S vs Rebirth 791

Chapter 791 Closer

"Alright..." Noel opened his eyes and said, "I have finished treating all the severed veins. I have tried going around your entire body and there doesn't seem to be anything missing. The conditions of your entire body are more or less fine, but the part around your Spirit Veins is critical. So, I will continue treating those gradually. For now, how do you feel?"

Anna looked down for a moment before releasing her Spiritual Energy. The surge of energy was so strong that it released a small shock wave.

"..." Noel furrowed his eyebrows. Even he could feel the difference. To think that just repairing the severed veins changed her this much. With his current sensitivity, he could notice there was about a ten percent difference.

So, if he did this again after the holes in her veins had been patched up, she would have an additional twenty to thirty percent increase.

Even though Noel was healing her, he couldn't help but feel challenged. It seemed that Anna had been holding back due to her injury this whole time. If they fought again, he didn't know if he could win against her.

'Tsk. I'm not going to lose.' Noel muttered inwardly before saying, "I think it's better than before."

"Yeah..." Anna looked down in shock. "I have never thought that my injuries could be healed like this. In fact, I originally thought that I would need around six months to recover after becoming a Spirit Grandmaster."

Noel would definitely catch up or even surpass her during that period. However, it seemed that fate had prepared a present for her.

"I wonder how you want me to pay you?" Anna smirked, teasing him. "Money? Status? Influence?"

Noel snorted. "I don't need them. Just think of this as me settling my debt. With this, I don't owe you anymore."

"..." Anna couldn't help but scratch the back of her head when he said those words. This was the only thing she couldn't comment on. "In any case, I'm grateful for your help."

"Yeah, yeah. Since we have some time, let's continue practicing. We'll go with the schedule starting from tomorrow."

"Alright." Anna smiled and rose from the bed.

Noel also got off the bed, but when he fully stood up, his consciousness shook and his body trembled. Before he knew it, his body had started falling. "Eh?"

"!!!" Anna caught him out of reflex and panicked. "Eh? What happened to you?"

"That's..." Noel didn't know what was happening as well.

"It seems that you're exhausted." Old Ru's voice suddenly echoed from the entrance.

"Old Ru?" Anna looked at him, concerned about Noel's condition.

"Force Control is taking a toll on his mind because his consciousness needs to support him in sensing the damage and everything inside your body. Just let him rest for a moment and he will be fine," said Old Ru before going away. It seemed that the situation wasn't that concerning.

"Is that so?" Anna frowned. She didn't think that Noel would endure the exhaustion in order to heal her. He had been healing her for the last three days.

Now that Old Ru mentioned Noel's exhaustion, she remembered that during the last two nights, Noel ended up going to sleep right after treating her.

He always put up a tough front, so she didn't realize it. It turned out the reason was exhaustion.

When Anna glanced at Noel, he had actually fallen asleep.

"I don't know what to say..." Anna made a wry smile, feeling moved by his action. Just like her, he had been enduring things. "What am I going to do with you?"

Anna gently put Noel on the bed. There was no sweat or anything on his body as a sign of exhaustion. Even his face didn't become pale in the slightest.

Looking at his sleeping face couldn't help but put a smile on her face. Noel looked vulnerable, yet, after doing so much for her, the lingering feeling warmed her heart.

She subconsciously reached out for his head and pushed the hair that covered his eyes. "This time, I'm the one taking care of you. Rest up, Noel."

It seemed that Dimitri was aware of their movement the whole time. It only took him five minutes before entering the room with a basket of water as well as a towel.

"Huh?" Anna was startled.

Dimitri only put down the basket on the table and said, "He might get sick if he doesn't take care of his body properly. At the very least, wiping his body and changing his clothes can make him more comfortable." I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

After saying those words, Dimitri hurriedly left as if he was trying to force Anna to deal with the rest.

"..." Anna was completely speechless. "What's wrong with the butler of the Ardagan Family."

Though, it did seem that she had no choice. She was the one who caused him like this after all.

...

The next morning.

"Mhm?" Noel gradually opened his eyes and remembered how he fell unconscious. "Ah?!"

Noel hurriedly pulled up his body and realized that he was on the bed with Anna still sleeping next to him.

It was still dark outside, but Noel knew that it was about to brighten a bit later.

"To think that the exhaustion caused me to fall unconscious... No, more like... I became too sleepy to even lift up my eyelids." Noel sighed.

Noel couldn't help but notice that his clothes had changed and there was a basket of water on the side.

There was only one person inside this room.

"Don't tell me..." Noel scratched the back of his head. While looking at Anna's back, he remembered the time they met. At that time, the anger in his heart swelled up to the point where he had a hard time making a rational decision.

Yet, slowly but surely, the hatred disappeared. And currently, she was considered one of the people he could trust the most. She even dared to sacrifice her life for him and vice versa.

"To think that hatred has now gone... I don't know what to say anymore... I wonder if everything will be different if there is no such misunderstanding. Maybe we would have gotten closer."

"Should I hit my parents for this? While I do appreciate that they have prepared everything for me to tackle the problems, they should at least tell me about it so that I can prepare. But I guess... because of it, Anna can be beside me now."

"The alternate life, huh... In that life, I was supposed to hate and bully her all the time, right? I wondered what I was thinking. No. I think that's what was supposed to happen if not for the fact that Anna abruptly changed and intruded on my life."

"I guess I now don't feel bad about it. Thanks to her, I can become like this. Thanks, Anna." Noel made a genuine smile before deciding to leave the bed and prepare for today's training.

Unbeknownst to him, Anna had actually woken up. This might be the first time she heard Noel's genuine feelings about her. Her face was red, but the smile on her face expressed her feelings fully.

...

Now that everything had been arranged, Noel and Anna could continue working hard like normal. Although there was no mention of what happened that morning, they seemed to become a bit closer.

Noel focused on his Force Control training and continued treating Anna. On the other hand, Anna slowed down her pace to get insight from Noel about the Force Control.

Noel had no intention of spreading this ability as it would be too dangerous. It could fit as Ardagan Family's secret ability, but that was about it.

Even Anna didn't ask him to teach her the Force Control, fully knowing how dangerous it was.

They spent the remaining days on three things. First, they hunted the demons nearby and gathered a lot of Demon Crystals and continued absorbing them. They could feel that they were approaching the last barrier of a Spirit Master.

Secondly, they continued mastering the new abilities. Anna had a lot of things she wanted to try now that she learned this ability. She combined her experience from her previous life with this ability and either evolved the abilities or made them anew.

pandasnovel.com On the other hand, Noel focused on Force Control since it was a powerful ability. If he had to face the Serpent with the rest of the Demon Relief Squad, he could confidently tell them to face them head-on because he would dispel the poison for them later.

Last but not least, Noel was advancing his mastery in rune while Anna had a breakthrough in her Spirit Link. She also mentioned the pill that could help his spirit to transform. It came from the pill that Noel had given her previously. She promised to take him to that person to retrieve the pill once they went back.

Dimitri, Damian, and Nicole had done a lot in the past few months. They might be watching from afar, but they had been taking notes, thinking, and discussing the techniques. Noel and Anna might not reveal the complete technique, but those three should have no problem creating a lesser technique of Old Ru's ability.

Time went by, and the end of the training was approaching.

Chapter 792 Next Course

Noel and the others were standing near the exit. They had finally finished their training and had to leave.

"I hope that you have trained to the level where you won't feel disappointed by your own progress." Old Ru smiled.

"We are extremely thankful for your help, Old Ru." Noel nodded with a serious expression. "Thanks to you, I now have the confidence to tackle the problems I will face in the future."

"Indeed. Besides, we can finally move forward." Anna agreed while glancing at Noel. "This time, we're going to face the problem head-on. There will surely be a lot of bumps ahead, but we're not afraid anymore."



"Unfortunately, no. However, if you want information, you should go to Harley." Dimitri shook his head helplessly.

"I see." Noel thought for a moment before raising four fingers. "I might look foolish by stating this, but there are four things that will happen soon. First, it will be me becoming a noble. Second, there will be news that will shock the entire kingdom."

"Third, the Ardagan Family will be facing a lot of problems after its reinstatement, but please pay no mind to it. Last but not least, the Supreme Devil Organization will make a major movement."

"Mhm?" Damian raised his eyebrows before realizing what Noel meant. "I see. The time limit imposed by my king will be up soon... It seems that you have calculated it."

"Yes. I don't know what you will do afterward, but I can guess some possibilities." Noel nodded. "At the end of the day, I don't plan to have the Greenwood Kingdom as my enemy. No more like, can you tell this to your king..."

"I don't mind having a mutual relationship, but I don't have any plan in joining the Greenwood Kingdom, especially the throne fight."

"..." Damian closed his eyes for a moment. Looking at Noel's ancestry, it was clear that Noel had a shot for the throne. After all, Noel was linked not to the family but to the one that built the kingdom. By giving his words to his king, it should influence the decision that would be made later.

It might look like Noel was talking big, thinking that he was at the level that could suggest such a thing to his king, but the rune made it possible. In addition, he was also a master of a lot of techniques that he didn't know about. It was clear that he would lead the Ardagan Family to its peak if nothing bad happened to him.

Damian nodded. "Alright. I will pass your words to His Majesty."

"Thanks." Noel nodded and turned to Dimitri. "By the way, Dimitri. It seems that we have to kill multiple Superior Demons on the way back."

"Huh? Why? Although I don't mind, we shouldn't recklessly put ourselves in danger." Dimitri frowned. "I'm planning to advance my rune..." Noel smirked. Dimitri might not be an expert in runes, but he still didn't find any link to the Superior Demons. "I'm not sure I follow you in this matter." "What I need is not the Superior Demon Crystal or their bodies. What I need is their blood."I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com "Blood?" Dimitri widened his eyes in surprise. "Yes. What I'm planning to do next is the Rune Body!" Noel smirked while pointing at his body. "Basically, I'm embedding the runes on my own body. Once it's done, I can simply pour my Spiritual Energy to activate the rune instead of drawing it from scratch like how I usually use my rune." "That's..." Damian gasped. "Are you sure it's alright to tell me about it?" "Of course, there are methods to paint the runes on one's body. You can draw the runes as you like, but without the correct method, you won't be able to activate it. Also, because the runes will have to stay, the blood should also mix with something." "..." Damian made a wry smile. It seemed that even if he heard everything about it, without proper experiments that would probably last a few years or even decades, it was impossible to replicate it. So, his only choice was to learn it from Noel.

On the other hand, Dimitri noticed something. "Master. It seems that you're planning to use the blood to paint the rune on your body... And the fact that you ask me to kill Superior Demons means the grade of the blood matters. Is that right?"

"Yeah." Noel nodded. "Is there something wrong?"

"In that case, why do you have to use Superior Demon's blood instead of an Ancient Demon's blood? The blood should be able to conduct Spiritual Energy better!" "Well... is it even possible to acquire one?" Noel sighed. "It's not that I don't want it. I just don't have the option to choose." "Does the freshness matter?" Dimitri asked. "Not really. As long as the blood hasn't coagulated yet, it should work just fine." "In that case, let me handle this matter. I will bring you an Ancient Demon's blood." Dimitri nodded with a serious expression. "You should know that an Ancient Demon is one rank above the Superior Demon. They are equal to a few Spirit Transcendence Level Experts... No more like, they're equal to that Old Ru who is near the peak of Spirit Transcendence Level." "Although I want to procure a Demon King's blood which was above the Ancient Demon's blood, Demon Kings are simply in legend. So, there's no record about them appearing here." "Still, how are you going to get that kind of blood?" Noel asked with a frown. "Did you forget about the one you killed one month after joining the Demon Banner Army?" "Ah?!" Noel dropped his jaw. So many things had happened to the point where he forgot about this.

"Wait a minute, Trees don't have blood... No, no, no... There is one more thing that can be used as blood

"That's how it is..." Dimitri smiled. "The commander must be putting a high contribution point for the

replacement... If we use the tree fibers and sap, it's possible."

"Still, I don't have enough contribution points to exchange it." Noel frowned.

price, so no one should be able to get it for a while."

"Please use your contribution points to create elite soldiers for the Ardagan Family... maybe using runes and purchasing Demon Crystals in bulk with those points. As for the Ancient Demon's parts, I will take care of it." Dimitri smirked while taking out the token he had from the Demon Banner Army. "I was once a commander's candidate and never spent a lot of points for myself. So, I can spend it... If he dares to forget about these contribution points, I'll simply haunt the commander for a bit. It should be fine."

"Now that I think about it, I should visit those kids as well." Noel nodded. "Let's go to the headquarters first before the journey then."

"What headquarters? Did you forget about me?!" Anna glared at him. "You promised to go with me to visit that man. I have prepared a medicine to help your spirit, you know!"

"Of course, we can go to that place first. And I think you should follow me. I will teach you about the method, so you can paint the runes on my body. In addition, Dimitri should be able to purchase enough for two people. So, I will do the same... if you don't mind." Noel looked away, indirectly mentioning that he would have to see her body for that.

Anna blushed before angrily speaking, "If you're the only one, then I can't reject it. Having runes on my body should improve my safety and combat prowess after all. Besides, you're using an Ancient Demon's materials... so I feel like I owe you."

"You don't have to worry about that. I need your help after you become an Arbiter." Noel smirked.

"Well, fine. Let's settle it that way."

Nicole didn't know what to say. Anna actually said that she didn't mind Noel seeing her naked body? Their relationship was already beyond what friends would have.

'Don't tell me... These two are going to... Maybe I should tell Master about it?" Nicole had no jurisdiction over this, so she could only tell the current head of the Stargaze Family regarding this matter.

After finishing their discussion, the group finally sped up, planning to reach their home within a month.

Chapter 793 Alchemist

"Ahh... We're finally back!" Anna shouted while stretching her hands up.

pandasnovel com "Please be mindful of your conduct. I didn't say much because we were outside the border, but now, you've returned as a noble daughter." Nicole coughed, reprimanding Anna.

"Eh?" Anna looked annoyed. It seemed that she had become comfortable with the free lifestyle, where she didn't have to be mindful of her image.

They had returned to the Muivell Kingdom. The return trip might be as challenging, but Anna and Noel had grown so much that they could easily go through multiple Superior Demon nests instead of avoiding them.

This was the result of their training, considering Noel and Anna could defeat a Superior Demon on their own.

"Mr. Noel." Damian suddenly spoke up with an extremely polite tone.

"Hmm?" Noel observed his expression for a moment before realizing why he did this. Noel straightened his back and said, "Yes?"

"It's been a pleasure to accompany you." Damian bowed. "It was a great experience that I would never get had I chosen to remain in the kingdom. I even earned a lot from the trip."

"There was an agreement between us. You don't have to think you owe me something." Noel smiled.

"Thank you very much. Then, I will return to the Greenwood Kingdom to report to my kingdom. While I don't think there is a possibility of this happening, I still wish that the next time we meet, it won't be as enemies."

"I sincerely wish the same. If you happen to meet my grandfather, Rainhart Ezenholm, please tell him that I'm alright."

"Of course. He might be the one dragging me to get information about you." Damian chuckled.

Since the terms of the agreement had finished, Damian became extremely polite, treating Noel as the ambassador of the Muivell Kingdom.

"Then... I hope that everyone stays healthy." Damian bowed to the rest before leaving the group.

Since Damian had gone, it was time for Nicole to leave the group as well.

"I have to return to report this matter to the family head. I need to inform him that everyone has returned safely." Nicole nodded.

"Yeah. I still have things to do. Tell him that I'm planning to become an Arbiter soon..." Anna smirked. "I hope you don't mind passing you, Nicole."

"Of course. Your strength is beyond what a Spirit Master can do. I will definitely tell the family head regarding your performance. He should begin preparing for your advancement."

Anna nodded.

Before leaving, Nicole walked to Noel and bowed to him politely. "Young Master Noel... My young miss must be a handful, but please take care of her."

"I understand." Noel agreed without hesitation.

"Wait a minute. What did you mean I'm a handful? I have been the one taking care of him, right?" Anna complained while Noel snorted. "Really?"

Nicole could only smile when she saw their bickering. They always clashed in every little thing after all, but that was probably what made the trip more enjoyable. It definitely dampened the heavy mood during the trip.
When her gaze met Dimitri's, they seemed to come to a tacit agreement regarding their relationship.
So, they smiled at each other before Nicole left the group.
Cough!
Dimitri let out a cough to get their attention.
"Ah, right!" Noel nodded in understanding. "We should go to the so-called alchemist who could make the pill that improved the spirit."
"Let's go then." Anna agreed even though she still had a lot of things to say to him.
"Master. You two can go at your pace. I will follow you from far away so as to not disturb you like usual." Dimitri didn't wait for Noel's answer before disappearing. Even though he worded like he simply wanted to return to his usual work, it didn't change the fact that Dimitri didn't want to become the third wheel. So, he left them.
"" Noel and Anna exchanged looks.
"Tell me about that person on the way," Noel said while turning around.I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com
"Sure. I'll also fulfill my promise." Anna reminded him of the promise of telling him about the experience in the alternate world.

They immediately headed to the aforementioned person on foot as usual. They kept up at a high speed while talking.

"So, this person is called Khalid Mahmud. He is the former Royal Alchemist of the Zaecuria Kingdom."

"Zaecuria Kingdom? Isn't that the kingdom south of the Greenwood Kingdom?"

"Yeah. Unlike the Muivell Kingdom, which has the Tower Association, the Zaecuria Kingdom has a famous job called Alchemist. Due to their unique territory, the people over there are experimenting with things a lot. While it looks similar to the Tower Association, their aim is different. In any case, he's good at making medicine."

"What kind of medicine are you talking about? You said that the medicine could help my spirit, but I don't know what effect the medicine has."

Anna smirked. "Alchemist Khalid's name shook the world in that alternate world. He managed to create a drug that could awaken the spirit forcefully. However, it was limited to those who had discovered their spirits."

"Huh?" Noel tilted his head in confusion because Anna just said two contradictory things.

"Yes. The medicine is called the Awakening Pill. It is a drug that stimulates the Spirit's potential. If you don't have a Spirit Link, it can form a pseudo Spirit Link. If you have a Spirit Link, it will reinforce the Spirit Link, specifically the veins."

Noel raised his eyebrows, feeling amused by the pill's information.

"I didn't know how he got it, but he actually managed to get the pill from the previous civilization that aided him in this discovery. It looked like he was a free man, but I wasn't so sure about it."

"Are you saying that there was someone providing the pill to him?" Noel frowned, contemplating. "The only ones that could get the pills or put them in the black markets for someone like Khalid could get them... Don't tell me, the Third Prince?"

"Mhm?" It was Anna's turn to be confused.

"If you look at his conduct, it's something that the Third Prince would do. By the way, how were the pills distributed in that world? Did the entire kingdom get it? How about the other kingdoms? The Supreme Devil Organization?"

"Now that I think about it..." Anna fell silent, recalling the memories. It seemed that her decision to tell about her experience with Noel wasn't wrong. He managed to see all the details that she never thought about. "I'm not sure about the other kingdoms, but the Royal Family and the Supreme Devil Organization definitely got it. It caused such a huge disturbance that the Demon Banner Army had to get it as well."

"I see..." Noel frowned. "The Third Prince is also a member of the Royal Family. Even though there is hatred between them, he might still negotiate with them. There are lots of benefits he could get by using the pills as leverage. And we have suspected that there is a connection between the royal family and the Supreme Devil Organization. So, it's not weird to see them have the pills."

"So, are you assuming that the Third Prince, the Royal Family, and the Supreme Devil Organization are connected with the Royal Family as the middleman?" Anna asked.

"The Third Prince is a big figure as well, so there's a chance that all of them are connected to each other." Noel shook his head helplessly. "The Third Prince asked for the map, so that must be where he got the goods."

"I have told Khalid that in exchange for the pills, he needed to become our allies."

"Allies, huh?" Noel thought this was a bit troublesome. After all, the other party was a Royal Alchemist. If the Third Prince made contact with him, it was clear who would win.

"Did I mess up?"

"Not really." Noel raised two fingers. "We have two problems. First, how to convince that person to stay as our ally? Second, how to deal with all those three giant powerhouses."

"The second problem can wait until we become a Spirit Grandmaster, right?"
"Yeah. Then, how about the first one? I need more information about the alternate world that I could somehow use to do this."
"I will tell you as much as I can. Though, most of them are irrelevant because so many things have changed."
"I know."
Anna began retelling the story of her previous life. There were parts that she didn't say, either because it was irrelevant or because it was still too private for Noel to know.
Of course, she only mentioned how both of them clashed with each other. She didn't say a single thing about how Noel bullied her or how she massacred a lot of innocent people.
As much as she wanted to tell everything, there were things that were better not to be said. It would affect their relationship for the worse after all.
Noel asked for a lot of details about the information, albeit Anna couldn't answer everything because she wasn't that adept at information. In fact, that might be the reason why Noel called her naive and ignorant. Despite that, Noel actually gave her the chance to regress. In other words, there was something that she could bring in this timeline something that only she could bring. So, until she found it, she would stick to Noel.
Chapter 794 Persuading Khalid

Noel and Anna were sitting in front of a middle-aged man. The man had a pale face and huge black bags

It seemed that he hadn't slept for a few days.

under his eyes.

"It's been a while, Miss Anna Stargaze." The man made a small smile, greeting her. "I wonder if this man is the one you mentioned before?"

Anna nodded politely. "That's right. Sir Khalid, let me introduce him to you... He is Ia—"

"Please. Before you speak his name, I don't want someone who hides his identity."

pandasnovel.com "Mhm?" Anna frowned.

Khalid's face remained calm as he explained the reason. "You asked for my cooperation before. Yet, you came with a disguise. It looks so shady... I don't plan to cooperate with someone who can't meet me face-to-face. I apologize, but if you're not going to show your true face, hair, and eyes... I won't continue."

"You..." Anna clicked her tongue. Noel's identity was sensitive, but before she could complain, Noel waved his hand, stopping her. Anna instantly understood what he wanted to do. "You are going to reveal your identity?"

"It will be revealed sooner or later." Noel shook his head helplessly. "But if you don't mind, I want to know how you'd find out that I have changed those features..."

"As an alchemist, we're working on a characteristic of everything, including the effect on Spiritual Energy to them. So, I'm extremely sensitive to the flow of Spiritual Energy. From what I can see, there is an energy intertwining with the natural flow of your Spiritual Energy around those areas... So, I'm assuming that they have been disguised."

"I see." Noel nodded. He contemplated for a moment before his hand reached for the masquerade.

Anna widened her eyes, never expecting Noel to show his identity to this person.

The moment he separated the masquerade from his face, his hair began to turn black. His eyes were covered by his hands, but it was clear that the energy that interrupted the natural flow had gone, revealing his true eyes.

Khalid couldn't contain his smile. "Oohhhh..."

Even he wouldn't be able to predict that the one who was sitting in front of him was Noel.

"Do I need to introduce myself?" Noel asked after observing his expression.

"No, you don't have to. Black hair and black eyes... coupled with the need to hide your identity, I don't think you need to introduce yourself anymore, Noel Ardagan." Khalid smirked. "While I'm hiding in my humble store, I still follow the news around the kingdom. Though, what surprises me the most is the fact that you can actually sit down next to Anna Stargaze."

Noel smiled back as if he had found no problem in his statement. "Is that not possible?"

"Not at all." Khalid realized that there might be more to this matter. "I see. So, the one providing me with the pills are you..."

"I simply gave Anna the pills she wanted. That's all." Noel shook his head.

Khalid fell into deep thought and took out a bottle of pills, saying, "This is a bottle of Spirit Awakening Pill. I will give this to you. The situation is messier than I originally thought... And unfortunately, I don't see any future within you. If you think you can fight against the Royal Family, then I can only say that it's hopeless. I won't be following you to your death."

Noel and Anna had expected something like this. Despite the rejection, they remained calm.

"What's wrong? You're not surprised by this?" Khalid asked with a frown. "Of course, I'm grateful that I can complete these pills with your help. I might repay you in another way, but not in a way where I will be dragged into this mess."

Noel smiled. "I don't think it will be that easy to convince you. However, I've noticed that it's also not impossible."

"What do you mean?" Khalid squinted his eyes, observing Noel.

"You refused the cooperation because you couldn't see any future within us... or more like me?"

"Yes," Khalid admitted without hesitation. "I was amazed when I heard about the rune books, it would surely bring you a lot of benefits. However, that was all. Once the benefits ran out, there would only be a series of misfortunes."

"Are you sure that's all?" Noel smirked. I think you should take a look at pandasnovel.com

"If you have any other cards, then please show me. Maybe you can convince me..." Khalid wasn't afraid of Noel.

The moment he finished his words, a shadow emerged from behind him.

"!!!" Khalid widened his eyes and raised his right hand out of reflex. To his surprise, there was a blade right before his neck. If not for his hand, the blade would definitely cut him. He sucked a cold breath and asked, "Is this a threat?"

"Not at all. Like you said, I'm merely showing you my card." Noel shook his head nonchalantly.

Khalid took a deep breath. He obviously was shocked to know that there would be an expert of this level. If this person decided to kill him, he wouldn't be able to survive.

"While I'm surprised that you have an expert like him, I don't think it's enough." Khalid shook his head. "The Royal Family has arbiters. In fact, that little miss's father is also an Arbiter, right? While you are acting like this, won't it change if the king sends him to kill you?"

Noel obviously had taken this into consideration. The king could pressure the Stargaze Family to destroy the Ardagan Family once again unless he wanted to be branded as a traitor.

"I know. That's why I'm going to be an Arbiter as well." Anna suddenly stepped forward.

"Huh?" Khalid frowned. "I could understand that with your talent, becoming an Arbiter is just a matter of time. However, you have to consider the fact that the royal family will be able to force you to choose between your family or his life."

"You don't have to worry about that." Anna raised one finger. "With your brain, why haven't you seen the reason why I'm sitting with him right now?"

"Huh?" Khalid became confused. He covered his eyes and started recalling all the information he had. He muttered inwardly, 'Now that I think about it, why does she sit with him like this? From the way she worded it, it seems that they are allies.'

'However, I have mentioned how the royal family can force her to choose between her family and his life. If she chooses the former, she will have to hunt him down. If she chooses the latter, she will be expelled from the family. A dead genius is nothing but a corpse. So, she must be aware of this.'

'The reason for her confidence is...' Khalid paused for a moment, thinking about something that was so ridiculous that he thought it was impossible. Yet, because she was sitting with Noel here, that image could actually come to life. 'Don't tell me... The Ardagan Family and the Stargaze Family have been in cahoots the whole time.'

'Ah, right? The Stargaze Family has a successor... So, the reason they are so confident is... Don't tell me, they are planning to join the two families together. But Anna Stargaze was supposed to be the cause of the downfall of the Ardagan Family, right?'

'What if it was just a scheme? They fooled the royal family... and with these two... Ah, the two families were planning to marry these two from the beginning.'

'If that's the case, they should have taken over a portion of the influence the royal family has... Once this matter is revealed, the royal family will suddenly lose a portion of their power, which will cause the balance to be tipped over.'

Khalid didn't realize that he was misunderstanding things too much. Anna just wanted him to know that the Stargaze Family and the Ardagan Family were friends and everything wasn't like what was shown on the surface. It wasn't related to their individual relationship.

However, Khalid took it to the extreme and laughed. "Hahahaha! To think that would be the case... It seems that I have underestimated the situation."

Anna tilted her head, feeling that Khalid's reaction was a bit too much. She didn't know what happened to him, but it seemed that their plan had succeeded.

"Please, humor me with this one question. How far are you planning to go?"

"I don't know," Noel answered without hesitation. "How do I know my limit without trying my best? Only on my deathbed can I know how far I can go!"

"Hahaha, you're more interesting than I originally thought." Khalid laughed out loud. "I have a condition."

"Please say it."

"If I have to work, then I will be under the Stargaze Family. But once you surpass that level, I will work for the Ardagan Family. What do you think?" Khalid was setting a safe cushion for himself. If the plan didn't work in the end, the Stargaze Family would just eliminate Noel. And Khalid would save himself by siding with the Stargaze Family instead of dying together with the Ardagan Family.

"I don't mind. Though, I don't think you will be able to stay with them for so long."

"In that case, let me see how the Ardagan Family rises from now on."

Chapter 795 Next Journey

"It seems that everything is going well." Dimitri said while asking, "But are you so sure that he won't take back his words?"
"Well, I will be convincing them, but I'm not going to force people to join. After all, the current state of the Ardagan Family is very clear. Only those who are willing and endure hardship with me can be fully trusted." Noel shook his head helplessly.
"So, it doesn't matter if he joins or not?"
"It's true that I want him to join, but if he doesn't, as long as he remains neutral, I won't have any reason to harm him or whatsoever." Noel glanced at Anna. "So, what will you do now?"
"I will probably go to my last mission and advance to Platinum Rank. Since Nicole reports the situation to my father, he will probably prepare the challenge like blackmailing someone to accept it. Though, I'm pretty sure that I will be fighting that traitor." Anna's expression turned cold, reminding him about the arbiter that joined hands with the Supreme Devil Organization.
"His position should be unstable right now, so I think it's good to strike him." Noel agreed.
"How about you?"
"You told me various information before. While I don't want some information, it's true that I have gotten a clear image of my destination. For now, I will go back to the Demon Relief Squad and ask Captain Clara to go alone. Then, I'll probably head to the headquarters to get everything."
"In that case, I'll choose a mission near the headquarters, so we can meet again."
"Yeah. I can't help you with your mission though."
"It's fine. Then, you're going to another kingdom after that?"

"I think?" Noel thought for a moment. "I could use the Rune Body to form a group of elite soldiers for the Ardagan Family. But I still need people to do that. So, I'll visit Harley to find the remnant of the family to see if I can get some people back. Then, I'll leave this kingdom probably visiting the Greenwood Kingdom on the way back to make my movement unpredictable."
"That sounds good enough. Right now, you have disappeared for a few months, so people won't know where you are." Anna nodded in agreement. "In that case, we shall meet again in the Demon Banner Army Headquarters."
"Yeah." Noel nodded.
"In any case, take this." Anna gave the bottle that Khalid had given earlier.
"How about you?"
"I have taken a few for the people close to me." Anna winked while lifting the bottle, showing the bottle wasn't filled to the brim like earlier.
"Alright then." Noel nodded. "Be careful, will you?"
"You too."
With this, Noel and Anna went separate ways for a while.
Anna was planning to return to the Inquisitor Headquarters to receive the advancement mission. Meanwhile, Noel wanted to get Clara's permission to leave the group.
But as he expected, the moment he mentioned it, Clara immediately said, "No!"

Currently, Noel was standing in front of Clara.

She already had an annoyed face before the meeting. It seemed that a lot had happened in the last few months.

"To think this is the first thing you say after returning here." Clara covered her eyes. "Do you know what happened during the time you left?"

"No. I haven't inquired about it yet. Other than checking the others, I immediately went to you." Noel shook his head.

"Then, I'll tell you about this." Clara took out a map. There were four big circles in the Muivell Kingdom. The blue circle was located in the north. "This circle is the Demon Banner Army. As for this one..."

Clara pointed at the red circle that was located next to the blue circle and seemed to be intertwining with each other. "This one is the Supreme Devil Organization. In the past few months, we experienced a lot of conflicts, small and big."

"Two of our Captains had died due to their plan."

"What?!" Noel widened his eyes in shock. "Two of them?"

"Yeah. The Demon Spear's Captain Yatan and the Demon Recovery Squad's Captain August. Both of them have passed away due to the scheme of the Supreme Devil Organization. Of course, we have fought back as well. We have killed one Devil Saint and a lot of Devil Bishops. The commander and the only Spirit Transcendence Devil Saint had fought a few times. Currently, both of them are injured quite heavily."

"However, we've heard a rumor about the Supreme Devil Organization raising Laufey Ardagan's strength in order to become the second Spirit Transcendence." I think you should take a look at $\rho\alpha\Pi$ d α snovel.com

"!!!" Noel gasped. "Are you saying..."

"The moment he becomes the second Transcendence, the balance would be tipped over. So, I can't accept your request."
"Still, don't you think this is a perfect opportunity for all of us?" Noel asked.
"What opportunity?"
"Laufey's target is me. If I leave the kingdom, his aim will be directed to the other kingdom. It will definitely cause a lot of confusion in the Supreme Devil Organization. During that time, the Demon Banner Army can recover its strength for a bit."
"Are you saying you're planning to become the bait?"
"Won't it be perfect?" Noel asked. "Besides, I'm planning to erase my presence during my visit, so they won't be able to catch me."
"Are you serious? Do you know what will happen to you the moment they find you?"
"Yes." Noel nodded. "In the end, I'm planning to use the Demon Banner Army to rebuild my family. Since I don't want to leave any debts behind, it's not wrong for the army to use me to recover their strength. So, I think this is a fair trade."
Clara gritted her teeth. There were a lot of things that made her angry, but she never thought Noel would choose to become bait.
"Even if you don't do it, I can simply spread the information with my own method. So, I only need your approval to leave alone."
"How about Rose? Are you going to abandon her?"

"If she still wishes to follow me, then I'm not going to abandon her. However, the situation has turned for the worse, so we will have to see if she has a change of heart." "..." Clara was rubbing her forehead frantically as though she had a headache thinking about this matter. "One last question. If you satisfy me with your answer, I will grant you my permission." "Alright." Noel agreed without hesitation. "How are you planning to become a noble? Are you planning to defeat Paul?" Obviously, the best way to become a noble was to become a Vice Captain or a Captain. Even the Royal Family couldn't refuse that matter. So, he had to defeat Paul, if not her, to become a noble. However, Noel smiled and whispered his plans to her. Clara was dumbstruck, never expecting such a possibility. It seemed that Noel had been preparing for that the whole time. This way, he could leave without damaging the Demon Relief Squad too much. "You are insane; you know that?" "I know. But if I don't go this far in this chaotic situation, I will be swallowed alive. I refuse to die that easily." Clara contemplated for a few minutes before saying, "Alright. I'll grant you the permission to leave. However, on one condition... You have to return within six... no four months." "Four months is a bit too short, but I think I can manage." Noel agreed. "Alright."

"You can meet the others and have them explain the rest of what happened all around the kingdom and retrieve the permission letter from me two days later. It seems that your trip this time gives you a lot of

benefits..." Clara sighed.

"Of course. I'm planning to become a Spirit Grandmaster before becoming a noble after all." Noel nodded and politely bowed. "I'll take my leave then."

After reaching an agreement, Noel went back to meet the Zero Squad. According to Clara, due to the situation, Clara would be the one accompanying them. The Zero Squad was the core of every Demon Squad, so working together with their captain would reduce the possibility of them dying. So, Noel wasn't that worried.

However, the Royal Family seemed to be playing this whole time. Even though they were sending their people to help the army, they didn't seem to take the Supreme Devil Organization seriously.

Anna said that in the Alternate World, there would be a huge fight between all influences in the kingdom. She meant that even the Tower Association would be involved in this big fight, making the situation extremely chaotic. However, this was the exact reason why Noel could reinstate the Ardagan Family.

In addition, he was planning to gather the remnant members of the Ardagan Family. Dimitri said that most of them were like Harley. They had hidden themselves among the common people, but never slacked a single day in honing themselves. They believed that the Ardagan Family would be rebuilt sooner or later.

As the successor of the Ardagan Family, Noel planned to gather them once again. Although the Ardagan Family wouldn't be the same as the one when his father was in the lead, he had his own vision to take this family to the peak.

 $\rho\alpha\Pi d\alpha$ sNovel com After talking a lot with the other members, it was time to leave. Rose was sad that she couldn't follow him on this journey, but she had expressed her intention to follow him to the Ardagan Family, which meant there was no change in her heart.

That was the reason why Noel could leave with a smile on his face. This was a necessary journey and Noel was ready for it.

Chapter 796 Information

The first place they visited was Harley's place. Since they were going to meet the others, it was better to find out about their locations first to see if they could find someone along the way and make a schedule for them.

So, Noel and Dimitri headed to Eternal Flower Brothel, the headquarters of the major brothel brand in the kingdom.

"Well, well, well... I have never thought that you would visit us again, Master." Harley politely bowed to him. Obviously, he had expected him to come back soon for more information, but it wasn't this fast.

"I need your help." Noel nodded while watching Illia pouring tea for both of them.

"I understand. What kind of information do you need?" Harley complied without hesitation.

"..." Noel paused for a moment, feeling a bit doubtful. "That easy?"

"Is that a problem? Seeing that Dimitri is coming with you means that you've been fully acknowledged as the head of the Ardagan Family. In addition, I've sworn to serve you with my life, so is there any problem with me helping you?"

"No, I just thought that you would think a bit more about this. After all, you should have suspected what I'm going to do from now on, especially in this chaotic situation."

"Yes, Sir, I do. You're planning to take advantage of the chaos to rebuild the family. It will definitely endanger us, but that doesn't really matter." Harley politely bowed. "Please give me your order."

Noel felt blessed to have this kind of subordinate. Hence, he didn't hesitate to give the task to show he trusted them. "I want information about the Ardagan Family's scattered vassals."

"Scattered vassals? I see, you're planning to reassemble them... Are you planning to become a noble soon?"

"Yeah. In four to five months, I will become a noble and rebuild the Ardagan Family from scratch."

"Still, you should be aware of the relationship the family has with the royalty, right?"

"I know. There is a chance that they won't even recognize us and refuse to deliver the noble title for whatever reason. However, with the title from the Demon Banner Army as well as a few recommendations from important people, it should be enough."

"That leaves the problem to the territory. The Royal Family knows that if we regain our former territory, there is a huge chance that the Ardagan Family will prosper again. Hence, they will most likely send us to a dangerous but barren area."

"This will be the first hurdle we're going to take care of. However, I will have someone infiltrating the royal family and make them give us a favorable location. So, while it's still dangerous, we can take advantage of the land to rebuild the family."

"I see." Harley looked at Dimitri. It seemed Dimitri was already convinced as well. "I understand. Before I give you the information, do you know what makes a noble territory?"

"The land, the people, and the lord."

"Indeed. Since the royal family will grant us territory, the land problem should be solved. With Dimitri recognizing you, it means that you can become a good lord. So, that leaves the people. Commoners could be found easily, but that leaves the problem with security. Due to the land being a dangerous area, security is important, both on the inside and the outside."

"I know." Noel took out the rune and said, "I'm planning with this."

"Ah, you're the author of the rune book after all. So, I understand... But experts that can use runes have to be trained for a period of time."

"No. There is one more thing that hasn't been known to the public yet. I can paint the rune in their body so that they can use the rune just by pouring their Spiritual Energy. This way, I can make elite soldiers protect the land until we can stabilize ourselves."

"Is that true? A normal person can use runes... If that's the case, security is not a problem. That leaves the development of the land." Harley thought for a moment and asked Illia. "Bring me the kingdom map."

Illia hurriedly fetched the map from the shelf and laid it down on the table so that everyone could see it.

Harley took the pencil on his desk and marked five spots on the map. "These are probably the five destinations you should visit if you want to gather the previous allies. I have investigated all the remnants of the families. Some don't have the intention to rejoin, so I ruled them out in this."

Harley pointed at the first one. "This is the former specialist in farming, which can be our source of food. Her name is Jasmine. She is—"

Before Harley continued, Dimitri stopped him by saying, "You don't have to tell him about her. She has recognized him."

"Ah! As expected of Master..." Harley smiled and continued to the second one. "In that case, you should go to this place. While he is an eccentric person, the fact that you're planning to rebuild the family means that you need him. He is Douglas. I'm sure Dimitri knows him extremely well."

Dimitri's eyebrows twitched. "Well, I can't deny it. Douglas is the one building the city. He creates the city layout so that it can last for a long time. If you want to build the city, then he is someone you should get. However, he is a freak. He won't hesitate to destroy a building if it's not in the right place. The Ardagan Family had to compensate a lot to the people affected by it. Though, I could assure you that he's good."

"While I can amass some funds, I can't raise too much right now due to the limitation of my position." Noel sighed. "Can I even afford him?"

"In that case, how should we procure the funds to build the city?" Harley asked. Noel was the son of the greatest merchant in the kingdom, so he should figure it out.
"I have two ways. The land over there is like a treasure stove, so we can use it to create the necessary funds, but I don't know if they can accept something like that. As for the last one, I have two business plans that can give a lot of profits for a long period of time. The first one is Rune School and the second one is equipment."I think you should take a look at $\rho\alpha\Pi d\alpha$ snovel.com
"By the way, do you know where we're going to stay?"
"I'm trying to push the royal family to this location." Noel pointed at a certain location near the border.
"Seriously? The location is right beside the border. In fact, we might be the border itself at this point. There are two active volcanoes not far away from each other, so small movements from the volcano could cause a massive demon outbreak." Harley frowned.
"Yes. But that's the best place we can go. The demons will allow our soldiers to be strong and I said it before, it's a treasure trove if it's governed well."
"I see" Harley thought for a moment. "In that case, I will handle the third destination for you."
"Who is it?"
"You should know him since he pestered you a lot."
"Ah!" Noel remembered a certain person nagging him to take up the swords all the time when he wanted to just relax. "Vice Captain of the Ardagan Family's garrison, Howard, huh?"
"Yes. He might be a Spirit Master, but coupled with your runes, he can become even stronger. And he is the one in charge of the training."
"But will he come?"

"That's the problem. He is currently hiding as a bandit, biding his time for the revival of the Ardagan Family. If you go there, you might have to fight him. But as I am the master of brothels"
"You can use the women to approach him?"
"Yes."
Noel frowned. "But won't the women be harmed like this?"
"Your thoughts alone are enough. But you don't have to worry, I know how to do it. So, no people shall be harmed. And to look like a bandit, he has been getting a lot of money. In addition to the brothels and your fund, we can use it as the initial fund."
"I see." Noel thought for a moment and asked, "How about the construction of the city? We need a lot of workers. By the time we get to our new home, it should be spring, so it's a good time to start a new life."
"We can use the money to hire workers. Though, Dimitri should handle it."
"Yes, as the butler, I have a lot of connections to the workers. I can pull some people, but" Dimitri looked at Noel, concerned about his safety.
"In that case, you can remain on my side until the Greenwood Kingdom. With my grandfather there, do you think anyone can harm me?"
Dimitri pondered and finally agreed with him. "Alright then."
"As for the fourth and fifth destinations, you could find Balott and Charlotte. Balott was the accountant and Charlotte was your father's previous secretary. They hadn't done much other than spending the money they had, so it was clear that they were waiting for your visit."

"Then..." Noel created a line on the map that passed through the destinations and several others, including the Demon Banner Army Headquarters. "I will travel through this route."

"I see. You're planning to visit the army... wait a minute, isn't this place where a Master Blacksmith resides?" Harley was stunned, never thinking Noel was so ambitious that he planned to invite a Master Blacksmith.

Dimitri smirked and said, "We've gotten his agreement. Besides, his children are setting up a merchant family, so we can use them to bring necessary goods to the area."

"I see. In that case, you only need the people to fill up the town and the construction workers. I can manage the people, but the construction workers... I think I have heard of a new group filled with women. They can do almost everything, including constructing buildings. They are even more efficient because I heard the women can understand each other, leaving no gaps in their movement. I thought they were a former Demon Relief Squad, but they turned out to be commoners."

"Huh?" Dimitri made a wry smile, remembering something. "Does that group consist of nineteen people?"

"Huh? How do you know?" Harley raised his eyebrows. Since he was the one gathering information, there was no way Dimitri and Noel knew about them.

ραΠdαsNovεl com "Master saved them and encouraged them to be like that..."

"..."

Harley was speechless. But looking at how Noel's father saved people during his time, the son should do the same. It seemed that all the pieces required to create a city had been assembled.

Chapter 797 Demon Banner Army

Oscar was sitting in his office as usual. However, he had a lot of bandages covering his body. His inner body was even messier.

"How are you doing?" Milfa knocked on the door, entered, and asked for his condition while bringing his tea.
"It's not too bad," Oscar answered while writing down a few things. "How is the situation outside?"
"We have reached a stalemate for the time being. The Royal Family is maintaining their position while the Tower Association can't move. It seems that they are concerned about the spies among themselves. Currently, the Water Lord is the main investigator in their own rank."
"How long do we need to wait until they join us?"
"Approximately two to three months."
"The situation is not looking good." Oscar looked down, contemplating. "They do know that we're an army against demons, right?"
"Yeah. It's just due to that plant and medicine, the Supreme Devil Organization is using the demons in their attack, causing us to get involved as well."
Oscar covered his eyes, feeling troubled. "How about the other demon squads?"
"The Demon Recovery Squad has chosen their new captain while their Vice Captain remains in his position. On the contrary, the Demon Spear Vice Captain has become the Captain himself. While both new captains aren't as strong as the previous one, they are still quite good. But don't expect too much from them."
"The injured captains?"
"The Demon Hunting Squad remains on their base, defending any attacks. The other three Demon Squads are considering their successor."

Oscar contemplated for a moment and said, "We can't be too aggressive currently."
"But haven't we gained an upper advantage?"
"No. Don't forget that their Supreme Devil has yet to make his appearance. We don't know about his strength or his identity. If we become too complacent, we will be swallowed by the Supreme Devil Organization."
"I see" Milfa nodded in agreement before taking out a letter. "By the way, I think you should see this first."
"A letter? From the Royal Family?"
"No. From Dimitri."
"Huh? Why did that guy send me a letter after all this time?" Oscar frowned while taking the letter.
Milfa remained silent since she hadn't read the content yet.
Oscar paused for a moment before sighing. "I don't know if this is for the worse or the better"
"What's wrong? Did he take advantage of our situation?"
"Yes and no." Oscar handed her the letter so that she could read it herself.
She couldn't help but gasp.
'I'm informing you in advance that I'll be taking a few things from the army's storage. You have no choice but to let me exchange my points or I will haunt the army. However, you should also feel rejoiced because this action gives you another opportunity.'

'I will be heading to a certain place to divert the enemies' location. Just spread the information that Noel Ardagan is moving south. This will divert a portion of their power.'

'In addition, the Ardagan Family will be rebuilt soon, creating another face amidst the chaos. You should know that the Ardagan Family is the enemy of the Royal Family and the Supreme Devil Organization. Its existence will cause another problem to both influences, which you can take advantage of.'

'Hence, it will be in your best interest that you put your recommendation of the Ardagan Family's revival for the ascension ceremony.'

"Is he serious?" Milfa made a wry smile. "I do admit that Laufey's target is his own nephew. And spreading this information will probably make him change his target, but I'm not sure how the entire organization will react."

"Yeah. That will also put that little brat in danger." Oscar paused as though he had realized something. "Unless... he is planning to leave the country."

"Leaving the country? Don't tell me..." Milfa gasped. "Leaving the country means that the organization has to face either antagonizing the country or giving up. The other country could also use this as a chance to protect Noel and rope him to their side."

"No matter what, Noel Ardagan is the author of the Rune Books that have become popular in all countries. This must be the reason why Dimitri is telling us to spread the name of Noel Ardagan instead of ladre."

"In addition, the Royal Family will be confused as well. They believe that Noel Ardagan has died in Anna Stargaze's hand. They will probably try to stop him from leaving."I think you should take a look at $\rho\alpha\Pi d\alpha$ snovel.com

Oscar looked at the ceiling in disbelief. "That's why I don't know how they will respond. And it won't be as simple as you think. The fact that Noel Ardagan is leaving the country means that the other countries have the chance."

"Ah! This will soon become an international affair."
"Yeah. To think that someone who became an adult not long ago could cause such a huge movement." Oscar shook his head helplessly. "I guess I can see the reason why Laufey is aiming for his life."
"There is a reason?"
"Yeah. If you trace back the Ardagan Family's ancestor, it's clear that Noel, in one way or another, has gotten the inheritance of his ancestor. This is the only possible explanation for his unusual growth."
"His ancestor? What kind of ancestor does he have?"
"I've taken a look since Dimitri chose to abandon the army in order to be with the Ardagan Family. Out of spite, but in that research, I found out that the Ardagan Family's ancestor was actually a Spirit King."
"What?! The legendary Spirit King?" Milfa dropped her jaw in disbelief.
"Yeah. From all this time, the Ardagan Family's talent is mediocre. So, the fact that Noel Ardagan suddenly has this kind of talent means that he has gotten an inheritance or another thing that boosts his talent. And looking at how Noel Ardagan has been lazing around, it must be after the execution of his parents. Although I don't know the exact details, if this prediction is correct, then Noel Ardagan will become an extraordinary figure if he manages to fully bloom."
"I see. So, what will be our stance?"
"We? We can support him to a certain extent, but don't forget that the Demon Banner Army will remain neutral in most cases."
"Most cases, huh?" Milfa narrowed her eyes and asked, "Does that include the Third Prince?"
That question alone was enough to show that she was already aware of Oscar's relationship with the Third Prince.

Their gazes were locked on each other for a moment before Oscar shrugged. "I will be on the Demon Banner Army's side until death."

Milfa observed his expression for another few seconds before saying, "We'll leave it at that. In any case, do you want me to do something about Dimitri?"

"No. Just guide him to the storage and let him get whatever he wants. He was a captain and had been accomplishing his missions without rewards, so giving a few things should be fair for him."

"I understand." Milfa politely bowed to him before leaving the room. Though, she added one last message. "By the time we receive the letter, Dimitri should be on his way toward this place. I think he will appear in two or three days. Do you want to pass some messages?"

pandasNovel.com "No," Oscar answered without hesitation, but his expression looked troubled. No matter what, Dimitri was his rival for the commander position, so it was better they didn't meet this way.

Just like Oscar, Dimitri thought the same way. That was why he said everything about their plans in the letter instead of discussing it personally.

As Milfa said, Noel and Dimitri were making their way to the Demon Banner Army Headquarters.

Noel's objective would be the kids, while Dimitri would take care of his matters in the Demon Banner Army.

But as one would expect from two important individuals, before they entered the fortress, Milfa actually stood in their way.

"Welcome, two guests." Milfa stopped them five kilometers from the fortress, showing that she didn't want anyone to hear anything.

"Well, it's surprising to see you greeting us, especially from this far." Dimitri appeared from Noel's shadow.

"You're going to steal a few things from our storage, so I guess I should meet you from here."

"What steal? I'm simply trying to claim what's mine." Dimitri shrugged. "Besides, we even have paid a higher price."

"Of course." Milfa nodded and glanced at Noel. "I assume that you're planning to meet the kids. They are very talented kids to the point they can defeat bandits without Spiritual Energy. So, I don't know what you're planning to do, but I think it's better to not waste their talents."

"You don't have to care about that. In the end, the kids are the ones going to choose their own path." Noel shook his head.

"In that case, let me guide you to the secret entrance. If you are spotted here, spreading your information will be seen as a trap by the Supreme Devil Organization."

Noel nodded. Since the army was the one spreading the information, if they were seen in the headquarters, it would be clear that the information was a trap and the organization wouldn't move, causing their plan to fail.

This was the reason why Milfa greeted them far from the fortress.

Chapter 798 Children

"So, you've been the one taking care of them." Noel was amused when Milfa mentioned the kids. He couldn't help but bow to her, saying, "Thank you very much."

"It's fine. I've taken fancy of them too. They are quite talented kids." Milfa waved her hand as if treating it as not a big deal. "You might be surprised by their progress."

"Is that so? You said earlier that they have surpassed that of normal bandits, right?"

"Indeed. Their dance is elegant but precise. Because there is no one who is actually using the dancing footwork to fight, it makes them pretty unpredictable. By taking advantage of those points, they managed to fight against your average bandits."

"You haven't taught them anything about spirits and Spiritual Energy, right?"

"Of course. In the end, they are about twelve to fifteen years old, you know."

"Fifteen, huh..." Noel looked down with a smile. Now that he thought about it, he had known them for more than two years. The moment he became a noble, it should be three years.

The kids were small back then, but they were almost an adult.

With them training for two years, it shouldn't be weird for them to be quite a fighter.

"I'm looking forward to seeing them. But are you sure it's fine to accompany me like this? You don't need to watch over Dimitri?" Noel asked. They were already walking in the town after entering it through the secret passage.

"He might be like that, but he is a trustworthy person. He knows his boundary, so I'm not that worried. I'll just record what he took later." Milfa chuckled.

"Fair enough." Noel nodded and saw the kids' house on the corner of the street.

Before entering it, he could hear a melody. It was soothing yet beating a bit rapidly. Noel felt a bit energetic and refreshed from hearing the melody alone.

"This melody... contains Spiritual Energy." Milfa gasped.

"Spiritual Energy? Did someone awaken their Spirit?" Noel also noticed the Spiritual Energy and thought Milfa would know about it. After all, she was the one taking care of them. But if she didn't know it, there might be someone visiting.

"I don't know. The last time I checked on them was two months ago. I became too busy because of the matter with the Supreme Devil Organization."

"Are you serious?" Noel hurriedly slammed open the door, trying to see the visitor. It didn't seem like this visitor was planning any harm, but he had to make sure the kids were alright first.

But the moment he entered, he couldn't say a single word. The melody stopped and the kids halted their movements, startled by the sudden intrusion.

To his surprise, there wasn't a single visitor in the garden. When he followed the melody's direction, he realized that they were coming from Erica's direction.

"Huh?" All of them were dumbfounded.

"There is no visitor? Then, the melody..." Noel gasped, looking at Erica.

"Big Brother!" A big smile instantly appeared on Erica's face. However, the kids' reflexes became faster as well. Before she could jump on him, the other kids already rushed to Noel and swarmed him. "Big Brother!"

"Woah?!" Noel got tackled to the ground. "Hahaha... You guys seem to have gotten stronger."

"Mhm." Erica pouted, seeing the other kids beat her first.

On the other hand, Milfa focused on Spiritual Energy and asked, "Erica... Did you awaken your spirit?"

"Oh! Miss Milfa." Erica politely bowed to her. "Yes. It was one month ago. I awakened my spirit, but I don't know the details."

"What is your Spirit? Have you talked to it yet?"

"He visited me on two occasions. He introduced himself as Maestro Spirit, Helphes. As for the second occasion, he granted me the ability to create a melody and control the dance of these people. You could say that he allowed me to lead these guys." Erica pointed at them.

"Big Brother! Look at Erica. She bullied us all the time by forcing us to do a funny dance whenever she pleased." Eric pointed at Erica with a sad expression as if he had gone through nightmares.

"What? That's not fair!" Erica raised her voice.

Noel chuckled. "You guys truly have a good friendship."

Erica looped around and closed the door first so that no one could bother them. Meanwhile, Milfa wanted to ask more about Erica's spirit, but seeing how these guys behaved, it felt like she was just in the way.

"In that case, I'll be leaving first. I'll visit again at a later date." Milfa decided not to interrupt their reunion.

"Thank you, Miss Milfa." Erica politely thanked her and saw her off.

Meanwhile, the others had calmed down and Noel could finally get back up.

"Big Brother. Please come in." Eric extended his hand, inviting Noel in.

"That's right." The other kids pushed him with a smile as if preventing him from escaping.

"So, Big Brother... How long are you planning to stay this time?" Erica asked, thinking about preparing his bed.

"Unfortunately, I will be leaving the next morning. And I think this is the last time we meet." Noel made a wry smile.

"!!!" The children abruptly stopped. They were staring at Noel in disbelief, thinking Noel would abandon her.

"Big Brother. You..." Eric panicked.

Noel sighed and pointed at the house. "Let's enter first. I'll explain it to you guys."

The children suddenly hung their heads low. Even though Noel felt bad about it, he had no choice but to do this for the sake of the children.

Even though the living room was filled to the brim, it felt so spacious because no one was talking.

"Big Brother. Don't abandon us!" Erica broke the silence and begged Noel. There was a tear in the corner of her eyes.

"It's not that." Noel shook his head helplessly. "You should know about my identity by now, right?"

"We know. Miss Milfa has also told us about you. You are Noel Ardagan."

"That's right. The Ardagan Family has a lot of enemies outside. In addition, I'm planning to rebuild my family, so the past enemies will come. So, I won't visit you guys anymore. You have the strength to protect yourself and get stronger... you have a bright future ahead of you."

It wasn't that Noel wanted to abandon them. He just didn't want to meet them in order to protect them.

"No way! If Big Brother was going to rebuild your family, then we would move to your place. We could use our dance to brighten the atmosphere. We could also fight!" Erica refused to listen to his words.

"Erica..." Noel shook his head helplessly. "Just like today, I'll be so busy that I won't even have time to meet you guys anymore. So, please forget about me."

Erica gritted her teeth. Noel was the one who changed their lives, so they wanted to repay him. Without him, they might still live in the slum, having nothing to eat. Some of them might have died due to the harsh winter. They simply couldn't accept this.

"Big Brother!"

Eric grabbed Erica's shoulders as if trying to hold her back.

"Eric. Release me!" Erica was still trying to change Noel's mind, but Eric refused to let her go.

However, it didn't change the fact that Eric intended to obey Noel's words. He said, "Big Brother. You said that we've become strong enough to protect ourselves, right?"

"Yeah. If you start learning about Spiritual Energy, it won't be hard for you guys to enter the Demon Banner Army. So—"

Before Noel finished his words, Eric raised his voice. "In that case, we will also rebel against you! Since you're going to leave us like this, your words don't matter anymore to us."

"Eric?" Erica was surprised that Eric actually talked back to Noel.

However, Eric added, "We are determined to go to your territory. If you push us away, then we won't do things you want and remain in your territory. If you use force, we will just entertain your people so that they beg you to let us stay!"

"You... Do you know what you're talking about?" Noel looked at Eric in disbelief. He told Eric to be the leader, but he just wanted to lead them to their death.

"I don't care. I have chosen not to care about your words anymore. This is my decision as their leader. Besides, I think everyone has agreed with me!" Eric spread his arms as if telling him to see everyone's expression.

All of them looked determined and filled with hope. Even Erica was surprised such a thing was possible.

Obviously, Noel was moved by their action. He took care of them without the intention of bringing them into his territory, yet the children expressed their intention so clearly. Even if he rejected, they wouldn't listen.

"Do you know that your enemies might be the Supreme Devil Organization and the Royal Family?!"

"I don't care!" Eric stomped the ground and shouted, "In the harsh winter, we might only be able to clutch our stomachs while trying to distract ourselves from empty stomachs. We might be beaten by those older guys. Our possessions might be stolen by those guys. Some of us might even die from the cold."

"However, that didn't happen anymore once you came into our lives. You taught us how to become a proper human being. You gave us a goal. So, we would use our lives to repay you. So please..." Eric bowed his head, pleading. The other kids also did the same.

On the one hand, Noel wanted to protect them. On the other hand, he couldn't really say no when the kids did this.

Noel scratched the back of his head, saying, "Fine. You guys won."

"!!!" They raised their heads, and their expressions were brightened.

Noel raised his finger. "On one condition. You have to follow my plans."

Chapter 799 Runes

Noel and the children were talking a lot about what happened to them in the past two years. They had truly put a lot of effort into their dancing, allowing them to reach this point so quickly.

If they compared themselves to Noel, their speed would be negligible, but the children were also practicing a new kind of sword style. So, it was already amazing that they could reach this point by themselves.

Ultimately, Noel agreed to let them stay in his future territory. However, Noel put on a condition, which was to follow his plan.

And the first part of his plan would require them to gain their Spiritual Energy. However, this action would be extremely dangerous, so Noel added another condition to them, which was to have Milfa accompany and assess their fight.

This way, Milfa would be able to save them in case something happened. If the kids performed horrendously, Milfa would have all the reasons to stop them from chasing after Noel. This would fulfill the promise he had with Milfa, which was not to destroy their talent.

Of course, Milfa would have no right to stop them if they managed to defeat demons brilliantly. For that, Noel was giving them basic knowledge that they taught in the Demon Banner Army.

Because Noel had no mastery in the Sword Dance, he didn't give anything regarding their sword style and spirits. Instead, he gave them the rune book, especially asking them to learn the three basic runes: Increase Agility Rune, Strength Blessing Rune, and Spiritual Energy Dispersion Rune. In addition, he gave them Spirit Techniques such as Muscle Strengthening and Spirit Aura Breathing.

With this, the kids would have the foundation for their Spiritual Energy.

If they truly passed all the hurdles ahead and reached his territory, he would definitely paint the runes on their bodies to make them even stronger.

After all of them fell asleep, Noel finally left the house, hoping for the best.

"Master." Dimitri greeted him outside. It seemed he had been waiting for him the whole time.
"Sorry for making you wait, Dimitri. Is everything there?"
"Yeah." Dimitri pointed at the inn. "Anna is also waiting for you in that inn. She arrived in the afternoon It's the furthest room on the third floor, the one on the left."
"Got it. Thanks, Dimitri. After Anna, I'll be painting runes on your body as well."
"I'm grateful." Dimitri agreed while adding one finger. "But if possible, I'd like to express one concern."
"What is it?"
"If you are the one painting all the runes for the people around you and the elite soldiers, it will put a strain on yourself. So, why don't you find a disciple who can do that for you? Anna aside, you will find yourself in trouble if you try to do it to another female."
"That's true, but it's not that easy to find that kind of person, you know?" Noel sighed. "In fact, I want two disciples that can be taught to do this: one male and one female. This way, they can do it based on gender."
"I see. You'll have a hard time finding one. After all, Rune is a new concept. However, you can think of it this way. Since you've spread the knowledge about runes, won't that make people who are adept at it be a good seedling? I mean, they can understand the new concept quickly."
"Yeah. That's probably the reason why Old Ru told me to go south until I meet a fateful person." Noel agreed, recalling the message Old Ru gave him before departure.

Though, he had to figure out the other party's identity since it would be troublesome if that fateful

person turned out to be someone important.

"Alright. I'll be meeting her." Noel waved his hand and started heading to the inn. As soon as he reached the room, he knocked on the door and said, "This is Noel."

Anna immediately opened the door for him. "Come in."

It seemed she had been expecting his arrival the whole time. She had a translucent gown that allowed him to see through a portion of her body, including the part where the Spirit Seal was.

pαΠdαsNovεl com "..." Noel was quite stunned because, in the past, he saw her body just to mess with her. But this time, he felt weird that he could see her like this when she was expecting something to the point where he couldn't help but look away. Even Noel didn't understand why the time he should look at her ended up with him looking away.

"I have been waiting for you. Shall we start right away?" Anna asked while lighting up the candles to light up the room. Unfortunately, the candle wasn't that bright, which made Noel disagree.

"No. We'll be waiting for the morning. Since this is the first time we're painting runes on our bodies, it's better to wait until the sun is up to avoid unnecessary mistakes. The blood is precious after all." Noel shook his head, explaining his reason.

"What should we do then?"

"I'm here to talk about the type of runes that we would add to our bodies." Noel moved to the table and grabbed a paper. "You should know about the five rune types, right?"

"Yeah. Support Rune, Attack Rune, Defensive Rune, Utility Rune, and Movement Rune."

"Indeed." Noel nodded and wrote everything down. "In that case, what type of rune do you need?" I think you should take a look at $\rho\alpha\Pi d\alpha$ snovel.com

"That's..." Anna couldn't answer because even in her previous life, she never had done this.

"There is one more problem. Currently, even if I try, I can only create a Mid Level Rune, not an advanced one. It's quite hard, you see."
"So, we'll have to renew it later?"
"Yes."
Anna looked down, falling into deep thought. "In that case, how about one for all types? It shouldn't be too much to the point where it could cover one's body."
"Alright then." Noel glanced at his system and asked inwardly, 'Ardagan. Give me ten random rune scrolls.'
[Processing]
[You've acquired Reduce Impact Rune.]
[You've acquired]
[You]
[You've acquired Guardian Sword Rune.]
After getting the knowledge, Noel immediately wrote a few names. "How about this I'll paint

After getting the knowledge, Noel immediately wrote a few names. "How about this... I'll paint Empowerment Rune as the Support Rune, Energy Blast Rune as the Attack Rune, Reduce Impact Rune as the Defensive Rune, Energy Gathering Rune as the Utility Rune, and Enhance Forward Rune as the Movement Rune."

Anna assessed the names. "Empowerment Rune could increase my physical ability and Spiritual Energy for a set period of time. I have seen your Energy Blast Rune a lot. Reduce Impact Rune can mitigate the physical and al impact. As for the Energy Gathering Rune, it's quite useful for us, especially after learning Old Ru's technique. And Enhance Forward Rune can increase our speed. That sounds good enough. We can change it later anyway."

"Yeah. I'm planning to embed the same thing in my body. Can you paint the runes?"

"I can't paint Empowerment Rune and Energy Blast Rune. But if you let me practice here, it shouldn't be a problem."

"Then, how about we practice until the sun is up?"

"Sounds good."

"Though, how about you put on some clothes first?" Noel asked while sighing.

"Huh?" Anna had just realized that she had forgotten since Noel talked about a serious matter. She instantly got flustered, but seeing how Noel acted a bit differently from normal, she couldn't help but tease him. "Oh, what's wrong, Noel? Are you embarrassed?"

"You should be the one who is embarrassed. Besides, I'm just concerned about your health." Noel shook his head as calmly as possible.

"You should know that after having Spiritual Energy in our body, we rarely get sick. And we have almost become a Spirit Grandmaster, so there's no way I will catch a cold." Anna smirked. "Just say that you're embarrassed."

"So, are you going to put on some clothes or not?" Noel asked.

"Tsk. You're no fun." Anna pouted when looking at Noel's poker face. However, the fact that he acted differently meant he was a bit more conscious of her. It somehow put a smile on Anna's face. She would never admit it though.

After that, they immediately worked on the paint. Noel supervised everything while asking Dimitri to bring him all the items. He had to prepare the sap and other things and mix some of them so that they could be used to paint the runes.

According to the knowledge he got from the Rune Mastery, this mixture allowed them to make the blood permanently stay on their body. The only way to erase it was to use Spiritual Energy and a few other materials.

This was why Noel didn't mind having Damian listen to their conversation since he wouldn't know about the secret ingredients and the method.

After a long training, Anna completed her training one hour before sunrise. She continued until the time limit before taking off her clothes.

She was lying down on her bed with a towel covering her breasts. Noel could clearly see her Spirit Seal and planned to create the runes around her waist and stomach.

"Alright. I'll start," said Noel while holding a needle.

Chapter 800 Drawing Runes

"Aaahhhh!" Anna let out a seductive moan that echoed inside the room.

"..." Noel's eyebrows were twitching. He just coated the needle with the mixture and poked her body, but she actually let out a sound that could be easily misunderstood. "What are you doing?"

"Sorry, I didn't expect it." Anna smirked. It seemed that she was playing with him.

"I'm going to tell you this, but if you're going to mess around again, I'm going to open the window and toss you outside." Noel's expression looked annoyed.

"Fine." Anna pouted. When Noel made this face, she knew that he would do it without hesitation.

While she did tease her, she wanted to soften Noel's expression. This was the first time he painted the runes on the body, so it was obvious that he was nervous.

Although it didn't impact him a lot, since Noel's expression had looked a bit better, she chose to remain silent.

Unbeknownst to them, Dimitri was standing outside to protect them. But when he heard Anna's voice, he couldn't help but look at the door with a confused expression, thinking, 'Did they do something else? Does that mean we'll be expecting a successor soon? Now that I think about it, the former Master and Mistress should come out since they should want to hold their grandchild, right? What a good job, Master... I should begin calling her Mistress as well.'

While Dimitri was distracted by the thoughts, Noel continued with his work.

He poked Anna's skin with a needle and poured his Spiritual Energy to attach it to the veins underneath the skin. These veins were linked with the Spirit Seal, which would maintain the rune's existence.

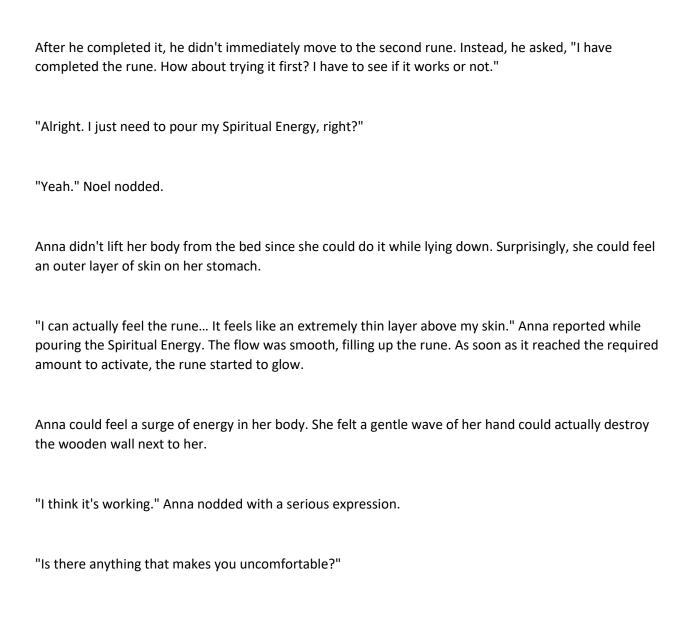
He carefully poked the next spot not far from the first spot and began linking them together like a circuit.

This process took a while because he had to assimilate the two spots with his Spiritual Energy before linking it to the Spirit Veins.

After that, he continued to the third, fourth, and other spots.

Because of the need for accuracy, Noel had to split a single rune into at least a hundred points. So, a single rune alone required at least two hours to complete.

Noel stretched the rune from her Spirit Seal that was located on her waist to her stomach.



"While I do feel weird having this thin layer above my skin, there's nothing wrong with the rune itself. I'll try to deactivate it to see if something changes." Anna fell silent for a moment as the rune began to dim. "There is nothing wrong. The Spiritual Energy inside the rune is expelled from my body and dissapear into the air."

"I see." Noel let out a sigh of relief. It seemed that he had finished the first rune and the experiment. Just like the Force Control from before, he might have the mastery and knowledge in his head, but his body still couldn't use it. So, he was glad that he succeeded.

"Should we continue with the second one?" Anna asked.

"Yeah." Noel nodded and began to prepare the second needle. Since it used the same mixture, there should be no problem using the same needle. But Noel believed that the Spiritual Energy used to create the rune had contaminated the needle, so it was better to use another needle as a preventive action.

"By the way, if it takes you two hours just to create a single rune, won't it take too long if you want to create a group of elites?" Anna asked.

"Well, the initial elite group will be like that, but I'm planning to employ a merit system. If they reach a certain merit, they can exchange their contribution to get another rune on their body. This will make them more eager to perform. Besides, I'm planning to get two disciples to learn runes, which will make my job easier. Also, there will be a Rune School that will become the primary source of income for my territory later. So, yeah... I've prepared a lot of things for the future."

"I see. I thought I should be worried, but it seems that you've calculated everything." Anna smiled, remembering her previous life. Even back then, Noel's territory was thriving. "In that case, I'll definitely complete this mission which should take one month and immediately challenge an Arbiter." I think you should take a look at $\rho\alpha\Pi$ d α snovel.com

"How about the other party?"

"My father should be preparing it right now. I just have to wait for the signal."

"I see. I wish you luck. Don't forget that your safety is important."

"Are you worried about me?" Anna smiled brightly.

"Only by becoming an Arbiter can you repay me for this one." Noel harrumphed.

"Hahaha!"

Noel continued drawing the four other runes. The second rune was placed slightly above the first rune and under her breast. Even Noel had a bit of a hard time embedding the second rune due to the position. Touching and seeing were two different things after all.

The third rune was placed on her side that stretched both to her front and back. The fourth rune was entirely on her back, while the last one was drawn right below it.

With this, Anna had five runes on her body. While they could place it in a further place to avoid awkward places, it would make the rune activation longer due to the distance. So, Anna convinced him that he should do it in those five spots.

After getting all five runes, Anna tried all of them in rapid succession and confirmed the completion of all runes.

It seriously took a toll on him since he had to be careful with the details or the rune would be ruined. He even used the mixture to erase a few times because he made several mistakes.

However, he had succeeded. Anna was the first person to have runes embedded on her body.

While she was happy about it, Noel had taken off his clothes, showing the Spirit Seal on his chest. He had decided to get the same runes on his body.

pαndαsNovεl.com Because Anna's rune mastery was lower than his, it took her longer to complete. However, she remained careful and not rushing despite having competitiveness inside her.

Noel was fighting the urge to tease her because he worried about his own safety.

In the end, they had to stop when dusk arrived since they wanted to avoid the mistakes due to not enough light.

That night, Noel discussed with Dimitri the runes that he wanted on his body. Because of the nature of his ability, Dimitri only chose two runes, which were the Reduce Impact Rune and the Empowerment Rune.

Noel had some materials left, so Dimitri, as his butler, also enjoyed the privilege of having Ancient Demon Grade Material for his runes.

After Anna completed drawing the runes on Noel's body, she had to bid goodbye. The quicker she became an arbiter, the more she could solidify her influence over the royal court.

Hence, Anna wanted to get it done as soon as possible so that she could help Noel later.

Noel also understood her position and saw her off before drawing the runes on Dimitri. Since there were only two runes, it didn't take too long for Noel to complete them.

So, they decided to depart after Noel got a good rest for his tired mind.

Of course, Noel took this time to check on the children, who became more determined than ever to complete the condition Noel had set.

Milfa also agreed with Noel's arrangement since if the kids were incompetent, she could easily subdue them and prevent them from killing themselves.

Since Noel wouldn't do any more missions for the Demon Banner Army, Noel took this chance to exchange all his contribution points for Demon Crystals, a few Techniques, and Materials from powerful demons.

They were all the necessary expenses once he became a noble. Of course, Noel had asked the kids to take care of the materials. This was the second condition.

The children would bring all these materials with them. They would also use some to become stronger.

This way, the kids would be strong and bring a lot of materials once they reached the Ardagan Family's territory.

After that, he and Dimitri continued to their next destination to visit the scattered members of the Ardagan Family.