

## Heaven 991

Chapter 991: [Dragon's Melody of the Three Sacred Beasts]. Lord Gu Chen.

After spotting that pipa, the dragoness knew she wanted it. With that in mind, Yaseia looked at the man and asked. "Now that I think about it, I haven't asked for your name. I am Yaseia Dravory."

The man clasped his fist and bowed. "It is an honor to get your name, Lady Yaseia. I am called Yue Xuan, but Lady Yaseia can call me Little Yue if you want."

Yaseia nodded. "Yue Xuan, I want to buy this pipa. Give me a price."

Yue Xuan smiled. "Healing me is enough payment to have my entire shop. You can take that one pipa for free. Moreover, it feels like you and it are fated. That pipa has been in my treasury, without anyone who could play it, for a few hundred years."

Ilarune blinked, and her soft wings flapped twice. "Young Miss, give it a try."

Yaseia saw that Ilarune wanted to give it a try as well, so she smiled and asked. "Do you not want to try it?"

Ilarune smiled and nodded. "I do!" Then, she chuckled. "However, I don't want to. I want Young Miss to be the one managing to suppress that instrument. It feels like it is special~."

The dragoness looked at the pipa and squinted. "Oh? Well, let me try then." With confident steps, she approached it and extended her hand, grabbing it by the edge.

As soon as she did so, a terrifying pressure exploded from the pipa, trying to suppress Yaseia. The pressure was Dragon Might, a very powerful one at that. Yue Xuan sighed and shook his head. "It seems that she was not the one."

Ilarune asked, confused. "Does this happen every time that someone tries to touch it?"

Yue Xuan nodded. "Yes. It has an incredibly strong aura, likely due to the materials used in its creation. I heard the body was crafted from the core of a dragon. The jade color symbolizes the dragon's legacy, as profound as nature itself. The neck was made from the horns of a qilin, giving it its otherworldly essence. As for the strings, they used the plumage of a white phoenix, imbued with an ethereal flame that fused everything into a single creation. Crafted by an ancient expert, this pipa has never been played by anyone, as it has never bowed down. Its remaining dragon pride runs as deep as the ocean, leaving all who encounter it awed and overwhelmed."

Ilarune raised her eyebrow. "That's interesting. Sadly for it..." Ilarune's lips arched as she looked at Yaseia's back. "It has encountered my Young Miss."

Yue Xuan asked, confused. "What do you mean?"

After he questioned, an answer came in the form of Yaseia's actions, not words.

"A dragon is trying to make me bow down?" Yaseia's words were cold and overbearing, like a tyrant speaking down to his subject. "You are not worthy to seek such actions from me." Her gorgeous wings extended, and terrifying pressure burst out from her body. "[Cosmos Dragon's Imperial Suppression]."

Her dragon aura erupted outward like a deep ocean, swallowing the entire room into a dense sea formed by her presence. The imposing dragon aura coming from the pipa was suppressed so helplessly that its efforts to push back Yasenia's dragon aura looked more like whines from a puppy toward an adult wolf.

"Surrender to me. [Monarch Intent Level 9]."

BOOM!

The maids and Yue Xuan felt a wave of dreadful pressure exploding from Yasenia, and they all kneeled down. The maids did it on purpose, as they didn't resist. In contrast, Yue Xuan couldn't even resist, his body going down as if the hand of a giant was pushing down his head.

The pipa that was being grabbed by the dragoness started trembling. The intimidation from the pair of seductive golden eyes was such that it felt like the facial features of the dragoness were obscured, leaving two glowing golden orbs of a primordial predator.

After a few seconds of deafening silence, the pipa's humming calmed down, and its strings played by themselves. The sound was a deep and prolonged melody. Note by note, unusual for a pipa, its cords resonated one by one and created an ethereal aura around it.

Then, the dragoness felt the pipa asking for permission from her to make a connection. The pipa's intention was to make a blood connection. Similar to what she has done with her other treasures. Yasenia's eyebrow raised, and she said. "As long as you survive inside, go ahead. You are free to take a drop of my Blood Essence and become tied with me, [Dragon's Melody of the Three Sacred Beasts]."

The space around Yasenia twisted for a second, and the pipa got absorbed into Yasenia's Dantian. Right after, the dragoness stopped using her auras and gently folded her wings. She turned around and looked down at the maids and Yue Xuan. "Stand up."

"Yes, Young Miss!"

The maids orderly and formally rose simultaneously, while Yue Xuan did so with trembling legs. 'H-Her aura feels like one of those kings. So vast and profound... what's her cultivation level?'

Yasenia looked at Yue Xuan and smiled. "Sorry for that. The pipa was naughty, so I needed to scold it. Well, my scolding will feel like a light reproach when those guys get a hold of it. Ah... Yeah, it is crying for help... Well, whatever."

Yue Xuan blinked and asked. "Um, what is happening? Why is it crying for help in your spatial ring?"

"Spatial Ring?" Yasenia tilted her head. "I sent it to my dantian."

"..." Yue Xuan decided that asking more than he did was rude, so he just nodded, as if he understood.

The dragoness looked around and commented. "Well, Yue Xuan. Gather everything in this shop whenever you are ready and come to us. We'll do the healing then. This is our location."

Yasenia gave him a jade card with the street name engraved on it, turned around, and left. Yue Xuan blinked a few times. 'Um... What does she mean by gathering all my instruments and going?'

When they left, Alaia coughed. "Young Miss. You forgot to tell him your plans."

Yasenia paused and hummed. "It would be awkward to return now, so whatever. I got what I wanted from him. If he trusts me, he will come, and I will explain it later. If he doesn't... Well, I got a free treasure, so everything is okay."

Then, she continued walking.

The maids laughed and followed. Their laughter was cut short, though, as a powerful aura rushed at them from the distance. Their faces changed and instantly moved around Yasenia, deploying a war formation while they activated their auras to the peak.

Yasenia reacted right after, similarly forcing her energy to surge and getting ready to use the [Celestial Pearl] at any second. Yasenia asked aloud. "Who goes there!?"

"Oh? You could detect me! That's impressive."

A handsome man with arrogant eyebrows and a charismatic bearing stepped out from the side of the street. The man's aura was as deep as the ocean, and his eyes reflected nothing, as if he could swallow entire worlds with one look.

Yasenia's instincts all warned her to run, as it was an impossible enemy to beat. 'Transcendent Realm Cultivator...'

She knew that the difference was large. After all, she had lived between them for a long time. However, back then, she was too weak to feel how vast their aura truly was. 'This... Ha, ha... Really absurd.'

Yasenia didn't allow her feelings to surface, keeping a calm facade. She clasped her fist in respect and bowed once in respect. The person in front of her had enough strength to be worthy of her respect. "Senior. We are sorry for being on such high alert. However, your strength is immeasurable; therefore, we must keep up our guard. I hope that you can forgive our disrespect."

The man rubbed his chin as he looked at all the maids. "Do you think you can stop me with this group?"

Yasenia shook her head. "Not at all. However, it gives us peace of mind to keep up our guard. Please understand."

"Hmm..." The man nodded. "Okay, I'll allow it for now. This King's name is Gu Chen, you can refer to me as Lord Gu or Lord Gu Chen."

Yasenia repeated formally. "Lord Gu Chen."

"Great." He smiled and spoke. "So, I sent a group to welcome you. However, I heard from them that you rejected them quite hardly. Care to explain that, junior?"

Yasenia didn't act stupid. She spoke honestly. "As senior should be able to imagine, there have been plenty of Lords who have invited this one with no good intentions. It was my mistake for not listening. However, I hope Lord Gu Chen understands that if I were to hear all the explanations of all the groups, I would go nowhere and be listening all day."

"Hahahaha." the man laughed. "You are not wrong, junior. You are indeed one of the most charming beings I've ever seen, so I can imagine how hard it is to walk around. Lust is quite a prevalent nature in mortal men."

The dragoness smiled. "Lord Gu Chen would be surprised how many mortal women share traits with such men."

"Women?" Lord Gu hummed. "I have heard a bit. However, since I've never been targeted often, I guessed it must be myths."

"That's because Lord Gu Chen's charm is above mortals. No secular woman would dare to disrespect you." Yasenia gave him gentle praise.

Lord Gu smiled. "What about you?"

Yasenia blinked. "Lord Gu Chen, I really hope you are not after my beauty."

Lord Gu squinted and stepped forward, and his body disappeared from sight. However, the maids were trained by people several times stronger than Lord Gu Chen.

Even when his speed was ridiculous, the maids' heightened senses, thanks to the battle formation, allowed them to react, and many attacked him without holding back a single bit of strength.

This surprised Lord Gu so much that he forgot to defend himself.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Several attacks landed on him, creating very faint marks, and his body got thrown back, flying, smashing against a house at the side. "Huh?"

Yasenia had a talisman between her fingers, pressed it so tightly that the faintest movement would break it. It was a mass teleportation talisman that would send all of them into the room they had reinforced with formations. Yasenia spoke coldly. "Lord Gu Chen, please be careful. We really don't want anything to happen between us."

Lord Gu snapped out of his daze and looked down. 'Huh? Was I injured? Injured by mortals?'

He landed on the street and patted his robes, his face still full of disbelief. He looked at Yasenia and asked, confused. "Who are you? No, who are your people? You are not from this world."

"We are not," Yasenia answered. "Therefore, I ask this of you, Lord Gu Chen. Don't force our hand. You might think you are invincible under the heavens as long as you don't face off against the other three kings. However, you are incorrect." The dragoness looked right into Lord Gu's eyes and stated. "I will remain respectful as long as you respect my boundaries."

Lord Gu couldn't help but feel slightly intimidated. When something you treat like an ant suddenly punches you flying, the level of threat you feel is higher than when an equal punches you flying. The expected and known versus the unexpected and unknown. The feelings that caused people were very different.

Chapter 992: Lord Gu's Invitation. Meeting A Young Man.

After being sent flying, his perspective changed completely. The way he looked at the maids was like looking at an interesting being that should not exist. He was now certain that Yasenia was not bluffing. Her words were the truth; she could probably hurt him badly.

This was both fascinating and baffling for him. Lord Gu looked at Yasenia's hand holding the talisman, and he smirked. "Oho~. I heavily underestimated you. Okay, you've gained enough cards for this King to at least look at you as someone to give a minimum amount of respect, mortal. Let me reintroduce myself. I am Gu Chen, the wealthiest of the [Four City Kings], and my cultivation realm is the first level of the Undying Monarch Body Realm. Who might you be?"

Yasenias answered in kind. "I am Yasenia Dravory, the daughter of Tatyana Dravory, the Death Empress. My cultivation is at the middle level of the Epoch Core Realm."

"Death Empress?" Lord Gu rubbed his chin. "I can tell that you are being truthful, but I don't know any Death Empress. There is a woman who calls herself the Death Queen in this world. Are you speaking about her?"

'Death Queen?' The dragoness asked, curious. "Is she in the Undying Monarch Body Realm as well? Oh, and no, she is not my mother."

Lord Gu hummed. "Indeed she is. She controls the southwest area of the [Forgotten Star Area]. She was lucky enough to find a powerful Death-Attributed treasure which allowed her to break through around... eight... no, ten thousand years ago. Usually, new Undying Monarchs are hard to come by because, well, this world is still dying."

After hearing that information, Yasenia decided that in the future, she might need to visit this area with Tatyana. She didn't dare go there without her, as Death Cultivators could be very eccentric and erratic.

"Lord Gu," Yasenia started. "I am curious. You say you are the wealthiest. However, isn't Ayanduina quite a renowned Merchant?"

Gu Chen blinked and asked. "Oh? You know about him?"

Yasenias sighed. "I do not only know him. I am searching for him."

'Oh? She is searching for that man. That's interesting.' He pondered and asked. "Why do you want to meet him? Do you have any unfinished business with him?"

While Yasenia didn't hear any strange tone in Lord Gu's words, she was instantly alert. After all, someone at Lord Gu's cultivation level, regardless of how interested he was in her, would not start asking about such things. As a Transcendent Cultivator, he was above mortal matters, even if they involved another immortal. 'He has some personal dealings with Ayanduina? Hm... I must tread this carefully.'

Yasenias answered with half-truths. "I do have some business with him. I heard he was a merchant, so I am trying to buy an item from him. In case he has it, I will be delighted, as it is pretty important to me. If he doesn't... Well, other than being disappointed, I will probably leave this world and forget about this place." Yasenia looked around and sighed. "A bubble of prosperity. If something pops it, everything will crumble quickly. I can't bear to live day by day in this manner."

Lord Gu laughed. "Well, you get used to it. I've tried studying formations as well. However, my talent is very limited in that regard. I was unable to decipher how or what we need to do to reverse our current situation."

Yasenia honestly praised. "The fact that you gave it a shot is already commendable. Not many would when the law of the jungle is so prevalent. Being empathetic and heroic is a luxury most fail to attain."

"And yet," Lord Gu sighed. "Some people sacrifice everything even when they know empathy will bring their downfall."

After pausing for a few moments, Lord Gu spoke. "Yasenia Dravory, I want to formally ask you to come visit me at the little place I have down the street. Of course, I won't stop whatever you are doing today; we can meet a week later."

The dragoness cupped her fist. "Unless my matters get resolved, I will gladly show up to have a chat."

Lord Gu nodded and spoke. "Oh, and if you want Ayanduin to appear, I recommend targeting his disciple. Well... Whenever you can. That disciple will be a bit busy later."

Yasenia didn't show anything on her face, but she understood much information from those simple words.

Firstly, Lord Gu and Ayanduin had some kind of history between them. The body language was dismissive when he spoke about Money.

Secondly, he is probably aiming to do something with Money now that Ayanduin is back. That will at least take one week to prepare, that's why she was invited to appear in a week.

Thirdly, Yasenia could guess that while Lord Gu called himself the wealthiest, that might not be entirely true. If Lord Gu wanted to do something to Ayanduin and steal his treasures while being extremely confident about his success chances, then his words would always come as truthful.

'It seems that I am stuck between a hard rock and a wall.'

Yasenia left the area with her maids, not discussing anything and just being attentive to her surroundings. If one of the Kings came into contact with her, it was a matter of time before she entered the sight of the other three. 'Well, two to be more precise. I am sure Ayanduin already knows I am here and has been looking at me for a while.'

Yasenia lifted her arm, and her long sleeve slid backward, revealing her pristine and beautiful arm. Still, unlike the beautiful rosy white color that one would expect to see, you could see a faint black color tracing where her veins passed through. That was the poison that had advanced quite a lot. While it was a soul poison, the poison was not inflicted spiritually. It was a substance that attacked her soul through its connection with the body. Hence, seeing physical manifestations of the poison was not strange.

Alaia asked. "Young Miss. How are you feeling?"

Yasenia lowered her arm, allowing her long sleeve to cover it again, and she spoke. "I am good... However, I wonder what will happen with that woman, Money."

The dragoness didn't hold back her tone, speaking casually. Alaia answered back. "We can't get involved in the matters between the Undying Monarchs, Young Miss. We won't really win a lot from it."

Yasenia sighed. "While I do know that, we need that item from Ayanduin. It will be difficult to meet him even after we wait a century if he goes into mourning."

As they walked, they heard a man's voice. "Hey, Young Lady!"

Yasenia turned her head and saw a young-looking man with a drooping ponytail looking at her. He had almost no aura and looked like a harmless young man. The dragoness looked forward and ignored him.

"Huh?" The young man blinked and looked at Yasenia once more. "Hey, hey. Young Lady, please don't ignore me!"

Yasenia stopped, and her entourage did the same, moving around Yasenia and taking out their weapons. She looked at the man who was around a head shorter than her, and asked. "What do you want? I have places to be, so please, be brief."

The young man scratched his head and laughed awkwardly. "You are so cutting, Lady. Haven't you heard that smiling is healing for the soul?"

Yasenia smiled coldly. "It is also a premonition for a city's demise. At least, my smile often ends with a massacre occurring. Do you want to test my theory, boy?"

The man's lips twitched as Yasenia released a faint strand of killing intent. "Not at all, not at all."

"So, what did you stop me for?"

"Oh, right!" The man sighed and commented. "To be honest, I couldn't help but overhear your conversation, that girl, Money..." The man looked at Yasenia awkwardly. "I owe her a few things."

The dragoness asked. "Hm. So?"

'Um... shouldn't this woman get the cue or something? I have seen her navigate conversations before.' The man blinked twice and spoke slowly. "Well, so... could you tell me more details about what you were talking about?"

The dragoness looked at him for a second and answered flatly. "No."

Then, she looked forward and continued walking. The man looked at Yasenia's back, baffled. 'Huh? What happened? Did I read the situation wrong? Wasn't Yasenia quite interested in Little M?'

He quickly ran after. "W-Wait! What do you mean by no? Lady! Lady, please stop!"

The dragoness paused and turned around, her gaze cold and piercing. "What do you want? I do not have time for this, and if you dare to continue following me without reason, I'll send you flying back to your shop with a few broken limbs."

The man raised his arms. "Wait, wait. I know that you have been to Money's shop! She told me about you too. You are Yasenia, right? The dragon woman with beautiful wings and a starry tail with golden rings!"

Yasenia moved her wings and tail, and she sighed. "Regardless, even if you were her husband, what can you do? The people involved in this are far too strong for a little man like you."

The man's gentle eyebrows locked together. "Hey, aren't you being a bit disrespectful? Haven't you been taught not to judge a book by its cover?"

Yasenia blinked and smiled. "I have. Have you, Ayanduin?"

Then, she turned around and left, leaving behind a stunned man. 'Huh? She knew? How? Has she seen a portrait of me before? No... Has Money told her how I look? That's also a no. I have been there each time Yasenia appeared in that shop... What? How?'

He stepped forward, and his body disappeared, appearing in front of Yasenia. The maids didn't stop him like Lord Gu because there was no malicious intent whatsoever behind his aura. "Wait, junior. If you knew who I was, why did you treat me like such? That's too big of a disrespect even for someone like you!"

The dragoness didn't stop walking and rolled her eyes. "Respect? Have you earned it? First, you sneak around my visits to Money's shop. Then, you stalk me around the city. Next, you poked your nose into my conversation with another Undying Monarch, but you failed to collect the info because you didn't want to get discovered. However, what do you do next when I give you a hint that Money is in danger?"

Yasenia stopped and looked down at Ayanduin, who was by her side. "You sneak around and try to win my sympathy or something instead of being upfront. Ayanduin, I know you are a merchant, and that benefit is probably above everything else. However, Money is your family. Even I don't dare to play around with my family's safety."

Ayanduin paused and sighed. He crossed his arms and nodded. "Okay, Junior. You win. I was too cautious with you because of that thick killing intent and stories I heard about you. However, this time, I am sincere: Let's have a talk."

The dragoness leaned down a bit and asked, squinting. "If Money was not in danger, would you have ever come out, or would you have left me to die? You know, in just a few months, my three-year limit toward your poison is here. In truth, I shouldn't even be walking around, as this only hastens the spread of the poison. My body is burning, my soul is crumbling, and my limbs don't work as I would like them to."

Ayanduin spoke, his eyes sincere. "I was going to save you. I've seen enough during these years to understand that while you are a murderous dragon, you are not an unreasonable one."

Yasenia looked into Ayanduin's eyes for a few seconds, and then she straightened her back. "Okay. Follow me. You are an Undying Monarch regardless of everything and a senior. I don't dare to have a conversation in a place where I am sure that I am in lethal danger... Like now."

Ayanduin shrugged. "As you please. I hope I don't become the fish that might get cooked, though."

The dragoness secretly smiled. 'We'll see~.

Chapter 993: Ayanduin's Plight. Kali's Maliciousness.

After a silent walk, they arrived at the [Seven Star Inn] Lady He owned. Once she approached the gates, many people greeted her with big smiles. Yasenia had been living here for almost two years, so nearly all the inn's residents knew her. After all, she had come down to eat in the past, and her appearance was effortless to remember.



When they entered inside, Lady He welcomed them with a smile. "Yasenia, you are back. How was it, did you find what you wanted?"

Yasenia nodded. "I also met one of the Four Kings; it was an eventful outing. Oh, this one here is Ayanduin, another one of the Four Kings. We will be up in my room for a while; try not to have anyone bother us."

Lady He froze. "Eh?"

Yasenia walked upward, and Ayanduin nodded at Lady He with a smile.

Lady He blinked several times, and then she smiled and continued walking around. A person asked. "Lady He, any news from Lady Yasenia?"

Lady He asked, with the same smile. "Yasenia? What Yasenia? I didn't see anyone like that." Then, she continued walking while humming.

Everyone looked at her retreating back, speechless.

Meanwhile, Ayanduin was looking around. He had an item in his hand, a small, inconspicuous bead that no one would pay attention to.

Yasenia commented. "My room is at the end of this hallway. Lady He was generous enough to give me this entire hallway for me and my maids."

Ayanduin grinned. "Yours? I thought Lady Kali was the leader of everyone here~."

The dragoness snorted. "You know my identity in Distancia. It is impossible for you not to know that they are my maids."

Ayanduin shrugged. "Perhaps I missed that information. Why reveal it?"

Yasenia sighed. "You are a powerful cultivator, Senior Ayanduin. As long as you give me respect, I will treat you back with the respect you deserve. In everything, I am less knowledgeable than you. You are probably a few tens of thousands of years old, right? You might even be in the second level of the Undying Monarch Body Realm."

While walking with relaxed steps, he chuckled. "Perhaps."

They reached the hallway's end, and Yasenia opened the door, entering first. "Come in."

Ayanduin walked inside and curiously looked around. "Oh? No formations? I really thought you were sending me into a lethal trap or something."

Yasenia looked at Ayanduin and sighed. "I am in the mortal realms. You are in the immortal realms. There is a distinction between those two large realms because of something, right? My mother has always told me that mortal cultivators are just ants in front of Transcendent Realm Cultivators. I trust her and believe her. I won't provoke you."

Ayanduin blinked. "Your mother seems to know quite a lot, right?"

The dragoness smiled. "If she was here, you would be lowering your head in fear."

Ayanduin's eyebrows raised. "Huh? What cultivation realm does she have? Fourth level?"

Yasenia guided them toward a table, sat on one of the chairs, and gestured toward another. "Sit here."

Ayanduin did so, and the dragoness answered his question. "She is soon going to enter the third level."

Ayanduin hummed. "Then, you are underestimating me."

The dragoness smiled, not answering. "I am really not. Regardless, let's talk about the most important thing before Kali comes. Do you have [Soul Anchoring Algae]?"

This question came as a surprise to Ayanduin. "Huh? You know about the poison's cure?"

Yasenia answered. "[Soul Echo Dissolving Poison]... Quite a mean one, if I say so myself. If my soul wasn't as strong as it is, I would've really died before we met. Which makes me honestly quite angry at you; I want to kill you and steal all your treasures."

Ayanduin's lips arched wryly. "I guess that is understandable."

The dragoness sighed. "Sadly. You are too strong. I can kill you, but in the process, this entire world goes puff together with your treasures. It is a thankless task. Also, I won't be able to get the Algae that I need, so I will die with you. Killing you is stupid regardless of how you look at it."

The immortal cultivator couldn't help but look at Yasenia for a few seconds. "You really think you can kill me?"

"Kill you?" Yasenia laughed. "I could erase your soul from the reincarnation cycle if I really wanted."

"... You are not bluffing." Ayanduin was baffled. "You truly believe that not knowing what treasures I have?"

"I do," Yasenia answered confidently. "However, we are not here to talk about whose fist is bigger. We are here to do something you love. Trade. I will properly buy that algae from you. I know it is a mid-level Transcendent plant. Oh, and don't worry about the storage method. I have my ways to store it, and if the algae dies because of my mistakes, I won't retaliate."

The man leaned on the chair and got thoughtful. He was looking at the dragoness with an analytic expression. While he somewhat trusted Yasenia's words, there was something that was missing. He spoke. "You didn't promise it."

Yasenia paused and looked at Ayanduin coldly. "Unlike you, a merchant, a promise is something very important for a Dragon, Ayanduin. I won't promise things easily because once I do, I fulfill them."

"Ho?" He smiled and asked. "So why can't you promise that you won't retaliate? Are you planning something?"

"Currently, I am not. I just don't know what you will do to the ingredients. I don't find you trustworthy, so I won't promise anything regardless of what you do, Ayanduin. Sadly, we are currently in a situation where both sides must trust each other, at least for a little bit." The dragoness crossed her arms. "And the same amount that you give is the same amount that I will return. So, no promises."

After she said that, she added. "Also, be hasty in your decision. Once Kali arrives, I will support my wife in whatever she wants to do and believe me, if I don't like you, she probably hates you enough to want to chew your bones as a toy... while you are alive."

Ayanduin's lips twitched quite severely. "That's honestly quite terrifying. Okay, yes. I do have that thing that you need. So, what are you willing to give for it?"

The dragoness waved her hand, and the table got filled with peak-level Heaven-ranked weapons, armor, scrolls, and even a few Heaven-ranked Spiritual Cultivation techniques.

The merchant's eyes shone, and he could see that the value of some items here could somewhat rival the ingredient. Although the algae was a Transcendent Realm ingredient, it was just that, an ingredient that would be gone after one use. Therefore, its value would not be as high as, let's say, a mid-level Transcendent Realm sword.

Ayanduin asked. "Are you telling me to choose? It is honestly quite hard."

Yasenia snorted. "Choose? All of it."

Ayanduin was stunned. "Huh? You are giving me all of this for that ingredient?"

The dragoness crossed her long and plump legs and nodded. "I indeed am. Will you take it or not?"

Ayanduin looked at the table and squinted. 'It is indeed more than enough to buy the ingredient in a normal situation. However, isn't she in dire need of it? If I push a bit, I might get a bit extra.'

"Well..." Ayanduin hummed. "While all of this is very tempting, I wonder, what else do you have?"

Yasenia looked at Ayanduin for a few seconds and sighed. "I tried, Ayanduin. I tried giving you a chance. However, your greed seems to be higher than expected."

Ayanduin's eyes flashed, and he quickly crushed the bead in his hand. However, nothing happened. "Huh?"

Yasenia looked sideways and shrugged. "It really didn't work. Up to you now, Kali."

"Good. It would've been a disappointing result."

Ayanduin looked sideways and was stunned to see a four-tailed fox woman appear from a hidden door, followed by a very tall, green-skinned woman with a figure proportional to Yasenia's.

The Undying Monarch Body Realm cultivator asked. "How did you hide from my spiritual sense?"

Kali looked at Ayanduin and spat. "Shut up. You were offered more than enough for that plant, but you refused it. Do you want to take advantage of my lover even after making her suffer for three years straight? Is the color of your soul black?"

Ayanduin squinted, and his aura began leaking; the pressure in the room increased hundreds of times, making walking problematic for Kali. However, Kali's facial expression remained the same, cold and indifferent as she looked at him. "Ayanduin. Don't be stupid. If I dare insult you to your face, do you honestly think that you are in a position where you can counterattack? A situation where you have a chance?"

The Fox woman sneered. "Your little escape bead didn't work. Your body is feeling sluggish. Your spatial ring is disconnected, and you can't communicate with it. Moreover..." Kali took a step forward and continued to walk until she arrived at Yasenias side. "Your spiritual pressure doesn't work anymore."

Ayanduin had been trying to increase his pressure using his Undying Body Realm Cultivation. Sadly, Kali walked as if his pressure was just a gentle breeze around her. Yasenias explained. "You are in the [World Suppressing Formation]. It is a formation that's predominantly used to restrain Transcendent Realm cultivators. They are not perfect. And your strength is still much higher than that of a peak-level fifth realm cultivator. However, it is not high enough to make you untouchable."

Ayanduin crossed his arms. "Regardless. You can't hurt me. My body is too strong and resilient for your attacks. Even if I stood here and didn't defend myself, you wouldn't be able to kill me."

Yasenias nodded. "You are correct. If you were a Transcendent Realm cultivator instead of an Undying Monarch Realm cultivator, we would have a chance of hurting you. Your body is probably stronger than the core of a planet."

The merchant smirked. "So, this was to lower me to a similar standing with you? What if I just refuse to sell you the algae? You can do nothing about it, and in a few months or years, you die, and I get out of here. Waiting a few years is no problem for me."

Kali smiled coldly. "Ayanduin. I told you, don't be arrogant. You are not a threat right now. I recommend you look at your chair."

Ayanduin blinked and quickly stood up, moving away. However, when he looked down, he saw the chair wiggling. "Huh?"

Kali's smile widened coldly as thick killing intent oozed from her like a lethal poison. "You are infected by parasites, Ayanduin. They are peak-level Blood Essence Realm parasites. The pretty darlings inside of you are called [Devil Horned Worms]. It is already inside your body, so don't expect it to leave soon or be able to get rid of it. "

Ayanduin snorted. "Parasites are the worst thing you could've used. I am a body cultivator." His aura burst out and the pressure inside his body increased several times over. If any parasite were inside of him, it would've been crushed by the sheer raw physical power.

However, Kali's face didn't change, and her eyes, which shone with maliciousness, remained as cold as before. "Ayanduin. You've made Yasenias suffer for three years. Three years of constant pain. I won't let you go easily, and those that you are trying to crush... They are not even physical."

Chapter 994: Negotiation With The Merchant.

Ayanduin looked at Kali with a squint. He stated. "Kali Dravory, while I understand you are angry that your lover has been suffering, you are venting on the wrong person. I just sold the poison. I didn't do anything else. Would you go and destroy an alchemy shop because one of the pills they sold damaged Yasenias?"

Kali crossed her arms and snorted. "Wrong. You were not at fault for selling the poison. You are at fault for knowing that we are here to find you but still waiting and not coming out to sell us an antidote. At first, we wanted to give you the benefit of the doubt. However, your greedy reaction is all I need to see to know your true intentions. You did NOT wait to come out because you were

cautious about our true intentions. You just didn't come out because you wanted us to be more desperate and make a profit out of us!"

Kali waved her hand, sending a wave of thorns toward Ayanduin out of anger. Of course, Ayanduin easily countered the attack with a light palm strike. Kali stood up and said. "You now have two choices, Ayanduin. First option: you resist, and while we won't come out unscathed, you will eventually fall to us and perish. Then, we just take what we want from your corpse, and you are done with it."

Ayanduin asked, his face not reacting. "Quite an interesting option. What if I don't like that one?"

Kali snorted. "You are still a sixth realm cultivator. I will sell to you an antidote to your parasite. However, that antidote will only last for a week. This means that until I feel like forgiving you, you will live with that parasite inside you, but dormant. Of course, try to do something funny in the future, that antidote and its prescription disappears, and you will eventually die being eaten inside out."

Ayanduin sighed. "I admit it. You managed to trap me in quite an impressive manner. However, what makes you so sure that I won't find an alchemist that has a remedy for this? You are not the only alchemist under the heavens."

Kali smiled coldly. "But I am the only Parasite Alchemist under this heavens. Do you want to risk going to unknown star systems and find a cure? Be my guest. However, I am telling you that Body Cultivators are basically extinct outside this Solar System. Not to mention, Parasites are taboo basically everywhere because, unlike Body Cultivators, the rest have difficulty resisting them."

The merchant crossed his arms and looked at Kali for a few seconds. "You really thought this out."

Kali repeated. "Regardless of how much I hate you, you are a sixth realm cultivator. If you are given a single chance, just one, to retaliate, I am dead." Her tone did not become warmer in the slightest, continuing in the same chilling way.

Ayanduin sighed and got thoughtful. No one in the room interrupted, and they just looked at him. Eventually, he asked. "What is your purpose? After you get control over me, what do you want to do? Destroy your enemies? Force me to fight somewhere? Or use me to create connections?"

Kali shook her head. "Ayanduin, you are worthless other than providing an antidote for Yasenia. Everything you can do, we can do. We could trap you, and we can trap others. You are just the holder of something we want." The fox stood up and commented. "Later, you can come with us or something and become our merchant. That will be up to Yasenia because if it were up to me, you would be suffering and rotting in a cell for the rest of your pitiful existence. Now, hand us your spatial ring."

Ayanduin smiled. "Well, everything did indeed go according to your plans except one thing. I currently don't have the algae."

Kali sneered. "As if that wasn't obvious. Hand me your spatial ring; the parasites will start taking effect in three minutes, and believe me, you want the concoction to make them dormant before that."

Her actions were confusing. "Huh? What do you mean? I told you that I don't have the algae, right? Why do you want my ring?"

Yasenia spoke at this time. "Well, compensation. We are going to take a few of your treasures for ourselves."

"Ha?" Ayanduin snorted. "As if that's something that I will do! I agree to give you that thing for free if you want. However, don't think about stealing my treasures for a single second! Do you know how many important things I have in this spatial ring? If I lose this, I also become vulnerable against the other Undying Monarch Body Realm cultivators."

Kali looked at him and spoke. "Two minutes and ten seconds."

The Undying Monarch Realm was baffled. "You really want to plunder my treasures?"

Kali answered faintly. "Sadly for you, my lover, who you wronged, is a Dragon. And even more sadly for you, my lover is especially greedy among Dragons. So, yeah, we want your treasures. If not, what was the meaning of our long stay in this World? Our children have probably grown so much, and we have even missed several important events in their early lives!"

Kali sighed. "Everything because instead of appearing in front of us since the beginning, the ultra-powerful cultivator decided to hide and be greedy~. Now, you'll pay. Fifty seconds, Ayanduin."

Ayanduin gritted his teeth and looked at his ring. Then, he took a deep breath and said. "Okay. You can take everything, but you need to leave me a bit of room as well. I need, and now I am speaking sincerely, my Body Cultivation Manual and the large red box in the ring. Everything else, you can have it."

Kali looked at Yasenia, and the dragoness pondered. As time approached closer to the limit Kali said, Ayanduin became more restless. "Hey, junior, you should've heard the saying, 'even rabbits bite when cornered,' right? I am a bit more powerful than a rabbit, so you might not want to corner me so much!"

Yasenia smiled and asked. "If I wait until the last second, will you give me that red box as well?"

Ayanduin instantly understood that what Yasenia was doing was the same as he was planning on doing, and he couldn't help but bite down. 'Karma is really fickle, heh.'

The dragoness shrugged. "Okay, we'll take everything except those two things. The ring!"

"Promise me!" Ayanduin spoke. "This time, I need your promise."

Yasenia nodded. "As long as the contents of the box are the same now as they were before our conversation, I promise to take everything other than the red box."

Ayanduin rolled his eyes and spoke. "I have not been able to connect with the ring. How could I have changed it?" Then, he flicked his spatial ring, and Kali flicked a pill toward him.

Ayanduin took the pill and gave it a sniff. Feeling that it was safe and left with no other choice, he swallowed it.

Kali nodded. "We have a deal." Then, she sighed. "To be honest with you, Ayanduin..."

Looked at the fox's face, he asked, somber. "This is not the antidote, right?"

The foxkin blinked. "Huh? No, it is. As much as I hate you, not a single word that I've said is a lie. What I was going to say was that the parasite is a bit worse than you imagine it."

Confused about this, Ayanduin asked. "What do you mean?"

Kali spoke. "If you had allowed it to trigger, which I was honestly hoping for, the parasite would take root in your soul. Unlike now, where it is nibbling at the corners of it and doing very little damage, once a certain time passes, the parasite goes through a metamorphosis and changes to match the soul energy that you have. Using it to trick your own body into not finding it harmful, the parasite enters your soul and goes to its center, eating and eating and growing until, well, you die."

The merchant couldn't help but shudder once. "That's quite malicious."

"Right? Imagine if I had thrown you the parasite booster pill instead of the antidote! Hahaha."

Kali's laugh, although gentle-sounding, felt like the evil laugh of a demonic woman for Ayanduin.

"Really..." Ayanduin sighed. "I don't know if doing that deal in the Secret Realm was worth it. Sigh."

Meanwhile, Yasenias was looking into Ayanduin's ring with a large smile and a wagging tail. "Ohhh! So many things! How much is this... One, two, three, four... Five billion Sunderials! That's worth fifty million purple crystals! Wow! Heaven Ranked items in the hundreds... Earth Ranked ones in the tens of thousands... Nice, nice. What is this? You even have a Transcendent Ranked Spear? That's great! Evelyn will love this spear."

The dragoness continued looking while Ayanduin looked on with a bleeding heart. "Can you not list everything you are stealing from me? You know, I usually carry around thirty percent of the treasures I own with me."

Yasenias blinked a few times. "Thirty? I want the other seventy."

Ayanduin looked at the ceiling. "Can you give me a bit of room to breathe?"

The dragoness hummed. "Okay. I don't want the other seventy percent..."

Ayanduin squinted. "For real?"

"Yes..." Yasenias smiled widely. "I want twenty percent of that seventy percent! You know, half and half!"

The man sighed. "No. You really have stolen enough. The treasures that you have there, some of them at least, I have taken a few millennia to collect. Yasenias, please give this old man a bit of face."

The dragoness clicked her tongue. "Sure. However, you'll work for me until I... No. Until my lovers forgive you."

Ayanduin sighed. "Well, sure. I can work for another person for the first time in a few thousand years. It's not like you are a bad person to follow as long as I am honest with you, right?"

The dragoness chuckled happily. "Exactly. Getting rich is nice; getting rich together is nicer~. Treasures for all!"

The man crossed his arms and smiled faintly. "Honestly. I would find this quite endearing if I didn't know that you are a murderous dragon. Also, having a few bugs in my body makes me feel like puking all the time, but well. Tsk... My mood is ruined again."

Yasenia spoke, this time honestly. "Senior Ayanduin. I am honest in my intentions to form a close partnership with you. While we've had our differences, and honestly, you would've died if the situation was different, you are someone who knows how to go around and someone with enough strength to be substantial for my family."

"I won't fight for you, Yasenia."

The dragoness saw Ayanduin's serious face and smiled, confident. "Perhaps not now, but I am sure that I can eventually convince you to become my ally. Eventually, senior Ayanduin, as long as you follow me, I will give you a chance to make amends with everyone around me." Yasenia blinked. "Well, good luck with my Mom."

Ayanduin hummed. "She is also a sixth realm cultivator, right?"

Yasenia stood up and turned around to leave, flicking Ayanduin his ring back together with a word. "Wrong~."

"Huh?" Ayanduin recalled their conversation, and a thought formed in his head that he almost immediately denied. 'No... It should be impossible, right?'

Chapter 995: Angered Sixth Realm Cultivator. Valeria's Advice.

After talking with Ayanduin and returning his spatial ring, Yasenia waved her hand and stopped the formation. Everyone was tense for a second, and while Yasenia was walking away, all her senses were on Ayanduin. She purposely gave him her back to see how he would react.

The sixth realm cultivator looked around him and laughed softly. "You are really courageous."

The dragoness opened the door toward her room and turned to look at him. "I am trusting you for only one reason."

"Which is?" Ayanduin asked, curious.

"You care for Money, that girl. You were prepared to deviate from your plans just because of her. Now, you can go and check on her, so stop messing around. Oh, and remember, you need one of the pills Kali makes weekly; don't miss it."

Then, Kali and Yasenia entered their room and closed it, leaving him outside, surrounded by the maids who had not even blinked during this time. Ayanduin sighed. "Juniors of this day and age are really terrifying, eh? Tsk, tsk." He took a step, and his body disappeared from the spot. The maids could barely tell the direction he left.

Ayanduin crossed the city and arrived at Money's shop in less than a second. His spiritual sense covered the shop, and he saw Money in her room, changing and preparing to take a bath. He didn't feel anything about it. For him, Money was something similar to a family member. He would never feel romantically attracted to her.

Inspecting the shop, his lips arched in a sneer. Stepping forward again, he appeared in front of a person hiding in the building's walls, looking straight at him. The man reacted swiftly, punching



forward with a peak-level Epoch Core cultivation strength. However, Ayanduín just stepped forward, avoiding the punch, and poked his stomach.

BOOOM!

The peak-level Epoch Core's internal organs exploded, becoming liquified instantly. Then, he said. "Tell me, what are that greedy kid's plans? I am not in a good mood, to be honest."

The man opened his mouth, but a mix of liquified organs poured out mixed with blood. Then, he fell dead. The sixth realm cultivator clicked his tongue. "I am not as calm as I thought. I failed to control my strength."

Looking around, he spotted another person spying, and this time, he tapped the woman on all four limbs.

The woman's limbs disappeared as if they were balloons being popped. Yet, before she fell down, a hand grabbed her neck as Ayanduín's face registered in front of her. "I shouldn't have damaged your vocal cords, so you should be able to speak, right?"

"Huh?" The woman was so confused that her brain was still trying to register the terrifying pain of having her limbs disintegrated.

Ayanduín asked again. "Tell me your master's intentions. I might feel like not taking your life if you are honest."

The woman's brain finally caught up, and a surge of hellish torment burnt her brain. Sadly for her, she was in front of an Undying Monarch Body Realm, an angry one at that. A terrible spiritual pressure squeezed her lungs and throat enough that the scream of pain got strangled.

"Don't scream. What if you scare Little M? You would be dead, you know?"

The woman's eyes started pouring out with tears, but the ancient cultivator didn't even bat an eye.

"So, once I stop squeezing your organs, you will answer my questions without screaming, okay? A scream of pain and you are dead. There are three more spies in this place, after all. I can ask one of them instead of you."

The woman quickly nodded, trying to hold back her pain as best as she could while she cried in pain and fear. Once Ayanduín stopped squeezing, she took in a deep breath and bit down so hard to avoid screaming her lungs out in pain that her teeth cracked. Ayanduín patiently waited until the woman's trembling and sobbing voice came out. "L-Lord He... sniff... wants us... to... kidnap... this shop's woman! W-We don't know why! I swear!"

Ayanduín clicked his tongue again, annoyed. "Really, using other people instead of his own to do the dirty work? Is he that afraid that I discover it was him? Sadly for you, I happen to know Yasenia a bit more than you, so your biggest mistake was confiding in her, expecting her to take your side."

He looked at the woman he was holding and sighed. "Living without limbs will be quite a torture, right?" The woman's eyes widened, and Ayanduín smiled gently, even though his eyes remained as emotionless as before. "I'll put you out of your misery."

"W-Wait!"

But the woman could not speak another word as Ayanduin threw her skyward. The woman's body shot upward like a shooting star, eventually hitting the dome several hundreds of kilometers above that was protecting this place and splashing into a gory firework.

Then, he took three steps, appearing in three different parts of the shop, and instantly killed the final three peak-level Epoch Cores.

In the span of a few seconds, five strong peak-level Epoch Cores were utterly obliterated, leaving nothing behind.

Ayanduin moved to the shop's ceiling and sat down with crossed legs. "Sigh... Fate is truly fickle." He muttered. "I mean, I still have the option to kidnap Yasenias and force Kali to give me the antidote. However, I somehow feel that if I do that, my end will be quite painful."

"You think well."

Ayanduin's eyebrows raised, and he looked to his right, where a three-meter-tall green-skinned woman appeared. "Huh? Aren't you something like Kali's summon? How did you sneak on me?"

Valeria laughed. "I am Kali's innate summon. She was born to command me and be my master. Now and until the day she or I perish, she will be my only master." Then, she patted the little creature by her side. "I sneaked close to you with this baby. It is called [Ethereal Blossom], a really powerful little darling."

Ayanduin blinked and looked at the adorable little monster. "Cute as well."

The [Ethereal Blossom] smiled, his body opening in the middle and showing a horrifying mouth full of teeth. Ayanduin coughed. "Okay, I take that back. You are a scary little thing."

Valeria laughed and walked forward, sitting by Ayanduin's side. The man asked. "You are not scared of me?"

"Scared?" Valeria shook her head. "You are greedy. However, you have a good heart. If you had accepted Yasenias's first offer, she would've tried to recruit you adequately. After all, as you said, you were the merchant, not the one who did the attack."

Ayanduin smiled faintly. "Your master seems to think differently."

"You forced her to think that way." Valeria smiled and stated.

The sixth realm cultivator paused and sighed. "Well, I did. I underestimated Yasenias and Kali too much. I got bit by the cute little rabbit, not knowing that the cute little rabbit's teeth are poisonous..."

Valeria chuckled. "A good way to put it."

Both of them stayed silent for a few seconds, and Ayanduin eventually asked. "Well, what are you here for? To make sure that I don't escape?"

"Escape?" Valeria laughed. "You can't escape. Yasenias's last words have anchored you to them, haven't they? The young little dragon is cunning and knows how to manipulate people, even when those people know they are being manipulated. Her way of doing things leaves you with no other option but to obey, right?"

Ayanduin rolled his eyes. "An annoying dragon! Who taught her to do things that way? Someone in the future will feel too cornered and will bite out of frustration!"

Valeria nodded. "Perhaps. Well, you are not that one person who will bite out."

Ayanduin snorted. "Why not? My teeth are sharp!"

"Your heart is not."

Valeria stated, her lips arching in a smile. Ayanduin looked at Valeria and sighed. "Why do I feel like I am talking to a senior when you are a fifth-realm summon? Tsk, tsk. I feel like I've returned to that time with my master! Ugh. You won't hit me with a stick, right?"

"Hahaha. Perhaps I will if you act naughty~." Valeria then said. "Ayanduin, listen for a bit, okay?"

The merchant nodded and looked skyward again.

"Yasenia and her family are beings that will reach great heights. Much greater than whatever you can even imagine right now. They are beings that have a complicated path before them, but if they manage to cross those paths, they will reach the top. Yasenia says that she is around seventy years old. However, did you know that, in truth, that's her soul's age? Her body is barely over half a century old."

Ayanduin's eyes opened widely. "What? Yasenia is a fifty-year-old child? Seventy was already incredibly low for what she has accomplished, but now you are telling me that she is twenty years younger?"

Valeria nodded. "This information should tell you that, as long as you follow them honestly, you can also reach those greater heights. I am telling you this because you have a lot of talent that has been stifled by this place. You are clever, you are cunning, you have a good heart for a cultivator, but you have the ability to distinguish between a deal and personal feelings. You are a great merchant, and your disciple is as good of a seedling as you are."

Ayanduin looked at Valeria and smiled. "A seedling, me?"

Valeria looked at him and nodded. "The sixth realm is the beginning of true cultivation. Everything before that is just a little taste of what will come."

Ayanduin hummed. "Even if I trust every word you say, how do I know that Yasenia's family members won't torture me?"

Valeria giggled. "Well, I can't tell you that it won't happen, sadly. As Yasenia said, her mom is quite a scary woman. If Yasenia's killing intent feels vast for you, you might faint when you feel her mother's! Hahaha. To put into perspective, Yasenia's killing intent and evilness is a drop of water compared with an ocean."

Looking at the green-skinned woman with a deadpan, Ayanduin said. "Now I want to flee, you know? I am taking everything you are telling me to face value, so please don't exaggerate things."

Valeria raised her eyebrow and answered something that left Ayanduin's eyebrows twitching incessantly. "I am not exaggerating."

She then stood up slowly and said. "I came here to tell you, Ayanduin. Be sincere toward Yasenias, and she will be sincere to you. Slight her and she will retaliate a thousandfold."

Ayanduin hummed. "So she is the type that thinks that a drop of water should be repaid with a gushing spring; a slight grudge must be repaid with vengeance ten thousand times over."

Valeria laughed. "Right. That's the saying she usually follows. Not always, of course. Tengliu is an exception. You can become another exception."

Ayanduin blinked. "Tengliu?"

The Nature Queen picked up Ethereal Blossom as if it were a child and smiled. "You might get along with her~. Either way, I've said my piece; the rest is up to you, Ayanduin."

Then, Valeria completely disappeared in front of his eyes, letting him know how Kali hid from him in that room. He looked toward Lord Gu's mansion and sighed. "Really... Getting rid of this useless pride as a senior is complicated. I feel so, ugh, when I think of working for a fifty-year-old child..." He fell on his back, looking at the starry sky. "Ah... Whatever. I lose nothing for spending a few centuries seeing if Valeria's words are correct... I might even recover my treasures."

The greedy expression of that dragon woman flashed in his mind, and he smiled wryly. "I am going to lose more treasures, right?"

Chapter 996: [Soul Anchoring Pill]. Soul Comprehension.

After Ayanduin's visit, there was only one thing left to do in this world: the meeting with Lord Gu Chen. Before that, they had a few preparations to do. First of all, curing Yasenias of her poison.

Kali was in the alchemy room with Yasenias, Flora, and another three maids who specialized in alchemy. They were all, Kali included, tasked with a supporting role in this pill's creation. The leading alchemist was none other than Valeria herself.

Yasenias was slowly taking out the essence of a few herbs and asked. "By the way, where did Valeria go?"

Kali hummed. "I think she went to talk with Ayanduin? I am not sure, though."

The dragoness extracted the essence perfectly and poured it into a vial, wondering. "Why did she go? Any idea?"

"To be honest, I don't." Kali waved her hand, lighting a small fire under the cauldron to warm it up. "Yasenias..."

The dragoness asked with a hum. "Yes, Honey?"

Kali sighed. "Are you really ready to forgive him? I can understand why, as this situation is extremely similar to Tengliu's. However, we were not completely helpless against him, right? He is infected by my parasite."

Yasenias smiled faintly. "You are right. Killing him was not impossible. However, some of us would've died."

Kali blinked. "Really? Even with Valeria's full support, you still think so?"

"Yes." Yasenias sighed. "I think you are underestimating his strength, Kali. What if he has an [Intent Domain] that he has not revealed yet? Even if it is a Level 1 Intent Domain, the results of facing

him would've been devastating. One of us dying in exchange for what? The treasures that we could get with my other tactic, risking no one's life? It's not worth it. My maids and you are my family. I refuse to sacrifice any of you for petty revenge that can be settled without those risks."

Kali hummed. "So, unless you are completely sure that you can kill without any casualties, you prefer to settle revenge in a different manner?"

"And if it affects any of you, then forgiveness is almost impossible as well~." Yasenias added with a laugh.

"I see." The fox kin nodded. "But I won't easily forgive him."

Yasenias acknowledged. "I know. You have seen me suffer for a few years; I can guess how much your hatred for him has grown. Probably, it won't be resolved in a lifetime. Regardless, being able to listen to me and give this path a try is more than enough."

Kali smiled softly, and then, the door opened. "Sorry, children. It took a bit longer than I expected~."

Kali looked over to the tall woman who appeared and smiled, her tails wagging. "Welcome back, Valeria. How did it go?"

"Better than expected~." Valeria laughed and added. "From our conversation, he looks like he does intend to be honest about that contract, Yasenias."

The dragoness nodded. "As long as people don't betray my trust, I don't mind giving them mine back. I said it in the past: I'd rather trust and regret than never trust and later regret that choice."

Valeria agreed. "Let's start the concoction. It's not hard, so just listen to my words, and before you realize it, we'll have the antidote. It is also a blessing, to be honest. Well, you'll understand once you absorb it."

Then, they all started the concoction of the pill. First things first, Valeria took over the alchemy fire control and perfectly managed it. "Flora, throw in the [Seeking Rose Petal Vine] and [Gold Clover Leaf] essences. Kali, wait four seconds and add the [Phantom Tree Stump]. Yasenias, please add the first batch of supporting herbs."

Her voice flowed constantly and clearly as she gave everyone instructions and poured ingredient after ingredient into the cauldron. The flames danced around like waves, raising and falling together with Valeria's spiritual use.

Inside the cauldron, the herb essences evaporated, and the solid ingredients became dust-like. With the supporting herbs, Valeria caught the impurities released from the ingredients. Then, she gathered them at the edge of the cauldron, creating a black wall of smoke that never mixed with the gorgeous and complex movement of medicine in the middle.

Finally, Valeria added the [Soul Anchoring Algae] as the last ingredient and placed the cauldron's lid on the cauldron. Following that, her spiritual pressure rose, and the Alchemy Flames changed to a gorgeous emerald green color, which surged upward like a beautiful forest.

Kali and the other alchemist looked in awe while Valeria created a genuine Transcendent Realm pill.

After half an hour, Valeria focused and moved her hands. Her fluid movements were imitated by the emerald flames, creating a vortex-like movement around the cauldron. Then, Valeria stepped forward and palmed the cauldron.

Clang~.

A deep metallic sound echoed, and a shockwave pushed the flames away. Valeria exhaled and then returned to a neutral stance. "Done~."

She took the lid off the cauldron, and a deep black cloud sprung outward. Kali asked in disbelief. "You have not created a perfect pill, have you?"

Valeria laughed softly. "Creating a Transcendent Pill with one hundred percent purity without being in the transcendent realm is impossible. You must dig deeper into the ingredients and extract more impurities than we did."

A perfectly round white pill with complex patterns floated upward. Around it, there were green curly veins that looked like plants were growing on its surface. Its aura was hypnotic, as it appeared like it could dissolve with the surroundings. Valeria nodded. "This is the [Soul Anchoring Pill]. It is a powerful pill that can heal any kind of affliction of the soul for mortal cultivators. Not only that, the pill nourishes the soul to the limits of the mortal realms. After eating this pill, your soul strength will become several times stronger."

Yasenia looked at the pill that hovered in front of her and extended her hand to grab it. "It honestly looks appetizing."

Valeria snorted a laugh. "You find powerful things appealing, and this pill is no exception. Sadly for you, it is mostly tasteless." Then, she commented. "By the way, if you want the pill's effects to be the best possible, remember to try and expose as much of your soul as possible. Allow it to dig deep, allow it to nourish everything."

The dragoness frowned. "Valeria, what about the Moon Goddess and Sun God? Won't they benefit from it, too?"

The Nature Queen shook her head. "No. They can't benefit from this kind of low-level pill. This will only nourish your soul."

The dragoness nodded and looked at Kali with a smirk. "Love, plan our meeting with Gu Chen while I absorb this pill. You are in charge~."

Kali blinked twice, her fox ears straightening. "Ha?"

Yasenia pecked her lips and then walked away while humming.

Once the door to her room closed, Kali looked at the rest and saw them looking at her. Flora asked with a smile. "What are your orders, Madam?"

Kali groaned and sighed. "Gather everyone first..." Kali walked toward the biggest room they had while rubbing her forehead. "How do I even plan something against a Transcendent Realm cultivator when we are going to visit him in his own house and have less than a week left?"

Once inside her room, Yasenia approached the formation at the center and sat cross-legged on it. This formation was something she had back in Distancia. Selena was in this world with her, and

since she was the most talented maid formation-building-wise, she could recreate most of what she had back in Distancia.

Once she sat cross-legged, she placed a few hundred Sunderials instead of using the purple crystals and began gathering energy inside her room.

It took less than three hours to gather enough energy to make it slightly visible, as if it were mist. Moreover, thanks to Yasenias expertise in liquifying energy in her Dantian, she could increase the energy concentration enough that some droplets fell occasionally.

With that done, Yasenias took out the pill and swallowed it. The pill easily dissolved when it touched her tongue and flowed downward like a refreshing spring that was quenching a thirst she didn't know she was carrying.

The revitalizing sensation caused Yasenias to subconsciously close her eyes in comfort and focus her spiritual sense on herself. The energy spread into her meridians and traveled all around her body, increasing her body's strength even when it was a soul-related item. The reason for this was simple: [Celestial Yin and Yang Body].

Her constitution was the ultimate regulator, the ultimate balancing mechanism. So, with it, the pure soul energy flowing around could be gently morphed to help her physical body. Of course, even with the [Celestial Yin and Yang Body], the transformation was minimal, as most of it went toward the soul.

Not because the constitution was not able to transform more, but because Yasenias body was much more developed thanks to the Body Cultivation Technique.

As the soul energy poured into her, Yasenias realized something. Her soul was large and strong, incredibly so for someone at her level. However, it was just that—large and strong.

She had a massive weapon, but she had been swinging it around without a single shred of control like a barbarian. When it hit, its effects were horrifying. Yet, if she ever faced someone who knew how to wield the soul, her soul attacks would probably be easily defeated or nullified.

So, what the [Soul Anchoring Pill] did was different from what she expected.

First of all, it tackled the poison and reversed its effects. All the damage on her soul began to heal at a terrifying rate while the substance that was previously damaging her became nourishment.

Then, the pill spread around her soul and started compressing it. Yasenias gigantic soul began shrinking, and at the same time, it became more refined. 'Shrinking my soul but increasing the density... I see.' Yasenias pondered. 'Perhaps Soul Cultivation is not what I expected? At first, I guessed that Soul Cultivation would be about making your own soul as large and strong as possible while being able to control it. However, what if it is not like that? What if it is the opposite?'

Yasenias mind entered a deep thinking state, not quite achieving enlightenment, but being quite close to it. 'I need to refine my soul like a weapon, like my body. Bigger muscles don't always mean more strength. Stylize my soul, give it a shape, give it... a purpose.'

With those thoughts, time flew by, and a week quickly went by. Kali waited outside of Yassenia's room with a frown. "Why is she not out yet? You told me that absorbing the pill would take around three days or so, no?"

Valeria looked toward the room with thoughtful eyes. "Yassenia's soul has... changed."

Kali's face dropped. "What do you mean changed? Did the poison affect her so badly that her personality changed?"

The soul was a delicate matter, and any changes in it usually came with changes to a person's mentality, personality, and sometimes even feelings. Valeria relaxed Kali. "Don't worry. It's not a change in that sense. How to say it... Her soul feels more... refined. And she should be done in a few hours. Have you sent a letter to Gu Chen?"

Kali nodded, sighing. "I told him that we would be late because Yassenia is in the middle of a breakthrough. He will probably understand."

Valeria smiled. "I hope-"

RUMBLE!

BANG!

Thunder was followed by a massive lightning bolt piercing the sky and landing into Yassenia's room. Valeria was baffled. "Huh? Wasn't this World's Heaven almost dying?"

Kali's eyebrow twitched. "Do they hate her so badly that even when they are on their deathbed, they bother to shoot lightning bolts at her?"

The door toward Yassenia's room opened, and the dragoness came out with a large smile, even when her skin was badly burnt. "Refreshing~."

Kali almost slapped her to the ground. "What's refreshing about nearly being burnt alive!? And what the hell did you do to get smitten by an almost dead Heaven!?"

Chapter 997: Arriving at Gu Chen's Mansion.

Yassenia rubbed the back of her head and looked at Kali with large blinking eyes. "Why did you smack me, Honey?" After looking around, she realized that everyone was giving her bewildered looks. "Hm? What happened? Is there something wrong?"

Looking at herself, she saw a few superficial burns on her body that were already healing and peeling off, revealing new, perfectly healthy skin. "Oh. And here I thought I felt an electrifying sensation because I managed to complete what I wanted."

Kali's lips twitched several times, and she almost smacked her again. Sighing, she asked again, her gaze and hands roaming Yassenia's healing body just in case there were any serious injuries. "So, love, why on Heaven's name did you get smitten this time around!? We are in a World with a dying Heaven! Unless it is a realm breakthrough, Heaven will not waste their energy on anyone."

Being clueless about what happened like everybody else, the dragoness spoke, not bothered at all about Kali's groping session. "Wait, Honey. I am as confused as you are. Let me look around my body and see if there have been any changes, okay? All I know is that I squeezed my soul and made it denser, nothing more."



Kali nodded and stepped back. Then, Yasenia sat down cross-legged on the spot, closing her eyes and looking into herself. Her spiritual sense dove into her body, trying to spot any changes. She didn't need to look far into her own body, as several changes had occurred when she looked at herself.

First, her soul was not overflowing all over the place like before. Instead, it was tightly contained inside a surface with a very faint sheen that covered her silhouette. Looking at herself with her own spiritual sense made her look as if she were gently glowing.

The second change she noticed immediately was her control over her soul. It had made a qualitative leap. As Yasenia looked around herself, she could clearly feel an illusory flow that wasn't there before or, more precisely, a flow that she couldn't see in the past. With it, controlling the soul was much smoother than the brutish way she used before.

Thirdly, and the more glaring change, she said that the size of her soul had shrunk several times over. Yet even the general size was smaller. Once she peeked into her own soul, the world expanded like never before. 'Woah. My soul is at least five times larger than before while also being denser... the overall strength has skyrocketed. What happened? Are Transcendent Ranked pills that powerful?'

Yasenia knew that there were more changes than the ones she could superficially see. Yet, she would need a long period of meditation to spot all of them. That was a luxury that she currently could not afford. After all, she had a Transcendence Realm cultivator waiting for her.

Still, she didn't rush and explained everything she had seen to Kali, Valeria, and the maids. After explaining what she had sensed, Valeria laughed, feeling incredulous. "You actually managed to start the Soul Cultivation Path without the assistance of a Cultivation Technique. That's honestly ridiculous. Even if your breakthrough was helped by a very particular mix of very particular events, it is an achievement that not even geniuses of the high-level worlds would be able to accomplish."

Yasenia hummed. "Well, even if I have managed to enter, I have no clue what to do or how to advance. Still, it has helped me a lot just to enter into the first level. Quite different from Body Cultivation, which it took a few realms to become noticeable."

Valeria smiled amusedly. "Perhaps you didn't notice, but your martial comprehension speed also skyrocketed after you entered the first realm of Body Cultivation. Your body control increased significantly as well. If not, even during the enlightenment, fighting Tatyana, Mirrory, and me to a standstill during your Martial Art creation would've been impossible."

Kali spluttered. "She did what now!? When!? Why was I unaware that my lover matched THREE ancient seniors!?"

Yasenia laughed. "If Tatyana was here, you would've been smacked~. Anyway, let's go to visit Lord... Gu!"

Alaia asked with a small laugh. "Did you almost forget his name?"

Yasenia coughed. "Of course not! Let's part!" While they moved, The dragoness remembered something and asked. "Speaking of Gu... Kali, have you dabbled in gu poisons? I heard about them in the past, but I am still clueless."

Kali decided not to insist on the other matter and answered. "Gu poison? Love, that's a parasite branch. They are parasites with different effects from usual. For example, there is a Gu poison that inhibits all pleasure of a person unless they do it with someone that the practitioner has marked."

Yasenia blinked. "Huh? How does that even work?"

Kali smiled. "Well, Gu poisons are somewhat sentient. In most cases, they also have two counterparts called mother and child. The mother gu is with the person who wants to control the child gu, and a mother gu can control several child gus. The poison I just mentioned works because the child gu in your victim's body won't allow pleasure to occur until it senses the presence of the mother gu."

Yasenia gasped. "That's honestly awesome."

Kali nodded. "The mother gu gives that type of parasite a very controllable edge, added to the ability of peculiar and obscure effects. Sadly, it comes with a big drawback."

"Which is?"

Kali commented. "If another person manages to steal the mother gu from you, then they gain control over it. Mother gus are really easy to coax as long as you know what they like and dislike. Their intelligence is very, very, limited."

Yasenia tilted her head. "Can't these gu be used as medicine, then?"

"Of course!" Kali laughed. "Parasites are a powerful medicine. However, not many people would allow you to infest their body with little bugs when they can eat a pill or have an ointment rubbed on their wounds."

Yasenia laughed. "Well, understandable." Then, she added. "Oh, if you ever have parasites that can heal or cure me or anyone in the family better than alchemy or traditional medicine, don't hold back, okay? Our family trusts each other!"

Kali smiled softly and hugged Yasenia's arms. "Thank you, love. I will."

Alaia coughed. "Are we included in that as well, Young Miss?"

The dragoness looked at her and asked. "Huh? Why? Do you have any problems with parasites?"

The dragon woman's lips twitched. "I do trust Madam Kali. However, Lady Tatyana has used them in the past to inflict torture, so I would like to ask you to be... careful. Some of our bodies might react violently toward them."

Kali pondered. "I guess Tatyana would not ignore parasite resistance training... I'll take it into account. When we are back, let's do a few tests to see how resistant each of you is."

Alaia and the other maids looked at Kali for a few seconds, but they eventually sighed and agreed. "Yes, Madam Kali."

After all, their madam did it with good faith and wanted to help them; how could they refuse?

After a relatively short walk, they all arrived at the place that Gu Chen told them. Yasenia looked at Kali and asked. "Are all your preparations ready?"

Kali nodded. "We should have no problem even if he wants to kill us."

"Oh?" Yasenias smiled. "I like that confidence. Let's go inside."

Kali looked at Yasenias and asked, curious. "You won't ask?"

The dragoness hummed. "Well, the enemy might have ears around, so it is better not to ask here. I'll just trust your judgment."

Kali laughed. "Sure. However, it is much simpler than you think."

Once they knocked on the doors, a pulse of energy analyzed them, and then the gates leading into the enormous mansion opened. As one of the Four City Kings, Gu Chen's house was naturally enormous, spanning several square kilometers.

Once the gates opened, there was a woman with luxurious robes standing there, her chin high. "You are late, Yasenias Dravory. Is this the respect that you want to show Lord Gu!?"

The dragoness looked at the woman once and then completely ignored her. She didn't even speak and continued walking forward with the rest of her people.

The woman frowned and shouted, her tone getting higher. "You dare ignore me!? If you take a single step more, I'll call the guards!"

Yasenias continued walking as if that woman didn't even exist. "GUARDS! Stop her! There is an intruder!"

The dragoness didn't bother as some men approached and pointed their spears at her. She spoke softly to her maids. "Kill anyone who dares block my way. I am here to see Lord Gu, and no one else."

The guards paused when they heard Yasenias and looked at the woman again, their eyes looking hesitant. The woman stomped the ground and shouted. "As if she dares kill the City King's guards!? Stop her!"

The guards pondered and readied their weapons again. "Stop right there, Yasenias Dravory. We will attack if you continue walking!"

Yasenias looked at him and spoke, her eyes pouring out with spiritual pressure and thick killing intent. "And I will kill you if you dare stop me. So, think it through before you act."

A relatively young guard who didn't have much experience couldn't wait to gain the favor of the fuming woman and rise in the ranks, so he shouted righteously. "How dare you disobey the Nineteenth Lady! If she tells us to move, we move! Attack!"

With a shout, he took a step forward. However, that's all he did as Doriel instantly appeared by his side and sliced his head off with her daggers, returning behind Yasenias in the next second. Her movements were like a shadow, leaving no one a way to react.

The corpse of the man fell with a heavy thud in front of the dragoness, but even that didn't stop her strides. Her foot sunk into the corpse as golden flames burst out around it, vaporizing the corpse and blood without leaving a single stain on her clothes.

The guards that were about to follow that one froze in their steps, their eyes widening while the Nineteenth Lady looked on with stupefaction and disbelief. "Y-Y-You dare!? You arrived late, and now you dare to kill someone in Lord Gu Chen's territory!?"

Yasenia sneered and finally bothered answering. "Do you think Lord Gu isn't looking? If he didn't want me to kill that guard, he could've appeared at any moment. Now, scram before my maid's weapons sink into your body, nineteenth."

Before that woman exclaimed again, loud laughter reached them. "Hahahaha. Great! As expected of you, Yasenia."

The dragoness stopped this time around when a man flew down from the sky. She respectfully cupped her fists and bowed. "I am sorry for my late arrival, Lord Gu. I was tied down during a significant breakthrough and couldn't really stop it, or I would've risked a cultivation deviation."

Lord Gu rubbed his chin and looked closely at Yasenia. "I can sense that your soul has made tremendous improvements. It seems that you aren't lying."

Yasenia straightened and smiled. "How could I lie to a sixth realm cultivator? That's foolish, ignorant, and where the true disrespect would occur." Yasenia gave the Nineteenth Lady a side glance and looked back at Lord Gu.

Lord Gu smirked. "Indeed. Come inside. I have prepared a banquet before we start our conversation."

Yasenia acknowledged. "Understood, Lord Gu."

Chapter 998: Pleasant Conversation With Lord Gu.

After going inside, they followed Lord Gu for a while and arrived at a very large room with a table that could probably fit two hundred people. Lord Gu gestured at the left side of the table and smiled. "Sit there, Yasenia and company. I feel like being face to face when speaking is best in these situations."

Yasenia followed his arrangements and sat on the middle chair. Valeria and Kali sat on either of her sides while the maids stood in an orderly manner behind Yasenia, fully geared for combat and ready for any situation.

Lord Gu sat in front of Yasenia and gazed at the maids. "You all can sit as well if you want."

Alaia bowed elegantly and answered with grace. "Lord Gu's offer is tempting. However, as Young Miss's maids, we have her security as our priority before any decorum. Therefore, we ask forgiveness while being rude and keeping our standing positions."

Gu Chen smiled. "Educated servants are the best to see! Apologies accepted. You can allow the ladies to come in."

Once he said that a man in servant robes bowed and then walked toward the door room, opening it. "Welcoming the Ladies. Lord Gu Chen has allowed you to enter the room."

Shortly after he finished speaking, several women entered the area. The Nineteenth Lady was between them as well. In total, thirty-seven women entered.

Yasenia looked as they sat around with elegance and order as if they had practiced before, and she asked. "Lord Gu's family is large and beautiful. Are they all your wives?"

Gu Chen smiled widely. "Being praised by a beauty without equal like you is their blessing! Yes, they are all my wives." He sighed a bit, taking a cup that was soon filled with a strong wine and taking a sip. "Sadly, having children has become practically impossible because of my strength." He sighed again. "I've even gone to many places and bought nights with escorts, which is something I am not proud to share. Still, no children in sight even after several centuries of trying and trying."

Yasenia couldn't help but sympathize a little. She asked, curious. "I've heard that there is a female Undying Monarch Cultivator that calls herself the Death Queen or something like that. Have you tried it with her?"

Gu Chen laughed aloud. "While she is indeed a woman, she is completely crazy. She considers Undead to be her children, so if I ask her to make children with me, she will try to turn me into one!"

Yasenia laughed, her beautiful expression not entirely hidden by her veil. "I see. She is one of those necromancers." She shook her head. "Controlling Death energy is very taxing for the mind, so almost all Death cultivators have peculiar personalities."

Gu Chen raised an eyebrow. "Oh? It feels that you speak from experience."

Yasenia revealed. "Well, my mother is a Death Cultivator, so let's say that I have plenty of experience."

Gu Chen exclaimed, incredulous. "Really? Why do I not feel any death energy coming from you? You feel more like... The firmament, the cosmos? As if you are made of stardust. Nothing in you reveals a hint of Death Energy."

The dragoness was slightly surprised. "Transcendent Cultivator's senses are so sharp! He managed to feel my Celestial Energy even when I was trying to hide as much as I could."

After thinking for a few seconds, Yasenia spoke. "Well, I am a bit peculiar, as I have not inherited any of my mother's attributes. I am not even of the same species; she is something close to a human, after all."

"Close to a human?" Gu Chen asked, intrigued. "That's a very strange way to say it. You, if I remember correctly, are a pure Dragon beast, right?"

Yasenia flapped her wings twice and swished her long dragon tail with a faint smile that reached her eyes. "I am indeed a Dragon."

The women around Gu Chen couldn't help but throw some frowning glances at Yasenia's hidden face.

Gu Chen rubbed his chin and asked. "Do you think I can buy your scales? I am sorry to say, but they are so beautiful that I would love to create a necklace for each of my wives with them."

Yasenia frowned. "That's a bit difficult..." Yasenia saw Gu Chen frown and explained. "Lord Gu, a Dragon's energy is very... particular. Because of our bodies, there are plenty of Dragon Hunters that are able to track us down. While I do trust that you will take care of my scales and not sell them to random people, I can't say the same for the rest of your lovers."

The thirty seven women all frowned collectively, looking at Yasenia with scowls. They already didn't like that such a beautiful dragon woman was speaking with their husband, and now, she was looking down on them. Some of them would've lashed out if Gu Chen hadn't been here.

Gu Chen tapped the table with his finger, thoughtful. "You seem quite wary of them? May I ask why?"

Yasenia looked at the woman around and nodded. "I am very keen at discerning emotions."

Gu Chen nodded. "I heard dragons can even smell fear and other emotions."

The dragoness nodded. "If the emotions are very clear, that's indeed the truth. The dragon bloodline's purity must also be high, Lord Gu. Beyond smelling, seeing and perceiving them is also relatively easy." Yasenia added. "Take my words with a hint of skepticism, if you will. However, your wives have been looking at me with jealousy, disdain, and outright hatred. Therefore, I wouldn't trust them with my scales even if you gave me this entire city."

Gu Chen sighed. "You are not lying, I can tell. Well, it's their loss. Having a necklace made of your scales would look like having a piece of night sky hanging on their necks."

Lady Nineteenth snorted. "Why not get them either way? She is just a dragon that Lord Husband can make disappear with a snap of your esteemed fingers."

The maids behind Yasenia squinted their eyes, but Yasenia raised her hand to stop them. Meanwhile, Gu Chen leaned on his hand and sighed with a mutter. "Here it comes..."

Yasenia blinked, catching the mutter. 'What does he mean?'

A woman to the right of Gu Chen answered, sipping a bit of tea. "You are as braindead as always. Do you just suggest killing our guest?"

A woman to the left responded back with a sneer. "So what if Sister Nineteenth did? It's not like Lord Gu doesn't have the power to do so."

A different woman on the right answered, sighing. "Did your respect go down the drain after you climbed onto Lord Husband's bed? You are making him look bad in front of the guests."

Yasenia and her group began looking from side to side as if they were watching a ping pong match. Kali, who was angry at first, almost pitied Lord Gu. 'This... I wonder why he allows them to behave like this. Aren't they being rude to you and also humiliating Gu Chen?'

Yasenia answered. 'Lord Gu is one of the strongest people in this place. Everyone else except those people, other beings in the sixth realm, mean nothing to him. These women, trusting that they have his protection, will act out as they please because no one will dare retaliate. In short, Lord Gu has spoiled them in a bad way.'

Yasenia sent a mental message to Gu Chen; her voice tinged with amusement. 'Are they always like this?'

Lord Gu rolled his eyes. 'Always. Those to my left are quite arrogant, but they have good hearts. Even the woman who stopped you, believe it or not, is quite generous when she is not busy being jealous or bratty. Then, those to my right are more well-behaved, having high class and a sense of politics and decorum. However, they are too ruthless sometimes and also disdain those to my left.'

Yasenia laughed a bit because, while Gu Chen sounded annoyed, his complaints actually had a pampering tone. The arguing women heard her laughter, and they all looked at her. Nineteenth complained, slamming the table. "What are you laughing at!? You dare act this way when you killed one of my guards?!"

A right-seated woman sighed. "Lady Yasenia, please excuse our sister. She is usually very gentle, but when she gets emotional, she becomes extremely... Well, like you've seen."

"What does that even mean!?" Nineteenth shouted with a high-pitched voice.

Yasenia smiled, amused. "Don't worry. If she were not Lord Gu Chen's woman, I would've killed her long ago. However, I won't harm any of you unless Lord Gu Chen gives me permission."

The discussing women froze and looked at the dragoness with bewildered eyes. Lord Gu blinked and asked, surprised. "Really?"

Yasenia tilted her head. "Hm? I definitely would've done so at the entrance. I am someone who is respected and someone who doesn't like to be ordered around as if I am a slave. I don't mind being told things if the tone is right. However, your wife acted in a very offensive manner."

The wives around Lord Gu were stunned. Who tells another person that they would've killed his wives if he was not there?

However, Lord Gu took it differently. This was a show of respect while also a warning to his wives to behave. The right amount of hard and soft allowed the room to become silent and gave Lord Gu the entire authority over the conversation once more.

Lord Gu squinted and smirked. "That's dangerous. You are trusting my intelligence to triumph over my emotional side."

Yasenia raised her eyebrow. "If someone in the sixth realm isn't sharp enough to even catch that, even they can fall to ants."

Lord Gu laughed and clapped once. "Great! Let's move to the serious matters. I have three requests to ask you. I had two, but after our conversation, I've changed it to three."

The dragoness sat up and paid attention. The wives couldn't help but look down at the hidden pair of mountains. Even when the dragoness's robes were somewhat baggy, they couldn't hide the impressive volume once she straightened.

Even Lord Gu got distracted for a second. "Ahem. The first thing I wanted to ask you about is your purpose in this city."

The dragoness answered simply. "I came to get an item. I got it not long ago, which has allowed me to make the breakthrough I spoke about." Yasenia smiled. "I am probably going to leave this place soon."

Lord Gu expected such an answer; a breakthrough like the one Yasenia had could not appear from nowhere. "Perfect. My second question is... What's your cultivation realm? There is a strange mix of auras in you that I can't completely discern, and it is too tempting not to investigate further."

Yasenia laughed. "This was the main theme you wanted to speak about before whatever change you did now, right?"

Lord Gu was not afraid to admit it. "That's right."

Yasenia explained honestly. "Lord Gu, under the Heavens, there is not just a single cultivation path. Each creature has different paths that lead us and help us comprehend the Dao. Between those many cultivation paths, you are walking the Body Cultivation Path."

Lord Gu listened attentively. "Body Cultivation..."

"That's right." Yasenia smiled. "Body Cultivation is the art of the flesh. You refine your body like a weapon to extremes where just a punch can destroy mountains and sink islands. I am also practicing the Body Path, having reached the middle-level Epoch Core Realm. However, thanks to several fortuitous encounters, I am also practicing two other paths."

Lord Gu blinked twice as so much information was thrown at him. "Two more? Wait. You are a middle-level Epoch Core cultivator!? You feel like a peak-level one!"

Yasenia acknowledged with a faint smile. "You heard correctly. Also, these two extra paths are the Beast and Spiritual Paths. Thanks to the combination of strength those three paths give me, I can fight well above my cultivation realm."

Lord Gu leaned back and crossed his arms, thoughtful. He laughed a bit, shaking his head. "It seems that our conversation will have a few new points of interest added, Lady Yasenia."

The dragoness smiled. "I already predicted so."

Chapter 999: Gu Chen's Proposal. Special Guest.

After Yasenia mentioned the different cultivation paths, the women by Lord Gu's side became silent. After all, Yasenia has gone from a normal woman who might've wanted to become Gu Chen's lover, and therefore, a threat because of her extreme beauty, to someone who could make them stronger and get an advantage over the rest of their harem sisters.

While they were somewhat harmonious because the center pillar, Gu Chen, was a very powerful man, competition was natural. Yasenia's harem was not the rule but an exception to how it usually went. They all got along so nicely because of Yasenia's wholehearted love and devotion toward them. Second, they were relatively young, and because of the innate hard-to-change nature of cultivators, their initial feelings and thoughts were still fresh in their minds. In addition, they had children not long ago, increasing their love's strength and stability.

Gu Chen also understood why his lovers had such a swift change of attitude, and he smiled. "So, Yasenia. I planned to talk about other things, but this talk about the different cultivation paths has appeared completely unexpected. First, let me tell you about the third thing that I wanted to speak with you about before we move on to that talk."

Yasenia asked, curious. "You said that you've thought about this new talking point recently, right?"

Gu Chen nodded, rubbing his chin while looking at Yasenia's veiled face. "When you talked before, you had a very commanding aura, and your way of managing everyone in the room was superb. Your beauty is also exceptional, to the point that it would be hard to find an equal even between my harem. Not to speak about talent, knowledge, and the ability to maneuver yourself when conversing with a much stronger person. All in all, you are an exceptionally attractive woman."



Yasenia listened with patience. Just with the first sentence, she could already guess where this was going. However, after her conversation with Gu Chen and his reaction to the harem's antics, she knew that he wasn't an overbearing man. Therefore, instead of making faces, she waited and listened attentively.

Gu Chen was pleased when Yasenia didn't react in a negative manner. However, he didn't delude himself. After all, the dragon in front of him has shown to have a very strong character. Not to mention, the fox woman by the dragon's side was hugging the dragoness's arm increasingly tighter while giving him quite a defensive and cold look. 'Hm... It seems that their relationship is not simple.'

Regardless, he continued his piece. After all, Yasenia was looking and listening to his words. "I would love to extend you an invitation to get to know each other better and, eventually, if things feel right, enter into a relationship. While it might feel a bit intimidating to start dating a man with such a large harem, the fact that they are all still with me should also tell you that I am not a bad lover and can manage." Lord Gu Chen smiled and asked. "What do you say?"

Yasenia laughed faintly and shook her head softly. "Lord Gu, while it might not look like it, I am a married woman with children. If it were before I met my current lovers, perhaps I would've given you a chance. However, as things are right now, our relationship is fated to never happen. While being lovers is impossible, establishing a friendship is not out of the question. You've proven to be a man with principles and values, not just a brutish cultivator who uses force to get everything he wants."

Not to mention Gu Chen, even the women by Gu Chen's side were surprised at the revelation that she had children. They all couldn't help but wonder who the lucky man that captured Yasenia's heart was. The Sixth Realm cultivator sighed and shook his head. "Indeed, trying to continue flirting with a married woman with children is only something scum would do. It is indeed a shame that I couldn't catch you before that."

Yasenia laughed. "Well, she came in quite early, even before I started my cultivation path. I've grown to my current heights because I've had her support. Without her..." Yasenia shook her head. "I would've probably perished long ago."

The woman sitting on Gu Chen's right asked, confused. "Hm? Did you mean, 'He,' Lady Yasenia?"

The dragoness shook her head and smiled. "I meant she, madam. I am in a similar situation to Lord Gu, with a harem of my own. They are women, and I am the harem head, so to speak. This pretty fox lady right here is Kali, one of my wives."

Nineteenth asked, confused. "Huh? Then how did you have children if you are all women? Are you lying to us, Yasenia!? If you are lying, not even Lord Husband will forgive you!"

A woman to the right sighed. "Sister Nineteenth, can't you stop jumping at all the chances to elicit conflict between Lady Yasenia and Lord Husband? You are starting to become a bit annoying."

Nineteenth blinked twice and coughed. "Ahem. Really?"

Gu Chen looked at her and sighed. "You really are, little one. Let's be silent for a while, okay?"

Nineteenth quickly sat down and nodded twice, speaking a bit softly. "Um. Sorry, Lord Husband." She even turned toward Yasenia and commented. "And, well, although I hate you because you got one of my guards killed, I also ask for forgiveness. I really didn't want to be disruptive."

Yasenia got another surprise while also being confused. "I can feel that you are honest, but how is asking Lord Gu to kill me for my scales not being... disruptive?"

Nineteenth blinked. "Huh? Isn't it obviously a joking statement? How could Lord Husband kill a guest just because of that?"

Yasenia, Kali, and the others were utterly baffled. "That was a joke!?! Too heavy! I don't want it! No one laughed as well!"

Nineteenth asked one last thing. "Before I get silent, I am really curious. How did you manage to have children between two women?"

Yasenia explained. "Beasts have a very small chance of being born with both functional genitalia. I am as such."

A woman on the left blurted, stunned. "You have a penis!?"

Everyone on Gu Chen's side had their eyebrows twitching. 'Can you be a bit more subtle!?'

Yasenia smiled. "I have both, yes."

Gu Chen hummed, his eyes pondering. While that did indeed reduce Yasenia's charm in his eyes, as he didn't really want his woman to have male genitalia attached to her, it didn't make Yasenia completely unattractive. Her appearance was purely female, after all. Still, since he knew Yasenia was a harem head and even had children, he decided to give up.

"Hm. Well, since it is like that, I will have to give up this time. Thank you for listening and not overreacting. I've had women who completely freaked out in the past and started shouting like crazy wenches."

The woman on Gu Chen's left caressed his arm, speaking gently and softly. "Those who overreact are not worth it, so it is a good way to differentiate between who deserves you and who doesn't."

The other women in Gu Chen's harem started nodding and agreeing. Kali spoke with Yasenia via spiritual sense. 'They feel like good people.'

Yasenia answered. 'For an overlord of a city like this one, they are basically the best kind of leaders that you can find. I wonder why he decided to act in such a manner with Money and Ayanduin. Did I misjudge Ayanduin or Gu Chen?' Yasenia tilted her head. 'I think I misjudged both of them.'

Kali smiled. 'That's uncommon. Your trustworthy senses have failed you.'

Yasenia was not worried. 'They are extremely powerful cultivators, Honey. I am glad I could sense something, even if it were superficial.'

Gu Chen raised his hand, silencing his harem, and smiled. "Thank you, little ones. Sorry for this, Yasenia."

Yasenia shook her head. "Don't apologize. It is heartwarming to see a harem like yours between so many that are just... Sigh."

Gu Chen nodded. "I can understand what you are talking about. They just don't treat their women with enough respect."

Yasenia nodded, completely agreeing. "Right!? They sacrifice so much because their love for them is so high, and yet, they are then treated like accessories that they can wear and place down instead of the loving wives that they are! Women in a harem deserve as much, individually, as a woman in a monogamous relationship!"

Gu Chen laughed aloud. "Agreed! Let's cheer for them!"

Yasenia and the rest followed. "Cheers!"

After taking a sip of the drink, Gu Chen smiled and commented. "Well, let's move on to the Cultivation talk. I have many questions, and if you don't mind, I would like to find answers."

The dragoness smiled back, her eyes friendly. "Naturally. I will answer as long as it doesn't harm me in the long or short term."

"Perfect!" Gu Chen was about to ask when he frowned and turned around. A person entered and leaned down, whispering something to him, changing his frown into a scowl. "Why now? Sigh."

Kali remembered something and coughed. "Yasenia, remember the safety that I spoke about?"

"Hm? What is it?"

Kali explained. "Well, someone is going to arrive. I thought that fighting fire with fire was the best method to protect ourselves."

'Someone...' Yasenia realized, and her eyebrows furrowed very faintly. "Hm. I hope Gu Chen doesn't take it badly."

'Hm?' Kali blinked, and understanding her worry, she explained. "Don't worry about that. I asked Ayanduin to act distantly from us. He will not disrupt the flow of your conversation. I trusted that you could probably sway Gu Chen to our side, so I also planned for that."

Yasenia would've given Kali a big kiss on the lips if she could. "That's great, Honey. Excellent work."

Gu Chen sighed and looked at Yasenia. "Yasenia, I hope you don't mind, but it seems that Ayanduin, one of the other Four City Kings, wants to meet with me here. Is it a bother?"

The dragoness shrugged. "He is an esteemed guest, many times more important than me. You don't need to be considerate, Lord Gu. Let him in... Well, as long as he doesn't try to take me as his wife or something, hahaha."

Gu Chen nodded and stood up. "Wait for a second, I'll meet them outside. We can continue when I return."

The women in Gu Chen's harem snorted and started conversing with Yasenia. "Also, Lady Yasenia, don't worry about Ayanduin's intentions! We won't let him touch you!"

"Right! Right! As if we would let him do that!"

"You said it right, sister seven! Yasenia has proven to be an excellent guest, making Lord Husband genuinely laugh! If someone dares, they will have to go over us!"

"Well said!"

Yasenia giggled and bowed once. "Thanks a lot, madams. Your words are very reassuring."

The women looked at how Yasenia's breasts expanded sideways against the table with large blinking eyes. One of them couldn't help but ask. "What's your breast size, Lady Yasenia? They are massive."

Another one of them slapped the shoulder of the one who asked. "Don't be rude!"

Yasenia blinked and smiled. "I don't mind. I am not ashamed of my body, and if it weren't because this place is so full of Demonic Cultivators with bad intentions, I would wear my other dress instead of this stuffy one."

"The other dress?" The women asked, their eyes burning with curiosity.

Yasenia hummed and looked at Kali. "Do I show them?"

Kali looked at the women and sighed. "Madams, Yasenia's beauty is exceptional. Higher than whatever you are imagining. Her usual dress has a massive cleavage that shows more than half of her breasts, and her sleeves are also transparent and don't cover her entire arm. The impact is enough that it made many women who only liked men start being interested in women. As Yasenia's wife, I recommend not asking her to show you."

The group of women felt their hearts burning with curiosity. However, they decided to hold back out of respect for their husband.

Soon, Gu Chen led in a young man with elegant clothes and a drooping ponytail entered, accompanied by a very tall woman. The dragoness expected Ayanduin but not Money, making her surprised expression even more genuine than her acting already did.

Chapter 1000: Gu Chen's and Ayanduin's Discussion.

Ayanduin looked around the room and smiled. "This is quite a nice room, Gu Chen."

His tone was filled with familiarity; it was clear that this was not the first time that Ayanduin had been in this room.

Lord Gu spoke dismissively, sitting back on his chair. "Sadly, you could probably buy all of this a few times over with your current wealth, right?"

Ayanduin raised an eyebrow and smirked. "Perhaps. Speaking of which, you are not much different. If you went out of the city more often, you might've made your wish come true."

Walking around the table with Money, Ayanduin looked at Yasenia and smirked. "Lady Yasenia, we meet again."

Lord Gu blinked. "Oh? You two have already met each other?"

"Lord Ayanduin. It is great to see you again." Yasenia smiled softly. However, inside, she was thinking about what Kali said. 'Isn't Ayanduin supposed to be acting distant? What's with this friendly greeting? I hope this man doesn't try to play tricks.'

Ayanduin answered Gu Chen while comfortably sitting by Kali's side with Money. "Well, I do know them because they've been to Little M's shop before. Not only that, she became my client not long ago. It's difficult to forget someone as peculiar as her, don't you think so?"

Lord Gu hummed, crossing his arms. "I guess so." Then, he asked. "What do you want? Why would you visit me at this time?"

Ayanduin pondered. "I want a few things, some related to Little M, others related to you. Well, it is not very important, I can wait. Please continue the conversation, and then we can talk."

Gu Chen snorted. "Do you think we can continue the conversation with you here? It is not something that anyone can listen to."

The merchant laughed. "Come on, Little Gu. don't be that distant with your master. Didn't I teach you almost everything you know in the past? To be honest, it is quite ruthless of you to target Little M when she is your martial little sister."

Everyone in the room was surprised, including Gu Chen's wives. Their surprise indicated that this matter was probably something only Gu Chen and Ayanduin knew.

After hearing his words, Gu Chen frowned deeply and glared at Ayanduin. "You dare speak about that? Wasn't it you who disowned me? What right do you have to mention that kind of past or relationship now? Everything between us died that day you threw me out!"

Ayanduin nodded. "Right. So you said. You also said that your objective would always be to become better than me at everything and overshadow me. That, when nothing is left in what I am superior to you, you would take your revenge."

His tone was light and filled with a tinge of amusement, clearly not taking him seriously. Gu Chen squinted and said. "I am better than you at almost everything, Ayanduin. The only thing you have over me is Cultivation Level and wealth."

Ayanduin laughed a bit. "Well, catching up on the cultivation level is impossible for you. After all, with our world how it is, breaking through is basically impossible for us. You were the last person who actually managed to become an Undying Monarch all those years ago. I remember quite clearly how hard you fought against the tribulation."

Gu Chen snorted. "The Heavens didn't want another Undying Monarch, so they were quite harsh. Sadly for them, I could manage to prevail, and because of the Tribulation's harshness, my strength is excellent enough that I can match you in combat."

Looking at Gu Chen with the same easy-going expression, Ayanduin didn't deny it. "You are strong, that's for sure. Still, you lack combat experience. Don't think that our little spars were enough for you to test my depths. If I really wanted you dead, you wouldn't have reached your current heights."

Gu Chen didn't deny it. Instead, he asked back. "That's what I don't understand. You clearly disowned me, and you should've done so out of rancor for something I committed in the past. Yet, you seem to have never really given up on me. Old man, what are you thinking?"

Ayanduin picked one of the wine cups and swirled it elegantly, looking at the blurring reflection on the red substance. "Well... Why not be honest for today..." Ayanduin sighed, taking a sip.

"Look, Little Gu-."

"Don't call me that, Ayanduin." Gu Chen almost growled it out. "That nickname died that day."

Ayanduin blinked and smiled sadly. "Well, you are right. Relationships that were severed are the hardest to patch. You can put an ointment on and try to heal it, but the scars always remain." He placed the cup down and cleared his throat. "Enough sentimentalism. Gu Chen, you've already managed to complete your objective."

Gu Chen blinked and asked, confused. "Huh?"

Ayanduin shrugged. "I lost my spatial ring and almost a third of my wealth with it."

Gu Chen barked a laugh. "Stop joking around. The ring you are wearing now is the one you always wear."

Ayanduin rolled his eyes. "If you really think I don't have more than one identical ring, then I taught you wrongly!"

Gu Chen's smile faded, and he looked at Ayanduin for a few seconds. "I still don't believe you. You losing your ring? It is more likely that this world would instantaneously combust and explode before that happened!"

Ayanduin shrugged. "Well, while it is true that I didn't lose it randomly, I still lost thirty percent of my wealth."

Gu Chen wanted to deny it again, but Ayanduin said. "I swear on my name."

Gu Chen stopped and looked at Ayanduin, baffled. "Huh? How? I don't understand. Who is strong enough to force you to lose almost a third of your wealth?"

Ayanduin raised his eyebrow. "Well, that doesn't matter much. What matters is that you are now the wealthiest, for real—no need to lie about it anymore. Oh, and you are probably stronger than me. After all, I have contracted quite a tricky illness that I can't heal easily. A fight at full power would only aggravate it."

Gu Chen rubbed his temples, not knowing how to take this information in. "This is ridiculous. That's not the way I wanted to beat you."

Ayanduin tilted his head. "What do you mean? You are eager enough that you even targeted Little M, no?"

Gu Chen glared at him and almost snarled. "That's because if you didn't care about that woman as your disciple, what does it matter? I spent a few punny Epoch Cores to get her; what are those in front of you? You can flick each and every one of those to another world if you want to!"

Ayanduin paused and was confused. "Didn't you want to kidnap her?"

"Oh Heavens..." Gu Chen almost facepalmed. "If you don't take care of her and allow me to kidnap her, I would rather take care of her myself! Money has a lot of potential to be wasted by a master who doesn't care!"

Gu Chen's wives nodded sagely, thinking those thoughts were more in character with their husband. Meanwhile, Money was baffled. She didn't know that her senior brother was actually one of the Four City Kings and that he actually cared for her.

At the side, Yasenia listened to the conversation with glittering eyes. 'This is so interesting!'

If it had been appropriate, she would've taken out something to snack on while listening. Kali used her four tails to hide Yasenia's wagging tail, her eyes looking at Yasenia with a pampering and helpless expression. 'Silly girl, your tail is wagging. Control yourself.'

Ayanduin looked at Gu Chen strangely for a few seconds, not knowing what to say. He came here with the intention of truly severing their connection by confronting him for Kali and Yasenia. However, things were developing in a direction that he was not expecting.

Gu Chen waved his hand, defeated. "You know what, whatever." He looked at Yasenia and asked. "This old man might be stubborn and stupid, but he has a good heart. We can continue the conversation in his presence. Perhaps he knows something about it too, after all."

Yasenia laughed, her eyes crinkling with a mischievous smile. "To tell you the truth, Lord Gu Chen. The item I wanted was from Lord Ayanduin." Gu Chen and his wives looked at Yasenia, baffled, and the dragoness added. "Oh, the reason he lost so many of his treasures is because he inappropriately messed with me, so I decided to steal... AHEM, borrow everything he had in his ring except a few things."

Gu Chen looked at Yasenia as if she were a strange, chaotic substance unidentified by the heavens themselves. Then, he looked at Ayanduin and asked, disbelieving. "Did an Epoch Core junior scam you of your treasures? Are you getting senile, old man?"

Ayanduin rolled his eyes. "If you were in my situation, you might've walked out of that room naked! At least I managed to conserve a bit of my dignity!"

Kali snorted. "If you weren't that greedy, you would've walked out with your dignity AND your treasures. You got what you deserved. You are lucky that we don't really have a way to kill you without involving many more people."

With all the puzzle pieces slowly fitting together, everyone in the room understood the situation they were in.

Therefore, Yasenia commented. "Well, for you to know, Ayanduin, I was about to explain things about spiritual cultivation and other paths to Lord Gu Chen."

Ayanduin complained. "Hey. Why is he 'Lord,' but I am just 'Ayanduin'? I am still your senior!"

"Ah." Yasenia blinked and smiled. "You are right. I almost forgot. You need to do something about your aura and attitude, Lord Ayanduin."

Gu Chen snorted with a smile. "She is right. You look like a random young man, to be honest. Did trying to meld in the crowd for so many years become an actual trait? I remember you being a bit more imposing."

Ayanduin sighed. "Juniors are so disrespectful nowadays. Lady Valeria, please scold them."

Valeria, who had been calmly sipping tea and listening to this whole time, blinked and looked over. "Why are you asking me? If you want them to treat you like a senior, you can't ask me to tell them. Act like one."

Gu Chen looked at Valeria with surprise. The fact that Ayanduín called her like that meant that this woman was anything but simple. It was impossible to miss her, as she was like a magnified Yásenia body-wise. Her aura was much different, feeling gentle and soothing instead of domineering and alluring. Still, because she had been silent, Gu Chen decided to ignore her.

Valeria presented herself. "It seems that I should present myself." She placed down the teacup by leaning downward, and then she stood up. Even Gu Chen and Ayanduín felt somewhat intimidated when Valeria stopped hiding her deep and profound ancient aura. "I go by the name of Valeria right now, and Kali is my master. I am the Nature Spirit Queen, a spirit. Nice to meet you "

Ayanduín muttered. "No wonder you have that vibe. You are probably older than me!"

Valeria sat down and snorted. "Rude. I am still in the prime of my health."

After that, the conversation flowed with ease, and Yásenia explained a few superficial things about cultivation, sometimes turning to Valeria for help in more specific matters that she had doubts about.

By the end of the conversation, Gu Chen and Ayanduín were clearly interested in forming a partnership with Yásenia. Yásenia noticed, and her mind started to create a plan. 'Hm~, perhaps I can come back with a few more things than I expected.'