

The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 111 – 120

Read The Herb King Chapter 111

111 Janrose Caught In The Act

After the hearty feast, Leric told everyone to choose their rooms. The employees happily thanked him and left with their families. They were only ordinary people and the thought of living inside a huge mansion was like a dream come true for them.

When they all left, Leric finally has time to start refining his pills.

“Refining outside the mansion seems fun. Alright. I’ll do it here.” He lit up a cigar as he prepared his cauldron and ingredients.

The sky is clear and the weather is good so there shouldn’t be any problems if he refines his pills outside.

“Because of the Hunter Association’s large purchase of the Recovery Pellets, my stock is running low. I’ll refine more of it first.” Leric muttered to himself as he sorted the ingredients of the Recovery Pellet and kept the other ingredients away.

Soon, he lit up the cauldron and started the refinement process.

He was blowing rings of smoke with his cigar as he refined the pills. If an Alchemist was here, they would certainly collapse if they witness Leric’s casual attitude when refining pills.

Hm?

Leric raised his eyebrows when he noticed a blue dot near his location in his [Virtual Map]. He activated his perception skill and saw a young lady hiding behind a tree, secretly looking at him.

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‘Isn’t this Janeth’s daughter? What’s her name again? I think it’s Janrose...’

She was looking at his movements in great detail and she was even secretly taking notes in her notebook.

'Is she sneakily learning my methods?' Leric thought with an amused look. He didn't call her out or stop her from seeing his refinement technique. He even slowed down the process. He wanted to see if she can truly learn anything from him.

Meanwhile, Janrose didn't even blink as she looked at Aethelwolf's methods. The technique he used was very intricate and even with her high comprehension, she only managed to learn a few things after watching him. "His refining method is very advanced! Is this the peak of Alchemy? Amazing!" She muttered with admiration in her eyes.

When Leric opened the lid of the cauldron, there were five pills lying inside. He grabbed them and kept them inside his storage space. He then said as if he is talking to someone. "Do you want to see the process up close?"

Janrose felt nervous when she heard his words. 'Did he notice me? Oh no! I'm dead!' It was taboo to sneakily learn someone's technique so she would definitely be in trouble if Aethelwolf will see her.

"I know you're hiding behind that tree. Just come here and stand behind me." Aethelwolf's joking tone made Janrose jolt in surprise. She knew that she was busted so she could only walk towards him with embarrassment.

"I'm sorry, Sir Aethelwolf. I know what I did was wrong, but please don't hurt my mother. She has nothing to do with this." Janrose said with a pitiful look.

Leric's expression turned gentle upon hearing that. "Do I look like I'm angry?" He asked with a smile.

"Huh?" Janrose raised her head and saw Aethelwolf smiling at her. "You're not?" She asked in disbelief. She thought that she would be punished for what she did.

Leric shook his head and moved his gaze back to his cauldron. "Do you want to learn Alchemy?" He suddenly asked.

Janrose nodded with her head lowered. "I do, but I don't have money. There is an Alchemy Tower that teaches aspiring Alchemists, but they are asking for a high tuition fee. We are only commoners so my mother can't afford to pay for it. Sometimes, I watch Alchemists when they refine pills in public."

Leric didn't ask more questions and just began refining the second batch of Recovery Pellets. "The pill that I'm refining is called Recovery Pellet. This is only an inferior version of my creation and it requires five ingredients to make..."

Janrose was shocked when Aethelwolf started talking. She realized that he was teaching her the refining method of the Recovery Pellet! She hurriedly noted down

everything he said in her little notebook. She also seriously watch every step and even asked him about the things that she found difficult to understand.

The refinement process this time took him about an hour because Leric still had to explain things to Janrose. "Were you able to understand something?" The girl showed clear interest in learning Alchemy and Leric was also in dire need of an apprentice so he wanted to see if she has the potential.

Janrose furrowed her eyebrows as she shook her head. "I'm stupid and I only managed to remember ten percent of what you said, but if I read the notes that I've written, I should be able to remember about twenty percent." She answered, feeling slightly embarrassed.

Leric dropped his cigar when he heard her words. "You managed to learn ten percent of it?" He asked in surprise.

Janrose nodded her head meekly.

She was only a Level 1 Esper and she hasn't even summoned the most basic Pill Fire. However, after listening to his teachings once, she actually managed to absorb some of his methods!

"Alright. I believe you, but I'll ask you some questions, and let's see if you can answer them." Leric then started asking her questions related to the things he taught her earlier and the girl managed to answer a few of them! That means she wasn't lying!

Leric looked at the nervous girl with an excited smile on his face. To think that he would actually find someone who has a high comprehension ability. "Come, sit here beside me." Leric grabbed a chair for her.

Janrose sat down and she became even more nervous when she felt Aethelwolf's enthusiasm. "Sir Aethelwolf, I tried to remember your teachings, but I couldn't remember them all."

Leric waved his hand and replied. "It's fine. The Recovery Pellet that I refined earlier is a 2nd-Grade Pill. It's normal for you not to understand it." When he noticed that she was silent, he moved closer to her and said. "Don't think too much about it. How about I teach you how to summon your Pill Fire?"

Janrose lifted her head with a pair of shining eyes. "Really?"

112 New Student

To qualify as an Alchemist, one must be able to summon the most basic Red Pill Fire. However, even the Red Pill Fire is difficult to summon and only a small amount of Espers are able to do it.

“First, let me teach you about Pill Fires. To become an Alchemist, you must be able to summon your Pill Fire and the most basic one is the Red Pill Fire. The prerequisite to summon the Red Pill Fire is to have the power of a Level 1 Esper...” Leric explained a piece of detailed information about Pill Fires.

“Eh? Level 1 Alchemists can’t refine pills? I don’t understand.” Janrose stared at Aethelwolf in confusion.

Leric shook his head and answered. “That’s not entirely true. The Red Pill Fire is very weak and it can’t be used to refine some herbs. In most cases, Level 1 Alchemists can only be referred to as Alchemy Apprentices and the most that they can refine are medicinal potions. However, there are a few talented Alchemists at Level 1 who can refine pills even with just a Red Pill Fire. They are also the ones who would most likely reach the peak of Alchemy. Other than that...”

Janrose listened with rapt attention. The knowledge that Aethelwolf was telling her was very valuable, but the most valuable information was his personal insights!

“This is how you summon your Pill Fire. First, you have control the world essence in your Hegel and form a...” Leric taught her the most fundamental techniques in summoning Pill Fire. He didn’t know that the knowledge he was teaching her is actually different from what normal Alchemists learn. Leric’s Alchemy techniques are more refined and structured, making it a lot easier to understand.

“Try doing it based on what I told you.” Leric said.

Janrose nodded her head. “I’ll try my best!” She knew that this was a rare opportunity and she also felt that Aethelwolf was planning to take her as his disciple. She believed that this was his test and if she managed to pass it, there is a high chance that she would become his student.

Janrose closed her eyes and put all her focus into guiding the world essence in her Hegel. She followed Aethelwolf’s teachings and tried to summon a wisp of flame at the tip of her hand. While doing this, she felt a warm current slowly spreading through her right arm. When she opened her eyes, she saw a small flickering red flame, but it vanished after a second. “Eh? I failed...” She muttered with a disheartened look.

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Leric who was waiting for her to fail didn’t expect that she would actually summon it. Although she was only able to summon her Pill Fire for a second, it was still surprising. This girl succeeded on her first try! ‘A genius! An Alchemy genius! Hahaha! I found the perfect candidate to inherit my pill recipes!’ Leric laughed joyfully in his heart.

“Good! Not bad!” Leric grinned with a pleased look.

Janrose stared at him in confusion.

“Try it one more time, but this time, try to control your world essence and prevent even a small amount of energy from leaking. This way, the Pill Fire that you will summon will be more stable.” Leric advised.

Janrose did as she was told and tried to summon her Pill Fire again using the method he said.

A small wisp of red flame appeared on top of her palm.

“I succeeded! I now have my Pill Fire!” She eagerly said after seeing the flickering red flame resting on her palm. It didn’t hurt her in the slightest and she only felt that it was a bit warm.

Leric smiled after seeing her joyful look. “Good job! With this, you can now start your journey as an Alchemist, but you still lack a sufficient amount of knowledge regarding pill refining so you still have a lot to learn. I can teach you my methods, but you must not tell the others about it.”

Janrose bowed her head and solemnly said. “Thank you, master! I’m willing to be your student.”

Leric patted her shoulder and said. “Don’t call me master. It makes me sound so old. Just call me Sir Aethelwolf like what others do.”

Janrose nodded her head eagerly. “Okay, Sir Aethelwolf!” She was so excited that she couldn’t stop smiling. She could finally learn Alchemy and she was now a student of a Level 4 Alchemist!

“Alright. Let’s continue...” Leric spent the entire night teaching his new student about Alchemy. Janrose is a bright young lady and she was able to understand most of his teachings.

The next day, Leric opened his eyes after meditating. He then turned his head to his new student who was sleeping soundly under a tree. They ended up talking until midnight and the girl slept in the middle of his teachings.

Leric stood up and covered her body with a blanket. It was already morning, but the wind was still cold. He then left and walked inside the mansion.

There are still a few more hours before the clinic opens so he decided to eat first, but when arrived at the kitchen, he saw that some of his employees were already awake. They are now cooking some simple dishes that he taught them last night.

“Good morning, Sir Aethelwolf. We will be taking over the kitchen from now on. Please take a rest and leave everything to us.” The ladies said after greeting him.

Leric didn't reject the offer since he was indeed a bit tired. He could use the time to take a short nap. “Alright. Just go to my room and wake me up once the food is ready.” He said to the ladies before he left the kitchen.

“I never thought that living with my employees would actually be nice...” He muttered as he went to his room. When he jumped into his bed, he closed his eyes and immediately fell asleep.

113 Payment

Leric went to the clinic with his employees. They only have two carriages from the Reynolds Household so they hired three more to accommodate everyone. Other than them, Leric decided to bring his new student to the clinic. She needed to be accustomed to the environment and the nature of their business.

Janrose agreed with his arrangements since it was a rest day for the remaining participants of the battle event. She also wanted to learn more from him so she agreed without hesitation.

The others also heard that Janrose was now Aethelwolf's Alchemy student and they showered her with congratulatory messages which overwhelmed the young lady. Her mother, Janeth, was so happy that she couldn't stop herself from smiling.

“Samira, I'd like you to contact Henry and your grandpa. I want to see them at 1 P.M.” Leric whispered.

Samira became serious when she heard this and she nodded her head. “Alright. Is this about the matter with the Rayden Household?” They had a conflict with Rayden Household's clothing shop a few days ago. Aethelwolf even told the manager that he will crush their clothing shop within two months and destroy the business of the Rayden Household within a year! It was a promise that anyone would have believed as impossible, but knowing what kind of person he was, Samira knew that Aethelwolf has the ability to do it!

Leric nodded his head calmly. ‘It looks like I have to postpone my visit to my parents. I'll go back to Barden City after I discuss this matter with Sir Julius and Henry.’

Soon, the group arrived at the clinic.

There was already a huge crowd of customers waiting outside and most of them were ladies. There were even some young madams from wealthy families who came with their servants. From the looks of it, they have already heard about the clinic's magical soaps!

“Good morning, Sir Aethelwolf! You’re finally here! We’ve been waiting for quite some time now. How about opening the clinic twenty-four hours a day like other businesses?” A young woman pouted as she looked at Leric’s handsome face.

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Leric apologetically smiled at his customers. “The clinic is still short on employees at the moment so we can’t open the clinic all day, but don’t worry. This is only temporary and after we hire more Doctors and employees, the clinic will be open all day.”

The customers’ eyes shone when they heard his words.

“Does that mean that the clinic’s supply of pills and soaps will be increased in the future?” Someone asked.

Leric nodded his head. “Of course. I hope that everyone will be patient until then.”

With the growing number of customers, Leric needs to expand the number of employees, especially the Doctors. He would probably need ten Doctors since he was planning to do other business and he wouldn’t be in the clinic most of the time. He also considered hiring nurses.

Once the clinic opened, the customers flooded inside.

Leric grabbed the hiring notice he posted and edited it.

“Sir Aethelwolf, good morning!”

Leric turned his head and saw Verson waving at him with a smile. The guy even brought his friends with him.

“Good morning.” Leric smiled at them. ‘They must be here for the payment of the Recovery Pellets.’ Leric eagerly brought them to the third floor to discuss the matter of the payment.

“Sir Aethelwolf, my brother sent me here for the payment and the documents. He already signed everything and we only need your signature to finalize the transaction.” Verson took out a small stack of documents and placed them on the table.

Leric scanned the documents with his vision skills and saw no problem with it. He then signed the contract and pushed it back to Verson.

Verson kept the contract and took out a small sack from his space ring. “This is the payment for the Recovery Pellets.” He handed it to Aethelwolf with a beaming smile. They distributed the Recovery Pellets to the severely injured hunters last night and all of them recovered in a short amount of time. None of them are in danger now.

Leric grinned as he kept the sack. He knew that Ryk wouldn't cheat him so he wasn't worried about it. "By the way, do you still remember about what we talked last time?"

Verson's face turned serious and he nodded his head. Last night, he discussed with his brother about Aethelwolf's plan to hire two thousand hunters. "Yes. I've also talked about this with my brother and he agreed with it. However, the Hunter Association can only send one thousand hunters for the time being and the remaining one thousand will only be ready next week. If you're fine with this arrangement, I'll have my brother send the one thousand hunters to you."

"Sure! Can you send them to this address instead?" Leric took out a map of Dominion District and circled the address of the mansion. The mansion has servant quarters and accommodating two thousand hunters wouldn't be a problem.

"Alright, but..." Verson hesitated.

Seeing his expression, Leric saw through his worries.

"Are you worried that I can't pay them enough? You don't have to worry about that. I've already drafted a contract here regarding the salary distribution of the hunters that you'll send to me." Leric took out a contract and handed it to Verson.

The man hurriedly scanned the document and carefully read the salaries stipulated by Aethelwolf.

Normal hunters – 5,000 gold coins/month

Level 1 Espers – 10,000 gold coins/month

Level 2 Espers – 15,000 gold coins/month

Level 3 Espers – 20,000 gold coins/month

Level 4 Espers – 30,000 gold coins/month

"Also, tell your brother that I can increase the Recovery Pellets to 12,000 per month if he can send ten Doctors to my clinic." Leric added.

Hearing this, Verson's eyes bulged and he immediately replied. "There is no need to get my brother's approval. He gave me the authority to discuss important matters with you, so I accept your proposal on behalf of the Hunter Association!"

12,000 Recovery Pellets would be a big help to the Hunter Association. He couldn't let this chance slip by.

114 Energy Augmentation Pellet

Leric and Verson discussed more details about the future of the two thousand hunters. He was still a bit worried about them and they might not be accustomed to the nature of a guard's duty.

"I'll take care of your brothers, Verson. Believe me." Leric reassured him with a confident tone.

"Alright. I'll go back to the Association first and inform my brother about this." Verson stood up and shook hands with Aethelwolf before he left the clinic.

When noon arrived, Henry and Julius came to the clinic. They headed straight to Aethelwolf's office with expectant looks on their faces. The guy wouldn't casually invite them if there wasn't something important to discuss.

"Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf! I believe business has been great." Julius and Henry greeted him jovially.

"It's not too bad." He then turned his head to Julius and said. "By the way, Sir Julius, I've already prepared the Awakening Pellets and I'll give them to you later. Let's talk about something first."

Julius' eyes flashed with joy upon hearing this. "No problem."

"Gentlemen, I won't beat around the bush. I'd like to open a new business here in Dominion District." Leric directly stated his agenda.

Henry smiled as he asked. "What kind of business do you have in mind, Sir Aethelwolf?" This was an opportunity for him to sign another big contract with Aethelwolf.

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"If you need a plot of land, I can give you a few options. I don't mind if it's Sir Aethelwolf buying them." Julius said. If Aethelwolf decides to open a new business in Dominion District, it would be advantageous to the Reynolds Household. He could afford to lose a bit of land to cement their relationship with this Level 4 Alchemist!

"To tell you guys the truth, I have a lot of business plans in mind, but for now, I'll open a clothing shop to start things." Leric said. He already thought of establishing a few other businesses, but that has to wait since he still doesn't have sufficient manpower.

"A clothing shop?" Both Julius and Henry were surprised to hear this. They thought that Aethelwolf wanted to open a separate store for his pills. They never thought that their thoughts were far from the truth.

Leric nodded his head when they saw their confusion and doubt. "I know that it sounds ridiculous to you, but I have my reasons. I want this matter to be settled within a week.

Of course, you two will receive extra benefits from me once the new store is created. You see, I managed to make a new type of pill that can increase strength.”

“What?!” Henry and Julius were shocked. A pill that can directly increase strength? It would be extremely valuable and its value would even surpass the Awakening Pellets!

Leric grinned when he saw the change in their expressions. “Actually, I can give them to you in advance as long as you accept my proposal.”

Julius adjusted his posture and asked. “Sir Aethelwolf, can you tell us more about this pill?”

“Alright. Since you want to know more about it, I’ll tell you. The pill is called Energy Augmentation Pellet. Its main effect is to increase one’s level, but the increase differs depending on the consumer’s strength. The Energy Augmentation Pellet is more effective for those with lower levels. The increase in strength for people at Level 3 and Level 4 will be minimal. The only issue about this pill is that it is difficult to mass produce because it requires valuable ingredients and longer refining time.” Leric said, but he lied about the pill being hard to mass produce. In truth, the ingredients aren’t that expensive and the refining time is only similar to his other pills. He only said that to make them believe that it was priceless.

Julius was silent after hearing the effect of the pill. He is now a mid stage Level 4 Esper and is only a small step away from reaching the late stage. However, this small step made him stuck for more than a decade and he couldn’t see any chance for improvement. Aethelwolf’s pill might be able to help him bridge this final hurdle.

Meanwhile, Henry was beyond excited. He just became an Esper with the help of Aethelwolf’s Awakening Pellet and now he told them about the Energy Augmentation Pellet which was very precious to him.

“I’ll give you a piece of more detailed information. If a newly ascended Esper drinks this pill, they would immediately jump into the late stage of Level 1. That is an increase of two minor levels. Not bad, right?” Leric chuckled.

Not bad? Increasing two minor levels is very difficult and it might take decades for some people, and he was saying that it was only ‘not bad’?

Both Julius and Henry didn’t know whether to laugh or to cry when they heard his words. The nonchalant attitude of Aethelwolf as they discussed about this pill made them believe that he didn’t treat it seriously. Perhaps he was in possession of something even more valuable? Both men became scared of their own thoughts.

“Sir Aethelwolf, no matter the conditions, our Reynolds Household will give you our full support!” Julius promised after deliberating for a moment.

“Just tell me what kind of store you have in mind and I’ll make it possible for you. I also noticed that you are short on staff so I’ll send you some skilled people to help you manage this new clothing shop.” Henry smiled from ear to ear. He didn’t even hesitate when he said this.

Leric was pleased by their words. “I know that I count on the two of you.” He then took out the two Energy Augmentation Pellets from his storage space and said. “I only have two of these pills with me. You can have one each.”

Julius and Henry eagerly accepted the pill.

“If you want, you can consume them here. The clinic is safe anyway and with me around, no one will dare to cause trouble here.” Leric knew that these two were eager to consume the pill.

115 The Second Patient

“I’ll wait for you two outside.” Leric smiled at them before leaving the room.

Without caring for his dignity, Julius tossed the pill inside his mouth and ate it without hesitation. The thought of finally reaching late Level 4 made him shake in anticipation. When the pill started dissolving in his tongue, he calmed himself and guided the energy to his Hegel. He thought that it would be difficult to refine the pill, but the old man faced no such problem and the process was way easier than he had anticipated.

Meanwhile, Henry also consumed the pill. When he became an Esper, his body was baptized by the world essence, making him a lot stronger than normal people. With his physical strength alone, he can even overpower normal hunters.

Leric searched for Janrose and he found her talking to a customer. The girl only learned about the clinic’s products earlier in the morning, but she was already working efficiently.

He decided not to disturb her.

Suddenly, he noticed a commotion outside the clinic.

There were more than ten servants carrying a fat man on a stretcher. Because of his immense weight, even the ten able-bodied servants found it quite difficult to hold the stretcher.

“Move away!”

“Clear a path for us!”

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The servants anxiously shouted at the people blocking them. They then entered the clinic under the shocked gazes of the crowd. "Our Lord needs medical attention! Please help him!"

Hearing this, the employees immediately told them to carry the fat man to the third floor.

Leric followed behind them while looking at the fatty who was groaning in pain.

"Where's the Doctor?!" The servants anxiously asked the employees.

"I'm here. Take him inside the room." The servants were surprised to see him behind them, but they hurriedly followed his instructions and brought their lord inside the patient room.

Before going inside the patient room, Leric turned his head to the ladies. "There are two guests inside my office. Make sure that no one disturbs them and once they go out, tell them to wait for me."

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf!" The ladies nodded.

Leric entered the room and unceremoniously placed his hand on the fatty's arm as he asked the servants. "Do you know what happened to him?"

They shook their heads.

"The Lord suddenly collapse after eating his lunch. We thought it was poison, but he didn't show the symptoms of someone who was poisoned." Of them answered hesitantly.

Leric narrowed his eyes and observed the body of the patient using a perception skill that works similarly to an x-ray. He saw some injuries on the patient's esophagus and to his digestive organs. When he looked closely, he noticed some small hair-sized needles in the man's small intestine.

The servants became silent when they saw the sudden change in the young Doctor's eyes. It seemed as if his gaze could penetrate and see through the complications going on inside their Lord's body.

"Strange. He has four small needles inside his small intestine..."

"Huh? What are you talking about Doctor?"

Leric ignored them and took out a bunch of operation tools. "Leave the room first. I'll handle the rest here. Just give me half an hour."

Actually, Leric can just let the patient drink his Recovery Pellet and he will be fine, but Leric didn't want to waste his Recovery Pellet for something like this.

The ten servants nervously stepped out of the patient room.

They anxiously paced around and the thirty minutes of waiting felt like an eternity for them. Anything could happen to their lord and if something bad happens to him, they would be the first ones to be punished.

"The Doctor said that there are needles inside the lord's body. What's happening here?"

"I don't know. Maybe it was secretly placed in his food, but who would do something like that?"

Suddenly, a smiling Henry and Julius stepped out of Leric's office.

Henry was now a late stage Level 1 Esper. A level that he never thought he would reach in his life. On the other hand, the face of the old man, Julius, was all smiles. He had reached the late stage of Level 4! His power could already be rated as one of the strongest in the entire Leone Empire! Perhaps the power structure in the noble circle will change drastically because of his sudden increase in strength.

"Greetings, Sir Henry and Lord Julius. Sir Aethelwolf is currently operating on a patient. Please take your seats first. The operation will conclude in thirty minutes. During this time, we will serve you tea prepared by Sir Aethelwolf. We hope that you can wait for him." The ladies politely told Henry and Julius.

"No problem! The matters of the clinic come first. We can wait." Julius answered as he sat down with a big smile. He was happy after leveling up and he didn't mind waiting for Aethelwolf. Henry also nodded his head and sat down opposite the old man.

Soon, Leric came out of the patient room with a calm look on his face. "The operation is successful and I managed to extract the needles from the patient's body. They are inside this container." He handed them a small glass container that contains four bloody needles.

The servants were ecstatic when they heard his words and they swiftly rushed inside the room after taking the glass container from Leric.

When they saw that their lord's complexion was now rosier, they all heaved sighs of relief.

"I don't want to intrude in your family matters, but you should investigate this properly. Those needles wouldn't magically enter his stomach, so there might be some foul play involved. Anyway, that's your problem. Once your lord wakes up, tell him to pay me 5,000." He gave a price that was similar to the Recovery Pellet.

“Yes, Doctor! Thank you for saving our lord!”

Leric waved his hand and left the room. He then handed the disposable gloves he used in the operation to his employees and walked toward Henry and Julius.

“I hope I didn’t make you two wait for long.” He said with a smile.

116 What if I Tell You to Aim for the Top Spot?

“Sir Aethelwolf, your pill is miraculous indeed! None of your creations failed to impress us!” Henry praised.

“Sir Aethelwolf, if you already have the contract, we can sign it now. I’ll collaborate with Henry to make sure that this matter will be done perfectly within a week.” Julius promised in a serious tone. The breakthrough in his level this time is a huge favor and he couldn’t wait to help Aethelwolf.

Leric smiled at them and presented the contract he had prepared beforehand. “That’s why I like doing business with you two. Don’t worry, after I make more Energy Augmentation Pellets, you’ll be the first ones to know. Just that, it won’t be free when that time comes.”

Henry and Julius skimmed through the contract and signed their names without even bothering to read everything. They trusted Aethelwolf’s reputation.

“Oh? That’s great news! I wonder how much you are selling the pill for.” Julius was interested to know this since he plans to buy one for his granddaughter and if there are more, he can give them to his son and daughter-in-law.

Henry didn’t show the same enthusiasm. He was the only Esper in their family and all their members are normal people so the Energy Augmentation Pellet wouldn’t be of use to them. Nevertheless, he was still curious about the price of the pill.

“To tell you the truth, I don’t know of its exact value, but if I were to name a price, it should be around 5,000,000 gold coins.” Leric answered.

Julius already expected a high price, but he was still surprised when he heard it.

“I see. This price is indeed fair for such a wondrous pill. Just tell me if you have one on you and I’ll purchase it right away.” Julius was already planning to liquidate some of their assets in preparation to buy his pill.

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“No problem!” Leric grinned as he took their signed contracts.

“Sir Aethelwolf, I’ll take my leave now and prepare the plot of land for you. Goodbye.” The old man didn’t linger for long and he left after bidding farewell to his granddaughter.

“Don’t leave yet, Sir Henry. I still have something to ask you.” Leric pushed Henry’s shoulder gently when he saw that the man was about to stand up.

“Oh? Is it about the package you asked me to deliver?” He was sharp and he knew what Aethelwolf was going to ask him.

“You’re quite intuitive, Henry. That’s right. Was it sent successfully?” The package he sent was for his parents. It contained a sizable amount of money and some other miscellaneous items, including soaps.

Henry smiled upon hearing this. “I was about to tell you this as well. My subordinate has already sent the package to the recipients and they’ve already received it. This is the signature of the recipient. You can check them, Sir Aethelwolf.” He took out a document and passed it to Aethelwolf. He was curious about the relationship between Aethelwolf and the recipients, but he dared not ask. He didn’t want to intrude on matters related to the privacy of his clients. It might also hurt the friendship between him and Aethelwolf. He didn’t want that to happen.

Leric glanced at the document and saw the familiar signature of his father and mother. He was certain that it was their penmanship. “I’m pleased by the efficiency of your company, Henry.”

“I’m glad to hear that. Is there anything else that I can help you with, Sir Aethelwolf?”

Leric shook his head with a light smile.

“In that case, I’ll take my leave now. I’ll send people to notify you daily about the progress of your new store. I’ll make sure to follow the design you showed in the contract.”

“That would be great.” Leric guided him out of the clinic.

Now that the matter of the clothing shop has been dealt with, he can prepare for his return to Barden City. He missed his parents and he will persuade them to settle down in Lion City. That way, he wouldn’t need to travel back and forth to visit them.

He searched for Samira and discussed this with her. Of course, he didn’t tell her where he planning to go or what he was about to do. He just told her that it was a personal matter.

Leric saw her dissatisfied expression, but he couldn’t tell her the truth. What would she do if she learns that she has been flirting with a 3-year-old child? Even if he has the mental age of an old man, he was still a child in this world.

Leric patted her shoulders gently and her pouting lips eased up. "I'll be back as soon as possible. Someone from the Hunter Association will look for me in the coming days and I hope that you'll receive them on my behalf. They will send a thousand hunters to my residence so I'll let you handle the rest. The related documents and resources are already prepared in my office. Go through them later."

Samira was silent for a moment. She then raised her head and looked at him as she asked in a low voice. "You trust me that much?"

Leric nodded his head with a smile. "You're my first friend. Of course, I trust you." His smile was genuine and filled with gentlemanly charm. Her heart beat up furiously, but she concealed her emotions by lowering her head. "I'll take care of everything. Just come back quickly."

"I will." Leric smiled gently at her. Strange. Why did it feel like a parting between young lovers? Leric chuckled as he thought about it.

Before he left, he bid farewell to the other employees and also to his student.

"Tell me, what place are you aiming for in the competition?" He asked his student.

Janrose pondered for a moment before she answered. "To be honest, I was aiming for the top five spots, but when I saw how talented the other participants are, I lowered my expectations and set my eyes on the top ten instead." She was slightly embarrassed when she said that. The participants were about the same age as her, but there were a lot of them who have a higher level than her. It was a big blow to her pride, but she couldn't do anything about it since most of them came from powerful families.

"What if I tell you that you can aim for the top spot?"

"Huh?!"

117 Misunderstanding

"I said that you should aim for the top spot." Leric chuckled when he saw her confused look.

"Sir Aethelwolf, the top contender for the competition is a peak Level 1 Esper and there are even a few late Level 1 Espers. Even if I somehow win against all the mid Level 1 Espers, how can I defeat those guys? After all, I'm only a mid Level 1 Esper." Janrose shook her head bitterly. Aethelwolf thought too highly of her.

"I have a way to make you stronger." Leric words made Janrose look at him in surprise, but after she regained her composure, she asked him skeptically. "How?"

With a grin, he answered. "I am a Level 4 Alchemist. What do you think I can offer you?"

As soon as she heard that, her eyes widened as she muttered. "Pills..."

Leric nodded his head while laughing softly. "That's right. I can give you a pill that can make you reach the peak of Level 1 Esper." He no longer has an Energy Augmentation Pellet, but he still possesses more pills with similar effects. The pill he was planning to give her is the Spirit Boosting Pellet. It has no side effects and the pill won't leave any impure world essence in the body. However, compared to the Energy Augmentation Pellet, it still fell short by a tiny bit.

"You want to give me a pill that can- ermh?!" Leric immediately covered her mouth before she can even say anything. Luckily, no one heard her words.

"Come here." Leric pulled her closer to him and he whispered. "Don't tell anyone else about this pill. It is even more valuable than the ones we are selling in the clinic." He then took out a pill from his storage space and handed it to her.

The pill was weightless, but it felt heavier in her hand for some reason. She stared at the smiling Aethelwolf with reddened eyes. It was the first time someone gave her something so valuable.

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She suddenly thought about something and asked. "How do I explain my sudden increase in strength to the others?"

Leric shrugged carelessly. "Just tell them that you are the student of the Level 4 Alchemist, Aethelwolf." He sounded a bit arrogant when he uttered those words, but she believed that he indeed has the capital to be arrogant.

At this point, almost all the nobles in the empire already know his identity. At twenty-nine years of age, he is already a Level 4 Esper and a Level 4 Alchemist. Strangely enough, no one came to recruit him. He believed that it was the handiwork of Emperor Ragnar.

"Okay. Thank you so much, Sir Aethelwolf. I promise that I'll work hard." Janrose muttered seriously.

Leric smiled at her. "Don't overwork yourself. Follow me upstairs. I'll help you absorb the energy inside the pill." The Spirit Boosting Pellet was a lot more difficult to absorb than the Energy Augmentation Pellet. In this world, perhaps only Leric would be able to maximize the efficiency of the pill.

"Okay."

Leric brought him to his office and helped her absorb the energy of the pill. To make her absorb more of the energy, he also let her eat a Vigor Pellet to strengthen her Hegel. The entire absorption process took them an hour.

Leric wiped off the sweat on his forehead. He didn't expect that helping her absorb the energy of the pill was actually tiring.

Janrose opened her eyes. Her face was also covered in sweat, but her expression was filled with joy and excitement after noticing the changes in her strength.

She could feel it. The increase in her strength this time wasn't small. She became even more confident in getting the top spot in the competition!

Janrose stared at Aethelwolf happily. "Thank you, master!" She said cheekily.

"I think I told you not to call me that." Leric shook his head helplessly.

"Ah, right. I forgot." She replied with a beaming smile.

"Let's go. I'll be away for a few days so I won't be able to see your match tomorrow. If I can return earlier, I'll make sure to watch you compete in your next matches." Leric said as they got out of his office.

As soon as they got out, they saw Janeth looking at them with a surprised look.

Leric didn't know what she was thinking so he just smiled at her. "Inform the rest that I'll be gone for a few days."

Seeing that Janeth was still silent, he looked at her and asked. "Is there anything wrong?"

"Ah. No! I'll inform them right away." Janeth answered as she bowed at Aethelwolf. When he left, she looked at her daughter's sweating face with a lot of questions in her head.

Meanwhile, Leric was already outside the clinic. He faced the coachman and said. "Take me outside of Dominion District."

The coachman acknowledged his words with a nod of his head.

Leric didn't plan to take the carriage all the way to Barden City. He was planning to use a new skill he had created recently.

Skill [Fly] Level 1

– By using world essence as a catalyst, you can make yourself fly. The faster you fly, the more world essence you will burn.

Flight is a skill that only Level 5 Espers are able to comprehend. It is a skill that is almost forgotten in the Leone Empire because of the absence of a Level 5 Esper in the empire for many years.

With the cheat-like Status Screen, Leric managed to create the skill without even breaking a sweat.

There are a lot of people in Dominion District so he planned to put on a disguise first and then take off once they are out of the district.

Inside the carriage, Leric took out his guitar to relieve his boredom.

A beautiful melody echoed in the carriage, making the coachman raise his eyebrows in surprise. He couldn't believe that a top expert like Aethelwolf could actually play an instrument so perfectly. His magnetic voice was filled with charm and the coachman found himself lost in the music.

118 Clone

Leric alighted the carriage when they exited Dominion District. "Go back to the clinic." He told the coachman.

"Huh?" The guy was surprised by the command, but he immediately complied when he saw Aethelwolf's serious face.

When the coachman left, Leric donned his disguise. It was a black mask that covered his face and only his eyes were visible. He also changed into a different set of clothes. After putting on his disguise, Leric searched for a place with no pedestrians. He then activated his skill [Fly].

Actually, Leric could just change his appearance by using his [Perfect Disguise], but he wanted to experience what it felt like to be cool. 'Man, is this youth?' He never experienced this kind of thrill in his past life.

When he reached a certain height in midair, Leric began flying in a certain direction. He was using a map to navigate his location since he was still unfamiliar with the area of Lion City.

As soon as he levitated in midair, there was a small group of people who noticed his presence and they were all shocked.

"Look! Someone is flying!"

“A person is flying!”

Everyone turned their heads instinctively when they heard the exclamations. When they saw a mysterious figure floating beneath the clouds, they were gobsmacked.

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“An expert! Who is that guy?!”

The soldiers were also alerted by the commotion and they managed to spot the image of a person who was flying away swiftly. Soon, the figure vanished, leaving behind a crowd of dumbfounded civilians.

Above the tall walls of Lion City, a tall and muscular figure dressed in a black uniform stared at the horizon with a serious look on his face. He has all sorts of badges attached to his chest which showed the various accolades he accomplished. This guy is the General of the Black Lion Army, Shield Duke Baron! “Only Level 5 Espers are capable of flight... Since when did our Leone Empire have such an expert? No. I have to report this to His Majesty!” He jumped off the wall and landed heavily on the ground, causing it to shake violently. He then sprinted in the direction of Dominion District.

Meanwhile, the man who caused the commotion was no longer in the aerial territory of Lion City.

Leric was spellbound by the majestic view he was seeing. “So this is what it feels like to fly...” He muttered to himself. He then increased his flight speed. The rate at which his world essence is being consumed spiked soon after, but Leric wasn’t worried about this since he has the skills [Regeneration] and [World Essence Manipulation]. The former increased his absorption rate, making him regenerate the world essence in his Hegel faster. The other skill made him more proficient in controlling his world essence which also decreased his rate of consuming world essence.

Soon, the view of Vale City entered his sights, but he didn’t stop flying. He could visit his friends who are living there at a later time.

After less than an hour, Leric reached the border of Barden City. He slowly descended near the territory of their family.

Looking at the familiar road, he smiled. “I should create a cloning skill and create a clone with Leric’s image. It would be troublesome if I need to switch from one identity to another.” He muttered.

He then began picturing out the details of the skill. He used the concept of the books he read before and not long later, he managed to create the skill.

Skill [Clone] Level

– You can create one clone of yourself and it can retain 25% of your abilities. The clone contains a fraction of your soul and you both share the same thoughts. If the clone is destroyed, the original body will be affected. (The power of the Status Screen is not included. Only the original body can create skills and the clone can't inherit this ability)

Leric was pleased after reading the description of the skill. The clone can only retain 25% of his power, which was equivalent to being a Level 1 Esper. It was already good enough since the clone will use the 3-year-old Leric's image.

"I wonder how it feels like to have a clone..." He muttered as he activated the skill.

Hm?

He felt a sharp pain that was hard to describe. He didn't where the pain originated from and it caused him to break out in a cold sweat. "Is this what it feels like to have a portion of my soul cut off from me?" He mumbled as he watched the clone slowly forming in front of him.

Soon, a cute young boy was created. It was the face of Leric Lassiter, the son of Anton Lassiter and Melissa Lassiter.

Leric felt weird at first since he could also see what his clone was looking at, but he soon calmed down with the help of the skill [Demon Heart]. It was certainly an unnerving experience to look at yourself from the perspective of someone. Luckily, he has the [Demon Heart] which immediately stabilized his state of mind.

It took him about an hour to get accustomed to the changes caused by the clone.

At this moment, he was practicing how to converse with his clone. It was a bit difficult at first, but it soon became natural to him.

Holding the naked boy in his arms, Leric went to a shop to buy a set of clothes for the clone.

Along the way, he was still practicing conversing with his clone.

In the eyes of other people, they looked like a father and son pair who were out for a shopping.

After purchasing a nice set of clothes for his clone, Leric walked the familiar street leading to his home. He stopped in front of his mother's clinic after seeing that it was open.

When he entered, he saw a few old folks and some injured individuals.

Leric's gaze stop when he saw the figure of a woman. That familiar gentle smile and beautiful face. "Mom." He muttered emotionally.

119 Reunion

A strange energy soothed Leric's restlessness. He concealed his emotion and put down his clone.

"Mom!" He used the clone to call out her mother.

Hm?

Melissa abruptly raised her head when she heard the familiar voice and she saw a cute little boy dressed in brand-new clothing. It was her son, Leric, who has been away for quite some time. Standing behind her little boy was a handsome man with short black hair who has a gentle look on his face.

"Leric, my son!" Melissa, with tears running down her cheeks, jogged towards her little boy and hugged him tightly to her embrace.

"I miss you, mom!" The clone shared the original's thoughts and feelings so his words were genuine.

Melissa broke into a smile when she heard his sweet words. "I miss you too, my son!" She gently said while rubbing the little boy's head.

After a long embrace, Melissa asked. "How are you? Did you learn a lot from your teacher?" She stared at Aethelwolf while asking this.

The little boy nodded his head adorably. "My teacher said that I'm now a Level 1 Alchemist and a Level 1 Esper!"

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Melissa's eyes widened upon hearing that and she couldn't help but look at Aethelwolf to confirm it. When she saw him nodding his head, a wave of joy blossomed in her heart. "Good job! My son is indeed talented! I bet your father would be shocked once he hears about this." She chuckled as she praised the little boy. In truth, she was also stunned by Leric's talent.

"Mom, did you receive the gift I sent?" The little boy stared at her with his big googly eyes.

Melissa smiled and nodded her head. They received a parcel some time ago and the contents even made them dumbfounded when they opened it. The value of that parcel exceeded their savings many times over! Although it was sent by their son, they

believed that those gifts came from his teacher. "Yes. Mom and dad received your gift. I'm even using the high-grade soap and it's very amazing!"

The soaps in the parcel numbered in dozens and she only used up three of them. She has been using it since then and it already brought massive changes to her appearance. She looked ten years younger now. Even her husband who was usually reserved and calm couldn't control himself anymore every time they meet.

"The soap is a creation of my teacher. I begged him for it." The little boy chuckled.

Melissa ruffled her son's hair and carried him into her arms as she walked towards Aethelwolf. "You must be Sir Aethelwolf. Thank you for taking care of our son." She smiled at him.

Aethelwolf looked at his mother and shook his head gently. "As his teacher, it is my duty. I apologize for not asking your permission when I took him." He muttered apologetically.

Melissa smiled when she heard that. "It's fine. We have already forgiven you for doing that. Besides, we still haven't thanked you enough for giving us the valuable pills that helped my husband increase his level." The value of those pills was incalculable and they used up the remaining pills they had to build connections with top nobles. Other than that, her husband, Anton Lassiter, was also given a noble title for his massive efforts during the battle against the Northern Viper Group. The emperor personally granted the title of Baron to Anton.

She knew that everything was only possible because of the pills given by this man. He was the benefactor of the Lassiter Household!

"There is no need to thank me for that. Besides, I used your ingredients to make those pills." Aethelwolf smiled.

The mother and son chatted. Aethelwolf even made his clone sleep to make things more convenient for him.

Soon, a middle-aged man who looked to be in his late thirties entered the clinic. He was wearing the standard uniform of an army commander, making him look rather dignified. However, as soon as he saw his wife holding onto a small little boy, his eyes went wide like saucers. "Son! My son!" He exclaimed as he excitedly grabbed the 'sleeping' little boy in her embrace.

Melissa stared helplessly at her husband, but she just let him be. She knew that he missed their son a lot. "Look at you. You should start acting like a proper noble." She chided him.

Anton grinned at her. He then moved his gaze to the person in front of his wife and he was once again shocked. "S-Sir Aethelwolf!"

"Hello, Commander Anton. Congratulations on becoming a Baron!" Aethelwolf smiled at his father who looked a lot more imposing than before. After becoming a Level 3 Esper, his father's power and authority could already be considered top-notch in Barden City. Even the City Lord has to be respectful to him.

Anton smiled happily. "It's all thanks to you, Sir Aethelwolf! If not for you, perhaps Barden City would still be in chaos because of the Northern Viper Group and I would still be a small-time commander. By the way, have you eaten lunch?"

Aethelwolf shook his head. "We haven't eaten yet."

"That's not good. Let's go to our house. We will serve you the best dishes we can offer." Melissa interjected.

Aethelwolf didn't reject her and nodded his head. "Alright." He also wanted to taste his mother's cooking again.

"Let's go. Our little boy must be hungry as well." His parents brought him to their house as soon as they left the clinic. Her mother's clinic now has a lot of Doctors so it would still be fine even without her presence.

Looking at the familiar house, Aethelwolf smiled warmly. The memories of his three years inside this house flashed inside his head. It's good to be back.' He muttered in his heart.

His heart suddenly became tranquil and all the things that has been occupying his mind were temporarily forgotten. He decided to relaxed today and enjoy his time with his parents.

Chapter 120 Janeth's Doubt

"Sir Anton and Madam Melissa, have you guys considered moving to Lion City?" Aethelwolf asked in a low voice. He has to persuade his parents to move to the capital so that he wouldn't need to travel back and forth to meet them.

Hearing this, Anton and Melissa glanced at each other before shaking their heads.

"To tell you the truth, I want Leric to continue his studies under me. The child has so much potential and Lion City is the best place to nurture him. There are more resources there than here in Barden City." Aethelwolf's words made the couple hesitate. They also heard about Leric's massive growth and they also didn't want to waste his potential because of their own foolish choices. However, Barden City has been their home for many years and they feel reluctant to leave. Besides, the prices of the houses in Lion

City might be too much for them since they still haven't saved up much money. After all, it was only recently that their wealth started increasing.

"Sir Aethelwolf, truthfully, we couldn't bear to leave Barden City since we grew up in this place. Not to mention that we might not be able to afford to pay for a house in Lion City." Anton scratched his head in embarrassment. He was only a local lord in Barden City and he wasn't exposed to a lot of luxury in his life. Melissa nodded her head in agreement. The total savings they have could at best purchase a small plot of land and a tiny house in Lion City.

Aethelwolf smiled at them and said. "Don't worry about that. I'll help you guys find a nice mansion and I'll also let Madam Melissa manage my clinic." When he saw that they were about to reject his offer, he immediately added. "Of course, I won't be doing this for free."

Anton and Melissa stared at him in confusion. "What would you want in return, Sir Aethelwolf?" Anton asked.

Aethelwolf smiled at them and replied. "I hope that you will allow me to use your last name."

Huh?!

Looking at their dumbstruck faces, Aethelwolf chuckled. "You see, I grew up with no family and I only know about my first name. It would mean a lot to me if I get your last name." He bullshitted. There was no other way to make his parents come with him to Lion City and this was the only thing he could think of.

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"You want to carry the name Lassiter?" The couple stared at him incredulously. They found this matter too perplexing.

"Well, if that's not possible, then pretend that I didn't say it." Aethelwolf let out a forced smile and the Lassiter couple immediately felt guilty when they saw him looking like that.

"Of course it's possible! We are just shocked because it was too sudden. Hahaha!" Anton laughed. He didn't mind at all. Aethelwolf was their family's benefactor and their son's teacher. It would be nice if he becomes a part of their small family.

"That's right! In that case, you are now a part of our family, Sir Aethelwolf!" Melissa smiled warmly.

Aethelwolf grinned when he heard this. "Great! Since we are now family, please drop the honorifics with me!"

The atmosphere became jovial after that and they began talking about other things.

“Speak, what happened between you and Sir Aethelwolf earlier?” Janeth grabbed her daughter’s shoulders as she glared at her.

Janrose was confused by the sudden change in her mother’s mood. “What do you mean, mom?”

“What do you mean my ass. You two came out of his office all sweaty. Come on! Just tell me what happened. I promise that I’ll be lenient.” Janeth’s eyes seemed as if they could spurt fire.

Janrose’s eyes widened and she finally realize why her mother was angry. She misunderstood what happened in the office! “Mom, it’s not what you think!” She hurriedly said. She then grabbed her mother’s hand and pulled her to a corner with no people. “Mom, Sir Aethelwolf helped me level up earlier and the process consumed a lot of his energy.” Aethelwolf told him not to disclose the matter about the pill to anyone so she didn’t tell her mother about it. She would only be worried if she learned about such crucial information and she might not be able to sleep peacefully if she learns about it.

Janeth’s expression eased up when she heard this, but she had no way of knowing her daughter’s words. After all, she wasn’t an Esper and she couldn’t sense the fluctuations of world essence. “Hmph! I’ll ask Sir Rendell to check your level later and if you’re lying to me, I’ll have you clean the whole mansion tonight!” She muttered coldly before going back to her station.

(Rendell is the name of the guard hired by Aethelwolf.)

Janrose could only stare at her mother with a helpless smile on her face. She wasn’t worried at all since her level has indeed increased to the peak of Level 1. Even until now, she could still not believe what had happened. If she didn’t consume the pill given by her teacher, it might take her more than five years to reach her current level. The efficiency of the Spirit Boosting Pellet was too shocking!

“Sir Aethelwolf can actually create such a miraculous pill... I don’t think he is only a Level 4 Alchemist. Even Lord Karman couldn’t make something like that. Could he be a Level 5 Alchemist?” She muttered to herself.

(Karman is the only Level 4 Alchemist in Leone Empire other than our mc.)

Janrose couldn’t think of anything else other than Aethelwolf being a Level 5 Esper. She decided to investigate this matter secretly. She couldn’t discern her teacher’s level on her own so she thought about asking Lord Julius or Lord Harold. The both of them were Level 4 Espers so they should be able to somehow gauge his power, right?

“Maybe I’m just overthinking things...”