The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 131 – 140 Chapter 131 - 131 Even I Couldn't Last That Long

Since the Rayden Household was sincerely apologizing to him, he decided to forget what had happened before. However, he still planned to venture into the business world so the clothing shop must be continued. Now that his parents were in Lion City, he had to make sure that they would live a comfortable life and for that to happen, he would need to have more money!

Aethelwolf went to his room and inspected the cauldron given to him. It was a Unique-Rated item that couldn't even be found in the market. After all, there is only one Level 4 Blacksmith in the Leone Empire, the current family head of the Maynard Household, Count Lucas Maynard! He is already very old and he rarely accepts commissions and he wouldn't accept anything lower than a Unique-Rated item. The value of his crafts was enormous and only the top nobles could afford them.

Aethelwolf saw small words written on the surface of the cauldron.

Moonlight Frost Cauldron.

"Moonlight Frost Cauldron. That's indeed a fitting name for this thing." He muttered with a smile.

With the issue about the Rayden Household resolved, he has lesser things to worry about at this moment.

He then summoned Rendell.

"Bring Janrose here."

Rendell nodded his head and he immediately went to the young lady's room. He already knew that this young miss was the student of Aethelwolf so he was extra respectful to her. "Miss Janrose, Sir Aethelwolf has summoned you to his room."

"Alright." Janrose followed Rendell to Aethelwolf's room.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Sir Aethelwolf, I've brought the young miss." Rendell said after knocking on the door.

^{•••••}

"Let her come inside." Aethelwolf's voice echoed inside the room.

When Janrose entered the room, she caught sight of the icy blue cauldron lying inside the room. She was fascinated by its intricate design and when she touched its surface, she felt a cold sensation prickling her fingertips. "Beautiful." She muttered while admiring its craftsmanship. She could tell that it was an item beyond the Refined-Rate.

"How are you?" A gentle voice sounded behind her and she saw her teacher holding a teapot and a small cup.

"Sir Aethelwolf! I feel great! Oh, by the way, is this a Unique-Rated cauldron?" She asked while pointing at the Moonlight Frost Cauldron.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and replied. "That's right. Jericho gave it to me earlier. Not bad, right?" He chuckled.

Hearing that, Janrose's mouth twitched. Her teacher actually received a valuable artifact as a reconciliation gift. The Rayden Household must be fearful of her teacher's revenge so they gave him their most valuable treasure. "Why did you call me here at this hour? Last time, my mother misunderstood the situation when she saw us going out of your office covered in sweat. She even gave me a hard look when Rendell came to our room. You must properly explain things to her." She pouted.

Aethelwolf was speechless when he heard her words. "Eh? That happened?" He then nodded his head with a wry smile. "Alright. I'll tell Janeth not to worry."

Janrose was still pouting so he used the technique he learned when dealing with Samira. "Come on. Trust me." He said while gently massaging her shoulders.

Janrose felt her legs turn into jelly the moment Aethelwolf massaged her shoulders. It was very soothing and relaxing that she has the urge to let out a moan, but she knew that Rendell was outside the room so she hurriedly covered her mouth with both her hands. 'So good~' She thought as she closed her eyes, letting her teacher do as he pleased.

Aethelwolf grinned when he saw the sudden change in her expression. No one has been able to escape the charm of his massage technique.

His hands started roaming on her back, gently kneading her skin with his fingertips.

"Mnnn~" Janrose's body jolted and a light sound leaked out from the gaps in her hands. It sounded like a suppressed moan since she was covering her mouth. Her eyes widened and just as she was about to glare at her teacher, she felt a wave of pleasure on her back that made her shiver from head to foot. Rendell who was outside the room almost jumped out in surprise when he heard the soft moaning sound inside the room. He hurriedly covered his ears with world essence to prevent himself from hearing something that he shouldn't hear. He also eyed the hallway more attentively to prevent others from knowing what was happening inside the room. 'I didn't know that they are actually in that kind of relationship...' He thought to himself.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf had already pulled back his hands. He chuckled at the blushing Janrose and took out a bunch of herbal ingredients. "Alright. Stop thinking about other things. I will teach you how to make an herbal liquid. I also have some capsules for you to use." Since Level 1 Alchemists couldn't create pills yet, they use capsules when making their pills. It is an empty capsule made from a specific herb. It was commonly used by Level 1 Alchemists when they are making pills.

Aethelwolf explained how the medicinal liquid is made and he let Janrose do it on her own.

She needed to learn how to do this since it was one of the tests of the Alchemy Tower. She wouldn't be able to get her license if she couldn't even make her own medicinal liquid.

He spent the entire night teaching Janrose how to make a medicinal liquid and how to put it inside a capsule.

It was only until midnight that their training session was finally over.

Janrose went out of Aethelwolf's room with a sore back and she could even hear her bones cracking. "That felt good." She muttered as she closed the door. She didn't even notice Rendell who was looking at her with a face full of sweat.

When she was gone in the hallway, Rendell heaved a sigh of relief. "Man, how many hours was that? Even I couldn't last that long..." He muttered while shaking his head.

Aethelwolf went to the Citizen Information Bureau to register the change in his name and because of his unique identity, the procedure was completed almost immediately. He also gave them a design that will be used as the symbol of the Lassiter Household.

He was already a famous individual in the Leone Empire so the staff of the bureau handled his situation with their best efforts.

The empire's governmental structure is quite advanced which was quite surprising since the world has just entered the middle part of the medieval ages. Although the empire still practices monarchy, it has various government offices that cater to miscellaneous chores for the citizens. The only issue is that these offices only hire scholars and they still need to pass the civil service exam. Only a few commoners have access to books thus limiting their knowledge and because of this, most civil servants came from noble households or merchant families.

"Well, even the modern world is the same. You need to have a backer that can pave the way for you. Perhaps this was also the reason why Emperor Ragnar established the academy. He plans to nurture the marginalized people. There are indeed a lot of obscure talents among the commoners and they only need a little bit of support. The emperor is a wise man." Aethelwolf said as he went out of the

Citizen Information Bureau.

He stared at the badge made by the Citizen Information Bureau. The badge was shaped like a white pentagon shield with a golden kirin and a black dragon intertwining at the center. The golden kirin symbolizes wisdom and knowledge, while the black dragon embodies power and authority.

Aethelwolf kept the badge and entered Albert's carriage. It looked unbefitting for someone of his status so he decided to visit the market to look for a store that sells carriages and mounts.

"To think that life would be so boring without that little girl Samira..." He muttered while thinking about her. Samira was acting as the manager of his clinic so she was quite busy and couldn't accompany him. Janrose was also practicing how to make medicinal liquid so she wasn't available as well.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I know of a store that sells carriages and mounts." A voice sounded beside him. It was Rendell, the only person who can accompany him on this trip.

•••••

Aethelwolf didn't even bother to glance at him and he just stared at the view of the city. "Go tell Albert where to find this place." He said.

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf." Rendell answered and he then sat beside Albert in the coachman's seat.

Aethelwolf lifelessly sat inside the carriage for more than thirty minutes before they finally arrived at their destination. It was a big store owned by the Linaza Family and they sell all sorts of magical beasts. They also custom-make carriages and there are some ready-made ones that are already on display.

The family head of the Linaza Family is Brian Linaza, the Association Leader of the Merchant Association. He is one of the wealthiest individuals in the Leone Empire. His wealth has even exceeded the top nobles and his exact net worth could no longer be measured. Even the Imperial Family had no idea how wealthy the Linaza Family is right now.

Aethelwolf entered the store with Rendell and Albert following behind him.

Albert had already shaved his gray beard and goatee and he looked a lot younger now. Last time, he looked like a pitiful old man in his sixties, but after taking care of his hygiene, he seemed as if he had turned into a man in his early forties.

"Hello, guests! Are you looking for a specific magical beast?" It was an average-looking female employee who walked up to them with a smile. Her figure was perfectly proportional and her tightly fitted dress made her look more attractive.

Aethelwolf stared at her calmly and said. "We are looking for ready-made carriages and high-grade Equuses. It would be better if you can show them to us before we decide to buy anything."

The worker smiled gently when she heard this. Only the rich customers would look for expensive goods like those so she became extra respectful to Aethelwolf's group. "Our store has twelve ready-made carriages and the Equuses are inside the stable. Which one do you want to see first?"

"Let's look at the Equuses first." Aethelwolf answered.

The worker nodded her head in acknowledgment. "Alright. Please follow me to the stable."

She brought them to the back of the store where the stable was located. Since Equuses are popular in the market, the store has a huge stock of them and they even had their own breeding ground. The other magical beasts were placed in other storerooms.

"The store has seven high-grade Equuses. They are magical beasts at mid stage Level 2. They are priced at 1,000,000 gold coins each." The worker pointed at seven tall horses who emitted mountain-like auras.

Aethelwolf scanned the horses and they were indeed beautiful and mighty, but a pair of Equuses captured his attention. They were placed in a different enclosure and they were almost twice as large as the high-grade Equuses. Furthermore, the aura they emitted was that of an early stage Level 3 magical beast!

"What about those two? Are they for sale?" He pointed at the two behemoths among the Equuses.

The worker followed the direction he was pointing and she nodded her head with a smile. "Of course! Those two are king-grade Equuses. We used a lot of manpower to capture them. They are caught in the wild so their nature is ferocious. We tried to tame them for several months, but they still showed signs of aggression. Those two are quite strong, but I don't recommend you to purchase them if you want to use them for transportation purposes." She warned them.

Aethelwolf ignored her warning and asked. "How much for those two?"

"Eh? You still want to purchase them?" The worker was shocked and she couldn't help but look at him as if she was looking at a madman. Did he not hear my warning?

Aethelwolf nodded his head.

The worker sighed and replied in a worried tone. "They are still untrained so their value will drop. You can have the two of them for 10,000,000 gold coins." The price for a Level 3 magical beast normally starts at around ten million gold coins.

"Fine. I'll take them." Aethelwolf didn't even bother to haggle. He can just make a taming skill to tame those wild Equuses. It was already a great bargain to purchase two Level 3 magical beasts at that price.

The worker was shocked by his decisiveness. Her boss said that those two Equuses only has a market value of 3,000,000 gold coins each because they were still untamed. She didn't want them to be hurt so she offered them a high price. Who would have thought that this man wouldn't even hesitate to accept the price she set?

She wanted to say something, but when she saw Aethelwolf's calm expression, she swallowed down the words she was about to say. "Alright. You can take them later or we can also send them to your address once the payment is done."

Aethelwolf nodded his head.

"Are you also interested in aerial magical beasts? We happen to capture one a few weeks ago, but it is also an untamed one. This thing is very ferocious and it even injured a few of our people when we tried to tame it."

Rendell who was trying to keep his composure frowned as he shouted. "How dare you sell dangerous creatures to us?!"

The worker felt embarrassed, but before she could apologize to them, a voice suddenly sounded.

"Interesting. Take me to see it." It was the young man who seemed to be the leader of the three.

"Eh? Sir Aethelwolf, are you sure about this? Although aerial magical beasts are valuable, the one they have is untamed and we might not be able to tame it for several months or even a few years." Rendell said worriedly.

Albert was also surprised by Aethelwolf's decision, but he just remained silent.

133 Crazy Aethelwolf

The female worker stared at Aethelwolf in surprise. This man was actually interested in untamed magical beasts? 'Well, I already warned them earlier. I'm not even forcing them to buy...' She thought to herself. She would earn a lot from the two king-grade Equuses and if they would also buy the aerial magical beast, she would earn a commission that was equivalent to her one-year salary!

"Alright, gentlemen. Please follow me to the enclosure over there. It's quite big so we built that place for that creature. We even had to use reinforced magic metals to build it. After all, that giant bird is a peak Level 3 magical beast!" The worker said as she pointed at a huge building. She then called another worker to prepare the documentation for the two king-grade Equuses.

Aethelwolf turned his head to the building and noticed that it was indeed made with reinforced magical metals. It is sturdy enough to hold a Level 4 magical beast so if the aerial magical beast was only a Level 3 creature, it wouldn't be able to escape no matter how it would struggle.

When they arrived in front of the building, there were two Level 2 Espers guarding the entrance. The female worker spoke with them briefly before the two guards opened the door for them.

"Follow me inside. Remember not to provoke it." The female worker warned them in a serious voice.

Rendell felt quite worried as he followed behind Aethelwolf, while Albert silently looked ahead.

Upon entering the building, they saw a massive cage at the center. There was a beautiful fiery red bird inside the cage and its legs were tied up in thick metal chains. The large beast stared at them with its huge eyes.

Rendell gulped when he saw the creature staring at them. He felt that he wouldn't be able to survive one attack from that bird. It was dangerous!

Albert furrowed his eyebrows as he inspected the large creature.

....

"Excellent!" Aethelwolf's eyes lit up as he walked near the cage.

"Hey, wait! That's dangerous! Don't come near the cage!" The female worker nervously shouted as she jogged over to Aethelwolf. If a customer was hurt inside their store, it would negatively impact their business. She couldn't allow it to happen or she would end up losing her job.

Rendell and Albert also anxiously followed their boss.

Although the bird was trapped inside the cage, it could still summon its power.

Aethelwolf raised his hand calmly and said to the three people. "Don't follow me. It will be dangerous for you guys. Wait for me right there." He then turned his head to the female worker and asked. "By the way, how much is this little one right here?"

"L-Little one? Y-You mean that beast? Ah... It's 30,000,000 gold coins. A normal Level 3 magical beast will be priced at around 50,000,000 gold coins and aerial beasts like that one will go for 60,000,000 gold coins. However, it is still untamed so-"

"Alright. I'll take it." Aethelwolf didn't even let her continue speaking. His clinic's total earnings had already exceeded 100,000,000 gold coins. Even if he subtracts the purchasing amount of the ingredients for his pills and soaps, he would still have a lot of money left.

Aethelwolf took out a sack that contained gold cards. He then tossed it on the ground which caused a loud thud. "That sack contains 50,000,000 gold coins worth of money. You can check it if you want." He said to the stunned worker before moving near the cage.

Screech!

The bird emitted a loud cry as if warning Aethelwolf not to come near it. Its huge pair of eyes were glaring at him with obvious animosity. It hated the humans who captured it and restricted its freedom!

Albert went in front of Rendell and the female worker and summoned an invisible shield to protect them from the beast's aura.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf merely smiled at the face of the ferocious beast's warning. He didn't even bother to put up any defense. His body alone can withstand the power of a Level 3 magical beast.

"This... Who is that guy?" The worker absentmindedly asked.

Rendell snorted when he heard this. "I bet you are living like a turtle. You didn't even recognize Sir Aethelwolf." He muttered in disdain.

"Aethelwolf?!" The worker's eyes widened and she couldn't help but stare at the calm figure of the black-haired man. He was smiling at the huge beast.

To their amazement, they saw Aethelwolf extending his arms to the cage. He then grabbed the metal gate with both hands, causing it to bend unnaturally. He then went inside the cage in a relaxed manner.

The female worker was stunned when she saw this, and just as she was about to shout, she saw Albert shaking his head. "Don't disturb him. He knows what he is doing. Just take the sack and calculate the damages."

She nodded her head meekly and turned her head back to the cage.

The huge creature was also taken aback by the actions of this human. It tilted its head in confusion while looking at the human curiously. It couldn't sense fear from the human which was quite surprising since all the other humans who faced it were fearful of its might.

Aethelwolf used his skill [Appraise] on the creature and he was a bit shocked by what he discovered.

Peak Stage Level 3 [Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle]

- A mutated form of Fire Eagle after it had awakened a portion of its bloodline.

- Hidden bloodline [Fire Phoenix]

Aethelwolf covered his face with his hand and laughed loudly after reading the description.

"How amusing!" He exclaimed.

The three people outside the cage stared at him in confusion. Why did he laugh all of a sudden?

The female worker was even thinking that there might be something wrong with his head. 'Could it be that the famous Aethelwolf is actually a crazy lunatic?'

134 Beast Language

A series of disoriented footsteps echoed inside the building as a group of guards entered. Leading them were the two Level 2 guards that they met earlier.

A man dressed in fancy clothing suddenly stepped forward and asked the female worker in a cold tone. "What happened to the Fire Eagle just now?" He is the manager of the store and it was his responsibility to manage everything related to their business, including the safety of their customers.

When he heard the loud cry of the Fire Eagle from his office, he immediately summoned a group of guards to go with him.

"T-That..." The female worker bit her lower lip as she stared at the manager.

"Silence! We will take responsibility no matter what happens here!" A cold shout made everyone unconsciously take a step back. It was a middle-aged man with sword-like eyebrows and a sharp prominent jawline. He was the very definition of manliness just based on his appearance alone. It was Albert Nicholas, the commander of Aethelwolf's guards. Now that he was following Aethelwolf, he has to maintain the image of his lord even if he has to provoke some people!

The manager frowned as he turned his gaze to Albert, but his eyes suddenly widened when he saw what was happening inside the cage. "Who the hell broke the cage?! Who is that man?! Quick! Capture him and don't let the Fire Eagle escape!" He roared at the guards.

Albert sent a signal to Rendell with his eyes and the two reached a tacit agreement.

Rendell walked to the manager and slapped the man's neck lightly.

•••••

Thud.

The manager immediately collapsed to the ground and he wasn't even able to emit a cry as he fell. The guards were stunned by the sudden turn of events and they immediately surrounded Rendell with hostile gazes.

"I suggest you guys back off if you don't want to get hurt. I already told you that we will take responsibility for whatever will happen here today. Just wait for Sir Aethelwolf to finish his objective and we will pay for all the damages that will be done to your store." Albert muttered coldly.

"Level 3 Esper!"

"That guy is a Level 3 Esper!"

"Is he saying that the person inside the cage is Sir Aethelwolf? Isn't that the name of the guy who was said to be a Level 4 Alchemist?"

The guards immediately retreated when they sensed his overpowering aura.

The female worker heaved a sigh of relief, but she soon became nervous after thinking about the consequences of today's events. The owner of the store might not do something to her, but the manager was different. She was afraid that the manager would use this chance to kick her out of the store. Thinking about this, she sobbed quietly.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf was slowly walking nearer to the Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle. The beast immediately screeched loudly when it sensed his approach.

"Let's see if this works..." He muttered as he activated his skills [Tame] and [Beast Language].

"Calm down, buddy. I'm here to help you escape. Don't you want to leave this place? I can help you." He said in a gentle tone.

The ferocity in the eyes of the Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle slowly decreased when it heard the human's voice that was filled with charm, but it soon became surprised because it was able to understand the human's words.

"You know how to speak Beast Language?" The Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle looked at him in amazement. Only magical beasts are able to understand each other while humans and the other humanoid species will never be able to understand them. Many scholars tried to decipher and translate the language of the magical beasts, but even after many centuries of research, they ended up learning nothing. The research was deemed impossible and no one studied the Beast Language after that.

Aethelwolf grinned when he heard the beast's charming womanly voice. "That's right! I know how to speak the Beast Language. Though I have to remind you that in the entire Regalis Continent, I might be the only person capable of doing this."

"You must be special since you know how to speak our language. Can you really help me escape here?" It asked Aethelwolf while tilting its large bird head.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and replied. "Of course, but I don't plan to do it for free. After all, I will be using a large portion of my resources to get you out of here."

The beast narrowed its eyes upon hearing this. It then walked closer to Aethelwolf, causing the chains tied to its legs to produce clanking sounds as they hit the floor. "What do you want from me?"

Aethelwolf wasn't nervous now that he was able to understand the creature. Furthermore, its voice was similar to that of a teenage young lady. Even if it was angry, it only sounded cute to his ears. "Stay with me for a year and after one year is over, you can choose to leave or continue staying with me. What do you think? Do we have a deal, little sister?" He chuckled teasingly.

"Did you just call me little sister? Interesting! A human actually called me little sister..." It then tilted its head and looked at Aethelwolf with its large eyes. "Just one year you say? Fine. I agree to your offer." The beast emitted a strange sound as if it was laughing.

"Good! You won't regret this! I assure you that!" Aethelwolf touched the creature's sharp beak. It felt as if he was touching a large piece of hard metal.

The Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle wasn't angered by his touch. It only felt amused by the strange human's uniqueness. It was the first time it encountered a human as special as this guy.

Outside the cage, everyone stared at the man and giant bird with dumbfounded expressions. A wild untamed beast was now allowing a human to touch it! Who would believe this?

"Can someone punch me? I think I'm seeing things..."

Pah!

"Hey! Why did you punch me?!"

135 Olivia

Suddenly, Aethelwolf blasted the cage open with a simple kick, scaring everyone out of their wits. The metal steel bar caused a loud rumbling sound as soon as it hit the floor. Everyone took a few steps back while looking cautiously at the destroyed cage.

"Don't hurt anyone randomly, okay? Humans are governed by a set of rules so if you end up hurting them, you will be in trouble. There are a few humans out there who are as strong as me and they might kill you if you cause a lot of trouble." Aethelwolf spoke to the beast in a warning tone. It was still a wild creature in the eyes of other people so he had to make sure that it wouldn't hurt anyone

The huge bird tilted its head as it looked at Aethelwolf. "I know. I will be careful." It replied.

"Good! Let's go. Remember to keep your promise." Aethelwolf smiled as he signaled for the beast to follow him.

The Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle hesitated for a moment, but when it saw Aethelwolf's genuine smile, the large bird decided to trust the human and took its first step outside the cage. The feeling of freedom made the creature happy and it immediately spread its crimson wings and let out a loud screech that shook the store and the nearby buildings.

Aethelwolf chuckled when he saw this, but he didn't stop it from celebrating its freedom. He then turned his gaze to the female worker who was absentmindedly looking at him. He noticed trails of wet tears on her cheeks and this made him furrow his eyebrows. He then realized that his actions this time caused a lot of trouble for this poor worker. He sighed and walked towards her. "If you lose your job, I'll hire you as the head maid of my mansion. My clinic already has sufficient workers so I can't let you work there. If you don't mind, you can visit my mansion later if you truly end up being fired. I'm sorry. It must have been hard on you." He patted her shoulder gently. He felt sorry for her and he vowed that he would be more careful in the future. One simple mistake on his part could potentially ruin the lives of others.

When she heard his words, the female worker's lifeless eyes regained color. She stared at Aethelwolf with hope as she asked. "I-I w-will work for you. Even if they won't kick me out, I've been planning to leave the store for a long time. I just haven't found another place to work. I've had enough of the manager..." She then sobbed quietly and Aethelwolf could only pat her back. This woman must have been through a lot for her to break down like this. Aethelwolf wasn't surprised since many commoners suffer from harsh treatment.

Aethelwolf turned his head at Rendell and said. "Take the sack. We will purchase the carriage and leave the store after that."

.....

Rendell acknowledged his command with a nod of his head. He then grabbed the sack which was filled with gold cards.

"Please tell your boss that Aethelwolf came here to buy the aerial magical beast. Send someone to my mansion after you have calculated the total value of the damage I caused." Aethelwolf helped the female worker to get up after saying those words to the guards of the store.

The guards stared at each other and nodded their heads in acknowledgment. This man was Aethelwolf! Even their boss, Brian Linaza, has to be careful around him.

"Tell them to open the main gate. I have to take that little guy out." Aethelwolf said to the female worker.

"Hyacinth. That's my name." The female worker muttered before she went to the guards.

Aethelwolf stared at her briefly before he turned his gaze to the Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle. "Hey, little sister. Do you have a name?" He asked while speaking in Beast Language.

Strange sounds came out of his mouth. Everyone inside the building stared at him in confusion. Was he speaking to the Fire Eagle?

The Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle tilted its large bird head, showing a perplexed look. "Name? What is that?"

"Eh? You don't have a name? How should I say this? A name is something given to you the moment you are born. We humans give our newborns a name as a symbol of identity and to mark their place in our world. I was given the name Aethelwolf. What do you think? Do you want to have one? I can give you a name." He smiled at the silent beast.

It muttered with its head down. "Name... Identity..." After a moment of silence, it raised its head and stared at Aethelwolf. "Give me a name."

Aethelwolf grinned and nodded his head. "From now on, your name will be Olivia..."

The Mutated Four-Winged Fire Eagle felt its heart throbbing unusually the moment it heard its name. "Olivia. I am Olivia..." For some reason, Aethelwolf felt that she was happy.

Creak!

The large gate of the building was opened, showing the clear sky outside.

Aethelwolf's group followed Hyacinth, while Olivia carefully trailed behind them. She even used her power to make sure that she won't damage the ground with her incredibly large feet.

"Sir Aethelwolf, is it really fine for that thing to go out freely?" Hyacinth stared nervously at the ferocious-looking Fire Eagle. The chains that bound it was already removed by Aethelwolf so nothing was restricting its movements. It could fly off if it wanted, but strangely enough, the beast didn't show any signs of escaping. It just followed behind them while looking around curiously.

"Relax. It won't fly away. Even if it escapes, I'll still pay for it. Just show us the carriages so that we can leave here. I believe you don't want to stay in this store anymore." He chuckled softly.

Hyacinth nodded her head. Since he was confident, she could only follow his words.

Aethelwolf told Olivia to stay still while they were looking for the perfect carriage. They ended up choosing the most expensive one they have which was priced at 50,000 gold coins. It was very cheap compared to the magical beasts he bought.

After paying for everything, Aethelwolf went to look for Olivia and saw the huge Fire Eagle squatting obediently. She didn't even leave the spot where they left her.

Seeing this, Aethelwolf couldn't resist laughing at the adorable creature. She looked ferocious, but her personality was truly that of a little girl. "We still can't fly around since we need to have a flying license. Just walk with us for now."

"How troublesome..." Olivia grumbled but she still walked towards him like a docile pet.

136 Gift

Aethelwolf went back to the enclosure of the two King-Grade Equuses. The two beasts could also speak the Beast Language and he was able to convince them to work for him. They were much weaker than him and the two were a bit fearful of his profound aura.

He also gave them names. The dark-colored Equus received the name, Kerrin, while the white-colored Equus got the name, Alba. Both beasts emitted joyous sounds after getting their names. He wondered if all magical beasts were similar to them.

"Follow us, we'll take you guys home." Aethelwolf smiled at the two Equuses.

Soon, they finally got out of the store. Kerrin and Alba noticed that there were three humans waiting for them, but there was also a large Fire Eagle standing beside them. It looked ferocious and the sight of it made the two horses feel a bit nervous. However, they both have the pride of a King-Grade Equus, and despite their anxiety, they still followed Aethelwolf without any obvious change in their expressions.

Hyacinth stared at the two tall mounts walking behind Aethelwolf. Their Beast Masters tried all sorts of ways to tame those two, but they failed to achieve anything even after a long time. However, the two creatures were now following Aethelwolf obediently. It was a mystery how he was able to tame them in such a short amount of time.

Beast Masters are people who are proficient in handling magical beasts. They use all sorts of ways to tame magical beasts, but this profession wasn't popular.

"Tie the harness to them." Aethelwolf said to Rendell while pointing at Kerrin and Alba.

Rendell gulped hard when he heard the command, but he still nodded his head in acknowledgment. He then heard Aethelwolf speaking some weird words to the two creatures and after a moment, Rendell noticed that they were now looking at him. He felt a chill in his spine. 'Was he speaking to them? No way!' It seemed as if Aethelwolf was conversing with the beasts earlier and it even looked like they understood each other.

Rendell nervously tied the reigns and harness to the two Equuses. During the entire time, he felt as if he was sitting on pins and needles and just the slightest mistake would spell his doom. After everything was done, his butt plopped to the ground and he hurriedly wiped the sweat on his forehead. 'I survived! Yes!'

•••••

Both Equuses were stronger than him and just one kick from them was fatal to a Level 1 Esper. Luckily, nothing happened and the two mounts were strangely docile.

"Have you told your manager that you will be leaving?" Aethelwolf asked Hyacinth.

She shook her head and sneered in contempt. "That guy is still unconscious, but this is good too. I don't want to talk to him again. I'll just send a letter to the boss."

Aethelwolf chuckled when he heard this. "Alright. Let's go back to the mansion." He then pulled up Rendell who was still sitting on the ground. "You should train your heart more, buddy."

Rendell looked embarrassed when he heard his boss' words.

Soon, the new carriage started moving with a giant bird following behind it. The scene was so striking that it captured everyone's attention. Everyone cleared the path for them when they saw the ferocious-looking beast behind the carriage.

When they returned to the mansion, Aethelwolf let the three beasts roam around freely outside his mansion. His plot was quite big so they wouldn't feel suffocated.

"Call the guards. We will begin the restructuring process." Aethelwolf commanded Albert.

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf." Albert bowed his head and he immediately summoned the guards and told them to gather in the open field.

Looking at the two thousand guards, Aethelwolf smiled in satisfaction. "Some of you are not Espers and working for me might be very dangerous so everyone here will receive a meeting gift from me. Just take it as additional compensation for working under me." He said as he gave a signal to Hyacinth and Rendell.

The two of them were already taught what they would do when they get his signal. They pushed one cart each and both carts were filled with wooden boxes of two kinds.

"Since you are working for me, I believe that you have already heard about the pills I sell in my clinic." Hearing this, the eyes of the two thousand guards widened in surprise. Was their boss planning to give them those pills?

"The normal guards will receive one Awakening Pellet, while the others can get one Vigor Pellet!" Aethelwolf added.

His words made the guards cheer joyfully. Both pills were precious and although they could buy them if they saved up months of their salary, it was something given to them for free!

Rendell and Hyacinth distributed the pills to everyone.

The guards smiled from ear to ear after getting their pills. They couldn't wait to consume it, but they refrained from doing so without Aethelwolf's command.

"As long as you wholeheartedly work for me and give me your loyalty, you will receive more benefits like this." Aethelwolf said with a smile, but his face suddenly turned serious as he added. "However, to keep enjoying my resources, you will have to work harder and never betray my trust!"

His words contained a sense of suppression that made everyone lower their heads. They almost forgot that their boss was also a mighty Level 4 Esper!

"Sir Aethelwolf, I offer my absolute loyalty to you!" Albert suddenly kneeled to show his allegiance. Rendell and Hyacinth also followed suit and kneeled before Aethelwolf.

Aethelwolf's eyes narrowed and he smirked at their antics. 'Albert is truly a smart man.' With someone taking the initiative to offer his allegiance, the guards soon kneeled one by one.

Not long later, all two thousand guards were kneeling before him and he only used the pills that he made in one night to achieve this. It was worth his effort!

"Get up! You will be serving the Lassiter Household from now on! I will let Albert announce your new positions. Work hard and you will be promoted based on your merits and service." Aethelwolf turned around and left after saying those words.

Rendell and Hyacinth immediately followed behind him.

Aethelwolf was smoking a cigar on the balcony of his mansion. He was staring at the three beasts who were obviously bored after playing in the open field for a few hours. He was thinking about what he should do next now that he had dealt with the restructuring of his guards.

"Sir Aethelwolf, what is that thing?" He suddenly heard the curious voice of Hyacinth behind him. He turned his head at her and smiled while pointing at the cigar in between his lips. "You mean this? It's called a cigar and it can help me adjust my mood to normal. Do you want to try?"

His cigar is different from the ones that existed in his old world. The ingredients he used to make them were all healthy and it can even make his airways clearer. Other than that, prolonged usage of his cigar could also improve one's physical body.

Hyacinth looked curiously at the cigar as she nodded her head.

Aethelwolf handed her a piece and lit it up with his golden flames. "It's simple to smoke a cigar, but I won't teach you. It would be fun if you learn it by yourself." He chuckled. Hyacinth was watching him earlier so she has an idea of how to use it. She sucked on the cigar, but it made her cough violently.

Aethelwolf laughed and said. "Don't be too impatient. For a beginner like you, just inhale in small amounts first."

Knock! Knock! Knock!

•••••

There were knocking sounds on the door and Aethelwolf immediately turned his head and saw that it was Rendell.

"Sir Aethelwolf, Sir Henry has sent someone. He is now waiting at the entrance of the mansion. He already prepared a carriage for you." Rendell reported.

Aethelwolf's eyes lit up upon hearing this. Henry was building his clothing shop and it should be done by now. "Alright. Take me to see him." He then turned his gaze to Hyacinth and said. "Come with us. You should start familiarizing yourself with the people we are acquainted with. Next time, you will be the one dealing with them."

Hyacinth was still holding the cigar between her fingers. It was something she learned by watching Aethelwolf. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf." She nodded her head.

Before leaving the mansion, Aethelwolf seriously warned Olivia and the other two beasts to behave themselves while he was away.

"If you guys don't cause trouble, I will make something for the three of you. I believe that it would be useful for magical beasts like you so stay here obediently and don't hurt anyone." He stared at the three beasts, but they didn't seem to be listening to him.

"I want to go with you. This place is boring. I might not be able to hold back the urge to beat up some humans if I remain here for a long time. Please bring me with you." Olivia tilted her large bird head as she looked at Aethelwolf with eyes filled with hope.

"We also want to go! Don't leave us here! The taste of the grass here is bland. We want to eat something else." Kerrin and Alba expressed their discontent.

Black lines appeared on his forehead when he heard their words. "Fine, but remember what we agreed upon before. Don't-"

"Don't hurt anyone. Yes, we already know it. Come on! Let's leave this place already!" The three beasts paced around restlessly.

Aethelwolf's mouth twitched. They were magical beasts and creatures like them are supposed to live in the forest and not be confined to human territory. It was

understandable that they would be restless since they weren't domesticated magical beasts. Thinking about this, he said. "Alright. Alright. Just don't cause trouble once we arrive at our destination."

"Rendell, we will be using our carriage. Tie these two up."

"O-Okay." Rendell stared at the two tall Equuses. They were looking at him with harmless looks, but Rendell wouldn't be fooled by their appearance. He knew that if Aethelwolf wasn't here, these two creatures would certainly beat him up if he rubbed them the wrong way.

"Hyacinth, send someone to the Citizen Information Bureau. Tell them to create ten insignias for us using this design and tell them to inform the bureau that it will be the symbol of our Lassiter Household." Aethelwolf handed the insignia he got from the Citizen Information Bureau to Hyacinth. He also handed her a small sack that was filled with gold cards.

Hyacinth nodded her head and hurriedly went back to the mansion to look for some people to do the task. She also decided to send four guards to go with the servants to ensure their safety.

After everything was prepared, Aethelwolf went inside the carriage with Hyacinth and Rendell, while Albert was the one responsible for driving the carriage. He planned to nurture these three so decided to bring them with him. He couldn't just do all things on his own because it would exhaust him so he would train people he could trust and let them represent him in the future.

Rendell is a trustworthy young man who has the talent to become an expert. If he is nurtured well, he might even become the strongest Esper under his command. Next was Albert, a veteran commander who has a wide range of experience in combat and warfare. At the moment, he was Aethelwolf's strongest subordinate and he might be the first one to become a Level 4 Esper among his people. And the last person was the newly hired Hyacinth. Although Aethelwolf hasn't seen what she was fully capable of, he believed that he could train her management skill. She would be a valuable person once she managed to learn his teachings.

While he was absorbed in his thoughts, they soon arrived at the location of his clothing shop. It was a three-story building with a portion of its wall made of transparent glass. The building wasn't completely finished and there were still some workers fixing the roof of the building.

"Sir Aethelwolf, we're here." Albert's voice woke him up from his thoughts.

138 Conflict

"Hello, Sir Aethelwolf! I'm sorry for not being there to personally invite you to come to the site. I have to be here to ensure the productivity of our workers. I don't want a mistake to happen in the construction of your clothing shop." Henry shook hands with Aethelwolf.

"No problem. I'm happy that you are placing great importance on the creation of my clothing shop. I believe that the payment and the contract have already been dealt with by Samira." Aethelwolf smiled at Henry. The latter has deep eyebags, a clear indication that he hasn't slept well in the last few days. Henry must have put a lot of work to construct his clothing shop.

Henry nodded his head. "Miss Samira has already sent the advance payment and she already signed the contract on your behalf. I invited you here for a different matter. As you can see, the building is almost finished. You gave us the design of the building, but you didn't input a detail about the style of furniture that will be placed inside the clothing shop so I let my people design the furniture. I went to find Miss Samira, but she told me to let you choose the design. You just have to choose among the designs here, Sir Aethelwolf." He handed Aethelwolf a folder.

Aethelwolf took the folder and scanned the designs. Everything looked great so he chose a design that seemed to fit perfectly with the architecture of the building. "This one." He said as he handed the folder back to Henry. "By the way, Henry. This is Hyacinth and she will be working as my personal assistant. I will be busy in the coming days so if you need anything, just send someone to inform her."

Hyacinth bowed her head lightly at Henry. "It's a pleasure to meet you, Sir Henry. I've heard a lot about you from Sir Aethelwolf."

Henry grinned when he heard that and he extended his hand to her. "Nice to meet you." He then turned his head at Aethelwolf and said.

"Sir Aethelwolf, there's actually one more thing. The Leader of the Merchant Association, Brian Linaza, will be hosting a banquet in his mansion. It's an annual celebration for the establishment of the Merchant Association. The elites of the empire will be there and it's a great chance to interact with people in the business circle. Sir Brian told me to give this invitation card to you." Henry handed him a card with golden edges.

Aethelwolf's eyes narrowed as he took the invitation card. This was a banquet where the upper echelons of the Leone Empire will gather. It was a great opportunity for him since he would need a lot of support to expand his business in other districts or cities.

"Is there a limit to how many people I can bring?" He asked in a low voice. It would be nice if he could bring some of his subordinates. Henry nodded his head and replied. "Yes. You can check your invitation card. It varies from person to person. Some can only bring one or two with them, while top nobles can bring more than three people."

Aethelwolf removed the seal on the invitation card and read the contents carefully. He saw that he can bring five people with him and this left him satisfied. From the looks of it, the Leader of the Merchant Association thought so highly of him.

"The banquet will be held two days after the end of the battle event. I can make some time to go there." Aethelwolf said while keeping the invited card inside his storage space.

Screech!

Aethelwolf immediately turned his head when he heard Olivia's enraged cry. He saw that there was a group of noble youths holding stones in their hands and he understood what happened right away.

Olivia was glaring at the kids, but she didn't attack them. However, there was an overwhelming killing intent suffusing in her eyes. 'These goddamn humans! If not for my promise I would have swallowed these little bastards right here! Dammit!' She roared in her heart.

Aethelwolf went to them and he noticed that Rendell and Albert were in verbal conflict with the parents of those children.

A man dressed in luxurious clothes pointed at Rendell's nose as he shouted. "How uncouth! Is that your tamed beast? How can you let it act so aggressively in Lion City?! Sell it to me and I'll forget this matter!"

Rendell was enraged by the arrogance displayed by the man. "We already rejected you earlier and now you're ordering your children to hurt our magical beast to intentionally make it angry? You think we're blind?!" He yelled at the man. He wouldn't have done this before, but he was now working for Aethelwolf and he didn't want his boss to lose face just because of him.

The man's face contorted in fury when he heard Rendell's words. "A fucking servant like you actually dares to shout at a noble?! Have you not been taught by your master to respect those with great status?! That's why I hate speaking with low-class commoners like you pe-" Before he could even say anything, a figure emerged behind him and slapped him hard in the face.

Rendell stared at Albert in shock.

"You can insult us, but not our Lord." Albert muttered in a cold voice.

The commotion immediately attracted many people and there were even guards who are coming to stop the fight.

"Halt! Fighting inside the city is prohibited!" The guard's warned them.

The man who had been slapped by Albert immediately went to the guards and pointed at Albert with an angry look. "That guy attacked a noble! Detain him and his companion!"

The guards frowned when they looked at Albert and Rendell. Both men were Espers and they couldn't even sense Albert's power. That means the man was a lot stronger than them!

The guards were in a dilemma. The other party was a noble while the opposing side has a high-level Esper. Both parties were difficult to deal with and they would need a highranking guard captain to deal with the situation. Unfortunately, no guard captain was present in the area.

Chapter 139 Hugo Ward

Hyacinth, Henry, and Aethelwolf arrived at the scene.

"That guy is Nicodel Ward from the Ward Household. He is the younger brother of their family head, Hugo Ward. Nicodel is tough to deal with since he has the backing of his brother. You have to be careful." Henry whispered to Aethelwolf. He visited Aethelwolf's mansion in the last few days so he knew that Rendell was his subordinate.

"Ward Household?" Aethelwolf's face was calm, but Hyacinth and Henry felt the coldness in his voice. They didn't know what would happen if an expert like Aethelwolf would erupt into fury.

When Aethelwolf walked towards the two opposing sides, Henry immediately commanded his subordinates. "Quick! Notify the Black Lion Army and the nearest guard captains about the situation! Hurry up!"

Hyacinth nervously followed Aethelwolf, clueless as to what she would do. She was only a commoner before she decided to work for Aethelwolf and she still felt afraid of confronting nobles.

As they got nearer, they heard Nicodel shouting arrogantly. "How much is it?! Just tell me how much that beast is and I'll let this matter go!"

"Enough! Do you really plan to ruin our Ward Household's reputation?!" An exasperated voice echoed in the street.

Everyone turned their heads and saw a middle-aged man with neatly combed short black hair. He was dressed like a thug leader, but everyone could identify the symbol drawn on his shirt. A coiling three-headed snake, the symbol of the Ward Household!

"Brother!" Nicodel's expression changed when he saw this person. It was his brother, the family head of the Ward Household, Hugo Ward!

•••••

There were more than ten Espers escorting Hugo and two of them were even Level 3 Espers!

Hugo slapped Nicodel's face, leaving a red palm print on Nicodel's left cheek. "B-Brother, what..."

"I said enough!" Hugo glared at his brother and turned his head to Aethelwolf. He then walked towards the man with an apologetic look on his face.

Nicodel stared at his brother in disbelief. It was the first time he had been slapped by his brother and he even did it in front of many people. He was a reckless man, but he still knew how to think. He noticed that his brother was walking towards a certain person and when he saw this person, Nicodel's eyes suddenly widened in fright. 'Did I just mess up with Aethelwolf's people?! Shit! No wonder brother slapped me!'

"Sir Aethelwolf, I apologize for this matter. My foolish brother didn't know that the magical beast is yours. I promise that I'll punish him for his actions. I will also send someone to your mansion to compensate for the damage done to your magical beast." Hugo smiled apologetically.

Aethelwolf expressionlessly stared at Hugo as he said in a cold voice devoid of emotion. "It seems like the nobles are treating me lightly. First, it was the Rayden Household and now it's your people. Do I look like an easy target to you?"

Hugo was also a Level 4 Esper, but under Aethelwolf's intimidating aura, he couldn't even muster the guts to rebuke him. He took a deep breath and slowly raised his head as he met Aethelwolf's icy gaze. "Beat up that stupid brother of mine. Don't stop until I tell you to." He muttered through gritted teeth as he gave a hand signal to his subordinates.

His subordinates were taken aback by his commands, but they still acknowledged it. They then pounced at the dumbstruck Nicodel and rained punches on him.

Pah! Pah! Pah!

Hugo was shaking in anger, but he still forced out an ugly smile as he faced Aethelwolf. "Are you happy with this, Sir Aethelwolf?" Aethelwolf was still looking straight at Hugo, making the latter hold his breath in fear. He didn't know why, but the young man in front of him was giving off a dangerous aura. It was similar to that of a vicious beast that was looking at its prey.

After a moment, Aethelwolf retracted his gaze and said. "Let's go back to the mansion." He then turned around and said to Henry. "Just inform Hyacinth when the construction is done. We'll take our leave first." He then went inside his carriage without waiting for Henry's reply.

Hyacinth bowed her head lightly at Henry before following Aethelwolf to the carriage. Albert and Rendell also followed soon after.

Olivia glared at the children who threw stones at her earlier. She then trailed behind the carriage with loud footsteps.

Henry could only sigh as he looked at them disappearing into the distance.

Meanwhile, Hugo also raised his hand to stop his subordinates. He stared at the unconscious Nicodel with a furious look as he muttered. "Lock him up in the mansion and don't let him escape!"

Hugo had long since noticed the commotion earlier, but he chose to let his brother do as he pleased. However, when he spotted Aethelwolf walking with such a ferocious look, he immediately jumped into the scene before his brother fucked up everything. 'Dammit! Who would have thought that those guys were actually Aethelwolf's people?! Hmph! I'll let you enjoy your prestige now, but once chaos descends, let's see if you can still maintain that haughty look of yours, Aethelwolf!' He roared in his heart. In his mind, he added Aethelwolf to his kill list.

As someone who had defected to the Northern Viper Group, he knew some key information about their plans. He was only waiting for the right opportunity to strike and when that happens, he will show everyone the power of the Ward Household!

Rendell and Hyacinth didn't dare say anything throughout the journey. Although Aethelwolf now looked calm, they believed that he was still furious.

'Strange... My anger is gone just like that. This skill [Demon Heart] is a bit scary. It's making me turn into an aloof person.' Aethelwolf thought to himself. He was able to quickly calm his emotion because of his skill.

"Let's go to the clinic." Aethelwolf said in a calm voice.

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf." Albert who was driving the carriage immediately changed directions when he heard the command.

"I heard that Ward Household's young lord has joined the battle event. I think it would be interesting if Janrose beats him up in an overwhelming manner..." Aethelwolf muttered silently.

Hyacinth and Rendell who were sitting beside him immediately stiffened when they heard his words.

When they arrived at the clinic, Aethelwolf first checked the sales statistics. He noticed that the demand for his items soared by more than three times in the last few days and the supply wouldn't be able to keep up if this trend continues. He was the only person capable of refining his pills and no one also knew the recipe for his soaps. The customers might be dissatisfied if he placed more limitations on their purchasing numbers. This would only be solved if he has more people to make the soaps and pills for him.

'I should make a soap factory to keep up with the rising demand. The process of making soap isn't difficult and even normal people can do it as long as they have the equipment and ingredients. As for the pills, it looks like I also need to look for capable Alchemists... What about Sir Johann? Can I trust that old man? Hmm...' Aethelwolf contemplated deeply as he sat on a chair.

"Sir Aethelwolf, here's your tea." Janrose lightly bowed her head as she handed him a cup of tea. There was no battle event today so she volunteered to help in the clinic.

"Thanks. Just put it on the table." Aethelwolf said. He then looked at Janrose and told her. "Bring Samira here. I have something to tell her."

Janrose nodded her head at his command. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf." Her teacher looked serious at this moment so she didn't want to bother him. She had many questions related to Alchemy, but she decided to ask him another time.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Come inside." Aethelwolf said when he heard the knocking on the door.

Samira came inside his office with a smile on her face. "Janrose told me that you are looking for me. Is there anything I can do for you?"

Aethelwolf pointed at the chair in front of him and said. "Sit down first."

•••••

Looking at his serious expression, Samira realized that the matter was important. She immediately took a seat and asked. "What is it?"

"You are close with Anna, right?" Aethelwolf stared at her calmly.

Samira nodded her head. "Why are you asking about her?"

Aethelwolf adjusted his sitting posture and moved his head closer to her as he replied. "I believe you have already seen the sales statistics. Our supply wouldn't be able to keep in the long run with me as the sole maker of our products. If the time comes that I would be gone for a long while, the clinic's supply will be exhausted and we might lose our customers. More than ninety percent of our sales come from our products and losing all of that would be disastrous to the clinic."

Samira furrowed her eyebrows as she listened closely to his words. She had also been thinking about this matter, but she knew that Aethelwolf was yet to find someone he could trust to make those products for him. She was a smart woman and she immediately guessed why he was asking about Anna. "Do you plan to hire Sir Johann? Will he even agree?" She asked with an uncertain tone.

Johann might be indebted to Aethelwolf, but the old man was still a Level 4 Esper as well as a Level 3 Alchemist. It would be difficult to hire a person as capable as that.

Aethelwolf let out a smile when he heard her words. "What do you think could make him work for me? Something that only I, Aethelwolf, can offer him..."

Samira's eyes widened as realization dawned on her. "You plan to help him become a Level 4 Alchemist!?" She abruptly rose to her feet while looking at Aethelwolf in disbelief.

Aethelwolf merely chuckled in reply.

Samira immediately grabbed her seat and put it closer to Aethelwolf. She then whispered. "Can you really do that?"

Aethelwolf took a small sip of his tea before he answered. "Others might not be able to do it, but to me, helping someone reach the standard of a Level 4 Alchemist is easy. Besides, Sir Johann already has the foundation to become one. He just lacks sufficient knowledge of how to properly control his Pill Fire. I'm confident that I can make him become a Level 4 Alchemist in less than a month of training."

Samira gasped in shock. If those words came from someone else's mouth, she would have brushed it off as nonsense, but the man in front of her has already proven himself to be capable of doing this.

Aethelwolf smiled and took another sip of his tea. He waited for Samira to calm down.

"What do you want me to do?" Samida asked with a light of excitement in her eyes. If they managed to get Sir Johann's support, the clinic's operation would become more stable and it would also strengthen the relationship between Aethelwolf and Johann. If that happens, the Reynolds Household would also receive some benefits. Aethelwolf placed the teacup on the table before he replied. "I'll let you handle this matter. You have to do whatever it takes to get Sir Johann's support. If he doesn't show interest, just tell him what I told you earlier. I believe he would come running to our doorstep once he hears about it."

"Alright, but you have to promise me one thing." Samira looked at him with a smile.

"What is it? As long as it is not unreasonable, I'll do my best." Aethelwolf chuckled. This girl really loved to take advantage of him.

"I heard that you've been teaching Janrose Alchemy and she's even visiting you late at night. I just want to join you guys during these sessions. You see, I also love to learn Alchemy..." Samira smiled with narrowed eyes.

Aethelwolf almost sprayed the tea he was drinking when he heard this. 'That goddamn Rendell! I'll tell Olivia to beat up that brat later!'

He didn't want to lose composure in front of her so he immediately said with a crafty smile. "Sure. You can stay at the mansion starting tonight and I will train you together with Janrose. It would be more fun with you around..."

140 It Would Be More Fun With You Around

When they arrived at the clinic, Aethelwolf first checked the sales statistics. He noticed that the demand for his items soared by more than three times in the last few days and the supply wouldn't be able to keep up if this trend continues. He was the only person capable of refining his pills and no one also knew the recipe for his soaps. The customers might be dissatisfied if he placed more limitations on their purchasing numbers. This would only be solved if he has more people to make the soaps and pills for him.

'I should make a soap factory to keep up with the rising demand. The process of making soap isn't difficult and even normal people can do it as long as they have the equipment and ingredients. As for the pills, it looks like I also need to look for capable Alchemists... What about Sir Johann? Can I trust that old man? Hmm...' Aethelwolf contemplated deeply as he sat on a chair.

"Sir Aethelwolf, here's your tea." Janrose lightly bowed her head as she handed him a cup of tea. There was no battle event today so she volunteered to help in the clinic.

"Thanks. Just put it on the table." Aethelwolf said. He then looked at Janrose and told her. "Bring Samira here. I have something to tell her."

Janrose nodded her head at his command. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf." Her teacher looked serious at this moment so she didn't want to bother him. She had many questions related to Alchemy, but she decided to ask him another time.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Come inside." Aethelwolf said when he heard the knocking on the door.

Samira came inside his office with a smile on her face. "Janrose told me that you are looking for me. Is there anything I can do for you?"

Aethelwolf pointed at the chair in front of him and said. "Sit down first."

.....

Looking at his serious expression, Samira realized that the matter was important. She immediately took a seat and asked. "What is it?"

"You are close with Anna, right?" Aethelwolf stared at her calmly.

Samira nodded her head. "Why are you asking about her?"

Aethelwolf adjusted his sitting posture and moved his head closer to her as he replied. "I believe you have already seen the sales statistics. Our supply wouldn't be able to keep in the long run with me as the sole maker of our products. If the time comes that I would be gone for a long while, the clinic's supply will be exhausted and we might lose our customers. More than ninety percent of our sales come from our products and losing all of that would be disastrous to the clinic."

Samira furrowed her eyebrows as she listened closely to his words. She had also been thinking about this matter, but she knew that Aethelwolf was yet to find someone he could trust to make those products for him. She was a smart woman and she immediately guessed why he was asking about Anna. "Do you plan to hire Sir Johann? Will he even agree?" She asked with an uncertain tone.

Johann might be indebted to Aethelwolf, but the old man was still a Level 4 Esper as well as a Level 3 Alchemist. It would be difficult to hire a person as capable as that.

Aethelwolf let out a smile when he heard her words. "What do you think could make him work for me? Something that only I, Aethelwolf, can offer him..."

Samira's eyes widened as realization dawned on her. "You plan to help him become a Level 4 Alchemist!?" She abruptly rose to her feet while looking at Aethelwolf in disbelief.

Aethelwolf merely chuckled in reply.

Samira immediately grabbed her seat and put it closer to Aethelwolf. She then whispered. "Can you really do that?"

Aethelwolf took a small sip of his tea before he answered. "Others might not be able to do it, but to me, helping someone reach the standard of a Level 4 Alchemist is easy. Besides, Sir Johann already has the foundation to become one. He just lacks sufficient knowledge of how to properly control his Pill Fire. I'm confident that I can make him become a Level 4 Alchemist in less than a month of training."

Samira gasped in shock. If those words came from someone else's mouth, she would have brushed it off as nonsense, but the man in front of her has already proven himself to be capable of doing this.

Aethelwolf smiled and took another sip of his tea. He waited for Samira to calm down.

"What do you want me to do?" Samida asked with a light of excitement in her eyes. If they managed to get Sir Johann's support, the clinic's operation would become more stable and it would also strengthen the relationship between Aethelwolf and Johann. If that happens, the Reynolds Household would also receive some benefits.

Aethelwolf placed the teacup on the table before he replied. "I'll let you handle this matter. You have to do whatever it takes to get Sir Johann's support. If he doesn't show interest, just tell him what I told you earlier. I believe he would come running to our doorstep once he hears about it."

"Alright, but you have to promise me one thing." Samira looked at him with a smile.

"What is it? As long as it is not unreasonable, I'll do my best." Aethelwolf chuckled. This girl really loved to take advantage of him.

"I heard that you've been teaching Janrose Alchemy and she's even visiting you late at night. I just want to join you guys during these sessions. You see, I also love to learn Alchemy..." Samira smiled with narrowed eyes.

Aethelwolf almost sprayed the tea he was drinking when he heard this. 'That goddamn Rendell! I'll tell Olivia to beat up that brat later!'

He didn't want to lose composure in front of her so he immediately said with a crafty smile. "Sure. You can stay at the mansion starting tonight and I will train you together with Janrose. It would be more fun with you around..."