

Heaven 981

Chapter 981: The Demonic Cultivator's City.

The dragoness waved her hand, attracting the Spatial Ring from the ball of flesh her maids and Kali created. Then, she looked inside. 'Hm... The energy crystals inside are a bit different from Parus or Purple Crystals. However, in terms of energy, they are around 100 times more valuable than Flawless Parus. He has... nine thousand of them? Almost a million Flawless Parus, not bad.'

She continued looking at the items without feeling interested. They were Magic and Earth-ranked items that looked as if they were done in a rush. Of the two Heaven Ranked items, one of them was a healing pill, and the other was a very potent aphrodisiac.

'Hm. There is one cultivation technique and three skill scrolls, but all of them are Earth Ranked. Nothing interesting.' Yasenia quickly read through the Body Cultivation technique. 'Nourishing the flesh via Dual Cultivation and stealing the essence of your partner. A useless technique.'

By the time Yasenia finished going through all the items in the Spatial Ring, the father had arrived and landed in front of her. "Who the hell do you think you are to kill my son in my city!?"

The dragoness looked at him and frowned. She was expecting a middle-aged man with either a very ugly physical appearance or a decently good one that would give an aura of elegance. In short, she expected a City Lord, regardless of whether he was corrupt.

Instead, the man in front of her looked like a boy. Yasenia knew not to judge appearances. Still, she couldn't help but pause when looking at him. 'He looks... 14? 13?'

The man's boyish face crumpled, looking like an angry child, and he shouted. "Are you ignoring me!?"

Kali looked at him with a weird face. 'Even when angry, he looks cute. I bet it is something he hates people telling him.'

Yasenia spoke. "You look cute. Why did you raise your son so badly?"

Kali's eyebrow twitched, and she observed the man's face. 'Ah... He is so mad that he looks like his head will explode in the next second.'

"DIE!"

The man punched forward with enough force to create a hollow in a large cliff. Yasenia saw the punch coming toward her stomach, and instead of blocking, she just tightened her muscles and took the punch.

BOOM!

Li Wei and the others were stunned that the punch landed. Yet, what made everyone almost lose their footing out of shock was that Yasenia didn't even move from her standing spot. The only thing that the man's punch could bother was her long and flowy black hair.

The man's face was filled with disbelief as he looked at his fist. "W-What?"

Yasenia moved her tail and coiled it around his neck, lifting him up. The man grabbed the tail, but as if it was made of metal, he couldn't even scratch it.

"Well, you are going to die since you attacked me with the intent to kill. But I can give you a bit of mercy if you listen to me. I will personally kill you if you do so!"

The man looked at Yasenia with horrified eyes as if he was looking at an incomprehensible monster. The dragoness smiled. "So, do you obey, and I kill you later? Or do I just throw you to the people behind me? You choose!"

"Please, Senior, mercy!"

Li Wei stepped forward and kowtowed. This surprised the dragoness, and Li Wei explained. "He might be a tyrant, but at least he has rules to follow! This place has become much better since he came in charge. There are still hopelessly corrupt people, but people are happy most of the time!" Li Wei shouted. "If you kill him, you will be staining your hands with the blood of thousands that will follow because he is gone!"

The dragoness looked at the man with a boy's physique and pondered. "Hmm..." And after thinking about it, she smiled and looked at Li Wei. "Well, no."

Li Wei, who misinterpreted her smile, froze, looking at Yasenia with a stunned expression. The dragoness laughed a bit. "Surprised? Look around you."

Li Wei did so, and instead of seeing terrified people, there was a bunch of excited creatures looking at the man who was in Yasenia's tail's grasp. The dragoness asked. "Say, I told you something when we met, didn't I?"

Li Wei paused, and Yasenia chuckled. "I told you not to lie to me." She walked toward him, dragging the City Lord behind her, and she crouched in front of Li Wei's kowtowing figure. "You lied. I honestly didn't expect that you would be that stupid."

Yasenia sighed, looking at the man who was trembling. "Really... I gave you quite a good chance, didn't I? If you had been a good guide, I might've bothered giving you and your friends a gift or something!"

Li Wei stuttered, his voice trembling. "P-Please. I am not l-lying, I swear."

"You swear?" The dragoness laughed. "Sure. Stand up, and since the people are better with this guy." Yasenia shook the man with her tail and continued. "Ask around."

Yasenia spoke, her energy being carried by her energy. "The City Lord of this City has offended me. Therefore, I will execute him. Still, someone told me that this city is better off with him at the helm. I wonder, is that the truth?"

Yasenia looked at Li Wei and smiled. "Now, this man here will ask you if you want the City Lord to live or die. Answer wisely; answer truthfully. Lies and deceit will be punished."

One hundred stars streaked through the sky when Yasenia snapped her fingers, hovering on top of several people she chose. "Those marked, walk here and be interrogated."

Li Wei saw the people chosen arriving, and his stomach churned. There were mutilated people, heavily injured people, sick people, and a few male and female prostitutes. "T-This..."

Yasenia asked. "What's wrong? I decided to represent the major groups of this city! Twenty percent of women and twelve percent of men are prostituting themselves in this city. More than thirty-six percent have some kind of serious illness, while more than seventy percent of the people are sick

with mild illnesses. Not to mention, those that are mutilated in some sort of way exceed forty-one percent of people."

Yasenia smiled coldly, her eyes pouring with mockery. "The one hundred beings before you represent the average, Li Wei. Now ask them if they are happier now than before."

Li Wei stuttered. "T-They are mostly mortals. They can't know who was ruling previously because they are not old enough!" Li Wei looked at Yasenia and shouted. "This is trickery!"

Yasenia's lips arched further. "Mortals represent ninety-nine percent of this city. You spoke about how most people are better now, right? Well, I am allowing 'Most People' to speak. Go on."

Li Wei approached one of the men, who had a hideous scar along his face, one hand deformed so much that it was basically useless, looking pale and sick like a corpse. "Our current City Lord has managed to-."

The dragoness interrupted. "Question them, don't tell them your life story. Do you think they can afford to waste time?"

Li Wei felt as if he was tasting something rancid as he asked. "D-Do you want to spare the City Lord?"

"No."

The man was concise and blunt. His voice sounded hoarse, and his eyes reflected no emotion.

Li Wei walked toward a woman who looked decently dressed and asked. "Do you want to spare the City Lord?"

The woman laughed. "Of course... not."

Li Wei looked at the well-dressed woman with a frown. "You are a cultivator-."

The woman interrupted. "His son violated me." She smiled at him and repeated. "I'd rather the City Lord gets tossed in a ditch to die a painful death since his son has already been killed."

Of the rest of the people, most of them answered for the City Lord to not be spared.

Yasenia saw Li Wei's dispirited face and commented. "Well, ninety-seven to three. Quite a clear result."

Li Wei laughed bleakly. "You are just a heartless creature, aren't you?" Li Wei sneered at Yasenia. "Your outer appearance doesn't reflect how ugly your heart is."

The dragoness answered, unflinching. "My heart is beautiful when it needs to be. With my family. To the rest of the Universe? I will just move to survive." The dragoness pointed at Li Wei. "Plus, you are not one to speak, mister Demonic Cultivator. Regardless, the results are clear."

She looked at the City Lord tangled in her tail and asked. "You've heard, right? No salvation for you. Now, will you answer a few questions truthfully before I kill you or not?"

The City Lord smiled and spat at Yasenia. The dragoness easily avoided it and sighed. "Whatever. Maids search the city for useful information. People of this world lack brains. Also, Doriel, he is yours."

Yasenia flicked her tail and threw the man toward Doriel. Then, her tail flashed, and she decapitated Li Wei.

Looking at his companions, Yasenia asked. "You all stayed as silent as possible to avoid getting involved. I commend you for your willingness to survive. Scram."

"Thank you, Senior!"

The dragoness walked through the city with Kali, entering the City Lord's mansion and reading through records and maps that he had. "Hm... Doriel, did you learn where he keeps his treasures? I can't smell anything nice around here."

Doriel sliced the neck of the man, killing him because she was bored of him. Then, she said. "Young Miss, below this place, there is a hidden basement. Would you like to explore it?"

Yasenia rubbed her temples. "We will see quite a lot of sickening stuff down there, won't we?"

Doriel shook her head. "Actually, the City Lord had very few interests other than cultivation. If he didn't pamper all of his children to the point that they all, without exception, became quite a threat to society, he could be considered quite a decent man."

"Oh." The dragoness looked at the corpse and hummed. "I see. What a shame. We could've probably had a decent conversation... Let's go down."

Doriel and the others cleaned the mansion from any kind of treasures it had on the way down. When they arrived, they used his blood to open the formation and enter the basement.

It was a decently sized area. However, unlike what Doriel told them, the place was quite a hell-hole.

Yasenia saw the several cauldrons with people groaning in them and asked, speechless. "Is this what 'Non-sickening' means, Doriel? Since when?"

Doriel coughed and bowed. "I am sorry, Young Miss. It seems that he was interested in Demonic Cultivation, not just cultivation. I failed to ask deeper and made a mistake because I considered it unimportant."

The dragoness bonked her head. "Ask more questions next time. We are not on a vacation, are we?"

Kali turned around and flattened her fox ears to block the sounds. "Yasenia, I don't feel like looking. Can I wait up?"

The dragoness was a bit confused, but when she looked toward a corner of the room, she spotted smaller cauldrons with smaller-sized bodies. Yasenia realized what happened and hugged her. "Okay, Honey. Wait above with Alaia and the rest. I want ten maids to accompany me while thirty guard Kali and the entrance."

For the next few hours, the dragoness looked around and burned the place while storing all kinds of cultivation manuals and experiments.

By the time they left the city, it was the next day's morning.

Chapter 982: Entering the [Forgotten Star Area].

After mounting on the warship, they all prepared to depart. Before they did so, Kali asked. "Yasenia, won't the city fall into chaos now that you've killed the leader?"

The dragoness paused right before giving the signal to depart. "Hm? Does that bother you, Honey?"

Kali looked at Yasenia and smiled a bit weirdly. "Usually, it wouldn't, but..." Kali sighed. "When I saw those cauldrons, I just couldn't help but imagine that they would be refilled once we leave."

Yasenia tilted her head. "I see. You are feeling compassion for those little ones... Hm." The dragoness rubbed her chin. "While we can't save everyone, looking out for people occasionally should not be a big problem."

Kali looked at Yasenia and shook her head. "No, we can't. Your health is a priority. You are currently in pain and with a terrifying poison in your soul. I really don't want to delay a single second."

Yasenia smiled softly. "Hm. Okay, give me five minutes then." She flew out and hovered over the city. "I'll come back in a while. If I see the same mess, I'll just create a crater in the place where this city currently is..." Yasenia paused and sighed. "Forget the figurative speech. If I come back and this city doesn't protect at least the children until they grow up, I will kill all of you. Understood?"

Then, she flew away and landed back on the warship while everyone in the city stood there, baffled.

Kali looked at Yasenia and laughed. "I guess that's better than nothing."

Yasenia caressed her fluffy fox ears. "Becoming the leader will lower me to their height and make me a "mortal" in their eyes. If I just make a threat like an almighty immortal, there will be people who will use that as hope and stand up to fight for a better future. Will there be a better future? That's up to those doing the uprising. However, it certainly is better than doing nothing."

Kali hugged Yasenia and squinted comfortably while the dragoness played with her ears. Yasenia's agile and long fingers squeezed around so pleasantly that Kali's legs trembled with comfort.

"Okay, now that my pretty fox is happy, we can depart! Use the maps we've recovered to approach the hidden area through normally traversed routes."

The dragoness sat on a chair, and Kali plopped her soft butt on her lap. Her four tails moved happily while looking at the scenery around the blur from their speed.

It didn't take long to see other flying treasures moving in different directions toward the place that was covered with that massive formation. "How much area does the concealing formation we are dealing with cover?"

Alaia commented. "It is quite large, around two-thirds of Distancia Continent's land surface."

Yasenia muttered. "It is large, but isn't the space slightly small for a Transcendent Cultivator to rule?"

Valeria commented. "Size is not the most important~."

The dragoness raised her eyebrow. "Well, that's right. The resources of the area can also be very important... Is it important enough to keep the curiosity of probably more than one Transcendent Cultivator? We'll need to see, I guess. Join the flying treasures and slow down, even if we take a few days to reach a destination. We shouldn't stand out too much."

Kali smiled. "The way you dealt with the people in that town was quite nice! It had been long since I saw you acting overbearing in such a way, hahaha."

Yasenia sighed. "I have been too restricted in Distancia, to be honest."

Kali stuck out her tongue. "I don't pity you. They were voluntary restrictions!"

"That's also true, I guess."

Alaia warned. "We are going to enter the concealing formation. I can feel several high-level energy sources in the distance."

Yasenia patted Kali's butt, signifying her to stand up. After she approached and looked in the distance, both her eyebrows raised. "Is that an energy gate? It seems that there is something interesting going on here, after all."

Kali tilted her head. "The level of these formation drawings is very high. I can barely understand anything. I don't think Angel would be able to replicate some of these formations."

Selena shook her head. "Not even close. Those are High-Level Transcendence Realm formations. Even I would be unable to draw them... Young Miss, be attentive. The way Young Miss acted back in that city is good to roam the Cultivation World and Demonic Cultivation Areas. Still, refrain from easily killing people. Try to leave them heavily injured but fully recoverable by standard means."

The dragoness nodded and walked to the bow of the ship. The maids who weren't in charge of manipulating the warship's formations walked by her side.

Once they arrived, a few smaller ships and cultivators riding their swords and other flying treasures like fans, shields, and beasts approached. There were nearly 20 of them.

The leader of the guards spoke loudly and with a commanding tone. "Identify yourself!"

Yasenia spoke faintly, using her bloodline pressure together with her voice. "Yasenia from the Astral Sky Clan."

The Guard Captain paused when he felt the suffocating pressure from the gorgeous woman's voice. Still, he hardened his face and continued asking formally. "I don't have any records of an Astral Sky Clan."

Yasenia spoke faintly, but her mellow voice reached them without a single problem. "We are relatively new. This is our first visit to the [Forgotten Star Area]."

The Guard Captain nodded and moved his hand, sending information into the jade scroll he was using. Selena whispered. "He recorded your name along with your power and appearance, Young Miss."

Yasenia spoke aloud. "I would not want my appearance recorded, Sir."

The Guard Captain paused and looked at Yasenia with a curious gaze. "Oh? You understood what I was doing?"

The dragoness smiled faintly. "Please, delete my appearance. I don't like to admit it, but it is my main source of problems, and having it recorded will lead to disaster almost for sure."

A female soldier at the right spoke. "We should make an exception, my lord. Lady Yasenia is right."

The Guard Captain nodded. "Understood. Instead allow me to record something that's unmistakable from you. What could it be?"

The dragoness thought and smiled. "Wait a second, please. I am going to use energy, so please don't overreact."

The guards nodded and prepared their weapons. Yaseenia then moved her energy and focused it on her back. With a burst of powerful energy, two massive pair of draconic wings burst outward from her back. The gorgeous colors were stunning, but the vivid Sun and Moon of the wings were magnificent.

Yaseenia smiled. "The shape of my wings should be enough, Sir."

Some guards gasped. "Gorgeous scales."

"I thought her tail was already good-looking, but her wings are equally beautiful."

The Female Guard sighed. "It is as if she were crafted by the Heavens. It has been a long while since we had such a beautiful woman enter... My Lord, I have a suggestion."

The Guard Captain snapped out of his daze and asked. "What would that be?"

The Female Guard smiled. "I would like to be their guide. I think it is a bit dangerous to let her enter as she is."

The Guard Captain pondered and nodded. "Okay. Go ahead." He turned around and shouted. "Open the gate!"

The Female Guard landed in front of Yaseenia with a smile, and the dragoness finally could take a closer look. She was a brunette woman with an oval face and a decently proportioned figure. Her cultivation realm was peak-level Ethereal Soul, the fourth Body Realm.

"Hello, Miss Yaseenia. You can call me Miss An. I hope you don't mind me choosing to accompany you."

Yaseenia shook her head. "Don't worry, Miss An. I can feel your goodwill. I appreciate you and..." Yaseenia extended her hand and smiled softly. "Welcome aboard."

Miss An was dazed for a second, but she managed to snap out of Yaseenia's enthralling smile a few seconds later. "Ahem! Miss Yaseenia, that smile is prohibited from now on. I recommend that you look as indifferent as possible."

Then, she stretched her hand and took the dragoness's hand. 'Wah... So soft... Is this woman made of pudding?'

Alaia saw that An had been holding Yaseenia's hand for more than a minute and coughed. "Miss An."

An snapped out of her daze and released Yaseenia's hand. "D-Definitely prohibited from offering your hand as well!"

Kali laughed and presented herself. "Hello, Miss An. I am Kali, Yaseenia's wife."

Surprised by that declaration, she asked. "Really? Female and female romance? That's rare!"

Yaseenia nodded. "We know. But things went well, so we gave it a try. We are happily together now."

When they crossed the gate, a powerful wave of dense energy surrounded them. Yasenia took in a deep breath and almost moaned a sigh. "The energy density here is not bad at all. Miss An, do you..." Yasenia blinked and looked at An, seeing her dazed again. "Cough, Miss An."

An, flustered, blurted out while pointing at Yasenia. "You! Don't you have self-awareness!? Who mo-moans like that all of a sudden!? Miss Kali! Take the lead, please! Your wife will get into trouble the second someone hears her speak!"

Kali, who had been wearing her veil until now, took it off and smiled. "Sure. I'll do so."

An paused and looked at Kali with widened eyes. "W-What happened?"

Kali blinked and realized. "Oh. Well, they are old scars. Hahaha. Don't worry, Miss An. Everything is in the past."

An nodded and didn't ask further. 'Wow... Whoever did that must've hated her to the bone. Also...'
An looked at Yasenia with different eyes. 'And she... even when Miss Kali looks like that, she got into a sincere relationship with her?'

Kali approached Yasenia and tiptoed while placing her own veil on the dragoness. "Here, love. I will be the one talking from now on, okay? If you want anything, send me a spiritual message."

Yasenia's face was covered from below the eyes and to her neck. That left the wide cleavage of her dress quite visible. Therefore, Kali asked. "Love, can you change into a more modest dress?"

The dragoness looked down and nodded. "Sure." Then, she waved her hand, and her dress changed into a beautiful and elegant blue dress with a transparent light blue floaty ribbon.

Her temperament wholly changed into a mature and elegant female cultivator with a pair of gorgeous golden slit eyes and mysterious long black hair. Not even her hands showed, as her long sleeves covered everything.

An was baffled at the instant change in temperament. "If you could've looked this way all the time, why didn't you?"

Yasenia spoke softly, adding to the etherealness of her current outfit. "You are not reacting because you've seen my other dress. If you saw me wearing this from the start, you would've asked me to change into something more modest either way." Yasenia's golden eyes moved, gazing at An and making her freeze from the charm they radiated. "My charm is not so easy to hide, Miss An."

An couldn't help but gulp. 'Damn this woman, was she thrown into a cauldron filled with charm-increasing substances when she was a child!?'

Chapter 983: Distancia's Surprising History.

As they approached the first city inside the [Forgotten Star Area], Yasenia asked aloud, not bothering to hide from An. "Alaia, do our energy formations work?"

Alaia answered right away. "Everything is working again, Young Miss. It looks like the interference was only from the outside."

An spoke. "The formation covering this place has been here even before the oldest cultivator. It is normal for your formations not to be able to see through them."

Yasenia laughed softly. "Something being ancient doesn't mean that it is powerful. Still, I wonder... Alaia, how many sixth realm cultivators are there?"

Alaia's tone was filled with uncertainty when she answered. "The formation has spotted seven of them... But I feel like there are more. What do you think, Young Miss?"

The dragoness pondered for a while and spoke slowly. "Miss An, how many Sixth Realm cultivators are there?"

An blinked and asked. "Sixth realm? What do you mean?"

Yasenia looked at An closely, her golden eyes peering through her as she analyzed her body's energy. After deducing that she was a Body Cultivator, she spoke. "Beyond Epoch Core Realm. Epoch Core is the fifth realm, so I am talking about those beyond it."

Yasenia explained it redundantly so that An perfectly knew what she meant. She blinked a few times and asked. "Beyond Epoch Core? That's... Impossible, no?"

Yasenia sighed. "The worst type of leaders... Shadow leaders."

Kali asked, curious. "Why are they the worst type?"

"Well, if you are in a place with a king or an emperor that has a very strong cultivation base, you can somewhat be at ease that they won't meddle in your business as long as you don't poke your nose in theirs." Yasenia explained. "But, with shadow leaders, they like to micromanage everything. So, if you suddenly sell something to the wrong person, they might just send people to eliminate you before you understand what you did wrong."

Kali and even An realized.

"Wait." An paused and looked at Yasenia with widened eyes. "There are beyond Epoch Cores in this place!?"

Yasenia nodded. "There are a few. At least seven, and at most... I don't know, to be honest." Yasenia ordered. "Let's change ships. We'll enter in the peak-level Heaven-Ranked ones that we built in Distancia."

An asked. "Distancia? That little demon? What do you all have to do with that awful being?"

The dragoness and the others looked at An with surprised eyes. "Distancia... I mean, it might not be the same being... Can you explain why you call him "little demon," Miss An?"

An frowned and looked at them. She crossed her arms and stated. "First, explain your relation to him. If I consider you dangerous, I'll call the guards so that they can arrest you!"

The dragoness laughed. "You have guts! You aren't afraid that I will kill you right here so that nobody knows that I have ever mentioned Distancia?" Yasenia leaned forward, matching An's eye level. "That's honestly the safest course of action, Miss An. Now, what are you going to do?"

An gulped at the predatory look in Yasenia's eyes. However, she gritted her teeth and exclaimed. "Then, kill me! My companions will avenge me!"

The dragoness stretched her hand and summoned a golden flame that gave off a terrifying heat. An's eyes reflected the golden flame, making her legs tremble. Being burned by that flame would be quite the torture. Still, she didn't speak and stubbornly looked at Yasenia.

The dragoness pondered. 'Hm... She either has a really brave heart, or she is just as dumb as a brick and thinks I don't dare kill her...'

Kali spoke from the side. "Miss An, just tell us why you spoke about Distancia in that manner, and then, we will tell you how we are related to him. I swear it is not something that will make you upset regardless of who Distancia is or what he's done."

An looked between Kali and Yasenia. The pressure from the dragoness increased by the second, filling her will with cracks. Then, Kali's gentle persuasion seeped through those cracks and finally convinced her. "Okay, okay. I will speak, but you need to promise me that you will tell me about your relation to that creature!"

Yasenia dissipated the flame and straightened her back. "Sure. I promise."

An looked at Yasenia and commented. "A dragon's promise has a lot of weight! Don't you dare break it?"

The dragoness smiled. "I've never broken a promise since birth. You can rest assured."

"Hmm... Okay. Then, Distancia is the one that made our World the way it is." An began her little story with quite a bombshell of a declaration. Even then, from those words, Yasenia could guess the rest.

As Yasenia expected, An spoke in a resentful tone. "When Distancia arrived at our world, he quickly made a name for himself. He even managed to charm one of the most popular princesses that existed back then! And, instead of repaying the largest kingdom of that era with goodwill, because someone angered him, he fought against most of the World in a massive war."

An sighed. "Eventually, he was almost defeated. It was then that an elder of that era sacrificed themselves to try and finish Distancia off. Sadly, it backfired and Distancia somehow managed to divert that energy toward the Heavens. Angered, the Heavens counterattacked and forced the entire World to fight back. Distancia eventually managed to destroy our World's Heaven and then fled with his people, leaving behind our dying world. The [Forgotten Star Area] is as prosperous as it is because those left behind joined hands to create an artificial Heaven through formations."

Yasenia's eyebrows raised in surprise. "An artificial Heaven?"

An scratched her head. "I don't know how it exactly works, but it uses the energies from outer space or something and transforms them. This has slowed down our world's decay by hundreds of thousands of years. It was the last hope of those ancient people that the future generations would come up with something that could save the world."

Yasenia asked, intrigued. "And? Did they manage to do it?"

An snorted. "Didn't you hear me say that nobody knows how the formation works nowadays? We've gone backward! Not forward!" She then sighed and pointed at Yasenia with her chin. "Your turn."

The dragoness smiled and said. "We come from Distancia's origin World. But we are not natives of that place or this one. While traveling, we came across the Distancia Continent and used it as a temporary base."

An blinked a few times, trying to digest the short but explosive sentence. Kali smiled. "Don't worry. We are not fond of what Distancia did in his native world, either. So, you calling him a demon or whatever doesn't bother us." Kali smiled. "Now, do we change ships, Yasenia?"

Yasenia shook her head. "No. I changed my mind. It would be better if we stayed in this one for safety measures. While the other one will go under the radar, so to speak, this one can defend against Transcendent Realm cultivators. Let's approach one of the cities with them. Ayanduín must be in one of these cities."

An asked. "Ayanduín? Who is that?"

After thinking for a few seconds, the dragoness answered truthfully. "I am poisoned, and we think that Ayanduín will have the cure for said poison. If I don't get the cure in around six years, I'll be in deep trouble."

"Y-You are poisoned?" An asked, stupefied.

The dragoness smiled under the veil. "I am."

An frowned and commented. "How about we go to the largest commercial area of this place? Perhaps you can find a cure without searching for that Ayanduín or whoever he is!"

The dragoness gestured An to follow and guided her to the three-dimensional map. "Where is the place you are speaking of here?"

An looked around with baffled eyes and asked. "What is this?"

Yasenia briefly explained. "Spatial and Illusory formations mixed with a wide range energy pulse that analyzes the surroundings and transforms them into this map thingy."

An giggled. "Thingy~. It sounds cute coming from you."

Kali raised her eyebrow. "Trying to flirt with my wife in front of me? You have guts, Miss An."

An coughed. "I-I wasn't flirting! It was a factual statement!"

Kali smirked. "Well, I agree."

Then, An focused on the map and pointed at a large energy signal. "Here."

After they saw where she was pointing at, Alaia spoke. "Three of the seven Transcendent Cultivators are hiding there, Young Miss."

Yasenia hummed. "Let's go. We can't really flee or hide. We are on a timer."

Their ship turned in that direction, and then it flew toward that area. Their speed was not high, similar to other spatial treasures. The last thing they wanted was to stand out in the "eyes" of those three powerhouses.

They took around one week to arrive. An spoke to them. "You now need to go low and follow those Flying treasures over there. The entrance will be similar to what you went through in the outer gate. However, the inspection is much laxer."

"Sure. You heard her, Alaia."

With Yasenia's confirmation, Alaia followed An's instructions. The queue was long, so they took another day before they arrived. Kali looked at Yasenia and asked. "Love, perhaps you need to bring your wings out."

Yasenia pondered and said. "I'll keep them constantly out. It will be less bothersome. Deploy the concealing formation for a second while I take out my wings."

After a maid deployed the formation, Yasenia focused her energy and focused on her back. A faint burning sensation filled her entire back, and after a while, a pair of gorgeous dragon wings emerged from her back.

Her dress had two openings perfectly fitting them, courtesy of Evelyn's expertise.

During the last few years, Evelyn's Spiritual Tailoring mastery has reached the peak of the mortal realms. Therefore, while the blue dress she currently had was not as strong as her [Innate Dress: Celestial Cosmos Dress], it was still a peak-level Heaven-Ranked dress.

When the wings came out, the maid dissipated the concealing formation. Yasenia looked toward the enormous gate to enter and saw people storing the flying treasures. "It seems that we will need to do the rest of the journey by foot... Hm?"

The dragoness looked around and saw most people in the ship blankly staring at her. With her elegant and long robes, the floaty ribbons, her gorgeous tail and wings, and her innate charm, Yasenia's beauty was now otherworldly and illusory, as if she were a goddess that decided to bestow mortals with the gift of her appearance.

Yasenia chuckled. "Honey, remember that you are the one talking. Focus~."

Kali coughed and looked forward. "Honestly, love. I don't know how effective hiding will be. You are like a giant bonfire in the middle of the night. Impossible to miss."

Yasenia shrugged. "We've done the best we can. Remember to be overbearing, love. Use your bloodline pressure and auras without holding back. Also, Valeria, come out wearing a dress similar to mine. Let's try to look like Kali's elite guards while my maids look like soldiers we are commanding."

Looking at An, Yasenia smiled and said. "Miss An, please keep in mind that arrangement and follow our act."

An blinked and nodded twice, still looking at Yasenia stupidly. When Valeria appeared wearing something identical to Yasenia, it was a light purple instead of blue.

Chapter 984: Lady He and Four City Kings.

Once their boat approached the city's entrance, a guard in elegant robes stopped them. His entire gear was low-level heaven ranked, showing that the city's wealth was not to be underestimated.

"Identify yourselves!"

Kali stepped forward with her face uncovered and spoke softly. "Here. We registered Yasenia for our identification card."

The guard gave Kali's face an extra glance, but he professionally looked away and looked at Yasenia. The dragoness spread her wings, showing the ethereal Moon and Sun in her dragon wings, stunning the guard once more.

Kali sent a wave of pressure at him, snapping him out of his daze. "Please, don't look at her like that."

Her tone was much colder than her initial one, making the guard realize his blunder. He was instantly regretful and apologized sincerely, cupping his fist. "My deepest apologies. It was not my intention to be rude."

Kali smiled and nodded. "Don't worry. I understand. She is really beautiful, isn't she?"

The guard cleared his throat. "I wouldn't dare comment on it, Miss."

Kali snorted, but she didn't say anything else. Instead, she asked. "Can we enter the city now?"

An stepped forward, looking at the guard, and she said. "I am with them. They are new, so I am guiding them."

The other guard was surprised and asked. "Miss An? Why are you working as a guide?"

An rolled her eyes. "Have you seen them? They are 100% going to get into trouble if they don't have someone with authority by their side."

The guard looked between Yasenia and Valeria and coughed. "I can't really deny that. Please, go on."

The gates opened, and Alaia maneuvered the warship to pass through. The gates were enormous, so they had no problems passing through.

Once on the other side, they were welcomed by a densely populated city that had a variety of creatures they hadn't seen before. There were beasts, humans, and beast humans aplenty, with the occasional spirit, undead, and even some demons and divines.

Yasenias exclaimed in awe. "This place is the most diverse I've seen in my entire life."

An sighed. "That doesn't make it a good thing. Look over there."

They followed An's gaze and spotted a divine beating up a demon. Still, nobody interfered. Yasenia asked about it. "Why is nobody interfering?"

An looked at Yasenia strangely, and the dragoness coughed. "Right. Who knows what backing each person has, right? If you step foot into the wrong fight, your life might be over before you realize it."

An nodded. "That's right. Some people will do that with you a lot because of your extraordinary appearance, though. It is a matter of time..." An paused and asked. "Say, have you ever felt guilty?"

"Guilty about what?" Yasenia tilted her head.

"I mean..." An spoke measuredly. "The reason some people have died in your path of cultivation is because your beauty provokes them, no? They might've lived a different life if you had never appeared before them."

The dragoness snorted, her veil gently blowing from the exhale. "Feeling sorry? I will never feel sorry for being too beautiful. What others think about me is beyond the point, and regardless of my appearance, if someone can't control their libido and they attack me, their death is deserved, as other women would've eventually fallen victim to such people."

An blinked and smiled. "I see. That's nice."

They docked in a parking spot, and when they all dismounted, Yaseña waved her hand and stored the flying ship.

Then, An poked Yaseña's wing and smiled widely. "Well, here is the first victim of your beauty, Yaseña."

The dragoness looked over and saw a young woman approaching with a bunch of people while her eyes alternated between Valeria and Yaseña. Kali was already accustomed to it, so she didn't overreact. Instead, she took the first step forward and stepped in front of Yaseña, using her tails to hide most of the dragoness's body. "How may I help you, Miss?"

The woman who approached looked at Kali, and her facial expression couldn't help but twitch even when she tried to keep it under control. "Hello, Miss. I am interested in the two women behind you."

Kali spoke curtly. "Then, you can stop being interested. Scram, we don't want trouble as soon as we arrive in the city."

The woman smiled and said. "Don't worry, I am not interested in any strange way. I can see that your clothes and overall aura are extraordinary. Therefore, I wanted to ask if you are interested in coming as guests to our [Seven Star Inn]."

Kali looked at An, and An spoke in a formal tone. "Lady, the [Seven Star Inn] is one of the most popular ones in this city. It is managed by Lady He, who is renowned around the world."

Kali looked at the woman and asked. "Are you Lady He?"

The woman's face gained a touch of interest, and she asked. "What makes you think so?"

Kali raised her eyebrow. "Not many people around here are peak-level Epoch Core Realm cultivators."

The woman's smile froze briefly, and her gaze became deeper. "Oh? You have sharp eyes, Lady..."

"Kali." Kali answered. "That's my name."

"A wonderful name." Lady He smiled. "Yes, I am Lady He indeed. The reason I have invited you and your entourage is simple, really." She paused and pointed at Yaseña, Valeria, and the veiled maids behind, who all exuded charm. "If you go around with them, you'll always need to have an eye open and another one closed. It will be difficult to find accommodation. I can grant you a safe place to stay and perhaps even information you are interested in that Miss An here can't provide you."

Kali smiled. "I hope you are not challenging my intelligence in any way, Miss He. What's the catch?"

Lady He laughed. "I am not. The catch is that I want otherworldly merchandise. You are neither from a nearby city nor this world. With your appearances, you would've been known in just a few months regardless of what you did."

Kali pondered and asked Yaseña via spiritual sense. "What do you think?"

'While she is still hiding something, it is worth to give it a try. We can either keep probing or just accept her offer. If she is interested in trade, she might know Ayanduin. Therefore, forming a relationship with her should be nice.'

Kali took what Yasenia told her into account and said. "Good. We'll accept. But if we are placed in a room that we can't inspect before settling in, then our deal is off."

A man behind Lady He frowned. "Fox, you are insulting Lady He's integrity with such demands! Watch your mouth."

Lady He's face fell, and she responded even before anyone from Yasenia's group reacted. "Did I ask you to speak?"

The man's back straightened, and Lady He turned to look at him. "Are you mute now? I asked you a question; answer it!"

The man said firmly. "You did not ask me, My Lady!"

"That's what I thought. Then, why did you open your big mouth!?" Lady He ordered. "Apologize to them. If it is not sincere, you can relinquish your duties!"

Kali looked between them and waited for the man. The man bowed deeply. "I deeply apologize."

However, Kali went off-script. "I do not accept your apologies. Cut your tongue."

Lady He and the people around her paused, and Kali asked. "What? His mistake is not small. If we were not good-tempered, a fight could've happened. I want him to apologize by cutting off the part of his body that committed the mistake."

Lady He looked deeply at Kali and smiled. "Do as she says."

The guard looked at Lady He with a stunned expression. However, when his mistress's gaze fell upon him, radiating an imposing pressure, he bowed. "Understood, My Lady."

He then took out a dagger and used it to slice off his tongue. The organ flopped outside with a spurt of blood and wetly bounced twice. Kali nodded and looked at him. "Apology accepted." Then, she smiled at Lady He. "This was a nice performance. We agree to your conditions as long as you are fine with that one condition I asked about."

Lady He smiled. "That can be done. Do you have anything to do, or do we move out?"

Kali blinked twice, her fox ears twitching. "Oh? You are coming with us?"

"Well..." Lady He shrugged. "I am honestly free, so as long as you don't find me bothersome, we can walk around together and get to know each other."

Kali asked the dragoness, and hearing an affirmative answer, she accepted her offer. "That would be our pleasure."

Then, their group of nearly 100 combined people set off. Lady He explained. "This city is divided into three different concentric sections. It is a very typical layering around here. The outermost part is where most mortals and low-level cultivators live. We are currently..." Lady He waved her hand, summoning a map of the city. Then, she pointed at a specific place in the southern part of the city. "Here. My [Seven Star Inn] is located in the second circle, near the central area."

Kali asked, curious. "You are really renowned, from what Miss An implied. Why aren't you located in the central area?"

Lady He laughed. "Well, I've received offers for a location there. Still, it is too restrictive. There are a few people in there that are control maniacs. They don't pay as much attention to the outer and inner sections, but they strictly control the innermost sections."

Kali hummed. "I see. It seems that their existence is quite a mystery for most of the population, am I right?"

Lady He blinked. "Oh? Why do you say that?"

Kali commented. "Miss An didn't know about their existence when I spoke about them."

Confused, the elegant woman continued questioning. "What do you mean? Miss An should know about the [Four City Kings], no?"

Miss An and Kali spoke at the same time.

"Them!?"

"Four?"

Yasenia and the maids behind her looked at Lady He with an inquisitive expression. Lady He shrugged. "Four, yes. Also, why the surprise?"

Yasenia pondered for a few moments and sent a message to Kali. 'Reveal that we know about their strength level. Or, at least, reveal we know about three Transcendent Realm cultivators.'

Kali answered. "Well, we noticed three abnormally large energy signals when arriving here. I guessed they are Sixth Realm cultivators. Now, though, it seems that you are saying that there are four of them."

Lady He's facial expression changed for a second. Kali missed the meaning, but her dragoness told her. 'She was fearful for a second.'

This information surprised the fox woman. Then, she heard Lady He speak. "Miss Kali, I would prefer if you don't speak about that information freely. That's very secretive information. Although I don't know how you learned about it, I can tell you for certain that if they know that you know, you'll be in a little more than trouble."

Kali sighed. "I see. This will make things a bit harder..."

Lady He's lips twitched. 'How does not speaking about those god-like existences make things harder?'

Yasenia pondered and said. 'Honey, try to guide the conversation so that we can speak with Lady He inside a concealing formation and ask her more questions. She is our biggest hint to help us discover Ayanduin's whereabouts.'

Kali answered softly. 'Understood, love.'

While walking toward the inner area, Yasenia inspected the shops in the surroundings with her spiritual sense and was impressed by the quality of the products in the outer area of the city. Usually, the outer parts of the city were not even worth looking at. Still, Yasenia found a few items that caught her eye.

Noticing that Lady He and Kali were having a short break in their conversation, she spoke aloud for the first time. Her mellow and slightly low voice spread around and made almost everyone who listened turn their heads. "Kali, do you want to check a few of the shops?"

Lady He looked at Yasenia with raised eyebrows. "That's such an attractive voice. No wonder you don't speak much."

The dragoness looked at her and smiled once, making her eyes bend lightly into a charming gaze. "Thank you."

Kali asked. "Did you see something interesting? That's strange coming from you."

The dragoness pointed at a shop at the side and spoke. "There is a nice scent coming from there."

Miss An blinked and asked. "Scent? Are you hungry, Yasenia?"

Kali chuckled and explained. "Yasenia is a dragon, so she can smell treasures. Her nose is very picky with them. Therefore, if she noticed something, it is probably worth checking."

Lady He muttered. "Dragon... You are the third dragon I've ever met in my life."

Yasenia blinked twice, surprised. "Third? Are dragons rare?"

Lady He nodded and explained as their entourage moved toward the shop Yasenia pointed at. "Dragons are almost extinct in our world. At first, they were hunted down during the large War in the past and used as materials. The demon of the past had a strange ease when fighting dragons, so he was able to slaughter them left and right. Only those with strong bloodlines were able to resist and escape his pursuit."

The dragoness pondered. 'The demon of the past should refer to Distanica, right? He did the same in Distancia, almost driving dragons there to extinction as well.'

Kali commented. "But dragons have a very powerful reproduction ability, no? Haven't they recovered since then?"

Lady He shook her head. "There were too few pure-blooded dragons. Therefore, the dragons that are today are mostly Beast Humans. There are probably only a few hundred pure dragons left in our world."

The dragoness was surprised. Still, there was a treasure here that called her attention, so she focused on that instead. Kali asked. "Which one of these shops is it, Yasenia?"

The dragoness lifted her hands, picking the sides of the veil. Lady He and the rest somehow felt like holding their breaths as Yasenia's veil lowered. The perfectly shaped oval face gradually appeared before their eyes, with Yasenia's perfect nose and luscious lips adding tremendous charm to her overall allure.

Then, while everyone was mesmerized, Yasenia gently sniffed the air, her adorable gesture sending a few hearts into an uncontrollable heart-stirring spiral. After doing so, Yasenia placed her veil back on, releasing the spell that she put everyone under with it. "It is the [Li Xuan's Goods, Trades, Fortune, and Reliques] shop."

Lady He blinked and shook her head slightly. She cleared her throat, sending a pulse of energy toward her people. "Ahem." Then, she spoke. "Miss Yasenia's beauty has overcome all my expectations. No wonder you wear that veil and relatively simple outfit."

Kali hummed. "She started doing so recently after we got into trouble a few times outside. We even ended up uprooting a Demonic Cultivation City's higher management because of a chain of events starting from a young boy coveting Yaseenia's beauty."

Lady He looked at Yaseenia with pity. "I can guess you are not happy about having such a heaven-defying beauty."

The dragoness said softly. "I am grateful. It has given me many positive things in my life together with a few misfortunes. Overall, I wouldn't change my appearance even if I could."

Kali gestured to Yaseenia and smiled. "Please, lead the way."

Yaseenia walked forward, her hips swaying seductively as her tail swished behind her. Her wings bobbed up and down with each of her steps together with the dragoness's prominent chest.

Even without Yaseenia speaking, everyone followed. Once inside, they saw tall shelves, nearly twenty meters tall, filled with items. Most of them were junk, with very few that qualified as decent.

Miss An asked. "Um... Are you sure that you are not hungry, Yaseenia?"

Kali laughed, and Lady He commented. "I think we should trust her. Let's search around... Well, unless you have pinpointed its location."

Yaseenia waved her hand, gesturing for them to follow and lead everyone forward.

A tall, slender woman with a pale complexion appeared, shifting through one of the selves. "Welcome."

The dragoness nodded and asked. "Is there any merchandise you are selling over in that area?"

The tall and slender woman blinked slowly, her eyes moving from Yaseenia's face to her wings, down to her tail. She spoke with a strangely monotonous but simultaneously excited tone. "I want to buy your scales! I can give you lots of money..."

Kali frowned, but she knew that her dragoness didn't really need defending. Therefore, she just looked. Lady He asked with a similar frown to Kali's. "Kali, should we leave? That was too rude."

"No need to. Yaseenia is not a flower vase."

Yaseenia looked at the woman, who was taller than even herself and spoke. "If you ask that again, I'll cripple you. Understood?"

The tall woman frowned, but before she could answer, Yaseenia stepped forward and forced her to make their gazes clash. Instantly, the taller woman felt infinitely smaller as the dragoness's golden gaze pierced through her, becoming the only thing in her eyes.

From the outside, it looked as if Yaseenia just stepped forward, and the tall woman suddenly kneeled, looking up at the dragoness with wide eyes. Yaseenia asked again. "So, is there merchandise that you are selling on that side?"

"Y-Yes, there is, Ma'am."

"Good." The dragoness ordered. "Guide me."

The tall woman scrambled up to her feet and quickly moved toward the place Yaseenia pointed at.

Everyone who didn't know Yasenias was stunned, but seeing the seductive hips sashaying away, they all snapped out of their reverie and followed her. Lady He muttered to Kali. "That was impressive. That tall woman is a high-level Ethereal Soul Realm cultivator. Almost at the peak of the fourth realm."

Kali shrugged. "You could've probably done the same."

Lady He smiled. "Not with such finesse. I could not feel anything from Yasenias, which means her aura control is ridiculous."

Once they arrived at the corner of the room, everyone looked around, but they could not spot anything of value. Still, Yasenias approached a wooden figurine and grabbed it. "I want this item. How much?"

The tall woman blinked, confused. "Um, that item? Isn't that a useless item?"

Yasenias hummed, confused. "Useless?" She laughed softly. "I guess. I just want it, so, how much?"

Thinking over it, the tall woman spoke. "How about forty Sunderial?"

The dragoness blinked a few times and rubbed her forehead. 'Right, new currency system...'

Lady He frowned at the back and snorted. "If you want to send that trashy item for 40 Sunderials, you might as well sell this entire shop with it."

Kali looked at Miss An and saw that she was staring with wide eyes at the tall woman. Kali blinked. "How much is 40 Sunderial?"

An answered. "H-How much? With forty of those, you can probably buy five low-level Heaven Ranked items!"

Kali's face dropped, and she looked over to see Yasenias's reaction. 'She won't like... Huh?'

Yasenias took out a Purple Crystal and said. "Here."

Kali was baffled while Lady He asked. "What is that purple stone?"

Kali sighed. "That purple stone can probably buy 500 low-level Heaven Ranked items."

Lady He almost choked on her own saliva. "W-What!? Why is she giving her so much wealth?"

Still, they heard the tall woman asking. "What's that purple stone? I don't want it! 40 Sunderials!"

An, Lady He, and her followers almost spat blood. 'She has offered you one hundred times the value, what are you thinking!?'

Yasenias blinked. "Hm? What do you mean? This is much more valuable than that."

The tall woman snorted. "Do you think I don't know that? I can feel the pureness concentrated in that purple stone. But that item you have is not that valuable. I pride myself on selling things at the fairest price! I won't accept one more or less coin over what I ask."

Yasenias's eyebrows raised with glad surprise. "That's nice to hear. So, tell me, why is this thing so pricey when you said it is useless?"

The tall woman shrugged. "I don't know. That's the price that feels right for it, even if I find it useless."

Yasenia's eyes flashed with surprise because her words were 100% truthful. 'What's going on?'

Valeria hummed. "Yasenia, I think the real treasure is this woman. She has a special constitution."

The dragoness blinked and asked. "What's your constitution?"

The tall woman answered. "My constitution? Well, it's called [All-Encompassing Appraisal Mind Eye]."

Everyone looked at the woman in stunned silence. Yasenia coughed and asked. "So, do you want to join my group? I have quite a nice place where you can sell things and get stronger as well."

The woman shook her head. "No. My master wouldn't allow me to go!"

"..."

Yasenia looked at her for a few seconds, having a strange premonition. "Um... What's your master's name?"

The woman blinked and commented. "My master is Lord Ayanduin! One of the [Four City Kings]!"

Everyone continued staring at the tall woman in stunned silence. Nobody knew how to even react to the series of bombs that the lazy-looking woman just threw on them.

The dragoness sighed and massaged her temples. 'I guess luck is quite a nice thing to have.'

Kali was about to step forward and speak, but the dragoness raised her hand and looked at her. 'Let me deal with this, Honey. We need to be careful.'

Yasenia spoke. "I see that you are quite an influential person. What are you doing in the outer section of the city?"

"Well... Master Ayanduin returned not long ago, so he threw me these items and told me that I couldn't return until I sold every single one of them."

Yasenia nodded. "I see. He probably thinks highly of you to leave you so many treasures."

The woman snorted. "Most of them are trash. How am I going to sell that thing, for example?"

They all followed the item she pointed at, and their eyes twitched. It was a literal piece of stool.

The dragoness coughed. "I bet that every item here has its proper buyer. You just need to be patient... Or, well... Nevermind."

Yasenia shook her head and sighed. This piqued the tall woman's interest. While this dragon woman was a very terrifying person, she was also very pretty and was going to buy one of the items she felt helpless about. Therefore, she asked. "You can tell me! But, please, be less scary and more pretty."

Her bored tone, trying to sound cute, was so jarring that even Yasenia had somewhat of a hard time hearing it. "Ahem, you can speak normally." Then, she smiled and said. "How about this? I can buy enough items of this purple crystal's worth, helping you get rid of most of the junk. In exchange, I want you to help me get in contact with Ay- ahem, Lord Ayanduin. I came all the way to this city to meet him, after all."

After Yasenia made her offer, the tall and slender woman began pondering. Yasenia's offer was very tempting. However, unlike what Yasenia thought, she didn't have the ability to call her master at

will. The only way for her to call her master and have him actually appear was if she managed to sell everything in this shop.

So, thinking of that, she spoke. "How many of those purple crystals do you have?"

Yasenia blinked and asked. "Why? Asking me how much money I have is not quite nice."

"Hm... With that answer, you should have more than 1,000 of them, right?"

The dragoness crossed her arms below her chest and snorted. "Hey, you little brat, do you think that trying to get an answer from me with indirect methods will work? Tell me why you asked the question, and if the answer is good enough, I'll answer."

The slender woman looked at the dragoness's highlighted chest with baffled eyes. Because the robes were relatively loose, she couldn't really tell how big they truly were. Now, not only her but even the people behind were gaping at Yasenia's impressive size.

'How can she swing a weapon with those?'

The dragoness slapped the ground with her tail, creating a loud sound that snapped everyone out of their daze. "Stop looking at my breasts and answer me! I really don't want to do the same thing I did to you before."

The tall woman's body shivered when she remembered that powerful pressure. The only pressure that she had ever felt and was stronger was her master's pressure. "Well... Unless I sell all my merchandise for a fair price, then I can't call master here."

A guard behind Lady He asked lowly. "Lady, why are we still here?"

Lady He answered with a baffled expression. "Do you think anyone else in this city other than those four up above the clouds is more important than this unique dragon that's chasing after one of those four?"

The guards that were starting to get impatient coughed, recovering their stances and focusing on Yasenia's and the tall woman's conversation.

The dragoness hummed. "Well, we've talked quite a while, but I still don't have your name."

"Money."

Yasenia frowned. "You want money for something as basic as asking your name?"

The tall woman shook her head. "My master gave me this name."

Yasenia rolled her eyes. "The person who gave me my name would be able to flick your master to another Solar System, and I didn't ask for money!"

The tall woman spoke, a bit frustrated but without losing her bored tone. "Money is the name my master gave me."

The dragoness was about to become impatient, but suddenly, she paused, and her eyes flashed with surprise. "Wait... 'Money' is your name?"

The tall woman's frustrated expression eased, and she nodded twice. "Yes. Money is my name."

Everyone in the room went silent again, unable to comprehend. Well, everyone except Yasenía. "Ohhh! That's a nice name. Knowing that you are very good with treasures etc, he gave you a very proper name!"

Kali somehow could see Ayanduín and Yasenía laughing and agreeing about stupid names in the future, making her stomach twist. 'There is a second lineage with Dravory-level naming sense...'

Money looked at Yasenía with surprise and then nodded quickly. "Right, right. Nobody gets it!" Even her usual bored tone became a bit more spirited. "Whenever I tell my name to people, they always either laugh or look at me strangely!"

Yasenía snorted. "Bah! Those people just can't tell what's good. It's an awesome name." The dragoness continued. "So, Money, you said that you need to sell all the merchandise so that Ayanduín appears here, right?"

Money nodded. "Yes... I was asking how many purple crystals you had because if you had enough to buy everything, we could make something interesting."

The dragoness raised her eyebrows and asked. "Well, tell me how much everything here is worth, and I'll tell you if I have enough."

Lady He's facial expression changed slightly. 'Does she have many more of those precious purple crystals? How rich is this woman?'

Money calculated. "Let's see... We have one of those and another of these... There are many thousands of ingredients for several pills... I also have many tons of a few interesting minerals and... Oh, right, there are these few medicines and poison pill jars. Then, there are the weapons, armors, robes..."

Money continued listing many items, making everyone start to sweat cold. 'Did her master want her to sell everything under the Heavens or something?'

Kali commented strangely. "I somehow feel that Ayanduín doesn't want to see Money soon, so he just dumped a big part of his own spatial ring on her to get rid of responsibilities."

Nobody could really deny it.

Yasenía inspected the little figure that she had bought in the meantime. 'Hm, what are you, eh? It's almost as valuable as a peak-level Heaven Rank item. However, I can feel that you are more valuable than what Money said.'

She tried gently using her energy to move parts of it, but nothing really moved. Then, she tried pouring energy into it, ending in failure once more. 'Hm... Blood? But if it is a cursed item, I will be in a bit of trouble.'

Her nose could smell the value of an item, but she couldn't sense as accurately if something would be harmful to her. There would be specific signals to warn of very strong threats, but it was difficult for milder or longer-lasting ones.

While thinking about that, she remembered. 'Hm? Can I use that method Mirrory taught me about? It is quite a nice way to sense the intentions of places towards you. I wonder if it can do the same with items?'

Her energy moved around her body in a gentle pattern, trying to mix with the World's energy. Then, she spread it outward and harmonized with the surroundings.

A gentle hum appeared around her, and her entire body felt illusory. Her robes fluttered beautifully, catching the attention of everyone in the shop, including other customers who were walking around.

Then, she extended the hand that was not holding the figure and touched it.

Ding~.

A very melodic sound echoed around, making everyone stop as they looked at the dragon's expertise in energy manipulation.

Lady He asked Kali. "What is she doing?"

Kali answered softly. "Karma reading."

An invisible aura that only Yasenia's group could read appeared around the item. It was a very mystical and profound feeling, like the echoes of a starry sky. There was a very tame yet somewhat menacing aura in the depths of the aura. However, it felt so weak and listless that most creatures would've ignored it.

The dragoness squinted when she felt this aura. It being faint didn't mean that it wasn't dangerous. If she fed her blood to the item, this energy would force that weak presence to awaken and absorb her blood; everything could go awry very quickly.

Valeria spoke at this time. "No wonder you were attracted to this item. It is something extraordinary."

Yasenia blinked and looked at Valeria. "Oh? Something extraordinary even for you?"

Valeria smiled. "If Kali didn't have an inheritance prepared for her already, I would've wanted that item for her."

The dragoness had two questions after hearing Valeria. "This item is an inheritance? Also... Kali has an inheritance prepared for her?"

Valeria nodded. "Of course. You wouldn't think that I would leave nothing for my future masters, no?"

Kali coughed. "I mean, your own self is already quite a strong advantage. Knowledge from an ancient senior and a powerful summon that can basically fight several levels above her own. A strong healer that has almost no match in the same realm and a combat support that can make creatures use 200% of their potential."

Yasenia grinned. "Also, a gorgeous companion~."

Kali agreed. "Indeed."

Meanwhile, Money was looking at the small figurine in Yasenia's hands with a baffled expression. The dragoness felt her gaze and asked. "Is there something wrong?"

Money nodded. "Yes. Why is the value of the item varying so much? I can't... Huh? Now it is four million Sunderials, and now it is a few Earth coins... What is going on?"

Yasenia's eyebrow raised and she thought. 'Well, I don't want it.'

Money frowned. "Now it is back to 40 Sunderials worth..."

Yasenia squinted and thought. 'Nevermind, I'll take it back home instead of using it myself.'

"HUH? What is this!? Value is incalculable?"

The dragoness's eyes flashed. 'I see. So, her constitution can measure the value of items due to their Fate. If someone like me, who is outside of Fate, buys it, she won't know the price it will have until I decide what to do with it. If I am involved with it...' Yasenia thought. 'I'll take it for myself.'

Money deadpanned. "Now it is worthless."

Yasenia's lips twitched. 'Okay, even though I know it has no value in her eyes because I am the one using it, it feels a bit bad hearing that.'

Money scratched her head. "Is my constitution broken?"

Yasenia laughed softly. "Don't worry. Everything is working nicely. Look, now it should cost 40 again."

Money looked, and indeed, its price had gone back to 40 Sunderials. "Huh? How did you know?"

"Who knows~?" Yasenia teased, and then she commented. "Okay, then, how much is the entire shop?"

Money spoke. "345,541 of your Purple Crystals."

Yasenia's heart tightened. 'S-So much money, ugh. How many do I have left?'

Her Warship used those crystals as fuel, so she didn't have her original 500,000. 'Hm... I've spent 2,431 Purple Crystals...'

The dragoness sighed. "Is it really worth it to pay so much to see that guy? I don't even know if he will even stop to listen when I ask him to."

Money muttered. "I can ask him to stay if you want. To be honest, this part of the test is quite strange. After all, my master was supposed to teach me personally next. But he suddenly changed opinions after he came back."

Yasenia smiled under the veil and tip-toed to pat her head. "Well, don't be sad. I am sure he did so with you in mind. While he is a merchant, you are probably one of his most valuable people. Your constitution is so rare and powerful. I am sure that he cares about you."

Money pouted. "He only cares about me because of the constitution."

The dragoness raised her eyebrow. "Do you care about items that don't have any worth? For example, that stool that you were selling there, do you care about it? Or would you have thrown it out of your shop if you had the chance?"

Money blinked, and Yasenia smiled. "Your value is inherent. It is something that is part of the whole 'you.' Therefore, Ayanduin valuing your constitution is the same as him valuing you. I, for example, know that my beauty is a weapon, a blessing, and sometimes, a curse. However, that doesn't stop me from showing my beauty because it is part of myself. You were also interested in me in the first place because my scales are probably worth a lot, right?"

Money nodded. "One Sunderial per ten grams!"

Lady He's eyes widened, and she blurted. "What? That makes it more valuable than some peak-level Heaven Ranked ores!"

Yasenia chuckled. "So, Money. I am sure that Ayanduin cares about you more than just your constitution. But, even if it is not that way, try to make it that way. Make other parts of yourself more valuable."

Money hummed. "I see..." She smiled very faintly and said. "Thanks... Senior."

Yasenia nodded. "You are welcome, junior."

The dragoness was on a time limit, but she was not hasty enough that she needed to make a decision in that same instant. So after bidding Money goodbye, the dragoness returned to Kali's side and nodded. "We are done here. Thank you for your patience."

Kali smiled gently and turned to look at Lady He. "Let's continue. Sorry for the wait."

Lady He smiled widely and waved her hand. "You have nothing to feel sorry for! It was an extremely interesting time. Also..." She looked at Yasenia and sincerely praised her. "You are one of the most beautiful beings I've seen. I am truly in awe of your charm."

Yasenia looked at her and smiled, making her eyes very lightly crinkle. "Thank you."

That light crease felt like it was tickling the onlookers' hearts, teasing them as they knew the absolutely gorgeous smile hiding behind that veil.

An spoke with a proud smile. "See? I told you hiding behind a veil was a good idea!"

Lady He got interested and asked. "Oh, she wasn't wearing one at first?"

An rolled her eyes. "Forget about wearing a veil; she had a dress with a MASSIVE cleavage! I could feel the drooling around me as the air humidity moistened!"

Kali teased. "Are you sure it wasn't yourself?"

An's proud face instantly changed to a deep shade of red as she stuttered. "T-THAT'S NOT A VERY NICE THING TO SU-SU-SAY, MISS KALI!"

Yasenia remembered and said. "Right, Lady He, could you do me a favor?"

Lady He nodded. "Of course. As long as it is something within reason."

Yasenia looked at Money and asked. "Could you send a letter with my address to Money whenever you can? I would like to keep in contact."

Lady He nodded. "No problem. The moment you choose a room, I'll send a letter to her."

Money's ears twitched, and her lips arched very faintly.

Valeria's eyes very discreetly moved toward the corner of the room for a second before they left, but she ignored it later, not saying anything.

When their group left the place, a man appeared in that corner of the room. The man was young-looking, with long hair that ended in a dropping ponytail. His clothes were elegant, with a touch of modest luxury. 'Hm? Did that tall green lady spot me? That should be impossible, no?'

The man rubbed his beardless chin. "That dragon woman... her soul has been afflicted by a poison... my poison."

"Master?"

The young-looking man looked over and smiled. "Hey, Little M, how are you doing?"

Money blinked twice. "You were here the whole time, Master?"

The man, Ayanduin, smirked. "Yes. The second they entered your shop, I felt quite a few extraordinary presences, so I was around, just in case. This is your first task outside that place, after all."

Money hummed. "Sorry."

Ayanduin smirked. "It's good that you apologize. You wanted to sell them everything to get me out? Tsk, tsk. You are too young to be scheming in that manner, Little M."

Money shook her head. "No, I wasn't apologizing because of that."

Ayanduin blinked. "Oh."

Money smiled. "For doubting that you cared about me."

Ayanduin raised his elegant eyebrow. "I wasn't expecting an apology for that, but I'll accept it. I wouldn't bother keeping you as an apprentice if I wasn't fond of you, Little M." Money nodded and smiled.

Ayanduin looked toward the door and smiled. "The things that dragon told you are quite nice as well, keep them in mind."

Money asked, curious. "Will you meet her as she wants? She should have enough money to buy what she wants, no?"

"Well..." Ayanduin rubbed his chin. "To be honest, I feel that getting involved with her will be quite a bit of trouble. Who knows if she will try to scam me and rob me!? Tsk, tsk. Youngsters these days are very daring and vengeful."

Money caught something from that and asked, feeling suspicious. "Did you do something to Senior Yasenia?"

The young-looking man coughed. "How could that be, Little M? Do I look like the type who would poison someone just for my own benefit because I really could not bother getting out of that heaven-damned Secret Realm the normal way as it would be ridiculously tedious!?"

"..."

Money deadpanned so hard, that even the Transcendent Level cultivator's eyebrow twitched. "What?"

"Master, you should apologize to Senior Yasenia. She did nothing wrong."

Ayanduin paused and smirked. "Oh? You are so sure of that statement. Do you know who that woman is in the world she comes from?"

Money blinked and shook her head. Ayanduin laughed. "It seems that she is the cause of a World War that killed billions. Now, she basically rules that planet, or, well, the Astral Sky Alliance she built rules it."

Money blurted. "Impossible. How could she be the reason for such a massive genocide? She looked so gentle and pretty!"

Ayanduin looked at Money and asked. "Did she?" He asked with a squinted gaze. "Did she look like that when she made you kneel, Little M?"

Money closed her mouth, looking down as she could not really answer that question. Ayanduin commented. "Although, I won't blame her much. However, if she wants to buy the antidote for that poison she has, she will have to work a bit harder. I don't have anything against her, but she is not an innocent and pitiful soul that I involuntarily harmed. She is a mass killer with rivers of blood following her steps. Her hidden killing intent is... powerful. Higher than mine, and that should tell you a lot."

Money muttered. "I can't believe it... Is she really that dangerous?"

Ayanduin waved his hand, taking out a crystal. Money blinked. "Oh? A [Soul Analyzing Crystal]?"

The Transcendent Realm senior commented. "This was pointed at her during the whole stay, so it should show enough for you to believe me."

Money took the crystal and looked at it. In the next instant, her vision expanded, and thousands of images flashed in front of her. The images were about the universe, war, or family. All of them depicted a very unclear part of who Yasenja was.

Once Money looked at it, the crystal burst into particles. Money's body was soaked with sweat as her legs gave away, and she fell to her knees. "H-How can she give such a gentle aura when she is so... cold-blooded?"

Ayanduin hummed. "Probably, because there wasn't just a murderous psychopath in those visions, right? I haven't seen it since those crystals are one time use, but you should've seen a part of what makes her able to be so warm, right?"

Money remembered all the beautiful and loving feelings from the family images and nodded. "She is... very loving toward her family."

The Transcendent Realm man smiled. "There you have it. She is not a mindless animal that kills everything around her. She is a psychopathic animal that slaughters everything that endangers her family, who she probably treasures more than herself." Ayanduin looked at Money and smiled. "Either way, she looks like she can resist the poison for a few more years. Let's keep her around and see if she becomes aggressive as her time starts to run out~."

Money frowned. "Master, do you have any intentions of helping her?"

"Oh?" Ayanduin looked up at his tall disciple and asked. "After seeing all of that, you still want to help her?"

Money nodded. "I do. She was very gentle with me, and it didn't feel like an act."

Ayanduin shook his head. "It wasn't. I was similarly surprised. I heard that she killed quite a few people before arriving here. An entire city fell into chaos or something because they tried to court

her? Something like that. Either way, she is capable of creating strong bonds and capable of love and compassion. However, she is very extreme in her retaliation. She must've been raised very strictly and probably have been told to kill all her enemies so that no bad weeds could remain and harm her later."

Money frowned. "Is that good? Or is it bad?"

Ayanduin shrugged. "Who knows? That thinking has led her to conquer an entire World, even when she is only a few decades old. Either way, I'll go now, bye~."

Money's eyes widened, and she muttered. "A few de-decades? She is younger than me!?"

Meanwhile, Yasenias group was walking toward the inner area. They were not hasty, so they took a few hours. People didn't bother them on the way, thanks to Lady He's and An's presence. So, while the dragoness could feel several nasty gazes landing on her, she was not worried.

Valeria spoke through Spiritual Sense to Kali, Yasenias, and the maids. 'I think Ayanduin was in that shop. I am not too sure, though.'

Yasenias asked. 'Why are you doubtful?'

Valeria explained. 'My sense toward life is incredibly strong. So, I could feel that there was one extra presence in that shop other than those we could see. Still, it was behind a veil created by some kind of skill or treasure. Therefore, I couldn't analyze it.'

Kali commented. 'A person strong enough to hide from you leaves very few people to be suspicious about. Guessing that it is Ayanduin is the only reasonable deduction.'

The dragoness sighed. 'If it really was him, then we are in trouble. There are two options now. The first one is that he is the very protective type, and now he is going to try to take revenge on us because I made his disciple kneel. Or he is the easy-going one, and he will make sure that encountering him is extremely difficult.'

Kali asked. 'So... What do we do?'

Yasenias shrugged. 'Ayanduin knows we are here. He probably knows why I am here. So, if he wants to show, he eventually will. If he doesn't want to show... Well, we'll have to go forward with Tatyana's plan and sacrifice Distancia... Wait.'

Yasenias stopped walking and everyone else followed. The dragoness rubbed her forehead and asked Valeria. 'How many years did you say those herbs in my ring needed before you could use them to create the antidote?'

Valeria blinked and realized. 'Oh... Three years...'

Yasenias looked at the sky and sighed. '... What do we do? We could've stopped the journey the second Soluna used her powers to weaken the poison...'

Kali laughed aloud. "This is so stupid! Hahaha."

Lady He blinked and asked. "What's wrong, Miss Kali?"

Kali looked at Lady He and laughed a bit more. "Nothing, nothing. We just realized something that we had completely forgotten about. This makes things super easy, hahaha."

An saw the relief and happiness in Kali's expression, and she asked. "Is it a good thing?"

Kali nodded and hugged Yasenia, burying her face in her softness. "It is a very good thing, haaa. I am so relieved. These last few months have been nerve-wracking."

The dragoness hugged Kali and smiled gently. "Sorry for worrying you, Honey."

Kali shook her head. "No. All is good. That's all that matters."

Valeria looked at the dragoness and asked. "So? What's the plan?"

Yasenia smiled. "We stay here. I want to meet Ayanduin regardless."

Valeria raised her eyebrow. "Are you sure? You don't want to see your children take the first step in their cultivation journey? They are going to turn 18 soon, and according to their growth rate, they should be mature enough to start their Spiritual Cultivation Path."

The dragoness nodded, her eyes showing struggle. "I am sure. They will eventually need to fly out of the nest. If they complete the first step into the cultivation path when I am not there, their sense of reliance on my presence during their cultivation journey will not be as strong..."

Valeria smiled. "That's an admirable decision that not many parents would be able to make, Yasenia."

An blinked a few times and blurted. "You have children!?"

Yasenia smiled widely, her eyes arching in a gorgeous manner. "Seven of them and one adopted pretty girl~!"

Chapter 988: Dianna's and Katarina's progress back in Distancia.

Back in Distancia, things were moving forward fast while also becoming peaceful. After the attack on Yasenia, the top powers thoroughly investigated and fully tackled the last signs of rebellion. A peaceful era started, even without Yasenia's presence as the pivotal role.

The seniors stepped back again, giving way to the newer generations. Between the youngest generations, there was a group that was very popular and known almost everywhere. Those were Yasenia's children.

After their first escapade, which ended in the attack on the maids, the children's mindset changed slightly, and they all became much more hardworking. This allowed their potential to shine, as their skills made significant leaps.

Dianna and Katarina were finally able to transform into their human forms. The process was slow, but they appeared in their adolescent shapes after a while.

Cecile, Andrea, Angel, and Evelyn all were there, smiling as they took shape. The first one to complete the transformation was Dianna.

Andrea crossed her arms and smiled. "Oho~, we have quite a beauty here."

Evelyn looked down and clicked her tongue. "Kali's and Yasenia's child, she of course is gifted."

Cecile smacked her shoulder lightly. "Where are you looking at? Be a bit more dignified."

Evelyn raised her eyebrow. "I am looking at her attributes~. No one spoke about her breasts specifically! The fact that you smacked me proves that you were thinking about it!"

Cecile couldn't answer, so she just deadpanned and looked toward Dianna again. "She is pretty."

Evelyn snorted. "Hey, don't change the subject!"

Angel smiled widely. "She has Yasenias black hair with Kali's waviness! Very pretty hair~... Oh? Wow~."

Evelyn nodded. "Her eyes also have an amber hue, perhaps the most different besides Estrella. Also, yeah, her hair is quite crazy. Is that natural?"

Andrea answered with a chuckle. "I mean, they all have her eyes. So, yeah, even a bit of variation is already very noticeable."

Evelyn pointed at Dianna and said. "Hey, can you speak about her hair?"

"I am looking at it. I don't know what else to say." Andrea shrugged.

Evelyn pointed at Dianna and spoke. "How about you speak about that gorgeous color gradient! Beautiful black hair that changes to a beautiful golden with a gradient! How does that even work? Gorgeous! Pretty! Our Dianna is beautiful as expected!"

Dianna was a relatively short woman, around 164 centimeters tall. She had large breasts, a slim waist, and shapely hips that perfectly highlighted her beautiful legs. Meanwhile, her hair, as Evelyn described, started in a beautiful black color that started changing into golden at around three-quarters of the waist-length hair. Finally, her facial features were a mix of Kali's gentleness and Yasenias beauty, with a natural added touch of rogueness.

Overall, a charming and beautiful girl. Moreover, she didn't inherit Yasenias dual genitalia, being a pure girl. Her [Innate Clothes] started materializing around her, forming a charming black off-shoulder shirt with the upper edge folding outward and decorated with gorgeous flowers. Then, below the upper clothes, a long and silky purple skirt with a side slit unfolded, covering her legs entirely.

Evelyn clapped. "She has inherited my fashion sense! Great! Gorgeous! I love it!" The girls didn't disagree. The dress was indeed lovely.

Dianna blinked twice and looked down at her hands. Seeing the humanoid hands, a surge of joy came to her. 'I did it!' However, her smile flattened after she remembered that Kali and Yasenias were not there. 'When will Mama and Mommy come back?'

Cecile approached and spoke softly. "This is great. Can you imagine how surprised they will be when they see you like this? I am sure they will be extremely proud of you, Dianna."

Dianna felt her stifled emotions surging again, and she grinned widely. "Right! I will surprise them more by starting to practice Body and Spiritual cultivation!"

Cecile rubbed her chin. "We'll see if you can, dear."

Andrea nodded as she arrived by their side. "As Cecile says, you are a genuinely pure beast, Dianna. We don't know if you can cultivate outside your beast realms."

Dianna snorted. "Mommy and Mama could, and I am their daughter! I will make sure that I can!"

Mirrory commented. "Honestly, if she really can, this can be quite a breakthrough. Yasenias children would be classified as a completely new species."

Evelyn asked, curious. "What do you mean?"

Mirrory spoke. "To my knowledge, Yasenia is one of the first beasts to have managed to practice human cultivation paths while being a pure beast. I don't know if those who managed it in the past left progenitors behind or if their descendants' blood eventually thinned so much that it became useless. However, I can assure you that if Yasenia's progeny shows those qualities and the bloodline remains slightly pure, they will take everyone by surprise."

Dianna looked at Mirrory and said with a wide smile. "You'll see, Aunty Mirrory! I'll be able to do that!"

Mirrory smiled faintly. "I'll be looking forward to that, child."

"Dianna!" The fox dragon snorted. "You need to call me Dianna, Aunty Mirrory!"

Mirrory laughed through her nose. "Sure, Dianna."

"Great!" Dianna smiled widely and looked toward the other side of the room. "How is little sister Katarina doing?"

Cecile answered softly. "Her energy feels stable. Her aura is getting thicker. She will probably have no problems."

Angel looked over and said. "The formations look great as well. There is nothing to worry about." Angel smiled at Cecile and patted her shoulder.

Cecile nodded back and sighed. "Almost two years already..." Cecile looked skyward and muttered. "I wonder how much longer until they come back?"

Andrea hummed. "Her time limit was around two or three years, right? If they weren't sure that they could save Yasenia without sacrificing Distancia, they would already be back and preparing."

Mirrory nodded. "Yes. Even if they take longer, that doesn't mean that Yasenia is in danger. They also have Tatyana and Valeria with them, so they are probably safe."

After that, a month went by, and eventually, Katarina's transformation arrived. Her body transformed, gaining a humanoid shape and revealing a little girl that looked as if she were made of ice.

A gorgeous and satin-like silver-colored hair that reached below her waist flowed behind her, similar to that of her mother. Her golden eyes, inherited from Yasenia, glowed piercingly, as her facial features, even when young, exuded piercing coldness. It was a coldness different from Cecile's.

Cecile's coldness stemmed from her indifference and aloofness to everything around her. She just didn't care about anything, making her look cold. Meanwhile, Katarina's coldness could even be called ruthlessness. It was a gaze that pierced deeply into the soul, while her facial features were stiff like that of a general's.

Cecile had an elegant coldness, while Katarina's was an aggressive coldness. Her height resembled Yasenia's, almost reaching her dragon mother's stature. Her slim body added to her overall charm, making Katarina like a piece of ice perfectly carved into a beautiful girl.

With a stream of snowflakes, a white dress appeared around her body with silver armored plates on her shoulders, chest, and hips. She looked like a Valkyrie ready to go to war.

Cecile's icy blue eyes shone with softness as she approached with a smile. "How are you feeling, Little Feather?"

Katarina looked at her hands and muttered. "Strange... The balance is very different from usual."

Cecile laughed. "Indeed. Balancing yourself in two arms and without wings is difficult, right? You need to place your weight on your legs and use the tip of your feet as a way to manage your position, while the heels take most of the body weight. Your arms are also needed as you walk, similar to wings. But, instead of moving them out a bit, try balancing the opposite arm to the leg you move."

Katarina listened attentively to her mother's words and took a step forward. Her body tilted sideways, and Katarina moved her arms as if they were wings out of pure reflex. Of course, with no wings, Katarina just looked cute as she fell sideways onto the ground.

Cecile softly encouraged. "It is okay. You just need to practice, like with everything. Remember, Katarina, the important thing is not how many times you fail but when you manage to master something. Of course..."

Katarina smiled and continued Cecile's sentence. "Of course, we need to know that sometimes, trying too much is useless, so we must evaluate if the methods we are using are right while trying over and over again. There is a way, but we don't need to brute force it."

Cecile nodded twice. "Right, right. And..."

Katarina giggled. "And sometimes, forcing it is the correct option, so we need to be careful about that as well."

Cecile smiled widely. "It is good that you know!"

Katarina raised her silvery eyebrow. "You are not going to continue, Mama?"

The Phoenix Woman leaned down and lifted Katarina. "I am naggy, but if my Little Feather knows it, there is no need for me to repeat it, no?"

Katarina blinked, confused. "Hm? That's not like you."

Cecile looked up at her tall daughter and sighed. "Well... I am just... Hm. Katarina."

Katarina was startled and asked. "Yes? What's wrong, Mama? Did I do something wrong?"

Cecile shook her head. "Not at all. I was wondering, am I too nagging?"

Katarina blinked twice, confused. "Huh? What are you talking about, Mama?"

Cecile scratched her cheek and smiled. "Well, I heard a few mothers say how their children didn't like it when they nagged them, so, um. Am I too naggy? Do I bother you? I am sorry if I ever did, Little Feather."

Katarina lifted her hands, making strange gestures as she didn't know how to express herself non-verbally yet. "Wait, wait, wait. Mama, you don't need to think about that! I like your nagging a lot!"

Cecile blinked twice. "Hm? Do you?"

Katarina laughed. "Of course I do! Isn't this part something Mommy also loves about you?"

Cecile nodded. "Well, it is the truth that she has never complained. She even usually tells me that I am cute and that she loves me lots when I speak. Often, she would cuddle me and listen to me, or sometimes, we did the opposite. It is quite nice to speak to her and tell her my thoughts. Katarina, you should find someone who treats you nicely like that, okay? You are a very charming girl, so you won't have any problems appearance-wise. However, don't let appearances deceive you. You need to always have an eye out for..."

Katarina's lips arched faintly when Cecile completely forgot that they were talking about this kind of situation. Still, she attentively listened as her mother spoke and told her many things. She jumped from subject to subject, and she really tried to cover all bases, making her look quite adorable, as she explained with her usual deadpan. 'Hehehe, no wonder Mommy cuddles Mama when she is like this. Even I have the temptation to do that!'

Of course, instead of cuddling Cecile, she just leaned down and snuggled in Cecile's arms. Cecile accommodated her tall daughter, using her wings to cover her body, and she continued speaking for quite a while. Katarina closed her eyes, and Cecile's voice flowed like a cold stream, protecting her entire body and making her feel comfortable.

Chapter 989: Music Instrument Hunting. Central City Region.

Two years have gone by since she arrived in this city. During this time, Yasenias made sure to cultivate much longer than usual because she did not have much else to do while all of them investigated the place and tried to get closer to Ayanduin.

Today, she finally accumulated enough energy to reach the next level in her Spiritualization Path. Her cultivation realms were mid-level for the Body path, fifth-level for Spiritual, and fourth-level for the Beast path.

The Beast Path was significantly slower than the other two because the resources to increase its level were limited. Thankfully, commerce in this place was prolific, so they could find beast cores being sold here and there.

The coin system was also relatively simple. Sunderial was the highest-value energy crystal in the place. After them, there were Earth Crystals, Magic Crystals, Spirit Crystals, and finally, mortal coins. The difference from one to the next was 1,000 coins.

Yasenias was curious when she learned that. "Why are Sunderials not called Heaven Crystals? Your currency follows the treasure realms, right?"

Lady He, who was the person explaining it to her back then smiled and spoke. "Well, that's disrespectful toward the Heavens. Therefore, it seems that the ancestors avoided it and decided to change the name."

Yasenias was surprised. "Huh? Isn't the Heavens of this World dead?"

Lady He smiled sadly. "It is. However, people still have tribulations when they break through. It feels like the Heavens are extremely weakened and not dead. However, who knows? Not even the [Four City Kings] know about it."

Yasenias crossed her arms and asked. "What if they know, but they are hiding it because it benefits them?"

As an answer, Lady He shook her head and patted Yasenias's arm twice before leaving.

The dragoness opened her eyes from meditation and muttered. "Two years already, I have broken through once more in the spiritual path and made great strides in body cultivation and beast cultivation. My martial art mastery has also increased, and my understanding of the [Heavenly Constellation Steps] has increased."

Speaking of that movement technique, the dragoness was in awe at how complex it was. There was a constant stream of complex energy paths that she needed to keep track of while utilizing it, making going from one [Sky] to another [Sky] a difficult endeavor.

"Pegasus Gallop is relatively easy because it is a burst of speed that doesn't need to be maintained for long unless it is me pursuing or fleeing from somebody." Yaseenia thought. "I had no other long-lasting constellation. So, Ursa never gave me problems. However... Orion is a burst skill that then needs to be maintained. It is complicated to do so while not breaking out of [Second Sky: Ursa's Grasp]. If I fail to upkeep Ursa's Grasp, [Third Sky: Orion's Shield] will leave me weakened right after, and it could be lethal."

The dragoness muttered. "What about the Fourth Sky? It is called Lyra's Harmony... A music-related skill!" Yaseenia blinked. "Music?"

The dragoness had learned to play instruments in the past. While she had mastered many to a certain degree, her skills could be considered good among young cultivators.

Her skills could be considered horrendous for someone at her cultivation.

"I should practice."

Thinking as such, she stood up and approached Kali's room, knocking on the door. "Yes, Love?"

Kali's voice reached her from the other side. Yaseenia knew that Kali was in the middle of something very important, so she was brief and clear. "I am going out. Ask Selena where I went if you finish here."

"Okay, Love."

Listening to the concentrated tone, Yaseenia didn't bother her anymore and stepped out of the room. The maids naturally gathered, leaving ten of them behind to protect Kali while the other 30 accompanied Yaseenia.

Doriel asked. "Where are we going, Young Miss?"

Yaseenia smiled and said. "Music shop! There was one nearby, right? I need an instrument." She looked toward the right and saw one of the maids looking at her, lightly surprised. Yaseenia chuckled. "Ilarune, can you teach me?"

Ilarune, the swallow beast human maid, had a graceful, ethereal body with delicate wings behind her and a slim bird-like figure. Her soft, porcelain-like skin and sleek, dark hair gave her an elegant and refined appearance, while her dark, expressive eyes reflected intelligence and quiet strength. Her gestures carried an air of effortless elegance, giving her walk a feeling as if she were gliding. She was the perfect classical beauty with extraordinary feminine charm.

To add to her appeal, a beautiful seven-stringed guqin with images of swallows and clouds gently rested on Ilarune's back, exquisitely blending with her elegant figure.

Ilarune stepped closer with small but quick steps, and she smiled widely. "Of course, Young Miss."

Her voice had a gentle melody that soothed those who heard her. Yaseña laughed. "This reminds me... Weren't you the one who sang me lullabies when I was napping in the garden?"

Ilarune covered her mouth and laughed. "While I sometimes did so, that was done by seniors more often than not. Us, mortal maids, very rarely took care of your most intimate moments, Young Miss. Transcendent Level maids were the ones doing so ninety percent of the time."

Yaseña laughed through her nose. "I see. Well, now it is your time to show me your talents. You reached the half-step Dantian Spiritualization Realm a few years ago, right? How is Body Cultivation going?"

Ilarune hummed, her hum making the ears of the listeners vibrate pleasantly. "It is nice, I guess. Although I prefer my softer body, I am undoubtedly getting stronger, not weaker. I just need to get accustomed to my body's newfound hardness. It is a bit complicated to play music as perfectly as before."

Alaia asked with a smile. "Have you tried a bit of a... harder? Type of music?"

Ilarune snorted softly. "I won't. I love soft, flowy, and relaxing music."

Alaia blinked and smirked. "The truth is?"

Ilarune muttered, poking her fingers together. "I am much worse at playing that type of music..."

Yaseña laughed and patted Ilarune's head. "So, Ilarune, what kind of instrument do you think would suit me? I personally think that something like a strong-sounding air instrument would be cool."

Ilarune instantly denied it. "That would be like sticking the most beautiful flower, you, into a massive dragon turd! Definitely no! You need a corded instrument, Young Miss! You have a beauty that needs to be shown while you play music. Young Miss's beauty is part of your music, and you need to take advantage of it!"

Yaseña blinked. "Beauty? How does that have anything to do with music?"

Ilarune raised her eyebrows high and asked. "What is music, Young Miss?"

The dragoness thought for a few moments and answered seriously. "Music is an art that tells a story through sound, but unlike a voice, it can break barriers between species and borders, reaching everyone."

Ilarune snorted. "Generic answer! Music is an art, Young Miss. It is an expression of the soul, body, and mind. It's not for others but for yourself. You are in the music; you are the creator of it. Trying to create something that will be liked by everyone is like creating a mediocre meal that will be liked by everyone! If your best food recipe has mushrooms, but some people don't like mushrooms, do you take out the mushrooms from the dish!?"

Yaseña couldn't even answer as Ilarune roundly negated it. "You don't! Music is the same; any kind of art form is the same! You create what you like and share it. There will be some who like it and some who don't. But, if it is good, even those who don't like it will appreciate it."

The dragoness pondered and nodded. "I see. So, the reason for me to choose a string instrument is..."

Ilarune looked at Yaseia's face as if there wasn't a veil and answered with glittering eyes. "Because your face is super pretty, Young Miss. Your eyes appear as if they can speak. If you use an air instrument, your cheeks will blow out, destroying that beauty!"

Doriel asked. "Aren't there techniques to avoid that?"

Ilarune snorted. "Awkward looking! People will not focus on Young Miss' face if she is there, trying to look pretty while playing an instrument. She doesn't need to 'Try,' she needs to BE!"

Seeing the passionate fire in Ilarune's eyes, Yaseia laughed. "Okay, okay. So, which instrument? Piano?"

Ilarune shook her head. "No, too... big. Any kind of guitar is also a no because Young Miss's breasts are huge. They will be in the way while you play... Well. Oh? I know!"

With her exclamation, Ilarune grabbed Yaseia's hand and dragged her toward the music shop. "Come, Young Miss! Let's buy you an instrument!"

The maids followed along, and soon, they were in front of the music shop. The music shop was inside the central area of the city. During the last two years, Yaseia has opened a shop in the inner area and gained quite a lot of money by selling items created by her maids. After all, her maids were not only a lethal combat group, but they also had several skills that allowed them to earn profit almost anywhere they traveled.

Since Yaseia was done holding back the resources she had, she, of course, created the [Astral Sky Shop] and sold items crafted by them. The items were a massive success, and soon, Sunderials started rolling in.

Now, armed with a few hundred thousand of them after two years, the dragoness decided to enter the outer parts of the central region.

Large concentric walls divided the city, and to pass through the different sections, one needed to cross a gate. The gates had no guards and were there more as landmarks. Of course, not having guards didn't mean that people didn't try to tax those who went through.

"Stop there!"

Yaseia looked over and raised her eyebrow. There was a group of women wearing luxurious dresses, led by a beautiful woman whose facial features were ruined by heavy makeup.

Ilarune was quite eager to help Yaseia buy the instrument she had in mind, so her usually calm and elegant face immediately filled with annoyance.

Yaseia looked over and asked, her eyes gaining a cold look as her aura spread from her as a warning. "Why are you stopping me?"

The approaching group of women paused when Yaseia's aura reached them. The one at the front spoke softer. "Lady Yaseia, we are here to invite you. Our Young Master is someone living in the center of the city and one of the richest in the entire place. Would you and your maids be interested?"

She was not surprised that someone knew her name. She had not been trying to hide for one second, so certain incidents would eventually force people to know who she was. The dragoness snorted. "Go back and tell your Young Master that I have urgent matters to attend to. Goodbye."

Yasenia ignored their faces and asked Ilarune. "By the way, what instrument did you choose for me?"

Ilarune smiled brightly. "The Pippa!"

Chapter 990: Finding The Pipa.

"Hm? She didn't accept?"

The group of women kowtowed and asked for forgiveness. "Please, spare us, Master. Her aura was too much of a deterrent for us to do anything else! We were feeling as if our souls were going to burst if we kept insisting!"

"I see. So, her aura is stronger than mine?" The young man's aura burst outward, grabbing the kowtowing women and lifting them as if they didn't weigh more than paper. Their faces utterly paled in horror as their throats were squeezed by an invisible hand. Quickly after, they started to turn redder as they began to feel asphyxiated. "It is stronger than mine, isn't it? After all, you are not saying anything for me to stop."

He smiled and ignored their terror-filled eyes and pleas. "Hm~. What to do with you lot... Well, you probably failed to say who I was. I usually tell you to hold back that information, after all. If not, she wouldn't have rejected the invite of this King, right?"

The floating women nodded their heads as if their lives depended on it.

"I guess this is my fault." He released all of them, making them fall as they tried to take in a deep breath and coughed.

The man stood up and muttered. "Since Ayanduin returned, things are going a bit awry, aren't they? That old man is truly... annoying. I guess I'll need to do something about him. Hm... Right, he had a disciple called quite ridiculously. What was it?"

One of the women answered, her voice somewhat weak from what just happened. "T-The name... of that disciple... is Money, Lord Gu."

"Money? Well, suitable to name his precious disciple after what he loves the most."

Meanwhile, Yasenia was in the music shop, choosing an instrument with Ilarune and the rest of the maids. The shop owner approached. He was a mild-mannered middle-aged man with a gentle smile. "Welcome to my shop. What is the Lady searching for?"

Ilarune smiled back. Her eyes flashed and she answered. "Hello, we want to see the best Pipa you have. Money is not a problem."

The man pondered. "The best one? We don't have a best one, miss. We might have one that's suitable for your miss. But there is no best instrument, in my humble opinion."

Ilarune nodded a few times. "Great! I would've been disappointed if you had another answer to that question."

The man laughed. "A test? That's not fair to do, miss. But I'll accept it. I am aware that it is rare to find good music-related shops lately. Music cultivation is becoming increasingly rare."

Ilarune asked. "Really?"

Back in the Sky Continent, there were powerful sects that focused on Music Cultivation, so she was confused. While it might not have the strongest combat power, Music Cultivation was incredibly tricky to face. The array of skills that Music Cultivators had was plenty, and in groups, they could create extremely lethal skills.

The man nodded and turned around. "Follow me. I'll guide you to where I store the pipas."

They all followed and arrived at the back of the shop. There, a grand array of instruments arranged like a gigantic orchestra could be seen. Ilarune was impressed. "This is gorgeous. They are situated as they would in an orchestra of this scale."

The man laughed softly. "I am a Music Cultivator myself. Well..." The man smiled sadly. "I was."

Yasenia got interested and asked. "What happened?"

"I was the Sect Master of the Instrumental Valley, but we got attacked. To save the sect, I fought with everything I had and sacrificed my tendons to activate a mass-scale destruction skill. I could protect the sect but at the cost of ruining my ability to create music forever."

The man approached an instrument and tried to extend his fingers. However, they only trembled, unable to fully stretch. He took his hand back, hiding it between his long sleeves and sighed.

The dragoness looked at his fingers and pondered. 'Perhaps if I can save his fingers, he'll give me some kind of precious treasure that he has. I can smell quite a few nice treasures in this shop, but very few are here.'

"Flora."

Flora stepped forward and bowed elegantly. "Yes, Young Miss?"

Yasenia asked. "Do you think it is possible to heal him?"

Flora looked at Yasenia and tilted her head, confused. The maids were similar, looking at their miss with confusion. After all, they knew their miss was mostly indifferent to the worldly affairs of other creatures.

Still, Flora answered faithfully. "I would need to analyze him."

The man who listened smiled gently. "No need to worry. Not even one of the best doctors in this city could do anything about it other than reduce the pain."

Flora approached and nodded. "While I won't disrespect that person, I am a dryad, a creature with an innate affinity with nature and life. Please, let me take a look and see if I can see beyond what that doctor said."

The man looked at Flora with a conflicted expression and smiled sadly. "You know... giving false hope to a person who has given up is one of the cruelest things you can do. If I accept, I will be tearing open old scars that have healed."

Flora raised her eyebrow. "Well, I might be able to heal those scars as well. It is up to you, though. My Young Miss is usually indifferent to what other people are going through. Somehow, your little story might've touched one of her sensitive nerves, but you managed to move her. I am telling you right now that you are being fortunate.

'Well, I only want his treasures, but that works...' The dragoness thought for herself.

The man looked at Flora's extended hand and eventually sighed. "I am really too old to bear further false hope, Miss Dryad. So, please, make the hope truthful this time around."

The man lifted his arm and extended it forward, showing it to Flora. The dragoness looked at Ilarune and spoke. "Is there any instrument around here that catches your eye, Ilarune?"

"Well..." Ilarune muttered. "I accept that they are high-quality items. But..." Ilarune approached one of the pipas and used four fingers to play the cords, creating a rapid melody. "Their sound is not what I want for you."

Meanwhile, the man was stunned. "What was that?"

Ilarune looked over and asked. "Hm? What do you mean?"

The man didn't move since Flora was taking his pulse, but he couldn't look away from the pipa that Ilarune played. "That melody was... so profound. It was just four notes, yet I could feel such a deep understanding of music. You played the instrument exactly like the instrument would like to be played."

Ilarune shook her head and moved toward another instrument. "I don't play them like they want to be played. They are an instrument, a tool. The one making the music is me, not them; they are tools. Like a sword for a swordmaster. Like an arrow for a bowmaster. They are parts of what makes us stronger."

The man frowned. "That's... disrespectful. An instrument has a soul. Each of them has a story behind them."

Ilarune agreed. "Yes. But that soul doesn't control you. It just tells you what kind of music is suitable for it. The one that controls the instrument is me."

Her fingers moved toward another pipa and she grabbed it properly. Then, she sat on the chair and started playing a fast-paced song. Like drums of war, like a charge of a thousand horses. The melody galloped around the room with unstoppable might.

"The instrument loves to play war songs. This one has been used in battle since its creation. However..." Ilarune's fingers slowed down, and the melody completely transformed into a constant but gentle trickle of notes that composed a river-like melody. It was soothing yet powerful, not losing the essence of the treasure while changing the melody thoroughly. "That doesn't limit me."

The man's eyes opened wide, and suddenly, a powerful wave of energy surged around him and burst outward with a melodic sound. Yasenia's eyebrows jumped. 'He broke through?'

Ilarune's eyes shone with interest. "[Music Intent Level 7]! Wonderful comprehension skills. Young Miss should bring him back to Distancia and allow him to join the [Nine Pure Melody Sect]. Li Xianghua will have competition."

Yasenia smiled. "We'll see. But I think that creating a rival sect would be more interesting."

After breaking through, he looked at Ilarune with respect and clasped his hands in a respectful bow. "This junior is thankful for master's guidance." However, right after doing so, he was shocked once more. He looked at his hands and fingers, and moved them slowly. "W-What?"

Flora smiled. "Don't get happy too quickly. I just reactivated the clogged acupuncture points and meridians for a few moments. They will return back to how they were without proper healing."

However, you didn't destroy your tendons. You shattered your meridians and clogged several acupuncture points. They are not properly connected to your Meridian Net. Therefore, they can't regenerate. Regardless, it is something that I can fix."

The man was shocked again, and he closed his eyes. "Hm... A dream? It must be. A goddess-like group of women suddenly appeared and allowed me to break through and heal my injuries. Yeah, this must be a dream."

Yasenia smiled, her eyes seductively crinkling over her veil, and asked. "How about you give thanks to this group of goddess-like women with your body?"

The man nodded. "Definitively a dream. However, these fairies are my saviors, so I shouldn't be disrespectful and defile their bodies! I must be righteous!"

Flora rolled her eyes and bonked his head.

"Ouch!"

"This is not a dream. Also, while I am very thankful that even in your dreams, you would hold back, she is not referring to your body in a literal way!"

The man rubbed his head and, feeling the pain, he was stunned. "Not a dream!?" He instantly kowtowed and said. "Oh, otherworldly fairies, I thank thee from the bottom of my heart!"

Yasenia blinked. "Um... 'Thee'? Well, whatever. Stand up. I want to ask something."

"Yes, my Lady!"

The gentle-looking man stood up and looked at Yasenia attentively. Yasenia couldn't help but feel that if he had a tail, it would be a wagging and bushy dog tail. "Ahem. I want to see more pipas. Ilarune hasn't really found one that's suitable for me, so I was wondering if there are more."

The man nodded. "Of course, my Lady! Follow me! These are some treasures that I don't show easily to others. However, how could I not show them to you!"

Yasenia's lips arched under the veil, and her tail wagged. 'Success~.'

The maids saw the wagging tail and realized. 'Ohhh. This is what Young Miss was aiming for!'

After reaching the back room, Yasenia's eyes instantly landed on a jade-green pipa in the back with images of dragons and flowers. She instantly knew it was the one and spoke. "That one."

Ilarune smiled. "Yes. That one is it."