted to know how they were managing.

"The old couple next door gives us food. Sis also gets money from the school by doing school's duty."

"School's duty?"

"After school ends, sis checks all the rooms and closes the open windows, cleans the blackboard, fixes the desks, and sweeps the room to take out the trash. But she only does that on every Friday. And in return, she gets money that we use for food."

'So mom has been taking responsibilities ever since she was a kid. Dammit, all she has done for her entire life is work and take responsibility. Curse you, Albert. Wherever you are, I hope you are suffering.'

How could you leave kids to survive on their own? Wait... is that the reason why I was precisely sent back in this timeline? Or am I just overthinking again? '

### [Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

#### **Chapter 527: Rudy Meets Rebecca**

"Are you okay, mister? You look sad all of a sudden," Jessica asked with a concerned look on her face.

"Yes, I am okay... actually, I am not. I need to go to the washroom. Can you show me the way?"

"Okay, but... we don't have water. Do you want to do number one or number two?"

"Number one."

"Okay!" Jessica jumped from the couch and said, "Follow me!"

Of course, Rudy already knew where the washroom was. He just wanted to get Jessica's attention away from him.

Jessica took Rudy to the washroom and said, "Here."

"Thank you."



Rudy opened the door and went inside, but Jessica entered with him.

"..." Rudy raised his brow and asked, "What are you doing?"

"I want to see!"

Rudy immediately kicked her out and closed the door behind him. Once he was done, he came out and found Jessica at the door.

"Don't you have anything else to do? What about homework?" he asked.

"I already did my homework at school because I can't do it at home!"

"Why not?" he asked with a confused look on his face.

"We... don't have electricity here, so it gets hard to do homework or study at night..."

"Was it always like this?"

"No, no. Ever since my father stopped coming. After a month, some people came and cut the electricity line."

'It's most likely because they didn't pay the bill. This is somewhat similar to my childhood, but I had it easy. Mom did everything for me so I could have a better life.'

Jessica pushed Rudy to the side and said, "Move! I want to pee."

Rudy went to the kitchen and checked the spot where Rebecca used to hide the money. When he looked there, he found a few coins and bills that were due to pay.

Rudy looked out his wallet and the money from his pocket that he had withdrawn from the bank to give to Reina, which she had refused to take. He placed fifty thousand dollars on the side, hoping Rebecca would find them and use them wisely to live a decent life.

Then, he used his vision abilities together and scanned the entire house to see the water pipelines and electricity lines.

'I will have to take care of this later. I don't know why I am here, but I can't miss this opportunity to help them out somehow.'

Rudy checked the refrigerator, but of course, it was empty and stank as it wasn't in use.

'Why did I even expect to find something here..'

He checked the shelves in the kitchen but couldn't find anything that could be eaten except a few spices, oil, and two tomatoes.

"..."

He turned on the stove to check if the gas line was working, but it wasn't.

'How do they even make food without a stove? I doubt mom would bring outside food...'

Rudy checked all that before Jessica could finish her work, and then he rushed to the living room.

"So... what should I do now?" he asked himself. "I lied to Jessica that I know mom, and it's almost time for mom to return. If she comes home and sees me, she will clearly freak out to find a stranger in her house with her little sister.

And Jessica would also find out that I lied to her. Obviously, I am not living with them alone, but I can't stay with them. Wait... why can't I stay with them? If I just manage to convince mom that I am not a stranger, there should be no problems.

But how...?"

Rudy pondered for a few seconds and thought, 'What if I just pretended to be a friend of Albert? But I already told Jessica that I am Rebeca's friend.'

SIGH!

'I should have told Jessica the same thing, but at that time, I wasn't sure if Albert was truly their father. Should I use my ability to hypnotize Jessica? I really don't want to do that, especially to a seven-year-old kid. But do I have any other choice?'

"Oh well, there is still some time before she comes back. I can think of a—"

The front door opened wide as the voice followed, "Jess, your sister is home~!"

"...!"

It was, of course, Rebecca.

When Rebecca saw Rudy in the house, she stepped back a little with a scared look on her face and glanced around the house with her eyes without moving her head in any direction.

"Who... are you?" she asked in a trembling voice.

Rebecca was wearing her school uniform, and she was carrying a grocery bag in her hands that had bread and a few vegetables in it. On the other hand, she was holding two eggs.

"I am Albert's friend," Rudy calmly introduced himself.

"What is your name?!"

"Robert."

"Father has never mentioned someone by that name!"

"Yes, I know." He smiled gently and said, "I have come here to check up on you two because Albert can't make it for some reason. He asked me to drop by here and see if you girls are doing well."

"Do you have any proof?"

"You can ask me anything."

"What is my name?"

"Rebecca."

"Anyone can know that!"

"Well, you are the one who asked me that question. You can ask something else to confirm."

"...."

"Go ahead."

"I don't know what to ask! What am I supposed to ask?!" Rebecca panicked.

"I am telling you, I mean no harm. I am just here to help you."

"Why should I believe you?"

"That's up to you."

"What's with all the... noise..." Jessica entered the scene and saw Rebecca.

"Sis!" Her face brightened as she rushed to her and hugged her. "You are home!"

"Ye...s." Rebecca hid Jessica behind her and said, "Don't worry, Jess. I will protect you."

"Protect me...? From what?" Jessica asked with a puzzled look on her face.

"This man!"

"Ehhh... but he said he is your..." Jessica stopped on her words and squinted her eyes at Rudy.

'Oh great, I can fool many, but I couldn't fool two kids!'

### [Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

#### **Chapter 528: Taking Care of theHouse**

"He said he is a friend of father. Do you know him, Jess?" Rebecca asked Jessica.

"...." Jessica raised her brows and squinted her eyes at Rudy as though she was judging him in her mind.

'Should I use hypnosis?' Rudy wondered.

He was conflicted about making that decision as he didn't want to use his powers on the people close to him, although it was his first time meeting Jessica, he was already acquainted with her.

"Yes, I remember him," Jessica responded.

No, Rudy didn't use hypnosis or any mind-related abilities. Jessica was covering up for him on her own.

"You do...?" Rebecca asked with a curious yet confused look on her face.

"Yes. Father brought him here once."

"When? And why don't I recall something like that?"

"You were here at that time. This person... uhh... Rupert was with father, but he left within a minute as he was only here to check the house..." Jessica answered while averting her gaze left and right.

"Is that so...?" Rebecca glared at Rudy and said, "Why are you here?"

'I hate to say that even though I usually get turned on when girls glare at me, I don't want mom to look at me like that. I feel anxious,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"I am... here to inform you that your father is busy and can't make it here. So he sent me to check up on you and help you girls out with the... Well, this house. You can think of me as a friend," Rudy answered calmly.

"What help? We don't need anyone's help. We are doing just fine."

"I am sure you are, but what you call fine is not actually fine. Let me help you. I can't watch you live your life like this."

"Why do you care so much about someone you are meeting for the first time?"

Rudy didn't want to answer more questions, so he walked to Rebecca and took the bag and eggs from her hand.

"I will make lunch... oh, it's dinner time already. I will make food. Why don't you girls take a bath or something in the meantime?" Rudy suggested.

"We already took one yesterday. We don't have water to waste, and carrying water from the well is too tough. I can't do it every day."

Rebecca tried to take the bag from Rudy's hand, but Rudy raised his hand, and Rebecca couldn't get it because of her height.

Rudy placed the bag and the eggs on the kitchen platform and said, "I will get the water. Take me to the well."

"..." Rebecca stared at Rudy for a while and turned around before saying, "Follow me."

Rudy left the house with Rebecca while Jessica stayed there. A minute or two later, they reached the well where there was a rope and a bucket tied.

"This."

Rudy looked down the well and thought, 'This well was dried when I was a kid, and then it was covered with sand, and a street was made on it.'

"Okay. Leave it to me."

Rebecca glanced at Rudy's hands and then circled around him once.

"What are you doing?" Rudy asked with a confused look on his face.

Rebecca glared at Rudy and yelled, "Where is the bucket?! How are you going to carry the water to the house?"

'Oh... well, I was only here to look at the well, not to collect water. In fact, I don't need to collect water as I can just create it.'

"What are you talking about?" Rudy touched the bucket that was tied with the rope and said, "I brought the bucket with me."

"That's the well's bucket. You can't take it home."

"Oh, no. Not that." Rudy pulled out another bucket from the well's bucket and said, "This one."

"..." Rebecca checked the bucket and asked, "How did you do that?!"

"There was this bucket inside the bucket."

Of course, Rudy had used his duplication ability to duplicate the bucket, and then he shrank it a little so he could pull it out from the well's bucket.

"Still... this is not our bucket. We can't take it home."

"Yes, I know. I will return it here after I am done collecting the water."

Rudy threw the bucket with the rope into the well and pulled the rope after the bucket was filled. Then, he grabbed the bucket and emptied it into the other bucket.

"Let's go."

Rudy went to the house with Rebecca, who took him to the bathroom.

"Be careful, or you might slip," Rebecca warned.

"Okay, madam."

"I will make dinner while you get the water." Rebecca left after saying that.

Rudy immediately cleaned the entire bathroom using his powers and filled the buckets, tubs, and bathtub with water.

'Hmm~ I can take care of the waterline by filling the water tank. But... it will eventually get empty. I don't know how long I am going to stay here. I might just disappear in an hour or so, so I should take care of the house as soon as possible.'

Rudy pretended to leave the house and destroyed the bucket into ashes so no one could find it. Then, he went to the kitchen to see Rebecca cutting the vegetables to prepare an egg dish.

Jessica was watching Rebecca cut vegetables from the other side of the platform.

'There is no way they can be satisfied with just two eggs...'

"Okay, I am done with the water. You girls take a bath, and I will make dinner," he said to them.

"Do you know how to cook?" Rebecca asked with a judging look on her face.

"Of course I do. I am an adult man."

Rebecca reluctantly decided to trust Rudy with food and left to take a bath with Jessica.

Rudy watched Jessica as she stared at him continuously.

'I should talk things out with her. And, of course, thank her for keeping everything a secret.'

"But for now..." He cracked his fingers and said, "Time to make the best dinner."

## Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

### **Chapter 529: Clipboard Conjuring**

When Rudy looked at the amount of vegetables Rebecca had cut, he realized at first glance that she was making dinner for three people with only two eggs.

"Too many vegetables for only two eggs. Let's see... what else did she buy?"

Rudy looked through the bag and muttered, "Bread with eggs? Not the best dish to eat for dinner. Although I used to eat it a lot when I was a kid. Hmm~ she did buy a fistful of rice."

Rudy stared at the ingredients for a while and nodded, "Alright, let's do this."

'There is no gas line, so I wonder what mom was going to use for cooking on. Wait... is that a coal stove? Don't tell me she cooks food on that...'

Rudy grabbed the coal stove that was hidden behind the shelf and placed it on the platform. He looked inside the coals and muttered, "Not enough coals."

He copy-pasted a few coals and lit them up after placing a pan on the stove and adding some oil to it.

"Let's take care of the rest while it's heating up."

He duplicated the eggs, vegetables, bread, rice, and all the ingredients for later purposes. After preparing everything, he put the dish on the stove to get cooked.

Then, he walked to the main power grid of the house and checked if the wiring was still intact in the house. To check it, he first released a little bit of electricity and turned on the light switch.

'Hmm, it seems to be working.'

Rudy raised his hands to his stomach and focused on conjuring something.

'It should work since it sounds simple.'

A few seconds later, Rudy successfully created battery storage out of thin air. However, it was the same battery storage he had copy-pasted when the vampire gang moved in.

"Nice. So I can create things I have duplicated. What should I name this ability? Clipboard Conjuring? The name itself is self-explanatory."

Rudy filled the battery with electricity and connected it to the main power grid of the house. Then, he made ten more batteries and filled them up with electricity before connecting them to the first battery.

'I have no idea how long these batteries will last. But I will have to find another solution for this soon.'

Rudy checked all the electric devices to confirm they were working fine. Then, he cleaned the refrigerator and filled it with the ingredients he had copied.

"Vegetables and other ingredients last for a long time as long as you keep them refrigerated. But I can't do the same with bread and eggs. Eggs will most likely last for six weeks as long as they are adequately refrigerated."

I can put them in the freezer so they could last for a few months, but that would drain up more electricity. And to be honest, buying new eggs every week would still cost a lot less than wasting electricity for the freezer. Over a long time, of course."

Rudy checked the food and put the stove on low by putting out the fire from a few coals.

"Electricity, check. Now time for the waterline."

Rudy climbed onto the house to check the water tank, but unfortunately, it was in poor condition.

"I will buy a new one. And a bigger one. And..." He checked the waterline connected to the water tank and muttered, "I think it would be okay to connect it to the well. But what about the pressure? It would need high pressure so the water can climb up and fill the tank.

I can use the motor, yeah. Hmm~" He nodded and mumbled, "So, I will have to buy a new and bigger water tank, a motor, and a solar panel for the electricity. What else can I buy to make their life easier?

Maybe more electric appliances... no, that would just increase the load of electricity. There are enough lights in the house and fans too. As for the gas line, I can just buy an electric stove. Problem solved!"

Rudy wanted to leave for shopping, but he heard Rebecca shouting, so he jumped down and pretended as though he had just entered the house.

"What's up? Why are you yelling?" Rudy asked.

"What happened all of a sudden?! The refrigerator is filled! And the electricity is back! What did you do?!" Rebecca asked with a baffled look on her face.

"I told you right, your father has sent me here to help you girls out. What's so surprising about it?"

"But... why would you use your money on us?"

"Oh, no. That was the money given by your father."

"Did he...?"

"Yes. I have put the rest of the money in the drawer under the platform."

"...!" Rebecca immediately rushed there to check and closed the drawer as soon as she saw a big bundle.

"I don't think I need to tell you this, but use them wisely."

"How did father get so much money? Is he okay?! Why has he not visited us for the last few months?!"

'Well, I don't know where he is, and I don't care. I have no respect for someone who can't be there for their children. However, he might be somewhere, working hard or something, so I shouldn't judge him yet.'

"Yes," Rudy nodded. "He is just busy. He recently got promoted, which increased his work hours, so he had little to no time to leave. He is now the manager, so he needs to look out for everyone. And if you don't believe me, the money is the proof."

"I guess... you don't seem to be lying."

'So it is safe to assume that there is no phone in the house? Otherwise, they could have called him. No, I would have called him to know his whereabouts.'

"Anyway, let's eat."

"Yay!" Jessica rushed towards Rudy and hugged his legs. "Thank you, Rupert!"

"My name is Robert."

"Yes. Ropert."

"It's Robert."

They all ate together, and Rudy couldn't help but be grateful to get a chance to eat them and see the happy smiles on their faces.

"It's the weekend tomorrow, so you two don't have school, right?" Rudy asked them.

Both of them shook their heads in response as their mouths were filled with food.

"So hurry up and get to bed. We will be going shopping tomorrow!"

### [Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

#### **Chapter 530: Teaching Life Lesson To Rebecca**

After eating dinner, Rebecca went to her room and began doing her homework that was due because she had gone on a school trip. She was planning to do it the next day as there was no school, but since Rudy told them they would be going shopping, she was excited.

Meanwhile, Jessica was staring at Rudy— on the living room couch— from the bed in Rebecca's room.

'To be honest, her stare freaks me out. It never gets old.'

Rudy gestured her to come to the living room, and surprisingly, she did. But she didn't come near him and kept her distance from him.

"What is it?" she asked.

"I just wanted to thank you for keeping everything a secret from mo... from Rebecca."

"That's because you didn't seem like a bad person. But I will tell her everything if you try to do anything funny."

"Wow, you just threatened me, and I am actually scared. But I am curious about what you mean by 'funny'?" Rudy asked curiously.

"Like trying to kidnap us," she said innocently.

"And do what? Make you food every day?" he chuckled softly.

"If I can get to eat your cooking every day, I won't mind if you kidnap me."

"Oh? Was my cooking that good?"

"Yes!" Jessica nodded violently. "Where did you learn to cook like that?"



"I learned from my... mom," Rudy responded with a distant smile on his face.

"I am also trying to learn to cook from sis. You have no idea how tasty her cooking is!"

"Is that so? Then who's cooking was better? Mine or your sister's?"

"Urm..." Jessica closed her eyes and pondered for a while. She kept pondering and pondering but couldn't think of a proper response.

"Come on, it's not that hard. Just choose one," Rudy shrugged.

Still, Jessica kept pondering, and after a few minutes, she looked into Rudy's eyes and made a run to Rebecca's room. She ran away because she didn't want to answer who was a better cook.

Rudy let his slide as he didn't want to win against the girl who had taught him cooking.

As time passed, the night became darker. Rebecca was already done with her homework, but she was studying up late. But because Jessica was sleeping in the bed in the same room, Rebecca had turned off the light.

She was sitting by the window and using the moon's light to read her book. When Rudy saw that, he called Rebecca to the living room and asked her to turn on the light. But Rebecca refused and said she didn't want to waste electricity.

"You can destroy one thing to save another. By not using light to read, you are straining your eyes. In the near future, you will have eye problems, and that's going to cost you a lot more than just saving electricity," he asserted in a calm voice.

"..."

"Listen, Rebecca. As an adult, I want to give you a piece of advice." He patted Rebecca on the head and said, "Never put others above you. Never sacrifice your own happiness for others. Never try to play a hero. Never try to meet anyone's expectations. Never try to please someone. Never accept everything before thinking of the consequences. Never think you are the weird one if you differ from what others do. Never normalize someone's normal. Never care for everyone... no, only care for those who care for you. And lastly, never have an idol figure in your life because instead of becoming like them, you will chase them blindly."

"I... I forgot half of the things you said, and I can't remember the rest."

"..."

"I was kidding," Rebecca grinned. "But I don't understand why you would say those words? Shouldn't you say the opposite?"

"Yes, some of them. But I am telling you what I want to do. Being selfish is not a bad thing, but being a narcissist, overly selfish, egoist, and egotist is a bad thing. However, there is a limit to everything. One can be everything I just mentioned and still be a kind person. But not everyone's the same."

Rebecca got up and walked to her room without saying anything.

"..."

Rudy watched Rebecca climb her bed and lay down, seemingly going to sleep.

"Did I say something I shouldn't have?" he asked himself.

SIGH!

Rudy decided to sleep as well, so he headed upstairs to his room after locking the doors. But much to his surprise, there was no bed in the room.

"Well... I will sleep on the living room couch then."

Rudy went downstairs and crashed on the couch. Fortunately, he had mastered a sleeping technique that allowed him to fall asleep within a minute, so he fell asleep instantly.

He knew he wouldn't get any sleep if he was stuck doing something else, so he had to learn a technique to sleep as fast as possible. And the reason he wanted to sleep was to rest and restore his mental energy, not to relax his body.

There were also times when Rudy simply shut his mind and used only 0.00001% of it, which allowed him to stay awake but in a meditative state. By doing that, he could restore his mental energy without sleeping.

He mostly used the technique when he was in school or when he was at home.

The clock ticked as the time passed, but when the time hit exactly 6:09 AM in the morning, his eyes wide opened.

"..."

He stared at the ceiling and closed his eyes to calm himself, but that didn't work.

'This is bad. It has been exactly twenty-four hours since Maria and I finished the last round. We had fun all night, and whenever Maria felt tired or sleepy, she just drank my cum, which worked as an energy drink for her. But when it was morning, Maria couldn't keep up and fell asleep while sucking me off.'

Rudy's... super libido was at work again, and it was raging for exploration.