

## SPELLCRAFT 371

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### Chapter 371: Land Of The Elves [Pt 2]

"That's because I like you, Jared. You're a different case."

Well, I somehow had the feeling that was the case.

'Of course, 'like' here can be seen as the way someone adores a good dog, or admires a nice toy. It's nothing special at all...'

"I see. Well, that's quite advantageous for me. I am happy to have found favor in the sight of the Princess." I made a mock bow and laughed.

Somehow the chilly glare behind me intensified, causing me to straighten up my posture in a flash.

"Hahaha. You're amazing, Jared. To think you were able to maintain your composure even after hearing that. It's like you're not at all fazed by anything."

"Well, I feel you're the same. Your confidence is incredibly off the charts." I replied to her words with a genuine smile.

I was actually enjoying this conversation. From what I sensed from Freya, it was the same for her.

"Just my confidence?" A sly smile formed on her lips.

'Oh, boy. What now?' Women always tried to pull this off.

"You know, I'm considered extremely attractive by the people here. And I'm Royalty as well. Yet, you don't seem too fazed by that fact. Even your Prince loses his composure at some point when dealing with me, but you..."

'Oh... so that's what she meant.'

"Well, I have had the opportunity to deal with many beautiful women before. Royalty as well. So, it must be my experience that is helping."

"Oh? You don't seem all too old, though. Just how many women could you have experienced?"

It felt strange that I, as a minor, was discussing something like this with an Elf who was older than me by a hundred years.

'Well, if we strictly calculate our age, I should be older...'

Still, something about the direction of this conversation didn't feel right.

"I've experienced enough..." I stole a glance behind me to look at Maria.

Hopefully, she wasn't too irritated by my conversation with the Elf Princess.

My actions were necessary! I simply wished everyone understood that.

Fortunately, Maria's expression was the same as always. That gave me some peace, so I returned my focus to the Princess.

She looked slightly annoyed.

'Ah, I forgot!'

Why did I turn my focus when I was discussing with Elf Royalty? I had gotten so carried away by our casual conversation that I had forgotten about how positions.

'Come on, Jared! Focus!'

The only thing I could do now was apologize. The Princess would understand as long as I played my cards right.

"I'm sor—"

"So that's how it is. I understand..."

'Oh? She understands already? Perfect!' I knew Elves were sensible, but not to this extent.

It seemed Freya was far more perceptive than I imagined.

"Hey, Jared... can I ask you a personal question?"

'Hm?' I was curious at this point.

Just after accepting my apology, she wanted to ask a question. It would be extremely rude of me to refuse, wouldn't it?

"Please do." I flashed my capable grin.

"Alright then. So, Jared, are you perchance in a romantic relationship of any kind?"

'GUGHHH!!!' I never saw that one coming.

I controlled my expression, but my heart beat very fast as the gears within my head turned to process the question.

Judging from Freya's tone and expression, she was simply curious. It didn't seem like she had any ulterior motives for asking.

However, the Mana I was sensing around her was quite... disturbing.

As confused as I was, an answer was due. Since I had told her to go ahead with her personal question, it was my responsibility to respond.

"No. I am not." I told the truth.

Honesty was the best policy, after all.

"I see. Then, that's fine."

"May I ask why you asked me that question?"

"I have no intention of replying."

"Oh. I see..."

The Princess' personality turned more assertive all of a sudden, and I began to get bad vibes.

Fortunately, our conversation came to an end soon enough. After all, we had arrived at our destination.

—The Royal Palace!

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The Royal Palace guards welcomed Freya with mild surprise and happiness.

They must have all known about the incident on the Eastern Border, so they were quite surprised to see their Princess back so soon.

She didn't give them any replies to their confusion since her first course of duty was to give a report to the Queen.

And so, they could only open the gates for her, as well as us.

The guards—unlike the regular Elves—didn't seem to stare at us with discriminatory eyes.

It intrigued me a little, but I didn't say anything. We simply entered the luxurious Palace compound and followed Freya through a side path.

As promised, the Princess took us to our living quarters.

It was a massive apartment that had a very massive interior, as well as multiple rooms. The designs were intricate and elegant.

It was easy to see the beautiful craftsmanship of the Elves at work.

Since it was located in the Royal Palace, the building was extremely luxurious. This form of hospitality wasn't something befitting of humans—according to Elf standards.

"Thank you for this hospitality, Princess Freya."

"What did you say?" The Elf lady shot me an icy look instantly.

"Sorry, Freya. Haha, thought you wanted me to call you that since you suddenly grew stiff on me."

"Oh, that? It's nothing. I was just in thought is all."

'Okay...?' I stared at the incoherent Elf.

Deciding to leave things as they were was the best option for me, so I let the issue slide.

"Well, you should all rest well today. I'll deliver your message to the Queen, and I'll be sure to speak in your favor too."

Everyone in the room thanked the Princess.

"The Queen will decide when to meet you, so please be prepared, starting tomorrow. For now, though, rest."

Once she was done, Freya pulled me by the right hand and went out of the room where everyone was.

"I do hope we speak once more..."

Her left hand covered the hand that she was already holding, sandwiching my right palm between both of hers.

Instantly, I felt a tingle.

It was a rush of Mana, yet it felt warm. The feeling permeated my body, and then my heart.

Instantly, I understood.

"The spirits indeed blessed our encounter. I certainly hope they continue to do so."

With that, Freya turned away and left me all alone—standing in the corridor.

For a moment, I was frozen.

Memories of the first time I felt the sensation came rushing in.

I raised my right hand and looked at it, recalling the sensation I felt.

It was Resonance.

But, for Elves, doing something like that was synonymous with one thing.

"Freya... likes me...?!"

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### **Chapter 372: A Slightly Magical Night [Pt 1]**

That night, I couldn't sleep.

The sensation on my right hand kept me from falling asleep.

The image of Freya imprinting her Mana on me kept resurfacing.

We all had our rooms in the accommodation provided, so no one could see me twist and then on the very large bed I lay on.

Ultimately, I wasn't able to fall asleep.

'Should I just do some training to clear my head?'

I decided against it.

Doing something intense would require me to leave the area temporarily. Since we were on an important mission, I couldn't very well abandon it halfway.

'Maybe I'll just take a walk...'

Deciding on that instead, I dressed up for a walk and walked out of my room.

I passed by the hallway and descended the stairs.

Before long, I arrived at the ground floor and was met with the cool embrace of the wind and the flowery scent of the abundant garden.

Unfortunately, these only served to remind me more of Freya.

'No...'

I shook my head and decided to walk even further, striding along the garden and enjoying the cool atmosphere of the night.

The best part about the walk was solitude. After being around so many people for so long, I finally had time for myself.

It was a pleasant feeling. If not for the multiple thoughts and conflicting emotions plaguing me, I would have enjoyed the moment more.

'Hm? What's that?' My eyes spotted a fountain just a small distance away.

It had been at the center of the garden, but I never noticed it until now.

'Is it enchanted?'

Deciding to check it out, I took gentle strides and approached it slowly.

As I got closer, the silhouette of someone else became visible.

My eyes bulged slightly as I noticed that someone had best me to the fountain. It would be very awkward for me, as well as the person, if I were to intrude on their moment of solitude.

As someone who enjoyed his time alone, I knew how important it was.

I wasn't so thoughtless as to invade another person's private moment.

Even if the individual in question was...

'... Maria Helmsworth...? What's she doing here?'

The silver hair of the beautiful girl reflected the moon's brilliance. I witnessed how magnificent she looked—even in a nightgown.

For a moment, I found myself completely distracted from my earlier thoughts of Freya.

Now, my mind was occupied with nothing but Maria, and how stunning she looked in her melancholy.

But, even this feeling only lasted a moment.

'Sigh, what am I doing?'

Ultimately, there was no point in staring. Looking at her from a distance made me feel like some sort of creep.

'Since she hasn't noticed me yet, I should go...' My thoughts trailed and I turned my back on her.

"... Jared..." A whisper rang in my ears.

'Shoot! Did she see me already?'

I swiftly turned around, only to find Maria still distracted by her thoughts.

She hadn't sensed my presence, but... the girl was thinking about me.

'This day keeps getting more complicated.'

Her eyes seemed awfully distant, and even though she was usually stoic, I could sense sadness in her expression.

It almost looked like she had been abandoned.

Normally, I would have ignored this and gone to bed. But, Maria was also someone I considered a friend.

It would be incredibly selfish and insensitive of me to ignore her in such a sorry state.

'Okay, let's cheer her up a little!'

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Maria's thoughts conflicted.

At this point, she didn't even know what to believe, say, or do any longer.

And, all her problems stemmed from the same source.

Jared Leonard.

'Even after he told me he was interested... he never even... not once...'

Jared never gave her any attention throughout their journey together.

Maria had hoped she would win him over as they conversed, but nothing of the sort had happened.

She had felt abandoned.

However, upon realizing that there was still time, Maria had braced herself. She had intended to remain strong and determined.

But... everything came crashing down when another rival appeared.

The Elf Princess—Freya Vindiel.

The vixen had sunk her claws into Jared and didn't intend on letting him go.

Maria had no idea when and how the two had become so close, but they currently seemed inseparable.

For someone like Maria, who was also gunning for something special from the boy, her heart couldn't take it.

'He didn't even pay me any attention...'

The most frustrating event was when they were walking through the Elf Capital.

Maria had completely ignored the dissatisfied gazes of the Elves around her.

To be honest, all her attention was fixed on Jared and the annoying Elf who was always at the center of attention.

She didn't realize when her gaze turned sharp, and some negative emotions began pouring out.

Both of them seemed to have noticed this, but they ignored her.

And so, she had no choice but to listen in to their conversation.

At some point, it got too personal!

'I-is this how close they've become already?!' Maria's thoughts were on cloud nine.

The only good part of their conversation was when Jared turned to look at her when he was asked about his experience with attractive women.

For a moment, Marie's negative emotions vanished and she was so close to blushing. It took all her willpower to control herself.

Fortunately, she could also feel a glare from the Elf. For that moment, Maria was assured of her victory.

But, she didn't predict that the Princess also had a trick up her sleeve. She asked Jared something that even Maria had been curious about.

If Jared was seeing anyone...

Fortunately, he said no. Unfortunately, the reply was to Princess Freya.

Maria could only guess how things would progress from that point on.

Was there even a point in considering the matter any further?

There was no doubt that Freya had won the battle, or at least, she was in the lead.

The young girl had thought Ana was her biggest opponent, but now, she couldn't tell anymore.

"Jared..." She whispered in a sigh.

'Should I just give up?'

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**Chapter 373: A Slightly Magical Night [Pt 2]**

'Should I just give up?' Maria thought to herself in a lonely melancholy.

Maybe that was for the best. She knew there was only a small chance that he would choose her.

So, perhaps it was better if she let go before she got too attached.

'But, can I really do that?'

Maria knew within herself how attached she was to the boy in question.

Her sole motivation for growing stronger had been because of him.

She wanted to be by his side—to be his!

Abandoning that emotion at this juncture... was it even possible for her?

No, it wasn't.

Before realizing it, Maria had become too intertwined with Jared that it was next to impossible to pull away.

Yes, she had reached a point of no return!

'So, what now...?'

Was she simply going to watch in silence and drown in frustration as Jared got pulled away by a new competitor?

NO WAY!

'I knew him first!'

Before Freya. Before Aloe. Even before Ana.

She had been the first to meet him. Jared Leonard was even the one who approached her.

That meant she had dibs.

"I won't lose to any newcomers!"

Just as she was steeling her resolve, a shadow crept upon her.

"That's the spirit."

Maria instantly froze.

The voice that suddenly came from above her... was awfully familiar.

Slowly, she raised her head, and her clear blue eyes met his.

"J-Jared...?"

As her cute lips parted, and her expression displayed slight shock, the girl's inner consciousness was in turmoil.

'Ehhhhhhhh???!!!!!'

How long had he been standing there? Did he hear everything? Just how much did he see? Was she appropriately dressed for a meeting with him? What was he doing here? Why was he... here?

Myriads of thoughts rang through her mind. Maria didn't know which to pick. Her heart simply raced, and she felt overwhelmed to an indescribable extent.



"Maria, can we talk for some time? I... can't sleep." He smiled at her.

His smile and gaze were too charming to be real. Maria thought she would just let go of her facade and melt before him.

However, she couldn't do that.

'I'm still mad at him for ignoring me for so long... right?'

Maria wasn't even sure which card to play at the moment.

All her anger had melted upon seeing him.

"I-I see..." She managed to croak words out of her mouth, looking at the ground.

Jared's face didn't allow her to articulate her words for some reason.

"Then, I hope you don't mind if I sit."

Before she could speak, he sat beside her, almost close in proximity.

As they both sat on the fountain's terrace, silence enveloped the area.

The cool night air now felt suffocating, and Maria wondered what to say to Jared.

All through their journey, she had hoped he would approach her. Now that he was right beside her, she was blank.

"You seem a bit distracted, no, more like... sad. Do you want to talk about it?"

His question seemed odd.

Had he been watching her for some time? Just how long? Maria's cheeks flushed pink a little.

"I-it's nothing..." She murmured.

"Is it because of me?"

Why was Jared being so direct this night? He went from 0 to 100 really fast.

How was she supposed to handle such radical change?

"M-may-be..." Maria attempted to be cold, but failed woefully.

"I see..." His voice trailed.

Even though Maria wasn't looking at Jared's face, she was trying as much as possible to gauge his expression based on words alone.

But, that wasn't enough!

She so desperately wanted to see his face! But, the fear of what would happen if she did, crept up on her.

She could end up completely losing her cool, after all.

"I'm sorry, Maria. I didn't pay you enough attention. Even though we're friends, I neglected you and was too focused on the mission ahead of us."

Her cheeks blushed even brighter.

Even though Jared had added the word 'friend' to his statement, Maria felt incredibly happy and omitted that word from her head.

"A-as long as you understand..." She replied, curious about what he would say next.

"I actually wanted to talk to you many times, but I thought I'd be disturbing you. You're not exactly easy to approach. Even now, you don't seem to be into this conversation..."

Jared's voice sounded distant.

His tone contained a trace of sadness.

It was now Maria's turn to feel guilty.

'No! That's not it! I just... this is just how I am!' She sharply turned to look at Jared.

Her eyes contained desperation. She didn't want him to get the wrong idea about her.

"I was just—" She stopped midway, once again rendered speechless by Jared's charms.

He was smiling at her, a contrast from what his tone suggested.

"I understand, Maria. That's just how you are. But, you should be more expressive of your emotions, you know? If you want something, or if you feel like talking... you can talk to me."

Her heart was racing faster than before.

"I'm your friend. I'm here for you."

Omitting the word 'friend', Maria kept looking at Jared with intensifying emotions.

"I can't read your mind, you know? Though sometimes I wish I could..."

'J-Jared...?!' Maria's heart was going to burst at any moment.

And then, as if all his words weren't enough... Jared placed his hands on her shoulders.

His warm hands sent sensations coursing through her body.

"Maria... It's a terribly long night..."

She fought to keep her trembling body in check.

"... You wouldn't mind us keeping each other company..."

She gulped, wondering how Jared could be so bold as to suggest such a thing!

'We're not... old enough for that yet...' Maria knew she would have to refuse, but had no willpower to open her lips in resistance.

"... So, should we talk for a bit?"

"O-Oh..." Maria's voice appeared, holding a tinge of disappointment and relief.

Her racing emotions plummeted. It seemed she had gotten worked up for nothing.

"Sure. I could also use some company..." She smiled, already acclimating to the feeling of seeing Jared's face up close.

For a moment, silence prevailed between the two. Maria's body trembled once more as she uncomfortably stared into Jared's eyes.

"Ah, sorry about that." The boy withdrew the hands that were on her shoulder, and then...

"Here."

Out of thin air, he summoned a dark coat and covered Maria's body.

"You must be catching a cold. You've been trembling for some time now."

As the silence broke, both friends smiled at each other. Slowly, they were getting used to talking.

The awkward atmosphere slowly dissipated.

"Thanks." Maria ribbed the cloak and smiled.

If had a lovely scent attached... just like Jared.

Even though the night had begun uncomfortably for both of them, Jared and Maria soon forgot about their troubles and became drowned in conversation.

Before they realized it, they spent all night together—talking, and nothing more.

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### **Chapter 374: Chosen Delegate**

"Yaaawwwwwnnnn!!!"

I had woken up close to noon, and that was only because of a knock I heard on my door.

"Y-yeah? Who is it?" I murmured, scratching my head as I looked forward the door.

"E-er, it's Ivan. A representative from the Queen has arrived, and we're all gathering in the parlor. The Prince told me to come to fetch you."

'Shoot!' My eyes bulged.

I had gotten so carried away last night that I lost track of time.

Thanks to that, I overslept. If I wasn't careful, this tardiness would reflect very badly on my image. Everything I had worked so hard for until... could be threatened!

"Tell them I'll be there soon."

"Okay, then." Ivan's tone suggested he wanted to say more but decided against it.

The boy finally went away, leaving a disheveled me seated on my bed.

'I better hurry!'

Brushing. Bathing. Dressing up.

These three processes took hours of perfection for some people, but... for a powerful Mage like myself, I only needed a minute.

Using Magic, I cleaned up myself pretty quickly, getting rid of even the smallest trace of dirt.

I summoned one of my potions and let it permeate my body.

It made me feel refreshed and gave me a captivating scent.

The potion was a perfumed product I made when I was less busy.

To be honest, I had various models and flavors. If I were to venture into the cosmetics and fragrance business, there was no doubt that I could ruin the livelihood of many honest workers.

Fortunately for them, Magic was my calling.

Brushing was effortless.

I simply removed the germs in my teeth and cast freshening Magic to completely cleanse my mouth.

My tongue received extra care, but ultimately, it was perfectly resolved.

I summoned an attire from my special space and wore it instantly—no effort expended.

Within a minute, I was completely done with the procedure and left my room in a hurry, ensuring I took one good look at myself before leaving.

Even my previously bushy hair had been straightened well thanks to my beautification Magic.

Such was the power of a previous Scholar. Since I had researched various types of Magic back then, it wasn't strange that I also knew a thing or two about making someone look good through Magic.

My theories and suggestions in that department made me quite popular among the ladies.

"Welp, let's see what the Queen has to say!"

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The Elf Society ran a matriarchal system.

Women were generally more empowered than men, and they held more prestigious positions.

There were two reasons for this obvious divide in status and prestige among these two genders.

One was talent.

Female Elves were generally stronger than the males. They possessed a better affinity for Mana, and were more long-lived.

As such, they had more experience with the Arts and possessed more maturity to handle affairs far better than the males.

The second factor was childbirth.

Women determined the many things regarding their children during pregnancy.

Stuff like gender, appearance, and even the length of pregnancy was determined by the mother.

Using Magic so freely on their own bodies, they were able to make these changes that would usually be deemed impossible.

As a result, the importance of female Elves rose to an abnormal degree.

It was a matter long concluded—the Female Elves were superior to the Males.

That was why... instead of a King as the ruler, the Elves had a Queen.

"Greetings. I am Derius, the Queen's representative in this diplomatic affair. May the spirits bless our meeting." A man wearing a spectacle smiled at us.

He had whitish grey hair, and a twinkle of age was evident in his eyes.

Every member of our group was seated directly opposite this Elf, separated by a center table.

His expression was devoid of malice or skepticism. But, that didn't come as a surprise to me.

After all... I knew who this Elf was.

"Greetings. I am Fabian Lestrome Indiavel, Prince of the Eastern Kingdom, as well as the head of this diplomatic envoy."

After Fabian spoke, we all took turns introducing ourselves.

He nodded upon hearing our greetings. His eyes scoured each of us for a moment, and I knew exactly what he was up to.

Derius" Original Magic: Absolute Insight.

He could completely see through his targets using this technique. It was like a more advanced version of the Elven ability to read people. However, this Elf's capabilities were on another level.

'Not only is he able to read thoughts, but he can also completely decipher just how powerful his targets are...'

The greatest merit of this ability was that once he had activated it on his target, he could easily use it anytime he wanted.

Absolute Insight was useful, not only for living things, but even items and objects.

It was the ultimate Appraisal Magic.

"I have personally come to deliver the Queen's message to you concerning your proposed Alliance." He spoke in a low tone.

Freya and Claudius must have filled her in on the matters we discussed, and our letter must have been delivered promptly as well.

While I wasn't certain who the current Elf Queen was, I had a good idea of what her response would be. Royal Elves were different from the regular ones.

While they had the same stance against humans, they were more inclined to listen since they held positions of authority. Besides, since we had done a great service to the Elves—sentiments aside—we would at least be heard out.

"As a result of all that has happened, the Queen has decided to grant you an audience..."

Fabian and everyone else smiled in victory. Finally, after coming this far, we had almost achieved our goals.

If only they listened till the end.

"... However, only one of you will be allowed an audience with the Queen. She has asked me to select the most befitting of you all as your representative."

The expressions of everyone fell, but not to a despairing degree. This wasn't a complete failure, after all.

Fabian still had his smile on his face. He was the Prince, as well as the leader of our group.

The obvious choice would be him.

"Jared Leonard. You have been granted an audience with our Queen."

'Excellent! Just as expected.'

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#### **Chapter 375: The Elf Queen [Pt 1]**

"Jared Leonard. You have been granted an audience with our Queen."

"Wha—?!"

Just as Fabian and Damien expressed shock as to why I was the one being called, I smiled and rose to my feet.

"I understand. Please, lead the way, Sir Derius."

The Prince and his attendant glared at me. My response was sharp, as though I had been expecting this outcome—which I was.

They seemed to finally realize that everything so far had been within my calculations, so I smiled and stared at the Queen's representative instead.

"H-hold on! I am the leader of our team. Am I not the right person who should be granted an audience with your Queen?"

Apparently, the young man could no longer control his dissatisfaction.

To be honest, I couldn't exactly blame him.

Being relegated to the sidelines when he had been looking forward to this moment must have greatly hurt his ego.

I wouldn't have done this if he was capable enough, to begin with.

Then, there was his assistant, Damien Lawcroft.

Since he wasn't on my side, there was a good chance that he was pulling the Prince's strings. If Fabian made a critical error when addressing the Queen, then things wouldn't go as smoothly as I intended.

To checkmate the enemy and bring forth the most accurate results, this was the best route.

'You should just be quiet, Fabian. This is all for the good of the Eastern Kingdom.' I stared blankly at him.

"The Queen decides who she meets and who she doesn't. Unless you are questioning the decision of her Majesty,..."

The atmosphere grew heavy as Derius began speaking. His gaze was now filled with danger as he glared at Fabian.

"... I would prefer that you be quiet."

Instantly, the Prince gulped and backed down. The danger he must have sensed in Derius' gaze must have convinced him that the Elf before him was strong.

Elves were as powerful as how long they had lived.

For someone like Derius, whom I knew in my first life, his level of strength was something mere humans couldn't dream of reaching—with the exception of a few.

"Please control your aura, venerable Elf..." Another monster opened her jaws as she stared at the older Elf.

It was none other than Serah Crimson.

She had been composed for some time, but, just as she had warned me, there was a limit to her patience.

"... Unless you want me to bring out mine as well."

Derius instantly complied and smiled at Serah's ferocious grin. Even with his power, there were quite a few opponents who would give him a hard time.

People like Serah would destroy him for sure. Fortunately, the experienced Elf understood this.

"Very well. Since this matter has been concluded already, I shall be taking my leave with Jared Leonard."

Derius rose to his feet and bowed slightly, bidding everyone in the room farewell—except for me.

Once he left the door behind him, I followed behind, stealing one final glance at my comrades.

"This is the best route. The Alliance must succeed at all costs. I hope you understand." My lips parted as I left my allies behind me.

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Derius and I walked in silence, moving for a couple of minutes.

It brought back memories of when I knew him in the past.

Back then, our roles were somewhat reversed, and he was only a child.

'She' was the one who introduced us back then. To be honest, looking at him from behind... made me remember certain memories that I didn't want to surface.

Because the only things that would accompany those thoughts were regret... and blame.

We passed the garden, and then entered the Royal Palace building itself.

The structure was extremely tall—ascending to the clouds like a tower at the very tip of the roof.

Of course, I knew why the building was stretched upward.

Once we entered the Palace building, Derius took me on a long walk through the intricate grounds located within.

The Palace hallways were extremely vast, and we passed by several corners in the extremely complex steams of corridors.

It was like a maze, but that was only for outsiders.

Those who were permitted access knew the nooks and cranny of this place like the back of their hand.

Besides, with the amount of time Elves had to live, knowing complicated mazes and building structures wasn't very difficult.

Eventually, we arrived at the door that led to the Queen's Throne Room.

It was a massive door built with gold and decorated with many jewels—befitting Elven Royalty.

"Your Majesty, I have arrived with the delegate you requested."

For a moment, silence followed Derius' voice. And then...

"Do come in."

... I heard her voice.

It was majestic, and the sound rang through my ears and echoed in my heart.

It reminded me of yet another person, but I couldn't quite remember.

Then, the giant doors were opened.

The blinding lights from within caused me to close my eyes for a moment, then open them slowly as I acclimated.



That was when I was met with a breathtaking sight.

The large Throne Room made the Eastern Kingdom's Palace Hall look like a joke in comparison.

Not only was it larger and exquisitely adorned with several beautiful gems, but the massive room also contained murals that depicted the core root of Elven Heritage.

Magic Beasts and Elves were beautifully drawn on the walls, and the chandeliers brightly illuminated the luxurious hall.

I had no time to fully observe, so my appreciation of my surroundings was slightly diminished.

Derius walked forward, and then I followed behind him.

"I introduce to the Queen's Court... delegate from the Eastern Kingdom..."

I lowered my gaze and walked forward as Derius introduced me.

The Elf moved out of the way and let me walk ahead of him. I obeyed and didn't stop until I was a considerable length from the foot of the stairs that led to the Throne.

"... Jared Leonard!"

"I humbly greet the Queen, as well as the Royal Members who are before me. My name is Jared Leonard Alphonse Sereth, and in the name of the spirits, I seek an audience with your distinguished selves."

'My manners are perfect this time, aren't they...?' A stray thought popped into my head.

"Raise your head, delegate."

As I heard her voice once more, my heart tightened and I obeyed.

She was indeed the one I remembered.

'So, you're the Queen now, uh...?' A faint smile crept upon my face as I lifted my eyes to witness the most powerful Elf in the land.

"The Queen, Aurora Vindiel, grants you liberty of expression. May the spirits bless this discourse."

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### **Chapter 376: The Elf Queen [Pt 2]**

The government system of the Elves slightly differed from Humans.

Unlike our Aristocratic means of leadership, power was only concentrated on the Elf Royalty.

All decisions were made at the central level, and the Elf Queen had nigh absolute power in the land.

Concepts such as Nobility didn't even exist.

The Royal Court of the Elves consisted of only members of the Royal Family--The Queen, the King, the Princes, the Princess, and mature relatives.

It was a monopoly of power.

However, did this mean that the citizenry was displeased by this fact?

Not at all!

They only respected and admired the Royal Family even more. After all, they carried the weight of the entire nation on their shoulders.

Plus, they were also in charge of the greatest heritage of the Elves.

The murals on the walls depicted it well, and this particular existence was located in the Royal Palace.

The Sacred Tree!

As custodians of the most ancient of Trees, the Elven Royalty were saddled with the trust and responsibility of the whole Kingdom.

Such was their position.

And so, as I lifted my gaze, I saw the one who was at the helm of affairs among the Long Eared Race.

Queen Aurora Vindiel!

Other than the slight bags under her eyes, and the twinkle of age in her eyes, she looked just the same as I remembered her.

'No... she has grown quite a bit.'

Her perfectly flawed skin and beautiful features were indeed befitting of Elven Royalty. Freya looked a great deal like her--though younger and more attractive.

To think she had lived for so long and was now Queen.

'Your sister would be very proud...' I smiled a little, in nostalgia.

Other than the Queen, the King was also present. But, he simply stood at the right hand of the magnificent throne that his wife was seated on.

Claudius and one other male Elf were beside their father, while I spotted Freya standing beside the Queen--on the left side.

Behind the primary Royal Family--both left and right--were the other members of the Elf Royalty.

Their white hair made it obvious.

"Derius, you should also take your place here." Her marvelous voice rang out and called for the bespectacled man behind me.

Derius, a member of Royalty himself, bowed slightly and made for the stairs leading to the Queen's Throne.

Once he got to the peak, Derius bowed to the Queen once again, and took his place among everyone else.

I simply waited in silence, holding on for the time I would be addressed.

"Firstly, I would like to render my thanks to you, and your group in extension, for the aid you have given my people," Aurora spoke calmly.

Her poise was to be expected of the leader of her race.

She had changed so much from the loud personality I remembered her for.

"We only acted accordingly. Your thanks are wasted on us."

Formalities weren't my thing, but until the Queen herself specifically told me not to resort to it, I would continue with the unnecessary show of reverence.

My eyes darted around the Hall and I spotted no guards.

There was no need for them, after all.

Royals were the most powerful members of the Elf Race. If all of them were gathered in the same room, would there be a need for any additional security?

Only a madman would choose to be violent in the presence of such pressure.

"I see. Very well..." Aurora muttered.

Since I was allowed to look upon the Queen, I ensured to observantly stare.

"Then, may I ask a somewhat personal question?"

That reminded me of what Freya pulled just yesterday.

'Like mother like daughter, eh? It's not like I'm in a position to refuse, so...'

"Please do, your Majesty."

"Does this make you uncomfortable? Seeing an arrangement quite different from what you are used to. A Queen leading the people, the lack of a concept such as Nobility, and the humility you have had to display upon arriving here. Do any of these bring you discomfort?"

"They do not," I responded honestly.

Once I said this, I spotted a glimmer of happiness in Aurora's eyes.

She had always been a bit too honest.

"That's a relief. Then, shall we get to the topic? Please, rise on your feet. Let us have a proper conversation."

I did as instructed and gave my thanks.

"Our Eastern Kingdom wishes to form an Alliance with the Elf Kingdom. The threat of the Demons is definitely greater than what either party can handle themselves. So, just as in the past, we wish to join forces once more with your people."

"I see... and whose idea was this? Your King?"

"No, your Majesty. This was a plan I came up with myself."

Honesty was indeed the best policy.

"That makes sense. There was indeed a mention of an Alliance by the Eastern Kingdom three years ago, but their approach was completely different from yours. That was why we didn't even consider it in the past."

I could only imagine what they had written in their proposals.

"Also, isn't the story of the united front against Demons nothing more than a Fairy Tale? Why bring that up now?"

'I see. So, that's her angle...'

"The stories are true. I found memoirs of the Great Sage, Lewis Griffith, where he recorded details of the conflict. That was how I was able to learn a bit about your culture and the truth behind the Demon War so many centuries ago."

For humans, the conflict was something everyone believed to be a work of fiction. This was simply because of The Fool Arcana.

However, it wasn't like the Arcana affected everyone.

People like me still had their memories intact. The same went for the Elf Royalty.

This was to ensure countermeasures were in place, just in case the Demons went against our pact.

"I see. Then it all makes sense..." Aurora murmured.

I saw her flinch when I mentioned Lewis Griffith. That meant she still remembered... everything.

'It's not like she could have forgotten, in the first place.'

After all, how could someone forget the man who was her sister's intimate lover?

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### **Chapter 377: The Offer**

"You have convinced me as to the origins of your unconventional wisdom, as well as your knowledge of our proper etiquette," Aurora spoke, staring at me with sparked interest.

"If you don't mind, would you be willing to show me the memoir you mentioned?"

"Oh? Is the Queen also interested in our Great Sage, Lewis Griffith?" I smiled, feigning innocence.

"Well... something like that." She responded with a strained smile.

'Yeah, right! You never really liked me.' I remained smiling.

"Then, I will ensure to bring it the next time I pay you a visit, hopefully as allies already. Hahaha."

"Hahaha. We shall see, won't we?" Aurora replied with a strained laugh.

'Should I tease her a little more?'

"There was mention of you in the Memoir, your Majesty. It seemed Lewis Griffith knew you well when he was still alive. Were you perchance close?"

I could see veins appearing on her head.

"Well, you could say that..." She seemed to be struggling to keep her lips in position.

"Ahh, that explains it then. Because he mentioned how he once saw you in—"

"That's enough! Please, just show me the Memoir later." Aurora finally cracked.

Her teeth were displayed, and an anxious look was obvious.

I instantly bowed, laughing internally.

Even though she hated my guts, Aurora did confide in me about a few things. We were what you would call frienemies.

Plus, since I was her sister's lover, she was stuck with having me around.

That led to some 'embarrassing moments' between us...

"Then, shall we get back to the topic? About the Alliance, while it is true that we indeed owe you a great debt, we could simply return the favor by coming to your aid as well. That would settle the score, wouldn't it?"

That was true.

"An Alliance is already overstretching the matter. Do not get me wrong, I appreciate your efforts, but a one-time save could be repaid with another. That is fair, don't you agree?"

"Indeed, your Majesty."

She hadn't seen enough reason to ally the Elves with the Humans. No, perhaps Aurora already knew that it was the best course of action, but the weight of her position forced her to seek out a better deal.

Was she hoping for something more from my end? If that was the case, then...

"However, Queen Aurora, I still request an Alliance with the Elves. And the basis for this isn't the help we rendered for your people back then."

... I wasn't going to disappoint her expectations!

"Really?"

"Yes. Please consider that as a mere coincidence. The real deal is something I will personally be offering. And, allow me to say... it is an offer you can not refuse!"

My tone was not rude, but confident.

While I spotted a few Royals squint their eyes or squeeze their faces in disapproval, Aurora seemed intrigued instead.

"Then, please let me hear what you have to offer."

'Now we're talking!' I grinned internally, looking at Freya for a moment.

She was smiling broadly at me, also intrigued by what I was going to say.

'What could be so magnanimous that their achievements in the Eastern Border would only be considered a bonus?'

I'm sure they were all thinking this.

"If you choose to form an Alliance with us, Elf Queen, I will personally revive every single Elf who died in the attack of the Demon Beasts. Not only that, but I will also completely restore the Eastern Border to its previous state."

Silence.

Utter silence filled the hall.

"It will be as though the Demon Beast attack never occurred."

The Queen's composure was long forgotten. Her expression contained immense surprise, and the others beside and behind her couldn't believe my words.

"That is my offer, Queen Aurora Vindiel. Now, I ask you... do you accept?"

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It was downright impossible.

No, even bringing such a subject to the realm of logic was nothing short of sheer madness.

Several thousand Elves died in the attack of the Demon Beasts.

An entire city was destroyed—turned into a wasteland—thanks to the Demon Beasts' onslaught and the Miasma they exuded.

It would take months to repair the damage and return the city to its former glory.

And, even though they would eventually be able to restore the Border, the same couldn't be said about the lives that had been taken.

Yet—

"... I will personally revive every single Elf who died in the attack of the Demon Beasts. Not only that, but I will also completely restore the Eastern Border to its previous state."

—A mere human was making such an empty promise.

It was laughable, completely ridiculous. But, why couldn't Aurora let the thought vanish from her heart?

"It will be as though the Demon Beast attack never occurred."

It was akin to fantasy. Such a promise had to be fake—a silly fairy tale.

Queen Aurora would have dismissed it as utter nonsense. However, the look on the young man's face told her that he was absolutely serious about his words.

Suddenly, Aurora remembered the words of her daughter.

She recalled how Freya told her of the unbelievable feats of this Jared Leonard—how he Mass Teleported a large number of people, and even easily dispersed the thick clouds of Miasma in the Eastern Border.

His abilities were beyond her expectations, and even the Heroes of the past would not have been able to replicate his feats so easily.

Aurora had to admit that Jared was indeed not ordinary.

But what he was talking about was an entirely different matter altogether.

Still... even though the Queen's logic told her not to believe the words of the young human before her... somehow, Aurora wanted to trust them.

"H-how will you do it?" She asked, narrowing her gaze on him.

Ever since he had arrived in the Royal Palace, Aurora wasn't able to read him. Her daughter, Freya, had said the same thing.

Even Derius had told her his Original Magic was ineffective on the boy.

There was no way she could discern if his words were true or not. However, Aurora wanted to have faith.

The hope that her dead subjects could be saved—that they could be given another chance at life.

If this human could offer such help, then... an Alliance was something she would easily accept!

"Your Majesty, that is a trade secret, you know?" Jared Leonard smiled in response to her question.

Even though his tone didn't control any reverence, she didn't mind at all. Her heart was beating fast in anticipation of his answer.

"But, since it's you, I don't mind revealing my means. It's simple..."

The boy's confidence soared, causing Aurora's heart to leap a bit.

Something about his mannerisms and impudent attitude reminded her of someone.

Someone who was long gone.

"... I'll use my Original Magic."

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### **Chapter 378: The Deal**

Death wasn't exactly feared by Elves.

In fact, when their time came, they embraced it.

Since there was no form of danger in their lands, and they lived long—fulfilling—lives, they accepted it when their time was over.

After death, they would become one with the Sacred Tree and become Spirits.

Their souls would be transported to a realm called Heaven—a paradise more prosperous than the current Elf Kingdom.

Everyone looked forward to their deaths after spending their lives to the fullest—having no regrets

However, this only applied to death by old age.

If an Elf's life was cut short, they would obviously have tons of regrets.

Elves who had barely lived beyond a hundred years, or whose time hadn't fully ripened, were clearly not going to be ready to accept death.

Legend had it that such people would never be accepted into Heaven since they weren't at rest.

And so, every Elf made it their duty to live a full life while they were still alive. They made sure they had no regrets.

Not only for the present—but also in consideration of the afterlife.

This legend—though inherently false—made sure that everyone was productive in the Elf Society.

That gave meaning to their extremely long lives. And so, with each member living a life of responsibility, the Elf Kingdom prospered greatly.

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'Elves have perfect bodies, so they don't fall sick or die prematurely. Everyone lives their life to the fullest. That's why this is such a great tragedy for them...'

Thousands lost their lives in the Demon Beast attack.

Not only would they never find rest—according to the legends—their hopes and dreams were done for.

At least, that would have been the case. However... I had an alternative.

"That is my offer, Queen Aurora Vindiel. Now, I ask you... do you accept?"

I played my trump card upfront, igniting the hope in Aurora's heart.

From her expression, after my words hit, it was already certain that she would accept my offer.

It was only a matter of time.

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"Original Magic, uh? You mean... at such an age, you have already delved into that realm? And your individual art is enough to restore everyone?" The Queen asked, still having a bit of doubt in her voice

It was to be expected.

Humans were short-lived, and we didn't have as much affinity for Mana as the Elves.



Her way of thinking was accurate, but I had spent over a hundred years training and doing stuff. If I didn't have any Original Magic at this point, then it would be pretty disturbing.

"Please, have faith in me. I have no merit in lying to you."

The Royals behind her began to look at each other with conflicted expressions as well.

The decision ultimately lay with the Queen. Everyone else was simply there as a show of strength. If Aurora made the choice, then it would be so.

"May I have some time to think about it?"

I knew she would say that. However, there was also a limit to my understanding and patience.

"No."

My polite tone was hanging on a thread now, but sometimes this was also necessary for diplomacy.

Since the cards were all in my court, I only needed to apply pressure to make Aurora bend to my will.

"As you already know, this isn't the time for indecisiveness. We are in a hurry to decide on an Alliance so we can prepare appropriate measures. I will ask that you make your decision here and now."

My gaze was serious, and it pierced through the defenses of the Queen in an instant.

Despite her high-and-mighty demeanor, she was still the Aurora I knew at her core. She was prone to make rash and quick decisions without hesitation.

As long as she knew this was the right thing to do, I was sure that the Elf would jump at it.

"Fine. I will accept, but only on the condition that you fulfill your end of the bargain."

"That is only natural, your Majesty. I appreciate your consideration." I smiled and bowed slightly.

It was about time to wrap up this long diplomatic effort.

"I have the contract with me right here. You may also choose to make another separate one for the Elves." A parchment materialized on my palm.

"Alright. Let us move to a more appropriate place for that."

And so, I was escorted to the Lounge.

Of course, permission was given to allow every other member of our team of delegates into the Lounge.

The members of Royalty stood behind the Queen's sofa, and my team members stood behind mine.

A desk was between both parties—who would be recognized as equal from the moment we concluded the Alliance Contract.

It took a short while, but the Elves prepared their contract as well.

Judging from the Mana I was sensing from the document, it was a Magic Item.

'It must have some effects in the scenario where we end up breaking the agreement set within it...'

I planned on thoroughly reading through the whole thing before signing it, though.

Even though I could feel two hostile gazes directed at me from my own group, it didn't stop me from taking all the necessary actions.

'Fabian and Damien... you people do not understand.'

If they had been in my shoes, it would be doubtful if they could achieve the same results I did.

Even if an Alliance was made, it wouldn't have been finalized until the next Demon attack.

That would waste too much time.

'I only have about 12 more days...'

In a short while, Zenkiel was going to launch his offensive.

Warding him off would be one of the aids we would render to our allies.

'I'll also need their help in the matter with the Fairies...' I smiled.

Ultimately, this was going to be a grand alliance.

"I, Aurora Vindiel, Queen of the Elf Kingdom, hereby declare this treaty between our two nations to be genuine and binding on both parties."

"I, Jared Leonard Alphonse Sereth, representative of the Eastern Kingdom, attest to this declaration and uphold it."

Afterward, both of us jointly sealed our agreements.

"May the spirits watch over this Alliance!"

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### **Chapter 379: Path For The Future**

"Whoah... I can't believe we are now in an Alliance with the Elves. I definitely thought it would take longer!" The previously silent Bradford began running his mouth once more.

"I know, right?" Ivan, who had slowly gotten closer to the man responded.

The two of them usually kept each other company, so I didn't have to deal with any of them.

"I just hope there's time for sightseeing. It'll be such a waste if we didn't explore this place now that we're here!"

As they were slacking off and conversing, Maria was reading something in a corner.

Our eyes met for a moment, and we smiled at each other.

That night session we shared together made us a bit closer than before. At the very least, I could confidently call us friends now.

Serah was not present in our guest room at the moment, since she said she had some business to attend to.

Since she had been behaving herself, I knew she could be trusted not to make a major blunder.

But, at the same time, I was worried exactly because of that very fact.

'I hope she doesn't erupt...' A bad feeling crept up on me and I shivered.

Regardless, everyone seemed to be in some form of high spirits after the Alliance Treaty was signed without a hitch.

We had our respective documents as proof, and I held onto the parchment belonging to our end.

Afterward, we were told to retreat to our Guest Room to rest.

'Aurora is probably discussing with the other Royals right now. The Elf Kingdom will drastically change from this point on, but it'll be for the better...'

Some of the people could be skeptical about an Alliance with humans. However, after taking our contributions into consideration—including my end of the deal—their opinions would no doubt shift for the better.

Healing their land and resurrecting their people would score major points for the Humans.

That was the main reason why I didn't simply rely on mere rhetorics to win the hearts of the Royals.

'I could probably pull it off without the whole Resurrection deal.' A smile crept upon my face.

Once I deciphered their personalities, it was easy to manipulate my targets.

But, there was also the matter of public opinion.

I needed the citizenry to be satisfied with our Allied status.

What better way was there than to save an entire lost City?

I remembered how grateful Aloe Vida was to me when I rescued her from death. Even to this moment, she still held me in high esteem.

If I could do the same for the Elves, then they would no doubt have good impressions of the Humans they currently looked down on.

'Well, there's also the fact that I'm not a scumbag.'

If I could save people, I would.

It was only a matter of how to implement my ideal in a way that benefited my goals. At least, with the way everything turned out, everyone was benefiting.

'That's all that matters...' I smiled once more.

"Hey, Jared." A voice called out to me.

I looked in its direction and found two people walking in my direction. Their scowls were so obvious, and they didn't look very pleased with me.

But, of course!

After all, they were the individuals who weren't too pleased with the current turn of events.

"Get up. We need to talk."

I stared blankly at Fabian after he made that command. Damien Lawcroft was also confidently standing beside him, in support.

'These guys...'

It was clear that they wanted to confront me on the matters that had gone according to my will, and not theirs.

The bitterness on their faces gave away their emotions, so I didn't even need to sense their Mana wavelength to tell.

'They'll probably request for the Alliance Treaty document from me...' I sighed, still seated on the couch.

Perhaps it was time I put them in their place.

"What is there to discuss?" I crossed my leg and intertwined my fingers.

While properly resting my back on the couch, I crossed my legs and gave a condescending smile.

"Hey, don't test my patience, Jared!"

"Listen to your superior!"

Fabien and Damien respectively barked, but their voices didn't even faze me.

"If there are matters to be discussed, then let us talk here. I see no problems with that." I smiled, looking around the room.

Ivan, Bradford, and Maria were already looking in our direction.

The Prince and his assistant were currently in a tough spot. But, because they had come so far, their pride wouldn't allow them to back off any longer.

The two had probably realized the shift of power, and if they didn't address the issue soon, I would inadvertently become the leader of our group.

"Jared Leonard. Your actions are synonymous with insubordination. If you keep up this attitude, I'll be forced to dispense—"

"You keep talking about this whole hierarchy, but I'm slowly getting tired of this farce."

I didn't want to do this at all. I had avoided it for as long as possible in consideration of the Eastern Kingdom's Royal Family, but...

'... I suppose it's time to let it out.'

"Here you go." I summoned a parchment from my Dimensional Space and threw it at Fabian.

He must have thought it was the Treaty since he looked satisfied.

I watched as he opened the scroll to confirm his contents, partially curious about his expression.

And, as expected, he did not disappoint.

"W-what is... this...?!"

A smile formed on my face as I remained silent.

Damien watched the Prince helplessly quiver, and quickly grabbed the parchment to read its contents as well.

His expression afterward was more composed, but I could tell that he too was visibly shaken.

"T-this is..." He murmured.

"That's right. It's a decree written by His Majesty, King Albion Lestrome Indiavel himself. It even has the Kingdom's seal and everything. As you can see from what was written there, I have full authority over this expedition."

The fact that Fabian became our leader was because I allowed it.

### [SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

#### **Chapter 380: Assertion Of Dominance**

Within the document that the King approved, he basically gave me every right to determine what happened in our little group.

If I deemed it fit, I could even remove Fabian and Damien from my team.

"F-father really... wrote this...?" Fabian was still struggling to accept his empty position.

He never had any real authority, to begin with.

"Do you understand now? I wasn't going to say anything before now, since I wanted to be considerate of your position. If you had behaved, you would have continued to be our Leader."

I had no use for figureheads who wouldn't listen to what they were told.

"Your existence in this group was for mere decoration, Fabian. I allowed you to come because I initially thought you'd be simpler to bring along, but I suppose I was wrong. You're annoying, and that makes it difficult to focus."

This was simply me bullying a young man, but he deserved to hear those words.

In my eyes, Fabian was nothing but a child. That was why I had been considerate for so long, but even kids had to grow up at some point.

"H-how dare you talk to the Prince that way!" Damien Lawcroft growled at me.

It was a wonder how such a man was able to lord over me back when I still studied at Ainzlark.

Just as Neron told me, he indeed was a man worthy of pity.

"Be quiet. How dare you address me, the representative of the King in such a manner? That's treason, you know? Are you going to be taking responsibility for that?"

That was enough to zip Damien's mouth shut. Fabian, who had expected his assistant to defend him and turn the tables was now staring at the powerless Damien with disbelief.

'It's a tragic sight, really. Fabian... you shouldn't be relying on that man.'

Even though Damien had kept quiet once treason was mentioned, it wasn't as though he wasn't already guilty of that offense.

'Conspiring with that organization, Damien...' I smiled at him.

The true reason I allowed Fabian to come with me was that Damien would also accompany him.

He was my true target from the get-go.

'It's better I have this traitor in sight than leaving him to run rampant in the Royal Capital.'

Besides, I would be able to glean quite some information from him.

Considering his level of power and intelligence, though, I surmised he would be among the lowest Rank. Most likely even lower than Legris.

'... And that guy didn't know much.'

Still, even the smallest bit of Intel had its uses. I just had to ensure they were accurate.

There was a chance that the enemy would try to mislead me with wrong information, so I had to be careful.

'This is quite an intricate game...'

But, I had no plans of losing.

"If you understand, get out of my sight. Go rest in your rooms and wait for further instructions." I said to the two, still cross-legged.

For a moment, there was an uncomfortable silence hanging in the air. I could sense foreboding, and an unsettling sensation lurked amid us.

"This..."

The emotions of Fabian, in particular, were in an uncontrollable torrent. Before long, it erupted.

"T-this has to be false! It's fake! I refuse to believe it!"

'Really? This is the best you could do?' I nearly rolled my eyes as Fabian burst out in complaint.

"You're lying! Father would never--!!!"

'Okay, that's enough.'

>VWUUUUUMMMMM!!!<

Instantly, I spread my Mana Pressure around me, enveloping both Fabian and Damien in it.

Their bodies shuddered, and their eyes nearly whitened as a result of the impact.

I didn't go all-out, and only utilized a portion of my Mana Core, yet they were both in a state of shock... and FEAR!

Their legs gave up strength, and the two of them crumbled to the ground. I simply watched them kneel from my seated position.

"I believe I made myself clear..." My words came out softly as I stared coldly at the two pathetic excuses for Mages.

"E-eeekk..."

With my glowing eyes, I fixed my gaze on them, causing sweat to pour out of their pores and their bodies to shake even more.

"... Go to your rooms. Now."

They couldn't move because of the pure state of terror they were in, but I could tell that they understood my message.

>SHUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUU<

Once I retracted the Mana Pressure, Fabian and his lovely assistant skittered away--dashing straight for their respective rooms.

"That should settle things, for now," I murmured, looking at the three witnesses in the room.

"Haha. Don't mind me..."

Their gazes showed that they weren't going to ever cross my words ever again--out of both respect and fear.

'Ah, this is what I was trying to avoid. Now, the mood is ruined thanks to those idiots.'

The upside was that no one would be challenging my authority anytime soon. Other than Serah, I could most likely handle everyone else present.

'Speaking of Serah, where is she...?'

As I made this thought, a knock sounded on our door. It was faint, and I could sense the one who was responsible for it.

'Why do I have a bad feeling about this?'

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Freya was the one who was knocking.

She came for two reasons.

One was due to an incident that Serah caused. As I feared, she was indeed up to something.

Fortunately, it didn't aggravate the Elves in the slightest.

The crazy woman had simply challenged the strongest Elf--the Elf Queen to combat.

As a result, we were supposed to watch the 'friendly spar' between two members of Allied Kingdoms.

I shuddered at the thought.

The second reason was a personal invitation for me.

Apparently, the Elf Queen wanted to have a private discussion with me after her spar with Serah.

'Hmm. Is it because of the Memoir, or...?'

Either way, it didn't matter.

After all, I also wanted to have a private conversation with the Queen. There was something I desperately needed to know.

"Ivan, please fetch Fabian and Damien. We'll be attending this friendly spar." I grinned.

While I had mixed feelings about watching two monsters fight, my heart was racing with excitement. That was because I knew for sure...

... We were all in for a treat.

'This should be fun.'