

Master 771

Chapter 771 Invitation

Walker spent a short time meditating to pass the time. He wanted to take a walk in the city but knew that it was best saved from the morning. There would be a better effect when he woke up and saw all the decorations first hands instead of seeing the partial set up of man of the roads and market.

"I'm telling you. The masked archer is way cooler than anything else. I put on a cloak. I wear a mask. And I sneak around proclaiming I am here to save the day." Gil was dead set on his idea for a costume.

"It's so duuummbbbb though. You basically just wear what you always have on and add a mask. Why not try to, you know, actually put on a costume?" Remey was trying to talk him out of it to no avail.

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"Oh yeah? And what are you planning to wear as a costume? A sheet so you can be a ghost?" Gil had not heard of what Remey may wear yet and wanted to make fun of her idea in some revenge.

"I actually worked with Lisa especially to make a prototype set of robes. They lack the runes we can add but, they will be white green, and red. There will be a leaf on fire symbol to represent alchemy. They will be the robes we make for the members of the alchemy guild. I thought it was best to test it out during the festival. The old man is wearing one too." Remey tried to turn her head away from everyone but it was too clear that she was excited about all of this.

"That sounds great! I hope that everyone likes it and I can't wait to see it." Su was ever supportive and Remey couldn't help but blush with pride at the positive feedback already when she had yet to even show it off.

"Helloooooo!!!" Elise ran in to the room finding the party talking and tracing each other about costume designs. "I yelled for you all while outside but no one heard me. A royal guard came to deliver this letter to all of you." Elise handed the letter stamped with the kings' seal to the party.

"Oh! Thank you Elise. We would have never noticed since we were so caught up in our conversation. By the way, can't wait to see you and Stella matching tomorrow." Walker was excited to see everyone in costume. However, he was curious about what the letter could be.

With a quick pull, the letter was open and everyone was eagerly awaiting Walker to read it all out loud, "You are cordially invited for the social costume party in the castle grand hall as a special guest of the king and queen. Please wear any costume you so desire and feel free to bring one guest each. The party will begin at noon and go in to the late night. Guests are not required to stay for the entire duration but are required to be checked upon entry. We hope that the harvest is plentiful and full of new connections this year."

"Sounds like the castle is going to be lively too. I bet we can make an appearance there before the dancing and bonfires will start." Gil looked to be the most excited. He wanted to attend the castle party and outdo all the nobles' costumes.

"I don't think the masked archer can count as a costume if you go there." Remey didn't let up at all and while the two bickered Walker and Su continued the conversation.

"I think I will see if Alice wants to go, but I bet the high priest was already invited. Maybe you should see if your friend from the cathedral wants to go. I bet he will have a good costume, although he might want to leave his instrument behind." Su showed a slight tinge of red on her cheeks but met Walker with a nod. She was planning to see her friends from the cathedral anyways but a castle party was very exciting.

"Don't think about asking me to go to some stuffy castle party. Lisa already told me that she was going to take me to all the best spots." Elise knew that she had the chance to go to the castle since Gil and Remey would most likely not bring anyone. However, she would rather be out in the open air than stuck in a castle, if even only for an hour or two.

"By the way, I told my brothers and sisters that they could come and dance tomorrow night before it got too dark. Well, I sent a letter. I know it could get me in a little trouble but they will love it." Remey was excited to get her siblings out. She had snuck off to the orphanage to only get yelled at to go and rest after her journey. But the harvest festival was her excuse to be out and about with everyone.

"I bet Midnight and Onyx can help you out when it comes to keeping them in line. They both have a talent for watching children." Walker was sure that the two would do it even if they didn't know the others from the orphanage were going to be at the festival with them.

"Everyone is really going to be together. I can't wait. It will be a very big day but we need it. All of us need it to unwind and relax." Walker listened to Su but had a sneaking suspicion that she had more than relaxing on her mind. He knew that she was a major fan of the sweets that came with the food stalls and

would most likely run off with Remey, Elise, and Lisa to grab a bunch. Not to mention Midnight who would be well ahead of them the entire day when it came to snacking.

"Let's go to sleep early. I want to be ready for anything tomorrow." Walker made the move toward his room. Sleeping early would be the best way to get to the harvest festival sooner.

Chapter 772 All Dressed Up

It would have been nice to say that Walker woke up naturally in the morning. However, as the sun had just begun to rise he felt a heavy weight on his chest and legs. Unsurprisingly, when his eyes opened he found the head of a familiar dragon and a human sized serpent on his legs. There was no sleeping in allowed today. "Good morning you two. I thought you would be excited. Should we get ready?"

Walker had only seen the two move as fast as they did when in battle. Their speed as they rushed toward Lisa's work room was faster than any bird flying or rabbit running. "Midnight! Onyx! Wait for me!" Walker sprinted from his room tossing on a bath robe since he was going to be changing in to his costume as well.

The commotion was enough to wake up anyone that had not gotten themselves moving just yet. Su and Gil emerged from their rooms to barely see Walker running down the hall after a dragon tail while Remey had already headed out to the orphanage to meet up with her siblings to bring them to the square.

"Gil, did you decide on a costume last night?" Walker had to ask Gil as soon as he walked in..

"I'm still doing the masked archer thing but I will grab the extra black cloak and add some of the extra daggers so I look like a thief or assassin. I think there are even some black gloves that Lisa made over here." Gil decided that just throwing the mask on was not exactly the best after he tried it the night before. He accepted what the others had said and went more in to it.

"Here, use the bandage around your arms too. I think if you rub some coal dust on them it will look like you have been sneaking around through the chimney and stuff to get after targets." Gil snatched them up with a grin.

"Great idea! The more little things I add the better it will look." He reveled in the costume coming together and before Walker could even say anything he realized just how well it seemed to fit Gil.

"You know, maybe you should wear this stuff all the time. It looks way cooler than the whole forest archer thing you had going." Gil looked ready to hit Walker when he checked himself out in the mirror.

"I hate you and you're right. But I want to stick with the whole forest archer thing. I think it will make me look more approachable when I visit the forest elf city." Gil was trying a roundabout way not to flat out tell Walker why he wanted to go back to the forest elf city sooner.

"You know, you do have the hero title and you are an arcane marksman. I don't think there would be any issues." With this Walker headed in to the changing room to put his own costume on while Gil struggled with what he had just said.

"And, the gentleman has arrived!" Walker jumped out to find that Gil had run off in his own head with Midnight and Onyx behind him. "Well, that wasn't cool at all." He started to move toward the stairs only to find someone dressed as a healer outside the door of the work room.

"I told you I was going to borrow something that Su's friends gave her. It's healing robes without any of the healing effects so they just look like healing robes. They are perfect for Su to wear when she is helping but with a little stitching they fit me!"

Walker couldn't help himself. He rubbed Lisa's head and was even tempted to pinch her cheeks, "And the most adorable healer ever. Did you show mother and father? Or are they already gone?"

"I'm A healer. We are important to helping the sick and injured. I can't be adorable." Lisa pretended to pout as they headed down the stairs towards the front door. "But Mother and father already left. They are going on a date since the guards need him later in the night for the dancing. They expect things to be a little rowdy this year." It was understandable. Many people would be celebrating and be under the effect of alcohol.

"Well, then we will let them do their own thing. They need some time to themselves since they both have been nonstop working." Walker was perfectly fine with the situation. "Wait...Su, are you dressed up like a dragon kin for real? How did you do that? It's amazing."

The sight of Su with scaly gloves and fake horns while wearing dyed armor was an intimidating sight to say the least. "You must have dyed the snakeskin gloves somehow, and the armor. It's so cool." Walker

was sure that this was one of the coolest costumes they had in the group. Add Su's shields and she looked like a dragon kin guardian. "The term draconic guardian really fits now."

"Lisa did all the work. But thank you. I think this look is very different and will surprise everyone." Su was trying to maintain her serious face as part of the costume but kept breaking in to a smile when she looked at herself.

"Su was the one who had the idea to dye it all to match Midnight. By the way, where did Gil go? He was mumbling something about wanting to find a reason to visit the forest again? Or maybe he was saying he wanted to practice archery with the elves? I'm not sure." Lisa was completely lost.

"He was lost in his own world and wandered out the door. I have a feeling he will be waiting in the square when someone gets him to come back to reality." Su couldn't help but release a slight giggle.

"That was definitely my fault." Walker shared a secretive knowing look with Su as they left the mansion.

Chapter 773 Harvest Stories

The three wandered down the street admiring the nobles' mansions and high end shops. This was not the area where the main festivities would happen but it was grand none the less. There were many orange, yellow, and green fabrics and ribbons blowing in a slight breeze. They hung from doorways and windows giving off the bright and cheery feelings.

This was a tradition that had come to be to signify the winds bringing the changing leaves. Even though the colors had yet to change in their area, the harvested produce would mimic the colors. The days would go on with these brilliant colors until the night would fall. The colors would then brighten up the darkness and scare away the chill in the air, or at least this was what the tradition said would happen.

"I think it's weird seeing that the noble do the same things we do. But their fabrics are so much brighter than the ones in the lower tier homes." Lisa had expected a lot more than the refined and bright decorations.

"It's a tradition.. But the real decorations are where we used to be. The market decorates much better because it attracts business. Here it is more of a formality. Too stuffy and boring." Walker made sure to poke Lisa in the side to distract her since they were heading toward the markets.

The noble markets had some of the best looking gourds and pumpkins along with a few giant ones. But there were no shopkeepers outside in costume shouting to come in or about the specials. Walker couldn't help but feel like it needed a little bit more energy. However, he realized that most of the nobles would end up at parties or other social events so outer decorations and shopping were not popular. This left him glad that he had only been invited to one such party.

"Look, that horse and carriage are decorated like a fake prison cart. It has paintings of ghosts and other monsters on it." Su thought the cart was a nice twist to the scenery. When it stopped by the inner walls and started to hand out food to the guards it all made sense.

"So that is what the guards made this year to deliver their lunches and additional supplies. It really fits the season." Walker was appreciative toward the guards who would take their free time to decorate such things to help them get through the long harvest festival shifts. It was always something the guards would mention to passerby's as they worked.

"I'm just glad it wasn't the cart that has monsters in it and driven by the evil ian that turns people in to monsters." Lisa breathed a sigh of relief. Her most hated fairytale went this way and it had always been stuck in her head. The worst time of year for it was when the harvest festival rolled around. Luckily, Lisa always got over the fear after one of two carts would pass her by or she would speak to one of the drivers.

"I almost forgot that fairytale. I wonder how many more I forgot?" Walker was enjoying the nostalgia as Su managed to distract Lisa by saying she could borrow the healers' costume longer making things a little better. Walker still felt it was a little funny that his little sister still believed in such stories.

"Oh! What about the one where the girl comes back every harvest festival looking for a dance partner? She was attacked by a monster on the way and never made it but when her spirit got to the festival no one could hear or see her so she has been a wandering spirit every year. Always trying to dance with someone." Walker recalled this one just as a cool breeze blew by and ruffled all the fabrics along the houses.

"That one was a lot more normal than others, the merchants will tell it a million times. I remember that there was one about the god of death walking around looking for lost souls at the end of the night to make sure they rest in peace. They say that those who see them will shiver no matter what, even when they are next to the bonfires." Su joined in and the three started to worry a little.

"It looks so good this year! Everyone went all out and decorated so much more!" Lisa had turned the corner first to see the market and all the glory it came with. There were still a few merchants setting up but every single shop had decorations. Dried flowers, harvest season squashes, and even some corn stalks that survived the fires.

"Looks like Gil got grabbed before he even got to the square," Walker was pointing to Gil who was speaking to a group of farmers that had yet to dress up. "Gil!" Walker ran a little ahead of the other two.

"This is my party leader Walker. Walker, these are some of the farmers that lived around my parents. They lost their farm house but said someone is already building a new one. Since no one could have the big fire they usually do out at the fields they came and helped decorate here. It looks amazing, right?" Walker didn't hesitate to admit it looked much more in depth and decorated than the previous years making the farmers very happy.

They all chatted for a short time before the farmers were pulled away by friends and Gil started to talk to Lia and Su about their costumes since he hadn't paid attention to them as he left in his daze. "So, where the dragon witch go?" Walker didn't see Midnight and Onyx anywhere. However, he knew that they had to be after one thing; food. It was the only thing that could pull them away from the party.

Chapter 774 Out And About

Gil Laughed at Walker's question. "Do I need to say?" His finger pointed up the street since he had just spotted Midnight and Onyx at another stall. "That is the third one already. They tried a few things but that one should be the roasted butternut squash cubes with that sugar and cinnamon mix on it." Gil knew that it was a popular treat but he didn't realize that it was someone's favorite.

"Let me just go check on her. I should be a good friend and check that it is safe for a dragon to eat. I am a dragon kin today afterall." Su made a straight path for the stall where Midnight and Onyx were without any hesitation.

"Well, I might as well buy some for Remey's siblings, you two want some as well?" Gil shook his head but when Walker looked at Lisa she was already trying to catch up to Su. "I guess that's a yes." Walker bought out a large portion of the butternut cubes and they moved towards the square.

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"Don't look so sad, we are going to be here all day. Plus you get to show off your costume at the castle and I am sure there will be food there you can't buy on the street." Walker's temptations appeased Midnight while they entered the square.

"Do you think the king and queen are dressed up? Are they allowed?" Lisa had always wondered but never received an answer.

"I bet they do. They are humans participating in the festival too." Su couldn't imagine what they would be dressed up as but she knew that it would be normal for the king and queen to participate.

"Don't look now, but Remey is surrounded by a mob of children and she might be taken out by them. Hoards of little monsters are dangerous." Gil was joking but the group noticed that all of them had managed to procure some horned rabbit fur coats along with home made horns.

"OOOOhhh, that's a great costume idea. I should have made some and sold them like that. Cheaper materials and I would have been able to easily make them since they were just furs." Lisa felt that she had missed a huge opportunity.

"Now, Remey said I had to buy these snacks for some kids, but all I see are monsters. Let me call for some heroes or the vice adventurers guild master. We need to exterminate them." Walker used a little bit of mana to make a slight breeze causing Remeys' siblings squeal. But that didn't last long. The sweet treats Walker brought attracted them like mice to grain.

"I thought you were all forgetting to meet here. I already saw your parents and Su's parents. They said something about a double date. It was kind of cute to be honest." Remey couldn't help it. The two sets of parents had come and gone, mentioning their day out.

"I bet that's why my parents were so stressed about being late. They probably rushed out to meet your guy's parents." Gil had also run in to his leaving as fast as they could.

"Well, now we are together. Should we explore the festival for more snacks? I know that we need to do it now and check out the shops before the dancing starts. If we don't eat while we can, everyone who gets hungry from dancing will eat all the food." Walker was just trying to tease the kids from the orphanage but Midnight took it seriously and huffed with annoyance. The kids found it more entertaining and Midnight found herself with quite a few new friends.

"I think we should check the stalls. Some of the merchants have some weird looking items. They apparently crossed the mountain while the snow was light and came back from the deserts with some interesting things." Gil's sharp eyes had already begun to find some things for them to check out.

"Then off we go to explore. And we will STAY together!" There was a chorus of yes from all the kids that Remey had with her and they began to follow Walker. Su and Gil naturally fell in to the sides of the children to keep them together just like their formation when traveling. Midnight was the only exception because she would stay in the middle unless they saw something good to eat. In that case, she would rush off to grab some with Onyx and even share a little with the children when asked.

"It was a little strange seeing that none of the boys were trying to pick a fight with Remey, Walker could tell that Remey had either put them in their place beforehand or there was a rule that they would have to go home if they acted up. It was the only logical solution to how they acted. But he also knew that they were glad to have their older sister back around from the constant looks they gave Remey.

"I'm going to check that stall out. The merchant has some of the spikes we used to make the wither spike arrows. I want to stock up." Gil was gone before anyone could reply.

"Hey Remey, isn't that Lewisia over there? I thought she would be staying at the mansion?" Walker was surprised to see the demons out and about during the festival. They were much braver than he thought they would be so soon.

"That's her. She is actually very talkative once she relaxes. She asked me a million questions. Not to mention she likes that guy over there. They were neighbors before they were...well, you know." Walker couldn't help but think about how small the world was. It was great for the pair to know someone when they were in an unfamiliar place. It was definitely a deciding factor for how well they would adapt.

Walker gave a wave in their direction and continued on. Just before he moved away he saw a flash of blue dress but when he focused it was gone. "Walker, you're falling behind. Midnight will eat everything before you get to the skewered chicken stand!"

Chapter 775 Shady

Walker shook off the strange glimpse as him just seeing the random mix of costumes. "I swear if you eat all the skewers and don't save me one of the honey sauce skewers I will freeze everyone in an ice block!" Remey's siblings thought this was a hilarious threat and proceeded to copy Walker's way of saying it.

"You know they will use that as a threat for a month now, right?" Remey pretended to be annoyed but Walker could tell she liked it since she had done the same and taught them her threats to punch people way too often.

"Hey, don't blame me if they take after the party leader. It just makes sense." Walker turned Remey and rushed ahead beating her to the stall. The aroma of charred chicken skewers was enough to get everyones' stomach growling and before the others caught up he had ordered enough for them all to have one. Midnight had already mastered the use of the adventurers' plaque and with Onyx along her communicate she easily had already ordered herself two.

"I'm surprised you two are holding back. I thought Walker would be going to the guild because we ran out of gold." Gil was replaying the comical scene he thought would happen in his mind.

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"Sister says that she wants to try every stall here. It would be a waste to only eat at one." The knowing nod came from Su directly after Onyx translated this.

"A wise woman always saves room. That's why I can eat so many desserts, it's called planning." Su may not be the best influence when it came to food. Normally she was very level headed but on days like today, her adoration for sweets seemed to be winning out. She had asked the stall owner for double honey glaze on her chicken skewer which made Walker's teeth hurt just thinking about it.

Since Gil had returned from his little purchase he had handed Walker the small box before getting ahead and grabbing a skewer with Midnight, "I really with that merchant had more of the spikes for new wither spike arrows. I want to show my fathers' friends how to make them so we can all take advantage." Gil kept shaking his head since he couldn't see any more similar monster materials nearby.

"I think I should take a look around. Maybe I will find something. Is everyone ready to keep walking? We are searching for gifts for your house mother too so keep an eye out." The children all became much more energetic with this while eating their snacks.

"You know you don't need to help with that. We would have found something." Remey gave Walker a soft punch to the arm. Su also smiled slightly knowing that Remey was too embarrassed to say thank you for the thought.

"What about those silver things? They look like eggs." Walker glanced at the table and used his all around appraisal skill after one of Remeys' siblings called out.

' painted chicken egg

Painted with silver paint so that it looks like an expensive ornament. The merchant selling these is commonly kicked out of kingdoms and markets for selling false items.'

"You have a very good eye. Keep walking with Remey and stay sharp. I will settle it." The children looked happy to help since Walker had listened to them.

The guard walking by was surprised to see Walker since he recognized him. "Hello sir hero, I hope you're having a nice morning. Anything I can help with?" The guard appeared to be one of the castle guards that must have been assigned to help with the festival.

"Yes, actually we have a trouble maker that came in to the market place..." Walker leaned in and whispered to the guard who called over another three and met the merchant. In just a few minutes the guards were escorting the shady merchant away and cleaning up the stall so that another person could take the place.

"Thank you very much for pointing that out. It's hard to keep track of all that come and go on festival weeks. Little things like that slip through." The guard was apologetic for the mistake.

"It's expected. I'm just glad I found you before he sold anything else. Maybe this time he will learn a lesson. My appraisal skill said he had been kicked out from kingdoms and markets before." The guard furrowed his eyebrows and said farewell while catching up to the other guards. He would make sure the fine and poster of the man was made public to prevent future incidents.

When Walker ran to catch up he could swear a girl in a blue dress had been standing by the nearby empty stall. But when he turned he saw a few darkness elemental spirits investigating the empty stall. They were enjoying the space for now and amused by the worried looks of nearby shoppers who thought they were some mischievous spirits. Which was not completely false.

When Walker caught up the children looked sad that Walker didn't have a silver egg so he put on his best face and started to talk loudly, "I can't believe that guy was selling eggs that didn't even taste good. He told me that they wouldn't even hatch a silver chicken. Like what's the point?" The children found this to be the most amusing thing in the world while Gil and Su had not missed the guards taking the man away.

"Fake silver eggs?" Gil whispered to Walker.

"Yes. But it's fine." Walker then made an exaggerated movement to look about. "Does she happen to like tea? I see a tea stall over there. And knowing that Remey made tea for everyone a lot I can only think your house mother would like it too." This caught all of their attention and soon the group came before the tea leaf stall.

"She does need some good tea leaves to mix with the botter herbs. She has been taking care of orphans for years and her joints are a bit stiff." Remey mumbled to herself a little while picking through the best leaves.

Chapter 776 Monster Materials

The tea leaves were not necessarily medicinal herbs that could be used for healing. However, they were rare and unique tea leaves grown all over the continent. They were unique to certain areas and climates that made them tough to grow everywhere unless someone had the specific skills to pair with it.

"Remey, they have lemon tipped tea leaves over on this end!" Su and Remey looked like two kids in a candy store. They were building their own containers of tea leaves while everyone else just watched. No one could understand why they were so picky and how this was such a complicated process.

"I think I will check out the next table over." Walker inched his way to the table that started the next stall to find that it was assorted monster materials.

"Come on up here and check out my spoils of travel. I have some tanned orc skin, not to be confused with merfolk; mermaid tails, harpy feather, and much much more." The old man and woman were calling out to people and had locked in on Walker who was already looking.

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"I have heard a decent bit about the merfolk but not too much about mermaids, what kind of monsters are they?" He had heard they were similar to sirens but a little more intelligent. However, he wasn't sure what put them aside from the merfolk.

"Ohh, I like it when we have a curious mind. The mermaids are fallen merfolk. They like other races sometimes leave their people and regress in to monsters. The mermaids will grow larger tails and lose the ability to transform it in to legs. Their teeth become like needles and they gain poison glands. They can not speak and their scales gain an illusion effect when seen in the moonlight. They often lure sailors to a watery grave for food." The old man was very quick to give the description as if he was reading it from a book.

The old woman started in next, "The materials can be used for a few things. The needle teeth can be used for ultra thin arrows or throwing needles. The scales from staffs of illusion or shields that resist illusion. Surprisingly, the gills are the most valuable part. Unlike the merfolk gills, the mermaid gills can be used to make a mask that gives the user the ability to breathe underwater, in fresh or salt waters." The old woman was very proud to recite the uses. She had not been able to show off her knowledge yet in the day.

"How many mermaid gills do you have? I would need at least twelve." Walker wanted to have them to make sure the party could venture underwater one day. He also didn't want to be in a situation where one broke and they were deep underwater and could not reach the surface safely.

"Well, I will sell you the twelve no problem young man." The old man and woman boxed them up and exchanged the box for an equal value of gold while chatting with Walker.

"We always enjoy coming to this fair. Our town is on the shore so we gather a lot on our walks here. Believe it or not, I am the merchant and my wife is the one that gathers the materials. But, we may be settling down soon. You know how it goes when bones get old." It was understandable that years of taking a long journey like that and gathering monster material was taking its toll in old age.

"Well, in my day I could gather triple the materials and this old man could carry all of it without issue. But that was then." The woman laughed while she leaned in to her husband.

"Hmm, if you two are looking for a place to settle down I would recommend the new city of Genesis. It is being built on the borders of the other nations and will be a very large trade city. It would be nice knowing there was an experienced hunter and merchant pair that could do some teaching with the Garnet family. I can refer you, just stop by the Garnet family auction house and tell them the true hero

Walker sent you. They should take you in easily. I heard they would be expanding to that city and needed some teachers." Walker was sure that an experienced pair like this would make a nice addition to the new branch of the auction house.

"We may just have to do that before we leave tomorrow. Thank you for the recommendation." The pair seemed very interested and smiled warmly as Walker joined the group again.

"Hey Gil, that table has some mermaid's teeth. They are poisonous and good for ultra thin arrows or throwing needles." Walker gave the heads up to see Gil rush over to check the arrow materials out. In the end, though, Gil had decided against them since he wouldn't have s much use for a light and weaker arrow even if it would have poison and lightness.

"Why are you staring off in the distance?" Gil came back from the old couple's stall and found that Walker was just looking in the distance with furrowed eyebrows. His face seemed to be asking himself if he was crazy or not.

"I swear, I have seen a girl with a blue dress following us three times now." Walker had a serious feeling that he had seen and felt something. But for some reason every single time that he focused he found nothing.

"Or you are seeing the water spirits jumping in a puddle with the kids over there. Are you sure you got enough sleep? It's great to be a little excited but you need rest sometimes." Gil slapped Walker on the back just assuming that Walker had neem too tired and confused the blue water spirits with a person in a blue dress.

"You might be right, I always look and see something else so I probably just need something to drink and to wake up more." Walker did exactly that and bought a cup of hot tea from the vendor that was selling the tea leaves while Remey and Su paid for four tins of tea. One of Remey and the master alchemist to experiment with. Two for the mansion and one for the orphanage as a gift to their house mother. "So, I hear someone made a small maze in front of the cathedral." This caught everyone's attention. It was a game for children after all.

Chapter 777 Lady Luck

The rest of the merchants tried to attract the group as they walked through toward the cathedral in the high tier. Festivals were one of the few days the cathedral was easily accessed by all the people and most of those who came in to the city to be healed. The music and nuns were a huge attraction since they were said to be the best al healers for miles. Those who traveled from villages nearly always preached the good faith.

"The wooden maze is always built in front of it as a symbol of searching through everything to find your system. Remember, not all of you have your systems yet so try and get through the maze and pray to the world really fast. Maybe you will unlock yours today." Remey was reciting a very common tradition to her siblings.

"I used to do that every year. I would probably do it this year if I hadn't gotten my system. Even if the timer was up." Walker laughed a little and the kids tried to tease him that it wouldn't work. However, they had heard that those without systems were getting quests to achieve them so they silenced themselves pretty fast.

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"We can also see if you can use your calming waves to help with the healing songs. They split the musicians up for the festival so there is always a small group performing." Su had more knowledge than anyone else about the cathedral's harvest festival itinerary so Walker just nodded along.

"It looks bogger this year!" Gil was the first to speak as they came in to the large open square that was the cathedral courtyard. The decorated wooden walls that made a child-high maze were not overly complicated but it was enough to attract anyone's attention.

"Midnight, can you go with my brother and sisters? You are the perfect size to race through with them and make sure they all get out." Remey whispered to Onyx and Midnight who gladly took the job. As the other orphans ran for the entrance with Midnight and Onyx on their tails, Remey found herself a little more tired than expected. "I feel like I could sleep already." Remy yawned while stretching.

"You have been watching them like a hawk since you were at the main square. I would imagine you are tired." It was too clear for Walker to see. "We should walk to the exit. The cathedral will be a good place to rest and prepare for the rest of the day. I know you already said that you wouldn't be going to the king's party so you will need the rest."

"If Remey could bring her siblings I'm sure she would come to the king's party too. But to be honest, I expect it is not that kind of event." If Gil had it his way the king's party would just be in the square or the fields. It was easier to get everyone there in his mind. But that was the fact that he had grown up in the fields talking. He just liked the open space.

"If you really wish to go I don't mind staying with them. But if not then I will go instead." Su was alright with watching Remey's siblings but was met with Remey shaking her head.

"I signed up for bonding with them and making sure they all get to go to the festival and do whatever they want for the day. So that is just what I will do. Even if I need to grab a few potions to push me through it. " The potions were more of a joke but Walker was pretty close to pulling them out and handing them to her.

"Come on over and take a shot! Pick the stick with the gold dye and you win a prize! Come and take your shot. Gove lady luck the reigns!" The vendor shouting was pointing to a massive table full of cups. They each had little sticks standing in them.

"What's this all about?" the curiosity was too much to keep Gil from stopping and asking. He just had to know.

"This good sir is the game of luck. Take a chance. The attempt is a single gold but if you manage to find the stick with gold paint on it then you are rewarded with a grand prize!" The woman working the game was full of smiles and wore an elegant green and orange dress to attract more people to try their luck.

"You know, why not?" Gil tossed four gold to the woman who motioned for the group to take their chances. It was a good time killer while the children went through the maze.

Gil pulled a wooden stick from the center only to show that there was no paint at all. "Well, I tried." Gil just shrugged and handed the stick over.

Su moved to check hers and pulled the stick from the top right, "No winner here." She thought it was fun and didn't expect to win either.

"Let's feel this out...hmmmm" Remey looked like she was trying to let the luck guide her and grabbed the one she felt was right.

"Oh, not the grand prize but you won the low prize with the red mark. Here is your pumpkin shaped candy." The woman handed a large hard candy lollipop. Remey looked fairly happy to have won something and unwrapped it instantly.

"My turn. Let's see what I can feel out." Walker began to close his eyes and reached down toward the cups. With his eyes closed, he couldn't pick just any so it was completely up to just how lucky he was. As his fingertips touched one of the wooden sticks he felt a slight tingle and picked it up. His eyes slowly opened to reveal the surprised expression of the woman in charge of the game and a gold painted stick.

Chapter 778 Grand Prize

"Grand! Prize! Winner!" The woman gave a jump and rang a handbell to attract more attention. Walker even felt that the over the top reaction was just to attract more business to the game. " Congratulations on the top prize. Only three people have received it today!" The woman was very excited as she reached under the table for a small box.

"Oooooooo, what di you win?" Remey was more excited than Walker was at this point while Gil was pretending not to care out of jealousy.

"The grand prize today is an orange ruby necklace. It is a flawed ruby that doesn't fully develop. But, it is still valuable and very fitting for the season." The woman handed the opened box to Walker who couldn't resist using his all around appraisal skill.

' Flawed ruby necklace

The red color has been lost due to small sand crystals getting mixed in to the gem while it developed. The orange color sets it apart from other rubies and it is easier to break than a normal ruby.. The refraction of light through the orange ruby miraculously comes out as yellow making it an interesting addition to any chandelier. These rubies are rarely found in mines unless they are in desert areas. Often sells for close to a hundred gold depending on the area it is sold in.'

"Who would have thought I would make back what we spent so easily. Thank you." Walker was pretty happy with the random game and the reward. He wasn't sure who he would give it to since it was purely decorative, however, it was a pretty great reward for a single gold coin.

"Please play again. Tonight the prizes change!" The woman tried to bait them in to another round since they had won but Walker and the others knew that the kids would be leaving the maze at any time.

"I should have guessed you would get the final prize. If you didn't tell us all the skills you received when you got them I would believe that our leader has a luck skill." Su was sure that Walker was just a generally lucky person.

"I actually used my skills to sense the mana. The one with more water mana in it was the stick that had been painted. It was a really small amount more than the other wooden sticks but I wanted to test myself. I guess it worked." Walker was scratching his head slightly embarrassed since he was sure he would have failed.

Gil gave a slight whistle, "That sounds pretty hard to do. Are you sure you aren't some sort of hidden master mage skills you aren't telling us about?" Gil was only joking but it was enough to make Walker turn even more red than he was a moment ago.

"Ha! I'm the first out! I told you I would win." One of Remey's siblings broke out of the maze and spotted them in an instant.

"Congrats, now we need to wait for everyone else. I hope Midnight and Onyx won't chase them out here too fast." The smile on Remey was brighter than usual while joking around.

"After you establish the alchemy guild I think you should build an orphanage organization and work on adoptions." Su was very blunt with this which stunned everyone. She was usually a little more reserved but it was exactly what everyone else was thinking.

"That's way too much for me. But...maybe when I retire." Remey knew it was many years away but it could be a very good goal to take on after she had her fill of the alchemy world.

'Like you could ever retire. I can see you being double the age of the old master alchemist before you even think of taking an apprentice." Gil dodged a quick punch for Remey as he spoke.

"I might take an entire class of apprentices. Not that apprentices will be a thing in the guild. The classes will be for everyone and there will be no divide of knowledge. If there are apprenticeships then it will limit what can and can't be taught." Remey had already tossed aside the idea of apprenticeships. She would prefer to model things differently.

"That's how the military academy works then. They have strategy classes, classes for certain weapons, classes for healing. They can basically do anything. There are even military blacksmiths. But the requirement to join the military is why most people don't go to the academy. That and the gold cost is fairly high for most people." Walker knew all of this but had to speak his mind on the relation.

"They can assist us then. I won't force anyone to join the military but it would be a good career option for some alchemists. The ones trained in the guild will be the best of the best." Remey proudly put her hands on her hips before she caught two more of her siblings running from the maze.

With a slight growl, Midnight and Onyx chased the other giggling children from the maze. They rushed to Remey almost out of breath going on and on about escaping a monster trying to tickle them to death. "Alright alright! Time to rest and listen to music in the cathedral. Who wants to go meet Walkers' girlfriend!?" Gil shouted and caused Walker to punch his arm this time. Gil was not lucky enough to dodge but his words had focused the children toward the cathedral while also making Remey and Su laugh a bit.

The moment they entered in to the cathedral everyone saw a miraculous change in the interior. The nuns must have worked all night to make the full switch from when the group was there last. "Oho, look who it is. I thought your letter told us to meet you in the square before the dancing began? I didn't think you would be visiting." The high priest was by the door greeting people in the same robes as usual.

Chapter 779 What's Needed

"And let me guess, all of these little ones are Remey's siblings I have been told about? I thought they were tamed monsters. I would never have guessed." The high priest motioned for a few of the nuns to come over. "I have a pretty good spot set up for some of the harvest festival stories being toled over there. We even have snacks." The high priest was whispering sweet words which made the kids follow the nuns without a single worry.

"Yes! I love them, but break time." Remey fell in to the nearest seat. "The decorations are amazing by the way." Remey motioned to the entire room with a heartfelt thank you and admiration.

The cathedral had been changed in to a slightly different atmosphere. The normal fabrics that would be on the alls had been changed out for orange and green colored banners depicting the harvest season. The falling of plants that gave fruits and the rot that lead to a bountiful spring.. The animals that would fly away to warmer parts of the world and those that would burrow in to sleep the winter away.

"Yes, we found the old banners and brought some life back to them with a little help from some of the retired crafters here. The new benches were made to accommodate more guests and we also set up a

movable stage for the musicians." The high priest was happy to show off the improvements to the cathedral this year.

"If you could excuse me, I want to go and show off my dragon kin costume." Su was a little too excited when she saw some of the healers resting on the side that she knew. They had not recognized her yet and she was about to make a surprising reveal of her costume.

"Do not worry, go and enjoy yourself. I used to do the same when I was younger and didn't stay cooped up in here." The high priest fondly remembered his own days running about dressed up as a spearman or healer.

"You know, the harvest festival I dressed up as a healer was the day I gained my system." This was matched with a small smirk that made Walker and Gil fairly surprised.

"I know a lot of kids try new things during festivals but that's a pretty great way to find out your system. Walker thought it was a strange way to find the system in the grand theme of things but to be honest it was not the strangest by a long shot.

"Speaking of new things, I heard a rumor the other day about a kid losing an arm in a carriage accident and unlocking the one armed sword master system? Heard of it?" Gil wanted to see what else he could hear about the child since it was an off way to get a system.

"Ah, he came here for healing. We healed him and a week later he had decided to follow his father and become a swordsman. Imagine my surprise when he tried to learn the sword arts against the best advice of his father only to unlock his system. The world truly gives everyone what they need the most." The high priest looked to be sending a silent prayer to the holy lord.

"You know, if there was that much time in between maybe the world really did bless him that way." Walker was beginning to think that the world was not so much a master of fate but instead just did what it could to guide people on a happy and blessed life. It was a topic he could think about for years and most likely not make true progress.

"That makes the story even better to be honest. I might share that with a few people. It's pretty inspiring for those who are looking for their systems." Gil made sure to memorize the story before he wandered through the cathedral to enjoy the decorations that had been refurbished.

"Walker." A sweet voice at almost a whisper came from behind Walker and the high priest.

"Alice! I'm surprised you are up and about. I thought you would be busy healing and would have tired yourself out by now." Walker's statement caused a slight red tinge and puffy cheeks from Alice but she did not deny it.

"I have been keeping my healers and nuns on strict orders to hold on to some mana. I don't want them to lose out on the harvest festival activities for themselves. It would be a shame. Plus, they would call me a miser if I was to hold them all back all day and all night. You wouldn't know this, but a lot of Su's friends have some hidden dancing skills." The high priest acted as if he was telling Walker a massive secret.

"I should thank you though, Alice showed me the bracelet you gave her and it has worked wonders for her to be able to practice her skills without wasting mana. She has already started to make clearer light shapes and heal a little faster. I can't wait to see what she can do in a few years of training.' The high priest spoke like a doting father bragging of his child. Which he technically was since he had adopted Alice many years ago.

"On another note, you kids may have boundless energy but I am a little older and need to go rest. Greeting everyone really takes it out of me." The high priest took his leave and waved behind him since he would see Walker and the others later at the dancing and bonfires.

"I know I said we would see each other later but Remey needed a break and her siblings needed a place to relax a little." Walker pointed out the tired looking Remey and the mass of kids at the story time area. "Want to see the prize I won outside from the game?" Walker found a spot to tell Alice all about their short adventures and the merchants while the group rested. She was happy to hear them before they would have seen each other later.

Lisa had been pretty quiet the entire trip mostly following Su around but she finally made her way back to Walker to meet Alice. This had been her secret goal the entire time and the reason she had been holding back. She had a mission!

Chapter 780 Finally!

"Hello Alice! Do you remember me? You ate at the mansion before but we didn't get to talk much!" Lisa was full of energy and was not going to let Walker hide away.

Alis gave a polite smile and nod still not fully ready to speak out constantly. But Lisa was already speaking before Walker or Alice could reply.

"We haven't been to the adventurer's guild to see the training fields yet and then we are heading to the kings' party. After that, we will be meeting everyone in the square. You and the high priest were invited to the party, right?" Lisa was slightly worried that the high priest may not have been invited.

"We were." Alice was very soft spoken and did not say much. It seemed she was holding back a lot since she was still trying to control her skills herself. But Every single word she said was like a perfect melody that caused Walker to feel like the world was a little brighter.

"Then you should meet us there.. It would be a good chance to meet up before the square." Walker seemed slightly more nervous than usual causing Alice a bit of confusion but Lisa looked like she had the idea of what Walker was going to say.

"I interrupted at a bad time. We can partner up with Su and Midnight to get the best deserts at the king's party later." Lisa ran off with a few small laughs towards where Remey was since she knew they could gossip a little.

"Ehm, erhm...Sorry. She's a little excited today." Alice shook her head at the apology from Walker since she truly didn't mind Lisa's excitement. It was a festival and everyone was in high spirits. "On the other hand, I was wondering if you wanted to be my dance partner tonight?" Walker was having a very hard time staying still since he had never been so direct before.

Alice grabbed his hand getting his full attention, "Yes." It was all she said but it was a word filled with a little . Even though she wore the bracelet, The light around them made a slight rainbow hue. Alice was smiling just as awkwardly and wide as Walker but both were happy to have it in the open.

Feeling his courage begin to well up within him and remembering Gil and Remey teasing him at times Walker decided that it was just enough of that and he might as well just say what he has been holding on to for some time. "Alice, I...well, I really do like you a lot. And I would like to be a little more than-" Walker was cut off by a hug from Alice in an instant. She had been hoping he would say something like this for a little while and had already confided in a healer friend her own feelings.

"I do" Her words were soft whispers in his ear, this was meant only for him, "I like you too." It was all Walker wanted to hear for the rest of his life.

"Then-n I-I look forward to dancing with you later. We can spend some time to-together after the festival. I will be home for a while." Walker was trying to keep his heart from leaving his chest but it was all too clear that Alice was the same.

"Hmm, you two may be cute and at that age, but, this is still a cathedral and not a place for anything more." The high priest had taken a fatherly tone as he walked up behind the pair. Their reaction was to jump far apart and sit opposite ends of the bench they had been on. "However, I do approve..." The high priest sounded like he had wanted to scare someone like that for his whole life. His fatherly demeanor was always going to be there and even though he healed and stood for the cathedral and the faith of the holy lords' world, he was Alice's father. He couldn't just let his daughter run away so easily.

Walker waited for a few moments and managed to break the awkwardness plaguing the two of them, "We should head to the adventurer's guild to check things out before the time runs away. I will see you there later." Alice smiled at the tension breaking and gave Walker another hug as a farewell. Walker did not miss the gaze of the high priest as he left. It seemed that they were no longer a hero and a high priest but a man trying to steal away a father's daughter.

"You look like you have been in the sun way too long. Had a little talk with your girlfriend there." Gil attempted to tease Walker again and Su just shook her head while Remey was too distracted with her siblings.

"You know what? Yes, yes I did." Lisa stuck her tongue out at Gil when Walker said this and started to follow her brother outside.

"Wait... you did?" Gil was a little stunned because he didn't think Walker would make that move. He instantly fell in to his own thoughts on what he was missing out on and the things he should be working toward in his own life.

"If Alice is going to come to the mansion more I bet that means my friends will too." Su just happily imagined having her healer friends over for tea while Alice and Walker spent time reading in the library. It was the perfect excuse for her friends to join them more often.

"Come on, we are going to the adventurers' guild. If all of you are too slow you won't get to play the games there." Remey knew exactly how to motivate her siblings and saw the light in their eyes. "And don't think I will let any of you win." Remey left the challenge in the air making her siblings even more determined to get moving. It was the perfect tactic.