

The Shining Star Above The Heaven

#Chapter 291: Something Wrong With the Plan - Read The Shining Star Above The Heaven Chapter 291: Something Wrong With the Plan

Chapter 291: Something Wrong With the Plan

The surviving devils ran as fast as they could. They neither looked back nor stopped for a moment, fearing that the young man might change his mind and give himself a chance to catch them.

After running for about 15 minutes, they finally stopped, looked behind them, and saw that no one was following. They also couldn't sense anything within a kilometer, so they thought they were safe. The low Marquess-stage cultivator turned to his comrade.

"Who is he? How was our identity exposed?! We were sure we concealed our traces and identity perfectly. Even the Flamecrest family doesn't know about our presence in Flamecrest City, yet he knows?!"

"I don't know," the other devil replied, "but I think it has something to do with that bitch's announcement going off-script. There must be something we don't know—something that made her change her mind and disobey the plan."

"Did... did she know that Lord Lust is dead?"

The other devil remained silent for a moment before shaking his head.

"No, there's no way she knows. The death of the Lust Devil is known only to the devils. In fact, some devils scattered across the continent haven't even received the news yet. I can't imagine any way for that princess to know about it."

They thought for a moment before sighing.

"Let's go. We must report this to the higher-ups. We've already been compromised, and we can't predict what will happen in the future anymore."

They planned to continue moving north, toward the devils' territory. Their first priority was to leave the empire's borders. However, not long after they started running, they sensed that something was wrong—they felt as though they had returned to the place they had just passed. They stopped for a moment to confirm they weren't mistaken before starting to run again.

After a few moments, they realized they had indeed returned to the place they had just passed! They stopped again to assess the situation, certain that they had been moving in the right direction. Before they could consider what might have caused this strange phenomenon, their surroundings began to wobble and then shattered like broken glass.

After that, they saw Aldrian standing in front of them, gripping their heads with his usual smile—a smile that appeared devilish from their perspective. Upon seeing him, the devils finally realized what had happened to them.

"Illusion!"

The realization shocked them inwardly; they had no idea when they had fallen under the illusion. In addition to holding their foreheads, Aldrian had also sealed all their movements.

"Why... you—" the devil began to ask, but he could only see Aldrian looking at them with his ever-present smile.

"I already gave you time to survive," Aldrian said. "But I never told you how long you would survive, did I? I've stayed true to my word."

"You fucki—" The devil's curse was cut short as Aldrian crushed their soul, killing them instantly.

Sylphia, standing behind him, looked at Aldrian in awe. Her lover was someone who always kept his word, but his verbal gymnastics were deadly for anyone who failed to pay attention to the fine details.

Earlier, when the devils fled, Sylphia had thought Aldrian was truly keeping his word about letting them survive. However, when Aldrian brought her to observe them standing motionless like statues, she realized he had done something to them. To her surprise, it was an illusion technique.

She had no idea when Aldrian had cast his technique, but the fact that he made them remain frozen within their illusion while he read their memories amazed her. Once again, she felt fortunate to have him as her man.

After Aldrian was done with the devils, he turned to Sylphia.

"My dear, would you like to see how I do some cleaning?"

Sylphia tilted her head in confusion. What did he mean? She then saw Aldrian take out an artifact that she instantly recognized. He retrieved the devil teleportation artifact from his storage ring and placed it on the ground. Aldrian then touched the artifact, and moments later, it suddenly emitted an ominous red light. Although it was simply the artifact's activation effect, Sylphia still felt an unsettling presence from the red glow.

Suddenly, Sylphia felt her body enveloped by golden energy as Aldrian grabbed her hand, pulling her to stand in front of him. Before long, they disappeared, leaving only the artifact behind.

A few minutes earlier, in an unknown place, a huge hall was filled with devils, most of whom appeared to be preparing for war. Hundreds of them stood in formation, their armor resembling that of an army ready for battle. In front of them lay 12 identical teleportation artifacts, their destination set to the Flamecrest Grand Duchy.

Two devils stood at the forefront, their cultivation levels the highest among the group—one at the low Emperor stage and the other at the middle Emperor stage.

"Is there any report from the other side?" the middle emperor stage devil asked.

"No. However, this is also good. It means the plan is still moving according to plan. We just need a few more moments," the other replied.

"I hope so. The atmosphere in the Castle of Darkness is really unpleasant. With us already losing three of the Seven Deadly Sins, all the devils seem to have become restless. This mission is crucial, at the very least, to weaken the power of the Vindas Empire after the plan in the Doria Empire fell apart."

Right now, they seemed to be waiting for something from the teleportation artifacts. The atmosphere was tense, but not particularly gloomy. Instead, the devils appeared to be anticipating what they were about to do. In just a few minutes, they would move toward the Flamecrest family, sow chaos, and then retreat without much suffering.

That is the plan from the Devil Lord: they will act as torchbearers, adding fuel to the fall of the Flamecrest family. If they emerge from the Flamecrest family's mansion and create chaos within the territory, it will be the nail in the coffin for the Flamecrest family. They won't be able to deny anything if the devils suddenly appear from their mansion. The Vindas Empire will be engulfed in civil war, and all they'll need to do is watch as it burns to ashes.

They waited for the signal from the other side to activate the teleportation artifact, marking the start of the operation. According to their plan, around this time, the princess should already have announced that the Flamecrest family had connections to the devils. The Flamecrest family would attempt to deny even the princess's investigation, and amidst this chaos, they would enter the mansion through the teleportation artifact.

Although this plan was rushed due to the events in the Doria Empire, it seemed to be progressing according to plan. However, after waiting for a few minutes with no movement from the teleportation artifacts, they began to wonder what was delaying the other side.

Then, suddenly, one of the artifacts activated.

Seeing this, the devils grinned, knowing that the operation had finally begun. However, they soon sensed something was wrong when only one teleportation artifact activated. The plan had called for all of the teleportation artifacts to activate in order to accommodate hundreds of devils. They needed a fast insertion and retreat, which required that many artifacts.

Their doubts were answered when suddenly two figures appeared on the teleportation artifact. The two emperor-stage devils were stunned by the appearance of these outsiders. They saw a young man and an elf for a moment before the two disappeared. All the devils present also saw them and wondered if they were part of the plan. It was at this moment that the emperor-stage devils realized something was wrong on the other side!

With their quick wit, they scanned their surroundings and expanded their senses to the maximum. However, they couldn't detect anything. Using another tactic, they turned to the formations—this place was under their control and filled with formations. They could use the formations to track any presence. After a few seconds, they finally sensed something outside the hall!

They instantly dashed outside and looked at the sky, where they finally saw the young man and the elf floating in the air. They could sense that the young man was at the low Marquess stage, and the elf was at the peak Viscount stage—so how the hell were they floating in the air?

At that moment, all the devils in the area turned their gaze to the sky, startled by the sudden appearance of the outsiders. There were thousands of devils present, and when Aldrian swept his gaze across the area that resembled a fortress, much like Sazim.

Sylphia, enveloped in Aldrian's golden energy, was stunned by the place, as she had never seen anything like it. Although she was protected by Aldrian's golden energy, she could still feel the ominous atmosphere. The red sky and the air, stretching to the horizon, filled her with an ominous feeling. Given the gloomy and foreboding nature of the place, she couldn't help but think of one place that fit the description: the devils territory!

On the ground, the two emperor-stage devils still stared at the sky, their gazes fixed on Aldrian, who met their eyes with a smile. As they looked at that smile, an overwhelming sense of foreboding gripped their hearts.

Chapter 292: Total Destruction

Aldrian already knew everything about this place after reading the memories of the devils he had killed earlier. They finally discovered that the devils who infiltrated the Flamecrest family actually came from the fortress facing the Flamecrest Grand Duchy.

Similar to Sazim, which guards against the Rivas Grand Duchy, this fortress served as a defense against enemies from the Flamecrest family's region.

Boraz Fortress.

After the fall of Sazim, the importance of this location grew significantly, as there was no "nearby" stronghold to the east. This forced Boraz to bear the additional burden left by Sazim's absence. As a critical point of strategic value for the devils along this part of the border, it is a place they must protect at all costs.

Aldrian smiled at the two strongest devils present. This place—he was going to destroy it! He had already taken advantage of the few seconds earlier to establish his domain, turning the entire fortress into his territory. Upon arriving, he had teleported to the sky, knowing from the memories he had read that he will appear inside the hall.

It was no surprise that Aldrian acted without hesitation, teleporting as though he knew this place and immediately creating his domain over this place.

He then channeled the power of one of his main domains, the Doria Empire's domain, into his body. His intent was to obliterate the entire fortress, and the power of the Doria Empire's domain was more than enough to accomplish it.

His aura surged, growing much stronger and exerting immense pressure over the entire fortress. Even the surrounding space was affected by the sheer force of his aura. The entire fortress trembled under Aldrian's overwhelming presence, and devils with cultivation levels lower than the duke stage collapsed to the ground, unable to stand.

They tried to look up at the sky and resist the overwhelming sensation, but their bodies refused to obey. The immense pressure, which even affected their very souls, compelled them to prostrate and worship Aldrian, making it nearly impossible to regain control. It felt like a natural instinct to succumb to such overwhelming power.

The devils above the duke stage also felt the pressure, but their condition was much better than the others. The higher their cultivation, the more they could resist the overwhelming aura, which was as terrifying as the heavens. In this fortress, there were three emperor-stage devils: the leader, the vice leader, and the chief guardian.

The chief guardian had already stepped out of his room and looked outside, steadying himself to avoid being affected by the pressure. As for the leader, he surveyed his surroundings and realized he couldn't delay much longer. He needed to act quickly! Aldrian's aura alone could affect thousands of devils, what more, then, of his true power?

"All of you who can still move, kill that man! He is the intruder! Don't let him breathe—strike with everything you've got!" the leader shouted to the entire fortress as he unleashed his domain.

All the devils who could still move looked to the sky and began circulating their devil energy. From various parts of the fortress, different colored elemental strikes started to appear. Moments later, several of them launched their attacks at Aldrian. Some of the devils also activated the fortress's formations to target him.

Aldrian did not stay still. He unleashed his gravity laws across the entire fortress. The attacks hurled toward him suddenly changed trajectory, crashing into the ground and causing significant damage to parts of the fortress. Many devils became victims of their own comrades' strikes.

"He can control gravity! Protect yourselves using your energy—don't let the gravity affect you!" the leader shouted as he flew toward Aldrian with his sword.

All the devils at the king and emperor stages followed, charging toward Aldrian to engage in close combat. The formations continued to strike at him, but none of the attacks had much effect. In fact, it seemed that Aldrian didn't even care about them!

The killing array and anti-flight formations were ineffective against him and Sylphia. Every attack failed to reach him as the gravity altered their trajectories, causing the strikes to hit their own soldiers instead.

The emperor-stage devils also tried using their domain powers to impose their effects on Aldrian. However, all they saw was his calm gaze. Suddenly, they felt something stir within Aldrian. At first, it was only a small spark, but then they sensed the overwhelming aura of the heavens. In an instant, a flash of lightning erupted from Aldrian.

All the devils flying toward Aldrian stopped in mid-air, unable to believe what they were seeing. As if that wasn't enough, Aldrian exuded his death energy, enveloping his body and making him appear like the king of underworld. Even Sylphia, standing beside him, felt her soul shudder, struck with fear by the sudden appearance of this energy. She had never felt anything like this before, as if death itself were standing before her.

The sky itself seemed to change, darkening and becoming cloudy, with lightning slithering between the clouds.

The leader of the fortress, observing Aldrian's power, felt a deep sense of loss and despair. The ominous and terrifying aura emanating from Aldrian weighed heavily on him. Not only did he feel the might of the heavens radiating from his body, but now he also felt an overwhelming sense of dread, as though death itself awaited him if he dared approach Aldrian any further. However, he gritted his teeth and decided to use his devil form, with the other devils following suit.

Aldrian, observing their efforts without expression, finally unleashed his judgment upon the fortress. The powerful heavenly lightning, combined with the death energy radiating from his body, rampaged through the entire fortress, destroying everything it touched. The situation was truly catastrophic, as if it were doomsday itself.

The devils' efforts to defend themselves from the lightning were futile. Every time the lightning struck their defenses—whether talismans, artifacts, or their own techniques—they were instantly destroyed. And once the lightning touched their bodies, they were reduced to ashes. There were no cries of agony, no voices of resentment—nothing they could do in the face of such overwhelming might.

The buildings and structures of the fortress collapsed instantly. The walls surrounding the fortress couldn't withstand the lightning and crumbled. The defensive formations and the devils' domains shattered in an instant.

Now, within a 10-kilometer radius, people could see the destruction as if a natural disaster had struck. The ground was torn apart, and no structures remained intact. The entire fortress had collapsed, and more than ten thousand devils perished. There were no remains of their bodies, as all of them had been reduced to ashes and scattered by the wind.

The 4,000-square-meter fortress, which had stood for millions of years and served as a stronghold for the devils in this region, was completely destroyed.

Sylphia, watching this from beside him, widened her eyes in shock. The scale of destruction was truly terrifying; it felt like an attack from an emperor-stage powerhouse, yet it could annihilate even emperor-stage devils with ease. This was the first time she had witnessed a technique capable of causing such massive destruction, with an effect so vast that even now, the sky still rumbled with thunder.

She sighed at the sight. Her lover was in another league, and she was confident that no one could compare to him, nor would anyone be able to defeat him. If he could unleash such an attack while still at the low Marquess stage, what would happen if he reached the emperor stage? Wouldn't that mean he could pierce the heavens? The thought sent a shiver down her spine.

However, alongside her feelings of awe and reverence, there was also a sense of inferiority deep within her heart. Was she worthy to stand beside such a perfect man? A man who would engrave his name in the annals of the continent's history? She had nothing to offer besides her status as the princess of the Ivory Empire. Her cultivation was still lacking, and she possessed nothing that could truly aid Aldrian.

She felt a pang of sadness when thinking like this, but then she felt her hand gently grasped by Aldrian. She looked up at his face, which was now adorned with a warm smile before he pulled her into a comforting embrace.

He had sensed her feelings of melancholy, knowing exactly what she was thinking. Although it could be considered cheating, he had read her thoughts and intentions, preferring to intervene rather than let her drown in her own negative emotions. After all, such thoughts could be poisonous.

"You don't have to feel sad, nor let negativity cloud your thoughts when you're beside me," Aldrian said, his voice soft yet reassuring. "The only thing that matters to me is that you love me, and that's enough." He gazed into Sylphia's eyes and gently cupped her cheek with his hand.

"However, if loving me isn't enough for you, don't worry. I'll help you overcome that feeling of inferiority. You'll come to be proud of who you are, and you'll never feel unworthy beside me again, because you'll be above anyone else. Don't let yourself fall into negative emotions. Whatever you want to be, I'll support you."

His soft voice, full of support, instantly lifted her spirits. She no longer cared if he always knew what she was thinking; she was simply grateful for the unwavering support he gave her. Without a word, she wrapped her arms around him, and Aldrian embraced her in return. It was a tender hug between lovers, amidst a land laid bare by destruction.

Chapter 293: The Devil Lord's Confusion

In the giant dark throne chamber, the devil lord sat on his throne with his usual laid-back demeanor. However, only he knew how annoyed he truly felt about how things had turned out. The events in the Doria Empire were spiraling out of his control, and he hadn't expected the entire devil network to be exposed instead.

Initially, he wanted all the devils and their assets in the empire to continue operating as they had before. After the war, there would be a crisis of faith among the nobles, the populace, and even the imperial family itself. The Doria Empire would be consumed by its own suspicions and eventually crumble from within.

However, things started to go south when their information network was suddenly compromised, and the emperor broke the Envy Devil's curse. Everything began to collapse like a row of dominoes, spiraling out of control. Now, the devils' operations in the Doria Empire have essentially come to a halt, with no devils or pawns remaining in strategic positions.

They had all been ransacked by the armies of the imperial family and the nobles who were not yet under his influence. In the end, he lost his grasp on the Doria Empire not long after the war.

To compensate, he decided to devise another plan in a different empire—one that also shares a border with the devils. Both the Doria Empire and the Vindas Empire had been heavily influenced by the devils, thanks to the numerous infiltrators and traitors the devils had brought to their side.

Although this plan in the Vindas empire was quite rushed, he was confident it would go undetected by others because some traitors held strategic positions to assist him. Even if someone discovered his plan this time, there would be nothing they could do, as the traitors would handle any threats.

Still, all these events stemmed from the outcome in the Doria Empire, which he had not anticipated.

"Where did it go wrong? What were the gaps that allowed those people to uncover our network in the empire?" the devil lord thought.

He recounted all the events during the war and its aftermath. The only things that stood out were the mysterious swordsman and the enigmatic alchemist who could create six-striped pills, known as Aldrian. These two individuals were the only ones who came to mind after all his plans had crumbled.

The mysterious swordsman had ended the war much earlier than he had intended, and the final outcome fell short of what he had desired. Although he could still brush it off since the war was merely a camouflage, the result lacked the chaos he had envisioned.

As for the man called Aldrian, he had learned of his existence from a report sent by the master of the Alchemist Association. A genius alchemist, previously unheard of, had emerged on the continent—an alchemist capable of creating six-striped pills. Not long after his arrival, everything began to spiral out of control, with the devil lord's plans crumbling one by one.

He wanted to believe that all of this was just a coincidence, but he couldn't. There was something suspicious about these two individuals who had appeared not long apart.

"Are they connected? Do they share some sort of relationship?" the devil lord pondered, certain that these two people were somehow linked.

"Or are they..." There was another possibility that sounded absurd, but not entirely impossible—at least, not for him. What if these two individuals were actually the same person? Although it sounded crazy, for others, it was a possibility, as he knew something like that could be achieved if that person possessed "that," just like himself. However, even if Aldrian had "that," it still did not answer some of the questions lingering in his mind.

In the midst of his pondering, he suddenly felt a tug in his soul. He frowned at this, for he sensed that his connection to several of his underlings had disappeared almost simultaneously! The number was in the tens, and this kind of occurrence was far from ordinary. Did something happen again?

As he was still pondering what had just happened, a black shadow emerged from the darkness of the throne chamber. The black silhouette knelt before him.

"My lord, we detected the life signs of many devils disappearing almost simultaneously. The number is 10,486 souls. We still don't know the cause, but from the life sign tags, all of them are from Boraz Fortress," his hoarse voice resounded.

The devil lord's frown deepened. Boraz Fortress? The fortress near the border of the devil territory and the Flamecrest Grand Duchy. Today was supposed to be the day when hell would break loose in the Flamecrest territory. Had something gone wrong again? If he truly lost the entire army at Boraz, then the territories facing Rivas and Flamecrest would be left defenseless. These areas would be vulnerable and open to attack from the two empires.

He had already tried to retake Sazim, but strangely, the environment there had suddenly changed. The atmosphere, once gloomy and filled with negative energy—ideal for the devils to cultivate—had disappeared. This was something that was normally impossible, due to how the devil territory had been covered in thick negative energy for millions of years.

Still, they couldn't leave the area, so they built a camp for a new base near Sazim, where the environment remained the same as the rest of the devil territory. However, not long after, the devils there were killed once again by that mysterious swordsman. This time, he even killed the Envy Devil, his successor and one of the Seven Devils of Annihilation.

He didn't understand how that mysterious swordsman could come and go within the devil territory without any hindrance or signs. It was as if he appeared and disappeared at will, almost like some form of teleportation or space-based movement.

The devil lord then looked at the shadow.

"Send Reis there to check the situation. I want to know what happened to that place. Tell him that he only needs to assess the situation and not take any action."

"Yes, my lord." The shadow responded before disappearing into the darkness.

The devil lord's frown still hadn't eased. He continued to think about the mysterious swordsman, the strange alchemist Aldrian, and all of the plans that seemed to have fallen apart since that man's appearance. If Aldrian and the mysterious swordsman were the same person, combined with all of his strange abilities, then there was a possibility that he had "that."

However, if he had "that," why can he come here?! Did something happen "above"? The devil lord then mumbled something inaudible and suddenly looked ahead, as if observing something—something only he could see.

In what used to be Boraz Fortress, Aldrian and Sylphia had not left yet, as they landed on the ground. From the memories he had read, Aldrian knew that there was another structure beneath the fortress. Like Sazim, there was a dungeon here to hold the captives. The dungeon entrance was inside one of the destroyed buildings.

After clearing the rubble on the surface, he found an entrance. The door had already been destroyed, and the path was buried, as the surface had collapsed after his attacks. This didn't stop him; he simply pushed away the rubble and dirt using his earth element technique. Afterward, they were finally able to step onto the path leading to the dungeon.

As they continued walking downward, they could sense many presences in the dungeon. Aldrian already knew that some devils were still alive here. They were fortunate, as they had been guarding this area and not on the surface when he unleashed his technique.

It wasn't long before they finally encountered a group of devils, who were confused by what was happening on the surface. They had only felt the sudden intense tremor of the ground, one that even collapsed the surface—was it an earthquake? But they were stunned when they saw two unknown figures entering the dungeon. Before they could make a move, their foreheads were pierced by arrows. Sylphia had already made her move; the devils in this place were nothing more than a piece of cake for her.

Every time they passed a group of devils, Sylphia instantly killed them. They passed many rooms, each stained with blood—witnesses to the suffering of those held here.

They continued walking until they finally arrived at a hallway lined with rows of cells. Here, they could sense many people who seemed to be the devils' captives. Aldrian focused his senses on all of them and counted fifty in total, most of them women. With his will, he concentrated his energy on the locks of the cells, and with a surge, broke them all at once.

They could see that the people here needed immediate treatment, and that was exactly what Aldrian and Sylphia provided. They checked their conditions and treated them accordingly. The men were malnourished, with many torture wounds on their bodies, while the women were in even worse condition, with no decent piece of fabric to cover their bodies.

While treating them, Aldrian had a thought.

"This is it. I can use this event to not only completely cleanse the Flamecrest name but also elevate their position in the empire even further."

Chapter 294: Releasing the Captives

Sylphia administered medicinal pills to the captives, helping them regain enough strength to at least stand. However, some were in such critical condition that it was unsurprising if a few suddenly died before Aldrian and Sylphia could do anything.

Among the captives, there were also those who seemed to have lost their sanity, mumbling incoherently. Aldrian used his golden energy to soothe them, helping them

relax and regain awareness. His golden energy had a naturally calming effect, aiding in their recovery.

There were also some women who tried to commit suicide after regaining their energy, but Aldrian stopped them. He blocked their movements, immobilizing them. Understanding that they had likely endured severe psychological and physical trauma, he avoided being too harsh. He simply didn't want to save them only for them to end their lives through suicide.

After spending more than an hour treating the captives and giving them time to process the situation, some of them suddenly kowtowed to Aldrian and Sylphia.

"Thank you for saving us, saviors. We will never forget this favor," one of the men said. His actions were quickly followed by many others, who also kowtowed in gratitude.

"Get up. It's fate that you still have your lives until today, and I just happened to cross paths with you," Aldrian said.

"Still, you are the one who saved us when we thought we would die in this place, so it's appropriate for us to show this gratitude," the man said, still in a kowtow position.

"Alright, alright, I accept it. Just get up, or I'll lock you back in your cell."

Hearing that, they instantly stood up and looked at Aldrian. Although he said those words, it seemed none of them took it to heart. They knew it was simply Aldrian's way of joking to get them to stop what they were doing.

"Alright, all of you, move to the surface. The devil threat is no more—I've already cleared them all from this place," Aldrian said.

After hearing his words, the captives began moving in an orderly manner toward the surface, with Sylphia leading the way. Aldrian wasn't concerned about their safety or the possibility of encountering surprises, as the entire area had already become his domain.

However, not all of them followed Sylphia. One woman remained in her cell, showing no intention of leaving. She sat silently, her body now covered with a piece of cloth that Sylphia had given her.

Aldrian approached her. She was one of the women who had tried to commit suicide earlier, but he had stopped her. She stayed silent, her head lowered, even as he stood in front of her, observing her quietly.

The other women who had suicidal intent had already been taken care of, as Aldrian was able to persuade them to rethink their choices. However, this woman still seemed determined to end her life, lacking any will to live.

She had a beautiful face with shoulder-length black hair. The first time Aldrian had seen her, she was in terrible condition, nearly devoid of any clothing. Her body was covered in bruises, clear signs of violence. While her dantian and meridians weren't in particularly bad shape, the lack of energy flow for an extended period had caused her meridians to become rigid and dry. It was possible that she had been imprisoned in this place for several years.

"Carol Duclane."

Her cultivation was impressive, at the Marquess stage, and compared to her age, she seemed quite talented in her cultivation. Aldrian thought she might be from a noble house, but he wasn't sure, as he didn't have detailed information about the families in the Vindas Empire.

After a while, noticing she still didn't seem intent on speaking, he finally broke the silence.

"Do you really want to die?" he asked.

But there was no answer—only silence.

"Carol Duclane, although I don't fully understand the pain and agony you've endured in this place, if you want to die so badly, you'd better do it outside my sight. However, you won't have a chance to take revenge."

The woman was stunned. Finally, there was a reaction—she instantly lifted her head and looked at Aldrian's expressionless face.

"How did you...?" she began, her voice trailing off in surprise.

"You don't have to know. All I care about is that I've already done my part here to save the people. If you truly want to die, even after I've saved you and prevented you from doing so, then I have nothing more to say. That is your choice. But, like I said, you won't get your revenge," Aldrian said.

Aldrian was genuinely curious about this woman's circumstances. He could sense that she indeed wanted to end her life, but he also felt the burning desire for revenge deep within her heart. He didn't know who or what this revenge was directed at, and he wasn't at the point where he had to ask her about her circumstances or revenge.

"And why would you care if I have revenge, die, or whatever? It's not like you're my guardian or anything," she said, her tone filled with hatred as she glared at him with an angry stare.

But Aldrian remained calm, his face expressionless as he continued to look at her.

"Like I said, this is just so I don't have a burden on my conscience. I save what I can, and my effort to persuade you is no more than following my moral values and principles. Again, if you want to die, then you can do so after I leave this dungeon. Watching the people I've tried to save commit suicide in the end would be nothing but an insult to my efforts. How would you feel if you gave something to someone, only for them to throw it back in your face?" Aldrian said, his tone calm but carrying a subtle edge.

Carol fell silent, lowering her head as she couldn't rebut what Aldrian had just said. She knew his words were true. She had her own grudge and story, but the situation had left her in despair.

She watched as Aldrian turned and walked away without looking back at her. He kept moving further, and as he seemed about to disappear from her sight, she bit her lip, standing up. She walked, following his steps, and before long, she finally exited the dungeon.

What greeted her outside was something she never expected, causing her eyes to widen in shock.

"What happened to this place?!"

The fortress was completely destroyed, with not a single structure remaining. It looked as though it had just experienced a major catastrophic disaster. The air was thick with the smell of burnt remnants, and parts of the ground were blackened and cratered, as if struck by something immensely powerful. Carol also couldn't see or sense any devils in the area.

"Did the two of them do all of this?" she wondered, her gaze shifting between Aldrian and Sylphia. To think that just the two of them could destroy one of the devils' fortresses, which had been guarded by so many powerful devils...

As she pondered, a thought crossed her mind. After seeing what Aldrian was capable of, she saw a chance. Maybe, just maybe, she could ask for his help.

"Alright, ladies and gentlemen, you are free people now, and after this, I'll need your help," Aldrian said to the group.

One of the men who had kowtowed to Aldrian earlier stepped forward.

"Just say it, savior. We will try our best to help," he said. The others nodded in agreement, ready to assist.

"Alright, after this, I will send you back to Flamecrest City. Once you arrive, I want you to spread the news that the Flamecrest family is the one that saved you from the Boraz fortress and that the Boraz fortress has already been destroyed. I want you to make

sure that every single person who asks about it knows that the Flamecrest family is responsible. Is that clear?"

The people were stunned. Just that? If it was only that, it seemed like an easy task. The man, still stunned, asked Aldrian,

"Savior, are you from the Flamecrest family?"

"Well, not quite, but I do have a relationship with them," Aldrian replied.

The man wasn't sure how to interpret Aldrian's answer but decided not to press further. If their savior asked them to spread the word that the Flamecrest family was responsible, they would do so without question.

"Okay, I will—"

"Wait, can I meet you after we come back to the city?" Carol suddenly cut off Aldrian.

Aldrian looked at Carol, noticing the change in her demeanor. She no longer appeared as suicidal; her eyes now held a hopeful expression, a new spark of life ignited within her.

"If fate lets us meet again in the future," Aldrian replied.

Hearing his words, Carol looked disappointed for a moment, but then her face hardened with determination.

"I need your help," she said.

Aldrian fell silent, his gaze fixed on the determined look in her eyes. He could tell that she had found hope, and that hope was now directed at him. Sylphia also observed the woman, choosing to remain silent for the moment. As a woman, she felt a sense of sorrow for the suffering Carol had endured in that place. Seeing her change her mind about suicide was a positive development. If Aldrian could help her with whatever she needed, it would be an even better outcome.

Aldrian remained silent for a moment before gesturing for Carol to follow him, leading her further from the group of people. Once he felt they were far enough, he turned to her.

"What kind of help do you need from me?" he asked.

Carol gritted her teeth before answering.

"It's about my revenge."

"Your revenge? Why would I have to involve myself in your revenge?"

"Because it has to do with the devils involvement in the noble family of the Vindas Empire."

Hearing that, Aldrian was stunned. Did he just hit another jackpot?

Chapter 295: Carol's Story

"The devils' involvement, huh? Alright, you've piqued my interest. So, what is it about? I want to hear it first," Aldrian said.

Carol sighed in relief. She remained silent for a moment, seemingly trying to compose herself before telling her story.

"If you know my name, then you must know where I'm from, bu—"

"No, I only know your name. I don't know your origin or anything about you. Just your name."

Carol was speechless. What kind of logic was that? They had never met before, yet he already knew her name. Wasn't he supposed to know her origin as well? If he didn't know her family or anything about her, then how did he know her name? Was this man playing a prank on her or something?

Carol felt genuinely exasperated but decided to keep it to herself.

"Alright, I apologize. I'm actually a young miss from one of the duke households in the Vindas Empire—the Duclan family. Or at least, I used to be," Carol said.

Aldrian raised his eyebrows. A young miss of a duke household? That's quite a high status, but she ended up here? And what did she mean by *used to*?

Looking at Aldrian's reaction, Carol realized that he genuinely didn't know her origin.

"I lie if I said I'm not surprised, how the young miss of the duke household can end up in this place?" Aldrian asked.

Carol gritted her teeth as her eyes turn full of hatred.

"It's because of the Larson family and the imperial family! They betrayed my—no, they betrayed the entire empire."

"Explain it to me in detail. Keep in mind that I don't really know much about the nobles in your empire," Aldrian said, narrowing his eyes.

Carol nodded in understanding. It seemed Aldrian was from outside the Vindas Empire.

"Alright, then let me start with the basics of the story. The Larson family is one of the grand duchy families in the northwest of the empire. My family, the Duclan family, is located near the border between the Flamecrest Grand Duchy and the Larson Grand Duchy.

Our family and the Larson family had a good relationship. In fact, we maintained close ties with the neighboring noble territories due to our geographical proximity."

"One day, they suddenly came to our family—or more specifically, their young master paid us a visit. It was an unexpected visit, and unlike their usual interactions with us. During this visit, they actually proposed a marriage alliance with our family.

Of course, the marriage proposal was for me. But it wasn't just about marriage—they also tried to offer us treasures. We were confused by their sudden generosity and the abrupt move to propose a marriage alliance."

"We knew there had to be a reason for the Larson family's sudden move. We didn't want to recklessly fall into their game, so we tried to postpone the proposal for as long as possible while searching for a way out of the situation. However, the longer we delayed, the more aggressive the Larson family became in their pursuit.

In the end, my father decided to accept the proposal. The Larson family had offered so much that we thought it would be a pity to refuse. But that decision marked the beginning of our misfortune. At the time, we had no idea what we were getting ourselves into."

"As the young miss of a noble family, I, of course, followed what my family decided for me. At the time, I tried to stay positive. Maybe it wouldn't be so bad. Perhaps I could live a life of love in marriage.

Over time, my relationship with the young master of the Larson family grew closer and closer, and at one point, I decided to trust him with my heart," she said, but then her eyes turned hateful.

"However, one night, when he visited our mansion, I accidentally overheard him communicating with someone through a communication artifact. I didn't know who he was speaking to, but I heard phrases like 'it's time,' 'the energy stone mines will be ours,' and 'the Lust Devil and the devils.'

I was shocked and immediately ran from there, determined to tell my parents about the snake we had unknowingly invited into our home."

"But it was already too late. Suddenly, the imperial family arrived with Princess Loraine, accusing us of collaborating with the devils. They claimed that the energy stone mines under our territory were being used as secret passages for the devils.

Of course, we denied the absurd accusation, but the imperial family seemed adamant about it."

"When we thought the Larson family would help us, they actually backstabbed us! They claimed they had just discovered that our family had connections with the devils and would report it to the imperial family.

When they sent people to check our mines, we found traces of the devils! How is that possible? The area is under our strict control—how could there be traces of the devils there?"

"At that moment, everything finally clicked in my mind. From the start, this was all just a ploy! The imperial family was also involved in this. The Larson family approached us with a marriage proposal to lower our guard. Although they never told us why they were targeting us, I now believe it must have something to do with the mines in our territory."

"Energy stone mines in the Duclan family?" Aldrian asked.

"Yes, and why did I come to this conclusion? Because after that, my family was demoted to commoners, and the imperial family executed my parents. Our family's territory at the part where the mines were located, was given to the Larson family. Combined with what I overheard from that bastard that night, it all makes sense. I don't know why they're targeting our mines—after all, the Larsons have their own. I doubt it's just because they want to expand their wealth. Given the involvement of the imperial family, none of this makes any sense."

"The only possibility is that it has to do with the devils. They must have done all of this in the interest of the devils! That has to be it!" she said in a spiteful tone.

"And that bastard Clark... He actually gave me to the devils as a present! That's why I ended up in this cursed place. All of this—it's because of them!"

Aldrian finally grasped the overall situation. From her story, it seemed the princess also had a hand in this. They wanted to use almost the same method against the Flamecrest family, to frame them for involvement with the devils. Fortunately, he could prevent that from happening, if they succeed, the scale would be far more devastating due to the Flamecrest family's status and position in the empire.

If what Carol said is true, and the Larson family or whoever else wants the energy stone mines, then what is their purpose? Why mines? Aldrian didn't believe it was just about wealth—there must be something deeper behind it.

It was also fortunate that he had heard Carol's story, as it provided useful information. Now, he had another target to eliminate. He hadn't read this part in the memories from the princess or her guardian knight.

Aldrian smiled at her. No wonder she wanted to commit suicide. The desire for revenge, coupled with a lack of power, was what led her to such thoughts. Her opponents were noble families of a higher rank than hers, and even the imperial family. With such powerful enemies, there was no way she could exact revenge. She had already lost everything and had no power left.

When she saw his power, she found a glimmer of hope for revenge and wished to borrow his strength. Aldrian grasped what she was thinking.

"It's truly tragic for you and your family. I can only imagine the suffering and pain you've endured after all of that. However, what makes you think I'll take on the Larson Grand Duchy and even the imperial family? Even if they are all connected to the devils, I don't think I have enough motivation to face them and endanger myself," Aldrian argued.

Carol bit her lip as she heard the subtle meaning behind his words.

"Then what do you want to give you enough motivation? I already have nothing left, so I don't think I can offer you anything," she said to him.

Aldrian smiled at this. He liked how smart this woman was, even though she had just wanted to end her life not long ago.

"I suppose you would do anything for revenge?" he asked.

"Of course, I'll do anything!" she said, full of confidence and anger.

"Then, I won't ask much. I just want you to be bait."

"Bait?"

"Yes, bait. If what you said is true, then you can serve as a perfect bait to lure the Larson family out. They'll show their true colors." Aldrian leaned in close, his voice low as he revealed his plan.

Carol seemed surprised by Aldrian's plan, but she thought it was actually a brilliant one!

Although it could be dangerous for her, as long as it led to her revenge, she didn't care. She could watch as the Larson family was played to the very end!

Chapter 296: The Commotion After Their Return

After finishing his conversation with Carol, Aldrian returned to the crowd still waiting for him. Sylphia stood nearby, watching them. When she saw Aldrian coming back with Carol, she smiled at them and turned to Aldrian.

"How did it go?" she asked.

"Good," Aldrian replied. "I have to say, I hit another jackpot. Her past is also connected to the devils, so I decided to help her. I'll explain everything once we're back at the inn."

Sylphia nodded as Aldrian glanced at the crowd around them.

"Alright, I will now send you to Flamecrest City. Remember what I told you—spread the word that the Flamecrest family is the one who saved you," Aldrian said to them.

The expressions of the people brightened, but the man from earlier hesitantly asked Aldrian, his confusion evident.

"Savior, how can you send us back when there's no transportation here?" It was the same question many others had, as they saw no artifacts, formations, or carriages nearby.

Aldrian simply smiled at them and glanced at Carol Duclane, who was also looking at him with curiosity, wondering how he would send them back. However, she suddenly felt disoriented as the scenery around them shifted abruptly. She blinked, unable to even process the shock before finding herself surrounded by the sights of the city.

She looked around, taking in her surroundings as she stood in the vast plaza. Though it had been a long time, she still recognized this place—the city plaza of Flamecrest City.

As the reality of the situation settled in, finally her eyes widened in shock. Did that young man just move them from Boraz to this place? She realized he must have used some kind of space-based technique to accomplish it, but how? To achieve such a feat would require an enormous amount of energy and a level of comprehension that even those at the Emperor stage would struggle to attain.

The reactions of the crowd, whether from the former captives or the nearby onlookers, were the same—they were stunned. The captives were shocked because of their sudden arrival in this place, while the onlookers were equally taken aback by the simultaneous appearance of so many people.

Some of the captives dropped to their knees, tears streaming down their faces as the realization struck—they were finally here, safe and free.

The plaza was still packed with people, as the princess's announcement had only just concluded not long ago. Many were still discussing the announcement when the sudden appearance of so many people, as if they had popped out of thin air, left them in shock.

"Wait, isn't that Mister Oh? Didn't he disappear during his expedition five years ago?"

"Look, that's Miss Yu—the young miss of the..."

"That's..."

As the commotion spread, many people began to identify the captives, rushing to approach them and offer help. They could see the torn clothes they wore, and how the women were only covered by a single piece of cloth.

The commotion quickly drew the attention of the Flamecrest family's guards, who rushed to the scene. Soon after, the news of the captives' sudden appearance spread throughout the entire city like wildfire.

Aldrey, who had just returned to the mansion not long ago, now sat in the Grand Duke Flamecrest's workroom, alongside the Grand Duke himself. They were discussing what just happened. The princess's announcement had truly satisfied them; with her words, their family's name would mostly be cleared. They had also announced their own investigation, which further strengthened the princess's conclusion and eased the people's suspicions and worries.

However, there was still something that felt off. There was something strange about Princess Loraine; Aldrey could see that she seemed quite anxious for reasons unknown. Grand Duke Flamecrest also noticed this, sensing that something was weighing on the princess. However, it was not their place to inquire about her personal matters.

In the midst of their discussion, they suddenly heard a knock at the door. After the Grand Duke allowed the man in, he immediately bowed to both Grand Duke Flamecrest and Aldrey.

"My lord, we have a situation in the city plaza."

While the city was already in commotion due to the sudden appearance of the captives, Aldrian had returned with Sylphia. They were now walking hand in hand down the road, appearing like an ordinary couple. No one knew that the man had just destroyed a devil's fortress in the Devil Territory.

Aldrian felt a sense of relief, free from the burden of problems. After today, the name Flamecrest would soar to greater heights. No one would dare tarnish the family's reputation.

Their position would become stronger, and even if rumors, like the devil-related scandal from a few days ago, resurfaced, the people would no longer be quick to believe them. A family capable of destroying a devil's fortress—how could anyone believe they were in cahoots with the devils? Only fools would entertain such an idea. It could be said that the troubles surrounding his father's family were now resolved.

Now, for his next step, Aldrian would focus on uprooting the devils from the Vindas Empire. This task would undoubtedly be more chaotic. However, he was ready for it. If it meant turning the entire empire upside down to rid it of the devils, he would do so without hesitation.

After walking and enjoying the sights and attractions until sunset, they finally returned to the inn. However, as they entered, Aldrian spotted a figure in a black robe sitting at one of the tables on the ground floor, where the inn also functioned as a restaurant. He instantly recognized the person and approached, with Sylphia following him.

After arriving beside the figure in the black robe, Aldrian noticed a woman who seemed lost in thought while staring at her drink. Sensing his presence beside her, she looked up at him. Aldrian then took a seat across from her, with Sylphia following suit and ordering drinks for them.

"How do you feel after getting out of that place, Miss Carol?" Aldrian asked.

Carol sighed, her gaze fixed on her drink.

"It's good. I haven't felt this way in a long time. I'm just glad I decided to come back instead of... ending my own life," she replied.

"Good, I'm glad to hear that. Now, Miss Carol, let's discuss the details of what you're going to do. As I mentioned earlier, you will serve as bait for the Larson family, and from there, you'll expose their true colors. You just need to terrorize them with information that only you know—their collaboration with the devils. Use this to make them anxious and force them into making mistakes. Since they believe you're gone and no longer a threat, you can play this card more effectively."

"The imperial family will also be dragged into this, since Princess Loraine is involved. So, you'd better be careful with your operation. For the future, let's proceed with this..." They discussed the details of their plan for the next hour before they were done. Carol, now understanding the direction and steps she needed to take, was filled with determination. Aldrian provided her with some wealth to start her operation and help ensure their plan ran smoothly.

After Carol left the inn, Aldrian turned to Sylphia.

"My dear, you can go back to your room first. I need to visit the princess and check on her condition."

Sylphia smiled and nodded, and only after that did Aldrian disappear, like a ghost as he usually did.

Inside the Flamecrest family mansion, Princess Loraine sat in front of the mirror in her room. She didn't want to return to the capital just yet, as she was waiting for the young man's visit. Anxiety gripped her, and she found herself biting her thumbnail, unable to relax for even a moment. After the announcement, the young man hadn't visited her, leaving her uncertain of what he was thinking or doing. She could only hope that he was satisfied with the results of today.

Suddenly, she felt a presence behind her, and there he was. Without hesitation, she rushed toward Aldrian, intending to grab his collar, but he swiftly caught her hand, preventing her from touching him.

"I've done what you asked me to do, so please, release Rodwin," she pleaded.

Aldrian didn't answer right away. Instead, he flashed her a smile. She froze, stunned by the sudden expression, the first smile he had ever shown her. In that moment, she realized that smile wasn't a good sign.

"Good job, Your Highness. You really know how to deliver good news to the masses. I'm impressed," Aldrian remarked, his voice laced with a touch of amusement.

Princess Loraine let out a sigh of relief, though she still hadn't received an answer about Rodwin. Her patience was beginning to thin.

"Ah, by the way, while I was taking a stroll today, I came across some... interesting information about you, Your Highness. To think you, too, have your hands stained in the downfall of the Duclan family."

Princess Loraine's eyes widened in shock. How could he possibly know about that? There was no way he could have found out unless he had connections with the devils or the higher-ups in the Larson family. As for the imperial family, only her guardian knight knew about it.

Whatever the case, this was bad news for her! From the looks of it, this young man wasn't finished with her yet.

Chapter 297: Unexpected Sight

Princess Loraine wanted to ask how he knew about the case of the Duclan family, but she knew Aldrian would not answer her. For him to bring up this matter, he must be planning to use her for something else!

"What do you want?" Princess Loraine asked.

Aldrian, still smiling, walked around the princess.

"Smart. I like smart people. I have a job for you, and it's actually simple. After this, I won't bother you anymore, and I'll release the Lust Devil."

Princess Loraine's expression brightened after hearing his words. Looking at her expression, Aldrian was truly amazed by her devotion and the depth of her love for the Lust Devil.

"What you need to do is make the Larson family's connection to the devils public for the entire world to see. It's simple, right?" Aldrian said.

Princess Loraine looked at Aldrian, her expression growing frustrated.

"It's not as easy as you think," she replied. "I can't just accuse a family like the Larsons, with their status, of being connected to the devils. We have to prepare thoroughly."

"But you managed it with the Duclane and Flamecrest families, tho, and their status is no less significant in this empire." Aldrian countered.

"It's because they created an opening for us to strike. We only took advantage of that. The Duclane family had their mines infiltrated by the devils because the Larsons helped them there. Flamecrest was implicated because Commander Marcus met with the Sloth Devil. As for the Larsons, although they have many traces of the devils within their family, they will surely—"

"Your Highness."

Princess Loraine fell silent when she noticed Aldrian's neutral expression.

"I see. The Larsons also have leverage against you, don't they? They have something to retaliate with if you make a move against them. That's why you're spouting these so-called reasons as a cover. In the end, each of you is choking the other's throat, and it's only a matter of time before one of you strangles the other to death. Truly clever," he said.

Princess Loraine lowered her head and bit her lips because what Aldrian said was true. If she made a move against the Larsons, they would reveal the truth about her to the

entire world. It was still too early for anyone to know about her connection with the devils. If the world learned of her true self, the imperial family would be affected, and she would not be able to escape her father's punishment. She wouldn't even be surprised if her father decided to kill her himself.

"If I do what you ask, my life is basically over. There's no way my father would let me off after everything I've done in the past," she said.

Aldrian's expression remained unchanged. What she said was true. The emperor, her father, was unaware of Princess Loraine's connections with the devils. All he knew was that his daughter had done an excellent job rooting out the devils' accomplices within the empire. With the help of the Larson family, she had managed to keep the truth hidden from him. It was also because the emperor trusted his daughter so much that his oversight of her was not particularly strict.

"Well, I don't care. You have to choose between your life and Rodwin's life. Besides, it's not guaranteed that your life will end after this," Aldrian said, shrugging his shoulders.

Faced with the two choices, her heart naturally leaned toward sacrificing herself for Rodwin. However, she caught the subtle meaning behind Aldrian's words.

"What do you mean? Like I said—"

"In the next few weeks, or a month at most, there will be chaos in the empire involving the Larson family," Aldrian interrupted. "You can use that opportunity to strike the Larson family from behind. If they retaliate, you'll already have the momentum on your side. They won't be able to bring you down so easily."

"The Larson family will be hit hard this time, and you will be the one to bring down the final hammer on them. You just need to ride the wave that will sweep the Larson family away when the time comes, and you'll be good to go," Aldrian said.

Princess Loraine remained silent. She didn't know what kind of chaos would unfold in the empire, but if it could save her life and allow her to see Rodwin again, she was willing to go along with it. It was far better than acting without any support or certainty. Even though she was stepping into Aldrian's game, she didn't care as long as the Lust Devil could be released.

"Remember, do your job this time, and you'll be reunited with the Lust Devil. I'm not someone who breaks promises, so make sure your performance is as flawless as today's," Aldrian said. Just as he was about to teleport, he suddenly remembered something.

"Oh, right. The devils will likely come to you once you return to the capital. If they ask about today's events, use whatever excuse you can think of—just don't mention me. Let

them figure it out on their own, or ignore them entirely. And if they bring up your lover's name, they're definitely lying. You understand what I mean, right?"

Princess Loraine nodded, and Aldrian gave a satisfied nod in return.

"Alright, I'll wait for the good news. Your job is done once the Larson family falls from grace." With that, Aldrian disappeared.

The princess stared at the empty air, looking lost. She suddenly felt drained, slumping to the ground. She longed to be with her beloved, but she couldn't. She was alone in this situation.

With a weary expression, she called for her guardian knight and said to him,

"Let's go back to the capital. Our job here is done."

Aldrian appeared back in his room at the inn. It was already dark, but he decided to do a short meditation before resting. Though he wasn't particularly tired or sleepy, sometimes he enjoyed taking a nap and closing his eyes, especially after everything he had done today.

However, the moment he looked around, his gaze was drawn to something that engraved itself in his mind, making his desire surge to new heights. Sylphia stood not far from him, wearing revealing lingerie that exposed her assets clearly to him.

Her perfect golden hair shimmered under the moonlight, and her flawless skin, smooth and without a single blemish, glowed softly. Her tall, voluptuous figure seemed to captivate every man's fantasy. Her D-cup breasts and slim waist acted as magnets; once you stared at them, it was hard to look anywhere else. Coupled with the stunning beauty of her elven face, which seemed to belong to another world, Aldrian found himself on the verge of losing control. In that moment, he felt an overwhelming urge to pounce on Sylphia and devour her.

Sylphia was momentarily stunned by Aldrian's sudden appearance, though she had grown accustomed to his unpredictable arrival. The real issue now was that she was in the midst of preparing herself for the next moment that would change her life. While her heart had already steeled itself, the instant Aldrian appeared, she felt a wave of shyness wash over her. Her courage and determination seemed to evaporate, as if they had been popped like a balloon.

She felt her face burning with embarrassment. Despite lowering her head to avoid looking at his face, she could still sense the intensity of Aldrian's desire in his eyes. The heat of his gaze was so palpable that she could feel it. She had never seen or sensed Aldrian like this before.

On the other hand, a part of her felt a sense of happiness. Aldrian's reaction only confirmed that he felt the same desire for her, just as she did for him.

"Ah!"

She kept her head lowered when suddenly, Aldrian lifted her effortlessly, carrying her in a princess-style hold. As she finally met his gaze, she saw the intensity in his eyes—a look that suggested he was ready to devour her completely. Her own gaze trembled as she locked eyes with him, feeling as though he had already consumed her entirely, even before she had revealed the parts of herself that were hidden. In those eyes, it was clear: Aldrian was already planning the many ways he would savor the feast before him.

After they arrived beside the bed, Aldrian gently laid Sylphia down on top of it. He didn't pounce on her immediately; instead, he took a moment to survey her entire body. Sylphia, unaccustomed to Aldrian's hungry gaze, instinctively covered her breasts and the more intimate parts of her body, feeling exposed under his intense stare.

Aldrian, already aroused by the sight of her alluring form, found himself even more captivated by her erotic position as she tried to shield her assets. Unable to control himself any longer, he pounced on top of her, swiftly grabbing her hands and pinning them above her head. His eyes locked with hers, and he smiled knowingly.

"You're truly bold to present yourself in such an outfit. Are you ready to bear the consequences?" Aldrian asked, his voice teasing, though his breath was shallow, as though he were trying to hold himself back.

Sylphia, already embarrassed, felt her face grow even redder as she shouted at him.

"What bold?! I was just trying to change my outfit when you suddenly appeared!" she said, trying to cover her face with both hands, but she couldn't as Aldrian held them in place.

Aldrian watched her cute reaction and leaned closer to her right ear.

"Is that so? Well, lucky me. I get to see such a beautiful sight, and it would be a shame not to enjoy it."

Chapter 298: Their First Time 1(R-18)

His breath on her neck made her body tremble. She felt a strange sensation in her body, particularly in her groin. It was the first time in her life she had experienced such feelings, leaving her uncertain about what was happening. She didn't respond to Aldrian's provocation, lowering her head shyly and attempting to free herself from his grip. However, Aldrian's hold was strong, rendering her struggles futile.

After whispering to Sylphia, Aldrian glanced at her elven ear. Truthfully, he wondered what would happen if he touched it. Acting on his curiosity, Aldrian lightly bit her ear.

"Ah! It's ticklish," she exclaimed, wriggling her body.

Aldrian smiled. After nibbling her ear, his gaze shifted to her smooth neck. Without hesitation, he pressed his lips against her neck, inhaling deeply as if it were the most refreshing scent in the world. The flowery fragrance filled his nostrils as his mouth and nose brushed against her soft neck.

"Ah," she moaned.

Sylphia felt a mix of ticklish sensations and pleasure as her desire began to rise. Every touch from him heightened her excitement and anticipation for what was to come. Suddenly, she felt his lips press against her neck, followed by a wet sensation and a gentle bite.

Aldrian savored the moment, enjoying the act before pulling his head back to admire his handiwork—a faint hickey he had left on her skin, as though marking his territory.

He stopped for a moment before meeting Sylphia's eyes again. Her expression showed traces of pleasure, and her half-closed eyes suggested she was willing to let him do whatever he desired.

Feeling Aldrian's gaze on her, Sylphia opened her now watery eyes, which glistened from the overwhelming sensations she had just experienced. She wondered why Aldrian had stopped.

"So, I take it you've already decided to be with me from now on? Without anything influencing your choice?" Aldrian asked gently.

Sylphia was stunned, but with her flushed face, she shouted slightly at him.

"After what you did, you suddenly ask this? Shouldn't you have asked before doing something like that?"

Aldrian simply kept his smile as he finally released his grip.

"No, because I already know the answer will be the same. I just wanted to hear your confirmation directly, so you won't regret it in the future."

Sylphia smiled as well, her face still shy, but then she gently touched his cheek with tenderness.

"Regret? I don't think I will experience it in the future. If, somehow, I do feel regret someday, it will only be because of my own shortcomings," Sylphia replied confidently.

Hearing her response, Aldrian touched her hand resting on his cheek.

"What shortcomings? What I see is a strong woman with immense potential," he said, his voice full of admiration.

His hand then trailed gently from her side breast to her waist. The soft, tender touch made her heart flutter, as though butterflies were taking flight inside her chest. Aldrian cupped Sylphia's cheek, meeting her gaze with unwavering intensity.

"I will never let you regret being with me, though I can't promise the road ahead will be smooth. In fact, I can tell you it will be bumpy, and it might even be unpleasant at times. But I'll make sure you enjoy the journey and never regret it."

Hearing that, Sylphia felt as though she were on the verge of tears. His words touched her deeply. She looked at Aldrian, who had leaned down, and this time, she could feel it—something pressing against her underwear from his groin area. Before she could say anything, Aldrian suddenly kissed her with all his might.

His kiss was far from gentle; it felt as though he wanted to devour her lips. His tongue sought to claim hers, but Sylphia, unwilling to back down, moved her tongue to match his intensity. The sound of their passionate kissing echoed in the room, but neither of them paid it any mind, fully lost in the pleasure of the moment.

They continued to devour each other's lips when Sylphia suddenly felt Aldrian's hand reach for her back. With swift like practiced movements, he unhooked her bra, and in a flash, he straightened his body and tossed the bra aside without a second thought. Now, he was met with the sight of her beautiful, perfectly shaped breasts, ripe for his enjoyment.

The shape of her breasts and the pink tips that were already hard caught his attention. The D cup size perfectly complemented her body, leaving him with no words but admiration.

However, Sylphia shyly covered her chest with one arm and lowered her head. Aldrian that still caught in his appreciation of her beauty, smiled. Gently, he took her hand and slowly lifted it, eager to see her fully again.

"It's truly beautiful. I'm lucky to be the man who gets to see this right in front of me," Aldrian said, his eyes full of desire.

"What are you saying? You always make me so shy," Sylphia replied softly.

Seeing her cute reaction, Aldrian couldn't resist any longer. Without warning, he leaned in and sucked her right nipple, causing her body to jolt from the sudden sensation. He devoured it like a starved beast, as though he hadn't eaten in a long time.

"Ah, Aldrian." She embraced his head with both arms as Aldrian sucked her right breast. It was the first time she had felt this way, and she enjoyed it. The wet and tingling sensation from her nipple sent electric shivers through her body. She closed her legs to steady herself against the overwhelming pleasure Aldrian brought her.

After he finished with the right, he switched to the left. He repeated the same actions, his tongue playing with her nipple, dancing on it as if it were a stage for his performance. He moved his tongue in a way that made Sylphia unable to resist the pleasure.

She was already moaning repeatedly and her underwear soaked from the stimulation Aldrian gave her. After a few minutes of enjoying her breasts, Aldrian finally let go of them and trailed his mouth downward towards her stomach. He kissed it a few times before finally arriving at her secret place that still sealed.

Her sexy underwear, which barely covered her groin, was already soaked with her liquid. He smiled at the sight before starting to remove his clothes, one by one. For the main event, he knew he had to follow suit. It would be the first time he revealed his bare body to the opposite sex—well, aside from his mother when he was still a child, of course.

Sylphia, who had closed her eyes to enjoy the pleasure Aldrian was giving her, opened them when he stopped his touch. The moment her watery eyes opened, they widened in shock at the sight before her.

Aldrian's upper body was now bare, showcasing his refined muscles. His body resembled a sculpture crafted by the finest sculptor—there was no other word to describe it except "perfect." The only thing covering his body was the final piece of shorts, which revealed the protrusion that could no longer be hidden. She knew that once those pants were removed, what lay beneath would "devour" her.

Aldrian was pleased to see that Sylphia enjoyed what she saw, but he continued with what he needed to do. He began to remove her underwear, and Sylphia allowed him to do so. Once he was done, every part of her body was now bare for him to see. Sylphia instinctively covered her most treasured area, feeling as though she might faint from the embarrassment. It was the first time someone had seen her most private part of her body.

Aldrian smiled at her and slowly lifted her hand, gazing at the wet slit—the place he would devour shortly. He leaned in, inhaling its fragrance like a flower, and it truly reminded him of the sweet scent of one.

"No, don't, it's dirty," she said, trying to cover herself again, but Aldrian blocked her attempt.

"No, this is beautiful. I suddenly regret not devouring you earlier," he replied.

Sylphia blushed deeply as he approached her groin. He gently licked the slit with the tip of his tongue. The sudden touch jolted her, causing her body to arch in response to the unexpected pleasure. He continued for a few seconds before deciding to be bolder and inserting his entire tongue inside of her.

"Ah! Agh! Ah! Heavens!"

She didn't know how Aldrian knew such things, but she didn't really care as the pleasure consumed her. Unbeknownst to her, besides his own instincts, Aldrian also possessed some of the memories of the Lust Devil, allowing him to learn a few of his techniques. One thing Aldrian had to admit about the Lust Devil was his ability to give women pleasure. This was also one of the ways to make women fall for him—by making them addicted to his techniques in bed.

It's no wonder the Lust Devil had many women in his harem, with the count reaching into the hundreds—a staggering number. Though Aldrian didn't like it, he had to admit that the Lust Devil was skilled in this regard. He could see that Sylphia enjoyed it, even to the point of seeming to lose herself in the pleasure.

When he decided it was enough, he finally chose to move on to the main event. He removed the last piece of clothing covering his groin, and the beast beneath it was finally free for the world to see.

No data found.

Chapter 299: Their First Time 2(R-18)

Once Aldrian completely removed his pants, the hard spear was fully revealed, ready for use. Sylphia gasped at the sight, her eyes widening as she took in its size. She had known what to expect behind that protruding pants, but seeing it in person was an entirely different matter. The thought of something that size fitting inside her made her heart race.

"Wait, is that going inside me?!" she thought, her mind swirling with both anticipation and disbelief.

"Aldrian—"

She felt nervous as her eyes lingered on his size, but before she could say anything, Aldrian had already moved. He pinned her beneath him, his hands firmly gripping her shoulders as he held her in place.

But then Sylphia's felt confused as Aldrian suddenly closed his eyes and stayed motionless for a moment. When he opened them again, a confident smile spread across his face. Leaning down, he whispered softly into her right ear, his warm breath sending shivers down her spine.

"Now, Sylphia, you'll be mine completely. Prepare yourself."

The moment he said those words, Sylphia's body trembled slightly as she prepared herself for what was about to happen. Aldrian carefully aligned his spear to her slit, knowing from his knowledge that this moment could be painful for some women.

However, he had already anticipated this and enveloped his spear with golden energy. The soothing warmth energy would ease her discomfort, ensuring that any pain she felt would be minimized.

Their eyes met one final time, both smiling softly at each other, as if exchanging unspoken promises. In the next moment, he slowly push his spear toward her pleasure hole, moving with care and intention.

When he felt her last seal blocking his way, he paused briefly before applying just enough pressure to break through, marking the start of their shared intimacy.

"Aah!"

Sylphia, who had braced herself for the pain she had been told to expect, could only moan in shock and ecstasy. The pain she anticipated when his member broke through her hymen did not appear. Instead, a warm, pleasurable sensation enveloped her lower body, spreading throughout her entire being.

Though a small stream of blood began to drip from her slit, she still felt no pain—only a strange and overwhelming comfort that left her breathless.

She looked into Aldrian's eyes, noticing how he was still trying to focus on her. Yet, she also saw an expression she had never seen from him before—an expression of pure pleasure.

For Aldrian, this was a sensation unlike anything he had ever experienced. He felt as though he had been missing something profound all his life, realizing only now the depths of such pleasure.

Unbeknownst to them, the invisible thin thread above their karma connection briefly became more distinct.

In that instant, Aldrian's mind was suddenly transported to another point in time. He found himself in a similar position, but the woman beneath him was different. Yet, in his eyes, her face was just as beautiful as Sylphia's. He could feel the depth of his love for her and the overwhelming happiness that came with their union, both in body and soul.

Sylphia felt the same sensation, as though she had been transported to a moment in time where she was in this exact position. In her vision, his face

was different, yet her love for him remained unchanged, even growing stronger. It was as if both of them were experiencing another life, in another dimension. All of this happened in the span of a split second before they returned to reality.

Aldrian and Sylphia were stunned for a moment, halting their movements. Though it lasted only a split second in reality, it felt as if they had been in this position for an eternity. Suddenly, they both felt their love for each other growing, and they smiled at one another. Aldrian then began to move his hips, initially slow, wanting to savor the pleasurable tightness surrounding his spear.

"Ngh, nggh..." A soft moan escaped Sylphia as she gripped the bed sheets beside her.

Gradually, Aldrian increased his pace, the sound of their skin meeting echoing through the room, creating a rhythmic clap.

Pak pak pak

"Ahh, ah, ahh,"

Her moans echoed through the room, and if Aldrian hadn't set up a soundproof formation, her voice would likely be heard by Baek Ji-Min, Xin Haotian, or anyone passing by the room.

Aldrian maintained his steady rhythm, savoring the pleasure. He finally understood why, among the devils, the negative energy of lust was so widely sought after. Many cultivated it, drawn by its addictive nature. The sensation was intoxicating, and with it came strength. Pleasure and power—how could it not be popular?

Amidst the pleasure and the moans of his lover, Aldrian began to use his dual cultivation technique. From the memories of the Lust Devil, he had access to several techniques—some were deadly, while others offered benefits to a couple. Naturally, he chose the one that would benefit both of them.

He had remained silent earlier, taking the time to check his memories and ensure there was nothing harmful in the dual cultivation technique. After confirming there was no danger, he tried using it, making slight modifications to accommodate his golden energy. Fortunately, it worked, as their energy circulation, perfectly in sync, responded with his each thrust.

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He sucked her right nipple while pounding her, giving her double strike and overwhelming her with pleasure. She lost all awareness of her surroundings,

her body trembling from the intensity of the moment. This was the most vulnerable state she had ever been in.

After a few minutes of sucking and pounding, the moment of ultimate pleasure arrived as Aldrian felt himself nearing his limit. Sylphia, also nearing her limit, sensed that Aldrian was about to climax, and it seemed as though they had a mutual understanding, both wanting to release together.

"Sylphia, my dear, receive my love for you," Aldrian said.

"Ah, yes... ah, give it to me," she responded, her voice filled with pleasure.

After a few moments, he kissed her with full passion, and at last, he released his seed. The pleasure he experienced at that moment was unlike any other. It felt as though his groin might explode, closing his eyes to fully savor it.

For Sylphia, her body remained in reality, but her soul soared among clouds filled with rainbows after her climax. The pleasure was overwhelming, and she wished for nothing more than to remain in that blissful state forever.

Suddenly, she felt a surge of energy radiating from her vagina, flowing through her entire body. It was as though powerful energy entered her meridians and dantian without her command. With half-closed eyes and a face glistening with sweat, she gazed at Aldrian, who had his eyes closed, seemingly still immersed in the aftereffects of his release. He continued ejaculating for a few more seconds before finally stopping.

Afterward, he opened his eyes and lifted his head to gaze at Sylphia's face. She appeared exhausted from the immense pleasure, yet the surge of energy within her seemed to rejuvenate her stamina. He paused his actions, offering her the warmest smile he could muster. Gently, he cupped her head and kissed her eyes, her nose, and finally her lips. With her eyes still closed, she allowed him to lead the kiss, savoring his tenderness. Every movement he made gave her a deep sense of protection and care.

Suddenly, she felt a tug from her dantian, and as she realized what had happened, she discovered that she had broken through to the Earl stage. She was shocked, as she had only just reached the peak Viscount stage not long ago, and now she had already advanced to the next realm.

Opening her eyes, she looked into Aldrian's face, which was right in front of her. Aldrian then asked gently, "How is it? Do you feel any discomfort?"

Sylphia smiled and shook her head. "No, everything is perfect. It's the best feeling I've ever had. I'm truly happy right now."

"Good, because I don't think that's enough," he said, moving his hand to her breast and groping it, feeling its softness.

Sylphia widened her eyes as she felt Aldrian's spear, still inside her, growing bigger again.

"Wait, Aldrian—" Before she could finish her words, Aldrian flipped her body, making her back face him. His spear, which had come out of her, returned inside as he now pierced her from behind.

"Ah!"

In this position, the penetration was deeper, and she felt a new wave of pleasure.

Pak pak pak

"Ah ah ah."

Aldrian's thrusts became faster and stronger, driving her wild. He then grabbed her hand and pulled her body towards his while continuing to thrust with all his might. He fondled her breast from behind and left another hickey on her neck. He liked this position because it allowed him to enjoy her entire body more freely.

Pak pak pak

He continued for the next few minutes before directing her face toward him and kissing her from behind. In the next moment, he finally released his essence into her womb. Sylphia couldn't hold back either and climaxed, squirting, but because his spear blocked the release, everything mixed inside her womb.

Only after that did Aldrian release her body, causing it to slump onto the bed. She gasped for breath, still feeling lingering pleasure, her face displaying a silly smile.

Aldrian then dropped onto her, his face beside hers. Although she was exhausted, she still looked at him and gave him a tired smile. Aldrian smiled back, stroking her golden hair.

"I love you so much," Sylphia suddenly said.

Aldrian's smile grew warmer.

"I love you too." He then kissed her, and she responded. They savored each other, enjoying their intimate connection, filled with love.

A connection that was deeper and more profound than it appeared.

Chapter 300: Conversation with the Mysterious Woman

Aldrian and Sylphia spent over four hours indulging in their carnal desires before deciding it was enough for the night. Sweat clung to their bodies, a testament to the intensity of their shared passion, yet they fell asleep with contented smiles. Aldrian embraced Sylphia from behind as they lay on their sides.

Their synchronized breathing and steady heartbeats formed a gentle rhythm, enveloping them in a tranquil slumber.

However, at this moment, Sylphia suddenly felt as though she had been transported back to the place she visited the previous night. It was a vast grassland adorned with vibrant flowers and a giant tree visible in the distance. Sylphia scanned her surroundings, searching for the woman she had seen before, and was not disappointed when she finally spotted her in the distance.

The woman stood facing the giant tree, her back turned to Sylphia. Gathering her resolve, Sylphia decided to approach her. When she was close enough, she stopped about five meters away. She didn't fully understand why, but ever since she first saw this woman, she had felt an undeniable closeness to her—genuine reverence. There was a warmth in her presence, as though standing before a mother radiating affection for her child.

"Excuse me, may I ask you something?" Sylphia finally broke the silence, deciding to start the conversation. Last time, she hadn't even had the chance to speak to the woman, so she seized this opportunity.

The woman turned her head to face Sylphia. Even though she had already met her the previous night and knew her face, Sylphia's heartbeat still skipped a beat as she gazed at her beauty. The woman's warm smile, like that of a mother looking at her child, soothed Sylphia's heart, making her feel at ease in front of this mysterious figure.

"You have finally reached this point, child. In your space and time, this is the true turning point for you," the woman said, completely ignoring Sylphia's question.

Sylphia didn't understand what she meant but still wanted to press further.

"What does that mean? Can you explain it to me more clearly?" Sylphia asked.

Still wearing her warm smile, the woman finally answered Sylphia.

"After you became one with him, your destiny became intertwined with his. You cannot separate yourself from him; no space or time can block your

connection with him unless he voluntarily severs it. You are one of the few who will always return to him, even if death separates you," the woman said.

Sylphia was stunned by the woman's answer. She instantly knew that the "him" the woman referred to was Aldrian. Yet, she sensed a deeper meaning in the woman's words. Why had she spoken as if she and Aldrian had already met a long time ago and shared the same relationship?

Her thoughts drifted to the strange visions she had experienced during her intimate moments with Aldrian. In those moments, it felt as though she was with a different man, yet she was certain it was also Aldrian.

At first, she couldn't make sense of it, but the woman's words sparked a new thought. Could this be what people referred to as a past life? Were those visions fragments of her past life with Aldrian? If so, why were they surfacing in her mind now?

"Can you tell me who Aldrian truly is? I mean, the man who became one with me?" In the end, despite her curiosity about where she was, who the woman before her was, or how she knew so much, what Sylphia was most curious about was Aldrian—her beloved.

She knew Aldrian was no ordinary human. Although he was the son of two geniuses, that alone could not explain his strange abilities and overwhelming strength. There had to be something more, something she didn't yet understand. This lingering mystery always left her in wonder.

The woman standing before her seemed to know about Aldrian—about his true origin. Sylphia's heart ached with anticipation as she yearned to learn more about him.

The woman walked closer toward Sylphia. Sylphia didn't move, allowing her to approach and stand directly in front of her. The woman's height towered over her, prompting Sylphia to slightly raise her head.

Sylphia then watched as the woman raised her hand and gently touched her head. Even the lightest of touches made Sylphia feel at ease, and as the woman stroked her hair, a sense of peace washed over her. It was as though she had returned to her childhood, protected by her mother in the Ivory Empire, being gently stroked in the same way.

"You will know for yourself in the future. His true identity is not something even I know. However, remember this: he is someone with a great destiny. If he successfully returns to his 'worthy place,' he will stand beyond everything. When I say everything, I mean literally everything. He is someone whom even

the heavens cannot contain, someone whose presence will make the entire vast cosmos tremble across many spaces and times."

Hearing the woman's description of Aldrian, Sylphia gasped in shock. Even this woman didn't know Aldrian's true identity? Then why did she seem to know him in the first place? Who was the real Aldrian, whose origin was so extraordinary?

The woman looked at Sylphia's expression, curious to see her reaction after hearing about Aldrian. Would her heart waver? Would she change her mind? Or would negative thoughts appear in her heart? But all she saw was Sylphia's smile after the initial shock.

Seeing Sylphia's expression, the woman smiled as well.

"She is truly the chosen woman of the 'great one.' Truly, even her heart is so pure," she thought.

The woman sensed that the only feelings radiating from Sylphia were awe, admiration, love, and pride. It seemed that learning more about her beloved was her source of happiness, far outweighing any other concerns.

After the initial shock, Sylphia finally came to her senses and accepted the realization that Aldrian's true origin was beyond anything she had imagined. Suddenly, a sense of pride filled her, and her love and determination toward him became even more solid. How lucky she was to be chosen by a man of such caliber! She must have saved the entire universe in her past life for Aldrian to have chosen her!

After a few moments of admiration, Sylphia felt the woman's caress on top of her head stop, and she couldn't help but feel a sense of disappointment. The woman noticed how Sylphia looked disappointed when she stopped her caress, finding her reaction endearing. It made her want to hug Sylphia, as though she were her own child.

However, the woman then glanced around at the strong wind blowing past them. Turning her gaze back to Sylphia, she spoke.

"Child, it's time for you to go back, to return to his side."

Hearing that, Sylphia felt even more disappointment and a tinge of sadness. She couldn't understand why she felt this way in front of this woman. Sylphia looked at the woman in wonder and finally asked,

"Who are you? What is your identity?"

The woman didn't answer immediately. Instead, she turned her gaze toward the giant tree.

"You will know in the future. Knowing me now would do you no good, but I'll give you a clue, just this once," she said, looking back at Sylphia. "That tree is your clue."

Sylphia then looked at the giant tree, still amazed by its size and towering height. She felt an overwhelming urge to run toward it, to learn more about what kind of tree it was. Beyond her amazement at its majesty, she also felt an inexplicable connection to it, as if the tree were her home.

"Anyway, before you return, I'll give you a parting gift," the woman said as she suddenly touched Sylphia's forehead. In that instant, Sylphia felt an overwhelming wave of sleepiness. She tried to keep her consciousness awake, but the drowsiness was too strong, and she succumbed to it. Just before her vision faded into darkness, she heard the woman's voice.

"Good luck, child. I hope you never disappoint him."

And then, silence.

She didn't know how long it had been, but she felt as though she were floating in the darkness before she finally awoke. When she opened her eyes, she found herself back in the room at the inn. Aldrian was still holding her naked body, and from his steady breathing, it seemed he was still asleep.

She didn't want to move, for she didn't want to wake him. Instead, she smiled as she remembered the dream she had just experienced. Her lover—no, her husband, at least in her mind—was a man with a great past and future. If her conjecture about her past life was correct, then it meant that she and Aldrian had already met in another life.

She suddenly felt a surge of happiness. If their relationship had already stretched beyond space and time, then what more could she hope for? She was overjoyed that their bond was so strong that even death couldn't separate them.

Unable to hold herself back, she turned her body around and instantly hugged Aldrian. He, too, welcomed her embrace, returning her hug with equal warmth. They cuddled together, as if each was seeking the other's warmth.

Tonight was the happiest moment in Sylphia's life. She had finally become one with the man she loved, had caught a glimpse of Aldrian's origin, and knew that she would be with him for a long time—perhaps forever. The only thing she would focus on in the future was to "not disappoint him," just as the mysterious woman had advised.