

The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 41 – 50

Read The Herb King Chapter 41

Chapter 41: Wise Captain Phillip

“Since Miss Samira invited you personally to check Lord Julius’ condition, I guess that you’re at least a Level 3 Alchemist, Sir Aethelwolf.” Captain Phillip stared probingly at Leric. ‘This man looked to be in his mid or late twenties. He should be a Level 2 Alchemist at best.’

Captain Phillip was not a brainless fool. Although he was a military man, he was very careful in everything he does. The statement he said earlier was merely meant to get more details from Leric’s mouth. He had to know more about this guy before making his next move.

By now, it was already publicly known that he was courting the young miss of the Reynolds Household. She had already rejected him once, but Captain Phillip didn’t stop courting her. In his eyes, Samira Reynolds was the most beautiful woman in the entire Leone Empire!

Leric remained calm under the direct stare of this army captain. He nonchalantly smiled and replied in a humble tone. “I’m not a Level 3 Alchemist. I’m not that great, Captain John Phillip.”

Samira and the two maids opened their mouths, but they decided to stay out of their conversation. What was Sir Aethelwolf trying to do?

The strange reactions of the three ladies were seen by Captain Phillip. As someone who was used to reading people’s expressions, he could already tell that something was amiss. Why did they react that way? Who is this Alchemist?

“Oh? It seems like Sir Aethelwolf is a Level 2 Alchemist then. I admire your talent, Sir Aethelwolf! Looking at how young you look, we should be of the same age. However, you’re more talented than me. Respect!” Captain Phillip chose to play it safe and decided not to offend Leric. Knowing Samira Reynolds, she wasn’t someone who would randomly invite young strangers into her home even if they are skilled individuals. That means, there was something unique about this guy!

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“You overestimate me, Captain Phillip! I’m just a wandering Alchemist with no permanent home. It’s my honor to be invited by Miss Samira to their residence!” Leric continued his humble act. He even glanced gratefully at Samira to show everyone how sincere he was.

Their conversation continued and the strange attitude of Captain Phillip turned friendlier. He even laughed occasionally with Leric as if the two were bosom friends.

“Sir Aethelwolf, I truly enjoyed our talk, but I have to go back to duty now. Miss Samira, Miss Kathlyn, and Miss Skylar. I’ll take my leave. Goodbye!” Captain Phillip stood up from his seat and smiled at them before he left with his subordinates.

“Captain, are you truly planning to befriend that guy? He doesn’t seem like a skilled Alchemist.” One of his subordinates whispered.

Captain Phillip’s expression was unreadable. He glanced at his subordinates and answered in a cold voice. “Of course! And you’re wrong to say that he isn’t a skilled Alchemist.”

The four soldiers were confused by his words.

Captain Phillip glanced at them and asked. “Do you recall the event that happened in Barden City?”

“Yeah! General Gavin’s Flame Tiger Army won against the army of a top executive of the Northern Viper Group! It was even a victory with minimal casualties!” The soldiers replied.

Captain Phillip retracted his gaze from them and muttered. “I heard from my father that Miss Samira joined the Flame Tiger Army to gain experience. He also told me that the reason for their victory was because of a Level 4 Alchemist! According to what my father said, the Alchemist also seemed to be very young.”

“Captain, you mean to say that...”

Captain Phillip nodded his head. “I think that Sir Aethelwolf is the Alchemist who helped the Flame Tiger Army win that battle!”

In truth, Captain Phillip was merely speculating things based on the situation. However, he believed that his guess was on point! That was also why he chose a softer approach when he conversed with Leric earlier. It was because he realized that Leric might be the Alchemist in the information he got from his father!

The four soldiers were shocked when they learned about this. They also stared at their Captain with admiration. He was actually able to deduce such things on his own! They

didn't doubt the information in the slightest since it came from their Captain's father, General Marvin Manzano!

Captain Phillip's eyes flashed with sadness when he recalled the look in Samira's eyes as she looked at Leric. He had never seen her so happy looking at someone of the opposite gender. What does this mean? It was possible that Samira likes the young Alchemist!

'Sigh! A Level 4 Alchemist, huh? What a tough love rival...' He muttered in his heart.

Inside the hotel's dining area, Leric and the three ladies were still in the middle of a conversation.

"Sir Aethelwolf, what do you think of Captain Phillip?" Skylar asked while looking at Leric.

Leric casually leaned on his chair and replied with a smile. "A clever individual. I thought that he would be a typical villain in some fantasy novel, but he proved me wrong."

The three ladies glanced at each other in confusion. Fantasy novel? What was he talking about?

Seeing their perplexed faces, Leric laughed and shook his head. "He is a smart person. He knows when to attack and when to retreat. It's best if you remain friends with him, Miss Samira. It will be beneficial to you as the successor of the Reynolds Household."

This time, Samira and the two maids were shocked. Sir Aethelwolf actually thought so highly of Captain Phillip!

Samira nodded her head with a serious look. These are words coming from a Level 4 Alchemist so she could take them lightly. "I'll remember it, Sir Aethelwolf."

"Alright. That's enough for serious matters. How about you guys help me order some food? I'm quite hungry after going around the city." Leric smiled helplessly while patting his empty belly.

"Oh, right! We'll call someone immediately." Samira replied and called for a waiter right away.

CREATORS' THOUGHTS

Malignant Malignant

I owe you guys a chapter since I missed yesterday's update. Also, there will be one additional chapter since we reached 150 PS last week.

Chapter 42: Two Kinds of Pills

"Sir Aethelwolf, did you manage to get the herbs you need for grandfather?" Samira asked as she lowered her spoon and fork.

Leric nodded his head as he swallowed down the food in his mouth. "Now that you mentioned it. The owner of the shop where I got the herbs is a friend of your grandfather. He also told me to send his regards to you."

Samira's eyes glowed after hearing his words. "You must have visited Sir Johann's shop!" Her eyes then dimmed down as she muttered. "Unfortunately, Sir Johann is also afflicted with a terrible illness and I heard from my grandfather that it was incurable. What a pity!" She shook her head and resumed eating her food with a despondent look.

Seeing her expression, Leric chuckled as he said. "You don't have to worry about this. I also noticed his condition when I saw him, but Sir Johann wasn't afflicted with an illness. There was a parasite inside his heart and it has been absorbing his vitality."

Hearing this, Samira raised her head and stared at Leric with excitement. "Sir Aethelwolf, does that mean you were able to remove the parasite inside Sir Johann's heart?"

Leric nodded his head with a smile. "I was lucky enough to remove the parasite from his body. Sir Johann would be fine after a week of recovery."

Samira and the two maids were excited. They became even more confident about him.

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From what they heard, Sir Johann's condition was examined by Lord Karman, but he wasn't able to do anything about it. However, a strange illness that had plagued Sir Johann was treated by Sir Aethelwolf and he wasn't even gone for long! It was only a few hours since they parted, but during those few hours, he was actually treating Sir Johann! How impressive!

How would they react if they knew that he also went to the Maynard Household's weapon shop and created an antidote for Enrique Maynard?

Leric chuckled in his heart as he thought about their possible reactions.

"I will visit Sir Johann after this meal. I also haven't seen Anna for a long time. I wonder how she's doing..." Samira mumbled before munching down on her food.

Leric grabbed a clean napkin and wiped the oil stains on his lips. He then put it down and glanced at Samira as he said in a serious tone. "You have to be careful on your way there, Miss Samira. I noticed some hostile auras while I was on my way here. I think someone from the Northern Viper Group is tailing us."

Samira's face turned grave as she listened. The Northern Viper Group actually managed to chase them to Vale City! That means that there was a capable leader among the scouts sent by the enemy! "Thank you for telling me this, Sir Aethelwolf. I will bring my guards with me to prevent them from having any dangerous thoughts."

Leric shook his head with a calm look. "That won't be enough. From what I sensed earlier, there should be a Level 3 Esper among them. You and your guards alone could not handle them. You might as well ask for support from Captain Phillip. The Northern Viper Group would hesitate to attack if a high-ranking soldier like him is staying with you guys. Furthermore, he has some strong subordinates with him."

Samira and the two maids stared at each other before nodding their heads in unison. They were stunned when they heard that Leric sensed a Level 3 Esper monitoring their movements. "We'll do as you say, Sir Aethelwolf!"

"Good! Thank you for the meal." Leric smiled as he stood up from his seat. With them gone, he could finally begin refining the two pills he needed.

"Here's the key to the room we got for you, Sir Aethelwolf. Don't worry. We won't be gone for long." Samira handed a golden key to Leric.

Looking at the glowing golden key, he knew that the young miss of the Reynolds Household must have chosen the best room in the hotel for him. What a nice young lady! So rich and kind!

"Thank you, Miss Samira. I shall begin my preparations. I still have time to make medicine for your grandfather." Leric said as he kept the key inside his storage space.

After bidding farewell to the three ladies, he went upstairs and looked for his room.

According to Samira, his room was located on the topmost floor of the building.

Upon arriving in front of his room, Leric took out the golden key and unlocked the door. "Not bad!" He muttered as he looked inside.

It was comparable to a presidential suite in his past life! There was a kitchen, a bedroom with a king-size bed, a large living room, a working room, and a restroom. The view from the balcony was also great!

Leric went to the working room that had a neat brick flooring. There were all sorts of equipment for Blacksmiths, Alchemists, and Engravers. Most of them were even of high quality!

Leric set his sights on a cauldron. It was many times more valuable than the cauldron he got from his mother's clinic. It was a Rare cauldron!

Leric grabbed the cauldron and placed it on the multi-purpose working table. He then took out the herbs he got from Johann's shop and sorted them.

He planned to refine two kinds of pills this time. The first one was an anti-bacterial herb for Julius Reynolds and the other one was a pill that could make his Hegel wider and sturdier!

"The anti-bacterial herb is easier to make, so I should make it first." He muttered as he sorted the herbs into two sections. The first section is for the ingredients of the anti-bacterial pill, and the second section is for the ingredients of the other pill.

While Leric was refining the two pills, Samira brought Skylar, Kathlyn, and her guards to the camp of Captain Phillip.

"Miss Samira is looking for me?!" Captain Phillip's eyes widened in shock when he heard his subordinate's report. He abruptly stood up from his seat and went to receive his guests.

"Welcome to our camp, Miss Samira! I hope that I didn't make you wait for long." Captain Phillip greeted them warmly. He was happy that Samira visited their camp when they just parted ways a few hours ago.

"We just arrived here, Captain Phillip. There is no need to worry. Did our arrival cause you some problems?" Samira replied politely.

Captain Phillip shook his head as he chuckled merrily. "No trouble! There's no trouble at all! Do you need my help, Miss Samira?" He asked while looking at her. He knew that something must be troubling her that she was forced to visit their camp with all her guards.

"Your mind is still as sharp as ever, Captain Phillip. That's right. We need your help this time." Samira's face turned solemn as she told him everything that Leric told them earlier.

This time, Captain Phillip's face also turned serious. "I see. It seems like I've underestimated Sir Aethelwolf. He was actually able to sense the scouts of the Northern Viper Group. If I'm not wrong, he should be the Alchemist who helped General Gavin and the Flame Tiger Army to win against Solas and his bandit army." He looked at Samira deeply, but she merely replied with a smile.

Captain Phillip sighed and shook his head. That was enough as an answer. At least this time, he was sure that it was Aethelwolf! "I'll tighten the defenses inside the city and I will also have twenty soldiers protect you guys in secret. As for that Level 3 Esper... Don't worry about him, I'll make sure that he doesn't cause trouble here in Vale City!" He muttered with a confident look.

Chapter 43: Recovery Pellet

Inside a small house within Vale City, there were a dozen men standing with solemn expressions.

Suddenly, someone barged in inside the house.

"Boss, our brothers said that the young miss of the Reynolds Household went to the camp of Captain Phillip. If that guy intervenes with our plan, it might be difficult to capture the little girl, Samira." A thin man wearing a blue shirt and black trousers muttered with a distressed look on his face. He stared at a bald man with a tiger tattoo on his left arm.

This bald man was the leader of the Northern Viper Group's Scout Team, Serge. He was also a top executive of the bandit group and was one of its strongest members.

Serge frowned after hearing the report. He reclined on his chair as he thought deeply.

Their team has twenty-five members. All of them are Espers. There are nineteen Level 1 Espers, and five Level 2 Espers, and he was the sole Level 3 Esper. Their group was quite strong, but he knew that if the soldiers under Captain Phillip are involved, the plan to capture Samira would prove to be difficult.

"Boss, what should we do?"

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Serge's face darkened as he muttered. "Call all of our brothers. We will abandon the plan."

His subordinates were shocked when they heard his command.

"Boss, why are we retreating? Captain Phillip is just a peak Level 2 Esper. We have five brothers who are also Level 2 Espers." A buff bandit holding a giant mace said with a confused look.

Some bandits nodded their heads in agreement.

Serge glanced at the buff bandit, making the latter's heart skip a beat. "Don't underestimate that guy. Although he is only a peak Level 2 Esper, he has a couple of

tough subordinates under his command. Not to mention that the little girl Samira is also not a simple flower vase. Her strength is not to be underestimated. Forcing the plan would only lead to major casualties. I don't want you guys to die in vain."

"But..."

"That's enough. I'll take responsibility for this. Summon the others quickly!" Serge stood up and glared at everyone with his menacing eyes. The bandits immediately shut their mouths when they saw this.

Samira went to Johann's herb shop with her two maids. Following them secretly were the guards of the Reynolds Household and the soldiers of Captain Phillip. With their protection, the three ladies didn't encounter anything dangerous along the way. Even the rich young masters who tried to show off to the ladies were prevented by the soldiers from getting near them. It was a smooth journey, but Samira and the other two didn't dare relax. They only heaved a sigh of relief after arriving in front of the herb shop.

Johann was a Level 4 Esper and was also a Level 3 Alchemist, so no one would dare to cause trouble on his turf.

"Are you Miss Samira of the Reynolds Household?" One of the guards outside the herb shop asked as he stared at Samira in surprise.

Samira nodded her head with a smile. "Is Anna and Sir Johann inside the shop?" She asked politely.

The herb shop was closed, but she already expected this after Leric told them everything.

The guard nodded his head and replied. "Yes, the young miss and the master are both inside the shop. I'll inform them about your arrival right away. Hey, bring Miss Samira and her friends inside." He told the other guard before sprinting inside the shop.

"Ladies, please follow me. I'll bring you to the guest hall." The remaining guard didn't dare neglect them. He brought them inside the shop and lead them to the guest hall.

"Please wait here for a moment." The guard bowed and left.

"I haven't been here for over a year. The shop still looks the same..." Samira sighed as she recalled her last visit.

Skylar and Kathlyn remained silent.

Not long later, Anna came to the guest hall with a brilliant smile on her face. She excitedly ran towards Samira and hugged her tightly in her embrace. "I missed you so much, Samira! It has been a long time since you last came here. Boohoo!"

Anna ended up crying as she hugged Samira tightly.

The latter could only pat her friend's back while apologizing to her in a gentle manner. "I'm so sorry, Anna. I've been very busy lately with family matters and I just came back after the battle in Barden City."

Anna rubbed her teary eyes and held Samira's hands as she muttered in a shaking voice. "I-I was worried about you w-when I heard that you went to Barden City with General Gavin and the Flame Tiger Army. Luckily, nothing happened to you. I'm so relieved!"

Samira took out a clean handkerchief and gave it to Anna. "I also didn't expect us to win so easily. I don't know if you have heard about it. Let me tell you what happened on the battlefield..."

And with that, Samira told her about the events that happened during her stay in Barden City. Of course, she didn't tell her about the peeping incident. She didn't even want to remember it anymore.

"You're talking about Sir Aethelwolf, right?" Anna asked as she looked at her friend.

Samira nodded with a smile. "It's indeed Sir Aethelwolf. If not for him, many soldiers from the Flame Tiger Army and the Barden City's local force would have been killed."

Samira had a look of admiration as she spoke about Leric.

Meanwhile, inside the best room of Camelia Hotel, Leric had a look of anticipation as he slapped the cauldron.

When he opened the lid, he saw five bluish-green pills inside. He immediately grabbed the pills and looked at them deeply.

The pills emitted a warm temperature since they were still freshly taken out of the cauldron. Leric sniffed the five pills and his eyes lit up when he sensed the vibrant energy inside the pills. He could tell that these pills had reached the standards of a 3rd Grade Pill!

The rank of pills is divided into five grades.

1st Grade Pill

2nd Grade Pill

3rd Grade Pill

4th Grade Pill

5th Grade Pill

Level 1 Alchemists could only refine 1st Grade Pills. Level 2 Alchemists could only refine 2nd Grade Pills and 1st Grade Pills. And so on.

However, Leric was only a Level 2 Alchemist, but he was actually able to refine 3rd Grade Pills! This has never happened before!

After a moment of surprise, Leric immediately kept the five pills inside his storage space.

“Hmm. I’ll name this pill, Recovery Pellet.” Leric casually named the new kind of pill that he had refined. If the Alchemists of the Leone Empire learned that a miraculous healing pill was casually named by Leric, they would certainly cry in agitation.

Chapter 44: Undercurrents

Leric began refining the second type of pill. It was a pill that can make his Hegel bigger and stronger which would then make it possible for him to store more world essence.

There was such a pill circulating in the market right now, but it was quite difficult to find and also very expensive. Leric also believed that his creation would be more effective than the ones in the market.

Leric cleaned the cauldron first since it still had some residues from the refinement earlier.

After cleaning the cauldron, Leric lit up his Black Pill Fire. This was the true color of his Pill Fire since the Golden Pill Fire was merely a front to fool others.

The dark obsidian flame flickered beneath the cauldron.

After checking that the temperature was perfect, he grabbed the ingredients one by one. Each ingredient requires a different level of temperature so Leric didn’t put them all together.

After extracting their essence, Leric stirred the mixture inside the cauldron to a certain consistency. He looked completely at ease as he mixed the liquid.

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“What should I name this pill?” He muttered to himself as he thought of a good name for this pill.

After a moment of silence, his eyes lit up as he said. “Vigor Pellet...”

“Anna, can I see Sir Johann? Where is he?” Samira asked expectantly.

Sir Johann was a good friend of her grandfather and she learned a lot of things from him when she was still a child. Too bad she didn't have talent in Alchemy, but Sir Johann still taught her a few things related to the field. Although it was only superficial knowledge, she was still thankful to Sir Johann for teaching her about it. Other than Alchemy knowledge, she also learned hunting and footwork from Sir Johann. It wasn't wrong to say that Sir Johann was her teacher.

Anna smiled helplessly as she replied. “I'm sorry, Samira. Grandfather is asleep right now. He just had a major operation earlier so he is very tired at this moment.”

“I see. Too bad. I hope he recovers soon.”

“He will! Sir Aethelwolf told us that grandfather would be fine after a week of recovery.” Anna replied excitedly. Her grandfather's health has been her greatest worry all this time. Now that he was on his road to recovery, she was incredibly delighted.

“That's great! Then you guys must come to our residence after he recovers. Our gates are always open for you two!” Samira said eagerly.

“Of course! I miss Lady Antonette's cooking so much. I want to eat her food again!” Anna had an enraptured look as she recalled the food cooked by Lady Antonette.

Antonette Crossfield is the wife of Harold Reynolds and the mother of Samira Reynolds.

“You are still a glutton...” Samira chuckled as she shook her head with an amused look.

“By the way, I heard from my grandfather that the Emperor is planning to build an academy. Only a few of Leone Empire's top echelon knows about this. Have you heard of it?” Anna changed the topic.

Samira and her two maids were surprised when they heard this. They have been on the battlefield for months so they haven't heard anything about this.

“Academy? What kind of academy is it?” Samira asked curiously.

Leone Empire was merely one of the many empires in the Regalis Continent. If the strength and foundation of all the empires in the continent were to be measured, Leone

Empire would be rated in the upper middle rank. It wasn't weak, but it wasn't that strong either.

This might be good in times of peace, but if there would be a massive war between these empires, the Leone Empire would be in a difficult situation.

Anna shook her head. "I don't have much information about this. I only know that this academy would accept all young geniuses of the empire. The imperial family, the noble families, and the commoners are all allowed to join."

Samira held her breath in shock. "The imperial family and the noble families actually agreed to let the commoners have the chance to join this academy? That's quite surprising! There must be something going on in the continent for them to do this." She muttered.

Anna nodded her head in agreement. "I also think so. According to my grandfather, the one who proposed this idea was the Emperor himself. I think the rumors about the emergence of the underground creatures are true..."

Samira and her two maids furrowed their eyebrows upon hearing this. They had no idea what Anna was talking about.

When Anna saw their confusion, she immediately continued. "Two months ago, a faraway empire sent news about the emergence of underground creatures in their territory. The passing travelers said that these creatures has humanoid features and they also showed signs of intelligence surpassing that of beasts. Leone Empire has already sent scouts to the said empire, but none of them has come back yet..."

"This matter is indeed serious. The presence of those underground creatures means that there are dangerous beings living underneath the surface. And here I thought that the Northern Viper Group would be our only issue..." Samira shook her head and frowned.

"Not just that. The neighboring Dustin Empire and Ford Empire are also showing signs of aggression. They have been sending scouts and soldiers near our borders, causing minor disputes between our forces." Anna sighed with a worried look.

Samira's face became grim. She then stood up and said. "Anna, I have to return to our residence immediately. I'm so sorry that we have to cut our meeting short."

Anna smiled and waved her hand. "No problem! Stay safe, Samira, and you two ladies as well."

Samira, Skylar, and Kathlyn smiled at her.

"Thank you for telling me about these things, Anna. We'll take our leave now." Samira was grateful that Anna told them about this.

"Sure! No worries! I'll see you soon, Samira! Goodbye!" Anna sent them off with a tinge of sadness.

45 Samira's Thoughts

Samira was deep in thought after her conversation with Anna. The issue with the Northern Viper Group, the emergence of the unground creatures, and the possibility of war against two neighboring empires. All these things made her unable to calm her mind.

Just the Northern Viper Group alone was already a huge headache for everyone. What more if new problems come up? It would be a disaster for the citizens of the empire!

"Let's get Sir Aethelwolf first and then we'll go back to the residence immediately." Samira muttered in a grave tone.

Skylar and Kathlyn nodded their heads.

Suddenly, two soldiers walked towards them and bowed at them. "Miss Samira, the Northern Viper Group's scouts have retreated. They are now outside of Vale City."

Hearing this, Samira's mood lightened a fair deal. "That's good to hear. Thank you for coming with us here. You may go back to your camp with the rest of the soldiers. Also, please give my thanks to Captain Phillip."

"Alright. We'll tell him your words, Miss Samira. Take care." The soldiers left after bidding farewell.

"Young Miss, is it fine for them to leave at this moment? There might still be a few bandits lurking inside the city." Skylar furrowed her eyebrows as she stared at the departing soldiers.

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Samira glanced at her and replied. "There is no need to worry. Captain Phillip knows what he is doing. Besides, we can also handle ourselves even without them."

Skylar remained silent after hearing her words, but she still felt worried. The Northern Viper Group has been observing their movements since they left Barden City and it wouldn't be surprising if they ambushed them the moment they leave Vale City.

The three ladies had heavy expressions as they returned to the hotel. When they arrived, they immediately went to Leric's room.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Sir Aethelwolf, I hope we are not disturbing you. I want to speak with you about something.” Samira waited outside the room.

“You came just right on time. Give me a second here.” Leric’s voice came from inside.

Not long after, Samira heard a series of footsteps before the door was opened.

“Come in.” Leric smiled at her as he invited Samira in.

She could smell the scent of herbs the moment she entered the room. “Were you refining herbs earlier, Sir Aethelwolf?” Samira asked as she looked at Leric.

Leric nodded his head and brought her to the living room. “Yeah. The time was short, but I managed to refine your grandfather’s medicine.” He didn’t tell her about the Vigor Pellet since it was meant for him. It’s not that he didn’t trust her, but showing the pill might prove to be troublesome. For instance, she might ask him to refine one Vigor Pellet or even more than that. If that happens, it would be possible for news about this pill to circulate in the empire. Many people would then ask him to refine the pill for them or some might even use drastic measures just to achieve their goals. In simple terms, it was troublesome at the moment.

He could tell her about the pill after he gains a stable foothold in the capital.

Leric showed her a piece of a small bluish-green pill. It was one of the five Recovery Pellets that he refined earlier. “You can keep it, but we have to check your grandfather’s condition first before you can give it to him, okay?”

Samira anxiously took the pill from his hand and kept it inside her storage ring. “I’ll keep it well, Sir Aethelwolf. Thank you.”

“No problem.” Leric waved his hand. He then furrowed his eyebrows when he noticed that she didn’t look well. “Did something happen along the way, Miss Samira? You don’t look well.”

Samira shook her head and sighed. “Nothing happened, Sir Aethelwolf. It’s just that empire might face a serious situation in the future. I have to return to the residence right away and get more information about some things. I hope you don’t mind if we make haste, Sir Aethelwolf.”

Leric nodded his head after hearing this. “Sure. I don’t mind at all. Let’s go!” He replied with a gentle look.

Leric stared at the room for one last time before following Samira.

If something happens to the Leone Empire, his plan of living a fun and peaceful life would be at risk. He also didn't want something unexpected to happen to his parents. 'Sigh. It looks like entertaining myself would have to wait...' He muttered to himself.

The carriage was already prepared the moment they stepped out of the hotel. The guards of the Reynolds Household were already seated on top of their mounts.

"Sir Aethelwolf, please get inside." Samira smiled as she gestured for him to get inside the carriage first.

Hearing this, Leric merely smiled and grabbed her hand as he said. "After you, Miss Samira." He then helped her enter the carriage like how a refined noble gentleman would. Of course, he also helped her two maids go inside before he entered.

Thinking about what he did, he cringed at his own actions. 'Luckily, this is a fantasy medieval world. If this was a modern world, many people would have laughed at how cringy that was.' Leric chuckled in amusement.

Samira calmed her heart and told the coachman to get moving. "Let's go."

Hiya!

Everyone made a way when they saw the family crest of the Reynolds Household on the carriage. The Reynolds Household is quite famous in the empire since it was a noble family that has produced strong Espers for many generations!

"Look! Isn't that the Reynolds Household's carriage!? How cool!"

"Hey! Who do you guys think is inside the carriage?"

"I don't know, but it should be someone of high status in the family since there are a bunch of guards escorting the carriage."

"I heard that the Young Miss of the Reynolds Household was spotted in our city. I think it's her."

Meanwhile, inside the carriage, the four people were merrily chatting as they ate the local delicacies of Vale City.

"The food here is really great!" Leric praised as he took a huge bite of a piece of apple pie. The food of the nobility is truly different.

Samira and the two maids smiled when they saw that Leric was satisfied with the delicacies.

“Yeah. We got this from the hotel as a souvenir. Their chefs are truly great cooks!” Samira nodded her head in agreement. ‘It seems like Sir Aethelwolf is fond of good food...’ She mentally kept this information in her mind.

“By the way, Sir Aethelwolf. Can you tell us more about yourself?” Samira asked while Leric was still in a good mood. This was the best chance to get more information about him!

Leric put down his food and stared at her with a smile. How could he not notice what she was thinking? Still, he decided to answer her question. “I don’t know if General Gavin has already told you about this. I’m a wandering Alchemist with no home. Where my feet take me is where I go.”

The three ladies nodded their heads. They already heard this from General Gavin.

“I haven’t told you guys how old I am, right? I will be twenty-nine this year.” Leric lied without even blinking.

The girls were awestruck as they asked him more questions. Of course, Leric answered them smartly.

46 Miss Samira is Back!

Lion City is the capital city of the Leone Empire. It has millions upon millions of inhabitants, making the city bustle with activity. Tall buildings and gorgeous mansions spread throughout the territory of Lion City. Even the city’s road system is strictly managed with thousands of guards protecting the safety of everyone.

Leric stared at the massive turtle-like walls that surrounded the capital. There were humongous archer towers that hoisted ballistas on top of the walls!

Soon, their entourage arrived at the entrance of the city. There was a long queue of people going in and out in a very orderly manner. No one dared to cause a ruckus because of the presence of the guards wearing black armor. They were observing everyone’s movements with stern faces, looking for any potential threat that may cause harm to the peace of Lion City.

These black-armored guards were part of the Leone Imperial Family’s force, the Black Lion Army! The General of the Black Lion Army, General Baron is also one of the strongest Espers in the empire. He is a Level 4 Esper who is proficient in defensive arts! That was also why the current emperor, Emperor Ragnar Leone, gave him the title ‘Shield Duke’!

Leric’s entourage lined up with the rest of the crowd. However, when everyone saw the Reynolds Household’s crest in their carriage, they immediately gasp in shock.

“Look! Isn’t that the crest of the Reynolds Household?!”

“I wonder who is inside the carriage? Could it be Lord Harold Reynolds himself?!”

Everyone unconsciously backed off and allowed them to skip in line.

The Reynolds Household was one of the strongest noble families in the Leone Empire! Although they weren’t one of the founding families, their former patriarch, Lord Julius Reynolds, was one of the most fearsome warriors in the empire! Too bad he was gravely injured and is now critically ill. His failing health only caused everyone to sigh in pity.

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When it was their turn to be inspected, the faces of the black armored guards softened a great deal.

Samira peaked through the carriage and greeted the guards politely. “Good day, everyone!”

“Welcome back, Miss Samira! We’ve heard that you joined the Flame Tiger Army in defeating the Northern Viper Group’s top executive, Solas! Respect!” The guards smiled at her. They were already expecting their arrival since they have scouts along the road.

“We were only lucky to have received the help of a strong Alchemist! It’s nothing worth mentioning. Officers, we can chat another time. There are still a lot of people queuing behind us.” Samira shook her head with a smile when she heard their words.

“Oh, right! Sorry for delaying your journey, Miss Samira! You guys can enter the city!”

“Thank you, Officers!”

The guards and the crowd watched as they entered the capital.

“It’s actually Miss Samira! How beautiful! No wonder many young nobles are courting her!”

“She’s also a very talented warrior. She truly has the genes of Lord Harold Reynolds and Lord Julius Reynolds!”

The territory of the Reynolds Household was in the western part of the city. They traveled for another day before finally arriving.

Leric could already see a huge mansion in the heart of the territory. He knew for sure that this was the house of Samira.

The guards patrolling outside the mansion were pleasantly surprised when they saw the entourage of Samira.

“Miss Samira is back! Miss Samira is back!” They shouted excitedly.

They immediately lined up near the gates of the mansion and waited for Samira to arrive.

When the carriage drove past them, the guards greeted eagerly in unison. “Welcome back, Miss Samira!”

Their voice was so loud that everyone inside the mansion heard them clearly.

“What!? My daughter is back?! Quick! Let’s go!” A man who looked to be in his mid-forties exclaimed as he sprinted over with his retainers. Jogging beside him was a stunning woman who looked to be in her early thirties. She was wearing a gorgeous dress that made her look younger and more beautiful.

These two were the parents of Samira, Lord Harold Reynolds, and Madam Antonette Crossfield!

The couple waited in front of the mansion with their retainers. Everyone stared at the carriage with excited faces.

Samira was the jewel of the Reynolds Household and everyone treated her very well.

The coachman stopped the carriage in front of the couple. He then got down and opened the door of the carriage.

Skylar and Kathlyn were the first ones to get out. Samira came next to them.

“Welcome back, my daughter!” Madam Antonette hugged her daughter tightly in her embrace. The madam then checked her daughter’s body to see if there were any injuries. She heaved a sigh of relief when she saw that she was unharmed.

“It’s good that you’re back!” Lord Harold patted her daughter’s head as he looked at her with a proud smile.

Suddenly, one more person stepped out of the carriage, making everyone look at him in surprise.

It was a young man in his late twenties with short black hair and sword-like eyebrows. He was wearing a plain set of clothes, but he gave off a rather intimidating aura because of the sword strapped behind his back.

Noticing that everyone was looking at him, Samira hurriedly introduced Leric to her family. "Mom, Dad, everyone, this is Sir Aethelwolf. I think you've already heard about the news of the Flame Tiger Army and Barden City's local force receiving the help of an Alchemist to defeat Solas and his bandit brigands. Sir Aethelwolf is that Alchemist."

"It's a pleasure to meet Lord Harold, Madam Antonette, and everyone else in the Reynolds Household." Leric smiled and lightly nodded his head at them. He had to play the role of a Level 4 Alchemist so he had to have the dignity and grace befitting one.

Everyone was in awe of his bearing. He was neither servile nor overbearing, but he still managed to leave a good impression on everyone.

"Sir Aethelwolf, thank you so much for helping my daughter and the army in defeating the vile soldiers of the Northern Viper Group! Come! I'll bring you inside our mansion!" Lord Harold smiled amicably at Leric.

"I was merely returning the favor of General Gavin for letting me stay in his camp." Leric replied in a calm voice.

"Regardless of the reason, you are still the main reason why the Northern Viper Group was easily defeated." Lord Harold then glanced at his retainers and said. "Prepare a feast for Sir Aethelwolf!"

"Yes, Lord Harold!" The servants immediately sprinted to the kitchen to prepare their most delicious food for Leric!

Leric was overwhelmed by the generosity and hospitality of Lord Harold and Madam Antonette. They toured him around the mansion and also introduced him to the top members of their household.

Samira who was walking behind them could only shake her head with a wry smile.

47 The Miraculous Recovery Pellet

At the dining area of the Reynolds Household, Leric saw a long table with a variety of mouthwatering dishes.

A delightful aroma lingered in the air. Leric could hardly control the drool that was about to leak from the corner of his lips. If not for his [Demon Heart] skill, he would have destroyed the image he built for his second identity, Aethelwolf.

Leric put on a light smile as he glanced at the table that was filled with delicacies.

Lord Harold and Madam Antonette were both observing his reaction and saw that he seemed pleased with the food.

“We weren’t informed that our daughter would be back from the frontlines. I hope you don’t mind our food, Sir Aethelwolf.” Lord Harold smiled humbly as he looked at Leric.

Leric turned his head at him and chuckled. “Lord Harold, you jest. How could the food served by the Reynolds Household be mediocre? Thank you for having me here...”

Lord Harold laughed heartily at his response. “Of course! Sir Aethelwolf is a friend of my daughter so you are welcome here anytime!”

“Come on, you two! Let’s take a seat first and chat as we eat. The ladies might be hungry from the long journey.” Madam Antonette invited them to sit down.

Leric nodded his head and sat next to Samira.

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“Sir Aethelwolf, can we ask the purpose of your visit to our humble residence?” Madam Antonette stared at him as she placed some food on Leric’s plate.

“About that...Miss Samira invited me to come here and check Sir Julius’ condition.” Leric answered calmly.

Hearing this, the eyes of Madam Antonette and Lord Harold glowed, but they soon dimmed down.

Lord Harold shook his head and sighed. “My father has been sick for a long time now. We tried various ways to help him recover and we even invited the best Alchemists and doctors in the empire to check his condition, but all of them failed. Sir Aethelwolf, please help him!”

“Dad, I believe Sir Aethelwolf can help grandpa! He managed to heal Sir Johann from his illness! Sir Johann is now resting and will completely recover in a week!” Samira suddenly jumped into the conversation.

Madam Antonette and Lord Harold were surprised upon hearing her words. Both Sir Johann and Sir Julius were injured after coming back from one of the most dangerous places on the continent, the Death Basin Valley. The two old men were Level 4 Espers, but they returned with various wounds after going to that place. Lord Julius’ wound never healed and it only worsened as the days passed by.

“Sir Aethelwolf cured Sir Johann?” The couple was shocked.

They knew that Sir Johann’s health was also declining and he only used various life-extending herbs to prolong his lifespan. Lord Karman, the best Alchemist of the empire also failed to cure him, but the man in front of them managed to do the impossible!

After recovering from the shock, the couple stared at Leric with hope.

“Don’t worry. I will do the best that I can.” Leric smiled at them confidently.

The atmosphere in the dining area was filled with hope and anticipation.

After eating, they immediately brought Leric to the room of Julius Reynolds.

“Sir Aethelwolf, my father is inside this room. Come, I’ll take you to see him.” Lord Harold knocked on the door twice before pushing it open. “Father, I brought someone to see you.” His voice was low and filled with sadness.

Cough! Cough!

“Oh? Bring them here.” A frail voice echoed inside the room.

Leric could already smell the thick scent of medicinal herbs scattered throughout the room. Their quality wasn’t something to scoff about. This showed how much the Reynolds Household cared for Julius Reynolds.

Other than the couple, only Leric and Samira entered the room. Skylar and Kathlyn tactfully chose to stay outside.

Leric finally saw the famous, Julius Reynolds, but he no longer have the glorious image of his past. He has a long white hair that flowed down his back. His dim, cloudy eyes scanned his visitors and when he saw his granddaughter, he immediately revealed a smile. “My pretty granddaughter, I heard from the servants that you’re back. I’m sorry that I couldn’t join you guys to dine...”

Tears trickled down from her eyes as Samira slowly walked towards her grandfather. She then held his hands and continued sobbing.

Julius Reynolds smiled affectionately. “Come on. Don’t cry. You’re already a grownup, but you still cry every time you visit me.”

Lord Harold’s eyelashes trembled as he looked at this scene, while Madam Antonette covered her mouth as she silently sobbed.

Hm?

Julius Reynolds suddenly noticed an unfamiliar person inside the room. He furrowed his eyebrows and relaxed them after a moment. “And this is?”

“Oh! Right! Father, this is Sir Aethelwolf. He is the Alchemist who helped General Gavin in defeating Solas’ brigands. Samira invited him here after seeing his skills. Don’t

underestimate his youthful face. Sir Aethelwolf is a Level 4 Alchemist!" Lord Harold hurriedly introduced.

Julius Reynolds' eyes turned warmer, but he was a bit skeptical when he heard that this young man was a Level 4 Alchemist. Even his friend, Johann, who was lauded as an Alchemy genius in his youth failed to become a Level 4 Alchemist.

Seeing the doubt in the old man's eyes, Leric opened his palm and summoned a dazzling golden flame.

"Golden Pill Fire!" Julius Reynolds jolted in shock as he looked at the golden flame on top of Leric's palm. Even Lord Harold and Madam Antonette were amazed when they saw the dancing golden flame.

"Sir Julius, my name is Aethelwolf. I'm a wandering Alchemist. It's a pleasure to meet you." Leric smiled at the stunned old man.

Julius Reynolds swiftly controlled his emotions and nodded his head. "The pleasure is mine, Sir Aethelwolf."

"Sir Julius, do you mind if I check your pulse?"

The old man shook his head and replied. "Not at all. Go ahead, Sir Aethelwolf."

He smiled as he extended his right hand to Leric. He didn't have high hopes even after knowing that Leric was a Level 4 Alchemist.

Leric gently grabbed his arm and placed two fingers on the old man's wrist. He then closed his eyes and listened to Julius' heartbeat.

Thump. Thump.

It was weak.

Leric opened his eyes and observed the festering wound on the old man's right leg. He saw that it was smeared with an herb paste.

"Indeed I was right. This is a sign of Necrotizing fasciitis." Leric mumbled.

"Sir Aethelwolf, is there still hope for my grandfather?" Samira could not help but ask.

Leric nodded his head and smiled at her. "Of course! Didn't I tell you that I've already prepared a medicinal pill for Sir Julius?" He took out a bluish-green pill from his storage space and showed it to everyone. "Luckily, this Recovery Pellet is enough to completely cure Sir Julius."

Everyone stared at the pill in his hand with yearning.

Leric handed the pill to the old man and said. "Sir Julius, please."

Julius Reynolds could barely lift his arms, but he found strength and managed to grab the pill from Leric's hand and he swiftly tossed it in his mouth.

Then, a magical scene appeared before everyone's eyes.

The purplish bumps and swollen wounds were slowly recovering to normal!

48 Exchange

Julius Reynolds' eyes widened as he stared at the festering injury on his right leg that was healing at a visible rate. He could hardly believe the scene happening right in front of him. It was magical!

There was actually a pill capable of healing even the most fearsome of wounds!

Lord Harold and Madam Antonette exclaimed in shock. Their mouths were agape with dumbstruck expressions on their faces.

Even Samira who was confident about Leric's skill was stunned by this spectacle.

No one has seen or heard about a pill capable of healing an injury deemed impossible to cure!

Leric nodded his head, satisfied by the effect of the Recovery Pellet. It was merely a 3rd-Grade Pill, but it was highly effective for treating deep festering wounds.

Not long after, Julius Reynolds could no longer feel any pain in his right leg. There was only a tingling sensation, but it felt very comforting to him. He then tried to sit up straight and he found out that he could now freely control the world essence in his body again!

Other than Leric, everyone was surprised when they saw Julius Reynolds sitting on his bed. There wasn't even a look of pain on his face, a clear indication that he was feeling great!

"Sir Aethelwolf, the pill you gave me... What kind of pill is it?" Julius Reynolds asked in a trembling voice.

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"Oh, you mean the Recovery Pellet? It's just a simple pill for treating sword wounds." Leric replied with a smile.

“Recovery Pellet?” Julius Reynolds almost choked when he heard the name of the pill. It was so generic that he almost thought that absurd. If not for Leric’s straight face, he would have believed that the guy was messing with him.

“That’s right. It’s just a random creation of mine. Nothing worth mentioning.” Leric waved his hand humbly. His words made everyone inside the room feel at loss for words.

“This... Sir Aethelwolf, do you still have a piece of Recovery Pellet?” Julius Reynolds thought about Johann who was suffering from a terminal illness. ‘Maybe the Recovery Pellet could also cure him.’

“It’s not that difficult to make. In fact, I have four more with me.” Leric answered as he revealed four bluish-green pills on top of his palm.

Julius Reynolds stared at the pills with yearning.

“Sir Aethelwolf, can we buy those pills from you? You can ask for anything in return. As long as it is within the power of our Reynolds Household, we will provide it to you. What do you think?” He nervously waited for Leric’s response. If he could get the four pills, he can give one to Johann and keep the remaining three for the Reynolds Household. The Recovery Pellet could potentially save the lives of those who are gravely injured! It was very precious!

Leric’s eyes flashed for an instant. He already expected this kind of response from him. The Recovery Pellet was valuable to the Reynolds Household since they are a military family. Most of their family members are part of the army and there might come a time when they would need the Recovery Pellet.

“Sir Julius, since you really want the pill, I can give them all to you. I only want a small piece of land in your territory where I can construct my clinic. It has been a long-time wish of mine to establish one, but I’ve been too busy wandering in the wilderness in my youth that I didn’t manage to find time for it.” Leric stated what he wanted. He was already thinking about this since the moment he journeyed with Samira.

He had no lofty aspirations or wild ambitions. He merely wanted to live a peaceful life and enjoy every moment. For that to be possible, he had to make a name for himself and establish a firm footing in the empire.

Building a clinic that offers treatment and precious medicine would make him famous in the empire. He would then enjoy a life of luxury that he never once had.

“A clinic in our territory?” Julius Reynolds glanced at Leric and saw that the man was serious. That was it? He thought that Leric would ask them for an extravagant sum or even a precious treasure. Who would have thought that he was actually willing to part with four Recovery Pellets for just a small plot of land?

“Father, the northern portion of our territory has a weapon shop that is about to go bankrupt. It is in the heart of Lion City so if Sir Aethelwolf truly wants to build a clinic, we can give him the title for that plot of land. It is a very ideal location to build a clinic.” Madam Antonette who was responsible for managing their territory suggested.

“That’s right! We can also help Sir Aethelwolf build his clinic. I have a friend from a merchant family that offers construction services. They should be able to create a great clinic for Sir Aethelwolf.” Lord Harold added.

After hearing their words, Julius Reynolds glanced at Leric and said. “Do you agree with this, Sir Aethelwolf? We can offer the plot of that weapon shop to you and also help you in constructing your clinic. We will handle all the tedious process so that you can just wait and relax.”

Leric nodded his head without hesitation. The Recovery Pellets weren’t of use to him. This exchange would also strengthen his friendship with the Reynolds Household, providing a strong backing for him!

“Sure. No problem!” Leric shook Julius’ hand and sealed the deal.

“Antonette, I’ll leave the documentation to you. Harold, tell your friend to prepare the best materials for Sir Aethelwolf’s clinic. You two go!” Julius Reynolds was excited after receiving the four pills from Leric.

Madam Antonette and Lord Harold were also happy that the pillar of the Reynolds Household was now back on his feet. They immediately left the room after bidding farewell to Leric.

After the couple left the room, Leric stared at Julius and said. “Sir Julius, although your wound has already healed, you need to rest for about a week. That should be enough for you to completely recover. If you feel that there is any issue, you can tell me any time.”

Julius nodded his head. “I will follow your instructions, Sir Aethelwolf. Thank you very much!” He replied with a grateful look. He then stared at his granddaughter and said. “Samira, take Sir Aethelwolf to his room.”

Samira nodded her head. “Yes, grandpa.”

“Sir Aethelwolf, please follow me.”

Leric could no longer decline them since they didn’t even give a room for him to reject their offer. He silently followed Samira as she brought him to the guest room.

The next day, news about the recovery of Julius Reynolds spread throughout Lion City. This event shocked everyone since they knew that he was afflicted with an illness that was said to be incurable. The close friends of the Reynolds Household immediately sent their envoys with gifts and congratulatory words.

The territory of the Reynolds Household, Dominion District was abuzz with activity. There was a continuous stream of visitors lining up outside their mansion. If not for the guards controlling the scene, there might even be a stampede in the area. This just showed how strong the influence of the Reynolds Household was despite just being a mere Viscount Family.

It must be noted that there is a distinct hierarchy in the noble circle. The upper echelons strictly adhered to this, but there were some noble families that were unaffected by this, and one of them is the Reynolds Household. Such families have something unique in their household that prevented other noble families from causing much trouble to them despite having a lower-ranked noble title. For instance, the Reynolds Household has two Level 4 Espers supporting them. Not to mention that their young children were also talented individuals.

In front of the Reynolds Household's mansion, Viscount Harold Reynolds was now talking to a middle-aged man wearing spectacles. Both men shook hands with smiles on their faces.

"My friend, Henry, thank you for coming here after my hasty invitation!"

"I wouldn't dare decline your invitation, Sir Harold! Hahaha!"

Harold grinned and pulled Henry inside his mansion as he said. "I want to do business with you, my friend. Let's talk about it inside."

Henry's eyes flashed upon hearing his words. Doing business with the nobles is always profitable and knowing Harold Reynolds, he definitely wouldn't be stingy in their negotiations. Thinking about this, Henry expectantly followed Harold inside the mansion.

"Please sit down, my friend." Harold said as he sat down.

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"Thanks." Henry sat opposite Harold.

"What business would you like to do with me, Sir Harold?" Henry asked with a smile.

"That's what I like about you, my friend. Always straight to the point. Haha! It's like this... I want you to build a huge clinic for me in this area. By the way, do you want coffee or tea?" Harold took out a map of Lion City and gave it to Henry.

“Coffee please.” Henry answered right away as he took the map. He adjusted his spectacles and stared at the map with great seriousness. There was a red circle drawn on the map indicating the location of a weapon shop.

While Henry was looking at the map, a servant placed put two cups on the table and filled them with coffee. She then silently stood behind Harold.

“Sir Harold, do you want me to build the clinic in the plot of this weapon shop?” Henry asked as he put down the map. He didn’t care what kind of infrastructure he was going to build. As long as he could profit from the business, he was willing to do anything. That is the number one rule of a qualified merchant!

Harold nodded his head. “That’s right. I want you to build a grand clinic for me. To tell you the truth, this clinic will not be owned by our Reynolds Household. Someone of high status asked us to build a clinic for him. Can you do it, my friend?”

Henry contemplated deeply upon hearing Harold’s words. What kind of person could make the Reynolds Household mobilize its resources for him? He didn’t dare think about it anymore and just nodded his head. “Of course! This isn’t a problem at all! I will mobilize the best builders in our company and tell them to use the best materials to build this clinic for you. Just that, this might be a little bit expensive...”

Harold’s eyes gleamed. He then chuckled and pushed a contract to Henry.

Henry silently took the contract and read everything. When he saw the amount that the Reynolds Household was willing to pay, his eyes almost popped out of their sockets. “This...”

He was shocked! They were actually willing to pay five hundred thousand gold coins for a mere clinic! This was an astronomical sum even for noble families! Such an amount of money was already enough to build a decent mansion!

“Sir Harold, just to be sure, do you want me to build a mega-luxurious clinic?” Henry asked in a low quivering voice. The amount of money involved in this transaction was so big that it was equal to a year of their company’s profit!

Harold nodded his head with a smile, but in truth, he was also stunned when he received this contract proposal from his father. This wealth would cause a substantial impact on the finances of their Reynolds Household, but he could also understand his father’s thoughts. The money they would use would be worth it since their friendship with Sir Aethelwolf would be cemented.

“Is there any problem, my friend?”

Henry gulped as he calmed his wildly beating heart. “Not at all! However, the materials we would need to build this mega-luxurious clinic will be quite difficult to get so we

would have to ask for fifty percent of the payment in advance to expedite the process of acquiring these materials.”

“No problem! Deal!” Harold extended his hand and Henry shook it right away with a wide smile.

“I’ll sign this contract first, Sir Harold.” Henry hurriedly took out a pen from his pocket and signed the contract with his greatest speed, afraid that Harold would take back his words.

And so, Leric’s clinic was about to be born after this transaction.

Meanwhile, inside the Reynolds Household’s guest room, Leric was playing chess with Samira and her two maids.

He was also surprised to find out that this world has the same game as his previous life. The only difference was the name of the chess pieces. Other than that, the rules and moves are the same.

Samira looked at the chessboard with furrowed eyebrows. Her position was tight, but Leric’s pieces were slowly crumbling her defenses. It was only a matter of time for to be defeated.

After more than twenty moves, Leric grabbed a chess piece and put it down on the board. “Checkmate. You lose again, Miss Samira.” He said with a smile.

Samira plopped down on the sofa while looking at Leric with awe. This man was so good at everything. Even his chess skill was top-notch!

“Sir Aethelwolf, I don’t want to play anymore. I’ll only embarrass myself if I continue playing with you.” Samira muttered helplessly. Their skill wasn’t even that close. If not for Leric giving her mercy, she would have lost so horribly in all the matches they’ve played.

Skylar and Kathlyn giggled at the side when they saw the defeated look of their young miss.

Looking at the three lovely ladies in front of him, Leric sighed emotionally. ‘So this is the kind of life that I missed...’ He muttered in his heart.

50 Reed

Leric stared at the pouting Samira with a smile and said. “Come on, Miss Samira. Don’t be too sad. It’s just a chess game anyway.”

Samira sighed and remained silent.

Looking at her acting like this, Leric chuckled. "How about I massage your shoulders?"

Samira's eyes lit up upon hearing his words. She could not help but recall the wonderful sensation when Leric's hand roamed all over her back. "Really?"

"Of course!" Leric nodded his head.

Just as Samira was about to turn her back to Leric.

Knock! Knock!

"Miss Samira, Sir Aethelwolf, Lord Harold is calling you guys. He is in the guest hall with Sir Henry." A maid's voice suddenly came from behind the door.

Samira's eyes darkened, while Skylar and Kathlyn covered their mouths as they giggled secretly.

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"We can continue it later. Don't worry." Leric reassured her.

Samira's mood immediately lightened.

"Let's go." Leric stood up and pushed the door open.

Samira followed behind him and she didn't forget to glare at the young maid, making the poor soul question what she had done wrong to their young miss.

The maid brought them to the guest hall where they saw Lord Harold chatting with Henry.

"Lord Harold, I've brought Miss Samira and Sir Aethelwolf." The young maid bowed at Lord Harold respectfully.

Lord Harold stared at Leric's group and he immediately grabbed Henry and introduced him. "Sir Aethelwolf, this man right here is my good friend, Henry. He is the best guy I know in the construction business and he will be responsible for building your clinic." He then turned his head at Henry and said. "My friend, this is Sir Aethelwolf. He is the one who cured my father."

Leric scanned Henry from head to foot. This guy looked like a regular middle-aged man. The only striking thing about him was his eyes which constantly flashed with craftiness.

Henry was also observing Leric. The man was so young and he was about the same age as his son, but he knew that Leric was no ordinary person especially after knowing that he managed to heal Lord Julius. This guy must be a talented doctor!

'He looks so young.' Henry muttered in his heart.

"It's nice to meet you, Sir Henry." Leric extended his hand towards Henry and smiled at him.

"The pleasure is mine, Sir Aethelwolf. Just call me Henry. There is no need to call me 'sir'." He didn't dare put on airs in front of this young man.

"Alright." Leric nodded his head understandingly. This was a smart businessman.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I really would like to chat with you, but I still have to inform the company about the plans for making your clinic. I promise I will build the best clinic in the entire empire for you." Henry adjusted his spectacles as he smiled with confidence. With the funding of the Reynolds Household, he could buy the best construction materials in the market and ask the best designers in his company to draw the mega-luxurious clinic that he had envisioned.

"It's not a problem at all, Henry. We can chat next time. I'm relieved that a talented person like you is responsible for making my clinic." Leric didn't doubt the man's skill. For Lord Harold to invite him to his mansion, Henry was definitely a skilled person in the field.

Leric was looking forward to his future clinic.

"In that case, I'll take my leave for now. Goodbye, everyone!" Henry lightly bowed his head at them before leaving the mansion under the guidance of a maid.

"Sir Aethelwolf, with Henry overseeing the construction of your clinic, we can already expect the best results. That man is a resourceful individual. He is only a commoner, but even the rich nobles are respectful to him." Lord Harold muttered.

Leric nodded his head. He was in a good mood. Everything was going according to his plans. The only thing left was to wait. "Thank you so much, Lord Harold."

Lord Harold shook his head. "I'm only doing what I'm supposed to do. Sir Aethelwolf, I have to go. I still have to write another contract and send it to Henry's company. I'll see you at dinner."

"Alright."

"Congratulations, Sir Aethelwolf!" Samira, Skylar, and Kathlyn were all happy for Leric.

"Thank you." Leric smiled at the three of them.

Samira thought for a moment and suggested. "There are still a few hours before dinner. How about we give you a tour around our territory? It's not that big, so we should be able to go back on time."

"Yeah. That's right! Sir Aethelwolf, Dominion District has a lot of good places." The blonde-haired Skylar added eagerly.

Kathlyn was more reserved, but she still looked very excited.

Looking at their expectant looks, how could Leric have the heart to decline them? He nodded his head and said. "That's a great idea. Let's go!"

Samira and the other two immediately grabbed him out of the mansion.

Samira walked to a stern-looking guard who seemed to be in his early fifties. He was quite strong. He should be the leader of the Reynolds Household's guards. "Reed, we want to use the carriage to give Sir Aethelwolf a quick tour around Dominion District."

Reed nodded his head and replied. "I will drive the carriage, Miss Samira." He then stared at Leric with a gaze similar to that of a hawk before turning his head away.

'What a protective old man...' Leric didn't mind it. This guy must be someone who had watched Samira grow up since her birth. It was normal for him to be vigilant toward a man who was close to her.

Reed observed the carriage first and checked if there was anything wrong. After seeing that nothing was out of place, he opened the door and turned his head to Samira. "Miss Samira, you guys can enter."

"Thanks." Samira nodded her head and entered the carriage. Skylar, Kathlyn, and Leric followed after her.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I hope you don't mind Reed's personality. He has always been like this in front of others, but once you get to know him better, you will find out that he is actually a good person." Samira smiled apologetically at Leric.

"Don't worry, Miss Samira. I understand." Leric smiled understandingly. This was just a minor thing to him, so he didn't think too much about it.

Samira was relieved after hearing his reply. She then stared at Leric with a red face as she stuttered.

"S-Sir Aethelwolf, don't forget that you still owe me a massage...."

"Oh? Of course, I haven't forgotten about it." Leric chuckled.

