

Strongest Mage with the Lust system

- Chapter 329: You are my woman from now on~!

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After a while, Max felt Maria's body stiffen, and the pressure her pussy was putting on his cock increased by a few folds. Max knew she was about to reach the orgasm.

Although Max would've liked to enjoy it for a bit more, nothing can be done now. He stopped holding back and prepared to climax together with her.

Thwack! Thwack! Thwack!

He increased his thrusting speed, making Maria feel as if she was on the cloud nine.

A moment later, she threw her head back, her body arched up like a rainbow as she let out a piercing moan and climaxed.

"Ahhhhnnngggg~"

"Argh! Amazing!" Max also closed his eyes and released his load inside her.

...

Huff! Huff! Huff!

Maria was out of breath after such an intense exercise. She was panting, trying to catch her breath and as she did so, her alluring chest heaved up and down, creating a beautiful scenery.

Flop!

He let her ass fall on the bed after he finished climaxing and took his little dragon, which soaked with their juices, out.

He then lay beside her and, with one hand, he pulled her over his chest and hugged her.

Maria's face brightened by this gesture and, like an adorable kitten, she snuggled into his chest, a content expression on her face.

After a while, she looked at him and hesitatingly asked, "M-My lord, how... how was it?"

Max was thinking about what he should do so she can be with him. Hearing her question, he smiled teasingly and asked, "What was what?"

Maria's face flushed red, and she bobbed her head into his chest. After a moment, Max heard her faint voice, "D-Did you enjoy it? Or was I bad?"

Max didn't tease her further. He tightened his arms around her body, inhaling her intoxicating fragrance. He said, "Yes, I enjoyed it a lot. You were amazing."

He then asked, "What about you? Did you enjoy it?"

"Mm. I enjoyed it too." Maria said, her face turning hot as she the scenes of their intimate activate flashed through her mind and she recalled how amazing she felt.

Max was silent for a while before he asked, "Maria, you want to become my woman, right?"

Maria's body trembled for a moment when she heard this and nodded lightly. "Yes, my lord. But..."

"It's decided then." Max cut her off and said, "From this moment onwards, you are my woman."

Maria raised her head and looked at him in surprise. A moment later, she smiled beautifully while the tears started trickling down her cheeks and her heart felt warm. She felt as if she was the happiest girl in this world at this moment.

Looking at his face emotionally, she said, "I'm honored, my lord. I feel so that I won't have any regret even if I were to die in the next moment. However..."

She choked on her words. She gritted her teeth and continued, "However, as I said before, I can't leave my parents. Please forgive me."

As she finished saying this, she felt a sharp pain in her heart and tears unceasingly flowed down her cheeks. Her body started to tremble.

Max hurriedly pulled her into his embrace. Stroking her back, he gently said, "There is no need to leave your parents. Whether you live with your parents or with me, it doesn't make much difference. You'll still be my woman."

Hearing this, Maria's mind froze for a moment before she started crying in happiness.

Max really didn't want to let go of such an amazing woman as Maria, who was not only very lovable, obedient and good in bed, but also provided him with a lot more lust points than others.

After doing it one time, he checked and found that he received 4500 lust points, 1500 more than average what he used to receive from Rima and others. Most importantly, it was when they were two-star mages, while Maria was only a weak one-star mage.

He then thought of something and asked, "Would your parents agree to become a human's woman?"

"Although my parents don't really like humans, just like everyone else, they won't object to it for my happiness' sake." Maria replied, a slight pride in her tone.

"They are wonderful parents." Max smiled. He then remembered his father, it had been over two months since he left the Claymore town. Given how much he loved him, he must be missing him.

'I'll go back to visit when I'm done with the demon continent trip and the selections for the ranking competition.' He decided.

"Mm. They are." Maria nodded. She then looked at with a hint of shyness and asked, "M-My lord, would you like to m-meet my parents...?"

"Ugh..." Her question caught him off guard and an awkward expression appeared on his face.

Maria noticed his expression and hurriedly waved her hands, "I-It's okay if my lord doesn't want to meet them yet. I underst..."

"Let's meet them today, then." Max cut her off with a smile. Since he accepted her as his woman, he would have to meet her parents, if not now, then later.

"Really?" Maria happily jumped up, looking at him with sparkling eyes.

"Yeah." Max nodded with a smile. However, his gaze was on her giggling breasts.

Maria blushed and tried to cover them with her hands, but Max stopped her, "Don't cover them. They are beautiful."

Maria obliged and put her hand down. Max sat up and pulled her toward him and made her sit in his lap with her back facing him.

Maria quivered slightly when she felt his little dragon rubbing her ass.

As he rested his head on her shoulder, Max grabbed her boobs and started squeezing them. At the same time, he was also pinching and flicking her small red buds.

"Ahn~ Mm~"

Maybe it was because she was happy because he accepted her as his woman and even agreed to meet her parents, she was responding each time he squeezed her milk jugs, pinched or flicked her nipples.

Hearing her sensual moans and feeling her soft and squishy breasts caused his blood to rush, and his little dragon to stiffen again.

"Let's start the second round." Max blew hot air in her ear and gently bit on it.

"Ahn~!" Maria's body shivered and she let out a moan. Apparently, ears of elves were one of their most sensitive parts.

Chapter 330: Wasn't it supposed to be one-time thing?

After playing with her breasts for a while, Max wrapped one of his arms around her stomach and lifted her a little. Then he used his other hand and rubbed his cock between her legs to find the entrance.

Mm~

Maria's pussy twitched in anticipation. She put her hands on his thighs for the support and gently clenched her jaw for the incoming strike.

Max didn't disappoint her. Just as his cock found its way to her entrance, he pulled her down and his little dragon roared and penetrated to the depths of its favorite place.

Ahhnng~

Argh!

As the waves of pleasure hit their nerves, both of them let out a moan of pleasure at the same time.

Max grabbed her ass and started moving her up and down. Initially, he was doing it at a normal pace, but after a while, as the pleasure they both felt increased and Maria herself tried to jump up and down, he slowly increased the pace.

Maria was feeling so good that she even forgot to close her mouth. Her tongue hung out loosely and her eyes had turned hazy as she moaned in ecstasy.

Squelch! Squelch! Squelch!

Ahn~ Nng~ Haa~

The wet squelching sounds reverberated in the room along with their moans, filling the room with sensual air.

As they continued to engage in carnal pleasures, two hours soon flew by...

The sun had risen, and servants and maids were starting to move about their business.

Outside the guests' room, the mature woman was sweating profusely and her face was becoming increasingly paler with each moment passing.

'What are they doing? Are they sleeping or what? I shouldn't have tempted that damned girl. Now I'm going to go down along with her.'

She anxiously thought about what would happen to her if anyone found out that Maria, a mere servant girl, spent the night with the city lord's honoured guest and that she, her team leader, was the one to goad her.

The other servant girls were also anxious about it because, according to the rules, since they didn't stop Maria and didn't report her 'transgression' immediately, they were her accomplice and therefore, would be punished.

'Damn it. Not only did she steal my opportunity from me, but she is going to get me fired.' Ruki gnashed her teeth in anger.

She then glanced at the mature woman and coldly said, "I'll wait only five more minutes. If she still doesn't come out, I'm going to tell our superiors what happened here."

The mature woman's expression froze when she heard her threat. A moment later, her eyes burned with flames of anger.

She really wanted to snap and curse at her. How can a lowly servant threaten her, a team leader? But she didn't want to worsen the situation, so she gritted her teeth and held back.

Although she didn't erupt in anger, she also didn't plea Ruki not to complain to the superiors because she knew it was only a matter of time before someone noticed one of them missing. So, there was no need for her to beg Ruki.

She turned her anxious and angry gaze to Max's room. 'It must be that human bastard that isn't letting go of Maria because, given her family's condition, she would never risk her job like this.'

After five minutes, Ruki spoke up, "I'm going..."

Creak~

Before she could finish her sentence and walk away, she heard the door to Max's room opening and her footsteps halted.

The mature woman and the other servant girls trained their gazes on the door.

A moment later, they saw Maria slowly walk out and breathed out in relief.

"Hm?" Ruki noticed Maria was limping slightly. It didn't take long for her to understand why this was so and this made her jealousy and anger, which she could barely suppress, erupt.

"You b-" Just as she opened her mouth, she saw Max walking out and immediately stopped.

Max stood beside Maria as he glanced at Ruki and the other servant girls with a small smile on his face, and said, "Good job, everyone."

He then waved his hand and seven spatial bags appeared in his hand, which he flicked toward the servant girls. "Here is your reward."

The mature woman, Ruki and the other servant girls' eyes brightened, and they hastily caught the spatial bags and bowed toward Max, "Thank you the honoured guest's generosity."

Max nodded slightly. He then placed his hand on Maria's shoulder and said, "Go rest for now. I'll come visit you later, okay?"

"Y-Yes, my lord." Maria bashfully nodded.

Seeing this, everyone was dumbfounded. Wasn't it supposed to be a one-time thing?

Suddenly, everyone's eyes widened as they thought, 'Could it be that he liked Maria so much that he wants to take her as his woman?'

However, they thought it was unlikely, but even so; they knew she had received his favour and given his illustrious status; it was guaranteed that her life would become better now.

Thinking this, they shot Maria an envious gaze that made her blush in embarrassment.

Maria walked up to the mature woman and asked, "Um, Senior. Can I go to my quarters and rest?"

The mature woman hastily nodded, "O-Of course."

After getting permission, Maria glanced at Max and, after she saw him nod toward her, she slowly walked away.

After sending her away, Max returned to his room and checked his lust point tally.

[Lust points: 19,000]

"Not bad." Max smiled, satisfied. He only had sex with Maria five times and still got this many points. If it was Leticia or Rima instead of her, he would have to do it at least six or seven times for the same.

He then closed the status window and closed his eyes to rest for a while. When he woke up, Leticia and others were already awake and had gotten ready for the breakfast.

Little Arya was also there. When she saw Max was still in his sleeping clothes, she pouted cutely and complained, "Big brother, you aren't ready yet. Everyone is waiting for you at the dining hall."

Chapter 331: I'm happy as long as I have small corner in your heart~

When they arrived at the dining hall, everyone was already there.

"Greetings city lord, lord commander..." Max and others politely greeted everyone.

Everyone returned the greeting with a smile on their faces and invited them to sit.

While eating, Max noticed an odd thing. Arya's uncle and aunt, whose son they saved, would occasionally glance at him with a weird look in her eyes.

'What is this?' Max frowned. He didn't understand why they were behaving this way.

"Father, is there any message from big sister? When is she coming?" Elena asked the old man Raku.

"Yes. I was about to tell our little friends about it." Old man Raku smiled lightly.

'Big sister? Is she talking about Rima's master?' Max thought. He had heard Arya say that she was her aunt, although not related to blood.

Just as he thought, they were indeed talking about Rima's future master. The old man Raku glanced at Rima and said, "Little lady, I got a message from your future master this morning. She will return to the city by tonight. So, I will take you to meet her tomorrow."

"Yes, grandpa." Rima nodded. She was both nervous and excited to hear that she will meet her potential master, a mighty king rank mage, tomorrow.

A while later, they finished having breakfast. Just as they were about to head back, Arya's aunt walked up to Elena and whispered something in her ear.

After hearing whatever she said, Elena's usually gentle expression became slightly colder. She looked at Max with a piercing gaze and called out, "Max, stay back. I need to talk to you."

Max shivered slightly when he heard her indifferent tone and saw her expression.

'Could it be that they have found out that Maria spent the night with me?' He thought, and a wry smile appeared on his face.

Ryan, who was about to go out, stopped in his tracks when he heard Elena. He looked at Max with an amusing expression on his face and then glanced at his wife.

Elena shook her head when she saw Ryan's expression and smilingly said, "It's nothing too important. I just want to talk to him in private for a bit."

"Alright." Ryan nodded and walked out.

When he passed by Max, his laughter sounded in Max's ears, 'Kid, I don't know what you did, but you are in a good scolding by the looks of it. Hahaha...'

'This old man...!' Max gritted his teeth in frustration.

Rima, Belen and Leticia looked at Max with questioning looks, which made him smile wryly. "You guys go first. I'll tell you later."

Since he said that, none of them insisted on staying and walked out of the hall.

Arya's aunt glanced at her husband, and he also walked away. She then sent out all the maids out.

After a moment, only Max, Elena and Arya's aunt were in the dining hall.

Both of the ladies looked at Max without saying anything. Max felt an invisible pressure on his shoulder and stiffly asked, "What did you want to talk about, city lord?"

"Why don't you guess?" Elena asked indifferently.

Max knew she was trying to suppress her anger behind her indifferent voice. He sighed and said, "I reckon you want to talk about Maria, right?"

"Oh, so you aren't completely clueless." Elena coldly laughed and then asked, "Tell me, is it appropriate to behave so atrociously in someone else's home?"

"No." Max shook his head and before she could say anything, he said, "I know I made a mistake and I won't give any excuses. But let me tell you, I didn't force her. Moreover, I've already taken her as my woman if it makes any difference."

"Oh?" Elena and Arya's aunt, both were taken aback.

"I know you humans like Elvin beauties, but are you sure you want to make a mere servant your woman?" Arya's aunt seriously asked, stressing the word 'woman'.

Max understood what she meant. She was asking whether he was going to treat her as his woman or a plaything?

"Don't worry about it. I'll treat her the same as I treat my other woman." He resolutely said.

...

After a while, Max walked out of the dining hall. Rima, Belen, Leticia and little Arya were standing right outside, waiting for him.

Seeing him come out, little Arya ran up to him and asked, "Big brother, my mom scold you, right?"

"Hm? Why would she scold me?" Max asked with a smile.

"That's weird." Little Arya put on a contemplative expression and thought aloud, "Whenever my mom had that kind of expression, it means she is angry and she even scolds my father. Why didn't she scold big brother?"

"You little girl. You think that about me, huh?" Elena's voice sounded out from the dining hall.

Little Arya jumped up in fright and ran behind Max. She looked toward her mother, walking out with her aunt, and hastily said, "Hehe mom... I was just joking."

"Okay. Go and play somewhere else. Don't disturb your big brother and big sisters. They have something to talk about." Elena said as she gave Max a meaningful glance before walking away.

After hearing what she said, Rima and others looked at Max in confusion.

"Let's go to my room first, shall we?" Max smiled.

...

After a while, all of them were sitting in Max's room. The ladies had their eyes trained on Max, making him feel a little awkward.

He glanced at them, coughed to clear his throat, and explained what happened last night. "Well, last night..."

After he finished explaining, Rima and Leticia had conflicted expression. As for Belen, she maintained the same expression from end to last, as if it didn't matter how many women he had.

Looking at their expressions, Max sighed. He couldn't stand the awkward atmosphere, so he said, "I'm going out for a bit."

"It's alright." Before he could stand up, Rima and Leticia spoke up.

"I-Is that so?" Max let out a sigh in his heart.

"Yeah. I don't care how many women you have. As long as I have a small corner in your heart, I'm happy." Rima smiled.

Chapter 332: Hypocrite

Max nodded toward her, feeling a little grateful.

He then glanced at Belen, who smiled and said, "My thoughts completely align with Rima's."

"Mm." Max nodded. He felt a little guilty toward her in his heart because he hadn't been able to spend the time with her ever since the outing.

He then turned his gaze toward Leticia. Unlike Rima and Belen, she wore an anxious expression, nibbling on her lips so hard that blood was starting to pour out.

Sigh!

Max let out a sigh in his heart. He knew why she was acting this way. It was not because she couldn't accept that he had more women in his harem, but because she thought he wouldn't value her anymore if he had many women.

He extended his hand, grabbed her, and pulled her into his embrace.

Mm~

Leticia was taken aback. After a moment, she let go of her body and limply lay against his chest. Feeling his warmth, her anxiousness slowly faded away and a radiant smile appeared on his face.

"I also don't mind if you have another woman. But please don't forget me, okay?" Leticia murmured lowly.

Max tightened his grasp on her body and softly said, "Don't worry. I will never forget you. You'll hold the same important part in my heart."

Max didn't only say this for the sake of saying but he meant these words. He could clearly see how much she loved him. So how could he forget her for another woman? He wasn't someone like that.

"Mm, thank you." Leticia smiled and moved out of his embrace.

Rima and Belen encouragingly nodded toward her.

...

After everyone calmed down, Max stood up and asked with a smile, "I'm going to the market to buy some things, would anyone of you want to come with me or are you going to cultivate?"

"I'll go with you." All three ladies said at the same time.

"Let's go then." Max smiled wryly and walked out. By asking that whether they wanted to accompany him or stay in their rooms and cultivate, he was hinting that if any of them wanted to cultivate, they could.

"Big brother, where are you guys going?" Just as they walked out of the guest area, little Arya came running toward them. Two servant girls were following her, drops of perspiration on their foreheads.

Seeing Max and the group, they hastily bowed in greeting, "Greetings, honoured guests."

Max nodded toward them. He then looked at little Arya and smiled, "To the market. Want to tag along?"

"Of course. I will come." Little Arya nodded before turning to the servant girls, "Big sisters, you don't need to follow me. I'm going with my big brother and big sisters."

"This..." The servant girls looked at each other, not sure what to do.

Little Arya didn't wait. She turned around and jovially skipped toward the exit of the manor, "Let's go, big brother."

After Max and others disappeared from their sight, the servant girls snapped out of their daze. "Hurry, let's inform lord Raku."

...

Under little Arya's lead, the group arrived at the market or, more precisely, the sweet shop.

Max didn't mind this and bought some sweets. He also enjoyed eating them.

"Max, what do you want to buy?" Rima curiously asked after they finished eating the sweets.

"The communication crystals and a flying pet." Max replied.

"What a coincidence, sir Max. You are also here."

Just as they were about to depart from the sweets shop, a melodious voice sounded and stopped them in their tracks.

When they turned toward the source of the voice, they saw Janice walking toward them with a smile on her face.

Leticia and Rima creased their brows when they saw her. Max also squinted slightly. For some reason, he didn't have a good feeling about her and didn't want to interact with her too much.

However, as they say, a gentleman doesn't slap a smiling face. He nodded at her in greeting and said, "Is miss Janice here for the sweets too?"

"Hehe... Yes, sir Max. I like the sweets from this shop. I hope you don't find that childish." Janice put on an embarrassed expression as she blinked her limpid at him.

"Tch, what a hypocrite!" Leticia grumbled.

Although Rima and Belen didn't say anything, they looked at her in contempt. As women, they could see she was putting on an act of a gentle and refined lady.

As a peak two-star mage, Janice's hearing was better than normal people and coupled with the fact that Leticia didn't keep her voice down, she clearly heard her. However, she acted as if she didn't hear anything and her smiling expression remained the same.

Unlike her, the old woman following behind her showed signs of anger, but seeing that Janice didn't say anything, she controlled herself.

Max's expression became slightly awkward. However, seeing that Janice didn't seem to mind it, he didn't say anything.

"No, there is nothing childish about it." He smiled lightly and then said, "Okay, miss Janice, please enjoy yourself. We need to be somewhere else right now"

He didn't wait for her response and walked away with Leticia and others following him.

As Janice watched them disappear into the crowd, her smile vanished and her expression grew frosty. A vicious glint flashed in her eyes and she exuded a murderous aura.

The old woman wasn't surprised by her reaction. Given her proud and narcissistic personality, after receiving a cold treatment, there was no way she wouldn't feel offended, not to mention Leticia called her a hypocrite.

After being silent for a while, Janice calmed down and said, "Elder, there is a slight change in the plan..."

...

In his inn room, Jack was in bed with two naked Elvin women. One was feeding his grapes, and the other one was sucking on his crotch.

"Hm?" Suddenly, he raised his brows and sat up.

He then took out his communication crystal and injected some Mana into it.

A moment later, his expression turned unsightly, and he growled in anger, "This bitch... I'll make you regret it."

Bang!

He threw away the communication crystal, grabbed one of the women, turned her around and started pounding her crazily, venting his frustration.

Chapter 333: Communication crystal

After walking out of the 'sweet district', Max and the group headed toward the artifact market. He first wanted to buy the communication crystals.

He didn't like the feeling of not being able to contact his loved ones if they were far away. Because it had been more than a week since they came out to search for Rima and he knew Anna should have returned from her monthly mission by now and she must be worried about him.

He very much wanted to contact her and tell her he was alright but there was no way he could do it since he was so far from the academy.

He could send a letter, of course, but it would take many days and by the time it reached the academy, he would already be there, so sending it now was useless.

Therefore, he thought of buying the communication crystals since he had more than enough Mana stones and was also in one of the largest trade markets in the Green Leaf kingdom.

"Max, let's go to that shop." Belen pointed toward a shop. It was double the size of normal shops and many customers were constantly going in and coming out.

"Okay, let's go." Max nodded and walked toward the shop.

As soon as they entered, a middle-aged elvin man came to greet them, "Hello customers, what would you like to buy?"

"We need communication crystals." Max replied.

"Certainly." The middle-aged man nodded and then continued to ask, "Which kind of communication crystal would you like to purchase, dear customer?"

Max knew there were many types of communication crystal in the market. There were those that could be used only one time or several times, those that could be used for short distances or long distances.

The single use crystals for the short distances were the cheapest, one crystal would only cost around 15-20 low grade Mana stones.

The multi-use ones for the short distances were more costly, but their price depended on the times it could be used. The ones that could be used for long distances were the most expensive.

"I want the multi-use ones for both the short and long distances. Get me the best ones available." He responded after thinking for a bit.

Hearing what Max said, the middle-aged man raised his brows slightly and looked at Max with a gaze that said, 'Can you afford the best ones?'

He thought like that because he could see although Max had a good bearing, the clothes he wore weren't anything special. They were made from the ordinary material and only common people would wear them.

That is to say, if he could afford the high-quality communication crystals that cost thousands of Mana stones, shouldn't he have better garments?

'Is he trying to waste my time?' The man thought and just as he was about to ask him out, his gaze landed on the little Arya standing amidst them and immediately shut his mouth.

"Greetings saint girl." He respectfully bowed toward her.

"Hello, uncle." Little Arya smiled good-naturedly and then said, "Uncle, can you hurry? We need to go somewhere else, too."

"Yes, of course. Please have a seat. I'll immediately bring the goods." The middle-aged man offered them a seat and carefully asked, "H-Honoured customer, how many crystals should I bring you?"

Seeing him act so respectfully now, Max chuckled and thought, 'It's great to have her accompany us.' At the same time, he also decided to buy better clothes to avoid such situations in the future.

"How many times can the best ones be used?" He asked.

"A hundred times, dear customer." The middle-aged man replied without delay.

"A hundred times, huh?" Max thought for a while and said, "Bring me 20 of each type."

"T-Twenty?" The man's eyes widened upon hearing this. However, he didn't dare say anything now that he knew they were with the saint girl.

"Please wait a moment, honoured customer." He hurriedly walked inside the shop and, just a while later, he brought out 40 fist sized wooden boxes.

Max asked Belen to check them and after she said they were in perfect condition, he asked, "How much is it?"

The middle-aged man surreptitiously glanced at little Arya and hesitated for a moment before finally saying, "The short-distance crystals cost 5000 low-grade Mana stones each, while the long-distance one's cost 50,000 each. So, the total is 1.1 million Mana stones, but the honoured customer only needs to pay 1 million."

Although he got a discount thanks to little Arya, the price still shocked him, and he instinctively turned to Belen, who nodded her head with a wry smile on her face and

said in a low voice, "It was because they are this expensive that very few can afford them. Moreover, we can only send messages within the confines of an average sized kingdom with this type of crystals. So, the normal people tend to use the cheap letter services instead."

Max nodded in understanding. Most people don't earn many Mana stones and however many they earn, they usually use them to cultivate, so it was obvious that they can't afford such luxury.

Max stored one million stones in a spatial bag and gave it to the middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man quickly glanced at the contents, and a smile bloomed on his face. He put away the spatial bag and respectfully asked, "Honoured guest, would you like to buy anything else?"

Max stored the boxes in his inventory and nodded. "Yeah, please bring three spatial rings for the ladies here."

Hearing this, the middle-aged man smiled awkwardly, "I apologize, honoured guest. We are currently running out of stock of the spatial rings."

"It's alright then." Max casually waved his hand, stood up, and walked out of the shop. Leticia and others followed.

After that, they went to another artifact shop and bought three grade three spatial rings for Belen and others and a beast storage ring for the flying beast they were going to buy.

Bonus chapter (12/15)

Chapter 334: In the beast market

The group soon arrived at the beast market. Large shops adorned both sides of the streets. Each shop had statues of fierce looking beasts at their door, giving an intimidating presence to the customers.

The group had just arrived and was looking around the shops, trying to figure out which they should choose, when a young Elvin boy ran up to them and respectfully inquired, "Hello sir and madams, are you here for a pet beast? If yes, please visit our hall. I'm sure you'll find a pet fitting of your needs."

"Lead the way then." Max nodded with a smile.

The young boy became happy hearing this and immediately gestured them to follow him and led them to a large building.

When they entered, a middle-aged man came to greet them.

The young boy bowed toward him and said, "Sir manager, these noble customers would like to buy a pet beast, please take care of them."

The manager glanced at Max and others with indifferent gaze and just like others until now, when he saw little Arya, he paused and then respectfully bowed toward her, "Greetings, saint girl."

"Greetings, uncle." Little Arya smiled cutely.

The young boy who brought them here froze when he heard the manager address the little girl as 'saint girl'. Although he had seen the little girl with the group, he never thought she was the one and only saint girl, the beloved daughter of the city lord and the supreme guard commander.

A moment later, his face beamed with joy, and he excitedly thought, 'My luck is so good today. Since these people are with the saint girl, if they buy a pet beast from the hall, I, as the one who brought, will surely be rewarded.'

"Saint girl, are they your friends?" The manager glanced at Max and the group and asked. He wanted to know who exactly they were so that he would know how to treat them.

Hearing his inquiry, little Arya straightened her back and proudly said, "They are my big brother and big sisters and also my family's honoured guests."

When the manager heard the first half of her introduction, he didn't show any hint of surprise because he already knew that the saint girl was quite outgoing and liked to interact with the people of other races. However, when he heard they were also her family's honoured guests, his expression changed and became respectful.

"Greetings, dear guests. I welcome you to our little shop." He put on a smile and politely greeted.

"Hello, manager. We would like to buy a flying beast. Would you mind showing us?" Max gave a quick greeting and went directly to the point. He didn't want to waste any more time than needed, since he had other things to do.

"Yes, of course." The manager nodded before glancing at the young boy and said, "Good job bringing the guests. You are dismissed."

He then gestured to Max and the group to follow him and walked deep inside the building.

Max and the group followed him through the corridors and finally arrived in front of a giant door. The manager put a key in the keyhole and pushed the door.

Clank! Clank! Clank!

The door made metallic sounds as it slowly opened and revealed an enormous hall. From outside, they could see that the hall was filled with several hundred large metal cages.

"Please come in." The manager lightly smiled and walked inside.

Max and others followed closely behind, curiously looking around. Most of the cages had a beast locked up inside.

Roar!

Clang!

Growl!

"..."

When the beasts noticed someone enter the hall, they became restless and started clamouring. Some roared angrily while some slammed against the cages, trying to break out. However, the metal cages were very sturdy and didn't even budge.

"They aren't tamed beasts?" Leticia frowned. What use was there if the beasts weren't tamed?

"Haha... young miss, these beasts aren't easy to tame, especially when they are already mature." The manager laughed lightly and continued, "So, we use an easier and more effective method to control them."

"What method?" Leticia asked.

"The slave seals." It was Belen who answered. Her answer was slightly unnatural as she glanced at all the beasts.

The manager glanced at Belen and when he saw her expression; he knew she was feeling pity for them.

Seeing this, he couldn't help but chuckle and say, "It seems this young lady is quite compassionate."

Although it looked like a normal comment, his tone hinted that he was mocking her.

Leticia frowned and was about to admonish him when he sighed and said, "There is nothing wrong with being compassionate but young lady, you shouldn't feel sad about their fate. If our positions were to be swapped, our endings would be even worse."

Belen nodded. She knew he was speaking the truth. However, she couldn't help but sigh when she thought their lives would be at their masters' mercy after they were branded with the slave seals. They wouldn't even be able to commit suicide, even if they wanted to.

"We can only strive to become stronger if we want to live a carefree life." Max commented. The day he witnessed the death and destruction caused by the beast tide, he had understood this rule, and that's why he was striving to become stronger.

Everyone nodded at these words.

Clap!

Seeing that the mood had become strange, the manager clapped his hands, smiled and asked, "So, dear guests, what kind of pet beast do you want?"

"We need a flying beast." Max replied.

"Hm? So, the guests want it for the travel purposes or to fight?" The manager asked.

"It would be great if it has some fighting power but we need it mainly to travel." Max said.

"Very well then. Please come this way." The manager nodded in understanding and led them in front of a cage.

A red sparrow, only a few meters large, was lying inside with its eyes closed. When it noticed people approaching, it opened its crimson eyes jumped up in fright and backed away into a corner, shivering.

- Chapter 336: Slave seal

Chapter 336: Slave seal

Max smiled when he the manager's expression and without wasting any second, he threw a spatial bag toward him, "Manager, here is the payment for the beast. Please brand the slave seal so we can take it away."

The manager looked at the red sparrow with much reluctance in his eyes. He was really regretting that no one recognised the beast as a hybrid. If anyone had done so, the hall would have earned at least five million low-grade Mana stones and if they were to put it on the auction in the Greenwave auction house, the profit might have been even more.

'Sigh! Let it be.' In the end, he could only sigh and accept the payment. He then took out two golden talismans. One had the word 'slave' imprinted on it while the other one had the word 'master'.

He gave the both talismans to Max and said, "Please imbue both of these with your mana. After you are done, I'll restrict the beast's movements, you have to enter the cage and put the slave talisman on its head and the master talisman on your head at the same time. That will make you its master and it'll obey you like as your loyal servant. No matter what order you give, it'll have to obey or die."

Max flinched for a moment when he heard this and felt pity for the bird. At the same time, he felt his conviction to become stronger strengthen.

He clenched the talismans in his hand and was about to imbue his Mana into them when Belen suddenly grabbed his hand.

"Wait, Max."

"Mm?" Max stopped and looked at Belen with curiosity. With how well behaved his women in front of him, he believed they wouldn't act out of line without a good reason.

Belen looked at the red sparrow, who was looking at the talismans in Max's hand with great fear, and asked in a low voice, "Can... can I be its master?"

"Are you sure?" Max asked in surprise. From the look in her eyes, he could see she was feeling pity for the sparrow, so he was surprised that she wanted to be the one to take away its freedom.

A moment later, he realized that she wanted to be its master to ensure that it isn't treated poorly. Thinking this, he realized that despite showing an indifferent exterior to the world, she had a delicate and caring heart. At the same time, he couldn't help smile wryly and think, 'Does she think I will treat it poorly?'

"Yes. Can you let me do it, please?" Belen nodded firmly.

"Why not. It's the same whether I do it or you." Max beamed at smiled at her and gave her the talismans.

When Belen saw his smile and heard what he said, she felt her heart flutter for a bit. A grateful expression appeared on her face and she said in a faint voice, "Thank you."

"There is no need to say thank you to me. Go and do it." Max gently said.

Belen nodded and imbued the talismans with her Mana and walked toward the cage.

Clank!

The manager waved his hand and the cage open with a metallic sound.

The sparrow was frightened and wanted to fly away but before it could flap its wings, a few water chains materialized out of the thin air and constricted it tightly.

Chirp~~ Chirp~~

No matter how hard it tried, it couldn't move its body. Seeing Belen walked toward her with the slave talismans in hand, the sparrow let out a few miserable cries and its eyes seemed to blaze with dark red flames.

In the next moment, the red flames covered the sparrow's whole body and the temperature around the beast rose dramatically.

Sizzle~

The water chains started to emit steam.

"Damn it. It's burning its beast essence." The manager cursed.

He pointed his hand toward the sparrow and shouted 'restrict'. Beams of water elemental Mana shot out.

A few beams merged with the water chains and the evaporation stopped immediately while the other beams entered the sparrow's body. A few moments later, the fire receded and the sparrow fell to the ground with a thud.

Whoosh!

Belen couldn't see this and hurriedly approached the sparrow and put the slave talisman on its forehead and the master one on hers.

Bright light shined and the talismans disintegrated into small light dots which then entered their foreheads.

After the process was done, Belen glanced at the Manager and said coldly, "Will you release it now?"

The manager also could see she pitied the beast and didn't mind her temper. Waving his hand, he dispelled the water chains.

Belen took out her last bottle of life elixir and tried feeding it to the sparrow. The bird looked at Belen fearfully and didn't open its mouth.

Belen expression became stern and she ordered, "Drink it."

Thanks to the slave seal imprinted on its soul, the beast couldn't resist anymore and drank the life elixir.

A while later, its expression gradually returned to normal however, it was still shivering in fear.

Belen had to comfort it through the slave seal for a while before it finally calmed down. Apart from taming the beast and making it loyal to its master, it had another function which allowed the master and the slave to each other.

After it calmed down, she glanced at Max who nodded and threw the beast storage ring toward her.

She stored the sparrow in the ring and walked out of the cage.

"Big sister, is that sparrow alright?" Little Arya worriedly asked. As a little girl with a pure heart, she was quite compassionate toward everyone, be it elves, humans or beasts.

"Mm. It's alright. It just needs to rest for a while." Belen smiled and patted her little head.

After that the group walked out of the hall.

"Big brother, where are we going now?" Little Arya excitedly asked.

Max glanced at Belen and others and coughed a little before saying, "We are going to meet your new big sister."

Whoosh!

Just as the words left his mouth, he felt three piercing gaze on him which made him gulp nervously.

Bonus chapter (13/15)

Chapter 337: Meeting Maria's parents

Max and the group walked back toward the city lord's manor. Halfway there, he saw a beautiful figure standing at the side of the road, nervously looking around.

When he saw her, unconsciously, a smile crept up on his face.

Rima, Belen and Leticia were mystified. They followed his gaze to see what could've caused him to reveal such a tender smile and saw an adorable looking young Elvin girl in common clothing.

Immediately, they knew who she saw. They glanced at Max simultaneously and asked, "Is it her?"

"Yes." Max nodded, his gaze still trained on her.

Witnessing this, all three girls felt slightly envious of her because they never saw him wear such a... loving expression on his face for any of them.

Belen and Rima quickly dispelled these thoughts but Leticia couldn't and the thought that Max would stop caring for her now that he had someone who he liked better than them consumed her mind.

Her body started trembling, tears welled up in her eyes, and she felt as if she was falling into a dark abyss.

Whoosh!

Before she could sink in despair, a strong and warm hand appeared, held her by the waist, and pulled her out. As her eyes regained clarity, she saw Max was holding her close to his chest and was looking at her with a worried expression.

Seeing this, she felt happy and relieved and thought, 'Wasn't I just worrying in vain? He isn't the type who would forget me for someone else, right?'

When Max saw her open her eyes, he let out a breath of relief and asked, "Are you alright?"

Leticia came to her senses when she heard his voice and nodded, "Un. I'm fine."

She then said in a barely audible voice, "I'm sorry for not believing you earlier. From now on, I'll never doubt you."

Max was stunned for a moment when he heard this. A moment later, realization dawned on him. It turned out that even after their previous conversation, she was still worried that after Maria became his woman, he would stop caring for her.

Realizing this, he couldn't help but shake his head and smile wryly. The women were just so fickle. No one could understand what they were thinking.

"Don't worry about it." He nodded and then helped her stand up.

When Leticia glanced around, she was embarrassed because realized that she was lying unconscious on the roadside until now and the people around them were looking at them weirdly.

She glanced at Belen and Rima and asked, "H-How long I was unconscious?"

"Not long. Just a few minutes." Rima chuckled and the pointed to her right side.

Leticia moved her gaze to the side and her body trembled slightly. Maria was standing there, looking at her nervously.

She glanced at Max, took a deep breath and greeted her, "Hello. You must be Maria, right? Sorry for that embarrassing display just now."

"N-No, it's alright, b-big sister." Maria anxiously waved her hands and shook her head when she heard Leticia apologize.

"Big sister?" Leticia became happy all of a sudden when she heard Maria call her big sister. She smiled and walked toward, looking at her up and down.

Given her status and personality, Maria would feel pressurized when interacting with people of high status, such as Leticia and the group. On top of that, she knew Leticia was also one of Max's women and she needed her approval to become his woman.

So, when Leticia started looking at her up and down, she felt the pressure multiply by several folds and she almost couldn't handle it and just wanted to run away.

"Hey, you are making her nervous." Rima smilingly berated Leticia and walked up to Maria and patted her shoulder.

Leticia didn't respond and after a moment, she nodded, "Alright, I'll allow you to call me big sister."

Rima couldn't help but laugh and say, "Big sister? She is older than you, you know."

"So what?" Leticia snorted.

"..."

After Rima, Belen and Leticia laughed and talked with Maria for a while, Max interrupted them and said, "Shouldn't we go to your home now?"

Maria nibbled on her lips and hesitated for a moment before nodding, "Yes. L-Let's go."

Rima, Belen and Leticia glanced at each other when they heard he was going to visit her home. However, they said nothing and simply followed behind them.

After a while, they arrived at the outskirts of the city where ordinary folks lived.

The area was a bit destitute, and the houses here were decrepit. Streets had many potholes and dust was flying around.

Along the streets, a few groups of young children in ragged clothes were playing around, and elderly people were chatting leisurely. When they saw Max and the group, they stopped to look at them.

"Hey, isn't the big sister Maria?" The children recognized Maria walking in front of the group and excitedly ran up to them.

Maria also happily talked to them. She didn't seem as nervous as she was around Max and the others.

A little girl, holding a small wooden doll near her chest, glanced at Max and the group up and down. She blinked her innocent eyes and curiously asked, "Big sister, are they your friends? They look very nice."

Maria glanced at Max and others and shyly nodded, "Y-Yes. They are my friends."

Seeing that some kids were starting to bother Max and the group, Maria said, "Okay, you kids. Go and play somewhere else." Saying this, she led Max and the group further into the street.

After they disappeared from their sight, the elderly people glanced at each and other and fearfully whispered, "They were humans, right?"

"Y-Yes."

...

After a while, the group arrived in front of Maria's house. Her house's condition was better than the neighboring houses, but not by too much.

When Maria saw them looking at her home, she felt embarrassed.

Upon seeing her expression, Max guessed what she was thinking and asked with a smile, "Aren't you going to invite us in?"

"Y-Yes." She became flustered upon being called out and raced up to the door and knocked on it.

Creak~

A moment later, an old man opened the door, and when he saw Maria, he smiled. "You little girl finally remembered us, huh?"

"S-sorry, father." Maria apologized and then glanced at Max and the others.

"Oh? You brought friends?" The old man was surprised.

A/N: Hello guys, let me know if you feel the pace is slow.

Bonus chapter (14/15)

Chapter 338: Please take her away

"Has little Maria come?" An aged female voice sounded from the room. A few moments later, an old but amiable looking old Elvin woman slowly walked out.

"Mother!" Maria emotionally called out when she saw her mother.

The old woman glanced at Maria with a loving look and nodded before her gaze found Max and the group standing behind her.

She smiled lightly and said, "Why is everyone still standing out? Please come in. Cough! Cough!"

Maria hurriedly walked up to her and supported her. "Mother, you aren't allowed to overexert yourself, right? Why did you come out? Let's go in." She then led her inside.

The old man smiled wryly, seeing that Maria only seemed to care for her mother. He then glanced at Max, and the group politely invited them in. "Please come inside."

...

After a while, Maria's mother and father were sitting on a wooden bed and Max and the group were on another. Maria was standing beside her parents' bed with her head held down.

Her parents wore solemn face and were silently looking at Max, the three beautiful ladies beside him.

Maria's heart was pounding loudly, and she felt enormous pressure weigh down on her heart and mind. She had just told her parents about her relationship with Max and was worried that they might object since almost every elf hates humans.

Max was feeling very awkward under the old couple's gazes. However, he couldn't do nothing but wait for their decision.

A while later, Maria's father opened her mouth and asked with a stoic expression on his face, "So, these young ladies are your woman. Is that correct?"

"Yes." Max nodded.

"And now you want my daughter too?" Her father continued to ask.

Max didn't know what to say in reply to his question that wouldn't look as bad as, 'Yes, I want her too.' but nothing came to his mind. So, he could only awkwardly nod his head, "Ah... Yes."

Her father frowned and was about to say something when his wife gently shook her head and stopped him.

She looked at him with a faint smile and asked, "I only want to know if you can promise to treat her with due love and care and let no one bully her?"

Maria trembled and waves of happiness surged into her heart upon hearing her mother ask this. She knew her mother had approved of their relationship. She raised her head slightly to look at Max, waiting to hear his answer.

Max's heart skipped a beat for some reason when he heard this question. After a moment of silence, he stood up and bowed toward them. "Yes, I promise."

When Maria saw him stand up, her heart almost stopped beating, thinking that he was going to walk out, but seeing him bow to her parents and promise to love and care for her, a beautiful smile blossomed on her lips.

Rima, Belen and Leticia felt complicated feeling rise in their heart upon witnessing this.

Maria's father nodded slightly, seeing him with such humility even though he was a noble and a mage while they were nothing but commoners.

He asked him to sit and calmly said, "I see you are a mage and seem to be quite talented. So, you must also aspire to reach higher heights like everyone else, right? If

so, you are sure to encounter countless obstacles and danger in your journey. Can you confidently say that my daughter won't be in any danger if she becomes your woman?"

Max glanced at Maria for a moment and shook his head. "I can't."

His answer caught everyone off guard. However, before they could react, Max resolutely said, "Although I can't guarantee there would be no danger, I promise you that as long as I'm alive, I won't let her suffer any grievance."

Hearing this, everyone's agitated emotion calmed down. Maria's parents glanced at each other and smiled. They then looked at Maria, who blushed and turned her face away, and then Max. "Since you both like each other, we won't ruin your happiness."

"Thank you." Max sighed in relief after hearing this, while Maria felt as if she was on cloud nine. She couldn't control her happiness and started crying.

The old couple smiled wryly seeing this. Rima, Leticia and Belen stood up and walked to her side and started congratulating her.

Maria's mother glanced at Rima and others and asked, "Noble misses, could you please take her to the other room for a while? We would like to talk with young sir for a moment in private."

Rima and others nodded and led Maria to the other room, leaving her parents and Max alone in the room.

Max looked at Maria's parents curiously, waiting for them to speak.

Maria's father looked at her mother and sighed. "Young sir Max, my wife and I are suffering from a serious illness and won't survive for more than a year."

Max was stunned. Although Maria had told him that her parents were old and suffering from some illness, he never expected that it was so serious. He asked in a low voice, "She doesn't know, does she?"

The old man shook his head. "No, she doesn't." He sighed and continued, "Before today, we have been worrying that she might do something she shouldn't after we died because that little girl loves us a little too much and has no one else to live for."

He then smiled, "However, that was before today. Now that she found someone she loves and wants to spend her life with, we aren't worried anymore. We just hope that young sir will take her with you when you leave the city and don't let her come back until one year."

Max couldn't help but shake his head and say, "Elders, since you are asking me to do this, you must already know that she isn't willing to leave with me, right? It's not like I can forcefully take her away."

The couple sighed and fell silent.

Max was silent for a moment before he asked, "Can you tell me what illness you have? Maybe I can find its cure."

Bonus chapter (15/15)

Chapter 339: Threatening for their own good

The couple smiled and shook their heads, "We thank young sir for the kind intentions but no medicine can cure our illness now. Some could've, if we found about it ten years ago, but now this illness and life has almost completely merged. If we try to cure it, we will immediately die."

Seeing them talk about their death with such an uncaring attitude, Max was in awe. How many people can stay this calm and smile if they knew they are going to die in near future? Not many, right?

Suddenly, Max felt a deep respect rise in his heart for this feeble old couple. His expression grew serious, and he sternly asked, "Would you please tell me what kind of illness this is?"

"This..." The old couple hesitated. They didn't want to trouble him unnecessarily. However, seeing his expression, it was apparent he wouldn't rest until they tell him.

In the end, they resigned and sighed. The old man spoke, "Young sir, when we were young, an alchemist came in our town from outside and started cultivating an herb garden. He was paying a decent amount of money just to take care of the herbs, and we needed money, so we both worked there."

"Since we were just ordinary folks, we didn't understand what kind of herbs he was cultivating. It was only after a few years that we found out he was a poison elemental alchemist and was researching some poison medicine, and that all the herbs in his garden were poison ingredients.

However, even after finding out, we didn't stop working there because little Maria had just been born and we needed money to take care of her."

As the old man said this, the couple glanced toward the room Maria was in with a face full of love. It was clear they never regretted working in the poison garden.

He then continued, "But after a few more years, we and a few other people who worked with us started showing signs of falling ill. We asked the alchemist to cure us, but he said that he didn't have the medicine needed to heal us and went out of town to get it.

We naïve people kept waiting for him to return, but he never did and our conditions kept deteriorating. In the end, we gathered all the money we had earned by working in the garden for a decade and came to the city for the cure, but to our despair; we find out that our conditions were much worse than we had thought and needed some very rare magic medicine if we wanted to cure it.

How could we common people with only a few hundred gold coins to afford to buy the medicine? However, it wasn't like we could've bought it even if we had enough funds since it wasn't available in the city. So, in the end, we could only return to our town and suffer from this sickness."

"We know you've a good background and must not lack money, but after so many years, it's no longer possible to cure us." The old man sighed. It wasn't that they didn't want to live, but it was just that they had no hope left and had come to terms with it.

Max nodded. He now knew that they were suffering from a poison. After a moment, he looked at them and smiled, "Elders, you don't have to worry anymore."

"Hmm?" The old couple raised their brows. They didn't understand what he meant.

"Please excuse me for a minute." Max didn't explain anything and walked out of the room.

He then opened his system shop.

"It should be here, right?" He muttered to himself as he scrolled down.

A moment later, he found what he was looking for.

[Venom Antidote]

§ Counters all mortal ranked poisons without any side effects.

§ Unlock Price: 15,000 Lust points.

Seeing the price, he felt his heart ache, but the lives of his woman's parents were much more important than 15,000 LPs which he could earn anytime he wanted.

Click!

He clicked on unlock and a small crystal bottle filled with a dark green substance appeared in his inventory.

[Lust points: 4,000]

"It's alright. I can earn them back." He consoled himself and returned to the room.

Maria's parents looked at him without saying anything.

However, their hearts were starting to beat a bit faster. Why would he say that they didn't need to worry anymore after hearing about their condition and walk out? Could it be that he has medicine that can heal us?

As this notion appeared in their mind, they shook their heads and stopped thinking about it. They didn't want to give themselves any false hope.

Max sat down in front of them. With a wave of hand, he took out the small crystal bottle and smiled, "Elders, if you believe me, please drink this. After you drink this, you will be completely fine."

Their emotions stirred when they heard this, but a moment later, they looked at each and shook their heads, "We are grateful that young sir care for us so much, but you don't have to waste your medicine on us. It can't help us and will only worsen our conditions."

Max frowned. This old couple has completely given up any hope. Suddenly, an idea popped up in his mind. He put on an angry expression and said, "What? Do you think I'll harm my woman's parents?"

"No... we don't mean that..." The old couple tried to explain, but Max cut them off.

"If you don't drink this, I'll sever my relationship with Maria. I just hope this doesn't break her heart." Max said with a dark expression. Since the request wasn't working, he decided to use threats.

Just as he expected, the old couple immediately revealed fearful expressions. A moment later, they sighed and thought, 'Since we are going to die anyway, it doesn't matter if it's a bit sooner.'

They looked at Max and nodded. "We'll drink it. But young sir, if we this medicine doesn't work and we happen to die, please take care of our daughter."

"Don't worry. I will." Max nodded with a stony expression and gave them the antidote bottle. "Drink half and half."

Chapter 340: Helping out in-laws

The old man nodded and drank half of it without wasting any time. However, he didn't give the rest to his wife.

He glanced at Max and asked, "Young sir, now that I've drunk it, can we not give this to her until we know whether it's effective or not?"

Before Max could say anything, the old woman angrily said, "What? You want to leave alone? Give that to me."

The old looked at her with a tender gaze and smiled, "My dear, if something were to happen to me, Maria would have you at least for one more year and won't give in to despair. So, I won't give it to you."

Tears welled up in her eyes when she heard this and gently berated, "You stupid old man, you should've let me drink it if this was the case. Why would you act so selfish?"

...

'Such pure love!' Max sighed in his heart when he saw them bickering like that.

He smiled lightly and said, "Elders, you don't have to worry. This is a high-quality medicine. It can cure you of your illness with no side effects. If you still don't believe me, just wait for a few seconds, you'll know."

Hearing this, the old man smiled and said to his wife, "Do you hear what young sir is saying? We just have to wait a few moments. If nothing goes wrong, I'll let you drink it."

"You...!" The old woman wasn't resigned, but it was as if Max's confidence was contagious, she felt a little assured in her heart and didn't continue arguing.

But despite that, her murky eyes, which stared at her husband without blinking, revealed her inner turmoil.

As they waited, time slowly passed.

30 seconds... One minutes.... Five minutes...

"Argh!" After five minutes, the old man suddenly let out a pained cry and flopped on the wooden bed.

"Are you alright? What happened? Cough! Cough!" The old woman's face went pale seeing her husband cry and convulsed in pain.

She glared at Max and shouted, "See what you've done! We told cough! We told you that taking medicine would kill us."

As she started shouting, Max kept a calm face, and his gaze focused on the old man.

Although it looked as if he was going to die at any moment, Max knew it was only because the antidote was killing the poison that had integrated with their cells. So, it was obvious he would feel excruciating pain in the process.

"Father!" Suddenly, Maria's cry sounded from the other room. She came running and was about to hold his father but Max stopped her.

Maria's eyes were red as she watched her father writhe in extreme pain.

She glanced at Max and urgently shouted, "What happened? What happened to my father?"

Max didn't answer her. He held her tightly in his arms and prevent her from looking at her father since that would only make her feel worse. However, his pained cried still reached her ears, which kept gnawing at her heart. She tried her best to struggle free and run up to her father but couldn't. She was like a trapped bird in a cage in his arms and could only sob in his chest.

Rima, Belen and others also came out and, seeing Maria's father in that state, they frowned, not understanding what was happening.

"B-Big sister, what is happening to that grandpa?" Little Arya worriedly asked.

Swoosh!

Rima waved her hand. Her sound elemental Mana surged out and formed a barrier around little Arya, blocking all the sounds from outside.

After she started practicing [Sonic Echo], her mastery over the sound element increased significantly. She could now manipulate her elemental Mana to do some small things such as sound proofing a small area.

After blocking all the sounds, she stepped in front of her, also blocking her vision.

Although little Arya had seen much cruelty and bloodshed in the dark mages' lair, she was still a child. So, Rima instinctively wanted to prevent her from witnessing this painful scene.

However, how would she have expected that little Arya wouldn't obediently stay behind her and would dash toward the old man instead?

She sat on her knees and pressed her tiny hands on his forehead.

Whoosh!

A gentle green light enveloped her body, which then travelled from her hands to the old man's forehead.

A while later, the old man's cries gradually calmed down, and his body wasn't twitching as violently as before.

This surprised Max and the company quite a lot. Although they already knew little Arya could heal injuries with her halo, they never expected she could also lessen the pain, too.

Seeing her husband had stopped crying, Maria's mother also calmed down. She threw a grateful look at little Arya and looked at her husband's face. To her immense surprise, she noticed his face looked slightly healthier than before.

Suddenly, her heart jumped in excitement and she mumbled in disbelief, "He... he is... healing?"

"Healing?" Maria heard her mother, and she also stopped crying. Raising her head, she looked at Max, her limpid eyes flashed with much excitement and anticipation as she asked, "My... my lord, h-have you given some medicine to my father? Is that why he is in that state?"

"Yes." Max lightly smiled and nodded. "He is in so much pain because the medicine is working. So, don't worry. He will be completely fine after a while."

Saying this, he gently wiped her tears.

Maria's face blossomed with a beautiful smile, and she tightly hugged him. With her head resting on his chest, she said in a low voice, "Thank you."

Max shook his head and tightened his hold around her delicate body and laughed lightly, "You silly girl. You are my woman. So, it's only natural that I take care of my in-laws."

Maria trembled slightly when she heard this, and warmth surged in her heart.

"Mm. Thank you."

When Rima, Belen and Leticia saw them embracing each other, they smiled. There was no hint of envy on their faces.

When Maria's mother saw her daughter curled up in his arms, she felt happy for her. At the same time, she felt guilty that she shouted at him and didn't believe him.

She glanced at her husband and, seeing that his condition had stabilized now, she sighed in relief.

She then turned her gaze toward Max and Maria and coughed lightly, "Cough! Little Maria, would you mind letting him go for a moment? I need to speak to him."

"Ah~" Hearing this, Maria let out a low cry and jumped away from him like a frightened cat and her face flushed red in embarrassment.

Seeing her act so bashfully, her mother smiled. She slowly stood up from the bed and bowed toward Max. "Thank you, young sir. We will never forget your great kindness, and I apologize for not believing you and shouting at you."

Max hurriedly walked up to her and helped her up and respectfully said, "Please don't bow to me, elder. I should be the one to do it. As for helping you, it's only natural since we are relatives from now on and it's my responsibility to take care of you guys."

Seeing him behave so humbly, she nodded her head, a gratified and happy expression on her face as she said, "With such a good man taking caring of my daughter, I won't worry even if I were to die right now."

Note

I've set weekly, Monthly and Gift Bonus chapter goals. (Check Author's note) Please help me complete them so I've enough motivation to pump out more chapters for you. Enjoy~