

LOA Nobody 131

Chapter 131 What Should've Happened

"I think you're confusing me with my friend." Amelia said. "The one who stopped that fight wasn't me but my friend. I was just standing there."

Hearing her words, Leon looked at her with a faceful of realization. He stayed silent for a second, as he didn't know how to react, so he just said. "ohh. Sorry."

Amelia nodded her head not minding his disappointed expression, as she ignored him and started leaving. But she stopped as she found Leon following behind her. "What are you doing?"

"Actually, I, I don't know my way back and there's no one here whom I can ask, so can I _." Leon said, stuttering in his answer, clearly not confident that she'll agree to let him follow her.

Amelia looked at him carefully, and said "I'll take you to the main hall, but you better not stick behind me after that." She said and started walking away, while warning him "Or I'll have my brother beat you more bad than those guys did. My brother's the strongest."

"Of course." Leon first was happy, hearing her words, thinking maybe he could ask her help in finding the princess too. Since she's roaming in this giant palace without any worries, she's definitely someone who knows about her. But his thoughts were broken when he heard her warning. The way she spoke with certainty made him believe her words, even though they didn't sound scary from her mouth.

'I'll just look for her myself.'

That's how Amelia and Leon were supposed to meet in the story. Amelia guided Leon to the main hall and said her goodbyes.

Many around the hall recognized Leon as the guy who just got beaten an hour before, but no one came forward to make fun of him or bully him. They've all seen princess save him before and just now he was talking with Amelia Blake. So no one wanted to take risks of angering the 2 stars of 2 most powerful families in the empire.

This gave Leon the chance to look around carefully, but since the poor protagonist didn't know anybody, and he didn't actually have the brains to ask anybody, he kept looking around like a fool. Thinking he'd meet and find the princess, whom he never met, never seen, and identify her by some gut feeling.

After a while of wasting time looking around and not finding anyone who looked like the princess, Leon just gave up on the party and went out in his depressed mood. He was sitting in the garden, when he heard someone's voice.

"I thought guards were supposed to take you to a guest room, and not in an open garden." Rebecca said, looking at the boy she saved some time ago, looking lost in his thoughts.

She was going towards her room, thinking about the engagement announcement that her parents were about to share with the world. Her engagement with the heir of Blake's and her friend Rio.

Though not quite knowledgeable about all marriage stuff, she was still a little excited and nervous about it now. She had heard everyone in the main hall talking about the rumors of alliance between both families and how it would benefit them. But she also heard many people being jealous of it or talking against it.

She just came out to take a breather, before she had to go back, and be present there for the engagement announcement.

She didn't want to look worried or nervous in front of everyone. She didn't want anyone to think that her parents forced this decision on her, or that she wasn't happy.

Apparently the whole of Schilla would be watching this announcement, and she needed to maintain her appearance.

That's when she saw him.

"Did they let you go, or did something happen?" She asked, thinking maybe those kids from before must have troubled him again. Even though this time the guards shouldn't leave him be, but then why was he here.

"Ahh" Leon turned to look at the girl and his brain stopped working as he just kept looking at her. She was just perfect.

"I asked you a question?" Rebecca said, thinking this guy's like everyone else too.

Only then did Leon got out of his thoughts and answered in a rush - "No, I was fine. So I left."

"Hmm" Rebecca nodded and decided to leave, but stopped when she heard him speak again.

"Were you the one who saved me?" Leon said, thinking maybe it was this pretty girl who saved him. That's why she knew him. Well, the last pretty girl knew him too, but she didn't save him, so he was hoping it's her, so he can thank his savior.

Rebecca didn't reply and nodded her head.

"Ahh thank you for helping me there. I don't know how to repay you." Leon said, bowing his head. "I'm Leonard.. "

"Just don't pick fights with them again and go inside. Instead of standing out here alone." She said, stopping his introduction, and turned around to leave. But her steps halted again as she heard him call her.

"Do you know where the princess is?" He asked.

Rebecca looked at the boy carefully, her mind thinking what kind of idiot he is. The whole empire knew the golden hair which were sign of royalty and about her blue eyes, sign of her connection to her mother. She should be easy to be found, but was this boy joking.

"What do you want with the princess?" So instead of answering him, she asked.

Hearing her words Leon smiled as this probably meant she knew princess, or atleast where she was. So he happily told her everything. How he came here looking for princess, and ask her help in saving his mother.

Listening to everything Rebecca had a sympathetic expression, she liked the determination and how he was willing to do everything himself to save his mother.

In their conversation she also noticed, the boy in front of her, really didn't know who she was and started talking to her normally, just like he'd talk to anyone else. This was the first for her, as everyone she met till now always considered her lineage and title for everything.

It felt nice, not being recognized, and experiencing how it feels to have a normal talk. So she decided to keep it that way, thinking maybe she can talk to him like that again, maybe she'll have a new friend beside Amelia. Or maybe it'll be fun to see his face when he realises she's the princess.

So she let the misunderstanding be, and agreed to ask the princess to help him instead. She also promised that she'll pray to gods that her mother wakes up soon.

After learning that he won't be meeting the princess, because she'll be surrounded by guests and everyone in the main hall. Leon reluctantly agreed to what Rebecca said, and let her talk to princess in his stead. He also gave her the gift he prepared for princeaa's birthday so she can pass it to her.

After that Rebecca left the garden, a little less nervous about the engagement, but more worried about the boy's mother, whom she just met. After she left, Leon sat back in garden, with a hopeful smile, he believed her words with all his heart, and thanked the gods for their help.

That's how the first meeting between the hero and heroine was supposed to go in the novel. And even though Rio had changed some stuff, like how Amelia was never with Rebecca, how Amelia never gets a chance to meet the protagonist, but listening to Rebecca's stupid words in their little argument, he couldn't be sure if that was enough.

'Will she still believe his words and everything he said, cause she's a fool.' Rio thought.

There was a high possibility that Rebecca would still meet Leon and have that talk. He wasn't sure what she'd do now, after everything he told her, but he was curious to know.

He needed to know if his efforts were working or not. If Rebecca couldn't see the difference between naivety and reality, then there was no point for him to waste his time on her other events.

There were many other people, many other events, probably happening simultaneously around the world, he couldn't just sit back and be stuck on her, hoping she'd change. When there were other more viable options for him to change his and Amelia's endings.

So he decided to not interfere again and let Rebecca be, he wanted to see what she'll choose now.

She wasn't engaged to him, he wasn't tied to her, so even if she got close to Leon, it won't matter to him.

Neither the hero nor this heroine were a threat to him, for a whole lot of years. And if something out of hand did happen, he'll just have to take drastic measures. He could just pull forward the events that would put Royals on the line, and leave no room for them to grow into a nuisance.

Chapter 132 Saving Protagonist's Mother

Besides even if Rebecca believed Leon's words and decided to help him, that won't lead to anything.

In the novel, after king Maximus announced the engagement between both of them, he promised her if she needed anything, and he'll do it for her.

After all, he was too happy then. King had just managed to tie the Blake family to himself, and now he had even more power and control over everything.

All this happened because of his daughter, who agreed to this marriage at once, and didn't even question anything.

It was then, that Rebecca put forth her promise that she made with Leon, and how she agreed to help his mother.

King glanced at the people present in the hall, who also heard his words, unable to refuse, he agreed to her request.

Then king asked Baron Darren to take royal healers and they'll go take a look at his wife,

Obviously it was all a charade, Maximus put in the party, to maintain his image. He already knew about Baron's wife being cursed and in need of help, that motivation to help is what he used to keep Baron in check and work for him without anything in return.

He gave orders to royal healer never to try their best Or fully heal her, even if they could. He did help stabilize her condition and gave some purifying artifacts, that stopped her body from deteriorating itself, due to the cursed mana in it.

The world only knew, king Maximus tried his best and did everything, but even royal family couldn't lift the complex curse placed on Baron's wife.

With just that one celebration, king Maximus managed to secure Raven and Blake family support due to engagement. With his fake act of kindness he managed to get public support and a loyal Baron who would die on his orders without asking anything.

It was a good deal for him, and he was all to happy with his daughter, who made all this possible.

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A smirk came to Rio's face thinking how much king gained in that novel, and how much he lost because of his interference.

As for Baron and his family, there was no need for him to do anything about them. He had already seen protagonist's father at the table. And seeing how he was gullible enough to fall for Baron Misha's sweet lies and schemes, there was no need for him to be mindful of him for a while.

Protagonist's mother, Celeste Lightborne, was still cursed and knowing her plotline, Rio was sure she won't die from this curse, even if no one did anything to help her.

After all, she was cursed so she can suffer for a lifetime, if she died just because of that, how would her enemies take pleasure in her pain. She'd live, and that's why Rio didn't worry about her too.

Of course he wasn't heartless enough to let her suffer, just because he wanted to change some stuff in the novel. He never met her, and she never did anything bad to him, he couldn't hate her just based on a novel he read.

So he did decide to help her, instead of the king or royal family, he was planning to use Blake family who would help the baron and save his wife.

Though he knew the way to lift her curse, she'd have to wait for a while, cause her plotline isn't something he wanted to start now, when he wasn't ready himself.

It might seem foolish to some about why, he, who's living as a villain, was helping the hero, who's supposed to kill him. But he didn't think so.

The purpose of doing this was also, so he could increase the positive image of Blake family in the empire.

Though the crowd of normies will never be able to even lay a finger on him, but he had seen the effects of danger the bad rumors and fake prophecies could bring to him.

So he wanted to atleast maintain that kind image of everyone until he was strong enough to protect them.

So even if someday something happened, the flock of ants won't be foolish enough to stand against his family easily.

Selling Pura Corpus potion cheaply in Damascus would do the trick too, but he wanted more acts of kindness to maintain the image.

This act of helping Baron's family, can also make Leon grateful to him and Blake's. Giving him another safeguard for a while.

(He had no plans to be friends or buddies with the hero. But if he could avoid some stupid conflicts, he would do it.)

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"Bad brother, what did you do?"

Rio's thoughts about plotline were stopped as he heard Amelia's voice. He had pulled her with him for 2 reasons. First, he didn't want to leave her alone for an instant, fearing maybe she'll bump into protagonist if he let her be.

Even though, they'll both only talk for a little time, and nothing dangerous would happen to her.

He didn't want to let her near the creatures who are known to have a halo of wisdom degrading and harem surrounding them all time.

'Who knows if those halos are real, and suddenly Amelia turned stupid. No he can't let that happen right.'

Second reason, was that he wanted to give Rebecca some alone time, she needed to carefully think over everything he said herself and not be influenced by someone else.

That's how he'd know if she could see the world, the way she does years later in the plot.

He could let everything go, like it did in the plot and have her grow after suffering many things, or he could just help her by shouting facts at her face - the choice was hers, which path she'd wanna take.

"Did you bully Rebecca. I told you before, I'll beat you bad if you did." Amelia said, warning her brother.

"I didn't do anything. I just told her the truth and she couldn't understand it. It's not my fault, is it?" Rio replied, shrugging his shoulders.

"Then why was she so angry?" Amelia asked back. She clearly saw how angry Rebecca was. She was about to go forward and calm her down, but this brother held her hand and dragged her away.

"How would I know. Now, don't ask too many questions, and fix your appearance a little." Rio said as he bent down and wiped her mouth and hands which were still not cleaned after she finished eating, cause she got too busy watching a drama instead.

"Where are you taking me. I haven't even eaten anything yet. I'm hungry." She said, she came to this hall, so she could eat everything away from her mother's eyes. But this brother first dragged her to watch a fight, then he faught himself with Rebecca and now dragged her away.

Aside from those handful of popcorns, she hasn't eaten anything yet.

"We're going to the main hall. You can eat whatever you want there." Rio said, and started walking again.

"But there's mama there. How about 5 minutes. I'll just take a quick bite." Amelia pleaded, but this time her tricks didn't work as Rio replied.

"Mother's busy. You can just eat there. No excuses. Now follow me."

With a pouting face Amelia followed him to the main hall.

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'Who does he think he is. Shouting at me like that. Does he think I don't know anything.'

"World's not fair princess. You're the one who's not fair. Lazy white panda."

"Just you wait, once this is over, I'll tell aunt everything about you. We'll see how she twists your ears then. Who told you to fight with me."

Rebecca remained lost in her thoughts and complaints, standing alone in the party. Though some kids approached her wishing her birthday and all formalities, but those saw her a while ago shouting, stayed away from her.

Feeling the stares of everybody around her she decided to leave the party. She already had enough of everything anyway.

After getting away from all the crowd and chatter, she came to her favorite garden and sat there.

"When will this party end?" She thought, as she looked at the message from her mother, that she should join them in the main hall in an hour for cake cutting.

She just sat there, thinking about her earlier fight with Rio and everything he said, while plucking out flowers. It was then that she heard a voice which snapped her to stop.

"Excuse me. Do you know how can I go to the main hall. I was outside, and now I couldn't find my way back to the event hall."

"What?" Rebecca shouted in anger, thinking it was probably some new maid or someone else pestering her.

"Y_ you can just tell me the way, I can find it myself." Leon said in a hurry, stuttering as he spoke. He wasn't lying, he was a bit scared there.

He just woke up after getting a full beatdown, he didn't want to get beaten by a girl this time. She really looked angry too.

"You, you're that boy who got beaten inside right." Rebecca said, after taking a clear look at him. Seeing him, her previous anger rose a little bit. It was all this boy's fault. If he didn't get into that fight, she wouldn't have an argument with him too.

"Ah yes, I'm Leonard Hear.."

Leon was about to introduce himself as courtesy, when Rebecca cut him off saying "what're you doing here. This area's restricted for the guests. And what happened to the guards who were with you. Did they let you out."

Listening to her constant barrage of questions, Leon was first stunned, but seeing how she started glaring at him angrily, he replied "The guards were there, I was just in a hurry looking for someone, so I ran away. And while doing so, I got lost and ended up here."

"Cassie, send him back to the hall." Rebecca said, to nobody, making Leon confused about who she was talking about.

He looked around but didn't find anybody, he was about to tell her that, she was alone here, but when he looked back he found a girl in black clothes standing behind her.

"As you wish master." The girl in black spoke.

"You can go with her, she'll take you to the party hall." Rebecca said, but then she remembered Rio's words about how those boys would beat him up, if they found this guy again, so she added

"And don't go starting off other fights. Those kids from before might be looking for you there. So just tell her about your parents and she'll take you to the main hall."

Surprised Leon was about to follow the servant girl, who appeared out of thin air, when he remembered something and asked.

"Are you the one who saved me earlier?"

Chapter 133 The Effects Of His Acts -What Really Happened

"Were you the one who saved me earlier?" Leon asked.

"I am." Rebecca replied.

Hearing her answer, a smile beamed at Leon's face, as he bowed to her and said "Thank you for your help. If it weren't for you, I don't know what those guys would do to me?"

"No need for that." Rebecca said, watching him thanking her for saving him, a smile came to her face too. As she pushed all her doubts aside, being sure in herself that what she did was indeed right and not stupid.

But then the words of Rio came to her mind where he asked her who was at fault? Who started that fight and if she really was right to save him?

So she decided to ask those questions "Tell me, did you start the fight with them?"

Her question brought back Leon from the fantasyland he traveled to watching her smile, but looking at her glaring angry eyes he replied "Huh.obviously not. It was those guys who started making fun of me and insulting me. I even ran from them and apologized too but they found me and started beating me."

"Hmm. But you were still in the side hall. Why didn't you just leave that place, so they couldn't find you. Isn't that simple?" Rebecca asked, curious and a little annoyed as her brain registered his words, were similar to what Rio told her.

"I could've. But _ but I couldn't." Leon stammered as he answered her question. Now that he thought back, why didn't he just leave that place, he just punched some big noble kid and he was still there. But then he remembered why he came there in the first place and justified his actions to himself.

'I was looking for the princess. Right. I couldn't talk to her in the main hall, in front of my father and hers, so I came there. Yes. That's it.'

Unaware of his self thoughts Rebecca misunderstood her words, as thinking that maybe some guard stopped him or someone else halted him, so she asked "What do you mean you couldn't. Did someone stop you?"

παΠdasNovel.com If she found some guards who stopped some low ranking guests, just to curry favors with high ranking ones. After all, there were similar incidents like this in the past, it wouldn't be surprising if someone did it. But then she'd really be mad.

But Leon's words calmed her as he said.

"No, nothing like that. No one stopped me. I _I was actually waiting for the princess there."

His words surprised Rebecca, as a frown came to her face "Princess. But she was in the main hall with the rest of the guests."

"Yeah, but she should come there right. In the side hall, that's where everyone her age would've been. So I was waiting for her. I didn't want to leave before meeting her." Leon said, trying to clarify his words.

"Why'd you want to meet the princess. Everyone would eventually see her in the cake ceremony. Couldn't you just wait there?" Rebecca asked, as her mood started going back down, listening to constant excuses.

"I_ I actually , I actually wanted to."

"What?"

"I wanted to meet her alone?"

Leon was stammering in his words, when she asked again, so he closed his eyes and finished his words. Hoping it won't sound creepy or bad.

"Why?" Rebecca asked, her voice now cold, as she felt angry.

"Huh., that's not . I can't tell you that. I'm sorry." Leon noticed her change in tone and behavior too, but he didn't want to say his reasons. He didn't know who she was, or if he should really tell her something that personal.

Rebecca, confused about why this guy was refusing now. He just said, he wanted to meet her alone and now when they're here alone, he's not saying anything. But then she thought maybe, he didn't realise who she was. So she asked "Do you not know who I am?"

"Ah no. I actually never attended any social events as I was mostly sick since I was a baby. So this is the first time I even came out somewhere like this." Leon replied, rubbing his head.

"My name's Rebecca Von Schott. The one and only princess of this empire. The one you were searching, so now would you tell me why you were looking for me." Rebecca said, as she straightened her posture.

"Th that really."

"Do I have any reason to lie?"

Instead of answering, Rebecca asked the question, which shut him off and make him believe her words.

"My apologies, your highness. I didn't realize."

Leon said, while trying to give her a proper royal greeting which he was failing miserably at.

"Just tell me, why you were looking for me. And don't try to lie. Or Cassie will know about it." Rebecca asked him again, as she signaled Cassie, who nodded her head, acknowledging her request.

"I wanted to wish you birthday and give you this gift." Leon said in a hurry, pulling out the small box of gift he prepared for her.

"What's in it?"

"It's something I prepared myself. My sister said, since the princess will have everything anyone can buy, why don't you give her something no one buy. I didn't understand what she meant, so I just made a gift myself. No one can buy this right."

"Lie"

Leon was giving out his emotional speech, explaining his gift and the idea behind it happily. When Cassie's cold tone stopped his lines.

"What?" He asked, looking at her.

"I think I told you not to lie or Cassie will know?" Rebecca said, shaking her head, looking at the black haired boy. "Did you think I was joking. Now your last chance, tell me why you were looking for me?"

"No, it's the truth. I prepared it myself and I got it for you.."I think you should take a look at

Leon was saying his lies again, when Rebecca's cold words cut him off.

"Cassie, if he lies again, throw him in the prison cells. Father can decide what to do with him later?"

Hearing her words, Leon was really scared, thinking about the time when his father had said, that princess was kind and gentle like his sister, he just wanted to ask his father now. 'Is this gentle.'

But he didn't have much time to think clearly on that memory, as Cassie's reply stunned him again .

"Yes master."

"Now speak only the truth. Why were you looking for me." Rebecca asked again.

"I'm not lying I did made that gift for you.

"Cassie.."

"But I wanted something in return."

Leon said in a hurry, hearing the princess mentioning her guard's name again.

Rebecca didn't answer or look at him, but glanced at her shadow, who nodded her head and said "He's telling the truth now, master."

"Speak" She said, after confirming it weren't any of his other excuses.

"I wanted to ask your help for something. I heard from my uncle that the Royal Family has something that can help my family. If you can ask your father, the king to help me save my.."

"So he was right." Hearing his words Rebecca muttered under her breath, as she realized, just like Rio said, even he was like everyone else. Even after she saved him, that wasn't enough and he wanted to ask her something else too.

This guy, even wanted her to talk with her father on his behalf, she didn't even bother to hide the disgust and disappointment that crept on her face, as she stopped Leon's explanation further, by giving her order to her shadow.

"Throw him out Cassie."

Her words had just finished, as Cassie started moving towards him.

"Wait, at least listen to me. Please. I didn't mean anything bad please.

I was just asking for your help. If you ask your father to just check once. It can save my family. I'll be in your debt please just once, listen... ."

His words were silenced as a sudden wave of darkness engulfed him and he fell down on the ground.

After giving a chop on his head that knocked the boy out, Cassie turned to look at the princess, who was silently looking down, trying to hide her expressions.

"Do you think he was right?"

Rebecca asked, without looking up. And even though she didn't mention any name or anything else, her shadow understood who she was talking about. But she didn't say anything.

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"Thought so. I was a fool to believe otherwise."

She said, as some tears started flowing down her pearl eyes.

"You can leave." She said, and Cassie bowed her head and left after picking up the unconscious Leon.

Rebecca glanced at the box of gift that the boy had given her earlier, as she thought 'would he laugh at me, if he knew about it.'

The thought of that white haired boy making fun of her stupidity came to her head, which brought a slight smile to her face.

But that smile was gone the next instant, when she remembered how she fought with him for not defending this guy, who was trying to use her.

She threw the small box in her hand away, as she stood up, after wiping her face clean. She saw a new message from her mother, calling her inside.

'I'll just say sorry to him when I see him inside.' She thought and left the garden.

Unaware that as she left the area, a boy her age came to that place, and picked up the box she threw away.

"Well, that was unexpected, and easy."

He broke the small jade bracelet inside, and threw all the pieces away. Looking at a white stone that wasn't crushed under his strength, he smiled and kept it in his storage ring.

"Guess its one more win for the villain." He said, smiled, and walked away, with his hands in his pocket.

Chapter 134 Daughter Of Destiny That He Wants To Meet

"What do you think they'll announce?"

"Who knows, But it won't be the engagement, as everyone thought?"

"Huh why is that?"

"Who knows? I think it's something to do with the rumors that's been going around, the new business Blake's are setting up?"

"I thought those were just rumors."

"We'll know about them soon enough."

Conversations like these happening everywhere in the main hall, as everyone heard that king Maximus is going to make an announcement after the ceremony.

Every guest was gathered in the open hall where main celebrations were going to take place, along with the exchange of gifts and well wishes.

After that an official dance event was going to take place, starting off with the pairs of nobles, and then to their children and other guests.

After that the event was supposed to end for the night.

The people who've come from outside Schilla would still stay at the capital for a day or two, where the king and other nobles and guilds would try their chances about forging new alliances and getting new allies.

The normal political talks, along with some business ideas that needed investments and partnerships, would be shared and agreed upon.

Since not many gatherings like this could be hosted without something major happening around the world, many different issues and problems would be addressed too.

But Rio had no interest in all of it.

He knew that after king Maximus announced about the new partnership between all 3 houses, he would only need to meet and greet many other noble kids. Who'll flock to him, cause their parents told them too.

Even though some of them were characters of the novel, and play some important roles in the story, he wasn't interested in getting close to them so early.

In just a few hours of the event - He had already seen the villains acting petty and arrogant. He had seen heroines acting cold and prideful. He had seen the bullying act and saving the hero act already. So there wasn't anything left he needed to see now.

He was actually planning to see the second heroine of the beginning stages, but she didn't attend the party. So there wasn't anything else.

Though Rio was a little disappointed that he couldn't meet her now, but what he didn't know, was that another surprise awaited him when she would come face to face with him.

'The one heroine from the Belmonts and Grayborn family were still too young to attend these events, so they weren't here. Stormswill heroine is here but she's smart, so I'll let her be for now, lest I bring her attention to me for no reason.'

'I'll just meet them all later, anyway. So what's the rush?' Rio thought.

At first he was going to attend the party and keep an eye on the second part of this event - 'Failed Awakenings'

but after witnessing how the interaction between the princess and the protagonist went, he wasn't much worried about that either.

He had already finished his plans and Rebecca had already showed her stance, and at this point of time, it was enough.

Now even if she learned the truth later on, she wouldn't be able to do anything, as by then, he would have Artemis help the Baron first instead.

'It'll be fun to see what her reactions would be then. Would she feel angry at herself, cause she didn't listen to Leon today. Or will she be impressed by my righteousness.' Rio thought with a smile, imagining her face.

There was no role of Amelia in what's going to happen next, but still as a safety precaution he left her with Artemis. Highlighting that she should watch over her for tonight.

With Artemis's character and the way she's been acting ever since he told her about the fate of everyone, Rio had no doubts she'd understand what he meant and would keep her close.

He had stopped the meeting between Amelia and Leon easily. But even without Amelia's guidance, Leon still managed to meet with Rebecca in the garden.

It could either be a coincidence where Leon simply lost his way and stumbled upon Rebecca. Or it could be something like fate or his halo secretly helping him.

But that wasn't going to be the case for his meeting with Amelia. Since Rio knew there were more important stuff that's going to happen soon. And even his halo wouldn't risk altering the main event, just so he could meet her.

So Rio didn't worry about her, and left the hall. From what he asked of Esme and what he learned himself, the time for another flashback event was going on too.

Another heroine was going to sprout soon, and he decided to take a look at her himself.

While in Rebecca's case he had decided to let her awaken, and act on her own for now. He decided to alter the beginning of this new heroine himself.

After all, unknowingly, he had already changed her fate 2 months ago.

He informed his parents that he was going back to their mansion to get some rest, cause he wasn't feeling well, with all the noise and crowd.

παπδαςNovel com Though he, Artemis and Amelia had been living in the palace for the past 2 days due to Athena's invitation. When Agnus arrived today morning, they had shifted to their own mansion in the Haven city.

After sending both Myra and Esme to watch over him and keep him company, his parents allowed Rio to leave.

They didn't have to worry for his safety since the mansion was well protected, and guards of Agnus and envoys of the Raven family were staying there too.

Along with all the artifacts he wore, and how both Myra and Esme followed him. They let him go.

Even those from the faction of Strays or Evil's Scion weren't a fool to attack someone in the capital, let alone when every important character was present there. I think you should take a look at

Doing so would result in the wrath of every noble and elite house, and they would gain nothing.

Especially since the security was heightened to maximum and hunt for them, was on an all time high, due to the curse attack on Rio and then the attack on a Baron.

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Yes, everyone thinks the death of Noah, was actually an attack on Baron Misha, done by Evil's Scion. It was all due to rumors of sightings of their logos in Harendale, and some fake proofs Camilla left behind to confuse everyone.

The guards Artemis dispatched to bring back Esme, also planted some fake proof here and there, and killed some known members of Evil's Scion, making it look like suicide.

This only made more rumors that the team sent to attack Baron failed and killed themselves.

Though no one was sure why evil's scion would attack a Baron, but they had no other proof or theory about who or why someone would do this. So everyone could only blame the terrorists.

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After getting out from the hall and reaching their car, Rio sat on the backseat along with Myra, while Esme started driving.

Though leaving like this midway might be considered an insult to the host, his family were still attending the event. King Maximus didn't care about him, and what other guests thought didn't matter to him.

As soon as their vehicle left the vicinity of the palace, Rio closed his eyes to take some rest.

"Take the longer and peaceful route, I don't want any more noise." He informed Esme while adjusting his seat backwards, so he could sleep properly.

In his half asleep state his thoughts trailed back to the story of novel, and how the second and main part of this event - Failed Awakening, was described there.

-

In the novel, after their initial meeting Rebecca agreed to Leon's request, and left to talk with her father about it. Leon was left alone outside, lost in his dreams.

Since the girl he just met promised him to convince the princess to help his mother, he was sure his mother would be saved soon.

He was imagining how happy his family would be, and how he'd repay the favors of the princess and royal family later.

He also needed to meet and thank the girl again, who first saved him and then his mother too.

'Maybe I'll take her to meet my mother. She would like that, right.' Leon thought.

He didn't know his savior earlier was the princess, so he was happy he could find someone nice, who'd help him.

His first experience in this party wasn't nice. He had been insulted, beaten and bullied -but he didn't mind it now. It all ended well, so he was happy.

"Dam that bastard. It's all his fault. Now I can't even take part in the dance because of him."

Leon was lost in his thoughts, when he heard someone shouting. Feeling curious, he decided to take a look at the source of the voice.

When he did see the boy, that voice belonged to, he couldn't help but be surprised.

It was that black haired bully who made fun of him at the beginning, and talked bad about his mother. He remembered his name was Lincoln or something.

But that wasn't the surprising part, what surprised him was that Lincoln was currently walking around with a limp leg. His once arrogant expressions, now replaced with a mask of anger and pain. And every time he took a step, he would end up cursing someone again.

"I swear, I'll grow up and beat that bastard."

"Who does he think he is?"

"And his minions too. How dare they look down on me."

He kept walking, and kept throwing curses at anyone he could remember.

Looking at his pitiful condition Leon wanted to laugh at him. And maybe even make fun of him like they did to him before. A smirk came to his face, as the thought to even go forward and beat him back, also came to his mind.

The feeling of having his revenge, and beating the bully who insulted his mother, seemed infinitely possible and sweet.

But thinking about his father's warning about not fighting with nobles. And the words of the girl earlier who saved him, he stopped himself.

He decided to turn back and go to the event hall.

'Maybe I'll find that little girl from earlier again. I'll thank her for her help again.' Leon thought, and decided to leave.

But how can trouble ever leave the protagonist alone. If he didn't look for it, trouble would simply come to him instead.

And that's exactly what happened next.

Chapter 135 The Birthday Event - 2nd Part

As Leon turned to leave, hoping to avoid any further confrontation, his heart sank as his feet accidentally crushed some dried leaves on the ground. The loud crunching sound seemed to echo through the silent air, and he immediately regretted not being more careful.

The sudden noise caught Lincoln's attention, and he quickly spun around. "Who's there?" he shouted, his voice filled with a mix of fear and anger.

His heart started racing as he thought that Benjamin or his other minions followed him here, to give him another beating. If they heard how he was cursing them, he didn't know how badly he'd be beaten.

He tried to steady his breathing, not wanting to show any signs of fear. As he tried to move towards the direction where that sound was coming from.

Leon's heart pounded in his chest, and he considered running away to avoid any further confrontation.

But it was too late. Lincoln's eyes had already landed on Leon, and he recognized him instantly as the same boy he had bullied earlier.

His face contorted with rage as he remembered it was all because of this dam bastard, that he's in this situation. If he didn't pick a fight with him, nothing would've happened. He was planning to take his anger out on this bumpkin, but then Leon started running away.

"Stop, you bastard! How dare you sneak up on me!. Looks like the last beating wasn't enough for you. Come here you fool."

His words froze Leon, as he heard Lincoln insulting him again. He hesitated for a moment, unsure of what to do, but then decided to step forward and reveal himself.

"I didn't mean to startle you. I was just passing through."he said.

Lincoln narrowed his eyes, still not sure if he could trust Leon. He still remembered his brother's words, about not creating another drama. So he wanted to leave, but his anger got the better of him.

"Doesn't matter. Since you're here, and stalking me. I ought to teach you a lesson." He shouted, his voice rising in anger.

Leon clenched his fists, resisting the urge to argue back. "Look, I don't want any trouble, anymore," he said firmly. "I just want to go back and forget about all of this. I won't tell anyone anything, you can rest assured."

Lincoln's eyes narrowed, his words confirming his doubts that this guy heard everything he said. He scoffed when he saw Leon turning around, trying to leave again.

"Too late for that. You think you can just walk away after all the trouble you caused earlier?"

Leon froze, a little afraid by his angry shouts, but gathering his courage, while clenching his fists. He said -"Look, let me go. You can't stop me anyway."

"So you're making fun of me now eh. It's because of you that I'm walking around like a cripple. It's not fair if I'm the only one right. Come here you bastard." Lincoln said, increasing his pace towards him.

Lincoln swung his arm trying to slap the shit out of this stupid, thinking he could easily beat him like last time. Not knowing, last time Leon only got beaten because he was surrounded and suppressed.

Leon easily dodged his fists, and punched him in the nose in response, followed by a kick in the stomach, making him fumble on the ground.

Feeling surprised that the pest punched him back, Lincoln looked up and shouted -"How dare you lay your hand on me you bastard. Did you forget what happened just now? I'll chop your hands off for this."

"I only did that before, cause you insulted my mother, and even this time, it was you who came to pick a fight with me. Don't blame me for it."

"Blame you, you'll regret it you bumpkin. Just wait, if I didn't have your father apologize to me for your mistake, my name's not Lincoln." Lincoln said his warning, shouting angrily.

"Don't talk bad about my family. Why do you keep picking fights with me." Leon said, as he grabbed Lincoln collar and punched him.

"Don't you dare talk about my family or I won't let you go next time." Leon said, as he let him go.

Knowing Lincoln was of higher status than him, he didn't want to escalate the fight.

"We're even now. So don't pick another fight with me for today. You won't see me again anyway." Leon said, and turned around to leave.

Lincoln, who was still holding his mouth, wiping away the blood, glared at his back, but he controlled himself from jumping out. Even he didn't want to drag this fight inside again, especially now when all the guests would be gathered in one place.

'I'll have my revenge sooner or later. You punk.' He thought.

Leon had only taken a few steps when he saw a red haired boy standing in front of him, with his guards. It was someone he met just earlier, Lincoln's friend and another bully - Edward Sinclair.

-

Edward, who had just learned that Benjamin had a 'nice talk' with Lincoln, decided to take a look at him and help him.

He could guess, knowing Benjamin's personality, about how their 'talk' must've gone. So he asked his guards and came to check on his friend.

But this is what he comes to witness. The pest they pinned down and beaten, was actually fighting back and beating his friend when he was alone here.

He started clapping his hands on the sight, as a smile came to his face.

"I gotta say, you're a real dumb character, aren't you? We just taught you a lesson about what happens when you pick a fight with us, and here you are, fighting back."

"Did you forget the beating you got, just because you drank a healing potion? Then let me refresh your memory a bit."

Saying so, Edward turned to look at his guards, and nodded his head.

Acknowledging his request, the 2 men following the heir of house Sinclair, came forward to fulfill their order.

"Make sure he learns his lesson this time. I don't want a repeat of some pest probleming me everyday." Edward said, walking towards Lincoln.

Leon looked at the 2 men walking towards him and he knew there was no way he could take a single hit from them. Unlike those kids from earlier, these 2 were guards trained and tasked to protect the heir of a count rank noble.

No way he would survive their punches. So in a desperate attempt to flee, he turned around and started running, only to bump into someone and fall back.

Looking up, he saw one of the guards now standing in front of him, while the other stood behind him. I think you should take a look at

"Lo_ look, let me go. I didn't do anything. He was the one who started the fight." Leon pleaded, his voice stuttering a bit as fear finally started clawing its way in him.

"Does that matter? I only saw you punching my friend." Edward replied with a smile. Taking out a healing potion and passing it to Lincoln.

"Why are you doing this? Just let me go. You won't see me again." Leon begged, as he looked around, hoping someone would come save him. Praying to the gods that some royal guards or that girl from before could just show up and save him. But alas all his pleas fell on deaf ears.

The only God who heard his pleas, were the ones laughing and suggesting different methods of torture for him in those guards status screens.

<Edward and Lincoln are still unawakened, so they got nothing. But the guards awakened, believers and chosen by gods, were broadcasting this beating in hd for them to enjoy.>

"Should've thought of that sooner. You punk." Lincoln said, finally feeling a little better.

"What're you waiting for? Break his bones. Make sure he doesn't make much sound. It would be bad if someone stopped our fun again." Edward said, as he turned around to leave.

"Let's go. We're already late. Everyone would've already gathered at the main hall." He said to Lincoln, who was gloating over Leon's scared look.

"Yeah. Don't let him go, easily." He said and followed Edward.

Laughing as the slow screams of Leon sounded behind him.

—

Since Rio didn't change anything with Lincoln or Edward, they still followed their same routine and the scene unfolded the same way as it was written in the novel.

While the heroic protagonist was getting the best beating of his life, his savior, the heroine was busy looking for the villain, who was on his way to fool another one of his heroine to join the evil camp.

—

Rebecca looked around the guests who had now gathered in the open area for the gift and dance ceremony.

She'd been searching for Rio ever since she came in, but couldn't find him anywhere.

"Looking for Rio?"

"Yeah" Rebecca said, without looking to see who was speaking to her.

"Ohh, so you really are searching for my brother huh." Amelia replied, in her teasing tone, smiling heartily as she watched Rebecca's expression changing immediately when she looked at her.

"I_ I was just looking around for you. Thought _ thinking you'd be with him. That's it" Rebecca said, looking away.

"Is that so! well, I was going to tell you where my brother was, but since you were looking for me. I guess there's no need." Amelia said, while disappointingly shaking her head.

"Ehh"

"Th _ that, where is he, anyway?" Rebecca asked, while hiding her flustered face. Giving up on her search as she couldn't find him herself.

"That, well you won't find him here. He went back home." Amelia informed her.

"Home. Why? The party's still going on. Why'd he leave so early?"

Rebecca asked, as she remembered how she argued with him like an idiot, and told him to leave. Thinking maybe he really did leave because of her.

Though Amelia didn't know her thoughts, she could still see her lost look, so she decided to take a chance with a guess.

"I don't know. He was so angry. Smoke was coming out from his nose when he came back after talking with you." Amelia said, dramatically acting like Rio, while puffing her face and breathing loudly.

Looking at Rebecca's face, a smile was coming to her face, but she stopped it, as she continued her act.

"Did you do something to make my brother angry? I'd beat you bad if you did." She said, with a serious tone, grabbing Rebecca's hand.

"I_ I _ didn't mean to. I w _ was just talking and then _"

Rebecca, looking at Amelia's serious eyes, started explaining, but couldn't form proper words, as she really thought it was her fault.

She was thinking what she could say, so her friend won't be angry at her too, when suddenly Amelia finally couldn't control herself and burst out laughing.

"Haha hahaha look at your face, geez. That was so good."

παΠdαsNovel.com She said, laughing loudly as some tears trickled down her eyes, with all the jokes.

She couldn't believe she got her so scared and anxious so easily.

"Priceless. I'm definitely telling it to brother. The way you went 'I _ I _ was just' hilarious."

"Oh god, that was so funny."

Chapter 136 Failed Awakenings I

"Did he really leave?" Ignoring Amelia's laughing face, Rebecca hid her expressions as she asked the serious question.

"Ohh that. Yeah, he said he wasn't feeling well with all the crowd and noise. So he went back." Amelia said, calming down a little.

"If you ask me, he's probably going to sleep at home. Lazy brother." She said, as she nodded her head like a wise sage.

Rebecca silently nodded her head, but still couldn't get the feeling out that maybe he really did leave cause she shouted at him to leave. 'It's my house. You should be the one to leave.' The words she said to him echoed in her head, again making her feel a little bit more guilty.

She was already wondering why she even fought with him over some guy she didn't even know. He was even telling the truth that she jumped to conclusions without knowing anything.

'Maybe I really am dumb.'

For the first time in her life, she doubted her intelligence a little.

As the thoughts of their fight, and the way the boy she defended, tried to use her to get some gifts from her father, came to her mind. A sudden headache started afflicting her.

"Ahhhhhhh"

She bent down, as she held her down, with a loud scream leaving her mouth. It felt like someone was tearing it apart from the inside.

Her scream catching Amelia off guard, as she hurried and held her, asking what happened worriedly.

Rebecca lay on the ground and started rolling around in pain, tears started trickling down her face, as she felt the worst pain she could imagine.

"What, what's happening?" Amelia asked, worriedly, as her hands started shaking and some tears started leaking from her eyes too.

"Hurts, Amy. It hurts." Rebecca managed to say, before another wave of mind numbing pain hit her.

A light blue hue started surrounding her, as her non-stop trickling tears finally stopped flowing from her eyes, but instead started floating all around her.

Amelia watched as Rebecca's awakening started and the mana engulfed her body and started refining it.

Before Amelia could even understand anything, what was happening. 2 girls appeared out of nowhere and brought Rebecca away in a flash, leaving her flagger biased at what was happening.

Confused with everything that happened in the last few seconds.

-

In the main hall, where king Maximus had just finished announcing about the next business venture with the partnership of Blake family's Genesis, and Raven's guild and Royal family's backing.

"Even though it's still early to announce the details of the product they've prepared, and its effects. I would hereby like to confirm the rumors that have been going around in the Elite circle - This product, this partnership, would indeed change the world for forever.

Someone once said to me, that everyone is their own master of fate. But we all know that, that saying has never been true in our world. But after seeing what Blake family had achieved with their efforts, I would like to say, that soon, very soon, that saying would become truth. As everyone would be able to shape their own destiny, their own path of fate.

Let me announce the arrival of a new era. An era of prosperity and peace."

Maximus announced, as he raised his glass, but the crowd below was too stunned by his bold words to say cheers to him.

Instead a wave of murmurs and chatter started going all around every group of people gathered there. All the noble families and elite houses were thrown off guard with this announcement, as the 3 heads of those families simply clinked their glasses and started drinking to themselves.

No one knew what was so revolutionary which could give the king that much confidence.

Even though it had been a while since those rumors regarding Blake's preparing something new have been going around, no one took them seriously enough. Or those who did, failed to find any concrete evidence over what they were working on.

It was all because of Artemis. After knowing the effects of the potion, she only shared the details with only those who were totally loyal to them, or were simply bound to them, with shit tons of contracts and oaths.

Not a single word about the potion was leaked outside. And as for those rumors, well it was simple actually, she spread them herself. By utilizing the information network of her family. She wanted to create enough hype for it, when those noble families would start to beg her to take a part in it.

But due to Rio's early intervention, she decided to agree to the King's demand and release it early.

Everyone in the hall had questions they needed the answers for, doubts that needed clearance, but then suddenly many high ranking people turned to look outside in one direction, with a surprised expression.

"Awakening." I think you should take a look at

Everyone who could sense the abnormality in the surrounding mana, had only one thought, 'Who is it, that's going through awakening at this time.'

Since awakening could be dangerous, as one might awaken some stupid disastrous power, and they might end up killing everyone near them. So there were certain runes and formations placed to keep a track of surrounding mana. And right now they were all going haywire.

Soon their attention turned towards the inside of the palace, where a similar disturbance of mana was detected.

'Another one' They all thought as it was clear, someone else started their awakening at the same time.

But before anyone could even understand what was happening, the king disappeared from the stage, leaving behind a trail of blue lightning.

Soon after he left, the head of Raven family, Servirous disappeared next second, his figure just turned into a flock of crows and flew away.

Followed by the Duke and Duchess of Blake house and the Queen of Schilla.

Watching everyone leave, some could guess the identity of the one who was probably going through their awakening now.

Some followed the royal family inside, while some other guests started leaving in the opposite direction, to see who was the one who started this whole thing of awakening.

-

On the outside garden, the guards who were beating Leon on the orders of Edward, backed away a little. As a golden light started surrounding him.

παΠδαςNovel.com They were enjoying their time beating this bastard, nothing too serious, but that slow crushing of the bones, and pulling and twisting of his arms and legs isn't much right. After all, their gods were enjoying the show.

Hell, half of what they did were things requested by some random Gods, who got bored by the filler party and decided to do some fun.

Leon was lying on the ground with his arms bent outward on an unimaginable level, with tears and blood trickling down his eyes.

For the past few minutes he had been hoping, praying, begging -that someone would come to save him. Some random guest from the party, some God who was watching -but no one came.

No one came to help him. He could hear the laughter of those 2 heartless monsters, who didn't hesitate a second to give him this torture. He wanted to scream so loud that everyone in the Haven could hear him, but sadly he couldn't. No matter how hard he tried, not a single sound escaped his throat due to what those guys did at the beginning.

When he finally gave up on the hope that those guests would save him, stopped praying that those gods would pity him, and was simply about to give up. A sudden wave of pain hit him, unlike anything he felt before, worse, so much worse than before.

It didn't take a second for him to finally lose all his resolve as he started flailing on the ground, like a fish that had just been brought out of water. It felt like every one of him was being torn and twisted at the same time. Every fiber of his being burning in a fire so hot, that it consumed all his senses.

One second he felt numb to all the pain, next second he experienced suffering inside out so bad that he could never forget.

He didn't understand what was happening, still kept cursing those noble kids and those guards thinking they did something.

But the guards who were standing at the side now, were similarly surprised at this scene.

They were just beating him beautifully, how come this kid suddenly started going through awakening..

There have been cases of awakening at the moment of danger or risk to life, similar to what happened with Noah, when Esme tried to kill him. It's like the body's last defense when everything seems lost.

Though risky and dangerous, it was a method many crazy ones choose to use when they couldn't awaken normally. Jumping into dungeons or thrusting themselves in highly dense mana zones are similar methods too.

All they do is stimulate your body too much, that you feel like you'll die, and that's when the mana kicks in, giving you a chance to survive.

Of course one's survival still depends on himself, if he could bear through that pain, if he could stay conscious through that suffering, if his troubles aren't out of his league, or he won't be interrupted- luck plays a big part in it all.

And today our protagonist had anything but good luck.

And it was just about to get worse from here on out.

Chapter 137 Failed Awakenings II

As Leon's awakening started, the gods watching those guards found something very interesting to watch and bet upon. To see if he would survive or not on his own. If he'd be successful or not.

With the growing heat and the fiery mana surrounding Leon, the shadow guards could see he'd awakened something related to the fire element. A dangerous element indeed if he lost control. But still nothing that they couldn't handle.

Once they were backed away from the growing heat, some new notifications popped up on their system panel non stop.

Some gods asking them to help the boy awaken, to dare not disturb him. While some asked for the opposite. Telling them to stop his awakening this instant and cripple him for forever.

The guards both looked at each other confused about what to do next, since they didn't have much time. Any second now, those higher nobles inside, would sense it and come bursting here in a flash.

"What do you think we should do? Should we let him be or..? Miriam, the first guard asked his partner, who was equally confused as him.

"We can't let him be." Harald, the second guard replied in a straight tone.

"But the Gods _"

"Gods don't feed us, Sinclair's does." Harald said, shutting down his partner and continued

"And do you think, young master would spare us if we let someone who's hateful towards him awaken successfully. When our young master hasn't even awakened yet."

"But we're at the royal event and maybe this boy is someone _"

Miriam wanted to voice his doubts, but Harald had already made his decision.

"No buts. Since the young master told us to beat him so badly, or how he didn't have any guards or shadows with him, this guy doesn't seem like someone important either. We can't kill him here anyways, let's just stop his awakening and leave before anyone comes."

"But he can die _"

"That's his luck. You have the higher rank and speed between us, so just blast him away or knock him out, to stop his awakening or something. We need to leave fast." Harald said in a hurry, while glancing at the notifications from his Gods who were praising him constantly for a good job.

A little conflicted, Miriam still dashed forward, knowing they didn't have much time. His speed left a mirage behind him, the next second he appeared just in front of Leon, who was lying down on the ground.

Miriam met Leon's pain stricken gaze, and to Leon's horror, he saw a kick coming towards his stomach in slow motion.

In the next second, he felt a gut wrenching kick that blasted his body in the air for a few seconds, before hitting a tree and sliding down.

He watched as both guards disappeared from the place, leaving him alone there.

Leon felt like someone had crushed every bone in his body, as he lay there motionless. The heat that was surrounding him for so long, was gone now and soon he felt his consciousness leaving him too, as he finally gave up in front of the pain.

After Leon passed out, the next second several people arrived at that location, hoping to see who's going through their awakening like this.

Some came with the intention to maybe help that person and build some relationship with their parents, since everyone invited today was an influential person.

Some came with the opposite intention, since everyone gathered today were basically competitors to each other, in order to hoard those resources, or enemies. So they just wanted to interfere slightly if possible and turn these future heirs of their competition into cripples.

Some were just popcorn eaters who came to see the drama. Some went to follow the king inside, to curry favor with him if possible somehow, or maybe keep an eye on some royals talent. But not everyone was allowed entry inside the royal palace to see who was awakening there. So they just came here.

"Who's that?" Someone asked, looking at Leon's battered form.

"From his burned out clothes and skin, it looks like he failed his awakening."

"Tsk another failure. These duds are really dirtying the name of nobility." A middle aged man said.

"You know who he is, Baron Meismat?" One man curiously asked looking at the middle aged man, who spoke.

"He's Daren's son. Next heir too hehe" Wilhelm said.

"Heir huh, well that'll be hard when he's a cripple now. Look at his body, it's definitely burned to the crisp. No way he can survive another awakening next time."

"Well, Baron still has a son, and a daughter. So I suppose he'll be fine." Baron Misha spoke, looking at Leon's figure with the same contempt Wilhelm showed.

'It's good I didn't hurry and had my daughter's engagement with this useless dud. Or I would've really lost everything.' He thought in his heart.

Just few weeks ago he was considering marrying his daughter with the heir of Heartwell family. Hoping to tie both families together and eventually control them completely. And rise to count rank.

But then he was attacked and he's been busy with investigation and other things. He also couldn't talk about marriage and other happy things, when his son just died, Or his image might take some damage.

That's why he put the engagement on hold. And talks never progressed.

'If Baron Heartwell still acts shameless and wants my daughter's hand. I'll simply have to deny everything.'

As Rio thought, now he was glad that Noah died, since it saved him the trouble of breaking an engagement.

"Where is he anyway?" One of the dwarven association employee asked, as he watched some royal guards taking Leon away.

"Humph he probably went to follow the king. Hoping he'd get some favors from him to save his wife. Man has no idea his son will be joining her soon enough." Wilhelm said with a scoff, and turned around to leave.

He had already seen and inspected the body of that boy, it was burned from the outside and his meridians crushed from the inside. It was enough to ensure him that this kid was as good as a cripple his whole life. Even if with some miracle, this guy awakened someday, he'd still only be a low ranking one, as his body's foundation was ruined.

'I guess Hermaan did a good job, putting those nobles against this fool.' He thought as he came inside and drank his wine again.

He had received the message from his son that Leon got into a fight with Count Korbil's son. And was beaten by everyone together.

He could guess it was probably due to that beating, Leon started his awakening, but failed midway.

'If I can't defeat you, my son will.' He thought as a smile of victory finally came to his face.

He could see it bright and plain as day, the future of house Heartwell was doomed. He just has to take care of that other son and then it'll all be over. And he'd be the sole ruler of Eisjer Domain.

The man dreamed a lot, unaware that the guy he called a failure was the hero, chosen by fate as its champion. And the domain he wanted to control, was something the villain was eyeing for.

But that's a tale told for another time.

-

On the other hand inside the Royal Palace, away from all the noise and crowd were some people standing by, looking at a girl lying motionless on the ground across the window.

The 2 girls whom Amelia saw, were standing beside king Maximus bowing their heads, not daring to look up and meet his angry gaze.

They were currently standing outside a big room, which was temporarily made into an awakening chamber.

"What happened?" Agnus asked.

"Why's she not moving? Did she fall unconscious _?" Artemis, who came behind him, asked too.

"She's fine. She's going through the merging." King replied, glancing at the silver necklace on her chest, which was shining brightly.

"But the.. " Artemis was about to ask, why she wasn't in pain or screaming like crazy, when the whole world knows that merging with the world system is supposed to be the most painful part of the awakening process.

But she stopped her doubts as she followed the King's gaze and looked at the necklace she was wearing.

It didn't take anything more for her to realize what was happening.

Just like how the Blake family had the artifact Dress of Ishwar to help the awakening by smoothing out the mana everywhere. It wasn't wrong to assume the Schott family had something similar too.

And she was right, the silver chain-like necklace Rebecca wore around her neck was a mythical grade artifact called, 'Soul spectral amulet'.

This artifact had only one simple function, that was to protect the soul of the wearer and act as a shroud to any external damage or attack. It stores the damage its wearer receives in the round amulet at center.

It could've been the perfect choice for one to defend against the soul magic or soul attacks.

But it wasn't, because it came with a simple limitation.

The limit was, that the damage it stored within the amulet, must be dispersed immediately or it'll be doubled and sent back to its wearer.

So if one isn't careful with this artifact, instead of getting protection, he'd receive double the damage.

But that's what made this artifact perfectly suitable for the royal family. As they had the most knowledgeable person with them, when it comes to matters related to soul magic.

Athena was currently constantly taking away all the pain Rebecca would've felt in the merging, and simply suppressing it in herself.

As the avatar of goddess of soul, and being the soul seer, this amount of stress was nothing to her.

Thus the most difficult part of the process for the whole world, was practically a cake walk for the princess.

But how can everything be so easy and simple when it comes to hero's and heroine's - one had already failed, and according to destiny, one was about to.

Chapter 138 Failed Awakening III

Everyone watched from the outside, while Rebecca was going through her awakening. Looking at the surrounding blueish mana, and feeling the slightly humid glass windows, anyone could guess what element Rebecca would awaken.

Water, or at least something that is related to it. Could be ice, vapor or maybe weather magic.

In the world of Arcadia all 7 main elements are versatile. Something that could be channeled and used in any form the awakener is suitable with. While the variant or complex elements have always been biased towards their creation.

Like a water mage, could be an attacker, defender or healer based on his own wish and mastery. But ice mage wouldn't have that many options.

Same is the case with their mastery too. An awakener with water element, would have an easier time mastering or understanding its other variants, then the opposite.

And since whatever element one awakened as a child, would be their main element their whole life, many preferred if one got 1 of the 7 main elements to choose from.

Well, but these choices didn't affect royal or elite families. Because they simply don't lack the resources to make their kids superior to others, so it wasn't a big deal for them.

Unlike poor poppers, most of the time rich folks already know, what their children would awaken and what path they could take.

Through the use of some artifacts or by the help of some God, they're always prepared for a better safe awakening, then what normal people go through at the churches.

<As again, artifacts as useful as those are hoarded by big families for generations. And Gods, well, it's simple, they'd be more inclined to help those who can be more useful to them in return.

Instead of using their powers to guide some country bumpkin with zero talent, hoping he'd grow up and change the world for the better, and make their name famous. They only choose to help those, where their favors and use of powers is worth their time and effort.

After all, even Gods can't act on whim with world system being there. So to do what they wish, or to use their powers on mortals, they also have to pay a certain price.>

That was the case here too.

As the second Rebecca started her elemental awakening, king Maximus signaled his guards, who immediately pumped the whole room with shit tons of mana, making sure Rebecca has a smooth way ahead.

They had already known the princess had the highest affinity of water related elements for years, and all the necessary stuff needed to help her awaken faster were already prepared.

Even the formation made around her on a hurry, and the artifacts couldn't take the pain as a ear wrenching scream escaped her mouth.

which could help channeling of mana ffaster, were prepared for her almost instantly.

But still the amount of mana inside became too much for her to handle. Her body was simply unable to channel, or control that much mana and failed to transform it.

As she failed for the first time, all the mana in the surroundings started pressuring her body.

Getting crushed from the inside and outside, finally Rebecca couldn't take the pain as a ear wrenching scream escaped her mouth.

Blood started coming out from her eyes and ears and nose, as she continued screaming, unable to handle the constantly increasing pressure.

One moment it felt like she'd be crushed into a ball, while next it was like her body would just burst open like a balloon - unable to handle the mana inside.

Athena who was standing near her, on the one side of the room watched her in pain, she started moving forwards to help her, but then a wave of water hit her body, which sent her crashing away. Her body flying like a broken kite went away breaking through the wall, and falling outside the room.

-- cough cough --

Athena waved her hand and all the debris and smoke around her disappeared. She wiped the trickle of blood from her lips, as she glared at the room.

Artemis went ahead to help her sister, while the King and Agnus went inside to stop the awakening.

But as soon as their feet crossed the boundary of the room, a pressure all too familiar fell on their bodies, pushing them back from the room.

They both stood there gazing into the room with a surprised expression, not even trying to get back inside.

"What's happening?" Athena asked, slowly standing up, with Artemis's support. "Rebecca, she's _ she's still inside." She said.

"Someone else's inside too. Probably a God. We should wait." Agnus informed them, while trying to utilize his mana to look inside the room.

The lightning crystals and the burning ores inside had already stopped working, pushing the room into the darkness of night.

If that wasn't enough a fog started spreading all around the room, covering all the glass windows and stopping the vision from those standing outside.

The only thing visible inside the mist was, the bluish forms of mana, that would sprout from time to time.

Agnus's words shocked Athena. As she was the only one inside the room.

She had clearly seen Rebecca's condition. She wanted to stop this awakening that instant, as she knew, her daughter won't be able to handle it.

That's why she went ahead to help her, when suddenly something pushed her away.

Now listening, it was actually a God, she was not happy at this new guest's uninvited arrival, but more worried about Rebecca's safety.

Who knows what kind of God they are?

Are they here to help, to bless her daughter, or just to see some drama and let her suffer.

No one knew and no one could be sure.

That's why she still tried to go inside by herself, hoping to bring Rebecca back, as she said "But my daughter's inside. We have to stop this awakening this instant or _"

"Awakening's already over Athena. She will be fine, don't worry." Maximus said, while pulling Athena back. "It might be a blessing for her, we can't disturb her."

Though his words did little to comfort the worried heart of a mother, but her husband didn't say anything more.

As he was now busy looking at the goddess standing inside, contemplating if risking his only daughter's life for a chance to get her a blessing would be worth it or not.

[Don't be arrogant, mortal. Take one step inside and you can forget about asking for my help after that.]

'Who is she?' Instead of answering his chosen God Indra's notification, Maximus asked back.

[Someone you can use to further your plans.]

[She's the perfect addition for our chances of success. Do not mess everything up for a petty emotion.]

Indra's words were like the sweet words of whisper from the Devil she failed now, she would only lose the chance to awaken her element for now, and maybe suffer some minor injuries.

in his ears, working as the final nail in the coffin where Rebecca would be placed if she failed.

Maximus finally made his mind and made the decision to let it be.

"It's her elemental awakening, even if she failed, she'll be fine and there won't be a danger to her life. Let's wait a little." He said. His tone and words leaving little to argue back, as they were indeed the truth.

As he said to Athena, the awakening was already over, and even if she failed now, she would only lose the chance to awaken her element for now, and maybe suffer some minor injuries.

But if she succeeded, not only she'd have her elemental awakening, but also a blessing from someone whom Indra considered useful to his plans.

Maximus didn't doubt Indra's words on that, since they both shared the same vision. That's why they've been together, helping each other for years.

But Maximus forgot one very important thing, -that their goals might be aligned for now, but their limits weren't.

The king of the Hindu Deva's (Gods) had all the time in the world to reach his goals, while Maximus, who was a mortal, didn't.

'If anything happened to her _' Maximus said, and stopped his warning midway, knowing that Indra would understand his meaning.

He was willing to bet on his daughter's chances of success and stand down, but it didn't mean he didn't care about her at all. After all, she was far too important to him.

In response to Maximus's serious warning Indra only scoffed and left.

Maximus turned his attention towards Servirous, who was standing there with his eyes closed.

"What do you think. Can you see what's happening inside?" Maximus asked. As the mist inside was even making his skills fail.

His eyes were starting to hurt, so he canceled his skill of blessing.

He asked Servirous, since he also had a skill similar to his, which lets him see everything. And unlike him, the head of Raven family had mastered his blessing to perfection.

"You shouldn't have listened to him." Servirous said, his face blank of any expression.

His words confused everyone around him, but Maximus understood them.

Inside the room, when the amount of mana finally became too much, Rebecca lost control, her body floated in the air for a second, before falling down with a thud.

No more sound of screams or sobbing of the girl could be heard outside.

The room completely took the form of silence, where except the slow whistling sound the overflowing mana nothing could be heard.

The presence that everyone could feel inside the room disappeared next second too, and so did the mist and the pressure that covered everything.

The first to enter the room were Athena and Artemis, who wasted no time as they both took out the best healing potion they had on them and started feeding it to Rebecca.

But alas the damage caused by the excess mana and the failed awakening was too much to heal in meagre seconds.

Even though her battered body looked healed from the outside, healing the internal wounds or repairing the damaged veins wasn't so easily possible.

'She failed.' Maximus thought, looking at Rebecca and noticing the extent of her injuries.

[Miserably too] Indra said, in a disappointed tone.

"Which God was it?" Athena asked, as she hugged Rebecca's unconscious body. Her tone for the first time dripped with anger.

Her shoulders trembled in fury as she gently wiped the blood stains from her daughter's face.

"Tell me, who was it?"

She asked as her eyes started glowing, and all the windows inside the room started shattering one by one.

Chapter 139 Two opposite ends

"Who was it?" Athena asked.

"There's no need for you to get angry Athena. Just take care of Rebecca, I'll handle them." Maximus said and left the room, leaving Artemis and Athena to take care of Rebecca, while handling the guests who followed him to Agnus and Servirous.

Though it looked like he was angry at the God who stopped them outside, because of whom his daughter suffered. He was actually feeling angry at himself, for falling into their trap.

"Did you know?" He asked, when he was walking alone through the hallways.

[I expected it. But there's always a little hope for some miracle right. I thought she'd pull it off. But looks like she isn't anything special.] Indra's voice laced with disappointment sounded in his ears.

"Why didn't you tell me?" Maximus asked.

[You're asking, as if you didn't already know. Don't blame us for your faults mortal. We both saw her situation with the same eyes. And besides, how would I know she'd leave if your daughter failed to impress her.] Indra said, feeling amused over his anger.

'You will regret it.'

Maximus clenched his fists as he now understood Indra's intentions, and the goddess who dared to intervene and then leave them to themselves.

'Whoever you are, you will, regret it soon enough.'

The king promised himself that he'll make them regret it. It wasn't even about his daughter now, how dare they play around in his mansion and hurt his people.

Though he didn't know which Goddess it was, but that wasn't going to be a problem, as he can just ask Rebecca once she wakes up.

Since she awakened already, then she must've seen some notifications of that Goddess's arrival in her system.

Once he knew that name, he'll have that arrogant goddess know who she messed up with.

His mind was thinking up ways he'll force that goddess into submission, he was willing to kill all her followers, hunt down her avatars and ruin all her belief -if he couldn't even make her pay, then what the hell was the use of him being the king.

But sadly this was all going to wait a while, as Rebecca simply didn't wake up. Hours turned into days, and days into the night again - but she showed no sign of waking up.

—

This is how the awakening of the hero and the heroine was supposed to go in the novel. Where one failed at the very beginning of his awakening and one at the very end.

This was a perfect setup made by the author of the novel to have them relate to each other, and create a perfect stage for them to shine later. While also showing how they are both connected to each other.

One who failed in the beginning and got rejected by the world's system, and the other who failed at the end and got rejected by the world's Gods.

One who awakened fire and the other wielded water.

One adopted by the God of sun, while the other apostle of the goddess of moon.

One so desperate for power that he'd do anything for it, while the other, who was born with too much power, and got crushed in its weight.

Author wrote them as the 2 opposite ends of everything. 2 people who had nothing in common, but in the end love triumphed and they came together crossing all boundaries.

—

And this event, is where their story started.

But sadly destiny's plan had a little deviation, as an anomaly that no one expected appeared in the world.

Since Rio knew all along how everything was supposed to play out, he already set his pieces in motion and changed the whole game.

Since he couldn't do anything to stop their awakenings, he planned something else.

Knowing how their failures would end up connecting them together. He simply broke that thread of a single commonality between both of them.

Even though it was funny how protagonist connected with the princess, who's obviously having better of everything there is, and not to those who failed or are unawakened like him, but that's just how the main duo works in the novels I guess.

That's why he just changed even this littlest thing that bounded them together.

How would they ever come close, if they never ever had anything in common.

That's what he wanted to see.

—

And its results were showing in the palace right this instant.

As king Maximus poured the high amounts of mana in the room, just like what was written in the novel, Rebecca's body couldn't handle the excess amount of pressure.

'Ahhhhh'

Looking at her mother who was just standing a little distance away from her, a loud scream escaped her mouth as tears started slipping through her pearl-like eyes.

The burden on her body and brain was simply too much, for what a princess who lived all her life walking on flower petals could handle.

Every part of her being was screaming at her to give up, to lay down or fall unconscious.

But she didn't. She didn't want to disappoint her mother. Her father. Herself.

Every 5 year old in Arcadia knew how important awakening was to them, and she didn't want to give up when it was finally her time. She wanted to hold on until the very last second.

She had already awakened and she knew it. She could see the status thing she always read about in books. She could even read the notifications of some goddess watching her with interest.

[Greek goddess Selene watches your performance]

[Your perseverance intrigues her]

[Goddess of moon gives you an offer to be her follower]

[Satisfy her curiosity, and gain her approval]

This is why she wanted to hold on. Just a little bit longer.

She could feel the mana entering her body. She tried to convert the mana surrounding her into external elements, but it was easier said than done.

[Goddess of lumina shakes her head in disappointment]

Rebecca tried again, but all she did was push her already outstretched meridians further, eliciting another scream from her mouth.

At this time blood started coming out from her mouth. She saw her mother coming forward to help her, but before she could reach her, a heavy pressure descended in the room, and Rebecca watched as her mother got sent away with a wave of a new entity's hand.

A silhouette made out of pure white light stood in front of her, making her eyes hurt as she looked at it.

[Lunar Goddess Selene, awaits your results, as she puts forth her conditions again.]

Looking at this impatient Goddess who simply just wanted her to keep trying and learn to control her element, Rebecca really wanted to cry.

Her throat felt dry from all the screaming, her beautiful lively eyes now lay empty from the countless tears they flowed. She finally thought of giving up. The thought that maybe she wasn't enough and should just let go came to her brain.

She wondered if anyone else can even live through this pain and not give up.

It was then that she remembered the face of a white haired boy with a smug expression.

She remembered how everyone in her home had been praising him for being a genius. Even today on her birthday, people were talking about him more than her.

Before this moment, she never took those words seriously, she thought she was his equal or maybe more talented than him. But now she realized she really was dumb.

'I should just give up. Mother must be worried about me.'

Chapter 140 The Best Gift

'I should just give up. Mother must be worried about me.'

Rebecca thought, and cursed again, that this birthday really was the worst one. From beginning till the end, nothing good happened to her.

As the memories of her whole day passed in her head, her attention got pulled towards a certain memory from yesterday night.

It was when she cut the cake of her birthday and celebrated it with only her family.

She received gifts and well wishes from everyone. And when the number of that white haired boy came, he just passed her some small box, saying this is the best gift of her life.

She was so happy when she heard those words cause she remembered how Amelia said, he gave her those beautiful earrings. Even her mother praised them.

Thinking he bought her something similar too. She happily looked inside, but all her hopes were lost, as what she found was a single bottle of potion.

Thinking it was just some normal healing potion or some prank that lazy boy pulled, she didn't even look at it twice and gave it to Cassie. who in turn put it into her storage ring.

<All her gifts and personal items are stored in the storage ring that she always wears. But due to being unawakened, everytime she wants to use it, she either has to find her mother or ask her shadows help.>

'It's the best gift of your life, princess. You better keep it safe.'

Remembering his words again, she didn't know why, but her fingers traced her silver ring, and as she focused, the vial of potion he gave, was now placed in her hands next second.

She had already tried enough herself, and was already on the verge to collapse as her body started to feel swollen to her. Half her body was already numb and she couldn't even feel it anymore.

Opening the cap, she drank the potion in one big gulp, emptying it whole.

At this time, Maximus and Agnus who had just entered the room to stop the awakening saw her drinking some potion, and then they were both pushed back.

"Doesn't she know healing potions don't work during awakening?" Agnus asked, while looking at Maximus.

"That wasn't a healing potion." Maximus said, and utilized his skill of blessing - A King's gaze.

Looking inside, at the changes in her body, and the mana surrounding her, Maximus wore a surprised expression, as some doubts came to his head.

"Is that _?" He muttered, as his brain started putting all the pieces together

"Looks like it." His doubts were cleared, when Servirous too opened his eyes and nodded his head.

"What is it? What's happening inside? What are you talking about?" Athena asked, coming near them.

"The best gift." Maximus said, finally a smile coming to his face.

-

As Rebecca drank the potion, her whole body started feeling light. A warm sensation enveloped her. As she closed her eyes, cause this feeling brought her some relief amidst all the pain she felt.

The potion she took was none other than Pura Corpus Potion Rio made himself. Knowing Rebecca would fail, he already prepared and passed it on to her.

He knew the potion would work on her, since he knew the protagonist used this potion on himself in the novel, and it worked out just fine.

Rio would've had her drink this potion before, but that would've brought him more attention considering how he knew she'd awaken next day.

But now it all worked out fine, he hoped she'd drink it, and he'll be successful in what he wanted.

If it didn't, well, he still had a backup plan prepared for it, a little risky but that would've ensured everything worked even better.

It didn't take long for the potion to does its magic, as the veins blocking the path of mana, obstructing it, were all opened, and Rebecca could finally feel the flow of mana within herself.

Now inside the room instead of what was written in the novel, the princess started turning all that mana into her newly awakened element - water.

Her body, which was supposed to be unable to allow the flow of mana, was now smoothly channeling the mana in the room and transforming it bit by bit.

Instead of the fog of a goddess that covered the room, this time everyone could see the fog dispersing and water gathering around Rebecca's body.

Soon the level of it started rising up and her body started floating over it.

Her feet weren't touching the ground now, as she stood straight on the water.

[Goddess Selene nods her head in approval]I think you should take a look at

[Goddess of moon gives you her blessing : waves of water]

As the notification appeared on her status screen, a gentle light marked her hand and the silhouette of the woman became formless water again and fell down.

Rebecca looked at her wrists where a tattoo of half moon could be seen, which soon merged into her skin and disappeared.

—

As soon as the goddess left, Maximus and Artemis entered the room. With a wave of his hand Maximus evaporated all the water and blasted all the remaining mana away from Rebecca.

The walls formed cracks as the whistling mana hit the corners of the room, but that was the end of it.

Agnus went forward and caught Rebecca's body, which was falling down as she lost her footing suddenly.

Athena came next to check on her, while making her drink all kinds of potion that Artemis passed her.

In just a few moments, Rebecca's body was fully healed, and finally some color came back to her face.

"I did it, mother. Just like him." She managed to say, before the exhaustion finally caught up to her, and she fell unconscious in her mother's embrace.

Athena hugged her tightly, as she kept kissing her forehead. A small smile and some tears of happiness were visible on her face, as she couldn't handle her emotions.

It had really been a rollercoaster ride for her heart.

Agnus and Servirous congratulated the king, who was still standing silently, probably thinking over the miraculous effects of the potion she took.

He already realized it was the same product that the Blake's planned to sell and he just announced the deal of.

His eyes darted outside the room and one look at the people who followed behind him, and there surprised expression was enough to tell him, that they heard everything he said too.

'With this the demand of this potion would increase a hundredfold, and _.'

He thought and clicked his tongue, as he realized no matter how happy he was before, the Blake's would still earn enough to not care about the profits he took the shares of.

[You set the stage and announced its arrival. While your daughter showed it off.]

[They're good, really good.] Indra said, laughing at the sudden turn of events.

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The King's Gaze -

Skill - Blessing (active)

God - Devraj (Godking) Indra

Effects - The King's gaze is the lesser version of the ability 'The thousand eyes' .

With this user can see everything within a certain range or their domain.

The first level of this skill, allows the user to master their vision to superhuman level. And with their mastery, they can have their eyes monitor every corner of the domain they own.

The range and cost of this blessing, increases the further one is to their domain.

<Maximus had used the Royal Palace as the origin of his domain, ranging up to the boundaries of the whole Haven itself. There is nothing in the city, that can escape his eyes, if he decides to look for it.>

Limitation - Those with high spiritual or mental power can sense the use of skill and resist it.

Ineffective against those of superior strength than the user.

Warning - Beware to use this skill freely, some God's hate prying eyes on their followers. Lest you end up seeing something you shouldn't.