

# The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 191 – 200

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“H-Headmaster, we should talk this out peacefully. There is no need to use force.” Dave walked towards Aethelwolf and attempted to help Joseph escape from his grasp, but a figure suddenly before him and pushed him back.

Everyone stared at the white-haired elf with shocked expressions.

Dave wanted to retaliate, but he remembered that this elven woman was a Level 4 Esper so he quickly discarded the thought.

Aethelwolf released Joseph’s neck. “I will give you one more chance for Sir Lucas Maynard’s sake. I don’t want this to happen again, Joseph.” He muttered coldly. He noticed that Joseph was acting suspiciously after he said earlier. This made him think that the man might be involved in Enrique’s death. ‘I’ll have Miss Julie check this matter...’

Cough! Cough! Cough!

Joseph coughed heavily. He was seething with rage, but he didn’t even dare raise his head to look at Aethelwolf. He was only a Level 3 Esper while Aethelwolf was a Level 4 Esper. Even their family head, Count Lucas Maynard, might not be able to deal with him.

“Y-Yes, Headmaster Aethelwolf! Thank you for showing mercy. I will do my job properly from now on and follow your commands.” Joseph said with his head lowered. It was the first time he experienced this kind of humiliation and he couldn’t even fight back against the other party. There was a huge disparity in their status so he could only swallow his anger.

“Distribute the notices to the poor districts and towns. If something like this happens again, I won’t go easy anymore. Leave!” Aethelwolf commanded.

Dave hurriedly grabbed Joseph and bowed at Aethelwolf. “Thank you, Sir Aethelwolf! We will get this done quickly!” He then helped Joseph stand up and walked out of the faculty room with him. The members of their group immediately followed them.

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Aethelwolf turned his gaze to Madilyn Urgel and said. "Miss Madilyn, follow me for a second."

"The examinations must go according to plan. You guys can go and make sure to monitor the testing areas carefully." He said to the other teachers before he went out of the room with Aenwyn.

Madilyn quickly followed them.

Aethelwolf brought Madilyn to a secluded area. He then used his [Virtual Map] to check if someone was near them.

Madilyn looked calm on the surface, but she was very nervous. She didn't know why Aethelwolf asked her to follow him to this secluded area. 'Did I offend him unintentionally? I hope not...' She muttered in her heart.

Aethelwolf glanced calmly at Madilyn and muttered. "I don't trust Joseph Maynard. I want you to keep an eye on him in the academy when I'm not here."

Madilyn heaved a sigh of relief when she heard this. She thought that she had somehow provoked Aethelwolf so she was relieved that he called her for a different matter. "I heard that he was dissatisfied when you were appointed as the headmaster of the academy. Don't worry, Headmaster. I'll observe him closely in the academy."

"Just tell me if you need anything." Aethelwolf was satisfied by her answer.

"Yes, Headmaster!" Madilyn bowed her head lightly.

"Alright. Go back and help the other teachers in monitoring the examinations." Aethelwolf said before leaving with Aenwyn.

"Do you want me to follow those guys? They might disobey you again." Aenwyn whispered to him.

Aethelwolf shook his head. "There is no need to trouble you. I'll send someone else for that. Let's wait for the kids to finish their exam." He said.

Aenwyn nodded her head expressionlessly.

Meanwhile, inside the examination area for the Esper applicants.

The applicants were asked to do some physical tests.

"Applicant 1128, please step forward and attack this beam without using any weapon. It will determine the strength of your physical body. A Level 1 Esper will produce a

damage output of 1000 kg. You will pass the exam if you can get a score of 300 kg.” The teacher who was in charge of testing them said.

A young teenager stepped forward eagerly and punched the beam with his strongest force.

Bang!

500!

The teacher nodded his head and said to the applicant. “Good job! You can head to the next part of the exam.”

The applicant raised his fist in midair in celebration.

Soon, the other applicants were also tested. Most of them passed the exam, but there were also some that failed.

Among the group of applicants, a little girl with red hair tugged the clothes of the person in front of her. “Janrose, what would happen if I destroy that beam?”

Janrose turned her head at the little girl who was looking at her curiously. “Olivia, that is an apparatus used to measure the physical strength of Espers so you won’t be able to destroy it easily. Just do your best. I believe that you will pass this exam.” She chuckled while patting Olivia’s head.

“Is that so? Then maybe I should use my full strength...” Olivia revealed a smile.

Janrose felt goosebumps all over her body as soon as she saw Olivia’s smile. ‘Weird. What’s happening to me?’

“Applicant 1156, it’s your turn!”

“Oh, that’s me! Wait for me here, Olivia.” Janrose said.

“Okay. Good luck, Janrose!” Olivia gave her a thumbs up.

Janrose smiled at her before walking to the front. She was now a peak stage Level 1 Esper so her damage output should be around 7000 kg to 9000 kg.

She adjusted her breathing before punching the beam.

BANG!

9599!

Everyone was shocked when they saw this and even the teacher was also surprised.

“Your physical power alone is already close to reaching Level 2 Esper. Great job! What’s your name?” The teacher asked with a warm smile. There were only a few strong applicants and almost all of them came from rich families.

“Janrose. My name is Janrose Lassiter...” She smiled at the teacher. Aethelwolf told them that they were now members of the Lassiter Household. She and her mother had already changed their names a few days ago. Her mother was a bit reluctant at first, but she soon gave in after Aethelwolf’s relentless persuasion.

“Janrose Lassiter? You are from the Lassiter Household?” The teacher was shocked by this. He didn’t watch the battle tournament that was held recently so he had no idea who Janrose was, but he knew the Lassiter Household because it was the family of their headmaster!

Janrose nodded her head with a smile.

“No wonder Miss Janrose is so strong! You are actually a member of the Lassiter Household! Ehem! Congratulations on passing the exam, please head to the next examination area.” The teacher said.

“It’s alright. I’m still waiting for someone. We will leave together.” Janrose said.

“Could it be a member of the Lassiter Household as well?” The teacher asked her eagerly.

Janrose nodded as she replied. “Yes, it’s Sir Aethelwolf’s daughter.”

“Sir Aethelwolf’s daughter?! Where is she? I will let her take the test immediately so that you two can leave for the next test right away.” The teacher didn’t want to miss this chance to be on Aethelwolf’s good side. His career in the academy would be set if the Headmaster will support him.

“Her name is Olivia Lassiter.” Janrose whispered to the teacher. She also didn’t want to waste more time waiting so she didn’t hesitate to tell the teacher. ‘So this is how it feels to have a good background...’ She thought to herself.

“Olivia? Let’s see here...” The teacher checked the list of applicants. “Oh, it’s here. Applicant 1178, please step forward!”

“That’s me!” An immature voice echoed inside the examination area.

Everyone turned their heads and saw a little girl with red hair skipping towards the beam.

“Eh? A kid wants to take the Esper examinations?”

“She looks so young! She should be around four years old...”

The applicants were stunned when they saw Olivia. They couldn't believe that such a young girl was taking the Esper Examination.

“You are Miss Olivia?” The teacher stared at Olivia in surprise. ‘So this is Headmaster's daughter. She looks so young...’

Olivia nodded her head. “Mn.”

“Alright. Miss Olivia, you may attack the beam.” The teacher smiled at the little girl.

“Okay.” Olivia answered before turning her attention to the testing beam. She displayed a fighting stance that made everyone smile at how cute she looked.

“What an adorable little girl. I wonder which family she came from.”

“Could she even produce a damage output of 300? It would be a pity if she fail the test.”

Suddenly, under the dumbfounded gazes of the crowd, Olivia's figure vanished and reappeared near the testing beam. She threw out what looked to be a simple punch, but it carried it with a force that made everyone's hearts shiver in fear.

**BAANNG!**

The metal beam that was firmly planted on the ground was detached and flung away like a broken kite.

**RUMBLE!**

The testing area shook under that overwhelming power.

As soon as everyone regained their calmness, they couldn't help but stare fearfully at the little girl who was responsible for this mess.

“Oops.” Olivia muttered innocently.

Janrose was staring at Olivia in shock. She had no idea that this little glutton was actually a hidden expert! She was even more impressive than all the young talents who joined the recent battle event! ‘No wonder Sir Aethelwolf is confident enough to let her participate in the examination.’ She thought to herself.

“M-Miss Olivia, how strong are you exactly?” The teacher asked nervously.

Olivia raised three fingers as she said. "I'm a Level 3 Esper." However, she suddenly recalled that her papa asked her not to reveal her power. 'Oh no!' She immediately covered her mouth, but it was already too late.

The teacher's lips twitched upon hearing this. "L-Level 3 Esper? Then why did you take the, ays nevermind... Miss Olivia, with your power, there is no need for you to take the tests. I'll inform the other teachers about this and ask for a special admission for you. I believe that they would agree to this once they hear about your astonishing strength." He forced out a smile as he looked at the little girl.

Olivia tilted her head as she looked at the teacher. She didn't know what a special admission was so she turned her gaze to Janrose to seek answers.

Janrose smiled lightly when she saw her confused look. She then walked towards the little girl and said. "Olivia, the teacher said that he will ask the other teachers to allow you to become a student of the academy without taking the tests."

"Ahh... Okay." The little girl looked at her with a perplexed look.

Janrose chuckled after seeing Olivia's expression. "Since you don't need to take the tests, you should look for Sir Aethelwolf. I'll find you guys as soon as I'm done with the tests." Although they weren't related by blood, Janrose treated the little girl as her sister.

Hearing that she could go to Aethelwolf, Olivia's eyes brightened as she eagerly nodded her head. "Okay." She then sprinted out of the examination area.

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Everyone stared at the little girl with mixed emotions.

The teacher sighed as he muttered. "It looks like I would have to work overtime because of this..."

Janrose gave him an apologetic smile.

Meanwhile, Olivia was searching for Aethelwolf with Hyacinth. Albert was in the testing area of the Alchemy Applicants so he wasn't there.

"Miss Olivia, what happened inside? I heard a loud sound earlier. Did something go wrong?" Hyacinth asked.

Olivia raised her head and smiled in embarrassment. "I think I destroyed something. Hehe."

"Oh, I see. Eh? Wait. What did you say?" Hyacinth looked at her in surprise.

Olivia didn't answer her. The little girl giggled before bolting away like a small fox.

"Hey, wait for me, Miss Olivia!" Hyacinth quickly followed the little girl.

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"She destroyed the testing beam?" Aethelwolf's eyebrows jumped up in surprise. 'That kid. I clearly told her to conceal her power...'

"Yes, Headmaster Aethelwolf. The other teachers all agreed to give her a special admission. We only need your approval and signature so that we can process the documents for her admission." Madilyn reported.

"Alright. Just send me the documents and I'll sign them." Aethelwolf could only nod his head helplessly. At the very least, nothing bad happened so he was also relieved.

No one would question Olivia's special admission since she was a Level 3 Esper. With that kind of power, she was already one of the empire's top warriors. Even the teachers had to be respectful to her.

"Yes, Headmaster Aethelwolf. I'll get the documents and deliver them to you in a while." Madilyn said before walking away.

"Papa!" An excited voice echoed from the opposite building.

Aethelwolf turned his head and saw a red-haired little girl running towards him with a wide smile plastered on her face. "Olivia." He muttered her name.

The little girl jumped into his embrace as soon as she got near him.

Aethelwolf caught her and embraced her tightly. He then flicked her forehead. "Didn't I tell you not to reveal your power?"

Ow! Ow!

Olivia grabbed her forehead. "I'm sorry, papa. Hehe." She giggled.

Aethelwolf sighed as he put her down. He then held her hand and said. "Let's go check on Leric and Anna."

"Sir Aethelwolf! Wait for me!" Hyacinth's exhausted voice echoed behind them. When Aethelwolf looked at her, he saw Hyacinth drenched in sweat. She held her knees as she panted heavily, but she soon noticed that Aethelwolf was already walking further away with Olivia so she could only follow them.

The three arrived in the testing area of the Alchemy Applicants and they spotted Albert waiting outside.

“Sir Aethelwolf!” Albert bowed lightly.

Aethelwolf waved his hand and asked. “How are the kids?”

“They are doing great. They are now taking their second test. With their speed, they should be able to complete everything in just half a day.” Albert replied.

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“Joseph, what do we do now?” Dave asked.

Joseph glared at him and answered coldly. “What else can we do? Aethelwolf, that arrogant punk, has already given us his command. We might be kicked out of the academy if we don’t do our job well.”

He has been in a good mood lately after the death of his strongest rival for the family head position, Enrique Maynard. However, his happiness was short-lived because of Aethelwolf. “That darn bastard! Dammit!” Joseph cursed angrily.

Everything was going well for him so far, but Aethelwolf’s words earlier made him feel uneasy. He seemed to know about Enrique’s death. ‘How did he know about it? We didn’t even allow our servants and the low-ranking members of the family to get out of the estate. Do we have some spies in our midst?’

“Dave, let’s go back to the estate first. I need to talk with the family head.” Joseph muttered in a serious voice.

“What about Aethelwolf’s commands? He might punish us if we fail to do our task.” Dave replied hesitantly. He felt fearful towards Aethelwolf and even with the Maynard Household backing them, he still couldn’t remain calm.

Joseph scoffed as he looked at him. “We would need more men to distribute the notices to those distant towns so let’s go back to the estate first.”

“Fine.” Dave could only agree.

The group went to the Maynard Household’s estate and Joseph immediately headed to the family head’s office.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Father, I have something important to discuss with you. May I come inside?” Joseph said after knocking on the door.

“You may enter.” An aged voice could be heard inside the room.

Joseph glanced at Dave and said. “Stay here and wait for me.” He then entered the room.

“Why did you visit me at this hour? Aren’t you supposed to be in the academy?” Count Lucas Maynard frowned while looking at Joseph. He was already old, but he still looked strong and full of vigor. However, Joseph knew that his father was ill.

“Oh, that... Aethelwolf, I mean the headmaster told us to visit the rural areas for a task. I decided to drop by here before leaving since I have something to tell you.” Joseph paused to look at his father’s expression.

“What is it? What do you want to discuss with me?” Count Lucas asked before taking a small sip of his tea.

Joseph put on a serious look as he said. “Father, I think the headmaster knows about Enrique’s death. Although he didn’t say it explicitly, I believe that he knows something about it. Father, do you think that there are some spies hiding in our estate?”

Count Lucas frowned at his words. “It seems like Aethelwolf is closely monitoring our Maynard Household.” The old man put down his teacup and added. “Don’t worry about him. I’ll take care of it. For now, complete his task first so that you can go back to the academy. I spent some effort to get those spots for you guys so you must treasure it well. The academy would soon become a strong force in the empire so our Maynard Household shouldn’t be left out in this huge opportunity.”

Joseph heaved an internal sigh of relief upon hearing this. “Alright. Just tell me if you need anything, father. We will take our leave now.”

“Go.” The old man waved his hand and Joseph left after bidding him farewell.

Inside the room, Count Lucas suddenly let out a deep sigh. “Aethelwolf must be suspicious about Enrique’s death. I thought that they were not that close, but it looks like Aethelwolf treated him as his friend...” A moment later, the old man’s face turned frosty as he muttered. “Joseph, just what are you planning to do? You killed your brother. Are you also thinking of killing me?”

He knew from the start that Joseph had something to do with Enrique’s death, but he feigned ignorance to prevent the Maynard Household from being divided. If he punished Joseph for his crime, his supporters might try to do something that would lead to the downfall of their family.

Other than Olivia who got a special admission, the other kids also passed their examinations with splendid results. Their test results shocked the applicants and the teachers, making them gain a small amount of reputation.

Aethelwolf handed the academy matters to the teachers and he went home with the kids.

“Let’s go back home.” Aethelwolf turned his gaze to Madilyn and said. “I’ll leave everything in your hands. Just tell me if you need something.”

“Yes, Headmaster.” Madilyn bowed and sent them off.

On their way to the mansion, Aethelwolf was thinking about what he should do with the Maynard Household. He believe that Joseph Maynard wasn’t the kind of person who wouldn’t retaliate after being humiliated. He had to prepare some countermeasures in case that person does something.

“Albert, how are the solitary experts you recruited recently?” He asked.

“I talked with seven of them, but only four of them accepted our proposal. I can try to talk with them again.” Albert replied.

“What about Fast Sword?” Aethelwolf was more interested in that person since he was quite famous among the solitary experts.

“He rejected all of my invitations and no one knows where is he staying right now. I went to their previous home, but the place is already empty. Do you want me to ask His Highness Calvin’s help to track the whereabouts of Fast Sword?” Albert was also curious about this person. Despite having no support from rich households, Fast Sword managed to become a Level 4 Esper. What would happen if he gains the support of Aethelwolf who possesses so many miraculous pills? Albert could already imagine what kind of progress the man would have if he receives Aethelwolf’s help.

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Aethelwolf pondered deeply after hearing this. The Lassiter Household doesn’t have its own intelligence-gathering unit so they could only ask for the second prince’s help to search for Fast Sword. He could try asking for Julie Irish’s help, but he was afraid that the girl might try to take advantage of him.

“It looks like we need to create our own intelligence-gathering unit. Albert, who do you think is the best person to lead this group among the Level 4 Espers in our household?”

Albert thought for a moment before answering. “If you don’t mind, I can lead this new unit for you and I’ll let Ramiel take my post. He’s been doing a great job lately as the Vice Leader of our force. I believe he can lead our force better than me.” He sensed that

this was an opportunity for him since what Aethelwolf lacked at the moment was information.

(Ramiel Sigurd is one of the four strongest hunters from the Hunter Association who joined them recently.)

Aethelwolf was a bit surprised by this. "Oh? You think so highly of Ramiel? I thought that guy was only good at fighting." He was very busy and even his free time was spent teaching Olivia and his students. His impression of Ramiel was that he was a fearless and intimidating warrior.

Albert smiled as he said. "Ramiel might not be good at devising complicated strategies, but he is quite knowledgeable in group hunting and he also has experience in large-scale warfare since he was once a sergeant of the Leone Empire's army. He is a fast learner so Ramiel should be able to quickly adapt to being the leader of the force. I will train him for a month to make sure that everything goes perfectly."

Aethelwolf was satisfied by Albert. He recruited Albert in hopes that he could use his knowledge as a high-ranking commander to manage the Lassiter Household's armed forces.

Albert has been a great leader of the force and he was also good at socializing with his subordinates. Under his leadership, their armed force developed steadily and they could even handle the elite forces of the empire now.

"Let's talk more about this once we get home." Aethelwolf muttered.

Suddenly, Aethelwolf noticed an abnormality in the [Virtual Map].

"Someone is tailing us." He whispered to Aenwyn.

The elven princess' eyes narrowed when she heard this. "Do you want me to deal with them?" She said coldly.

Aethelwolf shook his head. "They are not enemies." He said. The group tailing them was registered as blue dots in the [Virtual Map] which indicated that they were not an enemy group.

Princess Aenwyn stared at him silently. "How do you know that?" She asked.

Aethelwolf smiled at her. "That's a secret." He replied teasingly.

The princess still looked calm after being teased by him. She then looked away from him and remained silent.

Soon, the group arrived at the mansion and Aethelwolf summoned all the Level 4 Espers in the Household including Hyacinth, Rendell, and his father, Anton Lassiter.

Excluding Aethelwolf and Albert, the Lassiter Household has eight Level 4 Espers. His father was only a Level 3 Esper, but Aethelwolf planned to give the remaining pills he saved up to help him reach Level 4.

“I called all of you here since I will assign you guys to different roles. Our Lassiter Household has grown into a sizable group and I would need your help in managing the household.” Aethelwolf said as he looked at the people in front of him. They were the strongest experts under his command and they would soon become the central figures of the household.

Other than Anton and Albert, everyone’s eyes shone with excitement. The four solitary experts who had just recently joined them were also surprised. They thought that Aethelwolf wouldn’t give them any position for a long time since they were new to the household, but it seems like Aethelwolf didn’t mind this fact.

“First, I’d like to officially appoint Hyacinth as the Head Maid and Finance Manager of our household. She will be handling all of the businesses we own and she is also responsible for supervising our workers and servants. Hyacinth, this is your new contract. You just need to sign it.” Aethelwolf smiled as he handed a piece of paper to Hyacinth.

“Thank you so much for your trust, Sir Aethelwolf!” Hyacinth couldn’t believe that she would become an important figure. She was eternally grateful to Aethelwolf because this man changed her fate.

The others clapped their hands as they congratulated her.

Just like that, the others who were promoted also received their new positions.

Rendell officially became the butler of the Lassiter Household. Ramiel was now the new commander of the armed forces, and Albert became the leader of the new unit responsible for gathering information. The other experts also got their new roles.

Everyone was excited about their future and they all expressed their loyalty to Aethelwolf.

With the help of these people, the Lassiter Household would soon become stronger!

Aethelwolf dismissed them after giving them new contracts. “Sir Anton, Hyacinth, Rendell. You three will stay. I have something to give you guys.”

The three people stayed and stared at each other in confusion.

“Relax. I just want to give you guys something.” Aethelwolf said as he handed one wooden box to each of them.

“What is this, Sir Aethelwolf?” Hyacinth asked.

Aethelwolf smiled as he replied. “You three are now high-ranking members of the Lassiter Household, but there might be some people who won’t give you respect because of the strength you possess. Each box has enough pills to help you increase your level once and there is also a bracelet that has an Aura Concealing Rune inscribed to it.”

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“What?!” The three exclaimed in shock.

“Make sure that you will wear the bracelets at all times to hide your auras. No one must know about those pills.” Aethelwolf warned them in a serious voice.

“Yes, Sir Aethelwolf.” They nodded their heads solemnly.

“You may take your leave.” Aethelwolf kicked them out of his study. He then went to find Olivia and saw her on the balcony looking at the stars

The little girl was holding a big cookie in her left hand and a small bottle of milkshake in the other.

When she heard someone’s footsteps, she turned her head and smiled. “Papa, are you done talking to them?” She asked.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and lifted her into his arms. “What are you doing here all by yourself?”

The little girl devoured her cookie and pointed at the sky as she muttered. “I’m just looking at the stars. They still looked the same as what I saw in the forest where I once lived, but they seemed more beautiful now.”

Aethelwolf ruffled her hair and kissed her forehead.

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In the next few days, Albert and his subordinates left the mansion to search for Fast Sword. They collaborated with the second prince to look for the guy and it took them about four days to find him.

A man dressed in dark blue clothing said as he pointed to a location on the map. “Sir Aethelwolf, Fast Sword is currently staying here. There is an old house in this area and

our men saw him moving his ill wife into that house. We have already sent a group of experts to secretly observe the area and Sir Albert himself has already gone there to discuss with Fast Sword. Sir Albert said that he would be back to the mansion tonight to report the results of his discussion with Fast Sword.”

“Is that so? Tell him to bring Fast Sword here.” Aethelwolf promised Olivia that he would help the man and he didn’t want to break the promise he made to his daughter.

“Yes, Sir Aethelwolf.” The man nodded his head and left right away.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Another one? Olivia, massage my back please.” Aethelwolf helplessly said. The Lassiter Household was very active in the last few days because of the new changes to their personnel.

“Okay.” Olivia nodded her head eagerly. She then jumped behind him and started massaging his back with her tiny hands.

“You may enter.” Aethelwolf said.

Aenwyn entered the room with an expressionless look. She bowed her head lightly at Aethelwolf. “I followed the people who were secretly tailing us last time and they all went to the same mansion.” She reported.

Aethelwolf looked at her and said. “Oh? Let me guess. Is it the Maynard Household?”

Aenwyn shook her head. “No. It’s that person. They were sent by that man.” She muttered calmly.

Aethelwolf’s eyebrows jumped up in surprise. “Eh? Do you mean Brian? It looks like he is really up to something. Perhaps you might be right. That guy must be interested in the Holy Spring of the elves.”

Aenwyn nodded her head. “That’s right, but my family will never give the Holy Spring to him. Even if he begs them, they won’t give him even a single drop of it.” She muttered indifferently.

Aethelwolf looked at her and asked. “Someone from your kingdom speaks the human language?”

Aenwyn nodded her head. “My mother, the Queen of the kingdom, knows how to speak the human language. Other than her, the High Elder also knows how to speak your language.”

"I see." Suddenly, Aethelwolf let out a smile as he said. "Normally, they wouldn't give the Holy Spring to the humans, but what if Brian hands you over to your brother in exchange for you? Brian doesn't know your identity yet, but if he learns about it, he might kidnap you from me."

Aenwyn was still calm even after hearing this. She stared at Aethelwolf and said. "He won't be able to capture me. He is weaker than you."

Aethelwolf's eyes narrowed into slits, but he soon chuckled and shook his head. "Is that your own way of praising people?"

"Just don't leave my side and I'll protect you." Aethelwolf added.

There was a momentary change in Princess Aenwyn's eyes, but Aethelwolf didn't see it since she quickly lowered her head.

"Papa, my hands are tired." Olivia grumbled.

"Aiyoo... Come here." Aethelwolf grabbed the little girl and let her sit on his lap. He then gave her a small jar that was filled with cookies. "Here. This is for you."

Olivia's eyes shone with delight and she quickly took the small jar and opened it. "Cookies! Thank you, papa!"

Aethelwolf chuckled and patted her head. "Drink a lot of water later, okay?"

Olivia nodded her head happily. "Okay."

Princess Aenwyn watched the father and daughter pair with a calm look on her face.

Night arrived and Albert came back to the mansion with his subordinates. He also brought someone with him. It was a man who was wearing bronze armor and his face could be barely seen because of the hood that covered half his head.

"Butler Rendell, is Sir Aethelwolf here?" Albert asked the man who received them. It was the newly appointed butler of the household, Rendell Lassiter.

Rendell smiled at Albert. His gaze moved past the man behind Albert. "This must be Fast Sword? Sir Aethelwolf is waiting for you guys in his study." He said.

"Alright. Thanks." Albert said. He then told his subordinates to return and only brought Fast Sword with him.

"Wait!"

Albert looked at Rendell in confusion. "What is it?"

Rendell handed him a small jar filled with cookies. "Take this. The young miss might not let you go inside if you don't give her something. I prepared this just in case." He chuckled as he said those words.

Albert laughed along with him and took the small jar from his hands. "You saved me the trouble. Thanks, man."

"No worries. Go on now." Rendell waved his hand.

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Fast Sword glanced at the two of them with a confused look, but he didn't say anything. 'Why do we need a jar of cookies to get inside Sir Aethelwolf's study?' He thought to himself.

"Follow me. Everyone inside this mansion is part of the Lassiter Household so there's nothing to worry about. You can relax here." Albert patted Fast Sword's shoulder.

Fast Sword nodded his head.

Along the way, he was observing the mansion as well as the people inside. Everyone had smiles on their faces which made him believe that the Lassiter Household was treating its people well. Many knew about Aethelwolf's benevolence so this didn't surprise him. He just thought that it was rare to see such a scene in the noble households since most of them look down on the commoners. Some servants and slaves were treated like animals or even worse than that.

"We are here." Albert's voice interrupted his thoughts.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

"Sir Aethelwolf, I've brought Fast Sword with me."

Soon, the door was opened and they saw a red-haired little girl looking at them with her hands on her waist. She then smiled as she extended her right arm. Her hand wiggled as she looked at Albert.

Albert understood this immediately. He took out the jar filled with cookies and gave it to her. "Young Miss, we would like to talk with Sir Aethelwolf." He muttered with a smile.

The corner of Olivia's mouth rose upwards when she saw the cookies. She then nodded her head and said. "Papa is writing something. You may enter."

Suddenly, she noticed the unfamiliar person behind Albert and she couldn't help but look at him curiously. She tugged Albert's clothes and asked "Albert, who is that person?"

"This is Fast Sword, a solitary expert that Sir Aethelwolf invited to the mansion." Albert answered her.

On their way to the study, Olivia kept on staring at Fast Sword, making the man feel a bit conscious.

"Papa, Albert is here." Olivia ran towards Aethelwolf who was buried in a pile of documents.

Aethelwolf lifted his head.

"Greetings, Sir Aethelwolf." Albert bowed his head lightly. He then pointed at Fast Sword as he said. "This is Fast Sword."

"Good evening, Sir Aethelwolf. Everyone calls me Fast Sword, but you can call me by my name, Zachary." Fast Sword introduced himself simply.

Aethelwolf nodded his head. "Thank you for bringing him here, Albert. You may leave now."

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf." Albert left right away.

"Please take your seat." Aethelwolf said to Zachary.

Zachary was normally a calm person, but he was strangely nervous in the presence of Aethelwolf. He was a Level 4 Esper, but he couldn't even gauge Aethelwolf's power. Some said that Aethelwolf was a late stage Level 4 Esper or even at the peak stage, but after meeting him in person, Zachary believed that Aethelwolf might be a lot more powerful than that. He has the ability to accurately sense the power of someone because of his inborn mutated eyes. Even without the use of an observation skill, he could tell how strong someone was. The only exception were the people who possess an item that can hide their aura.

The reason why Zachary was nervous was that Aethelwolf activated his skills [Intimidate], and [Overwhelming Aura]. The latter was a new skill he learned just recently. It could make his aura look mysterious and profound in the eyes of others, making it seem like they were looking at a deep ocean or a tall mountain.

Aethelwolf smiled as he put down his quill pen. "I'm sorry for not being able to invite you in person. As you can see, I have a lot of matters to take care of." He muttered in a helpless tone.

"It's alright, Sir Aethelwolf. I understand your situation." Zachary removed his hood as he uttered those words, showing the scar-riddled face of a middle-aged man with short graying hair. One of his pupils had turned white, a sign that it was already blind.

By just looking at him, anyone could tell that this man has been through a lot of danger.

“I believe that Albert has already told you why invited you here.” Aethelwolf was a bit surprised when he got a clearer look at the man’s face. He could already imagine what Zachary has to go through just to get his wife treated. This was a devoted man.

Zachary nodded his head. “You want me to join the Lassiter Household, but you should already know my condition.”

Aethelwolf nodded. “You are looking for someone who can treat your wife, right?”

“That’s right. I tried all means and went to many places just to get her treated, but everything failed. If you can treat my wife, I promise that I will serve you until I die.” Zachary said with a serious tone.

Aethelwolf smiled as he stood up. “Alright. Bring me to her.”

Zachary looked at him in surprise. “You mean now?”

Aethelwolf chuckled and patted the man’s shoulder. “Take me to her. You must pour me a drink later after I cure your wife.”

His confidence made Zachary feel a sense of hope.

“I will!”

## 196 Zachary’s Wife

Zachary brought Aethelwolf to his humble abode. He felt a bit embarrassed because of his poor living conditions, but Aethelwolf didn’t seem to mind this.

To save himself from further embarrassment, he immediately led Aethelwolf to where his wife was.

Aethelwolf could smell the strong scent of medicinal herbs inside the room.

He saw a woman lying on the bed with her eyes shut tight. She looked thin and sickly with her pale face and dry lips.

Looking at her condition, Aethelwolf furrowed his eyebrows.

Zachary sat on the bed and caressed the woman’s face gently as he muttered in a desolate tone. “My wife has been unconscious for a long time now. We were on a dangerous mission back then and she ended up using all her world essence, causing her Hegel to be damaged. She overexerted herself in that mission and her level even dropped to Level 3. Her soul is also injured because of that event. If not for her having

the body of a Level 4 Esper, she would have already succumbed to her injuries. If only I was strong enough, she wouldn't have to overuse her power." He blamed himself for what had happened to his wife and every time he looked at her face, his guilt would overwhelm him.

Aethelwolf patted the man's shoulder. "Let me check her pulse." He said.

Zachary stood up and nodded at Aethelwolf. He didn't say anything and just looked at Aethelwolf in silence. Many Doctors and Alchemists tried to cure his wife, but none of them were even able to awaken her.

Aethelwolf placed his fingers on the woman's wrist to check her pulse. He then sent out his world essence to observe the condition of her body.

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He closed his eyes to get a clearer picture of what was happening inside her body and he found out that there was indeed a major damage to her Hegel. He also noticed that her heart has become weaker and it was almost no different from a normal human's heart.

Espers have stronger physical bodies compared to the average humans and their internal organs are also many times stronger. This was because Espers' bodies required more energy to function properly.

Aethelwolf opened his eyes and looked away from the woman. He turned his gaze to Zachary and smiled at him. "Don't worry. I can save your wife. I believe that you have already heard about the pills we sell in our clinic."

Zachary nodded his head. The hope in his eyes intensified when he heard Aethelwolf's words. "I've heard about your pills. Truthfully, I sent someone to purchase your pills and I also helped my wife consume them. However, she still showed no signs of recovery after taking those pills." He sighed.

Aethelwolf wasn't surprised when he heard this. "That's only natural. Your wife's injuries are so severe that even the pills in our clinic are ineffective, but those pills are only weakened versions so it's normal for them to fail. Try these instead." He said while taking out a few pills from his storage space.

'Those pills are just the weakened versions? No wonder.' Zachary took the pills from his hands and observed them carefully. They were no different than the pills he bought from his clinic. The only difference was that they contain more energy.

"Crush those pills and mix them into a glass half-filled with water. You can use this water. This is water imbued with world essence. It is exposed to my energy daily so it

works like an elixir. You just have to..." Aethelwolf gave him a couple of instructions and Zachary followed them accordingly.

After mixing the crushed pills into the water he provided, Zachary gently opened his wife's lips and brought the glass to her mouth, and helped her take small sips of the mixture.

"Make sure that she drinks everything inside that glass." Aethelwolf reminded.

Zachary listened to his advice and helped his wife drink the contents of the glass.

After the woman drank the mixture, her dry lips turned rosy and her face regained color. She no longer looked pale and she had recovered to a certain extent.

Aethelwolf checked her pulse once more and nodded his head in satisfaction. "She should awaken in a few hours. Her body is still weak at the moment so she would require three more dosages of the mixture. Just mix according to my instructions and let her drink it three more times. She should be able to walk after three days. Here are the pills and you can also have this water bottle. I'll write the mixture for you in case you have forgotten it." Aethelwolf took out a piece of paper and began scribbling down the detailed recipe of the mixture. He then handed it to the emotional Zachary.

"Thank you so much, Sir Aethelwolf!" Zachary noticed that his wife's face looked more alive now. That means the method used by Aethelwolf was effective!

"You can thank me once she regains consciousness. You can also pour me a drink when that time comes." Aethelwolf smiled at him. He then looked at the time on his watch. "It's getting late. I should head back to the mansion. You already know the address of the mansion. You can bring your wife with you on your next visit."

"You're heading back already? How about staying here for dinner? I'll cook something for you." Zachary said right away.

Aethelwolf shook his head. "There's no need for that. You saw my daughter, right? She would cause a ruckus if I don't return home before dinner time. No one at home can handle her." He chuckled as he uttered those words.

Zachary recalled the little girl he saw in the mansion and he couldn't help but smile. He no longer insisted and said. "Alright. In that case, let me send you off."

He brought Aethelwolf out of his home and casually talked with him along the way.

Zachary no longer felt worried for his wife now that he had Aethelwolf's help.

"Aethelwolf..." He muttered his benefactor's name as he looked at Aethelwolf's carriage moving away.

It was almost the start of classes and Aethelwolf didn't feel like doing anything, but his work would pile up if he let his laziness get the better of him.

He was in his study checking a pile of documents. It was the weekly sales report of the shops and stores they own.

Behind him was Aenwyn who was standing like a statue. She was wearing a white and blue dress this time and it made her look seductive and alluring.

"No one's here. Just sit down." He told the elven princess.

Aenwyn wanted to say no, but she found no reason to reject him. She grabbed a chair and took a seat in an elegant manner.

Aethelwolf put down the piece of paper he was reading and smiled at the elf. "Since you have nothing to do, how about telling me more about yourself? I'll listen while I go over these documents."

Aenwyn stared at him calmly and said emotionlessly. "I'm more than a hundred years old."

Aethelwolf glanced at her with a dumbfounded look. "You are that old?! Ays nevermind. Just get me a cup of coffee." The elven princess wasn't good at conversing with people so he quickly lost interest in talking with her.

Aenwyn stood up and left without a word.

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"At least she looks good." Aethelwolf muttered as he looked at her sexy figure.

Suddenly, he felt someone tugging his clothes. "Papa, why are you looking at Aenwyn like that?" It was Olivia who was looking at him with unblinking eyes.

Aethelwolf cleared his throat and chuckled dryly.

"Papa, I saw you looking at Aenwyn's butt." Olivia narrowed her eyes as she stared at Aethelwolf.

Aethelwolf quickly covered her mouth. "Shhh!"

Crack!

There was a cracking sound behind him and he felt his back turning cold.

Aethelwolf slowly turned his head and saw an expressionless Aenwyn looking at him silently. The floor beneath her feet was covered in cracks.

'Oh crap!' Aethelwolf immediately stood up and forced out a smile as he said. "Aenwyn, don't believe her nonsense. I'm not that kind of person."

Aenwyn's aura rose, and Aethelwolf was at his wit's end.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Aethelwolf quickly escaped and opened the door.

"Sir Aethelwolf, your-"

"Thank you so much! You came at the right time!" Aethelwolf grinned and patted Rendell's shoulder.

"Ah, yes! No problem." Rendell replied in confusion.

"Send someone to repair the floor in my study. Tell them to prepare sturdier materials, something that could handle the strength of Espers." Aethelwolf said before leaving the perplexed Rendell.

"Sir Aethelwolf seems to be in a hurry. Weird..." Rendell muttered to himself.

"Papa, wait for me!" A scared Olivia suddenly ran past him, making Rendell jump up in surprise.

A few seconds later, he saw an elven woman walking out of the room. When their gazes met, Rendell felt his heart trembling in fear. 'Just what happened here?'

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"It's been a while since all of you gathered like this. I believe that you have already read everything in the learning materials I sent for you guys last time." Aethelwolf smiled as he scanned his visitors. They were Jade Kristine and his other students.

"Sir Aethelwolf, Samira and I have already perfected the making of 1st-Grade Pills. Janrose and Leric no longer have to wait for us. We can take our Level 1 Alchemy exam now." Anna excitedly said.

"We've been practicing how to make herbal pastes and control our Pill Fire. I think we are ready for the exam." Samira nodded her head in agreement.

"I came here as soon as I heard this. I want to personally give them their Level 1 Alchemist certificate." Jade Kristine smiled.

“Oh? Not bad. How about you, Sir Johann?” Aethelwolf looked at the old man in the group.

Johann grinned as he replied. “Sir Aethelwolf, I’ve already gotten my Level 4 Alchemist certificate. I took my Level 4 Alchemy exam yesterday and I was fortunate enough to barely pass it. I wanted to come here yesterday to tell you this news, but I heard that you are busy so I decided to come here today.”

Aethelwolf gave him a thumbs up. “Good job!” He then turned his gaze back to Anna and Samira. “Go and take your Alchemy exam now. I’ll wait for your good news.” He smiled at them.

Anna and Samira nodded their heads in unison. They wanted him to go with them to the Alchemy Tower, but they knew that their teacher had a lot of things to do so they didn’t say anything.

Aethelwolf said. “Janrose and Leric should be in the kitchen. You can search for them there.”

“I’ll leave them in your hands.” He said to Jade Kristine and Johann.

“Yes, Sir Aethelwolf!” Jade Kristine and Johann nodded their heads.

A series of quick footsteps suddenly echoed and everyone quickly turned their heads. They saw Albert walking towards Aethelwolf with a big smile on his face. “Sir Aethelwolf, Fast Sword is here to visit you! He also brought his wife with him.”

It has been three days since he visited Fast Sword’s home and it was about time for his wife’s condition to stabilize.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf let out a smile as he said. “Bring them inside. I have a lot of things to talk about with them.”

Albert bowed lightly. “Yes, Sir Aethelwolf!” He then left right away.

“Sir Aethelwolf, you’ve been in contact with Fast Sword?” Jade Kristine asked in surprise. Johann also looked at him in shock.

Aethelwolf nodded his head. There was no need to hide this matter since everyone would soon know about it. “That’s right. In fact, I invited him to join the Lassiter Household.”

“That means you’ve already cured his wife?!” Jade Kristine was amazed by his capabilities. He definitely deserved to be her teacher.

“As expected of Sir Aethelwolf!” Johann praised him.

“Papa! Aenwyn is coming!” Olivia’s anxious voice soon entered their ears.

When Aethelwolf heard this, he immediately fled to the kitchen.

Aethelwolf welcomed Fast Sword and his wife with a huge feast.

“Thank you so much for saving me, Sir Aethelwolf. I owe you this life of mine.” Fast Sword’s wife bowed her head at Aethelwolf. She was genuinely grateful to this man for saving her life.

Aethelwolf smiled at her. “How do you feel now?”

“I can walk on my own now, but I still get dizzy sometimes. I probably need a few more days of rest before I recover fully.” The woman replied.

“That’s normal since your body has grown weaker after a long time of inactivity. I have prepared a great tonic for you. It should help you recover faster. Here, take it.” Aethelwolf took out a glass jar from his storage space and handed it to her.

The woman was reluctant at first, but her husband, Fast Sword, accepted it on her behalf. “Sir Aethelwolf, my wife is a very shy person so I’ll accept it for her.” He grinned as he said this. He still looked scary with all the scars on his face, but Aethelwolf felt that the man was happy.

“Since you’re here, I believe that you are ready to join our household.” Aethelwolf changed the topic and looked at Zachary with a serious look.

Zachary nodded his head. “I’ve talked about this with my wife. I’ll join the Lassiter Household, but I hope that you could also let my wife join.” He said.

Aethelwolf smiled at the man. “This is just a simple matter. I agree.”

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“Great! Do you need me to sign any documents?” Zachary and his wife became happier after getting his approval.

“Let’s talk about that later. You guys should eat first. I had the servants prepare this feast for you two.” Aethelwolf let the couple sit with him. He also invited the others to join them.

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Days passed by in the blink of an eye and it was the start of the classes.

Aethelwolf headed to the academy with Olivia and the others.

The kids looked young and full of vigor in their school uniforms. They couldn't even conceal the excitement on their faces.

Aethelwolf recalled a distant memory in his past life. It was the time when he was still a student. He was still young and inexperienced at that time.

"Papa, do you know who will be the teacher of the First Year Esper Class 1?"

Aethelwolf glanced at Olivia and smiled at her as he nodded his head. "Why do you want to know?" He asked.

"I'm just curious." Olivia replied.

Aethelwolf rubbed her head gently as he said. "Your teacher will be Verson Misa. He is a friend of mine. He is weaker than you, but you can learn a lot of things from him. That guy is a veteran hunter of the Hunter Association. You should listen to his lessons, okay?"

Olivia nodded her head. "Okay."

Soon, they arrived at the academy.

Aethelwolf brought Olivia and Janrose to their classroom. The two were among the top students in the Esper Department so they ended up becoming classmates.

"You guys must not bully your classmates, okay?" Aethelwolf warned them.

Olivia and Janrose nodded their heads.

"Okay."

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf."

"Alright. Go inside." Aethelwolf smiled as he bid them farewell.

The two waved their hands at him before entering their classroom.

As soon as they got inside, they saw that their classmates were already there.

Janrose noticed some familiar faces among them so she walked up to them while dragging Olivia with her.

"Long time no see, Grace. How are you?" Janrose sat beside Grace and she let Olivia sit on her other side.

Grace glanced at her and smiled. "Janrose. I knew that we would be in the same class. Michael and the others are also here." She then turned her gaze to Olivia and said. "I heard that Olivia got a special admission after revealing the strength of a Level 3 Esper. Is that true?"

Janrose nodded her head. "Mn. Olivia broke the testing apparatus during the examination so the teachers immediately decided to give her a special admission to prevent her from destroying more equipment." She chuckled while saying this.

Grace couldn't help but look at the red-haired little girl in shock after hearing this. Every time they visit the Lassiter Household, she would see this little girl eating so it was surprising to know that she was actually a Level 3 Esper.

At first, Grace didn't want to believe this, but there were a lot of people who witnessed Olivia's eruption of power.

Olivia stared at Grace curiously. "Aren't you the younger sister of Miss Julie Irish?"

Grace smiled at the little girl and nodded her head. "That's right. Do you know my sister?"

Olivia nodded and said. "Mn. She always visits our mansion to eat." She then leaned closer to Grace and added. "I think your sister likes my papa." The little girl giggled as she uttered those words.

"Why do you say so?" Grace asked with her eyebrows furrowed.

"She said that she wanted to show papa her face, but my papa wasn't interested." Olivia whispered innocently.

Grace looked at her in shock after hearing this.

Janrose who was listening to them was also surprised. She knew that Grace's sister was Julie Irish, the family head of the Urgel Household.

"Nonsense! My sister would never do that." Grace snorted.

Olivia shrugged as she said. "I'm just saying what I heard. How about you ask your sister?"

Suddenly.

Tap. Tap. Tap.

A man wearing leather armor entered the classroom and everyone immediately shut their mouths after seeing him. It was Verson Misa, the younger brother of the Hunter Association's Vice Leader.

"Hello, everyone! I am Verson Misa and I will be your adviser." Verson wrote his name on the blackboard and he made it big enough for everyone to see. He then scanned the young students in the classroom.

All of them were the best young talents in the empire and he was proud that he would be teaching them.

Aethelwolf headed to the headmaster's office to sort out some documents. There are a lot of things to take care of since he still didn't have an assistant who could help him settle those menial tasks.

Aenwyn followed him silently. She ignored the curious gazes sent her way and just trailed behind Aethelwolf.

"Don't mind them. The people here have not seen an elf in their entire lives. You are also the first elf I encountered." Aethelwolf said.

"I don't mind." Aenwyn muttered in a calm voice.

Soon, they entered the headmaster's office. It was located on the topmost floor of the main building. It was well-decorated and there were even some safety runes inscribed all around the room.

"Sit down. I'll take care of these documents first." Aethelwolf said as he grabbed a stack of papers on his table.

Aenwyn wanted to help him, but she couldn't understand the words written on the papers. In the end, she could only sit down worldlessly since she had nothing to do.

After a few minutes, she looked at Aethelwolf and said. "How about hiring an assistant to do this job for you? My mother, the queen of our kingdom, is supported by many aides and they do all the simple tasks for her."

Aethelwolf put down the documents and stared at her. "I plan to do that, but I still haven't found a suitable person to hire. There are a lot of things to do here so I would need more than one person to help me. I believe four people should be enough." He said after a moment of thinking. Truthfully, he already had one person in mind, but it would be a waste of her talent if he just hired her as his assistant.

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“Teach me the language of humans. I can help you after I learn it.” Aenwyn’s words surprised him greatly.

“You want to learn our language?” Aethelwolf looked at her. “Do you have no plans to go back to your kingdom? I believe your mother is worried about your safety.”

Aenwyn was silent for a moment before she shook her head. “I can’t go back there now. My elder brother’s forces are strong and even my mother couldn’t handle him anymore. If I go back, there might be a civil war in the Aracan Kingdom.” She sounded calm, but Aethelwolf sensed the emotion in her voice.

“Sorry. I spoke rashly.” Aethelwolf apologized.

“It’s fine.” Aenwyn let out a rare smile. It looked beautiful and even Aethelwolf who has the heart of an old man was stunned by her beauty.

“Do you really want to learn our language?” He asked.

Aenwyn nodded her head. “I want to understand the people around you as well. I plan to settle down in your territory.”

It was definitely good of him if Aenwyn would officially join the Lassiter Household.

Aenwyn was a late stage Level 4 Esper. Her strength alone was already among the strongest by the Leone Empire’s standards. Other than that, she was also a Level 3 Engraver!

The only worrying matter about her is her identity as the crown princess of the Aracan Kingdom. If her elder brother hears that she was now living with him... Aethelwolf hurriedly discarded those negative thoughts and looked at the elven princess with a pondering gaze.

“Actually, I can make a Translation Rune for you. That would make things easier.” Aethelwolf said.

“No. I want to learn your language. The Translation Rune could make things easier for me, but I want to experience the process of learning. At least that way, I would have something to do in my free time.” Aenwyn answered.

Aethelwolf revealed a look of understanding. The elven princess had nothing to do other than being his guard, but it was almost no different than doing nothing. After all, he was also a Level 4 Esper and no one would foolishly try to assassinate him. Aenwyn might have gotten bored doing absolutely nothing in the past few days.

“Alright. I’ll teach you, but you have to improve the runes in our territory. Lion City might look peaceful, but there are a lot of crooked individuals hiding in the dark. We must

ensure that our people are safe at all times.” Initially, Aethelwolf planned to do this himself, but since Aenwyn was a Level 3 Engraver, he thought that he could save some time if he let her do the job.

Aenwyn nodded her head. “Sure, but it would take some time to improve all the runes in your territory. If you want to expedite the process, you will need ten more Engravers to help me do it. That way, we can complete everything in just a week.”

Aethelwolf faked a cough upon hearing this.

“You don’t have ten Engravers?” Aenwyn looked at him in surprise.

Aethelwolf shook his head. “Engravers are rare in our empire and most of them already belong to the noble households or merchant families.”

“Is that so? If you want, I can train some Engravers for you, but I can only do that once I mastered your language.” Aenwyn suggested.

Hearing this, Aethelwolf’s eyes lit up. “Deal!” He answered right away. He badly needed Engravers in his territory. In fact, he also need Alchemists, Blacksmiths, and even Beast Tamers since he was planning to train a cavalry army.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

Aethelwolf adjusted his sitting posture after hearing the knocking on the door. Aenwyn also stood up and walked behind him.

“You may enter.” Aethelwolf said.

Madilyn entered the room.

“Headmaster, I came here to report about Joseph Maynard’s matter.” Madilyn said.

Aethelwolf smiled upon hearing this. “Sit down first and we’ll talk.” He asked her to observe Joseph’s group last time. He was curious about what the guy has been up to lately.

Madilyn nodded her head before taking her seat.

After sitting down, she looked at the elf standing behind Aethelwolf, but she hurriedly looked away when the elf looked at her. She found the elven woman scary for some reason.

Chapter 200 Imminent War

Madilyn glanced at Aethelwolf and cleared her throat before she started speaking. "Sir Joseph followed the last task you gave him and he even used the private soldiers of the Maynard Household to complete the job faster." Suddenly, she frowned as she continued. "Just that, I noticed that he seems to be on edge lately. It's as if he is hiding something."

Aethelwolf leaned on his chair and pondered upon her report, especially the last sentence she said. This time, he was certain that Joseph Maynard was responsible for the death of his friend, Enrique Maynard.

After a moment of silence, Aethelwolf looked at Madilyn and said. "When you return to the Urgel Household, please tell Miss Julie Irish to look for a guy named Chris Maynard. He is the manager of the weapon shop in Vale City owned by Enrique Maynard."

Madilyn nodded her head. "Yes, Headmaster." She replied.

"Be careful in handling Joseph Maynard or anyone from the Maynard Household." Aethelwolf warned her.

Madilyn furrowed her eyebrows in surprise, but she still nodded her head. "I will."

"You may leave." Aethelwolf dismissed her.

Madilyn stood up and bowed to him before leaving his office.

When she left, Princess Aenwyn stared at Aethelwolf and asked. "Why are you investigating that man named Joseph? Is he your enemy?" Although she couldn't understand the human language, she felt that there was a friction between Aethelwolf and the man named Joseph.

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Aethelwolf raised his head and looked at her. "He killed a friend of mine." He said calmly.

Hearing this, Aenwyn's eyes narrowed. "Do you want me to kill him for you?"

Aethelwolf chuckled at her words. "Just get me a cup of coffee, while I write a simple book for you. You should learn some of our words for now."

Aenwyn looked at him silently and nodded her head.

Soon, the first day of the class ended and Aethelwolf went back home with the others.

After returning to the mansion, he headed straight to his room and asked for the servants to deliver some snacks. He wanted to take a short break.

Aethelwolf went to the balcony and took a seat. A little girl jumped onto his lap and looked at him with a big smile. "Papa, I have new friends now. One is Michael Singler from the Singler Household. There's also this guy from the..." She talked non-stop and Aethelwolf just quietly listened to her.

He stroked her head as she excitedly told him about her new friends.

"Papa, can I bring them here?" Olivia looked at him with her pretty eyes.

Aethelwolf nodded his head and smiled gently. "Of course. You can tell them tomorrow."

"Yay!" Olivia gave him a kiss.

Not long later, the servants arrived and brought his snacks to the balcony.

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In the imperial castle, Harold Reynolds and Prince Calvin bowed at Emperor Ragnar who was seated on his throne.

"Greetings, Your Majesty."

"How was your investigation?" The emperor asked as he looked at the two.

Harold nodded at the second prince.

Seeing this, Prince Calvin turned his gaze to the emperor and said. "Your Majesty, we discovered the tracks of the Northern Viper Group's remnant forces. They are headed outside of our Leone Empire's territory. We are not sure where they are headed, but based on the evidence we gathered, the Northern Viper Group has some relations to the Ford Empire."

"The Ford Empire?" Emperor Ragnar frowned upon hearing this.

"Yes, Your Majesty. I believe the Northern Viper Group is an elite force sent by the Ford Empire to spy on our activity. We should bolster our defenses. I think the Ford Empire will attack us soon. I sent Dimitri to observe their military forces. He should be back soon with a report." Prince Calvin reported in a solemn tone.

Emperor Ragnar took a deep breath and exhaled heavily. "Calvin, tell your elder brother to come back."

"Elder brother? But Your Majesty, elder brother is stationed in Vale City. They need him there. Vale City would be severely weakened without him. Even if the Ford Empire sneaks their way to our territory, they couldn't pass by Vale City without being detected by our soldiers." Prince Calvin said.

Emperor Ragnar knew that the second prince was right, but his instincts were telling him that they would need his eldest son in Lion City. He was rarely wrong about things like this so he couldn't decide right away.

In the end, Emperor Ragnar said. "Send General Gavin and General Robert to Vale City and recall your elder brother."

General Gavin had recently become a Level 4 Esper and his Flame Tiger Army was a lot stronger now, while General Robert was the oldest General of the Leone Empire and his strength was already at the late stage of Level 4. On the other hand, Emperor Ragnar's eldest son, Prince Renz Conrad Leone, was secretly a peak stage Level 4 Esper. His power has been kept a secret until now and even the upper echelons of the noble households were unaware of his true power.

Prince Renz Conrad was known as an alcoholic and a lazy prince, but no one knew that this was merely a facade to hide his real power!

At the age of forty-five, the first prince was already a peak stage Level 4 Esper!

"Yes, Your Majesty." Prince Calvin could only agree since the emperor has already given his command. He was one of the few people who knew about his elder brother's true abilities.

"Your Majesty, I will lead a force and send them to support Vale City. I will also tell my father to stay here with the rest of our Reynolds Household's soldiers to help the imperial family in strengthening the defenses of Lion City." Harold suggested.

Emperor Ragnar nodded and didn't reject him. They need all the forces they can get.

"Summon all the family heads of the noble households and merchant families. Tell them to come here tomorrow morning!" Emperor Ragnar commanded in a serious tone. He had to inform the upper echelons about this and let them prepare for what was about to come.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Prince Calvin and Harold Reynolds answered in unison.