

LOA Nobody 101

Chapter 101 Engagement Talks LI

"Rio and Rebecca are both young and talented, and would make a remarkable match." Hearing the words of the king everyone in the room had a surprised expression on their faces.

"Your majesty, I don't think it is the right place to talk about these things." Artemis said politely looking around the table. It was one thing when she teased Rio about this when they were alone, but the topic was not something that kids should take part in.

"Yes, your majesty I think we should..." Athena wanted to calm the situation that she feared would arise if she didn't stop them. She knew better than everyone else about her husband's nature and she knew about her sister's stubborn habits too. If she didn't want to do something, then there was no one who could make her change her mind.

There had already been qualms between these two and she really didn't want to have a repeat of what happened years ago. But sadly for her, it seems fate had other plans for her, as her husband cut her off before she could finish her words.

"Why? We are talking about their future after all. It is only right for them to have a say in it." Maximus declared, as he put down the glass of wine and looked at everyone.

"They're still young kids, your majesty. There is no need to worry them about these topics for now. Plus as their parents it is our duty to make the sound decisions until they can do it for themselves." Artemis said as she glanced at Rio, she really had her doubts about this engagement these days.

Ever since Rio had told her about his blessing, she has made a habit of picking up on his every action thinking it is done to avoid something or change something he saw in the future, which in most cases is true.

She could see how for a while now he had no interest in talking to Rebecca and had been the one to avoid her if possible.

Well, it won't be obvious to anyone as he had been trying to mask his lies and behavior, as it was before, but how can she not notice it? Just that indifferent expression whenever they were talking or playing together was enough to tell her everything, that wasn't the emotions one shows when meeting the one they've known all their life and been friends with.

"Yes, but nobility doesn't have that privilege. Relationships between nobles have always been built upon the profits and favors. We've all been through them. And it's not something new." Maximus said as he stated the truth.

"You are right. But the fact remains the same. They're only 10 years old. They don't even know the meaning of life, let alone know the importance of choosing a life partner."

"You are right. I'm just proposing an idea of the alliance. Our families have known each other for generations, and our kids have grown up together. They aren't strangers and they care about each other. Becca even agreed about the engagement, what more could you need to be sure of."

Hearing King's words Artemis had no way to refute them. But she was in no mood to agree to anything. Maybe before she would've, but now she, herself could see that binding them so early in the bonds of relationships wasn't right.

"Your majesty, what _ " She was going to say that they can talk about these matters when they grow up a little, but king Maximus knowing her intentions cut her off saying something that surprised everyone.

"Or do you plan to force your decisions on your son now?"

His words were just finished as Artemis clenched her fist and the sound of a broken spoon brought everyone's focus on her.

"Sister, he didn't mean _ " Athena tried to salvage the situation, only to fail again ,as she couldn't form more words when Artemis met her gaze.

"I think I've had enough." Artemis said, as she wiped her hand and stood up. "We will talk about this tomorrow." She said as she started leaving the hall. The cold expression on her face spoke volumes of

how she felt at this moment, and she really felt that if she didn't stop herself, something bad would happen.

There was a hushed silence in the room which was now filled with tension. Maximus kept looking at Artemis as she turned around and left, Athena could only sigh that the situation didn't turn out like this. While both girls had no idea what even happened, one moment they were happily having dinner and now everything was like this.

But that wasn't the case for Rio, though he didn't know much but with the knowledge from the plot, he could guess what the king was hinting about, and that didn't sit well with him. The wounds of the past which were healed and scarred should be left alone, not scratched. He knew that better than anyone else.

His eyes kept looking at the king, hoping to see what led the man to act like that, by no means he was a fool who couldn't think of the consequences of his words, but he still did it for some reason.

The king turned to look at him and both their gazes locked, as they both just kept looking at each other, trying to see what the other one was thinking.

"Well, so what are your thoughts about my proposal, young heir of the Blake's?" Maximus spoke, finally breaking the silence that enveloped the dinner table.

"I think the things of the past should be left in the past. Especially when you're talking about the peaceful future." Rio said as he wiped his mouth and stood up. "I'll take my leave now. Have a good night, your majesty."

Watching him leave the table too, Amelia wanted to stand up and follow him too, but Athena stopped her. "Finish your plate first Amy." She said and Amelia could just silently nod her head. She was really confused about whatever was happening on the table, first there was that topic about her brother and Rebecca's engagement, and then suddenly her mama got angry and left. And after that her brother left her here alone too. So she could just silently finish her meal and hope to leave fast.

Chapter 102 What's The Rush?

"The wounds of the past should be left in the past." The king muttered his words under his breath, as he stood at the balcony, looking at the night sky and the peaceful city he ruled.

'Guess he knows about that incident huhh.' Maximus thought, but that made him even more curious about the boy, cause he for a fact knew no one in Blake household would've told him about it or even mentioned it.

"What were you thinking Max?" Athena asked, as she came to stand alongside her husband. "I thought we talked about it before, and I was supposed to handle the matters regarding the kids' engagement." She stated, due to how busy her husband usually is, and how she's close to Artemis, they had decided she would be the one to talk about these matters with Blake family but her husband just ruined the whole dinner with his impatience.

She had just come here after talking with her sister, and though Artemis didn't say anything, she could guess what her response would be now.

"You've been talking about it for months, and it hasn't led to anything. Instead of playing around with the topic, I just asked her clearly." King replied without looking at her.

"Yes, but what's the rush? As sister said, they're both kids now. There's no need for us to bind them together so early. Artemis and Agnus already like our Becca, and once Rio grows up a little and learns to get along with her, he won't refuse about it too."

The king heard her words as he narrowed his eyes "Did that brat refuse to marry my daughter?"

Athena sighed at his words, he just listened to what he wanted to listen and ignored everything else that she said. "They're just kids Max. And knowing my sister and how much she dotes on them, she wouldn't have them do something that they don't want to do."

King Maximus scoffed at her words, "You used your skill on him today right. Tell me, what do you think about the boy? "

"How do you _ " Athena wanted to ask how he knew about that, when there was no one present at the scene, but then she sighed as she figured out the culprit. She really wanted to beat up this God of his, who has been ruining her husband. But she couldn't. So she just shook her head and replied "There's nothing unusual. He has Nyx's blessing. So I didn't try to look past the barrier, cause there's a high chance it will irritate her."

Athena lied with a straight face, of course her expressions were the same as always, so no one can tell her lies apart. It wasn't because of any specific reason, but because she herself wasn't sure why her powers didn't work on him. And if her husband knew there was someone on whom she couldn't get a read on, who knows how he'll react.

Plus it wasn't fully a lie, as every higher God gave some kind of protection to their followers so they couldn't be just hypnotized or turned into a puppet of someone else. It was like showing their superiority or status through their believers.

King Maximus nodded his head hearing her words. Psyche's powers might be stronger and more useful than some other Gods, but there was no way it could look past something Nyx gave protection to. After all, at the core Psyche was a mortal, while Nyx a primordial. Even the level difference between them couldn't be more clear. This is also what Athena herself believed as the reason behind her skill's failure. She couldn't confirm her guesses as Psyche has been silent ever since then. And the last thing she said before turning mute was "Do not force the kid for anything. Or we'll both pay the price."

Though a little confused about the warning, Athena followed her words nonetheless.

Unlike other Gods Psyche wasn't just playing around with mortals, she respected them cause she herself was one. She knew better than anyone else what it's like to be a toy at the mercy of gods, to be powerless in front of grand powers -so she always cared about her followers. And Athena being her avatar was obviously her favorite one.

Or maybe it was due to the fact that Athena had mastered the power of soul eyes, and if she died Psyche would lose one of her main abilities too.

'Did Nyx do something to her.' Athena thought as she once again tried to contact Psyche but got no reply. Unlike Rio who knew the plot, obviously not many people knew how the Gods worked at this time. So Athena could just blame Nyx for Psyche's disappearance.

"He knew about the incident from years ago. What do you think about that?"

"I don't know, maybe someone told him or maybe he doesn't know anything. We can't be sure as his words weren't clear enough. He might've just taken a guess seeing sister's behavior was unpleasant and said so." Athena said, and the king nodded his head. There really was no reason why he would have the knowledge about that.

"Why did you even talk about that? Did you think that would help in getting a reply from her." Athena asked, clearly not understanding why he did that knowingly how mad her sister will be after hearing that.

"I wasn't thinking about that. I was just hoping she'd give us a proper response. Instead of just dragging us around."

"They're both kids Max. There's no need to rush these things, and it isn't exactly a small matter where you just inform them and they can make a decision." Athena said trying to ease up her husband's frustrations "Becca hasn't even gone through her awakening yet. Then there's gonna be academy years and then much more. They both can grow together and make their own choices too. Maybe that's what both my sister and brother Agnus are worried about."

Maximus shook his head and said -"I know what you're saying, but Rebecca already agreed to this, she showed understanding of how nobility works better then your sister."

"And I'm not telling them that they have to marry each other just now. It'll be just an engagement or an announcement so it can put everyone's mind at ease."

"I'm in a hurry because the relationship between our families has been good and that's what's held this empire together. Now that the news of Rio's awakening spreads everywhere, how many people do you think would want to propose their daughters or princesses or holy saintess' to him." Maximus finished his words clearly explaining why he was in a hurry to tie the knots.

"Max, people will always try to do what's best for them. And I know my sister, even if the marriage between our kids doesn't happen, the relationship between our 3 families are already tied. There's no need to doubt that." Athena said as she held his hands, she could guess the burden and expectations a king have to bear from their whole kingdom, to give them a peaceful life in this chaotic world, and

Maximus had really managed to do just that. But even he had made some mistakes and is afraid to repeat them. "Just give them time. We've always supported each other and always would, a forced marriage isn't a solution."

"This could all be only till this generation Athena. What about the next, or the one after that. You're thinking about now, but as the king and successor of this empire I need to think about the future. You have no idea the chaos that'll come in the coming years, and the more prepared we are for that, the better safe we'll be." Maximus said and turned around to leave.

Athena kept standing there, looking at the shining moon high in the sky, "Chaos huhh. How much more twisted can this world even get."

Chapter 103 Can I Steal Royal Gifts Too?

After the awkward dinner and having slept soundly in the palace, with the dawn of day came a new beginning.

Rio, sound asleep in his room, stirred slightly as he felt light hit his face, grumbling in his slumber, he instinctively pulled the blanket over his head and turned around. However, his peace was short-lived as someone shook his shoulders, gently but persistently, rousing him from his dreams.

"Wake up, master. It's already super late," a familiar voice urged him. Rio groaned and buried his face deeper into the pillow, covered his ears from his hands, while mumbling a half-hearted response. "You can go ahead. I'll be right behind you."

Esme, his ever so diligent and rule follower shadow shook her head in disapproval. "Master, that's what you said half an hour ago. It's time to wake up."

"Just 5 more minutes." Rio said, yawning and trying to sleep again.

Esme knowing her simple efforts were wasted, "Wake up or I _ I " she wanted to threaten him somehow but didn't know how. Suddenly she remembered something and a playful smile came to her face, she waved her hand slightly as the door of the room slowly created and got pushed open. "Ohh Myra, did you come to wake him up too?"

Rio who heard the doors opening and Esme's words remembered how Myra is used to waking him up. Memories of being kicked off the bed or having his bed overturned flooded his mind, jolting him awake.

"I'm up! Who said I was sleeping?" Rio proclaimed, his voice filled with feigned alertness. Esme couldn't help but burst into hearty laughter, watching her master's comical reaction. Rio, still rubbing the sleep from his eyes, looked around, his eyes narrowing as he realized Myra was nowhere to be found. He directed an accusing glare at Esme, who simply smiled back at him, unfazed by his indignation.

With a wave of her hand, she effortlessly stored the blanket away in her storage ring, leaving Rio feeling both saddened and slightly irritated.

"Now don't look at me like that. Go freshen up, I'll call Aina to prepare everything." Esme said as she turned around and left.

Just as soon as her figure vanished from his sight, Rio's sad look turned into a playful grin, as he brought out a new plush blanket from his own personal storage ring and covered himself, intending to snuggle himself back into his restful sleep.

But his happiness was short lived, as with a swoosh sound the blanket got pulled away from him, just like in those horror movies and disappeared in thin air.

Esme's voice rang out, her words filled with amusement and playful scolding. "Wake up already! We are guests here. When did you become so lazy?"

Rio's smile faded, and he could only concede defeat. With a sigh, and a yawn that escaped his mouth together, he stood up, stretching his arms, preparing himself for a new day in his new life.

After having breakfast with everyone, which surprisingly got spent in silence, Rio met with Bernhardt again. The guy and his mother were given a separate space in the palace away from the Queen's side of the corner. Bernhardt, this time gave him a proper tour of the palace, and they both just talked and roamed the hallways, where Bernhardt being the guide explained everything.

"Where are the statues of previous kings or the place where their lives are recorded? Can we go there? I looked about them but there weren't many biographies or records of them in Damascus." Rio asked, trying to see if he can grab the future opportunity of the fabled prince before him.

'Since I'm already here, I might as well take a look at all the heavenly gifts. That guy is the protagonist's side buddy, so he can just survive on his luck alone. He doesn't need it.' Rio thought, justifying his stealing habit in his mind, clearly ignoring that just days ago he had one of the protagonist's friends killed by someone else's hands and no luck saved him. System in his head could only sigh at this.

It wanted to speak, but sadly it couldn't. It was muted now after all. Its host had asked the system to wake him up in the morning, but when it tried to ring out the alarms, feeling annoyed Rio muted it. And he simply forgot to unmute it after waking up.

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'Sigh even being a system nowadays is hard. All these low planet people read too many system stories in novels and now they just don't respect em at all. All its previous hosts were like this too, always demanding and questioning it. There was a time when systems used to be futuristic advanced knowledge and not general knowledge. Time's have changed'

Bernhardt who heard Rio's request didn't think much of it, he thought he was just curious and asked to see them. "Well, the statues of them are made in the Royal garden surrounding the palace, so you can see them. As for their biographies, maybe you can find something in the Royal library, I'll see if I can get you a book."

Rio smiled hearing his words "ohh thanks prince. It'll be helpful. After all, the past rulers of Schilla were all amazing kings in their time. Their stories should help us learn a lot of things."

Bernhardt, who heard his words, had a look of realization and started smiling. After all this time talking with him, Rio could guess what stage Bernhardt was at this point. Bernhardt nowadays just wants to earn merits and gain respect and approval from the king and everyone around him. The idea of getting the throne might be not completely planted in his head yet, since Rio saw him talking happily with Alfred when they came across him. But Bernhardt still tries to outshine him, and now Rio might've given him a hint just for that.

'Hook, line and sinker.' Rio smirked as he looked over his shoulders and saw his new friend lost in thoughts and smiling to himself.

Obviously the Royal gifts weren't something that he can just go and grab himself. This chance in particular needed the blood of their lineage to get it, so if Rio couldn't take it for himself, should he ignore it and let it be. Why, cause both Alfred and Bernhardt were his enemies in the novel, should he hate them both - no. Nothing was fixed yet, cause nothing happened yet.

And Rio just wanted to test only that, Bernhardt fills the requirements to get that reward, so can he grab it before Alfred. It would change the fate of both these princes a little, giving him points and proving that he could meddle in others' destined opportunities after figuring out a loophole or not?

Plus the fact that Rio was a righteous sincere guy, who just thought he should pay his tour guide. Earth's habits maybe. Hmmm

Chapter 104 Beliana Crescent & The Unknown

While Rio and Bernhardt were busy roaming around the palace, Amelia was trying out all the delicacies of Royal chefs in Rebecca's room. Since the breakfast was dull and everyone left their own way after it, Rebecca decided to throw in a sweet treat for her best friend who's been the most uncomfortable around the table. Amelia simply didn't have the habit of being silent during eating, since her whole family ate together and chatted happily everyday, the silence felt off to her. Plus the fact that neither Rio or her mother said anything to her since last night, made it even more weird.

Bernhardt, who had decided to read out all the stories and books on biographies of past kings in the Royal library, tried to finish this tour and leave. He also promised to bring books that he enjoyed to him as well.

On their tour around the palace Rio also came across Bernhardt's mother, Beliana. From the memories of original Rio, he remembered that they've both met each other before, so there was no need for him to introduce himself or to act noble.

Beliana was a smart woman in the novel story, a loving mother, and a caring concubine to the king. Despite everything the king does, and how even after years of hard work and not getting any reward for them, she still never did anything bad to anyone. She kept supporting the king and Royal Family with whatever she could. But that all changed after Bernhardt's bad ending, when she finally gave up the hopes on everyone and left everything behind. Last she appeared was when she left the Schilla empire.

She didn't appear in the novel ever again, some readers discussed among themselves that she went back to her maternal family or that she killed herself, but the author never clarified anything, so there was no certain news regarding her until the end. When Alfred succeeded the throne after King's death, there were mentions of her name but he couldn't remember them clearly now, since it's been so long and just like everybody else, he too ignored them thinking nothing of them.

'I hope it's not what I think it is? Because if it is then I would be fully and totally fucked.' Rio said in his mind, shutting off the weird theory his brain had been cooking up since last week.

"Congratulations on your awakening, Rio. I would've brought you a gift if this kid told me he was with you." Beliana's sweet melodic voice brought him out of his thoughts, followed by a little scream as she twisted the ear of Bernhardt.

"Mother, stop it. I'm already grown up now." Bernhardt complained after freeing himself, he couldn't believe his mother did that in front of others. 'My reputation as a prince would be ruined in his eyes now.' He thought.

"Your wishes are enough, aunt Beliana. And I was just about to ask him to bring me to you." Rio said as he smiled and bowed a little to show his respect.

"Hmm, as sweet as ever." She said,

"And you're the same too. Thanks for your help last time. Otherwise I really would've been lost around here." Rio replied, as Beliana just waved her hand and nodded, making Bernhardt confused, he finally couldn't take it anymore and stopped trying to understand them and asked - "What're you both talking about?"

Beliana was shaking her head, as Rio explained to him "Didn't I say, why I don't roam around the palace alone now? It was because last time I did and got lost, I kept wandering here and there for nearly half an hour, until your mother found me and brought me back to the hall where everyone was waiting for me. But due to all the crowd and noise I couldn't say thanks to her, and then we left, so it was still due."

"You remember something so little for a whole year." Bernhardt asked as he looked surprised at him. He couldn't remember anything last past week. And even then only the things that are important.

"Favors and helps, should always be remembered and repaid, no matter how long it takes. My mother always says this. Plus if you haven't heard the rumors, I'm pretty smart." Rio said proudly, making Beliana smile, while Bernhardt could just shake his head in displeasure.

"How have you been?" Rio ignored Bernhardt and asked his mother.

"I'm perfectly fine." She replied.

"Were you going somewhere, cause we don't want to delay you?" Rio asked as he saw Beliana looking at the hallway.

"Ahh no, I was just looking for this guy. He didn't have any breakfast and has been just roaming ever since he left bed." Beliana said and ignored the presence she felt watching them, or specifically watching him. She wondered the reason behind this specific care and attention, but it wasn't the place to question them.

"What, but he said he already ate before he came here." Rio said looking at Bernhardt who could just helplessly laugh and look sideways.

"I'm sorry I held him for so long." Rio apologized to Beliana and looked towards Bernhardt "You should've been clear. See, now aunt has to come and look for you. She probably hasn't eaten since you were gone. You should've informed her at least" Rio informed him and he could just look down again.

Beliana, who heard his words, patted Bernhardt's shoulder and said, "See did you ever think about your mother like this? Always roaming outside. Playing around humph."

"Rio, why don't you come with us too." Bernhardt changed the topic since he didn't have anything else to say.

"Yeah, come. It'll be our treat for your awakening. You need to eat a lot so your body can have more mana." Beliana said, agreeing with her son.

Bernhardt was just nodding his head at his mother's words, until he heard the last line, and his face had a questioning expression "Mother, can't you come up with some better excuse. That trick is so childish. Eating food increases mana, it's so dumb."

Rio smiled hearing that, agreeing wholeheartedly, but Beliana just said "Humph, it still worked on you. Now you're calling it dumb, but back then you were eating 10 times a day" Beliana burst out laughing as she remembered that. While Rio could just stare doubtfully at this guy, 'So he didn't turn dumb once the plot began, this guy was dumb before too.'

Bernhardt, feeling flustered by her mother's words, could only bury his grievances within him, thinking - 'My image of a royal prince is totally ruined now. He definitely thinks I'm some hungry pig or something.'

Controlling himself from laughing at this character, Rio replied "I already had breakfast, but I don't mind joining you both for a little snack."

"Perfect, let's go." Bernhardt said and started taking big strides towards his room, leaving both of them behind. His mother is too dangerous, he couldn't just stand and listen how she'll insult him this time or make a joke on him.

Chapter 105 King Casimir - Hero Of Hope

In the afternoon Rio was walking in the Royal garden, enjoying the scenery while observing all the statues and pillars made on the boundary. Every statue had a stone slab near them, on which some stuff was written related to that person. For some it was their biggest achievements, while some had recorded their speeches or decisions that affected the empire. Even though the opportunity he was looking for wasn't made for him, but he still wanted to look for the clues, just cause it looked fun to solve the puzzle. He can also help Bernhardt a little if he found any clue sooner, but till now he had no luck.

It was tiring, yes, but he had nothing better to do with his time. Since he woke up late, he couldn't sleep in the daytime. He had no training since he was a guest here and was told to relax. Amelia was busy catching up with Rebecca, and everytime Rio met her now, he got ignored as soon as she started chatting up with her friend again. Bernhardt had some classes for him, Alfred was the same too. Ladies around the house were busy preparing for the grand celebration which would take place a day later for Becca's birthday. Esme and Myra were probably meeting with other royal guards and busy preparing for the outside visit that Rebecca advised that we will all go around the Haven city in the evening.

Thus left alone bored in his room, Rio got out and started playing around with this puzzle.

It wasn't the only opportunity placed in the royal palace, as Rio already found 2 other things that he could take before others, but he didn't make any move on them and ignored them. Not because of any bullshit excuse of following the plot or something, but just cause he had a feeling some little eyes around the mansion were always watching his every action, and after what happened at the teleportation gate with Athena and Psyche, he didn't want to draw any more unwanted attention to him unnecessarily. Those things would still be there, waiting for him to come and pick them up for a long time, and he just has to be patient and get them when he's better prepared.

"From the blood in my bones, to the blade in my hands, everything I have is for this kingdom, and I will die a thousand times before I let any one of you pass through me."

Rio was busy reading up the story, when he heard someone reciting the lines written on the stone for him. He turned around and saw the king standing there behind him. He bowed as a courtesy and greeted him "Your majesty."

"You know, he is one of my favorites among my ancestors."

"King Casimir."

"Yes, he was the 3rd ruler after the formation of Schilla. And his reign was probably in the most troubled times. It was when new towers started emerging around the world, destroying the momentary peace that emerged after the emergence.

Casimir lost his father when he was 12 years old and he succeeded to the throne at the age of 9.

"He didn't even have his awakening ceremony when people expected him to lead them and save them from the unexpected. And yet he fulfilled his duties."

"He sounds like a good ruler." Rio said, clearly impressed by the story. Since he knew the plot and had read some books about the past, he could guess how messy that period must've been.

"He was. Casimir was the one who led everyone and joined the first adventure inside the towers. Instead of hiding in his palace, and giving out orders from the background, he preferred to stay at the forefront and charge forward. The lines I said were what he spoke while fighting against a horde of demons and monsters alone. He was the one who risked his life and brought peace to the empire again.

'Hero of hope' that was what people used to call him back then. If you roam around the Haven, you'll still see some families worshipping him like he was their God." Maximus finished his story, and Rio could just nod his head in return.

Rio wasn't as good as Athena when it came to reading people, but he could still see that Maximus held deep respect for the past king from the way he spoke about him. And he too quite liked this guy, he sounds like an awesome king. And according to the details of the novel, he was. Casimir was probably the bravest king, who only ever had love for Schilla in his heart. Hero of hope, what a suitable title for a guy like him.

If not for how much he suffered in his life, Rio had doubted if the man was a protagonist from all the achievements he had. But knowing his ending Rio was sure he was anything but the protagonist. Man was born with the golden spoon and black luck.

'But worry not. You'll be in good hands in the future.' Rio thought, remembering the slight suffering that still awaited the guy, whom even death couldn't free from the burdens.

"He was the nicest king among all my ancestors, strongest too. But do you know how he died?" King Maximus asked and Rio shook his head. "It wasn't the claws of a demon or fangs of a monster that ripped his heart. He was killed by his own people, people whom he protected standing in front of them, were the ones who stabbed his back."

Hearing his words which obviously were considered a secret knowledge among a select few, Rio met the King's gaze who finally looked away from the statue for the first time and turned to him. "He was killed because he solved all the outside threats but ignored the troubles brewing in his backyard. His most trusted advisor was the one who killed him and he could do nothing."

"Et tu, Brute?" Rio muttered the words the author of the story took an inspiration from. The fall of Julius Caesar, the king who was killed by his own chosen senators led by his own dear friend Brutus.

"Did you say something?" Maximus asked as he heard his words, but couldn't understand what it meant.

Rio, coming back to reality, looked at the king, and finally decided to have the talk, "I asked, what you've been trying to hint at, your majesty. I'm sure this story wasn't just for my history lesson, but you, meaning to say something. So why don't you clear the air and explain what you meant?"

Chapter 106 Refusing The Engagement - 1

"What have you been trying to hint at, your majesty? I'm sure this story wasn't just for my history lesson, but you, meaning to say something. So why don't you clear the air and explain what you meant?"

Rio's words made the king burst out in a laughter as he spoke "And they say, you are just a kid. Rumors weren't lying when they said the heir of Blake's is a genius."

Rio kept silent about the praise he received, and Maximus nodded his head and continued his words.

"I had a talk with your mother this morning and apparently she doesn't want to agree to the engagement between you and my daughter."

"I don't know what you're trying to say, your majesty?"

"Won't you act surprised or ask about the reason why she refused." Maximus asked, but Rio just shook his head.

"Why bother? Mother's decisions are final and I'll follow them." Rio replied clearly not interested in what excuse Artemis came up with to cancel the talks.

He had already noticed how Artemis was aware of his hesitation regarding Rebecca. That's why he stopped trying to hide his expressions completely. Knowing fully, that if she got a hint, then she'll probably avoid all his risks herself, without him doing anything. She probably said how they were still kids and should just focus on their future instead of families. Even though most noble childrens get engaged early or at least have some selected options for marriages while they're young, but who can argue with Artemis since she already decided.

"See that's what shows you still have a lot to learn. Your mother told me, it was you who asked to choose your own partner in life, clearly not interested in some arranged fixed relationships." Maximus chuckled and informed him.

Rio took a moment to think over his words and could guess that the king was lying to him. There was no way Artemis would ever push his name forward to get out of an argument. "Well that's a good joke your majesty. But there's nothing like that."

"So you have no problem with this engagement."

"I never said that." Rio clarified.

Maximus narrowed his eyes as he questioned "Do you have someone else who caught your attention? Or do you not like Rebecca." If the young heir of Blake's got infatuated with some other girl, that could explain why both mother and son were against this engagement, but Rio shook his head burying all King's thoughts with his words.

"There isn't anyone in this world whom I found interesting enough yet, your majesty. And as for Princess Rebecca, well I simply don't know her well enough to form an opinion of liking her or not."

"You've spent your childhoods together. You both meet each other every year, and play around daily. Isn't that enough to know someone?" Maximus pointed out the facts about their close relationship, which is true seeing how Athena would always bring Rebecca with her when she visited her family or Blake house. The same was the case for them at every celebrations and holidays. That's why Rebecca and Amelia became best friends with each other, cause they kept meeting each other.

But hearing King's words Rio just smiled in return-"You've just finished telling me a story about King Casimir, your majesty. It is never enough to know someone in so little time."

King Maximus kept silent for a little while, thinking what he meant with his words, he then asked Rio about something he thought of "You think Rebecca would change her mind in the future?"

"She's still a child, your majesty. She might like me for now, since unlike other kids around her, I don't pester her daily or follow her around like her guards. She hasn't seen the world yet and if she found

someone else who can act more indifferent towards her, I bet she'll be happily influenced by them. She can be easily swayed, fooled or manipulated." Rio said knowing full well how just some rumors about him being the villain of the world was enough for people to form an opinion about him in the novel. Rebecca, too, was the same. That's why she betrayed him, his family and her own too.

"She agreed to this engagement when I asked her about it. She didn't even need to think much for it." King said, as he thought about the time when he mentioned this topic to his daughter. Unlike Rio who seemed to think about everything, she accepted it easily and showed no resistance.

King was hoping to see if Rio would be happy learning about Rebecca's eagerness towards the matter, and Rio did smile hearing that, but totally not because of the reasons he hoped for. His doubts were cleared when he heard Rio's words as he quoted what he said to him before. "That just shows she still has much to learn, your majesty."

Rio remembered some events of the novel and his lips curled into a slight smile, his expression was of someone who had thought of some joke. "As I said your majesty, she likes me cause I'm different. If she met someone in the future who's acting more indifferent to her than me, then she'd be easily enamored by that person. That's how her brain works now."

King Maximus narrowed his eyes trying to see what he meant by those words, he knew his daughter was a little naive yet, but it isn't on the level where someone can fool her with a lollipop right.

But deep down he knew the words held some truth in them, as being the only daughter of his & sole princess of this empire, everyone really doted on her.

Since childhood Rebecca never even had a need to ask for anything, because whatever she wanted or needed was presented to her before she could even think about it.

King's thoughts were stopped as Rio continued his words, "We're talking about the engagement between nobility, your majesty. Yes, it is easy to form between our families, since we've known each other for generations, but you all are forgetting how troublesome it gets to get out of them if something went wrong. Or if one party decided to back out. The profits and partnerships aside, the damage to the reputation alone is enough to thwart everything."

"For someone who said he'll follow his mother's decisions, whatever it may be, you're awfully aware of all the downsides about agreeing to this engagement."

Hearing the king saying what became obvious from his words, Rio didn't clarify anything and just smiled "Maybe I am, as the rumors say, a genius."

Chapter 107 Refusing The Engagement -2

"Maybe I am, as the rumors say, a genius."

Maximus, seeing that Rio won't say anything, started speaking. After listening to all the downsides of this engagement from this mother-son pair, he decided to highlight the good parts. "You aren't wrong in what you said. But there are also positive sides to this engagement. The prosperity and peace we could bring in Schilla with the combined partnership of the Schott, Blake and Raven family would strengthen us all. Just one decision of yours could secure peace for the next 2 generations, isn't that reason alone enough."

Rio wanted to smirk hearing how the king said that this engagement will bring peace. He wanted to laugh thinking about all the chaos that ensues in the story just cause of Rebecca and his engagement. Aside from the usual drama, there were specific villains and events that only triggered cause of this damn engagement.

But that was all going to be changed this very instant. He knew exactly what King's real motivations were, and that also gave him the solution about how to handle this matter. And so he continued their conversation.

"There doesn't need to be another engagement or marriage between our families to start a partnership, your majesty. That can be achieved with dozens of different ways. I'm sure your majesty is already aware of more methods than me."

Maximus looked at him, understanding what Rio wanted to hint at. There have been rumors going around in the higher circle about how Blake family has been trying to release something that will simply take over the world. "Is it about the new business your family has been trying to set up?"

"It isn't a new business, since Genesis already owns a part of the potion industries." Rio clarified.

"Hmm reports says it's something revolutionary that will turn over the tides once it releases. But they're all rumors with no guarantees yet." Maximus asked, hoping to get more details.

"Don't you trust in something we made, your majesty? As for the rumors, they'll all be cleared once we are prepared to mass produce it and people actually use it. Schott family's reputation, Raven family's connections and Blake's product -doesn't that give out a vibe of shaking the whole world."

"You sound awfully sure of this potion you're speaking? Did your mother even let you near it?"

"I'm sure cause I know its effects better than anyone else. It's tried and tested on myself, so I don't need any other validation."

"Singular book potion." Maximus asked as he understood what he really meant. They were the only thing that can give out a reward big enough to shock the world. And according to the rumors and what Rio said, he was even more sure it would really bring about a storm.

"It is. So what're your thoughts about this, your majesty."

"Well since you refuse to marry my daughter, maybe I'll have to make do with what I can get." Maximus replied. He already had plans to get more information about Blake's business and get them on his side. As Rio said the partnership is what mattered between all 3 families to him. If their benefits are aligned with each other, why would he need any other assurance? Obviously the marriage would've been more secured and personal, but there's always time for him to have them agree to it. And maybe get someone better than him for his daughter.

He was about to turn around and leave, when he heard Rio's words and stopped. "I never said I refuse to marry her, your majesty. Both mother and I just feel this isn't the right time yet. Who knows what'll happen, one day in the future when we're both grown ups."

Maximus smiled, as he understood Rio's thoughts and why he said that "You really don't take any risks, do you, heir of the Blake's?"

"I just like to be prepared for everything. Why take risks when I can avoid them." Rio said.

"That isn't the usual approach of someone from the Blake house. Your family is basically known for their risky behaviors." King said and smiled, remembering all the dumb dangerous decisions Blake family is known for.

"Depends on the people and the situation they face, your majesty. My family takes risks because they can afford them. Me, I'm just a normal 10 year old kid, who's nothing without his family's name." Rio said, making Maximus smile at his attempt to act polite.

"You seem anything but normal, Rio Raven Blake. It was nice talking with you."

"The pleasure's all mine, your majesty." Rio said, looking at King's disappearing figure. And continued his remaining sentence in his head. 'I hope you go and get me something good.'

'It's so easy talking to people when you just know what they really want from you. Makes the whole ordeal so easy to talk about.'

-

"What do you think about the kid?" Maximus asked, no one in particular, while walking down the hallways. He didn't have to wait long as he heard a voice in his head in response.

"He doesn't want to marry your daughter. And is now trying to divert your attention. By saying he may marry her later, he's keeping himself safe from you and also open for any changes."

"I thought so too." King Maximus nodded, as the voice only said the same things he already figured out.

"He's smart for his age, too smart I'd say. You should've listened to me and forged an alliance before he awakened. You made a mistake."

Maximus scoffed at the voice, the God might be right this time, but what was he supposed to do? Get her daughter tied to a guy who hasn't awakened yet. Who knew if the boy turned out to be dull and

never awakened or failed. As the brat said, then breaking the engagement would've been much harder. "Had you informed me what your follower gods saw in their visions, I wouldn't be in this situation."

"You do not put demands on me mortal, you pray. And Gods don't need to interfere in your silly little games." The voice took an angry tone, demanding respect from its avatar who dared to blame him for his incompetence.

The voice belonged to Indra- the God of rain & thunder, the God King of hindu mythology. Everyone familiar with any of the myths from Hindu legends knew Indra's love for his throne and how much he adored the position of power. That's why he chose Maximus as his avatar, because a King's favorite pawn should be a king too. By making this mortal into his puppet, Indra now indirectly had gotten the control of this whole empire.

Maximus clicked his tongue hearing the haughty response to a normal question, had he simply told him about what he saw in that kid, that made him blabber all day about this marriage in his head, nothing like this would've happened. But these high and mighty Gods and their egos never allowed them to give out a free gift, and as a king himself the pride of Maximus didn't allow him to beg for it.

"You never told me he had been surrounded by all the gods or why you all are paying so much attention to him." Maximus asked, remembering the amount of divine presence he could feel around the kid was shocking to say the least.

"Isn't the fact that he's Nyx's minion enough of a reason. I've told you before mortal and I'll say it again, keep your eyes open and watch. The things closest to us are what we ignore." Indra finished his words and went silent, leaving king Maximus wondering about what he meant.

"It doesn't matter. If not this guy, then I'll find someone else. The world doesn't revolve only around him." Maximus muttered in a bitter tone, if it was any other Duke's house or someone else, he could force them, trick them or play some games to have them agreed to it -but the Blake's and Raven's weren't something he wanted to antagonize just because the prick in his head said so.

Ignoring the bad news he got and looking at the good side of things, Maximus remembered about the partnership the brat proposed and the rumors he heard about from his spies.

"Something that can help people awaken, it really do might change the world and set out a storm. All the more reason to not force Blake's in a corner now." Maximus said, as he sat upon his throne.

He could ignore it now, but one day he will reverse the situations and at that time everyone of them would realise how big of a mistake they made refusing the king.

Chapter 108 Let's Go Outside

After the first awkward day and the eventful afternoon where Rio had to talk with king Maximus, came the evening when the kids were planning to visit the Haven city.

The children of the royal family and the Blake family eagerly awaited their visit to the capital city of Haven. According to Royal guards that would accompany them, they would first visit all the famous places and every fun activity that has been prepared in regards to their enjoyment.

As the capital, Haven was already a sight to behold, but due to the princess's birthday celebration the environment around the city was even more lively. Guests and envoys from around the capital have come to take part in the celebrations and it all only added stars to this already magnificent city.

Excitement filled the air, especially for Amelia, who couldn't contain her enthusiasm for indulging in all the delectable sweets the city had to offer. She had even prepared a list of must-try treats, which she proudly displayed to her brother. Meanwhile, Rebecca, who shared in the anticipation of exploring the city and showing off her following & celebrating her upcoming birthday, seemed distant and lost in her thoughts. Alfred, noticing his sister's uncharacteristic silence, which was hard to miss as ever since yesterday it was the only time he saw her being silent and spaced out, attempted to engage her in conversation.

"Hey, Rebecca. What's on your mind? Are you thinking about where we'll go first?"

Rebecca, her gaze still fixed on the floor, sighed softly before responding.

"Brother, do you think I'm still a child?"

"Aren't you?"

Alfred, a little surprised by what she said, still responded in a joking manner, only to see Rebecca's expression further turning dark. Seeing her brother misunderstood, Rebecca explained what she meant.

"No, not like that. Do you think I'm dumb."

Alfred, a little concerned, asked her back. "Did someone bully you?"

"No, just answer me. Will you?" Seeing her brother only acting big, but not answering her, only agitated Rebecca.

"Of course not. You're the smartest girl. Don't those Royal teachers always praise you? You even get more marks than me. How can you be stupid." Alfred offered some reassurance and asked his doubts again "Now tell me, why are you even asking me this silly question. Did someone say anything to you?"

Hearing his words Rebecca glanced at where Amelia and Rio were chatting happily, but then shook her head and said "I was just_ nothing.."

Though a little doubtful Alfred didn't raise any more questions since she didn't want to say anything. He just assumed it was due to all the news about her birthday and then yesterday night that engagement discussion, must've tired her out. Father never listens to anyone and he knew better than to speak against him, so he kept quiet when the topic started.

"Well, remember we're going to have fun and enjoy ourselves today. So just forget everything and relax. Is there something specific bothering you?"

Rebecca hesitated for a moment before finally speaking up. "It's just... I can't help it. So much is happening, and everyone's saying different things and it's just too much_" "I think you should take a look at

Alfred, understanding her worries, tried to reassure her with a smile. "Don't worry too much. Everything will be amazing. Father and mother are here, and Amelia too. You will have a fantastic birthday party, and as for other things, they are not going to happen in a day or two, so don't think about them and leave it to our parents."

As the siblings conversed, preparations for their departure were complete. Rebecca's maid came forward and bowed to Alfred. "Your highness, everything is prepared. We can leave whenever you wish."

Alfred looked around and saw guards standing at their positions in straight lines, the captain was still giving them some instructions or so it seemed.

Besides them were the carriages prepared for the kids to depart in. The Royal Family had many cars and other vehicles at their disposal but since the children wanted to roam around the city and enjoy the environment, carriages which were slow and had more space became the ideal choice.

The carriages were true works of art, exuding the vibe of fantasy and nobility, the designs setting them apart from the ordinary. Whoever made them had poured their skills into every detail, ensuring that they captured the essence of royalty.

The carriages, with their intricate designs and embellishments, reflected the grandeur of the royal family. The blend of rich colors, including deep reds and royal blues, added to their majestic appearance.

However, what truly made these carriages exceptional were the horses attached to them. These were not ordinary animal horses but mana beasts, creatures that had undergone a transformation by absorbing mana. Through careful training and taming techniques, these horses had been elevated to a new level of species, which had higher speed and intelligence compared to ordinary animals.

Mana beasts were akin to humans in their ability to absorb mana crystals and potions, enhancing their natural attributes. The techniques to do that were only known to people with higher standing in the world.

In Schilla, apart from nobility and some guilds which were known for beast taming talents, no one had the opportunity to learn these skills. If anyone did try to feed mana to normal animals forcefully the wrong way, they would either end up killing the animal cause their body couldn't handle the outside energy, or the beast in that animal would go berserk and you would be the one getting killed.

The horses here in particular, had been selectively chosen, bred and subjected to mana infusion, resulting in their heightened speed, endurance, and intelligence. The horses were capable of

understanding commands with greater clarity, making them ideal for transporting people with safety and style of course.

The carriages themselves were equipped with advanced magical formations and runes, making them not only visually stunning but also sturdy and secure. The materials used, though appearing ordinary from outside, possessed extraordinary resilience. The carriages could withstand powerful blows, even from limit rank awakened without showing a single dent or scratch. The roofs and windows were made transparent from within, allowing those inside to enjoy the view, while from the outside, they displayed the Royal Family's emblem, providing a sense of exclusivity and privacy.

The intricate formations embedded within the carriages served multiple purposes. They provided protection against magical attacks, enhanced structural integrity, and even offered a smooth and comfortable ride. Runes intertwined throughout the surface, ensuring stability, warding off unwanted energies, and creating a harmonious atmosphere for the occupants.

"Come, let's go." Alfred said to Rebecca and started walking towards the carriages. He glanced at the people standing near the horses, it looked like they were talking to those animals. While the horses kept neighing and pawing the ground in response.

With a sense of anticipation for all the festivities he'll see and all the fun activities he would take part in, Alfred moved forward, pulling his sister with him.

Just as everyone was about to leave and climb into their carriage, Rio suddenly halted their progress, causing confusion among the group. "Master, did you forget something?" Esme asked.

"Not something, someone. Wait, he'll be here soon."

Everyone looked at him with puzzled eyes wondering who he was talking about. And their questions were answered as they saw someone coming towards them running in a hurry, it was Bernhardt. The unwanted son of the king and the commoner.

"Burnhard" Alfred muttered with a frown marred his face, as he watched the new boy coming towards them.

Chapter 109 Choosing A Side

"Burnhard" Alfred muttered watching him coming towards them.

Rio smiled watching Alfred's expressions and hearing his whisper. It didn't even occur to him, about how Alfred said his name in a weird way without realising it. It just showed him how even though the 2 brothers weren't exactly competing for the throne yet or fighting each other, but the people around them had influenced them enough to not like each other's company. Obviously the king initiated it, to make them wary of each other so they can grow more capable.

But as the history indicates the race to throne is never not bloody. But who cares if pawns die, and the palace wins.

"Since we were all going out, I invited him to come with us too. I hope you don't mind your highness."

Rio said, and without waiting for anyone's response, went ahead to greet Bernhardt.

"You're late, we almost left you behind you know?" Rio said.

Bernhardt chuckled seeing that he made it in time, and said "Sorry. I'm here so let's go now."

"That's okay, but why are you looking like that?" Rio looked at Bernhardt closely and found his clothes and hair wet.

"Well I had my training in the evening, but since we're going out now, I decided to finish it early. And when I was coming out, mother stopped me and forced me to go and take another bath first."

Rio looked at Bernhardt's shoulder length hair flying around, it got even more messy since this guy ran till here from his room. "So you ran out without even getting your makeup done."

"Yeah. How'd you know." Bernhardt was saying something but then stopped as he realized the joke and saw Rio's smiling face "It's not makeup. I just came without fixing my hair. It takes too much time." Bernhardt said, pushing his hair back.

"And show some respect, you're talking to the Royal prince humph." Bernhardt asked, while thinking that inviting Rio for the breakfast was a very bad idea. He should've known that her mother would share out all his stories with him, and now his image of a dignified prince he created by keeping his manners when talking to him on the first day was all lost. He's even making fun of him now.

"Yeah, yeah. Your royal highness. Gracing us with your presence."

'Sigh, why do mothers have to compare their children with the neighbor's kid. Now he definitely thinks I'm a dumb dude.'

-

The sight of the two conversing and sharing a joyful exchange surprised the royal guards. And the people standing around couldn't help but raise an eyebrow on that sight, they glanced at the woman standing by the side, hoping to see her reaction. But the party concerned Queen Athena and Duchess Artemis didn't even bother thinking twice about the newfound friendship between the pair of kids. Both of them simply didn't think much of it, aside from a simple exchange or greeting.

But the king sitting upon his throne, resting his head on his hand, opened his eyes and smiled. "So you chose your side. My smart soldier."

'He's just talking with him. There's no guarantee to what you think.' The voice spoke again in his head.

"No. I'm sure of it now. Ever since he came he made no advance on talking with Alfred, but he's been chatting happily with the other guy. I would've thought nothing of it before, but after talking with him today, I can see he's different. Smart ones always are."

"Doesn't that bother you that he chose your bastard, instead of your prince."

"Why would it? It only makes things more interesting." King spoke, imagining how much of a leap his bastard would take, if the future heir of Duke supported him. "It would be more fun to see the race now."

"It would.." The voice smiled and so did the king.

-

Unknown to the thoughts of the king and anyone else, Rio and Bernhardt were talking about the trip, when they heard someone's voice. I think you should take a look at

"Ahn brother, who is he?" Amelia asked, pulling his brother's shirt.

Rio looked at Amelia and said "This is Bernhardt Von Schott. Alfred's brother and the royal prince. He's also the one who gave me a tour around the Royal palace, while you were busy playing with Rebecca."

"Ohh." Amelia nodded her head but then "Wait, you saw the whole palace. Why didn't you invite me." Amelia asked, feeling aggrieved that she missed out on a tour.

"Don't worry. I'll show you around in the morning tomorrow."

"Humf I'll just ask Becca to show me. You don't wake up till someone throws water on your face anyway."

Hearing someone insult the boy who heard all his tidbits from his mother, Bernhardt laughed at him. Rio glared at Amelia, while she just shrugged her shoulders in response, her eyes clearly saying 'why hide, it is the truth. Wear it like armor.'

Rio, looking at how glaring won't work, said in a determined voice. "Well, I'll wake up early tomorrow."

Amelia hearing him just shook her head. She couldn't remember how many times she had heard her brother say that in the last month. He turned into a lazy pig ever since he fell sick that one time. She even wondered if it's some kind of aftereffect of his disease. But when she asked her mother about it, she just burst out laughing at her, calling her stupid again.

Rio, unaware of how his image has been turned into a lazy pig in his sister's eyes, commanded the system in his head. 'System, wake me up early tomorrow.'

[I can't.]

Rio read the notification, and asked 'Why not? Don't tell me you're gonna charge points for that too since you're level 0. Or that I'll have to wait till plot starts, so you can work as an alarm clock.'

[I can't, because I'm still fucking muted, host. You did it this morning and simply forgot to unmute it.]

Rio read the floating complaint written in bold letters, and remembered he really did forget about it, but how can he as an owner apologize for it, so he just blamed the system again 'so how is it my fault. You're so useless that I forget I even have a cheat.' Rio said but then remembered something And added 'ohh and mind your language, I'm still a 10 year old. Such a bad influence. That's why I muted you.'

Rio finished his words and closed the panel with his mind, ignoring all the angry notifications the system started sending him.

-

Finally after the initial greeting between Bernhardt and others, everyone sat inside the carriage and they started their journey for the tour around the city.

During the whole route the Blake siblings and the bastard son enjoyed their time. Trying to try everything and have the perfect vacation. The Royal siblings however could just stay silent or half heartedly look around. Alfred's mood was down the moment he saw Bernhardt, and Rebecca was still lost in whatever her thoughts were. And was absent minded the whole time.

It was funny for Rio to see how the 2 who suggested and started this trip were the ones missing out on the most the city had to offer.

Obviously they were both still naive little brats and forgot all about their issues once they reached the main carnival sites and started playing around with everyone else.

'Being a kid is so easy.' Rio thought as he looked at Amelia and Rebecca happily competing for who can eat more of those little sweet zittery (Indians, call it pani puri in your language. I was thinking bout them while writing this)

They both even put a bet, where the loser would have to buy a gift for the winner. It was funny seeing how even when tears were dripping from both girls' eyes, but they still refused to give up and kept eating. They both didn't lack money or basically anything that they needed, but which girl wants to lose out on a free gift.

Alfred and Bernhardt too were in the bet, but they gave up early.

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Ohh, you're wondering about me. Well I'm still eating them. Of course I'm the mc and the author, so I'll be the one winning everything. Hmmm

Chapter 110 Pandora's Brews - Si Vales Valeo

After their visit to the city and enjoying the night carnival on the way to return, the convoy of kids started coming back. The empty carriage which was enough for everyone to sit freely was now littered with gift wrappings and plastics of snacks that they've been eating ever since then.

Everyone bought something for them, that they enjoyed or liked, the fun moments of childhood and the joy of enjoying the time just like normal people, had always been a rarity for nobles and everyone in the carriage found that today. Everyone except Rio of course.

Somehow our transmigrator finally couldn't stop himself, and bought a packet of cigarettes when he found himself alone.

He didn't exactly have the urge to smoke, but he was curious about how smoking would feel like in a fantasy world. Shiva wasn't into drinks, he would drink it occasionally or if someone else bought it, but not by his own accord. But he had gotten into the habit of smoking in his last years.

Rio bought it thinking he'll use it someday if he's stressed or in a bad mood. After all it's gonna be his first smoke in Arcadia, man should have a reason to start again. Plus the fact that if someone saw him smoking they'd tell his mother. And Artemis had warned him last time, when she heard he was asking cigarettes from the guards, that if he ever smoked, she'll hang him upside down in training grounds and leave him there.

Rio had no doubt in his mind and perfectly believed that she'd really do it, if she caught him. So he just put the packet in his storage ring carefully and ignored it.

Amelia had already crossed off half the names in her must try list of delectable sweets. She would've eaten everything but due to her being stubborn in that bet, she ate too much of those small Jittery, and her stomach's been making weird noises ever since then. It was Myra who had to go and get her something healthy to drink so she could feel a little better.

But that was a mistake, as just as she felt better she started running around again, hoping to try everything and see it all. She also bought some gifts for her father and mother. Obviously she hid her mother's gift in Rio's storage ring, so she can tease her mother, but aside from that today's been a pretty fun day for her.

-

Currently Amelia, Rebecca, Alfred and Bernhardt were playing some card games, while Rio was sitting on the window side, looking through a magazine he bought. He had used the excuse of being too tired and saying he'll just help Amelia win or act as a judge so they don't cheat. But they refused and here he was, reading the news magazine he bought about the latest talks in the capital.

Since Arcadia merged with some modern world, these things have been normal too. Basically everything Rio could think of and open a company and get rich like in other novel stories, have already been thought of and added to Arcadia. But since he knew the plot, he knew about enough stuff that is yet to be invented or get famous later. But that'll have to wait for much later, cause right now he's still a dumb kid living on his parents' pocket money.

While reading through the magazine a piece of news caught his attention, reminding him of a side plotline that he had no idea was taking its course at this period.

"Pandora's Brews - Si Vales Valeo' , one of the most famous alchemist shops in Haven, had declared bankruptcy and would close its curtains next week."

This news caught his attention, as there was a certain someone in the story who plays a fun role in the novel, attached to that shop. Rio interestingly read through the report, and when he finished he finally understood at what time of events for the character he was in.

According to the article, the owner of the shops, Augustus Mizerpitt had been in debt for a while, and in a situation where he couldn't pay his dues till next week, the shop would be taken over by the law organization of Schilla, and it's equal value used to pay his debts.

The article talked about the place Pandora's Brews held in the capital's business world for years, and how much it had contributed to the history. The shop has been passed down in Mizerpitt household for 3 generations and soon would see it's last day of business.

Reading through the news Rio just wanted to say 'interesting' and it gave him an idea to further mess with a canon event in the novel which would take place.

'Can I change the events related to that event?' Rio thought but shook his head 'No, I should let it happen and interfere a little later.' I think you should take a look at

'Wait but will that be wise? If I failed then..'

'I can also let it be for now and check again once the plot starts. I can get more points that way too.'

Rio's thoughts ran in his head at high speed as he started thinking if he should take part in the coming scenarios of this event. Or should he let destiny play its course for now.

Breaking him out of his thoughts was the sudden loud chatter from his side, belonging to the children who had just finished their game it seems.

Rio looked at them and found Amelia animatedly pointing her fingers at Alfred and Rebecca, accusing them of cheating.

"I knew it! You two cheated! There's no way you could have won fair and square! This is not right at all."

Rebecca, proudly smiled watching her best friends agitated face, "Oh, come on, Amelia. Don't be a sore loser. Alfred and I played by the rules."

Alfred too came forward speaking on his defense, "Yes, there was no cheating! We followed the rules exactly as they were till the last moment."

But obviously truth stayed the same, the prince had let his sister win at the last moment, throwing his cards at the right moment making her sister win the game.

Amelia looked at Bernhardt who was still lost in thoughts, not understanding how he could be so unlucky to lose 4 games in a row and not get any decent cards even once. He looked at the notebook which kept record of their past turns, and all he saw under his name were big fat zero's. He really was useless.

Knowing this guy is even more of a loser than her, Amelia looked towards her brother who was supposed to be the judge of their games, only to see him looking at everything with a dumb face, that clearly said 'I have no idea what's happening, can someone explain?'

It made her further annoyed as now she had no proof of their cheating, so she took it out on this guy. "You're supposed to be the judge, but you're not even paying attention! Typical lazy brother."

Hearing her insult, Rio could just helplessly smile.

He would've gotten another earful of her scolding but Rebecca came forward to save him, as she distracted Amelia "oh come on Amelia, you're just made at everyone cause you lost. You should accept it that I'm better."

"Nooo."

"We'll play one more time, let's see who wins. And lazy brother pay attention to these cheaters this time Or I'll beat you." She announced, as she threw a pair of cookies at Rio's face. Which he happily caught and ate it.

'Shameless'