

Strongest 1401

Chapter 1401: The Burden Doesn't Only Lie In Your Hands

Days passed...

Weeks passed...

Months...

It had been three months since the Grand Alliance was founded, and slowly, but surely, things were starting to take shape.

The geniuses of each Kingdom, Tribe, and Clan, all gathered and made significant breakthroughs when it came to weapons, battle formations, and high-level spells, that made everyone feel a little more confident that they would be able to make the Giants feel a world of pain once they descended into their world.

Right now, William was having a private meeting with the two most powerful existences in the world of Hestia, who had come to look for him of their own accord.

Seated across him were two men whose ages he couldn't ascertain due to their features. Both of them had long white hair that flowed down to their waists and were wearing gray clothes.

The Half-Elf already knew one of them, which was Leviathan, the Guardian of Atlantis. He was the Overlord of the Ocean.

William had fought him once, but their battle was a tie. Even with Sun Wukong's perfect fusion, Leviathan was a true PowerHouse, making him a very dependable ally in the upcoming war.

The second one, was the Overlord of the Lands of Hestia, and he was known by the Demigods as Tarasque.

This was the first time the red-headed teenager was meeting Tarasque in person, and although the Pseudo-God's human form looked amiable, and even gentle, the power that was radiating from his body wouldn't lose to Leviathan in the slightest.

They were the two True Protectors of the world, and they had come to William in order to discuss some important matters with him.

"I am very happy with how you handled this situation," Tarasque said with a smile. "Even during the Era of the Gods, when the world was covered in darkness, and the Gods were fighting against each other, the races of the world didn't unite as one like what I'm seeing today. It's quite heartening and fills me with hope."

Leviathan nodded his head from the side because he, too, shared Tarasque's sentiment.

"I am glad that you feel that way, Your Excellency," William replied. "But, I'm sure that you didn't come to find me just because of this, right?"

"Getting straight to the point. I like this attitude as well." Tarasque nodded. "Very well. Since you want to know why we came to visit you, I will no longer tarry and give you some good news."

Tarasque leaned forward on his chair and smiled.

"What if I tell you that we have a way to turn all the Demigods in this world into Pseudo-Gods?" Tarasque stated. "But, in order to do that, you must gather all of them here first, including those that are currently inside the Hidden Domains."

Leviathan, who had been quiet on the side, spoke up as well.

"This is just a one time thing, so in order to not waste it, we must gather all the Demigods in one place, and have them all transform into Pseudo-Gods," Leviathan commented. "I know that you have already started to visit the Forbidden Grounds one by one in order to add them to your army, but you must make haste if you want to maximize this once in a lifetime opportunity."

"Is there perhaps a time limit?" William inquired.

There was a sense of urgency in Levithan's tone, making the Half-Elf feel that there was a deadline for this once in a lifetime opportunity, making him a little anxious.

"Yes," Leviathan replied. "You have ten months to gather as many Demigods as you can, and bring them all here in the Central Continent. The reason being, that is when the magical power of this world will be at its peak. It is strong enough to empower an Eleventh Circle Spell, which can be used to raise the ranks of all the Demigods to the next stage."

The Half-Elf's took this news seriously because this was indeed some very good news. He had often wondered how the disparity between the quality, and quantity, of the Higher-Ranking combatants of both parties could be overcome, but this issue had been stressing him out for a very long time.

No matter how small, any advantage that he could strive for was a welcome addition to his cause.

"I will work harder in order to hasten the conquest of the Forbidden Grounds," William stated. "I will mobilize all the Pseudo-Gods under my command to start looking for the locations of these Forbidden Grounds at once."

"There's no need for that," Tarasque said before handing William an aged scroll. "These are all the locations of the Forbidden Grounds, as well as the hidden ones within the lands of Hestia."

Leviathan also handed the Half-Elf another scroll.

"These are the Forbidden Grounds located in the seas and oceans of the world," Leviathan stated. "I'm afraid that even if you do your utmost for the next ten months, you will not be able to visit them all."

William accepted both scrolls and opened them to allow Optimus to record them, just in case the scrolls were lost.

"Your Excellencies, why did you just give me these scrolls now?" William asked. "If you could have given it to me sooner..."

Leviathan and Tarasque glanced at each other before shaking their heads at the same time.

"We also wished we could have given them to you sooner," Tarasque replied. "However, we just finished surveying the entirety of this world today and jotted down those locations on the map."

"The world is a vast place," Leviathan stated. "Even if we are the Overlords of our respective domains, we don't know every nook and cranny of this world. This is why it took us a while to look for these places, so we could give these to you as soon as we could."

The two Pseudo-Gods gave William a brief bow before standing up.

"Please use it well, Your Majesty," Tarasque said softly. "You don't have to visit them all. Visit what you can, and after the ceremony, you can visit the others."

Leviathan gave the Half-Elf a side-long glance before opening the door to leave.

"Remember this, William," Leviathan said as he walked past the door. "Everyone is doing their best in their own way. The burden doesn't only lie in your hands."

Tarasque smiled as he followed behind Leviathan, leaving William to ponder his next course of action.

They had seen how much the Half-Elf had worked behind the scenes, so they also took it upon themselves to work just as hard, leaving him the fruit of all of their hard work.

Chapter 1402: Two Love At First Sight? Isn't That Cheating?

A month had passed since Leviathan and Tarasque had visited William. Since then, he had already conquered five Forbidden Grounds, raising the number of Pseudo-Gods under his command by five more.

Just like the other Forbidden Domains, aside from the Pseudo-Gods, they also had Demigods which served as the Boss Monsters of the upper floors.

As an example, the Faeries guarding Titania's Tir Na Nog were scheduled to have their ranks upgraded to Pseudo-Gods when William had finished visiting as many Forbidden and Secret Domains as he could during the time that was allotted to him.

Unlike Astrape, Bronte, Titania, and the Nymphs, William didn't make any contracts with them, not because he didn't want to, but because he couldn't.

His soul couldn't afford to form anymore contracts with Demigods, so he used the destruction of the world to get them to join his side willingly.

William also explained to them in detail of why he was conquering their Domains, which made some of the Pseudo-Gods doubtful of his words.

As for those who were unwilling, they faced the one-sided beating of several Pseudo-Gods, until they finally understood that joining the Grand Alliance was the least painful option.

However, since William had conquered their Dungeon and made it his own, they had no choice but to give him the benefit of the doubt, and tag along with him to conquer the other Forbidden Grounds, to further raise the number of William's forces.

Having five more Pseudo-Gods greatly increased the capture rate of the Dungeons located in the Forbidden Grounds, which led Nisha to give the Half-Elf a short vacation in order to take a breather.

The Half-Elf didn't reject the offer and left the Central Continent to go to a more peaceful place.

A place where he had spent his childhood days happily with the members of his small herd.

"Back then, I was more handsome than you," a shepherd said while laying on the soft wool of the sheep under his head. "Now, I am still more handsome than you."

The Half-Elf rolled his eyes after hearing the words of his first best friend whom he hadn't seen in a while.

"But, even though I'm more handsome than you, I'm hearing rumors that you already have over thirty wives!" Theo, the shepherd boy who would always accompany William whenever he took his goats to the pasture to graze, propped himself up and looked at Half-Elf with bloodshot eyes.

"I'm so envious!" Theo ground his teeth in frustration. "Do they have sisters?! Even cousins will do. Introduce me!"

"Piss off! You smell like sheep!" William pushed Theo's face, who was breathing like a dragon in his face, away.

Theo swatted William's hand away from his face before glaring at the Half-Elf who had become a winner in life after he left Lont.

"Shut up, milk drinker!" Theo glared. "Is that your secret? Because you drank Goat Milk when you were young, you became super popular with the ladies?"

"No, Bro. It's all about the looks." William wagged his finger in front of his best friend, who had remained in Lont and lived his life peacefully. "Can't you see how handsome I am? Even if you take a bath everyday, you will not reach this level of handsomeness in your lifetime. It would be a sin if the ladies didn't flock to me."

Theo clicked his tongue before rubbing his hands over his face.

"To think you even made Princess Aila your lover," Theo said grudgingly. "I had a crush on her back then. I thought that she would be my girlfriend after a year. But that old fart Owen took her with him when he went to the Central Continent. I missed my chance to confess!"

William arched an eyebrow before looking at his friend from head to toe.

Theo used to be a chubby boy when they were younger. Now, he was a young man with a well-toned body, as well as above average looks.

Truth be told, Theo was quite popular with the young ladies in Lont. it would not be hard for him to find one whom he could spend his life with.

However, William didn't expect that the frog had tried to eat a swan, which he had eaten, after it flew to the Central Continent before following him to the Demon Continent.

"Sorry Bro, but you didn't stand a chance from the very start," William said as he patted Theo's shoulder with a smug smile on his face, which made the latter so annoyed that he lunged at the Half-Elf, making both of them roll down the grass hill.

"The early bird catches the early worm," Theo lamented as he laid on the ground panting for breath after his short scuffle with William. "I wasn't early enough. With my good looks, I'm sure that she would have said Yes, if I confessed to her."

"If you say so," William said with a teasing smile on his face. "Still, if you want to marry Princesses, there are many out there. I'm sure you will find the one that is meant for you sooner or later."

Theo shook his head before he stared at the Half-Elf as if the latter wasn't well versed in the art of love.

"I won't fall in love with just a random person," Theo patted his chest proudly. "It must be similar to love at first sight or none at all. How about you? Did you make the ones whom you fell in love with at first sight, your wife?"

William pondered for a bit before answering Theo's question.

The first one he fell in love with on Earth was Belle, who had now become his wife.

The one he fell in love with at first sight was his Master, Celine. Technically, she was not yet his wife, but she had already given birth to his baby, making the Half-Elf scratch his head about how the order of things had been jumbled up.

"Well, in a way, I ended up with the two girls I fell in love with at first sight," William replied.

"What?! How can there be such a thing!" Theo looked at the Half-Elf in disdain. "Two love at first sight? Isn't that cheating?"

The Half-Elf laughed because this talk about random things made him realize that even though the end of the world was coming their way, that wouldn't stop the people of Hestia from enjoying the simple pleasures of life.

Just as he was about to talk nonsense with Theo again, a beam of light descended a few meters away from him.

There, Nisha, who was wearing a veil like always, as well as a girl whom William hadn't seen for a long time appeared a few meters away from him.

"Greetings, Your Majesty," the young lady beside Nisha gave William a respectful bow before raising her head. "I was planning to wait for you to return to the Floor Asgard, but Lady Nisha and I met each other in the hallway, and she decided to help me reach out to you."

William glanced at the veiled-beauty, who only nodded her head, before shifting his gaze to his ex-fiance, whom he hadn't seen since the last time they met in the Misty Sect.

It was none other than Rebecca.

The genius girl who had broken her engagement with William, many years ago.

William subconsciously lowered his gaze to look at her chest in amusement.

It wasn't small, but failed to reach the Cup C requirement that he had stated when he was asked by her grandfather, Lawrence, who was the former Duke of the Dukedom of Griffith, what his ideal woman was like.

Chapter 1403: Reminiscing About The Past [Part1]

"Rebecca, what are the qualities you like to see in your future husband?"

"Grandfather, I think It's too early for me to answer this question."

"Indeed, you are still too young. But, humor me. Tell me the qualities that you want your husband to have."

"Well, first, he must be stronger than me," Rebecca stated.

"Second, he must be good looking."

"Third, he must be someone with ambition. I don't like mediocrity."

"There is one last condition," Rebecca said. "He must be in a position of power."

That was the scene that appeared inside Rebecca's head after she reunited with the Half-Elf who had risen to heights she could never hope to imagine within the short time that they had parted ways with each other.

Many years ago, she really thought that she was too good for a dirty Shepherd, who spent his days herding goats and sheep in the countryside.

To this day, whenever the Disciples of the Misty Sect talked about William Von Ainsworth, they would remember her.

The person that broke their engagement, and wondered if she regretted her decision back then.

Truth be told, Rebecca was a bit regretful, but she didn't fully regret her decision.

No one knew what the future would hold. When she decided to break the engagement with William, she had already thought of the possibility of him surpassing her in the future.

Even so, she was still firm in her decision.

If she were to be given the opportunity to return to the past, she would make the same decision.

After all, she understood more than anyone else that the Half-Elf had faced challenges that surpassed even her wildest dreams, in order to reach the rank and position he now had.

The young lady with long, light-brown hair, and green eyes, held William's gaze, whose eyes were of the same color as hers.

However, a second later, his gaze moved downwards, looking at her chest, making Rebecca remember the words that the Half-Elf had said to describe his ideal lover.

"First, she must be Cup C," William stated in an arrogant manner. "I will not accept anything smaller than that."

"Second, she must have a good head on her shoulders."

"Third, she must be loyal."

"Lastly, she must be a beauty that can bring the downfall of a nation. Only this kind of lady is deserving of my love and affection."

She didn't meet the first, and she couldn't say that she met the second requirement either.

As for Loyalty? She was willing to devote her life to someone that had earned her trust. Right now, she hadn't found that person, but she firmly believed that once she had chosen someone to love, she would be loyal without a doubt.

As for the last condition of being a beauty that could bring the downfall of a nation?

Rebecca was a beauty, but her beauty didn't reach Princess Sidonie's, Titania's, Nisha's, Celine's, Princess Aila's, or even Erinys' standards.

Among William's wives, and lovers, these women had the beauty that could topple nations.

Of course, his other wives and lovers were extremely beautiful women. The Eight Deadly Sins, and the Eight Heavenly Virtues, were all beautiful in their own right, and any man in the world would fight to have one of them as their lover.

Belle, Wendy, Estelle, Ashe, Lilith, Acedia, and the rest... there were simply too many to list.

In short, William didn't have a shortage of women in his harem, which could be said to be the dream of all the men in the world of Hestia.

"It's been a while," William said softly. "Have you been well?"

"Yes," Rebecca replied. "Life has been full of ups and downs, but we must continue to move forward, in order to grow as individuals."

After Nisha had brought Rebecca to William's side, the veiled-beauty didn't stay for long and returned to the Floor of Asgard. However, before she went, she dragged Theo, who had the look of "this is some juicy gossip material", away.

Nisha knew that the two needed some alone time together. She had investigated William's background and had made sure to memorize the faces, and names of the people that were close to him.

Among those that struck an impression to her was Rebecca.

She was William's ex-fiance, and the girl who decided to break the marriage agreement because she found him lacking.

Nisha couldn't help but giggle after reading this piece of information, and made sure to always keep an eye out for William's Ex-Fiance,

An awkward silence descended between the two after that brief exchange.

This silence lasted for a full five minutes before Rebecca took the initiative to restart the conversation.

"The reason why I came to the Floor of Asgard is to represent the collective decision of the Elders of the Misty Sect," Rebecca said. "All of us will participate in the Grand Alliance, and wish to have stronger ties with the Ainsworth Family."

William chuckled and crossed his arms over his chest.

"I am honored to have the Misty Sect join the Alliance," William replied. "But, I'm curious. Who was the one that made you say the last part of your declaration?"

"My Master, Lady Eleanor," Rebecca stated with a bitter smile. "She wanted to know if you still hold a grudge over what had happened several years ago."

The Half-Elf smiled and nodded his head in understanding.

"You know, back then, when I first heard that my Gramps had already planned for my future marriage partner, I felt that the old man was in too much of a hurry," William said as he looked at the sheeps and goats grazing in the distance.

He couldn't possibly tell Rebecca that he had been aware of their engagement since he was a baby because the old coot, James, would often brag to him that he had nabbed him a beauty before he could even learn to walk.

"I too was surprised when I learned that I already had a marriage partner," Rebecca commented. "I believe I was six years old when my grandfather told me about it. As a child, I didn't really understand what having a marriage partner was. Because of this, I felt that someone was deciding my own future for me, which made me hate the idea as I grew older."

"You don't like someone manipulating your life for you, right?"

"Yes. This is why I decided to break the marriage agreement. If I were to fall in love, I wanted to fall in love on my own terms, and not because my grandfather agreed to marry me to someone whose face I hadn't even seen once."

William once again nodded his head in understanding. In truth, he also hated the idea of someone forcing him to marry someone he didn't like. So, for him, Rebecca breaking the marriage agreement wasn't necessarily a bad thing.

"You looked so cute back then," William said softly. "Dressed up like a doll, and acting like the noble you are."

The Half-Elf paused before glancing at the lady by his side.

"Now, you have grown into a beauty," William commented. "I'm sure that there are many in the Misty Sect that are hoping to become your lover."

Suddenly, Rebecca chuckled, which made the Half-Elf wonder if he said something very funny.

"Everyone in the Misty Sect is too afraid to approach me," Rebecca replied. "They think that if they were to really make me their lover, you would return and bury them in nightsoil. Even my Guardian, Her Excellency, Meredith, refused to accompany me on this journey, knowing that I would be meeting with you."

The Half-Elf lightly scratched his cheek after hearing Rebecca's words.

There had been a time when he had been very reckless and did things that were not appropriate. However, he didn't regret his decision back then.

The circumstances had forced him to do what he did, which gave the Guardian of the Misty Sect a trauma that still haunted it to this day.

"Let's not talk about that incident anymore," William smiled as he faced his Ex-Fiance with an inquiring gaze. "It's all in the past."

Rebecca nodded. "I agree."

The young lady then took out something from her storage ring and handed it to the Half-Elf who took it with a curious expression.

"This is?" William asked.

Rebecca sighed before answering William's question.

"That is the letter that your Familiar, Elliot, left me," Rebecca answered. "He said that I should give it to you after your battle with Ahriman and the Heir of Darkness was finished."

The young lady gave a bitter smile before bowing her head lightly in apology. "I'm sorry. I am only able to give this to you now because many things happened within the Misty Sect when the Demons attacked.

"Some of our Elders had been injured, and we were forced to close off the territories around the sect with the power of her Excellency, Meredith. Then, your battle against the Holy Order of Light reached our ears, which prompted me to wait until the outcome had been decided before I came to see you."

The Half-Elf's expression became solemn as he broke the seal on the letter, so that he could read it.

He had only come to learn recently from Chloe that Elliot had the power of Clairvoyance after they returned from the Tower of Babylon.

With that said, the Familiar might have already foreseen his death, and might have written the letter as a last will to tell William the things that he wanted to pass to him after his death.

Chapter 1404: Reminiscing About The Past [Part2]

To the Destined Person who is lucky enough to find my letter,

Seven-hundred fifty-two million, six-hundred forty-eight thousand heartbeats.

That is the number of times my heart was supposed to beat before I passed away. But, Alas... it was not meant to be. I, who lived a short, yet happy life have many regrets, and among those regrets was to die... a virgin!

Ahem! Don't look at me with those eyes filled with ridicule and contempt, for I am sure that you, yes you! The one reading this right now, is the same. Both of us are virgins!

The corner of William's lips twitched as he read the opening paragraphs of Elliot's letter. The words that were written were very familiar to him, and somehow, he felt too embarrassed to continue reading it because he already had an idea of what would come up next.

The Half-Elf was no longer a virgin, and had become a veteran in the arts of love making. Since Elliot was a part of his soul, he was sure that his familiar was just poking fun at him in order to make him relax a bit more as he read the letter.

Although I can't see it, I believe that your lips should be twitching right now. There are not many things you can hide from me because I know everything about you. I know that it has been a long time coming, but I'd like to applaud your boldness for having the guts to steal a pair of Celine's panties while you were still undergoing her training back in Lont.

The Half-Elf folded the handwritten letter in his hands for a brief moment before looking at the sky to contemplate the meaning of life.

Rebecca, who was standing beside him, wondered what was written in the letter because the Half-Elf's expression had changed so many times in just a short period of time.

'Elliot's letter must be very profound,' Rebecca thought. 'William's face is a bit flushed right now. Is he alright?'

What she didn't know was that the Half-Elf was planning to burn Elliot's letter as soon as he finished reading it to erase any evidence of what had happened in the past.

If Celine, or any of his wives, and lovers, were to accidentally read it, they would probably look at him in a weird manner, making the Half-Elf unable to know how to react to their stares.

After regaining his composure, he once again opened the letter and started to read. Fortunately, Elliot had stopped teasing him and finally got down to business.

By the time you are reading this letter, I have long been dead.

It's quite funny, you know? People think that seers that can see the future could prevent the bad ones from happening completely.

But, this isn't the truth. The most we can do is help steer the future to a more favorable one by laying out foundations in advance.

Perhaps you didn't know, but the Giants had attempted to attack Hestia in the past. I didn't tell you this because there were other things that needed your immediate attention, so I decided to make Rebecca my subordinate, as well as enlist Chloe's help, in order to prevent the Giants from arriving in this world sooner.

Back then, no one in the world was ready to face them.

Not Malacai who was traveling the world of Hestia to look for remnants that were left behind during the Era of the Gods that could help win the war against the invaders of this world.

Not our Gramps, who is probably off somewhere, looking for... nevermind. This is not something for me to say, but know that the old coot is doing his best in his own way.

And... not you, who still don't know your true identity.

I tried...

I tried so hard to reach a point where I could guide you to reach your full potential, but sadly, that is not possible now.

The battle with Ahriman should have ended with you being defeated, and your core being absorbed by Felix, making him the true Hegemon of this world, enveloping it in endless suffering and darkness.

In order to prevent that from happening, I talked to those that could help prevent the worst case scenario from happening.

Kasogonaga and Conan agreed to my selfish request, and had already prepared themselves to sacrifice their lives for your sake.

My vision of the future ended with Ahriman, and I couldn't see past that, which only meant one thing.

That meant that I would no longer be around to see whether my plan to save you succeeded, or not.

Still, I believe that you will be able to survive. I also apologize because I'm sure that you would have experienced excruciating pain after Conan and I died, but pain is a good thing. It means that you are still alive to experience it.

Hah~ I really wish I could have seen how things turned out, but if you were to really read this letter, that means that all has been well, and our sacrifices have not been in vain.

Will, on behalf of Conan, we would like to thank you for bringing us to this world. Our life was short, but it was fun.

I am very happy to have been your friend, and familiar. Although I did things behind your back, know that I only did it for your sake, and for your sake alone.

Do you know? I confessed to Chloee, but she rejected me. I can't believe someone as handsome, and awesome as me was rejected. But, that just means that the one she chose over me was better, right?

Make sure to treat her well, because she loves you very much. Also, Rebecca might be a proud individual, but she is not inherently bad. She made the choice back then, knowing that the future is uncertain.

What I'm saying is that it would be a shame if some other guy hit her up, so since you were her EX-Fiance, can you add her to your harem as well? I'm sure that Gramps, and his friend, Lawrence, will be happy with this outcome.

Of course, you are free to reject this proposal. After all, I don't want to force you to do anything you don't want to do.

I can't even imagine what the world is like after you read this letter of mine.

I'm pretty sure that if you manage to survive Ahriman and Felix, you will be facing off against the Giants. I'm guessing that you'd rather fight Ahriman than them, which makes it even harder to envision what the future will be like several years from now.

Still, I ask of you, do not lose hope.

Live, not only for my sake, but for Conan's as well.

Wherever we may be, we will always watch over you and pray that you will find all the happiness this world has to offer.

P.S

I already mentioned it, but Rebecca is a good girl. Although she isn't a C-Cup, she is a very loyal person. She will also give birth to healthy babies, so Gramps will be happy to have her around.

Lastly, Be safe, Will, and may all the promises you made in your past, and present lives, be realized in full.

The Half-Elf slowly closed his eyes as he controlled the surging sadness that was slowly rising up from his chest.

The handwritten letter already had dried up tear stains in it, which proved that Elliot had cried while writing the letter.

His angelic familiar was a calm and collected person, who seemed to be a devil in disguise. He was very different from Conan who seemed to be more of a good guy, despite being a devil familiar.

He carefully folded the letter and placed it inside his storage ring. He no longer had any intention of burning it because it was the last remaining legacy of his familiar, who did everything in his power to give him a future.

Rebecca, who noticed that tears had started to stream down the side of the Half-Elf's face, took out her handkerchief, but hesitated to wipe them away.

After a brief internal struggle, she took a step forward and dabbed her handkerchief on the Half-Elf's cheeks, drying his tears.

Although her relationship with William was more of an acquaintance, rather than a friend, the sadness emanating from the Half-Elf had moved her heart, making her take a bold step to reach out, and cross that gap that had separated the two of them, since the day that she had decided to break off the marriage agreement that had been forced on her, regardless of her will.

Feeling the soft handkerchief touching his face, the Half-Elf opened his eyes and looked at Rebecca with a profound sadness that seemed to be coming from the very depths of his soul

"I'm sorry, but can you let me borrow your shoulder for a while?" William asked.

Rebecca nodded and reached out to hug the Half-Elf, and rub his back, allowing the latter to cry on her shoulder.

William was someone who held the highest authority in the world at this moment, and for him to show her this side of him, made her feel that even someone as powerful as him, could still shed tears like a normal person, making her have a better understanding of him.

As the sun disappeared from the horizon, and the first stars appeared in the sky, William's Ex-Fiance, who was once promised to become his wife in the past, accompanied him until he no longer had tears to shed.

Chapter 1405: I Didn't Choose The Harem Life, The Harem Life Chose Me

The sounds of the night, as well as the crackling of the campfire could be faintly heard in the background.

"Have you ever thought that something like this would happen between us?" William inquired.

"No," Rebecca replied in a heartbeat.

William chuckled. "Me, neither."

Right now, the Half-Elf was resting his head on Rebecca's lap, as he looked at the star-studded sky.

After he recovered from his grief, he already found himself lying on Rebecca's lap.

He couldn't remember how he ended up in that manner because he had been in a daze after reading Elliot's letter.

The Half-Elf thought that he had already overcome his sadness for the loss of his two familiars, but that was only on the surface. Elliot's letter was proof that he was still saddened by their deaths, and was merely keeping himself busy, so that he wouldn't think about them more.

"What is it like to be born a genius?" William asked.

"Do you want me to hit you?" Rebecca replied. "You of all people shouldn't ask me this question."

The Half-Elf smiled because, after realizing what he just asked, he had undoubtedly stepped on a landmine.

"I already said that when I first saw you, I found you very cute and adorable," William stated. "Back then, I thought that my Grandfather's decision to have an arranged marriage wasn't necessarily a bad thing. How about you? What was your first impression of me?"

Rebecca didn't reply right away. Instead, she closed her eyes as she recalled the first time she had met the shepherd, who had come home covered in dirt and grass.

"Dirty, smelly, and looked like an obnoxious brat," Rebecca replied. "I am older than you by a year, and just the thought of spending a lifetime cleaning up your mess, made me want to get rid of you as soon as possible."

"You're not holding back with your praises, are you?"

"Because it's the truth. A shepherd isn't really my ideal husband. Back then, I wanted to marry a Prince, like those in the fairy tale books I read when I was younger. Also, as a member of the nobility, and the daughter of a Duke, I was bound to marry a person with high social standing."

William rolled his eyes after hearing Rebecca's answer. He didn't think that the hundred-year-genius was a hopeless romantic who only thought about a Prince Charming in fairy tales that would save the Princess from a fire-breathing dragon in a tower far away.

"I can somehow understand the longing for a fairy tale ending," William commented. "I'm sure that everyone would like to live a 'Happily ever after', but life never follows our wishes. Instead, it gives us these trials, breaking us at times, and sometimes, pushing us to the limits, making us wonder if there is a 'Happy Ending', at the end of all of our suffering."

Rebecca nodded in agreement to William's words. She had learned firsthand that if you really wanted something in your life, you needed to strive for it with everything you had.

"How is Sir Lawrence?" William inquired. "It has been a long time since I last saw him."

Rebecca wrinkled her nose after she was reminded about her grandfather, who was egging her to reconcile with William in an attempt to salvage their relationship.

Her Grandfather still hadn't given up on playing matchmaker between her and the Half-Elf, who now stood at the very top of the world.

"My Grandfather is still very healthy and as ambitious as ever," Rebecca replied. "He still has plans to rekindle our broken engagement and hope that our family can benefit by holding onto your thigh."

"Mmm, no wonder he is Gramps friend," William commented. "They are two birds of the same feather."

"Right." Rebecca agreed wholeheartedly. "The Sect Master is truly a greedy person."

William could only bitterly smile after Rebecca reminded him that James was now the Sect Master of the Misty Sect.

The previous Sect Master had become the Vice Sect Master, whom James had assigned to manage the Misty Sect, while he was away.

In short, the Sect, that once stood as one of the most powerful factions in the Central Continent, was now at his Grandpa's beck and call.

William still didn't know how his Grandpa had managed to do it, but knowing James, the latter could definitely scam people even if they knew that they were being scammed.

"How many wives do you have right now?" Rebecca suddenly asked a question that William didn't expect she would ask.

"Officially married?" William asked back.

"Yes."

"Around... five."

His official wives were only Wendy, Ashe, Chiffon, Princess Sidonie, and Belle.

This reminded the Half-Elf that there were still some people that he promised to marry, but right now, was not the time to do it.

Originally, he planned to marry Estelle and Lilith after returning to the Central Continent from Earth, but many things happened, preventing him from following this plan.

Even now, that the silver-haired beauty had been freed from the curse, and was always with him, he still couldn't find the right time to host a wedding for her.

Lilith was also waiting for him, and he knew that he only needed to say the word and the entirety of the Ainsworth Empire would move mountains to prepare a Grand Wedding that would be remembered in history.

The Half-Elf also remembered the lazy Elf sleeping in the Spring of Life, located at the roots of the World Tree.

He planned to marry Acedia as well, making him start counting with his fingers. He had promised Belle that he would only have nine wives and lovers, but the number of ladies around him had surpassed that number already.

With these three ladies whom he was sure to marry, the number of wives had now gone up to eight.

Then, there was Cathy, who had proclaimed herself to be his Ninth Wife.

The last person he wanted to marry was Celine, closing the number of wives at ten, which was his original plan. But now, that plan was no longer possible.

"You have so many women," Rebecca commented. "And yet, you only have five wives. Do you plan to have more?"

She had noticed that William was counting with his fingers and found this quite amusing.

"I do," William sighed as he gave up counting with his fingers and just laid his hands by his sides. "I plan to take responsibility for all of them."

"Did you plan to become a Harem King from the start?"

"I didn't choose the Harem life, the Harem life chose me."

Rebecca could only smile upon hearing William's reply. Whatever he wanted to do with his life, she didn't have the right to have a say in his affairs.

"Say, Rebecca, If I ask you a hypothetical question," William said. "Can you give me a hypothetical answer?"

Rebecca arched an eyebrow, but still nodded her head in the end.

"Would you marry someone like me?" William asked.

Rebecca's body stiffened because she didn't expect William's hypothetical question to be something like this.

A few minutes of silence passed before the young lady gave her answer.

That night, under that star-studded sky, two people laid on the grass, and looked for shooting stars, whose swift trails of light flew fleetingly through the distant sky.

Chapter 1406: So, Where Are The Two Little Troublemakers?

Three days after William met Rebecca, the Half-Elf returned to the Ainsworth Empire to resume his goal to visit as many Forbidden Grounds as possible.

Rebecca had also returned to the Misty Sect to handle a few things that William asked of her, allowing the Half-Elf to focus on things that needed his immediate attention.

However, as soon as he arrived at the Royal Palace, he found someone waiting for him, whom he didn't expect to see at this point in time.

"Welcome home, Darling."

A lady whose looks were just a little above average reached out to give William a hug before planting a kiss on his cheek.

"Missed me?"

The red-headed teenager stared at his supposedly Ninth Wife, who now appeared before his eyes.

"Yes, I missed you, Cathy." William replied as he looked at the lady who represented the Eighth Heavenly Virtue of Hope. "What are you doing here?"

"Boooo! Aren't you supposed to kiss me back?" Cathay pouted.

"Well, I can't just arbitrarily kiss you, you know?" William replied. "Especially when you're sharing that body with other people."

"You say that now, but we've done more things than just kissing, remember?"

"This is this, that is that. Besides, it is best to not force this issue in order to respect their feelings as well, right?"

Instead of pouting more, Cathy smiled after hearing the Half-Elf's reply.

She and William knew that Vesta, Pearl, Priscilla, and Amelia, were still not too comfortable when it came to being intimate with him, so the Half-Elf refrained from doing things like kissing, since the last time the two of them had met.

But, William was fine sucking Cathy's blood because it was truly too irresistible to resist. Among his lovers, the Virtuous Lady of Hope had the most delicious blood of all, and he could drink to his fill without any worries.

"Okay, I'll leave aside the fact that you won't kiss me for now," Cathy commented. "But, have you forgotten about some other important matters that you had put on hold? I told you last time didn't I? We still need to go to the Underworld to bring your wives back to the Surface World, or are you fine letting them stay there?"

William's expression immediately became serious after hearing Cathy's words. Although he hadn't forgotten that he needed to go back to the Underworld to bring the souls of his wives back to Hestia, Cathy had told him that they would need some help in order to get to the Underworld because all the entrances that led to it had been forcefully closed by Thanatos, to prevent William from going back to save his wives.

"Did the two of them manage to escape again?" William asked. He was referring to none other than Maple and Cinnamon, who could almost travel anywhere due to their special ability.

"Yes," Cathy replied with a smile. "The little ones managed to run away from home again."

The Half-Elf gave a bitter smile because he could already tell how panicked the two little gluttons' parents would be when they found out that they had disappeared once again.

However, he also felt that this was a good opportunity to go to the Underworld and rescue his wives once and for all.

"Should I bring some Pseudo-Gods with me?" William asked.

He knew that Thanatos would make things difficult for him, and there was also a high possibility that he and the God of Death would come to blows.

"Silly. If you do that, it would be the same as declaring war on him," Cathy rolled her eyes at the Half-Elf who planned to bring his heavy hitters to face off with the God of Death.

"He is barely tolerating your existence. Adding fuel to the fire will do you no good. The only person you need to bring along is none other than Erinys. Since you need someone to help you move around in his Domain, the best person to assist you is none other than a Ferryman of the Underworld."

William nodded his head in understanding. The Underworld had many layers, and there were strict rules about how one could traverse them. Having Erinys around was like having a supervisor guide you inside their office, which would be far easier than William trying to brute force his way in.

"Don't worry, this time, we will use a special method to sneak you inside without the Big Boss knowing you were there," Cathy stated. "Of course, there is still a chance that he will find out. But, when that happens, I want you to be calm and talk to him in a civil manner. Never, ever, use violence against him. That is the God of Death, you know? He's called a God of Death for a reason."

William could only give Cathy a bitter smile.

When he left the Underworld, he had felt Thanatos rage-filled gaze as he stepped onto the staircase that would allow him to return to the Surface World. Several months had passed since that incident, and he hoped that the God of Death had already cooled his head, and would show him a bit of mercy as he snuck around inside his Domain.

"So, where are the two little troublemakers?" William asked.

Last time, he went to Earth alongside his lovers in order to find Maple and Cinnamon. Since Cathy told him that the two were once again away from home, he expected to find the two little gluttons wandering around looking for something good to eat.

Seeing his expression, Cathy already understood what the Half-Elf was thinking, making her smile.

"We don't have to look far to find them," Cathy replied. "They are currently in the Demon Continent, and staying with your cousin, Eve, in the Temple of the Gods."

William sighed internally because he thought that he would have to go back to Earth again to look for Maple and Cinnamon. The Bifrost Bridge had already set its coordinates to Earth, but the connection between the two worlds was still unstable, so William didn't want to risk going there for the time being.

Since the two gluttons were only in the Demon Continent, it didn't take long for William, as well as Cathy, to arrive at the Temple of the Gods where his cousin, Eve, was currently staying.

Chapter 1407: If I Have To Go To Hell And Back For Us To Be Together Again Then So Be It

When William arrived at the Temple, he found Maple and Cinnamon playing cards with Eve and the Six-Eared Macaque.

The game that the four of them were playing was Old Maid, and judging by the look of things, the Six-Eared Macaque seemed to be one on the losing side.

The Half-Elf didn't even need to think how this happened because he was sure that the Pseudo-God was losing on purpose in order to entertain the three girls, who were looking at him with teasing gazes.

A few minutes later, the game ended with the Six-Eared Macaque looking pitiful, while Maple and Cinnamon clapped their hands happily because they were the first to finish the game.

"Cousin!" Eve, who finally sensed William's presence, stood up and walked towards him with a smile. "I haven't seen you in a while."

William smiled and gave Eve a hug before planting a kiss on her forehead.

"I've been quite busy as of late," William replied. "How about you? Are you not overworked as of late?"

"No. Everyone in the Temple has been nice to me," Eve commented. "Also, the recent changes in the policy of the Demon Continent made by Big Sister Nisha were well received by the Demon Tribes, giving everyone some peace of mind as they focus on the upcoming war against the Giants."

William nodded his head in satisfaction because Nisha had really gone above and beyond in order to ensure that the Demon Realm would no longer have any civil strife.

Eve was also widely loved and respected by the Demons.

With the Six-Eared Macaque guarding her, no one in their right minds would dare to even touch a strand of her hair, or else they would face the wrath of the Pseudo-God, who only acted like a fool and a loser on the surface.

"Have you come for Maple and Cinnamon?" Eve asked as she glanced at the two little girls who had also walked up to William with expectant faces.

"Yes." William nodded before shifting his attention to the two pink-haired girls who were being petted by Cathy. "Have the two of you been good girls since the last time we saw each other?"

"I am always a good girl," Maple replied.

"Cinnamon has always been a good girl," Cinnamon answered.

William smiled because in his eyes, the two little troublemakers were indeed good girls. Deep inside he gave a silent prayer to their worried mother, who was still not used to seeing her two daughters suddenly disappear from time to time.

After saying goodbye to Eve, William took Maple, Cinnamon, and Cathy to the Floor of Asgard.

Cathy said that it would be best to open the portal leading to the Underworld inside the Tower of Babylon because the spell that she would cast would require a place that was not privy to the gazes of the Gods.

The Tower of Babylon was such a place.

The young lady carved out some runic words as she created a magic circle that Maple and Cinnamon would use as a platform to open the portal.

The spell that Cathy was going to cast would hide William's ,Erinys', and the two girls' presence the moment they entered the Domain of the Dead.

It was simply impossible to enter the Underworld without being noticed by the God that governs it. However, because Cathy represented Hope, she had the power to temporarily hoodwink the God of Death, allowing the Half-Elf and the others to slip through undetected.

"Remember this," Cathy said as she finished creating the magic circle. "This spell will not last for long. There is also a possibility that Thanatos will be able to detect all of you once you enter his Domain. He has already prepared for the possibility that you will find a way to sneak past his blockade, so be extra careful. I already told you to talk things out with him, but there is a chance that he will not listen to your reason, or excuses."

Cathy then tossed three empty vials to the Half-Elf, which the latter caught easily using Wind Magic.

"You can store the souls of your wives there," Cathy explained. "You don't need to look for Celine. She is not bound by the rules of the Underworld because she is part of the living. Her Patron Goddess has already taken care of her, so that is one less load on your shoulders."

Cathy's expression became serious as she looked at the Half-Elf, who had a determined look on his face.

"Maple and Cinnamon can open a portal to enter and exit the Underworld, so no matter what happens, protect them at all costs," Cathy stated. "If there is no other choice but to fight against Thanatos, remember this, do not let his Deathscythe hit you no matter what. Because when that happens, your soul will be cleaved in two, which is similar to an Eternal Death."

Cathy's body glowed briefly as she undid the fusion with the other girls. However, before she disappeared completely, the Half-Elf heard her encouragement.

"May Fortune be with you always."

That was the last thing Cathy said before her body turned into particles of light.

A moment later, seven ladies stood before William, looking at him with different expressions on their faces.

Through Cathy, they knew that the red-headed teenager planned to go to the Underworld in order to rescue the souls of his wives.

This act of bravery moved them, and even Pearl, who hated William the most among the seven girls that represented Hope, looked at the Half-Elf who was about to face the God of Death with steely eyes.

"Aren't you scared?" Pearl asked.

"I am," William replied. "But, nothing scares me more than living the rest of my life without the women who love me with all of their hearts by my side. If I have to go to Hell and back for us to be together again then so be it."

Suddenly, Haleth ran towards William and hugged him.

"Please be careful," Haleth said softly. "Remember that there are others who love you, and are waiting for you to return."

"Mmm," William replied as he lightly patted Haleth's back. "I will return. I promise."

Erinys smiled as she walked towards William and held his hand.

"Don't worry," Erinys stated. "I will protect you from Father."

The Half-Elf wanted to laugh after hearing the doll-like beauty's words. After spending a few months with Medusa and Cherry, Erinys became a bit braver in her words, and actions. But, since it would ruin the atmosphere, he just smiled and nodded his head.

"We're off," William said as he looked at Maple and Cinnamon. "Let's go, Maple, Cinnamon."

"Okay!"

"Cinnamon will do her best!"

The two little girls held hands as they swung their free hand in a circular motion, creating a small spark in front of them. Slowly but surely, a circle started to expand, opening the pathway to the Underworld.

After many months of separation, William would once again enter the Land of the Death and, this time, he would not return until the souls of his beloved wives were back safely by his side.

Chapter 1408: About Time You Get Here

"Nothing's changed," Erinys muttered as she looked at her surroundings.

"Right." William agreed. "It looks the same as when we left."

When they entered the Underworld, the two found themselves inside Erinys' house, which was located on a small island, surrounded by rivers of flames.

A small sigh escaped the doll-like beauty's lips before looking at William with a determined expression on her face.

"Let's go," Erinys said as she walked towards the door. "The sooner we leave, the sooner we can return."

William nodded, and held Maple's and Cinnamon's hands before following Erinys outside the house.

Erinys was a Ferryman of the Underworld, and owned her own flying ship that could cross the Domain of the Death unhindered.

Even so, she decided to play it safe and told everyone to stay in the cabin, as she controlled the ship, while sitting on the bed.

Maple and Cinnamon sat beside her, while William leaned on the wall.

Their first destination was Gluttony's Paradise where Chiffon was currently staying. Since William had already been there before, he no longer needed to collect points in order to buy a ticket that would allow the purchaser to pass through the Third Circle of Hell, where his pink-haired wife was waiting for him.

The flying boat moved unhindered, and easily reached their destination. However, Erinys and William frowned after seeing that hundreds of armed monsters were guarding the gates of Gluttony's Paradise, which was more than the ones they had seen in the past.

Erinys glanced at the Half-Elf, and the latter only shook his head helplessly.

"We can't alert them," William said. "I'm sure that the moment they raise the alarm, your Father will immediately appear and things will get messy."

Erinys' agreed with William's words, but this was the only entrance that led to the palace they wanted to get into.

Knowing her father, the doll-like beauty knew that the moment a flying boat, or a Ferryman from the Underworld appeared, and tried to negotiate entry, the guards would immediately move to apprehend them.

"There has to be another way," Erinys muttered as she narrowed her eyes.

William was also wracking his brain for another means they could use to enter the Palace, made of sweets, undetected. But, no matter how much he thought, no answer came.

Suddenly, the two heard an adorable question that came from one of the two pink-haired girls, who were currently accompanying them on their rescue operation.

"Is there some kind of problem?" Maple asked. "Why aren't we going inside the castle?"

Erinys glanced in Maple's direction and smiled.

"We can't go in because there are monsters guarding the gates," Erinys explained.

"Then, why not enter it in a different location?" Maple asked in an innocent tone.

"Because there is no other place to enter," Erinys answered.

Cinnamon, who was busy eating gummy bears, tilted her head in confusion.

"Last time we went here, we didn't go through the gates," Cinnamon said before glancing at her sister.
"We didn't enter the gates, right?"

Maple firmly shook her head. "Why should we enter the gates? They don't even look tasty."

"Right? I don't really like to eat steel."

"It tastes bland, and the aftertaste doesn't taste good either. The walls taste better. They taste like graham cake!"

William and Erinys, who had been thinking of ways to enter the Palace of Gluttony, both looked at the two little girls in shock.

They never thought that there was this method to bypass the guards, and it made them feel that they had overlooked something important.

"That's right," William muttered. "Almost everything in the Third Circle of the Underworld can be eaten."

Erinys nodded and even felt embarrassed because she had overlooked such a simple thing.

The reason why she had forgotten about this matter was because she and William couldn't eat anything in the Third Circle of Hell, especially the Half-Elf, who would be unable to leave the Underworld if he ate anything inside it.

Only those who were guilty of the sin of Gluttony would be able to stomach the extreme sweetness, bitterness, saltiness, spiciness, and other sensations that were brought by the foods that were present in the Third Circle.

Although eating through the wall sounded simple, it couldn't be done by ordinary people, making the Half-Elf and the doll-like beauty look at the two little gluttons as if they had brought elite helpers to help them infiltrate the Third Circle of Hell.

Without wasting any time, the Flying Boat flew to the very edge of the Gates that protected the Palace of Sweets. No Flying Ships were able to fly past it because an invisible barrier had been set in place.

Only those that were given explicit permission by the God of Death could bypass these rules, and Erinys was certain that all of her rights were revoked by her father the moment she left the Underworld with the Half-Elf, who had chased the loneliness in her heart away.

"Last time it tasted like Graham Cake, now it tastes like pudding," Maple commented as she scooped up a handful of the wall and ate it.

"Cinnamon likes pudding," Cinnamon commented. "Can I start eating now?"

Maple nodded. "Let's leave some room for desserts later."

"Un!" Cinnamon agreed.

The two pink-haired girls then faced the wall and opened their mouths at the same time.

A moment later, the wall made of sweets started to break apart and fly in the direction of their mouths.

The sturdy blockade crumbled easily in the face of two gluttons, whose appetites were just as bottomless as their mother's, who carried the Sin of Gluttony.

It just took a few seconds before a large hole appeared in front of them.

"Thank you, Maple, Cinnamon," William said. "You can stop eating for now. You can eat more later."

Hearing the Half-Elf's reminder. The two girls stopped eating and gave him two innocent smiles, which made Erinys shake her head helplessly.

If she didn't know what the two little girls were capable of, she might find it extremely hard to believe the scene that she had witnessed just now.

"Let's go," Erinys said. "We will be using this method as we break through the Palace. "Although it doesn't look like it, there are Gingerbread Men that guard the hallways. One shout from them, and the others will be alerted.

"I like Gingerbread Men," Maple commented as she walked while holding William's hand. "They taste really good."

"Cinnamon likes them too," Cinnamon stated. "The last one I ate was a bit noisy. It was screaming just before it entered my mouth."

William and Erinys pretended that they didn't hear the two girls' comments.

Both of them said a silent prayer for the pitiful Gingerbread Men, who would be unlucky enough to get in their way.

Fortunately, no Gingerbread Men blocked their path, so they were able to enter the Inner Palace without too much problem.

Just as the four of them were sneakily making their way to the Giant White Lotus, that floated in the River of Hell, where they believed Chiffon to currently be, a teasing voice reached their ears, making the four of them almost jump up in fright.

"About time you got here."

William, Erinys, and the two little gluttons all turned around to see who the owner of the voice was.

A moment later, the four of them sighed in relief because the person they saw was none other than the Goddess of Gluttony, Adephagia.

The Goddess of Gluttony had almost recovered her... fatness, making the two little girls shout in joy and cling to her like two little Koalas that had found a nice tree to perch on.

"Lady Adephagia, it's been a while," William said as he gave the Fat Goddess a respectful bow. "I'm glad that your recovery is going well."

Adephagia chuckled because she had indeed mostly regained her strength after eating her fill in the Third Circle of Hell.

In truth, she could have returned to the Temple of the Gods to complete her recovery, but she decided to accompany her daughter in the Underworld, while waiting for the Half-Elf to come to her rescue.

"I know that you came here for Chiffon, so it is best that you see her as soon as possible," Adephagia said. "Thanatos has been very cranky as of late. He has even increased the number of guards at the entrance, just to make sure that you will not be able to rescue your wife without a fight."

The Fat Goddess chuckled as she patted the heads of the two little darlings that were still clinging onto her legs like little Koalas.

"Just be careful, Will," Adephagia advised. "He has assigned someone to always check whether Chiffon is still here in Gluttony's Paradise or not. Fortunately, the last inspection happened yesterday. He usually comes here once every two to three days, so you have a day or two at most to finish your rescue operation. Do you understand?"

William nodded her head. "I understand. Thank you, Lady Adephagia."

The Goddess of Gluttony smiled before grabbing Maple and Cinnamon, and lifting them up so they could sit on her shoulders.

"Follow me," Lady Adephagia said. "I will ensure that none of the residents inside the Palace say anything. They might be living in the Underworld, but their fate lies in my hands. None of them have the guts to defy me, so you all can rest easy."

True to her word, Adephagia escorted them to the White Lotus where Chiffon was currently resting, making the Half-Elf's heart start to beat wildly inside his chest.

He had missed Chiffon terribly, especially after seeing Maple's and Cinnamon's mother, who had come to talk to him several months ago.

Although they looked the same, the Half-Elf knew that the pink-haired lady was not his "Chiffon", and never would be, making him long to embrace his own dear wife desperately.

Chapter 1409: Reunion In Lust's Abode [Part 1]

"Will." Chiffon hugged William tightly as soon as she laid her eyes on him. "I missed you."

"I missed you too," William replied as he hugged Chiffon just as tightly as she was holding him. "This time I came here to take you back to the Surface World. Are you ready?"

Chiffon nodded. "Un!"

Although she believed that it was not going to be easy, she believed that her husband would be able to bring them back to the World of the Living, where they would be able to be with him under the sun.

Maple and Cinnamon glanced at each other before running over to hug William and Chiffon as well.

Adephagia wiped the tears in her eyes with a handkerchief, while Erinys simply looked at this scene with a smile.

"Go," Adephagia said softly as she patted Chiffon's head. "Be happy, okay?"

"Yes," Chiffon replied as she gave her Patron Goddess a hug. "Thank you for everything, Mama Adephagia."

"You're welcome," Adephagia smiled. "Now, go. Thanatos has been cranky as of late. The sooner you leave the Underworld, the sooner I'll be able to breathe easy."

Chiffon nodded as she held William's hand.

The Half-Elf bid Adephagia goodbye and led everyone along the path that they had used earlier. Only when they were safely aboard Erinys' flying boat did they all breathe a sigh of relief.

"Our next stop is Lust's Abode," Erinys said with a worried expression on her face. "Because I can no longer use the routes that are meant for a Ferryman of the Underworld, we will have to take a long detour. But, even then, that place might have someone guarding it as well."

"Will, I want you to prepare for the possibility of us being discovered. When that happens, we will no longer hesitate and bulldoze our way to the other layers of hell in order to escape this place."

The Half-Elf nodded in understanding. He had already prepared himself for the possibility of getting discovered, so he had already prepared himself to fight his way out of the Underworld if need be.

According to Erinys, there was only one way to leave the Underworld and that was to go up the Stairway that led to the Gates of Heaven.

This was the same stairway that William had used to take Erinys away from the Underworld, causing the rift between him and the God of Death, who was also the Half-ling's father.

Several hours later, the flying ship finally arrived at the border of Lust's Abode. However, Erinys didn't dare urge the ship forward because the entire place was guarded by thousands of beasts, some of them having wings in order to patrol the skies of Lust's Abode.

"This is worse than I thought," Erinys said as she looked helplessly at the countless monsters in front of them.

William frowned because this was indeed not good for their rescue operation. Unlike Gluttony's Paradise where the defenders were mostly stationed at the gates of the Palace, the defenders this time were all over the place.

There was no gap they could exploit, making the Half-Elf's frown deepen.

Even Maple and Cinnamon didn't know what should be done in this situation, as they sat beside Chiffon on the bed, and hugged her from both sides.

Just as William, and Erinys were thinking of other options, they noticed a small carriage in the distance that was headed towards the Gates of Lust's abode.

Erinys, who immediately recognized the flag that was waving on top of the carriage, immediately grabbed hold of William's hand before saying "This is it!"

Without another word, the Half-ling urged the flying ship to land on the road, and block the path of the carriage completely, making it come to a complete stop.

"Who dares to block our way?!" an Anteater Lady asked. "Don't you know who is inside of this carriage? How dare you block Lord Kazo? Do you want to face the wrath of our fan club?!"

A dozen Anteaters emerged from the carriage and glared hatefully at the flying ship that was blocking their path. They had worked hard in order to trick—errr... convince Lord Kazo to accompany them to Lust's Abode for sightseeing purposes, when in fact, they planned to make baby anteaters with the most popular star in the Underworld.

"It's me, Diana!" Erinys jumped off the ship, making the Anteaters on the carriage all jump up in surprise.

"It's the President!" the Anteater whose name was Diana exclaimed happily. "Good to see you, President! All of us have missed you!"

Diana was the Vice President of the I Love Kazo Fans Club, which Erinys had founded in the Underworld. Because of Erinys' backing, the Fanclub grew in popularity and most of its members were Lady Anteaters who had fallen in love with the rainbow-colored Anteater that had taken the Underworld by storm.

"President! Where have you been?"

"President, we have recorded Lord Kazo's latest soundtrack. Don't worry, we also managed to have it signed!"

"President, there will be another live concert next month, will you be able to come and watch it?"

The Anteaters all encircled Erinys and happily asked how she was doing. When the club was just founded, it was the Half-ling who had taken good care of her members, and because of this, everyone in the club adored her.

"Ah, it's you, Erinys," Kasogonaga stepped out of the carriage with a smile. "Is Will perhaps with you?"

The rainbow-colored Anteater was wearing black sunglasses, and clothes similar to what Elvis Prestey wore when he was still alive, which made him stand out from the crowd.

"I am here," William said as he landed in front of his Anteater friend. "It has been a while, Kasogonaga."

"I knew you'd be back sooner or later, Will," Kasogonaga replied with a smile. "Do you know? You are on a wanted poster that has been spread all over the Underworld. Anyone who catches you will be given a chance to enter the Cycle of Reincarnation with the ideal life of their choosing. For most of the residents of the Underworld, it is a once in a lifetime chance, so make sure to not let yourself get caught, okay?"

William nodded before telling Kasogonaga the current situation.

A few minutes later, the rainbow-colored Anteater nodded his head in understanding.

"Let me get this straight," Kasosonga said. "You want me to look for your wives in Lust's Abode and tell them to try to leave the gates using Princess Sidonie's powerful charm, right?"

William nodded. "As long as she is able to charm everyone, they will be able to leave without too much problem."

Kasogonaga agreed to this plan, and climbed back into his carriage, along with the other Anteaters.

Due to his popularity, Kasogonaga, and his entourage could go just about anywhere in the Underworld.

William, Erinys, and Chiffon watched with bated breath as the carriage made its way to the gates of Lust's Abode.

Because they had been concentrating so hard on Kasogonaga's carriage, they were unable to see a single flying ship that was hovering in the air, a kilometer behind them.

"So, you're back, Erinys," Calli said softly.

Erinys had been her best friend for many years, and she could recognize the Half-ling's flying ship a mile away.

Right now, Calli was hesitating if she should inform the God of Death that his daughter had returned to the Underworld, or keep this information to herself, allowing her best friend to pursue the happiness she had yearned for all of her life.

Chapter 1410: Reunion In Lust's Abode [Part 2]

While Calli was hesitating, the rainbow-colored Anteater's carriage had successfully entered Lust's Abode, allowing William, Chifon, and Erinys to sigh in relief.

Only when the carriage disappeared from sight did Erinys sense that another Ferryman was near her.

Her face turned grim when she discovered that there was a flying ship that was right behind hers, making her want to slap herself for not paying close attention to their surroundings.

However, before Erinys could chastise herself, she received a mental message that came from the Ferryman who had discovered her identity.

"Long time no see, Erinys," Calli said. "Have you been well during your stay in the Land of the Living?"

The Half-ling's eyes widened in shock because she had recognized the owner of the voice.

"Calli, is that really you?" Erinys asked back.

The Ferryman of the Underworld could talk with each other telepathically, making communicating very convenient for all of them.

"Who else?" Calli replied. "Still, you took a great risk to return here. You should have stayed in the Surface World."

"I returned because of important reasons."

"I'm sure you did. Else, you would not be here right now."

Calli had decided to keep Erinys' return to the Underworld a secret.

After being around the Hal-ling for several years, she just couldn't bear the thought of seeing her drown in despair after her father had locked her up in a place that was far away from everyone's sights.

As the two Ferryman talked, their ships approached each other, until they floated side by side.

William, who had also had the opportunity to meet Calli in the past, thought of a good way to prevent themselves from being discovered. However, he knew that what he was about to propose also contained risk, and might even endanger Calli's safety if it was discovered.

"You want to hide in my flying ship?" Calli's face turned pale after hearing William's proposal. She was about to shout "Are you out of your mind?" but managed to hold it back in time because she saw Erinys' desperate expression.

"Do you know what would happen to me if they found out that I was harboring a wanted criminal in the Underworld?" Calli glared at William. "Do you know how serious this offense is?"

"No," William replied. "I'm sorry. Forget what I said. It was wrong of me to involve you in our problems."

Erinys lowered her head because she didn't want to involve Calli in something that would have her severely punished by her father.

Harboring a criminal of the Underworld was the same as being branded as a traitor. The God of Death disliked traitors the most, and he would not hesitate to use his deathscythe to cut their souls in half before tossing them to the River of Flames to suffer for a millennia.

"I'm sorry, Erinys." Calli bowed her head in apology. "I am willing to keep your return here in the Underworld a secret, but I can't help you in this dangerous endeavor. I don't want to get punished by your father."

"I understand, Calli," Erinys replied. "Thank you for keeping my return to the Underworld a secret. That alone is enough. You should leave now while you can. If you are discovered with us, things will become difficult for you in the future."

Calli gave Erinys an apologetic gaze before nodding her head.

"Be careful, Erinys," Calli said. "You too, William. Make sure to protect her at all costs. If something bad happens to her, I will not forgive you, do you understand?"

William smiled before nodding his head. "Rest assured, I will protect her with everything I have. Thank you for being a good friend to her."

Calli gave her best friend a bitter smile before urging her flying ship to fly away.

Unlike Erinys, Calli had experienced what it was like to live in the Surface World. She had died a violent death, and when she woke up in the Underworld, she found herself as one of the few individuals who had been chosen to become a Ferryman of the Underworld.

Calli was already happy with what she had right now, and didn't want to ask for anything more. She prided herself in being able to ferry the souls of the dead in the Underworld, and thought of her job as the best thing in the world.

She no longer needed to fear feeling hungry, being hurt, or even dying. Everything she needed, and everything she wanted, was already hers for the taking, so endangering her position for William's sake wasn't worth it.

As the flying boat disappeared from view, the Half-ling became more vigilant of her surroundings. She felt lucky that the one that discovered her was Calli, and not another Ferryman. If it was the latter, the God of Death would have already descended in Lust's Abode and confronted them right away.

Since Erinys was focused on their surroundings, it was up to William to focus on what was happening at the gates of Lust's Abode.

An hour passed...

Two hours...

Three hours...

Finally, in the fourth hour, something unexpected happened.

Hundreds of people walked out of the gate as if they were just taking a random stroll outside of Lust's Abode.

None of the guards stopped them because they had no reason to. They were just ordered to keep everyone out of Lust Abode, and not to keep everyone inside it.

For most of the residents of the Fourth Circle of Hell, they didn't have any particular need to leave the city. They could all fornicate wherever they wanted, and no one would bat an eye at what they were doing.

Not even the guards wouldn't stop them from doing what they wanted.

Among these people who marched out of the city were Princess Sidonie, Morgana, and Ashe.

After hearing Kasogonaga's story, the three ladies immediately came up with a plan for how the three of them could escape Lust's Abode without being detected by the guards.

William's plan to charm the guards wouldn't work because these beasts were of a different breed and were resistant to charm spells.

Because of this, Princess Sidonie and Morgana decided to charm the people of the city instead. They believed that if the three of them walked out of the city, they would be immediately stopped by the guards. However, if there were hundreds of them then it would be a different matter altogether.

Just as they planned, they were able to leave the city without being found out by the guards.

William, who could communicate with his wives telepathically guided them to where Erinys' ship was hiding.

A tearful reunion followed as Princess Sidonie and Morgana clung to William in tears. Ashe, who was more composed than the two Succubus ladies, hugged the red-headed teenager from behind to feel his warmth.

Just like Chiffon, Princess Sidonie, and Morgana, Ashe had missed the Half-Elf terribly. If not for the current situation they were in, she would have already dragged him to another room and tumbled on the sheets with him.

"It's time to go back," William said to the three ladies who still held him in a tight embrace. "We can hug each other as much as we want after we leave this place."

The three ladies finally let go of their darling and sat on the bed.

"Before we go, I need to house your souls inside these crystal vials," William explained as she showed his wives the vials that Cathy had given him. "Only then will I be able to take all of you out of the Underworld."

The vials were made from special materials, so he couldn't store them inside his storage ring and simply kept them in his pocket for the duration of the journey.

Chiffon, Princess Sidonie, Morgana, and Ashe, had no objections to William's proposal.

One by one, the souls of his wives entered the vials without any problems.

However, as soon as Ashe's soul entered the last vial, the flying ship started to shake, making the Half-Elf's and the Half-ling's faces turn pale.

"You Half-Elf bastard!"

A loud, and angry roar shook the entire Fourth Layer of the Underworld, as the God of Death made his appearance in the skies above Lust's Abode.

His tattered robes fluttered in the breeze, as his bony hand held a black Deathscythe, whose blade was now crimson in color.

All the denizens of the Fourth Layer gazed at their God with awe, fear, and admiration. For them, Thanatos was the law of the Underworld, and whatever he wished for, would become a reality.

"Give me back my daughter or die!"

Thanatos' roar echoed within the entirety of the Underworld, making those who heard it tremble.

Erinys, who was inside the flying ship, started to hyperventilate due to the fear and shock that assaulted her at the same time.

"Don't worry."

A pair of strong arms wrapped around her small frame, making her calm down a bit.

"I'll deal with your father," William said as he patted the Half-ling's head. "Stay here with Maple and Cinnamon. I'll handle this."

He handed the crystal vials, which contained the souls of his wives, to Erinys for safekeeping.

Without another word, William left the cabin and floated above the flying ship.

As soon as he made his appearance, the God of Death growled. Clearly, he didn't like seeing the Half-Elf's face, especially after he had taken his beloved daughter away from him.

"Hello, Father," William greeted the God of Death, which made Princess Sidonie, Morgana, and Ashe, who were inside the crystal vials, cover their faces with their hands due to embarrassment.

They knew that William had a bad habit of teasing his opponents when he felt like it, but right now, he wasn't teasing an ordinary opponent but the God of Death himself!

From high above the Temple of the Ten Thousand Gods, a sigh escaped the Primordial Goddess' lips.

Thanatos and her had a nice long talk with each other, and she promised the God of Death that she wouldn't interfere if he, and William, were about to trade blows with each other.

"Well, since it has already come to this then so be it," the Primordial Goddess rested her beautiful face on the palm of her hand. "Now then, Will, I wonder how you will fare against a God who wants nothing more than to beat you into a pulp."

In truth, the Primordial Goddess found this situation quite amusing. She didn't know how William would be able to get out of this mess, so she decided to simply watch, and see how this battle between the God of Death and her Prince would unfold, as she sat on her heavenly throne.

She wanted to see how much William had grown since the last time he fought against a being, whose strength far surpassed his own.