

The Herb King

The Herb King #Chapter 91 – 100

Read The Herb King Chapter 91

91 Does He Really Know How To Cook?

“Aethelwolf, it’s because of me that you’re implicated with our family’s feud. Sorry.” Samira stared at Leric’s side profile. Looking at his face, he didn’t seem the least bit worried that he had become enemies with a major household.

Leric turned his head at her and smiled gently. “Even if I wasn’t on the receiving end of her curses, she will still be my enemy for humiliating my friend. Besides, I have been planning to establish a business empire for a while. I wasn’t in a hurry to do it, but it looks like I have to hasten my plans.”

He is telling the truth. He wasn’t the kind of man who was easily angered, but the woman irked him so much that he had to punish her.

Samira felt warm in her heart when she heard his words.

The other ladies were also looking at him with admiration and reverence. The words he said would have sounded boastful if someone else uttered them, but coming from him, it sounded plausible. In fact, they believed that Aethelwolf has the ability to achieve this.

Soon, they went back to the clinic. Leric then drafted a simple contract and had them signed by the ladies. After they signed the contract, Leric gave them their salaries in advance and they immediately thanked him emotionally. Samira’s group of three also received their salaries. At first, they wanted to decline his gesture, but seeing that he was adamant, they could only accept what was given to them.

Since they still haven’t found a residence, they temporarily slept inside the patient rooms. The clinic didn’t receive a single patient on its first day so the rooms were empty.

After getting everyone to sleep, Leric started putting the products to be displayed tomorrow. He also put the rest inside the stock room.

Tomorrow is the one-on-one matchups of the battle event so Leric was expecting fewer customers. “I should look for a residence for the ladies tomorrow. They should be able to handle the clinic by themselves. Hopefully, we won’t be receiving any patients soon.”

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With him as the sole Doctor in the clinic, it would be a disaster if he wasn't present to receive their first patient. Leric wondered where he could find a Doctor. He also thought of hiring Alchemists. He didn't have the time to refine all the pills for the clinic since he would be so busy in the future, but this idea has to wait because he needs to find trustworthy people first. His pill recipes are beyond valuable and he couldn't casually give them to any random Alchemist.

Leric realized that he couldn't sleep because of the random thoughts in his head. "A guitar would be nice in this kind of atmosphere. I'll look for the best wood and the most durable string tomorrow..." Leric muttered as he stared at the night sky through the window.

The next day, the ladies woke up one by one and they found out that Leric was already awake. He wore a smile on his face as he looked at them gently.

"Good morning. How was your sleep?"

"Good morning, Sir Aethelwolf! It was great! The bed is so soft and comfy!" They answered.

"That's good. I've already placed our products on display. You will open the clinic at the time I've designated. I will be away in the morning to look for a suitable residence for you guys so the clinic will be left in your care, but before that, we should have our breakfast first." Saying this, Leric smiled at them. He wasn't able to sleep last night so he spent his evening in meditation and practicing his skills. When morning came, he bought ingredients for cooking since he promised to let them taste his food.

"Sir Aethelwolf, we can cook the food." They suggested eagerly.

Leric shook his head with a smile. "Have you forgotten that I promised to cook for you guys today? Wake up the others. The food wouldn't take long to prepare."

Hearing this, their eyes lit up with anticipation. They couldn't wait to have a taste of Leric's cooking.

The clinic only had a simple kitchen, but he had everything he needed to cook.

Leric took out the ingredients. For this meal, he planned to let the ladies have a sumptuous meal. He would let them have a taste of what a real steak should taste like. The only issue is that he wasn't able to buy cooking wine so he would only be using a type of herb as a substitute for butter. Luckily, he found a lot of thyme, garlic, and ground pepper. Other than steak, he also plan to cook ramen, a type of food that didn't exist in this world. To be exact, no noodle-type food was sold in any restaurants.

Leric already made the noodles earlier so the only thing left to do was cook them.

This world didn't have electricity and the stove he was using was powered by magic crystals. It was a small stone that contains world essence. It was filled with impurities and could not be absorbed by normal means. However, it was a good source of energy for items like the stove.

Leric opened his Status Screen.

Talent [Chef] Level

– Even with rubbish ingredients, you can still make delicious food.

He had already seen this earlier when he was making the noodles, but he still could not help but grin. He knows how to cook, but the addition of this skill will make his cooking even more delicious!

Leric hummed a tune as he began preparing the ingredients. He didn't realize that a group of women was looking at him in secret. They were wondering what kind of food he was going to cook for them.

"Did you guys ask him what he will be cooking for breakfast?" Samira whispered to them.

The ladies shook their heads. "Sir Aethelwolf didn't give us the time to ask him. Does he really know how to cook?"

"Look at the way he cuts the meat. His skill is much better than mine!"

"I didn't know that an herb can actually be a substitute for oil. Is he planning to use that to fry the meat? Isn't that thyme? I thought that thyme is only meant to keep pests away from the garden. It can actually be used in cooking?"

"What is that fat string-like dough over there? Can that be eaten?"

92 Steak and Ramen

The ladies were shocked when they witnessed Aethelwolf's skill in cooking. Whether it was his knife cutting or the way he prepares the ingredients, every movement seemed perfect as if it was done by a professional chef!

"I thought he was just messing around when he said that he will cook for us." Samira muttered silently while looking at Aethelwolf's figure with a shining gaze.

Soon, the tantalizing aroma of the steak lingered inside the kitchen and it even spread throughout the clinic.

Samira and the others gulped heavily when smelled the meaty aroma. Their anticipation for Aethelwolf's food intensified after they inhaled the tempting aroma.

Hm?

Leric turned his head and saw a bunch of heads peeking through the door. Seeing this, he chuckled and focused on his cooking.

The steak was easy to cook and it didn't need any complicated process. After about ten minutes, the steak was ready to be served. He wasn't a fan of well-done steak, so he cooked the meat medium rare.

Leric turned off the fire for the steak and placed it on a huge plate. He was going to serve for fifteen people so he bought a huge cut of magical beast meat. He then cut the steak into small pieces and drizzled the remaining sauce on the pan into the meat. He also placed the thyme on top of the dish to complete his plating.

Leric set the steak aside.

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The ramen was also cooked.

He turned off the fire and placed the cooked ramen inside a huge bowl. He then added all sorts of toppings on top of the bowl which includes, ajitama (soft-boiled egg), chashu (thinly-sliced braised pork), some bean sprouts, scallions, and some corn kernels.

After plating the two dishes, he turned his head to the door and said. "Go and set up the table and chairs. The food is now ready."

Hearing this, the ladies immediately ran to the table and search for the plates and cutlery. They also prepared the chairs and placed enough chairs for everyone.

Leric came out with a huge plate and a huge bowl hovering above him.

"All of you sit down first and I'll explain what these two dishes are." Leric said as he gently placed the huge plate and the huge bowl at the center of the table.

Looking at the two dishes, the ladies couldn't help but salivate. Just the smell alone made their stomachs rumble and they couldn't wait to try them out. Even the refined Samira couldn't hide the drool on her face.

Leric pointed at the steak and gave a portion to the ladies one by one. The meat he used was big and everyone received five small pieces each. "This one right here is steak, but the ingredients I used are not the same as what you guys are used to. You must have noticed that I added different types of seasonings while I was cooking this

dish.” He then pointed at the ramen and gave them a portion each. “This one is called ramen. You might not have heard of it since this type of food is unique. I think only a few people know how to prepare this dish.”

After explaining the two dishes, Leric sat down and said. “Alright. You guys can eat now.”

“Finally! I almost failed to hold myself back. The two dishes you prepared smell really good, Sir Aethelwolf!”

“I didn’t that you can actually cook this well.” Samira muttered incredulously after taking a small bite of the steak. She thought that Aethelwolf made a mistake when she saw that the center portion of the slices was oozing with red liquid, but when she bit into the meat, it felt as if it had melted on her tongue! She did not taste blood at all and the hesitation she had for the reddish liquid vanished.

“The red liquid you see at the center of those slices is not blood. It is called myoglobin, but it will be a very long explanation if I tell you guys about it.” Leric said with a smile. He was happy that they liked his cooking. In truth, he felt a bit nervous despite his confidence in his talent [Chef] that was already at Level 4.

“Sir Aethelwolf, the steak you cooked is even better than the ones we ate in Neil’s Steakhouse! Can I learn how to cook this from you?” A girl with a long ponytail asked him with a hopeful expression. She didn’t want Leric to do all the menial tasks so she want to learn his skills in cooking.

“I also want to learn cooking from you, Sir Aethelwolf!”

“Me too!”

Seeing their eager looks, Leric couldn’t decline them. He nodded his head gently as he said. “Alright. If we have time, I will teach you guys how to cook steak. Ramen is quite difficult to prepare so that will have to wait.”

“Yey!” The ladies cheered in unison.

“You guys should try the ramen as well. You will be surprised by its taste.”

“Okay!”

They grabbed their spoons and scooped a small amount of ramen soup. They then brought their spoons into their mouths and sipped the soup. When the rich flavor of the soup touched their tongues, their eyes lit up in ecstasy.

“Wow! It’s delicious! The taste of the various seasonings and toppings accentuated each other to form a unique flavor!”

“Incredible! I’m in love with this dish!”

“Tastes good, right? This is ramen and making the noodles requires technical skills and experience. If you want to learn how to cook it, you should watch how I make the noodles first.” Leric said.

“Noodles? What’s that?”

“This thing right here.” Leric twirled a small number of ramen noodles on his fork and showed it to everyone.

“Oh? This thing is soft and it melts in your mouth really quickly. I bet this one is very difficult to prepare.”

“It’s actually not that difficult, but the preparation just needs a lot of time. The process also requires a lot of energy. You guys will know soon after you see me prepare it.” Leric didn’t plan to hide anything from them since they are now his workers. It would be great if they could pick up his skills in cooking so that he wouldn’t need to cook the meals for them.

The meal was filled with laughter as they chatted eagerly about the dishes.

93 Progress

After the hearty meal, Leric told them to open the clinic at 8 A.M. He also reminded them about what they should be mindful of during opening hours.

“Samira, can you go with me to look for a suitable residence for them? You can go to the battle event at noon.” Leric didn’t know much about Dominion District so it would be great to have Samira with him.

“Alright, but are you sure about leaving the clinic to them? There might be patients coming soon and it would be a pity if the clinic could only turn them down.” Samira was still a bit worried about the thought of leaving the clinic to the hands of Skylar and the others. Without the leadership of Aethelwolf and her, she didn’t know if the ladies could handle the customers all on their own.

When he heard her concerns, Leric smiled and shook his head. “Don’t worry about them. They are smart girls and they should be fine. I believe that we won’t be receiving any patients soon, but this matter needs to be addressed immediately. I’ll post a hiring poster for Doctors outside the clinic. As for Alchemists, I’ll think about a solution soon.” Leric has been thinking about the lack of Alchemist and he was able to come up with a simple solution. It was to find apprentices! This was the only way to ensure that his pill recipes wouldn’t fall in the wrong hands.

“Alright. Since you’ve already thought it through, let’s go. I know of a mansion near the clinic, but let’s see whether you’ll like it or not. Apparently, it’s owned by a noble, but the mansion has been unoccupied for a couple of months now. Just prepare some money and there should be no problem.” Samira said after thinking for a moment.

“I don’t lack money now.” Leric grinned at her.

Samira knew that he was earning millions of gold coins per day from selling his pills alone. It was an amount that would take their Reynolds Household a few months to earn. “Yeah, right. Whatever.” She rolled her eyes at him.

“Are we allowed to fly within the city?” Leric suddenly asked.

Samira turned her head at him and furrowed her eyebrows. “There’s no rule that prohibits anyone from flying within the city, but flying mounts need to have an approved identification card from the Imperial Family. Why?” She had a feeling that Leric was planning something unbelievable, but she couldn’t bring herself to think about it. Flight was not something easily achievable. Even Level 4 Espers could only glide temporarily in the air and they need to consume a lot of world essence just to do this. It wasn’t efficient in battle because of the large expenditure of world essence. Only Level 5 Espers could fly freely into the skies, but no expert at that level has been seen in the empire for many years.

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Looking at her thoughtful look, Leric chuckled playfully. “I’m just messing with you. Did you really think that I can fly? Hahaha!”

Samira’s face darkened and she immediately pounced in his direction, but he swiftly evaded her claws by sidestepping leisurely. “You! I almost believed that you are a Level 5 Esper! Hmph?!”

After pointing angrily at Leric’s face, Samira stomped her way toward one of the carriages outside the clinic.

Looking at her acting like a child throwing a tantrum, Leric laughed in amusement. He then entered the carriage, but he was suddenly met with a surprise rear naked choke.

Leric felt two soft mounds pressing on his back as a wave of alluring womanly fragrance assailed his nostrils. He then acted as if he was having a hard time breathing and he ‘accidentally’ touched her legs in the process.

Samira realized that he was taking advantage of her, but instead of getting angry, she only felt shy and embarrassed. She then released his neck and pushed him gently.

Leric pretended to be in pain, but when he saw her glaring at him, he put on an innocent smile.

“Aethelwolf, I didn’t know that you are quite the lecher!” Samira gritted her teeth with blushing cheeks.

Leric threw his arms up and feigned ignorance. “Eh? What are you talking about?”

Samira pointed at his face and put on a ferocious expression as if she would bite him in any second. “You!”

“Alright. I apologize. How about I massage your legs to make up for it? What do you think?”

Samira’s face brightened, but it soon turned frosty once again. “You want to take advantage of me again?!”

“Eh? I remember that you like me massaging your legs and back the most or did I remember things wrongly?” Leric didn’t know how it happened, but the relationship between him and Samira seemed to have progressed to the next level. He didn’t know if it was a good thing or not.

“I won’t talk to you anymore!” Samira pouted and turned her gaze to the window to hide her blushing cheeks.

The silence was broken by the voice of the guard. “Miss Samira, where do you want me to take you guys?” The guard could hear them flirting, but he acted as if he didn’t hear anything. Though he was planning to report it to Lord Harold as soon as possible. Their young miss has never been in close contact to anyone of the opposite sex. The only exception to this is Aethelwolf and there seems to be something going on between them.

Samira calmed her heart before answering. “Take us to the mansion in the eastern side of Dominion District. The one that is currently looking for buyers.”

“Alright. Please sit tight.” The guard urge the mounts to move after hearing the location. As a local of Lion City, he knew the place like the back of his hand.

The Equuses neighed before sprinting under the command of the guard.

Clop! Clop! Clop!

Everyone immediately made way for the carriage after seeing that it has the insignia of the Reynolds Household.

Soon, they arrived at the location of the mansion. It was surrounded by tall metal fences that were about twice a normal person's height. Behind the fence, Leric saw a beautiful mansion with French Renaissance design.

The mansion isn't as big as the mansion of the Reynolds Household, but its artistic design proved to be much better.

Leric's eyes lit up upon seeing the mansion. "It looks great, but let's check what it's like inside first."

Samira nodded her head. "Wait for us here." She said to the guard.

"Yes, Miss Samira." The guard responded.

Leric and Samira went to the gate of the mansion. There was a group of Level 1 Espers guarding the gate and when they spotted the two of them, they immediately became alert. "State the reason for your visit!" One of them uttered coldly.

Samira immediately turned her gaze to Leric.

Leric understood her intentions so he said in a calm voice. "We are planning to buy the mansion, but we want to check how it looks inside. If everything's good, we'll buy it today."

Hearing this, the guards relaxed and they nodded their heads. "Alright. Come and follow me. I'll take you to the caretaker. He will tour you around the mansion."

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Leric nodded his head. They then followed behind the guard.

As they walked to the mansion, Leric looked around and admired the scenery. He saw that there was a man-made pond with a bridge at the center. There was a lot of fish swimming in the pond.

When they entered the mansion, Leric was amazed by the amazing design. It was huge, but he didn't feel overwhelmed at all. In fact, it has a homely vibe to it.

"Not bad!" Leric nodded his head in praise. Although the design of the mansion somehow surprised him, it wasn't to the extent that it exceeded the ingenious architectural designs in his past life.

The guard stopped and reminded them. "The caretaker is inside this room. Please wait a moment." He then knocked on the door.

Knock! Knock! Knock!

“Simon, we have visitors here and they are saying that they are interested in buying the mansion.” The guard said in a loud voice.

“Really? Wait! I’m coming!” A voice came from inside the room and they all heard a series of quick footsteps before the door was opened, revealing a middle-aged man in his forties. He was dressed in formal clothing with graying hair that was combed neatly.

“I’ve done my job here. You guys can talk about the rest.” The guard said before leaving the mansion.

“Are you guys interested in buying the mansion?” Simon smiled at them.

He looked like a friendly gentleman who is so particular about his appearance.

Leric nodded his head. “Yes. Initially, we still want to check everything, but it seems like the mansion is well taken care of. Can you tell us the price of the mansion?”

The smile on Simon’s face broadened upon hearing his words. “Of course! The owner is very strict about cleanliness and he asked us to regularly clean the mansion. As for the price, it’s a million gold coins, but if you can pay in full, I can agree with 950 thousand gold coins. What do you think?”

The price he quoted was much lesser than they had anticipated. Leric even thought that it would cost him more than a million gold coins to purchase the mansion.

“Alright. The price is fair so I agree with your offer. We have a deal!” Leric smiled and extended his hand to Simon.

Simon was a bit surprised by his decisiveness, but he still shook Leric’s hand. “It’s a pleasure doing business with you!”

“Likewise.” Leric grinned.

“Come! I’ll grab the documents inside the room so that we can seal this deal.” Simon said as he led them inside the room.

Leric and Samira followed him.

There were a lot of documents to be signed and Leric patiently signed everything after reading them carefully.

“By the way, my name is Simon, the caretaker of this mansion. I apologize for the late introduction.”

“My name is Aethelwolf.”

Samira remained silent, but Simon didn't mind her silence.

The three of them then talked about the specifics of the mansion and Leric found out from him that the mansion has thirty servant's quarters that were connected to the main mansion. There were five main rooms, two kitchens, five comfort rooms, five shower rooms, one in-door hot spring, a huge outdoor swimming pool, one stock room, a wine cellar, one living room, one laundry room, a working room...

There were still more, but Leric forgot about them as soon as Simon started telling them about the mansion.

After the paperwork was signed, Leric gave Simon a sack filled with gold cards. The latter counted the gold cards and he kept everything inside his space ring after confirming that he got the right amount.

"Here's the master key of the mansion. The rest of the keys are here. This one is for the..." Simon handed him a bunch of keys and he had to memorize all of them so that he wouldn't need to check them one by one later on.

"When can we move in here?" Leric asked.

"If you are in a hurry, I'll inform the owner immediately so that you can move in before night comes, but I suggest that you look for personal guards since the guards outside will leave with me later." Simon answered.

Leric nodded his head in understanding. "I see. That's good. Thanks for your hardwork. We'll come back later with our items."

"No problem!" Simon thought for a moment and added. "I think everything will be in place at around 5 P.M. You can come back here at that time."

"Sure." Leric nodded his head.

"Come. I'll escort you two outside." Simon said humbly. He knew that the woman who was together with this man was the young miss of the Reynolds Household so he was extra careful when he was speaking with them. He also began to wonder about who Leric was and what was his relationship with Samira.

95 Janrose

"See you later, Simon." Leric said before he entered their carriage.

Simon smiled and bid them farewell. Now that the mansion has been sold, he will go back to his family and ask for a long vacation after everything is taken care of.

Meanwhile, Leric and Samira were now chatting inside the carriage.

“Let’s go to the market first before we go back to the mansion. I want to buy some crafting materials since I’m planning to make an instrument.” Leric said. He couldn’t wait to make his guitar. In his past life, playing the guitar was one of the things he does when he was bored. He knew how to play it well and he was even confident to play any song after hearing its melody once. He was gifted in music, but he didn’t have the time to pursue his talent in this field since most of his time was used for his research.

“Instrument? What kind of instrument are you making?” Samira looked at him in surprise.

“I don’t know if you’ve heard about it. It’s called a guitar.” Leric didn’t know about the music of this world or what kind of instruments they use when playing songs.

“Guitar?” Samira was confused when she heard the name. It was something that she was unfamiliar with.

“You’ll know what it is soon.” Leric smiled mysteriously at her.

“Miss Samira, are we heading back to the clinic?” The guard’s voice drifted to their ears.

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“Not yet. We will go to the market first.” Samira replied. She was curious about the instrument that Aethelwolf was talking about.

“Alright.” The guard answered.

It was the start of the one-on-one matchups and the stadium was already densely packed with spectators. Everyone couldn’t wait to see the young prospects fight with each other.

There were many top contenders this time so everyone was excited.

At this moment, the organizers were still announcing the bracketing of the remaining participants.

“For this round of the competition, the participants will be divided into ten groups with each group consisting of ten participants. The participants of every group will fight amongst themselves in a round robin and only the top five of each group will advance to the next round! The other half will be eliminated from the tournament!”

Hearing this announcement, everyone immediately stared at the screen projected in midair. There were ten groups shown, from Group A to Group J. Ten names were written under each group.

The participants also looked at the projection and anxiously searched for their group. Some of them were hoping to be grouped with the weaker participants so that they can advance to the next round.

Meanwhile, inside the VIP room of the Reynolds Household. Lord Julius and Madam Antonette were chatting solemnly with the emperor.

“Your Majesty, just tell us if you need our help. Although I’m old now, I can still fight.” Lord Julius said with a cold look. He heard from the emperor that his son was now working together with the second prince to locate the main headquarters of the Northern Viper Group. From the looks of it, the emperor is now planning to deal with them.

Emperor Ragnar nodded at his words. “The Northern Viper Group has been acting really strange lately and they have become more active. According to our latest information, the bandit group has some strong warriors and we might need the support of your Reynolds Household soon.”

“You can count on us, Your Majesty!” Lord Julius promised. The Northern Viper Group has been causing them a lot of trouble lately and he will only be at peace once they are eliminated. Luckily, they managed to strike a deal with Aethelwolf and acquired a hundred Awakening Pellets from him. Once they find suitable people to consume the pills, they will have an additional one hundred Level 1 Espers in their household! That is an increase of ten percent to their total strength!

“Let’s talk about these matters later. For now, we should focus on the tournament. Who do you think will win the championship, Julius?” Emperor Ragnar changed the topic.

Lord Julius pondered for a moment before he answered. “On the surface, Alec Ward is the strongest among the participants, but I think there is someone who can put up a fight against him.”

“Oh? And who might this be?” Emperor Ragnar revealed an interested look. He has been keeping an eye on the participants especially the most likely ones to enter the top ten. In his opinion, no one can fight evenly against Alec Ward or if there is one, it is Grace from the Urgel Household. However, the little girl still lacked battle experience and her level is even lower than that of Alec.

“Your Majesty, you see that young lady over there? Among the remaining participants, she is the only one who comes from a humble background. From what I’ve heard, that young lady is eighteen years old, but she is already a mid stage Level 1 Esper. She is also a hunter so she has a lot of experience in battle. If only she was given sufficient resources when she was young, perhaps she might have reached the same level as Alec. What a pity.” Lord Julius sighed with a regretful tone. There were so many hidden talents among the commoners, but most of them were destined to be buried in the dust.

“Are you talking about Janrose Yanez? You’re right. That girl is indeed capable, but I don’t think she can withstand Alec’s ferocity.” Emperor Ragnar shook his head.

“We shall wait and see.” Lord Julius smiled and remained silent.

Emperor Ragnar squinted his eyes when he saw the old man’s mysterious smile. After knowing him for a long time, the emperor knew that Julius wasn’t the kind of person who talks bullshit. He must’ve learned something about the girl that made him so certain about his words.

Thinking about this, Emperor Ragnar stared intently at Janrose. She has a shoulder-length black hair with beautiful facial features. She was quite short with a height that barely reached five feet, but despite her small stature, she was exuding an air of confidence in her clear and bright eyes.

96 You Want Me To Be Serious?

In the busy market area of Dominion District, Leric and Samira were walking around the stores in search of suitable types of wood that can be used to make the body of the guitar. Other than wood, they also searched for steel strings.

In their search, they ended up entering a shop that sells all sorts of wood. A fat middle-aged man enthusiastically entertained them when he saw them enter his store.

“Hello! What are you guys looking for?” The fat middle-aged smiled at them. Suddenly, his eyes widened when he took a clearer look at Samira.

“Miss Samira, greetings! This shop is under the jurisdiction of the Reynolds Household and I’m the one currently managing this store.” He immediately greeted her respectfully. As a servant of the Reynolds Household, it was basic etiquette to greet their lords with respect. He has been in the shop for a long time so he hasn’t heard of Samira’s return from the battlefield.

“Oh. Just treat us as normal guests.” Samira nodded her head calmly.

The shop manager immediately nodded his head in understanding.

“We are looking for rosewood or mahogany. If you don’t have either of the two, maple is good as well.” Leric said after a moment of thinking. His favorite kinds of guitars are the ones made using mahogany.

“Oh, that’s perfect! We have all three that you mentioned. Wait. I’ll show them to you.” The manager jogged around his shop as he grabbed three kinds of wood. He then presented them to Leric with a smile on his face.

“You can check them if you want.” The shop manager said.

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Leric inspected the logs and nodded his head. "I want this mahogany and also this maple wood."

"Alright. I'll have them sent to your address. Just tell me where you want me to send them."

Leric smiled as he asked. "There's no hurry. Do you have steel strings here or magical beast tendons?"

The manager scratched the back of his head in embarrassment. He then nodded his head after hearing his question. "Yes! We have magical beast tendons here. They are good materials for making bows and crossbows. Hold on, I'll get some of them for you to take a look."

When the manager left, Leric turned his head at Samira and said in a teasing tone. "Hey. I think you are making him nervous."

Samira rolled her eyes at him when he heard his words.

Leric chuckled and looked around the shop while the manager was still searching for the magical beast tendons.

"Sir, these are the magical beast tendons that we have. Have a look at them." The manager's voice came from behind him.

Leric stared at the rolled magical beast tendons and grabbed them from the manager's hands. They looked similar to steel strings, but after closer scrutiny, Leric noticed that they contain traces of world essence. The presence of world essence made the tendons more durable. "I'll take one. There is no need to deliver them since I have a storage item." Leric said as he stored the magical beast tendons, mahogany, and maple wood.

Hearing this, the manager smiled sheepishly.

"How much for everything?" Leric asked while looking at the manager.

The manager stared at Samira and saw her nodding her head. He then moved his gaze back to Leric and entered into professional mode as he said. "The mahogany and maple wood are both mutated plant life forms genetically modified by our Reynolds Household's Alchemists so they are quite expensive compared to normal wood. The mahogany is 100 gold coins while the maple wood is 80 gold coins. As for the magical beast tendon. The shop got that from the carcass of a Rage Rhino, a magical beast with a power level at Level 3. That is around 500 gold coins so the total amount will be 680 gold coins."

After hearing that, Leric grabbed a sack filled with golden cards and handed one to the stunned manager. "You can keep the change."

"This... This is too much..." The fat manager looked at the smiling Leric with shock. Each golden card is worth around 10,000 gold coins so he would be left with more than 9,000 gold coins.

"Take it." Leric chuckled when he saw the manager's dumbfounded look. He then grabbed Samira's hand and the two left the shop, leaving behind a fat middle-aged man looking at them with a silly expression on his face.

Samira gently pulled her hands from Leric's grasp. "You gave him a lot of money." She muttered while hiding her blushing cheeks.

"It's nothing. You made him feel uncomfortable right there so he ought to be rewarded for doing a good job despite being under pressure." Leric explained himself.

"Whatever. We should go back to the clinic. I'm worried that there might be a patient. The clinic will lose credibility if we can't even receive our first patient." Samira walked inside the carriage without waiting for Leric's reply.

"She's right." Leric mumbled to himself as he entered the carriage.

"Let's go back to the clinic." Leric told the guard.

"Yes, Sir Aethelwolf."

Now that he has the materials for the guitar, he can start making them later, but he has to write up a hiring notice first since that is more important.

In the battle arena, the one-on-one matchups have already started. The participants were given ten minutes maximum to fight each other. The time limit was set to prevent major injuries from happening and there was also a team of medics on standby in case something bad happens. There was also a Level 3 referee monitoring the match at a close distance and his job was to prevent the participants from landing a fatal blow to their counterparts.

At this moment, the ones fighting in the arena were Grace Urgel and a young man in his late teens.

Grace was fighting her opponent barehanded, executing a refined set of boxing techniques. She was skillfully maneuvering, evading her opponent's attacks with great ease. She wasn't even showing any signs of exhaustion as she moved around the arena like a graceful dancer.

Meanwhile, the young man was getting irritated after his attacks failed to hit Grace. He is a mid stage Level 1 Esper with a Rare weapon in his hand. "Do you only know how to run?!" He roared angrily.

"Oh? You want me to be serious?" Grace grinned mockingly at her opponent.

97 First Patient

"You asked for this." Grace's expression suddenly turned cold as she took out a dagger from her storage ring. It was A Refined-Rank weapon!

When her opponent saw her taking out a dagger, his face turned solemn. He adjusted his stance while staring carefully at Grace. There was a huge difference in their speed and the only way for him to win was to land a hit on her since he had superior physical strength.

Grace smirked derisively upon seeing this. She then dashed like a leopard while executing a lightning-fast strike at her opponent. She moved so fast that the latter didn't even see her shadow and it was only when the referee appeared to block Grace's dagger did he see that it was just centimeters away from his throat. He hurriedly backed away in horror while the referee announced Grace's victory.

The crowd cheered at the young lady. They didn't expect her to win so overwhelmingly and everyone begin to wonder if she has the ability to win the championship.

Meanwhile, the next battle was announced.

"Alec Ward and Gray Foster. Please go to the arena!"

When the spectators heard that it was Alec's turn to fight, they excitedly watched the arena, anticipation was evident on everyone's faces. This guy has the highest chance of getting first place and many people placed their bets on him.

Alec Ward remained calm under the heated gazes of the crowd.

The same couldn't be said for Gray Foster. He is only a mid stage Level 1 Esper and he even had no hopes of getting into the top ten. "Why did I have to fight him in my first match?" He muttered helplessly.

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"Are you two ready?" The referee stared at the two.

Alec nodded his head calmly, while Gray sighed as he announced to forfeit the match. It was an unexpected move, but everyone understood his plight. He was unlucky enough to be matched with Alec.

Leric and Samira arrived at the clinic and as soon as they entered, they saw a group of people dressed like hunters. Two of them were carrying a severely injured man on a stretcher.

“Sir Aethelwolf, it’s good that you are back! We have a patient here that needs immediate medical attention.” Skylar and the others were elated when they saw Leric and Samira.

“Sir, are you the Doctor here? Please help our friend!” Of the hunters said with an anxious tone.

Leric nodded at the man. “The medical room is upstairs. Bring him there.” He then turned his head at Samira and said. “If you want to watch the battle event, you can leave. You don’t have to worry about the clinic.”

Samira nodded her head at him. “I’ll just check it for a while and I’ll return as soon as possible.”

Leric waved his hand at her. He then followed the hunters to the third floor.

The hunters carried their friend to the bed and nervously looked at Leric. “Sir, please.”

The first thing that Leric noticed about the patient was the gaping hole in his shoulder. It looked like it was impaled by a beast with a horn. Other than that, the patient also has all sorts of injuries all over his body.

Leric took out a Recovery Pellet. He then pushed it down the patient’s throat.

Soon, the patient’s complexion became much better and the pain in his body was also slowly receding.

“Tell me what creature caused that injury?” Leric asked the hunters.

The hunters were relieved to see that their friend’s condition has become stable. “It was caused by a Giant Blue Maned Bison, a Level 2 magical beast. We were only lucky enough to escape from that creature...” There were twenty of them in the group before, but more than half of them died and only four of them managed to escape. One of them was even in critical condition.

Leric nodded his head calmly. These guys were indeed unlucky. They must’ve gone into the deepest part of the forest right outside of Lion City. The forest is famous for being a danger zone filled with magical beasts and there were even some Level 3 magical beasts living within the forest. The Giant Blue Maned Bison is a territorial creature and it

would attack anyone that would enter its territory. It was a beast known for its ferocious nature.

“The horn of a Giant Blue Maned Bison is not poisonous so he should be fine after a short rest, but he needs to stay here for at least a day before he can leave since he still has to recover all his lost blood.” Leric checked the patient’s pulse. Just from checking the pulse, he could see what was happening inside the patient’s body. So far, nothing was out of place and his shoulder was slowly regenerating.

The hunters were amazed by the amazing effects of the pill. It managed to stabilize the condition of someone who was gravely injured!

“Sir, can you tell us what kind of pill you gave to him earlier?” One of the hunters asked curiously. They were no longer worried about their friend’s safety. They could tell that his breathing was slowly returning to normal.

“Oh? It’s a Recovery Pellet. If you want some, you can buy them at this clinic. We are the only ones who possess this pill in the entire empire. By the way, I didn’t give him the pill. You guys still have to pay for it.” Leric smiled at them.

When the hunters heard that the clinic was selling the pill, they were elated. This kind of pill can be used during crucial times and it was a must-have for hunters like them who are always living on the edge. They didn’t know when they would be critically injured so the Recovery Pellet was very attractive to them.

“We will buy them later.” They said.

“Alright. You guys can stay in this room. Just call me or the ladies if you need anything.” Leric left after saying those words.

They already have a huge stock of pills and Leric also refine pills every day to replenish their stocks. However, he still controlled the number of pills they were selling to ensure that the price would remain the same. This was a strategy used by the large business enterprises in his past life.

98 Posting Hiring Notice

“Sir Aethelwolf, how is the patient?” Skylar asked nervously. The other ladies were also worried since it was their first patient.

Leric smiled at them and replied. “The patient’s condition has stabilized and he should wake up any time soon. You guys don’t have to worry. I’ll write up a hiring notice first. Just call me if a new patient comes.”

With the growing number of customers, the fifteen ladies could barely handle their needs so he plans to hire five more to support them. Other than that, the clinic is also in

dire need of Doctors. It would be ideal if he can hire two or three Doctors, but it was difficult to hire such people since professional individuals like them have strict requirements for their employers. There were also risks of hiring spies sent by those with evil intentions.

After writing up a simple hiring notice, Leric posted them at the entrance of the clinic. Many customers also noticed the hiring notice and they were curious about Aethelwolf's requirements.

Urgent Hiring!

Position: Sales Representative (5 slots available)

- Age must be 18-25 years old
- Must be single
- Pleasing personality

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- Have a good work ethic

Salary: 5,000 gold coins/month

Position: Cashier (5 slots available)

- No age or gender requirement
- Honest
- No suspicious track record

Salary: 5,000 gold coins

Position: Doctor (3 slots available)

- No age requirement
- Must be unaffiliated with other organizations
- Can work over time and under pressure

Salary: 20,000 gold coins/month

Interview time: 6:30 P.M.

Leric didn't post a hiring notice for Alchemists since he didn't plan to teach anyone his pill recipes. If he really needs one, he can just teach someone among his Sales Representatives about Alchemy and maybe even take one as his student. That way, his pill recipes wouldn't be leaked to the public.

"Sir Aethelwolf, I fit all the requirements for the Sales Representatives position. I will come later for the interview!" A young lady in an elegant white dress eagerly said. She seemed to have come from a noble background so it was surprising that she was interested to become a Sales Representative in Leric's clinic.

"Working in my clinic is a tiring and tedious job that requires you to interact with all sorts of people daily. Young miss, if you're fine with that, you can come back here at 6:30 P.M. for the interview." Leric smiled at the young lady. She didn't look like someone who has ulterior motives and his [Virtual Map] also didn't categorize her as an enemy. That means her background is clean.

The young lady grinned as she nodded her head. "I bought your high-grade soap and tried it yesterday. It works even better than the beauty pills sold on the market! I want to have more supplies of your soaps and I heard from your employees that they get free soaps every month from working. Sir Aethelwolf, I'm also a big fan! Can I get an autograph from you, please?" She stared at Leric with big puppy eyes.

Leric looked at her gently. So she was a fan. He couldn't believe that he already has a fan after only opening the clinic for a day. "Alright. Where do you want me to sign?"

"Yey! Can you sign it here?" The young lady pointed at the chest area of her white dress. She didn't even look embarrassed as she stared expectantly at him.

Leric grabbed a quill pen and unhesitatingly signed his name on the girl's dress. He could feel her soft mound as he signed his name and Leric intentionally slowed down in writing his name. The young lady didn't seem to mind this and she was only looking at him excitedly. He could not help but recall the diehard fangirls in his past life. The young lady was showing the same vibe as them.

After getting his signature, the young lady happily thanked him. "Thank you so much, Sir Aethelwolf! By the way, my name is Athena Dublin. I'll come back later for the interview."

"Alright." Leric smiled and shook his head as he watched the girl jog joyfully towards a carriage. "So she is from the Dublin Household. What a lively little girl!"

When the girl left, many other customers also asked Leric about the hiring notice that he posted. Some of them were interested because of the high salary. It was rare to see such a generous employer so they were eager to join the interview.

"Sir Aethelwolf, is the salary really 5,000 gold coins for the Sales Representatives?"

Hearing this question, Leric nodded his head. "Yes. You can ask my employees about this."

"Sir Aethelwolf, why is it that you are only hiring single ladies?"

Leric already expected this question and he was prepared to answer it. "Actually, if you can give me a good enough reason to hire you, it doesn't if you're single or married." He answered.

In truth, it was a matter of preference. Leric plans to choose an apprentice among his Sales Representatives and teach them Alchemy. Single ladies would have more free time since they don't have any major responsibilities in their families. Learning Alchemy requires a lot of time so Leric took this into consideration.

He wasn't discriminating against mothers. It was just a matter of who he needed more. Besides, this requirement only applies to his Sales Representatives.

In fact, he preferred having cashiers who have children. Parents work for their children and they need a stable source of income so the risk of them resigning from their job is low.

After answering the questions of those interested to become his employees, Leric entered the clinic. "None of them are Doctors. I wonder if I can even hire one within a week." He shook his head helplessly. Even in this world, Doctors are still rare.

"Now that I've already posted the hiring notice, I can start making my guitar." Leric said as he went to his personal room on the third floor.

99 Guitar

In his past life, one needs about a week to build a guitar, but it only took Leric about two hours to create his own. The process was quite difficult since the crafting requires intricate actions. Leric used his world essence manipulation to expedite the crafting procedure.

Looking at the completed guitar in his hands, Leric smiled happily. Memories about the past also rushed through his head as soon as he started playing the guitar.

A beautiful melody echoed throughout the clinic and everyone was spellbound by the unfamiliar song. They begin to wonder what kind of instrument was used to produce this soulful melody. It made their hearts calm and temporarily forget their problems.

"What a beautiful melody! I've never heard something like this before!"

"The sound comes from upstairs. Do you guys have any idea who is playing this unknown instrument?"

Skylar and the other ladies raised their eyebrows in surprise as they listened to the song.

“I think it’s Sir Aethelwolf...” Skylar muttered silently.

Her voice wasn’t loud, but most of the customers inside the clinic were Espers so they heard her words.

“So it’s Sir Aethelwolf! No wonder! Only someone as elegant as him can play this kind melody!”

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Meanwhile, inside his room on the third floor, Leric felt even more emotional after he heard the familiar sound of the guitar. Without thinking, he started singing as he played the guitar.

The song is one of the best songs from his past life.

The crowd immediately stopped what they were doing when they heard Aethelwolf’s voice. The song is about someone reminiscing about his childhood memories and it made everyone in the clinic recall their youth.

No one emitted a sound and they silently listened to the beautiful song. When the music reached its end, some people even started tearing up.

Leric opened his eyes after singing the final lyrics of the song. He stared lovingly at the guitar, but then he heard the sudden cheering and applause of the people in the clinic. He smiled and went out of his room to see them. “It looks like even the people of this world also love music...”

When he appeared on the first floor, everyone stared at him in admiration. They also looked at the instrument he was carrying curiously.

“It looks like a guqin.”

“No. I think it’s similar to a vihuela. Just that the one in Sir Aethelwolf’s hands looks more beautiful and well-made.”

Leric could hear their words so he smiled at them. “Hello, everyone! I hope my ugly singing didn’t scare you all.”

“It’s not ugly at all, Sir Aethelwolf. It is the most beautiful song I’ve ever heard in my life!”

“That’s right! Even those wandering bards couldn’t compare to your singing!”

Skylar and the other ladies walked toward him. They also praised his singing as well as the beautiful melody of his guitar.

“What instrument is this, Sir Aethelwolf?”

“Oh, this? This is a guitar.” Leric answered.

“Guitar? I’ve never heard of such an instrument…”

“Yeah. It must be a new one created by Sir Aethelwolf.”

“Sir Aethelwolf, can you play one more song?” One of the customers asked with a pleading look. Leric’s singing was capable of making them feel at peace and they all wanted to hear more of it.

“Alright. Since some of you want to hear more, I’ll play one more song for your guys.” Leric grabbed a stool for himself and sat down. He then turned his head at everyone and said. “I’m gonna play a lively song this time and it’s about a man daydreaming about his future.”

He strummed the guitar gently and started the music with a fingerstyle. The gentle movements of his fingers and the lively tune created a pleasing harmony that made everyone enter into a trance.

When Leric began singing the first verse of the song, everyone’s mood was suddenly lifted and they unconsciously started shaking their heads according to the beat of the music.

It was a lively atmosphere and the pedestrians outside the clinic could not help but be attracted by the catchy music. Soon, the clinic was filled with all sorts of people and all of them were looking at Leric with admiration.

In the Rayden Household’s mansion, a woman in her late thirties bowed to an old man who was holding a cane. “Greetings, father.”

The woman was the same woman who owns the clothing shop in Dominion District. She was also the lady who angered Leric that night.

The old man nodded his head calmly. “What brings you here, Agnes? I thought your store is open at this hour.” He asked while looking at the woman in confusion. The lady’s name is Agnes and he is the daughter of this old man.

Agnes’ face darkened as she recounted the details of how she met Samira last night. She also mentioned about how she was humiliated by Leric.

The old man frowned after hearing his daughter's words. "Do you know anything about that man?" He asked. Samira wasn't the kind of woman who would casually go out for a stroll at night with a man. From his daughter's words, the man is a Level 4 Alchemist and he looks like someone in his late twenties.

Agnes shook her head. "I only know his name. According to my subordinates, he is called Aethelwolf. He owns a clinic in Dominion District and he is selling pills and something called soap. I haven't been there so I don't know the specifics."

"To think that someone actually wants to challenge my Rayden Household. I think people are starting to think that we have become weak after staying silent for a long time." The old man muttered in a cold voice. He is the family head of the Rayden Household, the arch nemesis of Julius Reynolds, Jericho Rayden!

Agnes felt a bit nervous when she heard her father's chilling voice. "What do you want me to do, father?"

Jericho glanced at her coldly and said. "Since he said that he wants to challenge my Rayden Household, then let me see if he can truly destroy our decades of foundation! Continue your business! I will support you in the shadows!"

Hearing this, Agnes' eyes lit up. "Thank you, father!"

Chapter 100 Hunter Association

After singing the second song, Leric kept the guitar inside his storage space. He had attracted too many people in his clinic and it might be too chaotic if he continue to sing.

"Thank you so much for letting me sing, everyone. I hope you find something you need in our clinic." He smiled as he went back to the third floor to check on his patient.

If he didn't leave right away, they might pester him to sing more songs.

When he reached the room of his patient, he knocked on the door. "It's me."

"Please come in, Sir! Our friend has just woken up!" An excited voice came inside the room.

"Excuse me." Leric entered the room and saw that the patient was already awake. The huge hole in his shoulder was now gone and only a scar remained.

"Sir, you must be the owner of this clinic. Thank you for saving my life. Can I know your name?" The patient is a man in his fifties, an experienced peak Level 2 Esper.

Leric smiled at him. "It's my job as an Alchemist and as a Doctor to help my patients. I'm Aethelwolf."

The hunters were surprised to learn that he is actually an Alchemist as well as a Doctor. Any of the two is a rare profession so their reaction is understandable.

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“I’m lucky that my friends brought me to your clinic, Sir Aethelwolf. I heard from them that the pill you gave me is unique and it is only available in this clinic.”

Leric nodded his head. “The Recovery Pellet is a creation of mine and I dare say that its effectiveness is beyond that of what is sold in the market. You can also save money since I’m not selling it at an exorbitant price. After all, this is a clinic, not a profiteering business.” Leric laughed in his heart when he said the last sentence with a straight face. His pills are indeed more effective than the ones sold in the market, but the ingredients to make them are not that expensive. Only the materials for the Awakening Pellet were expensive. Not to mention that he doesn’t fail in his refining sessions and there are even instances when he makes more than three pills from one set of ingredients!

“I admire your generosity, Sir Aethelwolf! Your Recovery Pellet will be of great help to us hunters and also to the soldiers who fight on the frontlines! Oh, right! I forgot to introduce myself. I’m Verson Misa, the leader of our hunting party. My brother holds an important position in the Hunter Association and I believe that he would be interested in doing business with you. I hope you’re open to large transactions, Sir Aethelwolf!” Verson said as he looked at Aethelwolf. He tried to discern the young man’s level, but no matter how he tried, he couldn’t identify his strength!

“Hunter Association? Well, I will think about it...” Leric answered thoughtfully. The Hunter Association is part of the Merchant Association. Most of their members were veteran hunters who came from humble backgrounds. The Hunter Association is one of the strongest forces in the empire and it managed to produce some experts for the Leone Empire.

The Hunter Association is a relatively relaxed force. They don’t tie down their fighters with absurd contracts but offer generous terms to them instead. Because of this, many warriors who come from commoner households sign contracts with them.

Leric was a bit excited by the offer. The Recovery Pellet is easy to refine and it doesn’t require valuable ingredients to make. He could even mass produce them if he has sufficient materials.

“Once I recover, I’ll inform my brother about this right away. I believe he would be ecstatic if learns about the effectiveness of your Recovery Pellets.” Verson couldn’t tell what the young man was thinking from his expression. He wasn’t even excited at the idea of signing a long-term contract with the Hunter Association. This made Verson admire his character even more. Only a few people could stay calm in such situations.

“Let’s talk about that later. Let me check your pulse first.”

Verson nodded his head and extended his arm to Aethelwolf.

Leric placed two fingers on his wrist. After a few seconds, he glanced at Verson and said. "I've underestimated you. I thought that you will need two days to recover from that wound. It looks like your body is quite resilient. You are free to go now."

Verson and his friends were happy when they heard his words.

"Thank you, Sir Aethelwolf."

"No worries. You don't have to pay for the Recovery Pellet and consultation fee. Just treat it as my greeting gift to the hunters of the Hunter Association." Leric said and left the room without waiting for them to reply.

He could tell that Verson was speaking the truth. He didn't mind losing a few thousand gold coins since it was just a paltry sum to him at this moment. His small gesture would bring him more money in the future!

"I can hire my personal guards from the Hunter Association." Leric muttered to himself. He forgot to mention this to Verson and his friends. "Well, I can tell them about it before they leave later. Perhaps they might be interested..."

Inside the patient room, Verson was discussing something with his friends.

"Verson, will your brother approve this?"

Verson nodded his head with a solemn look. "My brother will definitely be interested in the Recovery Pellets. The only issue is that the Merchant Association might interfere with this transaction. Most of our recovery pills come from them and if this exchange is approved, they would lose a huge amount of profit. They might seek trouble if they find out about this so make sure that you won't spread it to other people."

The hunters nodded their heads seriously.

"I'll also ask my brother if he is interested in leaving the Merchant Association's umbrella and make the Hunter Association stand on its own." Verson muttered. The Merchant Association has been causing them a lot of trouble lately with their demands and it made many hunters dissatisfied with them.