

The Crafts 163

Chapter 163: A Name

News report; sixth level desolate beast. Lucas finds nothing on Mel's parents then decides to give her a name and adopt her.

"Good evening everyone. This is Fiona Von Aurst of Baylands City News Network, or the BCNN for short. I'm your host, and I welcome you to today's episode of the Evening News Updates.

"Breaking news coming in that the desolate beasts tide has finally been routed, after two days of constant battles and raids carried out by the military and the supporting freelancer organisations and parties. The military, to be exact, is an alliance of the Alleva District Defence Force and the Red Fangs, who fought on the front lines with the assistance of the freelancer community.

"Casualties after the battle were at minimum compared to estimates, adding only up to twelve in total, with no deaths. The record victory was a result of the splendid command of the Lieutenant Colonel of the Alleva District Defence Force, who took control of the situation as soon as the wave had made its move.

"Through a combined effort of human forces and robotics, the allied military was able to not only hold off the impending disaster, but also retaliate and successfully eliminate the entire desolate beasts in the horde. Thanks to their efforts, it's expected that there would be a rise in desolate beast parts supply at the moment, creating a fall in price. More on that would be discussed later this evening on our business broadcast."

The host continued to talk but at this moment, Lucas was no longer paying attention. It was just as the host had said; the desolate beasts wave that had plagued Alleva district was successfully wiped out within the space of two days.

Two days ago, Lucas was still in Alleva district and had just hunted down the Jaburian. As he prepared to leave, he was interrupted by Ramirez and the two had a battle, with the latter breathing his last there. However, Ardeen —a false human Lucas had met with on his first day in Alleva district — had appeared with the intent to eliminate him.

After a tough battle that saw Lucas having to rely on only one vestige, he had similarly defeated Ardeen. Following that, Lucas immediately left the scene with the little orphaned girl he had encountered.

Upon arriving at the military's outpost within Garena town's area of influence, Lucas was lucky to have made it in time for an evacuation ride that was preparing to depart. He boarded the ride with the little girl and made his way to Sunrise City. From there, he hurriedly purchased two light rail train tickets and left for Baylands City.

As for why Lucas left with the little girl, he had no choice than to do so as the military was preoccupied with the desolate beasts wave and had no time to cater for a little girl. The Hyuman Care and Rehab Society—an agency that handled victims of disastrous incidents— was also too busy at the time as there were too many victims of the desolate beasts for them to care for.

If Lucas were to leave the little girl with them, he didn't know how long it would take or whether she would be cared for well. One should recall that she was a mixed blood, and could be a victim of speciesism.

There was no way Lucas would let such a young girl face such horrors when he could avoid it. In the end, he opted to leave with her, but not before providing his contact details and as much information about the girl as possible to the HCRS. Surprisingly, they had let him leave with the young girl in his care, which was either a testament to how busy they were or how much the people despised dealing with non-hyumans. Regardless of which it was, Lucas wasn't bothered.

Having provided his contact details and as much information about the girl as possible, it was left to the Hyuman Care and Rehab Society to do some digging and try to find any relatives of the young girl around. If there were none, they would then try to find a new home for the little girl, or send her to an orphanage. But in the meantime, she was under Lucas' custody.

"Here."

Lucas handed the little girl a bowl of soup he had just made in his workshop.

Although the workshop was meant for making vestiges and not meals, Lucas could utilise it as a makeshift kitchen. It had a stove—which was the forge; a pot—which was actually a vestige Lucas had made; and a kitchen table—which was actually his work bench.

The little girl was still shy around him and a bit scared, but she could feel that Lucas had no violent thoughts against her. She could also feel a strange sense of warmth from him which was why she had left with Lucas, rather than the HCRS members who made her feel uncomfortable and scared.

Slightly skeptical about the meal's taste after seeing its appearance, the little girl hesitated to eat it.

"It's not poison." Lucas' lips twitched.

"Look."

Taking the spoon from her hand, Lucas drank from the plate.

"Very delicious."

He said before freezing for a second, then puking out the soup.

"...forget. I'll just order something."

Lucas took the plate away and threw it into the dustbin, before turning on his communicator and ordering enough food for two.

While waiting for the food to arrive, Lucas decided to ask some questions that had been on his mind for long.

"So, you don't have a name and don't remember anything, huh?"

The little girl bent her head shyly and nodded.

Lucas felt pity for her and shook his head.

"That can't do. Let's settle on a name for you for now. I can't just be calling you 'little girl'."

The little girl muttered, "A name?"

"That's right. It's something you use to identify yourself." Lucas answered, surprised she didn't even know what a name was.

The little girl nodded, seemingly having understood his explanation.

"If you're okay with it, how about Melissa?" Lucas asked.

"Melissa..."

The girl raised her head and looked at Lucas.

"Is it okay?" Lucas asked.

His expression was something unique. Lucas looked a bit scared, almost as if he was afraid she wouldn't like it.

When it came to naming people or objects, Lucas was horrible. This could be seen from the fact that the market-disturbing vestiges he had made were horribly named 'Blue spear' and 'Dark dagger'. If the little girl were to reject the name 'Melissa', Lucas felt that he would have to go through the arduous task of thinking up a new good name, and that was a suffering he didn't want to be subjected to.

The little girl nodded happily. Read latest chapters on empire

"Hmm. I like it."