

The Herb King

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Aethelwolf introduced the group to Jade Kristine and she immediately sized them up. 'Other than Janrose and that girl, the other three are Level 3 Espers...' She thought.

"Everyone, this is Miss Jade Kristine, an Administrator of the Alchemy Tower." Everyone stared at Jade in shock when they heard her identity. Her authority was second only to the Supreme Director!

Jade Kristine was delighted when she heard him calling her miss instead of madam. It sounded a lot closer and more intimate.

The group chatted all the way until the banquet ended.

The second prince and some other nobles also joined their conversation and even Julie who was still reading earlier decided to join them.

Soon, a new clique was formed with Aethelwolf as their central figure. It was comprised of the Lassiter Household, Singler Household, Urgel Household, Reynolds Household, and some other noble households.

When the banquet ended, Hyacinth left together with Henry since she still has to deal with the clothing shop. Aethelwolf sent Ramiel and the three idle Level 3 guards to go with her. She was only a normal human so Aethelwolf sent those four to ensure her safety.

It was already nighttime when the banquet ended.

Aethelwolf was mentally exhausted, but since his 'weakened state' was already gone, he felt much better. He could already sense his vigorous world essence inside his Hegel and this made him feel comfortable.

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He went to the open field to search for Oliva, but he found her sleeping under a tree. She looked intimidating even in her sleep and her loud snores shook the earth.

Seeing this, he smiled and sat on a bench. He didn't wake her up since she looked tired. She must have been bored after waiting the entire day.

He smoked while waiting for the materials that would be sent by Brian to arrive.

Soon, a guard walked up to him and reported. "Sir Aethelwolf, a man is on his way here. He said that he has a package for you. According to him, it is from Sir Brian Linaza. We didn't stop him from entering, but there are ten guards silently following him."

Aethelwolf nodded his head. "Alright. Good job. Send the guards away and bring that man here."

The guard bowed his head. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf."

After about ten minutes, the guard returned with a bespectacled man dressed in fancy clothing.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I was sent here by Sir Brian to deliver this to you. He said that you can pay him in person when you two meet again." The bespectacled man handed a storage ring to him. "I won't stay for long, Sir Aethelwolf. Farewell."

Aethelwolf took the storage ring and inspected the contents before he waved his hand at the man. "Alright. You may leave."

After they left, Aethelwolf found a secluded spot and began his preparations.

He closed his eyes and focused on the knowledge about smithing. He was already a Level 4 Blacksmith and all sorts of information about smithing entered his head.

Heating...

Holding...

Hitting...

Shaping...

He opened his eyes after sorting out his thoughts. He then organized the materials and started the smithing process.

He was planning to make a necklace for Olivia and making a piece of jewelry requires intricate and delicate control of world essence so he has to be careful in handling the materials.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Olivia who was sleeping under a tree was startled awake by the hammering sounds. She glared at the origin of the noise and spotted a person who seemed to be hitting something using a normal-looking hammer. "Aethelwolf?" She tilted her bird head in confusion after identifying the person.

"What is he making?" She muttered to herself as she sneakily watched his actions. She sensed the powerful fluctuations of world essence around Aethelwolf so she was immediately able to tell that he was making something extraordinary!

'Could it be the thing that he promised me?' Her large pair of bird eyes lit up as she thought of this. She then silently watched the smithing process with anticipation. Aethelwolf's creation could change her fate so she was eager to find out what it was.

Three hours later, Aethelwolf used a clean cloth to wipe the necklace he had created. The thin platinum-colored chains glittered under the moonlight and the Soul Jade emitted a hazy illusionary luster that made the necklace appear extremely appealing and artistic.

Aethelwolf let out a satisfied smile as he admired his final product. It was the first piece of jewelry he had ever created. He felt proud of his own creation.

He muttered. "A beautiful piece of jewelry should have a name to make it even more valuable..." While he was thinking about a suitable name for the necklace, he suddenly noticed a large bird head anxiously looking in his direction.

Aethelwolf smiled as he glanced at Olivia. "Come here." He beckoned to her.

The giant bird immediately appeared in front of him in a flash.

"This is a Unique-Rated necklace with Level 4 Runes. It can adjust its size according to its wearer." He tossed the necklace to her and a bright ray of blinding light enveloped her massive figure as soon as the necklace touched her.

Aethelwolf closed his eyes for a moment and when he opened them, he could no longer see a giant bird in front of him. He glanced to his left and right, but he found no one in sight. "Eh? Where is she?"

"Oy? Aethelwolf, I'm here!" A voice came from beneath his feet and he immediately lowered his gaze and spotted a red-haired little girl with a pair of adorable golden eyes. She was pouting as she glared at Aethelwolf.

"Olivia?" Aethelwolf crouched and stared at the cute little girl in confusion.

How did that intimidating eagle turn into such an adorable little angel? He couldn't resist the urge and he unconsciously pinched her chubby cheeks.

Ow! Ow! Ow!

Aethelwolf giggled as he continued to pinch her cheeks.

The little girl swatted his evil hands and roared angrily at him, but it sounded like the meowing of a kitten to his ears.

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Olivia rubbed her aching cheeks while glaring at the evil guy in front of her. "I'll bite you to death!" She shouted and lunged at him as she opened her mouth. Although she had become a little girl, Olivia still possesses the power of a Level 3 magical beast.

Aethelwolf gently pushed her forehead, preventing her from moving closer to him. "It looks like I need to add a Language Translation Rune to your necklace. Everyone would be confused if they hear how you speak since none of them understands the Beast Language." He muttered. He then patted her small head and said to her while chuckling. "You should practice how to walk. You might stumble since you now have shorter legs."

For some strange reason, Olivia liked the feeling when he touched her head. She felt warm and secure as if nothing would go wrong as long as he was there.

Olivia reluctantly pushed his hand away while grumbling. "Do you think that these short legs would hinder me? You underestimate me too much! Just watch me closely!"

Aethelwolf stared at the little girl with interest.

Olivia carefully lifted her short legs and slowly moved forward. She then realized that it was indeed difficult to walk like a human since she was used to her huge bird legs while she was still a Fire Eagle.

After reaching five steps with great effort, she suddenly tripped and was about to fall.

Aethelwolf immediately grabbed her small body and lifted her off the ground before she fell face-first to the ground.

Olivia didn't dare look at him in shame, afraid that he would mock her, but suddenly, she felt his warm hands gently caressing the back of her head. His gentle voice echoed to her ears as he draped over a piece of cloth to cover her body. She was naked after the transformation and Aethelwolf didn't have any clothes for small girls. "Just sit obediently for now. Wait for me while I make your Language Translation Rune. I'll teach you how to walk tomorrow."

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Aethelwolf made her sit on the bench. He then proceeded to make the inscriptions for the Language Translation Rune. He was the only one who can make this since no one else understands the Beast Language. Other Engravers could also make Language Translation Runes, but they could only make those runes with the Elven Language, Dwarven Language, and a few others. No one knew how to translate the Language of Beasts so no one was able to make one specifically for that language.

Olivia lifted her small head to look at Aethelwolf who was inscribing the Language Translation Rune into her necklace. His hands moved like a mirage as he inputted complex symbols in midair. The complicated symbols were then slowly absorbed by her necklace.

Aethelwolf's concentrating face made her smile unknowingly. He really did as he promised and it made her over the moon. Now that she had gained a human body, she could now freely roam all over the world and no one would stop her. Tears slid down the corner of her eyes as she recalled her life as a magical beast. She would always have to fight humans and other magical beasts every time she moved around. She was even caught some time ago after being discovered by the hunting group of the Linaza Household.

Aethelwolf's hand paused briefly when he noticed her crying in silence. He then acted as if he didn't notice it and continued inscribing the rune. What kind of experience did she have for her to cry like this?

It only took him less than ten minutes to complete the Language Translation Rune and when he stared at Olivia's face, he noticed that she was still crying.

Aethelwolf wiped off the tears on her cheeks as he gently smiled at her. "Let's go inside the mansion. From now on, you will be living with us."

Olivia rubbed her eyes with her hands before she gazed at him. "Really? I can sleep in a warm bed like you humans do and I can also cover myself with thick blankets?" She asked eagerly.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf nodded his head and replied. "Of course. You can choose any room that you want. You can also sleep in a large bed and you can even choose which blanket you want to use."

"Alright. Then I will sleep beside you. Hehe." She said as her pair of big adorable eyes stared at him with a gaze filled with hope.

Aethelwolf's eyes widened as he looked at her. "Stop speaking nonsense. There are a lot of empty rooms inside. You can choose one from them." He said as he carried her small body in his arms.

Olivia pouted in disappointment when she heard his words.

On their way inside the mansion, they run into Rendell who was dozing off at the main door. He looked tired and sleepy, but his eyes suddenly sprang open when he saw Aethelwolf. "Sir Aethelwolf!"

"You guys are already back?" Aethelwolf asked.

Rendell nodded his head. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf. Madam Melissa and the other ladies are already inside the mansion." He then noticed a small head sneakily looking at him. "Eh? Who is she?" He asked while curiously looking at the little girl in Aethelwolf's arms.

Olivia's eyes narrowed and a mischievous plan was formed in her head.

"She is my little sis-"

"Papa." A small voice suddenly made Aethelwolf shut his mouth.

Rendell's eyes widened and his gaze alternated between Aethelwolf and the little girl. "Oh? Is this Sir Aethelwolf's secret child? I wonder who her mother is..."

"Papa..."

Aethelwolf's eyes twitched and he immediately covered Olivia's mouth to prevent her from speaking. He then ignored Rendell who was giving him a strange smile and entered the mansion.

When they entered the mansion, Aethelwolf saw Olivia looking at him mischievously. "Didn't you promise to be my little sister?" He muttered exasperatedly.

Olivia put on a dumb look as if she was confused. "Eh? I thought you said to act like your daughter. I must have remembered wrongly. Tee-heel!" She giggled.

Aethelwolf had the urge to pinch her cheeks, but he sighed with a defeated look. "Just don't make the same mistake. Everyone might misunderstand if they hear you calling me like that."

"Okay." Olivia replied while nodding her head.

He then brought her upstairs, but one of the rooms was suddenly opened. Janrose and Janeth walked out and stared at Aethelwolf in surprise. "Sir Aethelwolf!" They greeted him.

Aethelwolf nodded his head. "Tell the maids to prepare a small feast. Let them cook food that is enough for, uhm," he looked at Olivia's smiling face and continued. "Tell them to cook food that is enough for ten people."

Olivia is a magical beast so her food intake was more than that of the normal humans who have the same level as her.

Janrose and Janeth finally noticed the little girl in his arms.

“Sir Aethelwolf, who is that cute little girl?” Janrose could not help but ask.

“Ah her? She is my-”

“Papa...”

The eyes of Janrose and Janeth widened when they heard the little girl’s words.

“Eh? She is your daughter? I didn’t know that Sir Aethelwolf actually has a daughter.” Janrose looked at him in shock.

Suddenly, the other doors in the corridor were opened. The people came out of their rooms, staring at Aethelwolf and the little girl with curious gazes.

‘Crap.’ Aethelwolf muttered in his heart. He was done for. Now, no one would believe him even if he explained that Olivia was her little sister. He could already imagine what would happen if everyone in Lion City hears about this. The gossipy people would certainly speculate who Olivia’s mother was.

Aethelwolf sighed and decided to just let it be. Since everyone already thinks that she is his daughter, he decided to just go with the flow. It wouldn’t hinder his plans anyway and he didn’t mind what the others would say behind his back. “By the way, does anyone of you have some clothes for a little girl?” He asked them.

“I have them, Sir Aethelwolf. How many do you need?” A young mother who was holding a four-year-old little girl answered with a smile.

“Just give me two sets of clothes. I will buy her new clothes tomorrow so two sets should be enough.” Aethelwolf replied.

“Alright. You can follow us inside, Sir Aethelwolf. You can let your daughter choose which clothes she likes.” The young mother invited him to their room.

Aethelwolf nodded his head. “Alright.” He followed the young mother inside.

When they entered the room, everyone in the corridor suddenly entered into gossipy mode.

“I didn’t know that Sir Aethelwolf actually has a daughter. I wonder who her mother is.”

“She looks very cute and beautiful. Her mother must be a beauty!”

“You guys stop talking or I’ll tell Sir Aethelwolf that you are talking about him.” Janeth warned them and they immediately entered their rooms.

After choosing two sets of clothes for Olivia, Aethelwolf brought her to his room. He tried to let her choose a room for herself, but the little girl threw a tantrum and threatened to destroy the mansion if she wasn’t allowed to sleep beside him. Left with no choice, Aethelwolf could only helplessly agree to her demands.

“I didn’t know that you are actually this troublesome...” Aethelwolf muttered in exasperation as he glanced at Olivia.

The little girl was jumping up and down his bed with a big smile plastered on her face. “This bed feels so soft! I like it so much! Tee-hee!” She giggled while hugging a giant pillow that was taller than her.

Aethelwolf’s gaze softened when he saw how happy she was. He sat on his bed and said to her. “Eat a lot of food later. Tomorrow I’ll teach you how to walk and how to behave like a proper child.”

Olivia repeatedly nodded her head. “Okay.”

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Sir Aethelwolf, the food you asked to be prepared will be ready in ten minutes. We will serve it in the dining hall.”

“No. Just deliver the food to my room.” Aethelwolf said.

“Yes, Sir Aethelwolf.”

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Aethelwolf turned his head to Olivia who was happily rolling on his bed. “Your food is almost ready.” He told her.

Olivia’s ears perked up when she heard the word ‘food’. She sat up straight and looked at Aethelwolf with shining eyes. “My food?”

“That’s right. Your food.” Aethelwolf smiled and patted her head. An idea suddenly came to his mind so he added. “If you behave yourself and do what I tell you to do, then I will let you eat something delicious every day. What do you say?”

A line of drool trickled down her lips as she nodded her head eagerly. “Okay!”

Soon, a group of maids entered the room, pushing carts filled with all sorts of delicacies. The tantalizing aroma of the dishes spread inside the room, making Olivia jump around excitedly.

“Food! Food! Food!” Her joyous giggles echoed inside the room.

The next day, Aethelwolf woke up from a deep sleep.

When he turned his head, he saw Olivia tightly grabbing his arms like a koala. She was still in deep slumber, mumbling a series of incomprehensible words.

“Nom...Nom...Nom...”

“Is she sleep-talking?” Aethelwolf chuckled. He rubbed her head gently while looking at her face. He couldn’t resist the urge and kissed her forehead when he saw how adorable she was. He then slowly pulled his arms and jumped out of his bed.

He yawned as he walked to his study. “I should prepare new learning materials for Janrose and the others. Hmm, I should make one for Sir Johann and Miss Jade Kristine as well.” He muttered as he began writing the new lessons for his students.

Each of them needed a different set of learning materials since their level of understanding about Alchemy is not the same.

Janrose was already a Level 1 Alchemist and she could freely summon her Red Pill Fire now. What she needed is a list of information about how to make various types of herbal pastes. Other than that, she needed relevant theories that would make her explore her own way of creating herbal pastes and pills.

Aethelwolf meticulously wrote their learning materials and he even made one for his clone to prevent the others from being suspicious. After all, everyone knows that Leric was his first student so it would be questionable if Aethelwolf didn’t make one for him.

While he was writing the last learning material, he noticed that Olivia was already awake. She rubbed her sleepy eyes before jumping off the bed. She then walked up to him and asked while pulling his sleeves. “What are you doing?”

“Just writing some stuff. Come here. We will eat after I am done with this.” He said as he let her sit on his lap.

Olivia nodded her head and looked at the papers on the table. She squinted her eyes and tried to comprehend what he was writing, but she didn’t know the language of humans so she wasn’t able to understand anything.

“How was your sleep?” Aethelwolf asked her.

Olivia tilted her head to look at his face as she answered with a smile. “It’s the first time I slept so comfortably. I like it here...”

Hearing her joyful tone, the corner of Aethelwolf’s lips rose upwards. “That’s good.”

“Alright. I’m done with everything. Let’s go eat with the others.” Aethelwolf sorted the learning materials and kept them inside his storage space. He then lifted Olivia in his arms and brought her out of the room.

As soon as he stepped out, he saw Hyacinth waiting for him outside.

“Good morning, Sir Aethelwolf.” She greeted him with a smile. She also sized up the red-haired little girl in his arms with a curious look. According to the others, this child was Aethelwolf’s daughter. The only resemblance they share was their beautiful image.

“Is our breakfast ready?” Aethelwolf asked as they walked along the corridor.

“Yes, Sir Aethelwolf. The servants have also prepared a healthy drink for the young miss. By the way, what is her name?” Hyacinth asked while looking at the little girl.

Before Aethelwolf could answer her, the little girl said eagerly. “My name is Olivia.”

“You heard her. She is Olivia Lassiter, my daughter.” Aethelwolf said. “By the way, how was your trip with Henry? Did you check our new clothing shop?” He asked.

Hyacinth nodded her head. “Yes, Sir Aethelwolf. The clothing shop looks great and it has a perfect ambiance for wealthy customers. I have also briefed the new employees, but we still don’t have the designs for our clothes.”

“Not bad! I’ll give you the designs after our breakfast. You must send them to our seamstresses and have them make our clothes as soon as possible.” Aethelwolf was satisfied by Hyacinth’s efficiency.

“Sir Aethelwolf, I haven’t given them their contracts yet. I want to get your opinion before I give them their contracts.” Hyacinth looked at him worriedly. He knew that the employees of the clinic received generous benefits from him, but she still decided to wait for his opinion since he might have other plans for the clothing shop.

Aethelwolf smiled at her. “The mansion still has many vacant rooms. You can just give the new employees the same contract that the others in the clinic have. Also, inform Rendell to buy the surrounding land next to our mansion. The Lassiter Household would soon grow into a much bigger family, so we have to prepare for that.”

Hyacinth was relieved to hear his words. “Yes, Sir Aethelwolf.”

Inside the dining hall, everyone stared at the red-haired little girl who was sitting on Aethelwolf's lap. She refused to sit on the chair next to him so he just let her be.

"Aethelwolf, your daughter looks like a little angel. What is her name?" Melissa said as she stared gently at Olivia.

Aethelwolf opened his mouth, but...

"My name is Olivia." The little girl eagerly answered.

"What a pretty name!" Melissa smiled as she looked at her.

"It looks like you have already consumed the Awakening Pellet. Did you feel any sense of discomfort after you have become an Esper?" Aethelwolf asked. He was happy that her mother has awakened her Hegel. Espers have longer lifespans than normal humans so they would have a much longer time to spend together.

Melissa smiled lightly. After becoming an Esper, she felt that her body had become lighter. It felt as if she had become much younger. "Everything has been great ever since I have become an Esper. Thank you so much, Sir Aethelwolf." She was grateful to him for the opportunity.

Aethelwolf smiled at her. He then turned his gaze to Janrose. "I made your learning materials earlier. I will give it to you after breakfast." He said.

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf."

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"Papa, food!" Olivia pointed at her empty mouth while looking at him expectantly.

"Aiyoo. Here is your food. Say 'ah'." Aethelwolf could only follow her demands. She might look cute and adorable, but this little thing is a Level 3 magical beast! She could smack the table into smithereens if she wanted to.

"Ah." The little girl obediently opened her mouth.

Nom. Nom. Nom.

Her eyes narrowed into slits as she swayed her head from left to right. She seemed to enjoy the treatment she was given.

Everyone stared at the 'father' and 'daughter' duo with smiles on their faces.

After the meal, Aethelwolf handed all the learning materials to Janrose with the exception of Jade Kristine's learning material. She didn't want to expose herself so he

decided to hold onto her learning material for now. "I already put your names on your papers so distribute them to everyone. You guys have to study what I've written since they would be useful for your growth." He said.

Janrose grabbed the stack of papers and kept them inside her storage ring. Her storage ring was a gift from Aethelwolf and she has been using it since then. Although the space inside was not big, it was still very useful to her.

"Don't worry, Sir Aethelwolf. Just leave it to me." Janrose patted her chest confidently.

Aethelwolf nodded his head. "You may leave."

Janrose bowed at him and left.

Aethelwolf then carried Olivia with him to the open field. "I will teach you how to walk here. Grab my hand first and familiarize yourself with your legs." He told her.

Olivia nodded her head and grabbed his hand tightly. She could still remember that she tripped yesterday when she tried to walk. Luckily, Aethelwolf caught her before she fell to the ground. "Okay."

In the Urgel Household's mansion, Julie Irish was still reading the book given by Aethelwolf. She had already read it a couple of times, but she was still fascinated by the unique ideas written inside the book. His information was indeed worth more than 30% ownership of their wine shops.

Julie Irish closed the book and sighed with complicated emotions. It was the first time that she had felt genuine admiration for someone other than her late grandfather. "He is truly a man of mystery. Did he really make this book all by himself?" She muttered to herself.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Come inside." She said when she heard the knocking on her door.

A servant entered her room and reported to her. "Young Miss, we have already prepared the documents for the transfer of ownership of the wine shops. We have compiled everything inside this folder." The servant handed a folder to her.

Although Julie is their family head, everyone still preferred to call her 'young miss'.

Julie Irish took the folder and scanned the contents. After checking everything, she nodded her head in satisfaction. "Good. I'll go there personally. I have some questions for Aethelwolf so it's best if I go there myself." Her words surprised the servant.

“Do you want me to arrange an entourage for you?” The servant asked.

Julie Irish shook her head. “There is no need to be that formal. I’ll just bring some guards with me. Tell Grace that she will be going with me as well. You may leave.”

“Yes, Young Miss.” The servant left the room.

Inside the underground prison of the imperial castle, Hugo Ward’s limbs were tied in thick metal chains. His body was covered in whip marks and bloody wounds.

In front of him was Duke Baron. He was holding a whip, glaring at Hugo with unhidden spite. “I will ask you again! Is there anyone else in the Ward Household who has defected to the Northern Viper Group?!”

Hugo slowly raised his head. He smiled at Baron, showing his bloodied teeth.

Baron’s eyelid twitched and he struck Hugo with the whip!

Pah!

It was a direct hit on the man’s face which left a long bloody wound on his face.

Hugo gritted his teeth as he groaned in pain. The chains made clinking sounds as his body spasmed.

“Don’t make this hard for me, Hugo. Just talk and maybe His Majesty will forgive the Ward Household!”

Hugo stared at Baron and muttered in a low voice. “I already told you that it is only me! I am the only person who defected to the Northern Viper Group! No one in our Ward Household knows about this other than me!”

Baron sighed and shook his head. “Then you better hope that His Majesty would be lenient to your family.” He said as he left the underground prison, leaving the blood-covered Hugo in his cell.

Hugo blankly stared at the ceiling as he muttered weakly. “If there is a deity, I beseech you. I will shoulder the sin of the entire Ward Household so please give them a chance to redeem themselves...”

“Sir Aethelwolf, Miss Julie Irish, and Miss Grace of the Urgel Household are here. I brought them to the guest hall. They are looking for you.” Albert reported to him.

“Is that so? I’ll be there soon. Get them something to drink.” Aethelwolf said. He believed that she was here for the documents of the transfer of ownership of the wine shops. ‘I think I told her that Hyacinth is in charge of this matter. Why did she come here for me?’ He thought to himself.

Aethelwolf lifted Olivia into his arms and told her. “Let’s continue later. Someone is looking for me.”

Olivia nodded her head. “Okay.” She had no qualms about anything as long as she could be together with Aethelwolf. She started treating him as her family after he took her from that store.

Aethelwolf brought Olivia with him inside the mansion and headed straight to the guest hall.

“Sir Aethelwolf!” Grace immediately stood up and bowed to him. This man’s status was even higher than her sister’s so he ought to receive the respect that he deserves.

Aethelwolf smiled at her. “How are you guys? Have you eaten your breakfast before coming here?” He asked the pair of sisters.

Grace nodded her head.

On the other hand, Julie Irish was silently staring at the little girl in his arms.

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“That’s good. Let’s sit down first so we can talk.” Aethelwolf sat opposite them. He then let Olivia sit on his lap.

“Sir Aethelwolf, is she your daughter?” Grace asked while looking at Olivia. It was the first time she had seen this child together with him.

Julie Irish furrowed her eyebrows and looked at him. ‘This man has a child?’

Aethelwolf smiled and nodded his head. “It’s a long story, but yes, she is my daughter. Her name is Olivia.” He gently rubbed Olivia’s head. It felt very relaxing to hold her in his arms.

Olivia tilted her head as she looked at Grace and Julie Irish. She was a magical beast so she was more sensitive to danger. She could sense a strong power emanating from the woman whose face was covered by a veil. Although she couldn’t accurately gauge the woman’s power, she was certain that it was at least at Level 4.

“We didn’t know that you actually have a child...” Julie Irish muttered.

Aethelwolf chuckled at her words. He also didn't expect that he would become an instant dad when he was only three years old. Well, he would be four years old soon. Despite the weird situation, he wasn't bothered by it since he possessed the soul of an old man who has lived for almost a century. "We aren't related by blood. You could say that she is my adopted daughter." He said. He no longer had thoughts of changing this relationship since everyone in the mansion already thinks that Olivia was his daughter.

For some reason, Julie Irish felt relieved when she heard this. "We came here to deliver this in person." She took out a folder and handed it to him.

Aethelwolf grabbed the folder and opened it.

The folder contains the documents for the transfer of ownership of the wine shops.

After scanning the documents briefly, he took out a pen from his storage space and signed them. "Why did you come here in person? Didn't I tell you that you can discuss this with Hyacinth?" He said while looking at Julie Irish. Did she forget about it?

Julie Irish looked into his eyes and said. "I just want to ask you how you were able to write that book. Did you write it on your own or is it the work for your subordinates?" This has been bothering her since she read the book given by Aethelwolf. The book contains a vast array of information that was almost impossible for a single individual to possess.

Aethelwold revealed a mysterious smile upon hearing this. "So you are curious about that? Do you know where I was before I came to Lion City? Do you know what I have been doing before I joined the war of the Flame Tiger Army and the Northern Viper Group? I spent most of my time researching and increasing my knowledge. I didn't become a Level 4 Alchemist overnight. It is the result of my efforts." He randomly bullshitted. He couldn't tell them that all those information came from his past life so it was better to tell them a believable story.

Julie Irish silently stared at him, trying to see through any falsehoods in his words. However, she couldn't tell whether he was lying or not. She knew that Aethelwolf was first spotted in Barden City. He joined the Flame Tiger Army in their war against the Northern Viper Group. She tried to investigate more information before that event, but she received no reports from her subordinates. It was as if he had suddenly appeared out of nowhere.

Julie Irish sighed inwardly. "I heard that the academy will soon have a meeting and all faculty members of the academy will be present. Our Urgel Household has two members who were hired to become teachers at the academy and they will both be present in the meeting. I hope that you can give them favorable positions on account of our friendship."

Aethelwolf narrowed his eyes. The Urgel Household is lucky to have her as their family head. "Alright. If their performance is good, they will be my first option." He said, but when he saw her frown, he added. "To tell you the truth, after His Majesty announced that I will be the headmaster of the academy, many people came to me for the same matter and they even offered bribes." He chuckled after saying those words.

Julie Irish gave a light scoff when she heard his words. "I believe that you will be an impartial headmaster." She muttered sarcastically.

Aethelwold shrugged as he laughed lightly. He only accepted the position since it would be a great help to his future plans. Things would be easier for him once he officially becomes the headmaster of the academy.

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Julie Irish and Grace left after Aethelwolf handed them the signed documents. Before they left, they kept on looking at Olivia.

On their way back to their mansion, Grace stared at her sister and asked. "Sister, that child has the same hair color as you. Could she be your daughter?" She chuckled in amusement.

Julie Irish flickered her forehead. "Stop speaking nonsense." She said as she removed her veil. When she removed her veil, her hair turned crimson red and a beautiful face that could topple the world was revealed. She had a pair of golden eyes that seemed to possess an ethereal charm. This was Julie Irish's true appearance that she had hidden from the world. Only her sister and her father had seen what she truly looked like without her veil.

Grace held her forehead as she looked at her sister's peerless visage. She still couldn't stop herself from falling into a daze every time she look at her sister's face. She was the most beautiful woman she had ever seen!

"If the others know what you truly look like, they might believe that you are Olivia's mother." Grace muttered silently.

Julie Irish glared at her and Grace immediately shut her mouth.

"This face will only cause us trouble so no one must see it." Julie muttered with a sigh. Because of her unparalleled beauty, her parents chose to hide from the eyes of the public to prevent her from being harmed. In a world where the strong prey on the weak, a beautiful face would only be a disaster. Even when their Urgel Household became one of the strongest noble households, Julie Irish still refused to remove her veil.

Grace looked at her in regret.

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“Let’s go to Sir Johann’s mansion. You should call him Grandpa Johann, okay?”

“Okay.” Olivia nodded her head eagerly. She could now go out with Aethelwolf without concerns and it made her very excited.

“Albert, prepare the carriage. You are coming with us.” Aethelwolf said to Albert.

Albert acknowledged the command with a bow of his head. He then tied the reins of the carriage to Alba and Kerrin, the two King-Grade Equuses. For some strange reason, the two of them were silent.

When they entered the carriage, Olivia climbed onto his shoulders and whispered to him. “They also want to turn into humans. I heard them conversing earlier.”

Aethelwolf had a look of realization when he heard her words. It looks like the two were jealous because Olivia was able to turn into a human. “I see. Your necklace isn’t hard to make. Just that, the materials are hard to find. I even had to ask for Brian’s help to procure them. It might take some time before I could get the required materials to make the same necklace for the two of them.”

Olivia stared at him with a big smile on her face. “I know that you can get those materials soon. I will tell them that you will make their necklace once you have the materials.”

Aethelwolf chuckled and rubbed her head affectionately. “Alright. Just don’t let their hopes up since it might take a long time. The auction house of the Linaza Household would open soon. We might find some of the materials in the auction.”

Olivia nodded her head happily.

Soon, they arrived at the mansion of Johann.

“Sir Aethelwolf, what brings you here?” Johann and Anna came to greet him.

Aethelwolf got down the carriage while holding Olivia’s small hand.

Looking at the cute little girl who was walking beside Aethelwolf, Johann and Anna were surprised.

“Sir Aethelwolf, is this your child? We heard from Janrose that you have a daughter named Olivia. This must be her.” Anna excitedly ran towards Olivia and carried the little girl into her arms.

Olivia wanted to punch Anna for suddenly capturing her, but she saw Aethelwolf shaking his head so she refrained from acting on her instinct.

“What an adorable little kid!” Anna rubbed her cheeks against Olivia’s face which made the little girl pout her lips in annoyance.

Aethelwolf laughed lightly as he looked at them. He then moved his gaze to Johann and said. “I believe that you have already received the learning materials from Janrose.”

Johann nodded his head. “Miss Janrose delivered the learning materials earlier. I have read some of the contents you wrote, but I still can’t comprehend half of it. Thank you so much for giving us the opportunity to learn it, Sir Aethelwolf.” He noticed that the knowledge inside the learning material encompasses the wisdom of a Level 4 Alchemist. It was very valuable to him and he could even sense that he was about to summon his Golden Pill Fire!

“That’s good. I came here because I want to bring you somewhere with me. I want you to learn Alchemy from me together with an individual. The two of you are both peak Level 3 Alchemists so it’s fine to hold your lessons together. It would also save us some time.” Aethelwolf planned to bring him to the mansion of the Singler Household and meet Jade Kristine! Johann is a trustworthy person and they were now tied in the same boat. He has some motives for bringing him to Jade Kristine, but it wasn’t time to reveal such matters yet.

Johann furrowed his eyebrows. From his words, he discovered that Aethelwolf was also teaching another Alchemist who has the same level of understanding as him in Alchemy. There was only a small number of peak Level 3 Espers in the Leone Empire and he was acquainted with most of them. He wondered who the person he was talking about.

“Alright.” Johann nodded his head. It didn’t matter to him as long as Aethelwolf will guide him on how to summon his Golden Pill Fire.

“Let’s leave now so we can start your lesson as soon as possible.”

Olivia immediately jumped off from Anna’s embrace when she heard this. She then climbed onto Aethelwolf’s shoulder with great familiarity.

“I’ll go with you.” She looked at him excitedly.

In the Singler Household’s mansion, Jade Kristine was cleaning her cauldron after a tiresome refining process. She has been practicing to refine 4th-Grade Pills, but her success rate still hasn’t reached the standard of a Level 4 Alchemist. She could summon her Golden Pill Fire, but she couldn’t even refine 4th-Grade Pills. “This is more difficult than I thought...” She muttered.

She already possessed the requirements to become a Level 4 Alchemist, but her refining skill is still not there yet.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Madam, Sir Aethelwolf and Sir Johann are here. They are waiting for your downstairs.” A servant reported to her.

Jade Kristine furrowed her eyebrows when she heard this. “Tell them that I will be there.” She said.

‘Why did Sir Aethelwolf bring that old man here?’ She thought to herself as she stepped out of her room. Aethelwolf promised him that he won’t tell anyone about her secret so he must have his reasons for bringing Johann to their mansion.

She saw them in the guest hall drinking tea.

“Sir Aethelwolf, Sir Johann, what brings you two here?” Jade Kristine smiled as she greeted them, but then she noticed that there was actually a small kid hiding behind Aethelwolf’s seat. She had a crimson red hair with a pair of big adorable eyes. ‘Who is this child?’ She wondered.

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“Miss Jade, I believe we should speak in a more private space.” Aethelwolf said as he put down the teacup he was holding.

Hearing this, Jade Kristine’s eyes turned serious. “Follow me to my study.”

She then brought them to her study and told the servants not to disturb them.

“Please take your seats first.”

Aethelwolf took out the learning material he had prepared for Jade and handed it to her. “I smell the scent of medicinal herbs on you. You tried to refine a 4th-Grade Pill, but it ended as a failure. The information inside that paper can help you increase your success rate.”

Jade Kristine’s eyes widened upon hearing this and she immediately turned her gaze to the learning material and began reading it. The more she read the more shocked she was. “This is...”

“A simple gift for my student.” Aethelwolf chuckled. He then added. “I brought Johann with me since he is also my Alchemy student. My schedule is packed this week so I couldn’t teach you guys separately.”

“Sir Johann is also your student?” Jade Kristine stared at him in shock. Johann was an individual that wasn’t tied to any major force. He is a hermit who has declined the invitation of many powerful forces, but here he was, obediently sitting beside Aethelwolf.

“I never thought that Miss Jade is actually a student of Sir Aethelwolf. When he said that he was teaching another peak Level 3 Alchemist, I thought it was someone else.” Johann laughed gently.

“Don’t underestimate her, Sir Johann. Although Miss Jade still can’t proficiently refine 4th-Grade Pills, she can already summon her golden Pill Fire. It wouldn’t be long before she would reach the standard of a Level 4 Alchemist.” Aethelwolf’s words made Johann gasp in shock.

“Anyway, let’s not waste more time. I came here to teach you two about the concepts of being a skilled Level 4 Alchemist. Listen closely since I won’t repeat what I will say.” Aethelwolf’s expression suddenly turned serious as he started his lesson.

Jade Kristine and Johann adjusted their sitting posture as they listened attentively. The words that came out of Aethelwolf’s mouth were very valuable to them and they couldn’t afford to miss out on anything he says.

Meanwhile, Olivia could no longer fight the sleepiness and she ended up falling asleep on the sofa.

Aethelwolf smiled as he looked at her resting face. He then covered her body with a warm blanket.

“Sir Aethelwolf, who is that child?” Jade Kristine asked while looking at Olivia.

“My adopted daughter, Olivia.” He answered as he gently rubbed her small head. He then turned his gaze toward Jade and Johann. “Continue reading your learning materials. I will ask you some questions later so you both better be prepared.”

In the distant Dustin Empire, the Dustin Imperial Family secretly received a guest from the Ford Empire.

“Greetings, Your Majesty.” A middle-aged man dressed in dark purple clothes cupped his fists at Emperor Erwin Dustin who was seated on his throne.

“To think that Ludwig Ford would actually send you here to deliver a message. Tell me, what does he have for me?” Emperor Erwin smiled at the middle-aged man.

“The elite soldiers we sent have failed on their mission. We can only abandon our initial plan. His Majesty, Emperor Ludwig, needs the help of the Dustin Empire to launch an

attack on Vale City. It is the shortest passage that would lead us to Lion City. Our Ford Empire is willing to send 200,000 soldiers to lead the siege. I will also be there to personally lead the soldiers in battle!" The middle-aged man said with a calm look on his face. This guy is the Grand General of the Ford Empire, Lexter Ford. He is a peak stage Level 4 Esper who has absolute control of the Ford Empire's military strength!

Emperor Erwin revealed a look of interest when he heard Lexter's words. From the looks of it, the Ford Empire has already lost their patience and decided to brandish their claws! "The Ford Empire wants to take control of Vale City? That will be difficult. An army of that size would be noticed once you pass by Barden City." Emperor Erwin didn't want to send his soldiers on this foolish endeavor.

Lexter let out a smile as he said. "That's our goal. We want them to discover us and force them to send reinforcements to Vale City. Once that happens, Lion City will be left defenseless..."

Emperor Erwin's eyes widened. "You want our Dustin Empire to attack the defenseless Lion City? But wouldn't you lose a lot of soldiers for this?"

Lexter chuckled as he answered. "We only want the family heirloom of the Leone Imperial Family and your Dustin Empire can take anything that you find in Lion City!"

Hearing this Emperor Erwin was silent for a moment before he muttered. "Interesting..."

Emperor Erwin stared deeply at Lexter. This man was famous for his schemes. He knew how to command a large army of soldiers effectively and he could bring out their potential by using different kinds of strategies in battle.

He didn't know what Lexter was scheming, but the plan that he proposed was very hard to reject.

If the Ford Empire attracts the attention of the Leone Empire by attacking Vale City, his Dustin Empire would have a high chance of penetrating the defenseless Lion City. Since the Ford Empire would attract the majority of the enemy's soldiers, his army would be able to take control of Lion City. However, if the Ford Empire was merely using them, it might be dangerous for his Dustin Empire.

Emperor Erwin was in a dilemma. He was unsure whether he would choose to believe Lexter's words or not.

"Your Majesty, to show our sincerity, we are willing to send a large supply of medicines to your Dustin Empire. Other than that, we will also be sending a group of engineers who will help you in the siege of Lion City." Lexter smiled lightly at Emperor Erwin.

The Emperor narrowed his eyes upon hearing this. It looks like the Ford Empire is already hell-bent on destroying the Leone Empire. "Fine! Our Dustin Empire will send

two hundred thousand soldiers to attack Lion City. Tell your emperor that I want to meet him in person to discuss the details of this plan.”

Lexter’s smile deepened after getting his answer. He then cupped his fists as he replied. “Yes, Your Majesty. I will inform him of your words.”

Aethelwolf observed Jade Kristine as she was refining a 4th-Grade Pill. Johann was also watching the process without blinking his eyes. He might learn more by looking at Jade Kristine’s refining session.

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“Don’t aggressively increase the temperature of your Golden Pill Fire. Its heat is already hot enough so just keep it burning at a moderate temperature.”

“When you extract the medicinal liquid of your ingredients, make sure that you properly handle the herbs so that you can get all the nutrients they possess.”

“Control the flow of your world essence and don’t let a single energy leak while you are mixing the medicinal liquid.”

“Maintain your focus while you are starting to form the pills. You need to have a focused mind to increase the success rate of your refining process.”

Aethelwolf was giving her instructions as she refined the pill.

Jade Kristine was refining a pill called Great Restoration Elixir. It was the most basic 4th-Grade Pill and it was also the easiest to refine within its level. This Great Restoration Elixir was valuable in the market despite it being relatively simple to make. After all, it can heal the wounds of a Level 4 Esper and it could even restore a lower leveled Esper to full health upon consumption. That was how powerful it was. The only downside to this pill was its expensive ingredients so there wasn’t much profit in making them.

Jade Kristine carefully followed Aethelwolf’s instructions. She didn’t allow a single mistake to happen. Beads of sweat covered her face and her hands were even visibly trembling.

Aethelwolf clicked his tongue while looking at her. “What’s all those fancy refining techniques for? Using them wouldn’t even increase the success rate of the refining procedure. Executing them would only increase your wastage of world essence. Just stir the mixture gently and form the pills by controlling your world essence in a delicate manner...”

Jade Kristine followed his suggestions and she realized that the refining process this time was a lot smoother.

Soon, two pills were formed inside her cauldron, giving off a vast torrent of energy. When the pills were fully created, Jade Kristine grabbed a chair and sat down with a weary look.

“I did it!” She exclaimed joyously. It was the first time she managed to refine two 4th-Grade pills in just one session!

“Congratulations, Miss Jade Kristine! With this, you are now officially a Level 4 Alchemist.” Aethelwolf clapped his hands while looking at her with a smile. This woman was quite talented and it only took her a short amount of time to digest his teachings.

Johann also clapped his hands, but he revealed a bitter smile as he looked at Jade Kristine. He thought that he would be the next person to become a Level 4 Alchemist, but this woman succeeded before him. “Congratulations, Miss Jade.”

Aethelwolf glanced at Johann and noticed his worried expression. “Relax. You will soon be able to summon your Golden Pill Fire. It doesn’t matter if you are third or fourth. What matters is that you will succeed.” He consoled the old man.

“What matters is that you will succeed...” Johann repeated his words silently. “Well said, Sir Aethelwolf!” He smiled.

Aethelwolf patted the old man’s shoulder. He then turned his gaze to Jade Kristine and asked. “Now that you can refine 4th-Grade Pills, when do you plan to have yourself tested for the Level 4 Alchemy exam?”

Jade Kristine became silent as she pondered upon the question. If she applies for the exam, the other three Administrators will know that she was already a Level 4 Alchemist. She didn’t know what they would do if they were to learn about it.

After a long while, she raised her head and looked at Aethelwolf as she replied. “I will wait and see for now. I want to learn more about the situation of the other three Administrators. Besides, I still want to try to refine this pill without your help, Sir Aethelwolf. Once I am confident that I can create 4th-Grade Pills all by myself, I would have myself tested for the Level 4 Alchemy exam!”

Aethelwolf nodded his head. “I see. If you need anything, just look for me. Now that you are my student, I won’t allow other people to cause you harm.” He said in a cold tone. He was a very protective person and he didn’t want others to hurt his comrades.

“We will take our leave now. Next time, just visit my mansion. It’s such a hassle to go here. I’m a busy person you know.” Aethelwolf said in a joking manner.

Jade Kristine smiled lightly at his words. “Yes, Sir Aethelwolf. I’ll come by your mansion every now and then for my lessons. I’m sorry for troubling you.” She said.

Aethelwolf chuckled and shook his head. He then carried the sleeping Olivia in his embrace.

“I’ll see you guys out.” Jade Kristine offered. She then led Aethelwolf and Johann out of the mansion.

“Goodbye, Jade.” Aethelwolf smiled at her and walked away.

“Goodbye, Miss Jade.” Johann also bid farewell before leaving.

Jade Kristine watched their departing figures with an absentminded look. “Did he just call me by my name?” She muttered to herself. That guy was probably younger than her based on his looks, but he acts as if he was the older one.

Thinking about this, the corners of her mouth rose upward.

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“Sir Aethelwolf, I heard that Supreme Director Karman has already appointed an Administrator as his successor. From the looks of it, Miss Jade is hiding her abilities because of that matter. The Supreme Director might cause her trouble if he finds out her true abilities.” Johann sighed and shook his head. He was also a major figure in the field of Alchemy in the Leone Empire so he has some people in the Alchemy Tower.

Aethelwolf gently rubbed the head of Olivia as he muttered in a cold tone. “Jade Kristine is now my student. I won’t allow anyone to harm her even if he is someone from the Imperial Family!”

Karman Leone is the uncle of the current emperor. He has full authority over the Alchemy Tower and he controls more than 20% of the pill market in the entire Leone Empire!

Johann felt a chill when he heard his words. He thought that this young man was just a talented and hardworking Alchemist, but he sometimes gave off the aura of a prehistoric beast. “Are you planning to let her take the Supreme Director’s position?” He asked while looking at the young man’s side profile.

Aethelwolf turned his head at Johann and smiled mysteriously. "Perhaps..." He muttered.

Johann looked at him speechlessly. 'Does he plan to openly go against Karman?!'

Karman Leone is a member of the Leone Imperial Family and the emperor would surely take the old man's side. It would be unwise to make enemies with him.

"Oh, right. I almost forgot. Have you refined the next batch of pills for the clinic?" Aethelwolf asked.

Johann nodded his head and answered. "Yes, Sir Aethelwolf. I have already started refining them and I would probably complete the quota in five days." Aethelwolf has already given him the pill recipes of the pills they sell in the clinic. They were only 2nd-Grade Pills and it wasn't difficult to make them. Besides, the recipe that Aethelwolf gave him was very detailed so it was impossible for him to fail in making them.

"That's good. You can let your people do the menial process, but you must not teach the core steps of those pill recipes." Aethelwolf warned him. He trusted Johann, but there might be some spies from other households among his subordinates.

"Don't worry, Sir Aethelwolf." Johann nodded his head.

"Just endure it for now. Once I have a full grasp of Jade Kristine's personality, I will let her help you with this task." Aethelwolf smiled at the old man.

Johann laughed at his words.

Soon, Aethelwolf dropped Johann off at his mansion and he returned home after that.

"Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf." Hyacinth and Rendell greeted him.

"Oh, you guys are already here?" Aethelwolf stared at them in surprise. He sent Hyacinth to their clothing shop to give the contracts of the new employees and he sent Rendell to buy the surrounding land outside their mansion.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I talked with the land owners and I managed to convince them to sell their land to us. I came back to get your go signal." Rendell said as he took out a piece of paper. He then handed it to Aethelwolf and said. "This is the total amount of money we need to purchase everything. I've already calculated it. Please check it."

Aethelwolf scanned the contents of the paper.

Rendell stared at him nervously. He worked hard in convincing those obnoxious landowners, but the final decision was still in Aethelwolf's hands. He knew that his boss

was planning to expand their territory because of the growth of the Lassiter Household. If this deal goes through successfully, it would be a huge brownie point for him.

Aethelwolf returned the paper to Rendell and nodded his head. "Not bad. I thought it would take you more than three days to convince those landowners. It seems like I have underestimated your negotiating skills. Go to Sir Anton Lassiter and ask for the money from him." He patted Rendell's shoulder and said. "Good job."

Rendell smiled dumbly at his words. He then scratched his head in embarrassment. "Thank you for trusting me, Sir Aethelwolf. I will get this task done before this day ends." He said before he walked away.

Aethelwolf then turned his head at Hyacinth. "How was your trip to the clothing shop?" He asked.

Hyacinth handed him a folder and said. "This is the signed contract of our new employees. They were happy after they heard of your generous offer." She could still remember the joyous smiles of their new employees as they signed their contracts.

"What about the designs I gave you? Have you sent them to our seamstresses?" Aethelwolf stared at her.

Hyacinth nodded her head. "The designs you made were amazing! Our seamstresses said that they haven't seen such beautiful clothes. They are full of praises for you." She smiled as she reported. Truthfully, she was also amazed by the designs he made. She believed that those clothes would soon become a trend in the Leone Empire.

"Good. Tell them to print the brand name on every clothes they make. The prints must have the unique seal of our clothing shop to prevent fakes from popping up." Aethelwolf also suggested the name of the clothing shop as well as the logo they would use to print on their clothes. It was a technique used by the major corporations in his past life to increase the value of their products. It was called branding.

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf. I have already informed them about that. I will monitor the printing of our brand name to make sure that nothing goes wrong. I will send some of our people to observe our seamstresses. Some noble households might try to poach them to get hold of our designs." Hyacinth was worried about this. It was only a matter of time before the others would learn how to make their clothes. By then, they would have to share the market with those people.

Aethelwolf chuckled when he heard her words. "You don't have to worry about that. We are not just selling clothes, Hyacinth. What our clothing shop sells is its brand." He said before leaving her.

"Brand?" Hyacinth pondered upon his words and a look of realization dawned on her after some time. She couldn't help but look at Aethelwolf's back with admiration. Other

than being a high level Alchemist, her boss was also a genius businessman! Perhaps even Brian Linaza couldn't hold a candle to him.

She finally understood why Aethelwolf emphasized the importance of their brand name.

Other people would soon copy their designs, but they wouldn't be able to copy their brand name since it would infringe on their rights. Once they build the image of their brand to the market, the people would prioritize their products over other shops.

"How did Sir Aethelwolf think of all these marvelous ideas?" Hyacinth muttered to herself.

Aethelwolf gently laid Olivia down on his bed. The girl was still sound asleep and she didn't even wake up from the rough ride in the carriage. She was even drooling in her sleep.

Aethelwolf stared at her face and affectionately caressed her cheeks. He never would have thought that taking care of a child was actually so heartwarming and fun. He enjoyed her company and he felt strangely attached to this little girl. Was it his 'old man soul' acting up? He had no idea.

Suddenly, Olivia woke up from her sleep. She rubbed the drool coming out of her mouth and stared at Aethelwolf with squinting eyes. "I want the shake that I had for breakfast." She muttered.

Aethelwolf chuckled and pinched her cheeks. "Is that so?"

Olivia sat up while rubbing her sleepy eyes. She then nodded her head. "Mn."

"Alright. Let's go down and tell the servants to make that shake for you." Aethelwolf rubbed her head gently.

"Okay." Olivia said. She then extended her arms as if telling him to lift her.

Seeing this, Aethelwolf smiled gently. "Let's go." He said as he carried the little girl.

Chapter 170? Loyalty Gift

Later that night, everyone in Lion City heard that a noble would be publicly executed for betraying the empire.

"I heard that the person who will be executed tomorrow is Hugo Ward of the Ward Household."

“Really?”

“Yeah. He conspired with the Northern Viper Group! He deserves it!”

“To hell with him! Shouldn’t the Ward Household be punished as well? I don’t think they are unaware of what was happening with their family head.”

“We will know tomorrow.”

It became a hot topic and everyone in Lion City heard about it.

Meanwhile, Aethelwolf was on the balcony of his mansion. He was smoking his cigar as he played a song with his guitar.

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A beautiful melody drifted into the air.

Olivia was swaying her head from left to right as she listened to the music. She had a joyful smile on her face while holding a homemade shake in her hands.

After playing the song, Aethelwolf lowered his guitar as he sucked on his cigar. He then exhaled gently and put the cigar into the ashtray.

“Did you like it?” He smiled at Olivia.

The little girl nodded her head eagerly. “Mn.”

Aethelwolf wiped off the shake residue on her lips. “That’s your last glass, okay? You might be a magical beast, but you are still not immune to stomach aches. After all, the ingredients used to make that shake are high level herbs.” He said.

Olivia nodded her head obediently. “Okay.”

“Good.” Aethelwolf patted her head lightly.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Come in.” Aethelwolf said.

Rendell entered the room with a solemn look on his face.

Seeing this, Aethelwolf furrowed his eyebrows as he asked. “What’s going on? You don’t look quite well.”

“Sir Aethelwolf, I have already paid the landowners and the surrounding land is already under our name.” He took a short pause and continued. “While I was outside, I heard of rumors about the execution of Hugo Ward.”

Aethelwolf narrowed his eyes. Tomorrow was the execution of Hugo Ward and from the looks of it, the Imperial Family intentionally leaked the news of his execution to garner the support of the citizens. Perhaps the emperor wants to slowly inform the people about the incoming war.

“Alright. You and Albert will go to the execution grounds tomorrow and represent the Lassiter Household.” Aethelwolf said as he handed two pills to him. “This is for you and Albert. Consume them tonight.”

Rendell took the pills carefully. He didn’t know what those pills were, but anything that comes out of Aethelwolf’s hands was precious so he felt a wave of excitement after getting the pills. “Yes, Sir Aethelwolf!”

“You may leave.”

Rendell bowed at him before he left the room.

The pill he gave were the ones he used to increase his strength. Now, he only has a few left.

Rendell and Albert have already proven their loyalty so this was his gift to them. It would also make those two more faithful in serving him.

“Should I give one to Hyacinth?” He muttered to himself.

“I wonder what these pills can do?” Rendell mumbled silently while looking at the two pills in his hands.

He went straight to where Albert was and handed one pill to him. “Sir Aethelwolf told me that we will represent the Lassiter Household tomorrow. The noble households in Lion City will also send their representatives to spectate the execution of Hugo Ward.”

Albert frowned and looked at him in confusion. “What’s this?” He asked.

“Oh, that? It is a gift from Sir Aethelwolf. He told me that we should eat the pills tonight, but I have no idea what they can do.” Rendell shrugged cluelessly.

After hearing his words, Albert unhesitatingly tossed the pill into his mouth.

“Eh? You are eating it now?” Rendell stared at him in shock. He then chuckled as he swallowed down his pill.

Rendell was now a peak Level 1 Esper, but it would still take him a long time before he could reach the next level. However, when the pill entered his stomach, he sensed a torrent of energy slowly spreading throughout his body. The wave of energy then gathered into his Hegel, forcing a breakthrough!

‘What the hell?!’ He thought to himself in shock.

It wasn’t just him, Albert was also experiencing the same thing. He was now a peak stage Level 3 Esper and it was only recently that he had reached this level so his breakthrough shouldn’t happen in the next few years. However, his worldview was turned upside down because of the changes happening inside his body. He realized to his disbelief that the pill he had taken was actually forcing him to break through the next level!

Soon, the aura of both men stabilized.

Rendell broke through two levels and entered the mid stage Level 2 Esper, while Albert entered the ranks of the elites at the early stage of Level 4.

The two stared at each other with dumbfounded faces. They didn’t expect that they would level up by just eating one pill!

“No one must know about this!” Albert warned him in a grave tone.

Rendell nodded his head in agreement.

The value of the pill they consumed was unimaginable and they couldn’t even begin to fathom what would happen once someone gets wind of its existence!

Albert inspected their surroundings carefully. He then heaved a sigh of relief after finding out that no one was in the vicinity.

“Sir Aethelwolf actually possesses such divine pills!” Rendell exclaimed. He was still in a state of shock.

Albert glared at him. “The pill is indeed shocking, but I think pills like that have their limitations. You should be quiet and don’t mention anything about what happened tonight to anybody.”

Rendell nodded his head. “I know.”

Albert lowered his head and muttered. “With Sir Aethelwolf supporting us, the Lassiter Household would soon become the strongest family in the Leone Empire...” He

clenched his fists tightly. He never would have thought that he would become a Level 4 Esper in just a short amount of time.