

## The Witch 111

### Chapter 111: Another Slight Improvement

After agreeing to enter the academy, Vaan and Helia Ashenborn enjoyed their meal over some idle talk.

As Vaan filled his belly, the spiritual food, which was akin to quality medicine, nourished his body. They improved his health and strengthened his physical abilities.

It wasn't something a commoner could enjoy, and it wasn't something any noble household could enjoy every day either.

Vaan was certain that Helia Ashenborn was burning away her wealth to maintain her health.

By keeping the rest of her body healthy, she could at least slow down the spread of the second-stage antimagic spores that fused with her hands.

Nevertheless, Vaan didn't shy away from the food because of that. After eating his fill, Vaan excused himself from the Great Hall and returned to his guestroom for the night.

Tomorrow, Vaan was going to visit the academy.

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"Come in, Hester," Helia Ashenborn summoned before watching Hester Thornton enter the Great Hall from the kitchen entrance on the left side.

At the same time, Helia Ashenborn casually noticed some food crumbs stuck to Hester Thornton's left cheek.

Nevertheless, Helia Ashenborn ignored it and said, "I will listen to your report now. Feel free to dine with me if you haven't eaten your fill in the kitchen."

"Y-Yes, Lord Helia," Hester Thornton replied with some embarrassment, wiping her face to clean off the food crumbs after noticing Helia Ashenborn's gaze.

Shortly after, Hester Thornton gave her report on Vaan's activities in the grand library during the day, which coincided with the information Helia Ashenborn received from her informants.

Afterward, Hester Thornton mentioned Vaan's need for dual practice partners and the ongoing Zeller's Curse that caused people's concern recently.

"Zeller's Curse, huh? That's not a big issue. Just don't f\*ck for a week, and all the infected will be known and forbidden from dual practice by then. It should be easier to do than the abstinence month," Helia Ashenborn casually commented without placing much importance on the issue.

"Nevertheless, the original carrier of Zeller's Curse needs to be punished for spreading Zeller's Curse and ruining the lives of several dozen others."

"Is there no news on Malise Breedlove?" Helia Ashenborn inquired shortly after.

"The responsibility to capture Malise Breedlove was left to the city garrisons to handle. But considering there isn't any news of Malise Breedlove for more than a day, we can assume that she had fled the city before news of Zeller's Curse was spread," Hester Thornton speculated.

Helia Ashenborn contemplated for a moment before agreeing with Hester Thornton's speculation.

"That does seem likely to be the case," Helia Ashenborn nodded before adding, "However, it will be troublesome if Zeller's Curse is further spread due to our carelessness."

"Let the city garrisons know they should continue searching for another week before suspending the search. In addition, I will put up a bounty of 200 mid-rank mana stones for Malise Breedlove's capture, dead or alive, and notify our neighbors."

"That should take care of Malise Breedlove's case," Helia Ashenborn stated before shifting the topic to Vaan. "As for Sir Vahn's needs, you can check our in-house servants and see if any True Witches are willing to dual practice with Sir Vahn."

"Understood, Lord Helia," Hester Thornton obeyed with a bow before suddenly adding, "But as for Teacher Cadieux's matter, actually I..."

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Vaan returned to his guestroom on the ground floor before changing out of his day garments, the modified black witch uniform, and finding a sleeping attire for men in the wardrobe.

It was just a simple blue-colored silk pajama, but it enhanced sleep comfort.

After Vaan put on the blue-colored silk pajama and put away his stuff in the spare space within the wardrobe, he sat in bed and contemplated tomorrow's plans.

'Since I'll be visiting the academy, I won't have to worry about finding a dual practice partner. A Mid-rank Magic Academy like Redpine Academy should have more young witches with better talents than Blackmoon Academy,' Vaan mused.

After establishing his position in Redpine Academy, it won't be too late to woo some young ladies into dual practicing with him.

The fresher flowers were easier targets, and it was also his chance to collect some primal essence for his mission.

In any case, Vaan expected to experience some surprises during his time at Redpine Academy.

'Physical attribute status!' Vaan suddenly willed.

Ding!

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<<Physical Attributes>>

[150 Defense] [Mid-level Rank 2]

[27 Strength] [Low-level Rank 1]

[33 Speed] [Low-level Rank 1]

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'As expected, Lord Helia's spiritual food improved my strength and speed points again. But there's a clear limit to how much spiritual food can improve my physical attributes,' Vaan mused.

It was evident due to his stagnant defense attribute, which hadn't improved in the least.

Considering how high his defense attribute was, Helia Ashenborn's spiritual food was likely not effective enough to affect it.

Only higher-quality spiritual food and medicine could continue to improve it.

'Even if I continue to eat spiritual food, there's a limit to the amount of improvement for my strength and speed attributes. Collecting mana from witches is still more cost-effective and efficient,' Vaan thought.

Nevertheless, Vaan also thought about the low-rank mana stones he would be earning from his business deal with Helia Ashenborn.

'I haven't tested it, but considering the versatility of the system...'

There was a possibility that Vaan could also use mana from mana stones if he directly swallowed them like he did spiritual food and Stalactite Milk.

As long as it enters his body, it will be detected and used by the system.

'Unfortunately, I don't have any mana stones to put it to the test. I can only wait until I obtain some before testing it out. Anyway, it should be about time...' Vaan thought.

A few moments later, someone knocked on the door to the guestroom.

"Are you still awake, Teacher Cadieux? Are you still in need of a partner for dual practice? I've come to try your skills if you are interested."

Hester Thornton sneakily whispered through the door as if she didn't want to be heard by anyone else that might be within the vicinity of Vaan's guestroom.

Nevertheless, Vaan clearly heard her.

Soon, the door slowly opened before Vaan pulled Hester Thornton inside, shutting the door on her way in...

#### Chapter 112: Hester's Experience

Shortly after Hester Thornton entered Vaan's guestroom, she was thrown onto the soft double-sized bed. But rather than feeling offended, she was spurred by a heightened sense of anticipation.

"Aren't you in too much of a rush, Teacher Cadieux? Even if you are excited, this is certainly no way to treat a lady," Hester Thornton said, but she had no intention of persecuting Vaan.

Instead, Hester Thornton made herself comfortable on the soft bed by leaning back, her legs crossed with one resting over the other, which also happened to be pointed in Vaan's direction with her feet.

"Pardon me for the offense, Lady Hester. It just seemed like you didn't want to be noticed by others out in the hallway, so I've brought you in quickly. Forgive me if I was mistaken in acting hastily under such an assumption," Vaan calmly replied as he scanned Hester Thornton's voluptuous body from top to bottom.

Although Hester Thornton wore the same brown and white renaissance dress she usually wore, her vibe was completely different during the day.

Hester Thornton's pose was alluring, yet she retained a form of elegance in her position, making her appear charming as much as she was trying to entice Vaan with her foot signals.

"I did come because your words piqued my curiosity. But I would be very disappointed if your skills fall short of my expectations, Teacher Cadieux. Just so you know, I do have high standards," Hester Thornton stated.

As Vaan entered Hester Thornton's range, she teased him with her feet and silky smooth black stockings, touching his chest before slithering down to rub his crotch.

In several instances, Vaan felt his erogenous zones being stimulated with Hester Thornton's toe.

Evidently, Hester Thornton also had some skill in pleasuring men and not just being the one on the receiving end.

At the very least, Vaan can expect that Hester Thornton wouldn't be laying on the bed like a wooden block and leaving all the work to him.

Nevertheless, Vaan remained stoic, not showing a hint of emotion or reaction to Hester Thornton's footwork.

As a master in the art of pleasuring, Vaan couldn't be the one to show weakness.

"Since Lady Hester has such high expectations of me, I should live up to it," Vaan replied with a calm smile before making a gentlemanly suggestion, "How about a massage to set the mood?"

Vaan grabbed Hester Thornton's foot without waiting for her reply and used varying massage techniques on the soles of her feet with his hands.

Kneading, rubbing, pounding, knuckle-pressing...

Vaan's hand alternated between the four simple movements, but it greatly eased the stress in Hester Thornton's feet, making her feel comfortable and relaxed.

"You certainly have a way with your hands, but it will take more than this to impress me, Teacher Cadieux," Hester Thornton said intriguingly, feeling more expectant after Vaan resisted her temptation.

"You've spent a whole day accompanying me without rest and accumulated some stress and fatigue in the soles of your feet, Lady Hester," Vaan casually replied as he continued his work on her feet.

"I am just getting started by helping you relieve the accumulated stress and fatigue. I didn't want to overwhelm you with my skills from the start, Lady Hester."

"I'm afraid that you might not be able to handle it," Vaan added.

"You're looking down on me, Teacher Cadieux," Hester Thornton coolly stated.

"Although it's been quite a long time since I find any man even mildly interesting enough to dual practice with, I have much more experience than you can imagine."

"Talented as you may be, it won't be easy for you to exceed my tolerance level, which was built up by many years of experience."

"So just go ahead and show me all of your skills. I can certainly take it," Hester Thornton stated.

Vaan smiled amusingly after listening to Hester Thornton's wish.

Hester Thornton simply didn't know what was about to hit her.

In the past, Vaan could only perform the basic level of Heavenly Massage—purely due to the limitation of his own physical abilities.

But now that Vaan could perform Expert-level Heavenly Massage after his physical improvement, Hester Thornton was certainly in for a surprise—or treat.

"As you wish, Lady Hester," Vaan agreed with a smile before adding, "But before I begin, how about we drop the formalities? It may affect our experience."

"Hm, alright," Hester Thornton nodded before saying, "Then, I will call you Vahn during our—  
Woah~!"

Before Hester Thornton could finish speaking, she was caught off guard by Vaan's sudden move as she felt an electrifying sensation run up her legs and to the rest of her body.

"Ahh~~!"

Following Hester Thornton's surprised shout, an uncontrollable moan escaped her mouth from a second wave of pleasure flooding her senses.

Vaan exercised his hands on Hester Thornton's body dextrously, striking all her erogenous areas and opening up all her pores for her body to greedily absorb the surrounding's rich mana in a frenzy.

From Hester Thornton's legs to her arms, Vaan worked his way up before going back down, going over the parts he skipped.

Vaan twiddled and fondled Hester Thornton's huge yet supple mountains, which couldn't fit in the palm of his hands.

"Ahh~! Oh my god~~~!" Hester Thornton cried with euphoria.

Her body quivered with joy and excitement under Vaan's stimulation, and her mountain peaks turned hard from excessive pleasure.

With a soft flick on Hester Thornton's knob, love juice sprayed from her honey cave like a fountain.

"Ahhh~~~!"

Hester Thornton gave a long gentle yet erotic moan as she felt her mind ascending to cloud nine, blanking out for a few seconds.

By the time Hester Thornton's mind returned to her body, she became startled, confused, and doubtful.



"What happened? Did I just... climax? Me? Climaxing from a massage? How many minutes did it take me to climax?" Hester Thornton muttered with disbelief, her face flushed and her hair disheveled.

Hester Thornton's composure completely collapsed, making her look like a lost little lamb.

"More precisely, you should be asking how many seconds it took, Hester," Vaan casually replied while warming his hands up for round two.

Hester Thornton froze and felt like her world of logic was crumbling.

"I didn't even last a minute?" She muttered.

Chapter 113: Returning Spring

"Are you ready for round two of my massage, my Lady?" Vaan gently asked.

"W-Wait a minute, Vahn. I need some to recollect my thoughts," Hester Thornton requested before saying, "This is too different from what I've experienced in the past."

"Well, I'm not like other men. You shouldn't compare me to others, my Lady. We aren't on the same level," Vaan reached forward with his head and whispered into her ear, "We have a lot of time for you to experience the difference, my Lady. The night is still long."

Hester Thornton's long eyelashes fluttered, and her body trembled at Vaan's words, yet her heartbeat quickened with excitement and anticipation, causing her breathing to become a little haggard.

Nevertheless, Hester Thornton wasn't used to being the weaker party in dual practices.

"O-ho, is that so? Well then, I look forward to seeing what other surprises you have to show me, Vahn."

Hester Thornton tried to smile calmly, but it appeared a little forced and shaky as she pretended to be calm and collected.

"By the way, your massaging skills seem a little unique. What technique are you using, Vahn?" Hester Thornton asked out of curiosity.

"The Heavenly Massage; I'm at the expert level of mastery," Vaan casually answered.

"T-The Heavenly Massage? At the expert level of mastery, no less?!" Hester Thornton cried with shock, "Wasn't that technique deemed impossible to master??"

"Break time's over, my Lady," Vaan smiled without replying to her question before saying, "Let us continue."

"W-Wait!" Hester Thornton quickly cried.

However, Vaan didn't wait. He resumed his massage, making Hester Thornton's body tremble with pleasure.

"W-Wait, Vahn! Time out! Hold on just a second!"

Despite Hester Thornton's pleading, she didn't actually put up a shred of resistance to stop Vaan.

Instead, Hester Thornton gripped Vaan's silk pajama by the sleeves and looked at him with an alluring gaze that could set the hearts of men ablaze with carnal desire while she endured the waves of euphoria brought by Vaan's touches.

"Ahhh~!"

Another long erotic moan escaped from Hester Thornton's mouth as she climaxed again.

And after the second time came a third time, a fourth time, and a fifth time.

Each time Hester Thornton experienced orgasm, her body's sensitivity heightened, becoming even more sensitive to stimulation and pleasure.

"Ahh~! I can't take it anymore!"

Eventually, Hester Thornton couldn't contain herself any further and awakened like a beast in heat. She gazed at Vaan with passionate eyes.

Hester Thornton suddenly grabbed Vaan by the arms and pulled him onto the soft double-sized bed, flipping him over to mount on top of him.

Vaan was surprised by Hester Thornton's sudden proactiveness, but he stilled his hands and became the observer, seeing what she would do.

However, Hester Thornton was impatient. She directly pulled down Vaan's silk pajama pants and slipped the awakened dragon into her honey cave, oozing with love nectar.

Vaan's little brother entered smoothly without a problem.

"Mmm~!"

Hester Thornton relished in the temporary moment of relief, joy, and satisfaction before her body hungered for more.

Heup! Heup!

Hester Thornton started moving her hips in the way she was familiar with, allowing the both of them to feel the joy and delight of connecting with each other.

Vaan could feel Hester Thornton's honey cave tightening like it wasn't to suffocate his little brother and squeeze the life out of it.

The tightness gave Vaan inexplicable pleasure as Hester Thornton rode him.

However, Hester Thornton soon found her skills to be lacking and unsatisfactory. It didn't give her the same sense of delight and fulfillment when Vaan was in action.

"Fuck me, Vahn. Fuck me hard and rough, or whatever the way you want. Mess up my mind and body. Make me feel the joy and wonders of being a woman—No, make me your woman. Tonight, I am all yours," Hester Thornton pleaded, fluttering her eyelashes.

"With pleasure, my Lady."

Shortly after accepting Hester Thornton's request, Vaan flipped her body over, regaining control and dominance of their bed battle.

In that instance, Vaan's bulging rod seemingly grew an inch longer, reaching deep inside her.

"Ahhh~!" Hester Thornton moaned before Vaan even acted.

Nevertheless, when Vaan moved to dominate her mind and body, Hester Thornton couldn't hold back her voice.

"Ahh, yes~~~! This is it~! This is the feeling~! The joy~! Mmm~~!" Hester Thornton cried with ecstasy as her mind floated up to cloud nine.

"Harder, Vahn, harder~!"

"Ahn~! It's so good~~~!"

"Oh my goodness! You're incredible, Vahn~!"

"Ahh, that's the spot~! Touch me more~~!"

Only Hester Thornton's ecstatic moans could be heard in the following hours, drowning the room and escaping into the hallway.

Hester Thornton lost count of her orgasms. Nothing in the past could compare to what she felt now.

It was like she was realizing her first dream of dual practice perfectly according to her imagination before it shattered after her first experience.

The numbness of her cumulation of experience melted away like snow in the early spring.

Hester Thornton felt young again, like a blooming flower.

Vast amounts of mana gathered around Hester Thornton, forming rings of blue light as they couldn't enter Hester Thornton's body at once.

But as the area became heavily concentrated in mana under the influence of the large-scale mana gathering spell under the castle, Vaan also reaped tremendous benefits.

As they were connected, Hester Thornton's mana also flowed into Vaan's body.

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While Vaan and Hester Thornton enjoyed and savored the fruits of their labor from dual practicing with each other, the hallway was in chaos.

A number of young ladies at the True Witch rank blushed with gossip as they passed Vaan's guestroom.

From time to time, the pretty young ladies would cast their curious gazes at the door while pretending to be on cleaning duty despite it being the dark of the night when everyone should be asleep.

Nevertheless, the young True Witches wondered when the doors to Vaan's guestroom would open.

Some also had expectant gazes, wondering who be the next lucky witch to experience Vaan's miraculous skills, which could make even the firm Lady Hester moan so crazily in bed.

#### Chapter 114: Reward List

"I can't believe Lady Hester could moan like that. It just doesn't fit her usual stern temperament during the day..." a True Witch with long black hair and brown eyes softly muttered with surprise.

"Right? I heard that in the past, Lady Hester used to keep a few servants around for dual practice. But after they drowned in pleasure and became useless men who couldn't think about anything other than getting under Lady Hester's skirts all the time, she tossed them away," another True Witch with short blonde hair and blue eyes mentioned.

"A Senior Witch like Lady Hester is very hard to please in the art of pleasure... Sir Vahn must be very skilled..."

"I wasn't interested at first when I heard Sir Vahn was in need of dual practice partners... But seeing how Lady Hester seems to be having such a great time, I can't help but feel a little curious now."

The True Witches continued to keep an eye on the door to Vaan's guestroom while pretending to dust the hallway with their dusters and brooms, but Hester Thornton showed no sign of leaving any time soon.

"I think we don't have any chance tonight. Lady Hester is most likely staying the night."

"Hah, if Sir Vahn can make me sound like that, I wouldn't want to leave either. Just feel the mana in the area; it's unbelievably concentrated."

"Maybe Lady Hester has a chance to become a High Witch tonight," a True Witch with medium-length brown hair and hazel eyes speculated.

However, the True Witch's claim was quickly refuted by other True Witches.

"Hah, if having a lot of mana was all it takes to become a High Witch, Lord Helia, Lady Yasmin, and Lady Hester would have all ascended to the rank of High Witches already."

"Right, it's not that simple to become a High Witch, not that we know anything at our level," another True Witch added.

After watching the door to Vaan's guestroom for some time, more and more True Witches decided to retire to their rooms for the night. They deemed there wouldn't be any chance to experience Vaan's skills that night.

Even so, two True Witches remained in the hallway, camping outside the guestroom.

They might not have a chance to be with Vaan that night, but they could still benefit by staying within the area of concentrated mana, which extended out of the guestroom.

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"Ahhh~!"

Hester Thornton's moans resounded throughout the room for some time before her voice gradually died down.

As Vaan unloaded his seventh load into Hester Thornton's honey cave, he made her reach orgasm one last time.

And with the last of her orgasm, which Hester Thornton had long lost count of, she collapsed on the soft double-sized bed, deprived of any remaining strength, and fell into a deep slumber with a blissful yet peaceful face.

Even so, rings of mana continued to float above her body, unable to enter her body.

Hester Thornton had reached the peak stage of Senior Witch like Helia Ashenborn and Yasmin Tenebris. Their magic circles had been strengthened to the limit, and their magic domains were filled to the brim with mana.

The only way to absorb more mana was to form new magic circles and increase the size of their magic domains.

However, forming the third magic circle was the most difficult step to advancing to the High Witch rank. More importantly, it was also dangerous.

The gap between Senior Witch and High Witch was the clear division between the average and the extraordinary.

Nevertheless, as Vaan remained connected to Hester Thornton, he received more benefits from their dual practice.

Ding!

<You have completed an unassigned Subjugation-type Witch Hunt>

<You have absorbed a large quantity of earth-attribute mana from a Peak-stage Senior Witch>

<Calculating appropriate rewards...>

<...>

...

Ding!

<Wisdom from the Void and Earth Spirit Body has produced a synergized effect due to the large quantity of Peak-stage Senior Witch's earth-attribute mana>

<You have gained some understanding of Hester Thornton's Specialized Magic, Earth Reinforcement>

<The Specialized Magic, Earth Reinforcement, is currently 17% understanding>

<When you reach 100% understanding, you will acquire Hester Thornton's Specialized Magic, Earth Reinforcement>

<Would you like to keep your current understanding of Earth Reinforcement? [Y/N]>

'Yes!'

...



Ding!

<You have chosen to save Earth Reinforcement's understanding>

<The essence of Earth Reinforcement's understanding has been compiled and saved in your Heaven-Swallowing Space>

<The quantity of earth-attribute mana has been changed>

<Recalculating the appropriate rewards...>

<...>

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Ding!

<The rewards have been recalculated>

<Based on the quantity of refined mana with earth attributes extracted from a Peak-stage Senior Witch, a list of suitable rewards is available>

<Please select one of the following rewards>

<Option 1: Reinforce your Earth Spirit Body with earth-attribute refined mana and increase your affinity and resistance to earth by 1%>

<Note: Your Earth Spirit Body's blessings will increase accordingly>

<Option 2: Reinforce your sensory organ (skin) with earth-attribute refined mana and increase your sense of touch>

<Note: There is a moderate chance of developing a sensory-type special ability>

<Option 3: Reinforce your outer body with earth-attribute refined mana and increase your defense by 20 points>

<There is a slight chance of developing a defense-type talent>

<Option 4: Feed the mana-attribute refined mana to the Heaven-Swallowing Space and expand the subspace>

<Note: There may be unexpected gains or nothing at all>

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Once again, Vaan was given options, which the system had listed from best to worse.

'No doubt the first option is the best choice to pick,' Vaan thought, but he wasn't in a hurry to select. He had a harder time choosing between the first three choices this time.

Considering he could gain a whopping 20 points in defense with the third option, it showed how difficult it was to increase his earth affinity.

Vaan didn't doubt that improving his earth affinity was better in the long run.

However, the long-term benefits aren't always the best choice.

Sometimes, short-term benefits are required to survive long enough to even consider the long-term benefits.

That being said, Vaan's life wasn't in danger. Thus, he decided to rule out the third option. As for the fourth option, Vaan did not need to consider it any time soon.

## Chapter 115: Vaan's Choice

Before binding the system, Vaan had been feeding the Heaven-Swallowing Space with all the mana he collected from pleasuring witches without a choice.

Increasing his Heaven-Swallowing Space further brought little benefits in comparison with the remaining two options.

'With a little bit of fire-attribute mana and a slight chance, I was able to awaken my eye's special ability. This time, there's a moderate chance of awakening a special ability related to my sense of touch with earth-attribute mana,' Vaan mused.

'What to choose...'

In Vaan's opinion, the first two options were equal in value.

If Vaan increased his earth affinity, he would receive more blessings from his Earth Spirit Body.

Furthermore, he could reap bigger gains when obtaining more earth-attribute refined mana from other Earth-attribute Senior Witches.

On the other hand, if Vaan improved his sense of touch, he could better understand any living thing he touched, which could help him attain a higher level of mastery in the Heavenly Massage.

A better sense of touch could also allow Vaan to feel the mana, understand mana with his body, and develop a better way of absorbing mana.

On top of that, there was still a moderate chance of awakening a special ability related to his sense of touch.

Vaan contemplated for some time. He checked the night sky outside the window and glanced at Hester Thornton's peaceful sleeping face before making his decision.

'Why not both? Both are good,' Vaan thought while spooning Hester Thornton with his little brother still inside her.

'If I don't have enough earth-attribute mana, I'll just have to collect more. In any case, the night is not over, and I still have plenty of energy to spare. Furthermore, a Peak-stage Senior Witch's body like Hester can last a fair bit longer.'

Of course, dual practicing with Hester Thornton all the way to morning won't harm her body, but Vaan couldn't guarantee that she wouldn't have bags under her eyes.

Ding!

<You have selected the first option>

After selecting his reward, Vaan felt the lump of earth-attribute refined mana spreading to every part of his body, becoming one with it.

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Ding!

<Your affinity to the earth has increased by 1%>

<Your resistance to the earth has increased by 1%>

<Your Earth Spirit Body's blessings have been updated>

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[Status]

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<<Elemental Affinity>>

[51% Earth]

<<Elemental Resistance>>

[51% Earth]

...

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[Earth Spirit Body (Low-rank)]

Effect 1: When encountering a Low-rank Earth Spirit, they will immediately take notice of your existence.

Sub-effect 1.1: There is a chance that the Low-rank Earth Spirit Will actively communicate with you.

Sub-effect 1.2: there is a slight chance that the Low-rank Earth Spirit is willing to establish a spirit contract with you.

Effect 2 (Updated): When you are in touch with the earth, the earth will bless you with a 22% increase in overall defense and natural regeneration.

Effect 3 (Updated): When consuming earth-attribute medicine, you will enjoy a 22% increase in its effect.

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After Vaan finished checking the changes, he shifted his attention to Hester Thornton, whom he held in bed.

'I guess it's time to wake up the sleeping beauty for another round. In any case, Hester volunteered to be my dual practice partner tonight. She shouldn't complain if I keep at it all night...' Vaan mused.

Shortly after, Vaan reached his hand over Hester Thornton's soft and warm body and started twiddling with her supple pink tips while moving his hips.

Before long, Hester Thornton's pink tips became hard, and her steady breathing turned haggard.

"Mmm..."

A weak and sleepy yet seductive moan-like groan escaped from Hester Thornton's mouth before she slightly wiggled her body into a more comfortable position and continued to sleep with her lips slightly curved into a pleasant smile.

But as Vaan continued to stimulate her body with pleasure, Hester Thornton's body temperature increased along with her heartbeat and blood flow. Her mouth crept open as she started huffing out hot air.

"Ahhh..."

A cute moan escaped Hester Thornton's cherry lips as her body quivered from orgasm in her sleep, and the slight shock roused her sleepy mind awake.

"Uuu... V-Vahn? Is it already morning—Ahh..."

Hester Thornton's question was interrupted by an uncontrollable moan as she became more conscious of the waves of pleasure assaulting her.

"Ahh~~! Wait, Vahn... You're not done yet—Mmm~!"

"Not at all, my Lady. We still have half the night to go until morning. Since you volunteered to be my dual practice partner, you won't refuse to keep me company for the rest of the night, right?" Vaan whispered as he steadily increased the tempo of his piston-like hip movements.

"I mean, I did volunteer, but... Ahh..."

Hester Thornton wanted to refuse, but she had neither the strength nor a strong enough will to reject. Her mind was saying no, but her body...

"Nooo..." Hester Thornton weakly cried with protest despite her body syncing with Vaan's movements.

If Hester Thornton knew Vaan was such a vigorous animal in bed, she would have prepared a backup to take her place.

Time quickly passed as Vaan kept Hester Thornton up all night, making her climax countless more times until morning arrived.

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Ding!

<You have reinforced your skin with earth-attribute refined mana>

<Your skin's affinity to earth-attribute mana has been greatly improved>

Right after improving his sense of touch, Vaan felt the subtle vibrations created from each and every one of his movements and the movements of others within a certain range.

Although the range only extended to a little further than outside the room, Vaan felt like he could vaguely grasp the number and positions of everyone inside it based on the vibrations he received.

'Depending on the strength of the vibrations, the range could extend even further. I can create vibrations by simply stomping the ground, which will travel out and clash with vibrations of the beating heart and movements of others, allowing me to determine their presence and positions,' Vaan thought.

Ding!

<A special phenomenon has been detected>

<You have awakened the ability to feel vibrations>

<Please give this special ability a name>

<...>

## Chapter 116: Morning Activities

As the morning rays shined through the castle windows, they shone onto Hester Thornton's peerless hourglass figure with fair and glossy-smooth skin while she was soundly asleep.

Nevertheless, the dark bags under Hester Thornton's eyes showed how exhausted she was from keeping up with Vaan all night.

Unless Hester Thornton's body received a fierce shaking, she was unlikely to wake up.

Vaan slowly removed himself from the bed before gently draping the soft woolen blanket over Hester Thornton to keep her body warm from the morning cold without disturbing her sleep.

Afterward, Vaan walked over to the towel and wooden bucket of water in one corner of the room, which had a table and a large wooden tub of clean water for bathing.

Vaan wiped his face with the towel and water from the wooden bucket before shifting his focus on the tremors in the ground.

The servants living in the castle had woken up early and started doing their morning chores.

Vaan felt vibrations from their steps as they walked past his guestroom's door and their brief pauses as he received subtle changes in the vibrations picked up with his feet.

Nevertheless, roughly every half minute, Vaan felt a tremor from the earth itself, which greatly expanded his tremor sense range to cover the castle's entire ground floor for a brief moment.

'That was... the pulse of the earth,' Vaan's eyes flickered.



It was standard knowledge that the world is spherical and rotates as it orbits around the sun in the solar system. But fewer knew that the world would shake at fixed intervals due to its subtleness.

However, Vaan's tremor sense allowed him to feel the earth's pulse.

'I was going to call it Tremor Sense... but since I can feel the earth's pulse, and it also enhances my tremor sense... Let's go with Earth Pulse,' Vaan decided.

His range might be limited now, but the scope of his ability will improve as he improves his Earth Spirit Body and sense of touch.

Ding!

<Tremor sense ability has been registered as Earth Pulse>

...

Shortly after Vaan finished settling on the name for his tremor sense, the guestroom's door was softly knocked from outside.

"Are you up, Sir Vahn? I am here to change the water and towels and heat the bath for you," a young lady's voice was heard.

Vaan focused on the vibrations of the young lady's body movements and voice and formed a mental image of her position and appearance outside of the room's door with a woven basket of clean towels in hand.

However, Vaan could only cover the young lady's lower body; her upper body, including her face, remained a blur to him.

'It seems like I need to strengthen my tremor sense or improve my hearing to form a more complete image in my mind,' Vaan mused.

"You can enter," Vaan permitted without further thought into his newfound ability.

However, after the True Witch servant carrying the woven basket of clean towels entered the room, her body quickly froze upon spotting Vaan's bare body.

The True Witch's gaze made a beeline to Vaan's family jewels, which were startlingly huge in her opinion before her gaze shifted to Vaan's face. But a split second later, she looked down at Vaan's proud manhood again.

The True Witch's face temperature quickly rose as she blushed and covered her eyes with one hand in the next moment.

"I-I'm sorry, Sir Vahn. I didn't mean to look," the True Witch with long black hair and eyes apologized, but she was still clearly staring down at Vaan's little brother through the gaps in her fingers.

Nevertheless, Vaan was unaffected by her stare.

"That's something you don't need to apologize for, my Lady. Feel free to take a good look before you change the towel and warm the bath," Vaan casually said without shame.

The True Witch removed her hand and gulped.

Shortly after, the True Witch blushed with greater embarrassment when she peeked at Vaan's calm face. She quickly changed the dirty towels and warmed the bathwater with Fire Magic before fleeing the room with a hot face.

Vaan smiled amusedly at the shy rabbit running.

If Vaan stayed another night in Helia's Castle, he would be expecting the True Witch to visit him. Unfortunately, he wasn't, so the True Witch can only be disappointed.

A few moments later, Vaan hopped into the wooden tub of warm water to clean himself.

After Vaan finished, he dried himself with a white towel, wore his black attire, and equipped his fang daggers and utility belt.

Vaan left his guestroom not long after.

...

...

...

Helia's Castle, Great Hall

"I trust you had a pleasant experience last night, Sir Vahn?" Helia Ashenborn casually inquired with an amicable smile before adding, "Feel free to join us for breakfast before you leave for the academy."

At the long table, which was already filled with spiritual dishes, only the addition of Cyrena Ashenborn was present and seated.

Vaan assumed the other daughters weren't invited again.

Nevertheless, Helia Ashenborn and Cyrena Ashenborn were completely unaware of Hester Thornton's moans, which caused some chaos in the hallway during the night. Their sleeping chambers were located on the upper floors.

"I had a very enjoyable experience last night. Thank you for your consideration and concern, Lord Helia," Vaan replied with a smile before taking his seat and joining the two ladies for breakfast.

"Hester... She didn't accompany, Sir Vahn?" Helia Ashenborn inquired shortly after noticing Hester Thornton's absence.

"Lady Hester won't be able to accompany me today, Lord Helia. She is exhausted from accompanying me all night, so she is sleeping now."

"Oh?"

Helia Ashenborn expressed her surprise while Cyrena Ashenborn knitted her brows, wondering why she wasn't aware of such a matter.

She could have...

Cyrena Ashenborn slightly blushed at her naughty thoughts after recalling Vaan's incredible yet simple massage.

Vaan engaged in idle chats with Cyrena Ashenborn and Helia Ashenborn over breakfast.

After they were done, Vaan and Cyrena Ashenborn bid farewell to Helia Ashen before heading to Redpine Academy with a company of True Witches and Aura Masters as their guards.

Chapter 117: Dahlia Payne

=====

<<Physical Attribute>>

[150 Defense] [Mid-level Rank 2]

[29 Strength] [Low-level Rank 1]

[34 Speed] [Low-level Rank 1]

=====

On the way to Redpine Academy, Vaan checked his status.

Sure enough, his strength and speed increased once again, thanks to the spiritual food available during breakfast with Helia Ashenborn.

"Teacher, did you really spend the night with Lady Hester last night?" Cyrena Ashenborn inquired while they were taking the main road to the academy, still bothered by the matter.

"Yes, that's correct," Vaan calmly admitted before adding, "Lady Hester volunteered to be my dual practice partner for the night."

"Teacher, if you needed a dual practice partner, even I—" Cyrena Ashenborn suddenly paused, unable to say the following words.

Although Cyrena Ashenborn's body was full of antimagic spores, which had soaked up all her mana like sponges and water and couldn't absorb any more mana, she could still draw mana into the area under the stimulation.

However, such unrefined mana was generally usable to men as they could not control mana directly.

Even if men try to grab mana with their bare hands, it would just make the mana scatter the same way they try to catch air.

Mana had to be injected into their body, or they could swallow mana with forceful inhalation.

Nevertheless, Cyrena Ashenborn's biggest concern, which made her stop speaking, was the risk of spreading the antimagic spores to her teacher.

"I understand what you are thinking, but I will just accept the thought, Cyrena. You're not ready for dual practice yet; wait until you've awakened your specialized magic, formed your first magic circle, and become a True Witch," Vaan stated.

"But I can't even use magic," Cyrena Ashenborn weakly complained.

"Are you losing faith in your teacher's ability to resolve your problem already? Is that what I'm hearing, hm?" Vaan slightly teased, making Cyrena Ashenborn panic.

"Not at all, Teacher! Of course, I do have faith in you!" Cyrena Ashenborn quickly denied the accusation.

"Then that's that. Wait until you can use magic. I won't turn you down then," Vaan stated before looking into her progress, "How did you go with your self-study time? Did you cover a lot?"

"I did, but I still need more time to catch up, Teacher," Cyrena Ashenborn replied.

"Fair enough. Make sure to pay attention in class from now on. I won't teach you anything that your academy teachers can teach; I will only teach you advanced knowledge outside of your classes," Vaan instructed.

"Yes, Teacher."

As Vaan and Cyrena Ashenborn continued on their trip to Redpine Academy with their company of True Witches and Aura Masters, passing numerous buildings and street stalls, Vaan thought about Cyrena Ashenborn's situation.

He was never worried about catching the antimagic spores from her.

After all, Vaan was protected by Topaz and the system. As such, he only saw the antimagic spores as sponges of pure mana, which could be used to expand his Heaven-Swallowing Space.

The incident with granting Topaz a True Name had shrunk Vaan's Heaven-Swallowing Space—not by a great deal, but enough to make him careful with Name Bestowal's future uses.

Nevertheless, collecting the primal essence of an awakened True Witch with a Specialized Magic was better than an unawakened Apprentice Witch without one.

Cyrena Ashenborn was like an aged fine wine he could only enjoy slowly.

...

Sometime later, Vaan and Cyrena Ashenborn arrived at the stone gates of Redpine Academy after trekking up the hill on the western side of the city with their company.

The western-style stone castle with several interconnecting cone-tip towers could be seen just over the stone wall.

Although it wasn't as impressive as Helia's Castle, which had a large mana-gathering spell, it was filled with positive energy.

It was a place where intellect was respected, not power and authority.

'So this is Redpine Academy,' Vaan inspected the academy as Cyrena Ashenborn settled the identifications for entry at the gate.

Shortly after Cyrena Ashenborn and Vaan were granted entry, the True Witches and Aura Masters that escorted them bid farewell and returned to Helia's Castle.

Meanwhile, Vaan and Cyrena Ashenborn had to split as they had different destinations.

"Attend your classes, and pay attention; not just potioneering, Cyrena. You know where to find me after class for extra lessons."

"Yes, Teacher."

After Vaan and Cyrena Ashenborn separated, Vaan was greeted by a third-year True Witch after being informed of his arrival.

"Hello, Sir Vahn. You can call me Emlyn. Headmaster Tabitha had been expecting your arrival and informed me to guide you to our library. Please follow me," the True Witch instructed after a brief introduction.

Emlyn had long black hair, reddish eyes, a fair complexion, and wore the standard black academy uniform dress.

"Then, I'll be troubling you, Emlyn," Vaan said courteously.

"Not at all, Sir Vahn."

Shortly after, Emlyn guided Vaan through the main castle entrance before passing a few hallways and ascending two flights of stairs.

Before long, Vaan arrived at the academy's library on the third floor of the main castle building. Emlyn left to attend to her other matters shortly after, leaving Vaan to enter the library alone.

Along the way, Vaan encountered very few witches from a distance.

Most of the witches were in the middle of their classes, and the few that saw him from afar didn't find him out of the ordinary as he followed Emlyn.

Just like Blackmoon Academy, it was normal for male servants to be found within academy grounds.

Creak...

Nevertheless, after Vaan pushed open the large double doors made of quality timber and entered the library, a bespectacled beauty with light brown hair, grey eyes, and a very fair complexion rushed over to him with squinted eyes.

Vaan slightly backed a step as the bespectacled beauty shoved herself at him, meeting his eyes at finger length apart, where he could feel her breathing on his face.

After sniffing Vaan a few times, the bespectacled beauty asked, "You're not from around here, are you? Are you the new assistant Headmaster Tabitha arranged for me?"

"Yeah—"

"Great!" the bespectacled lady in her vintage dark academia dress exclaimed before dragging Vaan into the library before he could even finish speaking. "You can call me Librarian Payne, Senior Payne, Lady Dahlia, or whatever you want."

"Just help me sort out all these few books. I accidentally bumped the shelf earlier," Dahlia Payne directed Vaan's gaze to a mountain of books created by three large bookshelves that collapsed.

"This is a few?" Vaan raised an eyebrow.

The mountain of books before him numbered in the thousands at the very least.



## Chapter 118: Strong Sneeze

When Vaan heard about Headmaster Tabitha's condition from Helia Ashenborn, he imagined the librarian to be strict.

However, Dahlia Payne gave him the impression of someone who was both extremely short-sighted and a klutz.

Perhaps the library needed a library assistant because no one else wanted to be Dahlia Payne's assistant.

'An accidental bump knocked over three heavy bookshelves and created such a big mess? Is this a test?' Vaan doubted.

The thought crossed Vaan's mind.

But when Vaan looked at Dahlia Payne's expression and body movements, she did look genuinely distressed and troubled by the mess she had caused in the library.

Fortunately, the books were enchanted, making them sturdier and less vulnerable to damage.

After gauging the weight of one of the three knocked-over bookshelves, Vaan determined his present strength was adequate to lift them.

"May I ask if this is a regular thing around here, Lady Dahlia?" Vaan casually inquired as he exerted strength to lift the first bookshelf back into its original position.

"This..." Dahlia Payne slightly hesitated before carefully replying to Vaan's question with another question, "If I say yes, are you going to quit working as my assistant like everyone else?"

"No," Vaan gave a flat answer after studying Dahlia Payne's nervousness.

Afterward, Vaan moved the mountain of books out of the way before lifting the remaining two heavy bookshelves. Then, he checked the labels on the bookshelves and started arranging the books accordingly.

Dahlia Payne heaved a sigh of relief.

"Thank goodness. I finally have a new assistant," Dahlia Payne rejoiced before mentioning, "If I couldn't find one soon, Headmaster Tabitha would have kicked me out of the library and found someone else to become the new librarian."

"Vahn, right? You're a lifesaver. I don't know what I would do without my books," Dahlia Payne added before joining Vaan in putting the books back on their shelves.

As the culprit behind the entire mess, Dahlia Payne didn't want to leave all the work to Vaan.

However, Dahlia Payne's nose quickly twitched with itchiness as soon as she picked up the first book in her hand.

"Haa... A-choo!"

Swoosh!

Dahlia Payne's sneeze produced a strong surge of wind, blowing down the bookshelves Vaan had just lifted and scattered the few books placed on them.

Vaan: "..."

"I'm terribly sorry, Vahn. I didn't do it on purpose," Dahlia Payne quickly apologized as she rushed to pick up the scattered books.

However, Dahlia Payne sneezed again, blowing the scattered books to the other end of the library.

"I-I'm really sorry, Vahn. I'm really not trying to cause trouble," Dahlia Payne panicked, fearing Vaan would change his mind. "I don't know why, but my nose itches whenever I pick up a book recently. I will go fetch the books on the other end right away!"

"No, please don't, Lady Dahlia. Just leave this job to me," Vaan quickly requested before saying, "It would be best if you stay away from the books for now—No, please don't go near the books, Lady Dahlia."

If Dahlia Payne blew down the rest of the bookshelves in the library, Vaan wouldn't know what he might do. He came to the library to acquire new knowledge, not organize books.

Nevertheless, Dahlia Payne retreated from the books with a dejected look after being told off by Vaan.

Dahlia Payne wanted to help, but she only created trouble.

'Dahlia seems like a genuinely nice person who doesn't discriminate against men. If she doesn't create trouble for me, we could get along very well,' Vaan mused as he thought about Dahlia Payne's problem.

"You said it was a recent thing, Lady Dahlia?" Vaan inquired.

"Yes, it started three weeks ago," Dahlia Payne replied before guessing, "It might be a sudden allergy. I'm not too sure exactly; no one does."

Three weeks weren't exactly recent, but witches do perceive time differently due to their long lifespan. That being said, no one knows the extent of a witch's lifespan either.

It had only been three hundred years since the world was transformed by mana and the Gehenna Realm.

Vaan thought about Dahlia Payne's situation and also felt allergy development was a likely possibility.

However, it wasn't the only likely possibility.

Among the countless possibilities, Vaan also thought of two other likely possibilities besides natural allergy development, such as forced allergy development induced with Curse Magic or immunity-reduction poison.

Any other possibility required more information, something Vaan lacked as he had just arrived.

"Hey, Vahn. I know there are a lot of books to clean up, but you can't just put the books back on the shelf randomly. You need to put them in their right place and order—"

"I'm not placing the books randomly, Lady Dahlia," Vaan calmly replied.

Dahlia Payne was surprised by Vaan's efficiency in putting the books back on their shelves; he didn't need to pause for each book at all. It was as if Vaan was completely familiar with the bookshelf's labels and books and didn't need any time to recall where they belonged.

"The history books on the history shelf, and place them in alphabetical order of their book titles, right? I know. I am organizing the books correctly, so there's no need for you to try coming over to check, Lady Dahlia."

Vaan calmly assured Dahlia Payne as if he knew just what she was thinking.

Due to Dahlia Payne's short-sightedness, she couldn't confirm Vaan's work from her position and did want to check for herself.

As such, she was surprised to hear him say what she was thinking.

"It sees Headmaster Tabitha sent me a very capable assistant this time," Dahlia Payne marveled at Vaan's work efficiency.

Meanwhile, Vaan wondered how Dahlia Payne was supposed to continue her job if she couldn't touch any books in the library without sneezing.

But when Vaan found Dahlia Payne holding a different book to read at her desk, his revealed a peculiar look. She didn't seem to have any sneezing problem with a non-enchanted book.

'An enchantment allergy?' Vaan found it strange, but it wasn't impossible.

Nevertheless, it was still early to draw a conclusion.

Chapter 119: Youthful Witches

Sometime later, Vaan finished packing away the mountain of books in their allocated positions on the shelves after spending most of the day. He was finally free to read.

Nevertheless, with the arrival of the afternoon, a small group of first-year Apprentice Witches and second-year True Witches visited the library for extra study material.

"Wow, it's so organized today," a second-year True Witch uttered with astonishment, evidently surprised by the organized state of the library. "I don't think Librarian Dahlia was responsible for this.

"Did Librarian Dahlia get a new assistant?"

As the young witches wondered, they scanned the library with their gazes before locking on to Vaan's new face.

"Oh, wow! A handsome face!"

A few eyes lit up before the young witches scurried over to Vaan's side and chirped around him like they were studying a new rare specimen—one that had a lean build without excessive muscle mass.

"Mm, mm! I think the academy's ranking for the top five most handsome servants is going to change with this handsome's appearance," a True Witch nodded with approval as she checked Vaan out.

"Hey, handsome. Do you have a master yet?" another True Witch nudged Vaan with a flirtatious look and asked, "Would you like to follow me instead?"

"What kind of question is that, Sabrina? Of course, he must have a master to be allowed within the academy," an Apprentice Witch corrected.

"So what if he has a master? Masters can also be changed," the True Witch called Sabrina argued before turning back to Vaan. "What's your name, handsome? What do you think of my offer? This Big Sister will certainly give you a good time."

"No way! Don't listen to her, Mr. Handsome. Following me is obviously the better choice. I'll let you do whatever you want this body of mine~!" a third True Witch with brown hair and blue eyes showed off her amazing hourglass figure.

Although the group of witches appeared to be fighting over Vaan, peals of playful laughter echoed from them.

Only a naïve virgin boy would take their words seriously. It was clear to Vaan that the young ladies were only joking.

After all, they, themselves, were virgins, yet they were acting all experienced in the art of pleasure in front of him.

They were boasting in front of a master.

That being said, Vaan had to admit that the academy was filled with youthful and positive energy. It was a good start.

"My name is Vahn Cadieux, and I am not anyone's servant, just a library assistant, here under Lord Helia's recommendation and Headmaster Tabitha's approval," Vaan calmly introduced himself, unmoved by their advances. "For confirmation, you may turn to Lady Dahlia, my Ladies."

Nevertheless, Vaan didn't find it surprising that they assumed he was a servant. He was similarly dressed like one and not the attire for library assistants, which he had yet to change into.

"You're the new library assistant?"

Sabrina and the others widened their eyes, checking out the orderliness of the library a second time before returning their attention to Vaan again.

"Handsome, capable, and well-mannered. I am taking a greater liking to you. Alas, you are under Librarian Dahlia. I don't dare to snatch you from her, Vahn," Sabrina sighed regretfully before saying, "Still, this Big Sister will come and see you often."

The other two second-year True Witches also chimed in before Vaan commented with a smile, "I'm not sure how young miladies think I am, but I am twenty years old."

"You're... twenty?"

Sabrina and the other two second-year True Witches froze upon hearing Vaan's claim. They were actually younger than him by a year.

"How can you maintain such a young face? You look sixteen for a man. What kind of special treatment are you using? Can I also learn it? I awakened a bit late, so I want to look at least a year younger," Sabrina mentioned curiously before adding, "Euphenia teases me that I look old for my age."

If one only looked at Vaan's face, then he did look younger for his age.

However, Vaan was over six-feet tall, just like most witches of age and older. Their superior witch genes allowed them to grow to such heights, and it was considered the norm.

As such, witches generally looked down on men, literally.

"Hold on. Your face is natural, right?" the True Witch named Euphenia asked before adding further, "It wasn't altered with magic or anything, right?"

"This is indeed how I naturally look," Vaan smiled mysteriously before saying, "Although I can't guarantee you will look younger, I do possess a particular set of skills that can keep miladies' faces smooth and moisturized."

"What kind of skills?" all three second-year True Witch and three first-year Apprentice Witch asked at once.

"Massaging skill. I can do some facial massages, which help nourish the face with pure mana from the surroundings and cleanse the dirty and impurity accumulated from physical combat lessons," Vaan explained before saying, "If miladies are interested, you can seek me out later tonight."

"Why not now?" Sabrina couldn't help but ask.

"Because Teacher Cadieux will be tutoring me," Cyrena Ashenborn coolly stated from behind the witch group, startling them.

As Sabrina and the others turned around in surprise, Cyrena Ashenborn strolled forward, shoving the young ladies aside before wrapping her arms around one of Vaan's arms and staring defensively at the group.

"Teacher Cadieux will be busy teaching me. Please find someone else to bother," Cyrena Ashenborn shooed away the group of witches, viewing them as a group of vixens that tried to steal away her teacher.

"Young Lady Cyrena? Vahn is your teacher?" Sabrina and the others uttered with greater surprise before they doubted Cyrena Ashenborn's claim. "How can Vahn be your teacher?"

Sabrina and the others did not mean to look down on Vaan, but Cyrena Ashenborn took it as such due to their disbelief.

"Why can't he be my teacher?" Cyrena Ashenborn retorted before criticizing their narrow outlook, "Who are you to say whether he can or can't be my teacher? You don't know anything about my Teacher Cadieux, and you don't know anything about me."

"Anyway, you are wasting my precious learning time, so go away and stop bothering us," Cyrena Ashenborn said commandingly.

"Ah? Yes, Young Lady Cyrena..."

In their shock, Sabrina and the others subconsciously complied, shuffling away from the two.

However, they were baffled and amazed by Cyrena Ashenborn's defensiveness. It was so rare for Lord Helia's seventh daughter to speak, let alone speak for anyone in the academy.

They couldn't help but become even more curious about Vaan.

Chapter 120: Vaan's Offer

"Teacher, I've shooed away the annoying vixens—I mean, pests. They didn't bother you too much, did they?" Cyrena Ashenborn asked with her head lowered in front of Vaan, expecting a pat from him.

Vaan glanced around before rubbing Cyrena Ashenborn's head as she wished.



"No, they didn't bother that much, but thank you anyway," Vaan smiled wryly.

Even if the group of young witches were bothering him, Vaan would have turned the inconvenience into an opportunity if Cyrena Ashenborn hadn't interrupted.

Nevertheless, Vaan was amused by Sabrina's concerns over her beauty.

As witches, their bodies were blessed and nourished by mana since birth, allowing them to possess superior qualities compared to ordinary humans.

Their bodies would grow until they hit their prime state. And from then, their appearance will remain unchanged as if they had stopped aging entirely.

Thus, even without beauty care, witches will achieve what would be considered their prime look with time.

That being said, the standard of beauty is so high and normal that witches have also developed their own unique sense of beauty, even if it means looking younger or older than their prime state.

"Hehe," Cyrena Ashenborn enjoyed Vaan's head pat before suddenly recalling, "Oh, right. I was meant to give this to you earlier, Teacher."

Shortly after, a small wooden box was handed over to Vaan. Inside of it was the syringe needle with Cyrena Ashenborn's blood, which was needed for research.

"Thanks, Cyrena," Vaan accepted the wooden box before saying, "By the way, do you know where Wise Scholar Sacha usually stays? I will need to visit her if I want to borrow her Atomic Visualizer."

"Wise Scholar Sacha?" Cyrena Ashenborn paused for a moment before replying, "I believe Wise Scholar Sacha usually stays in her lab on the fifth tower's top floor, where she carries out most of her research."

"I see. And what kind of research does Wise Scholar Sacha usually carry out in her lab?" Vaan inquired for further information in better preparation for his visit.

"Wise Scholar Sacha is Master Artificer, so her research is mainly related to magic tools, mineral composition, and enchantment spells," Cyrena Ashenborn answered.

After hearing that much, Vaan figured out Wise Scholar Sacha's purpose for the Atomic Visualizer.

Atomic Visualizer's usefulness wasn't limited to potioneering and herbal studies. In fact, it covered a wide range of topics, practically anything that required being studied to the microscopic level.

'Wise Scholar Sacha is most likely using the Atomic Visualizer to deepen her knowledge on mineral compositions and interactions to develop stronger alloys for her magic tools,' Vaan mused.

...

After checking on Cyrena Ashenborn's progress with her other studies, Vaan taught her more about potioneering for an hour at a spare table in the library provided for private studies.

"That's all for today. Cramming too much won't do you any good. Remember to review what you learned today and not neglect your other studies."

"Understood, Teacher."

Knowing Vaan would be visiting Wise Scholar Sacha to research a cure for her inability, Cyrena Ashenborn obediently returned to her dorm room without taking up any more of Vaan's time.

After Cyrena Ashenborn left, Vaan went over to Dahlia Payne's desk with the wooden box in his hand.

"Do you need something, Vahn?" Dahlia Payne asked, glancing up and squinting her eyes after noticing Vaan's shadow loomed over her book.

"I do, Lady Dahlia," Vaan nodded before mentioning, "Since I am now your assistant, am I provided with a room to stay? Also, do I have a specific attire to wear as a library assistant?"

"I'm just a librarian. Why would I provide you with a room? Are you planning to sleep in the library or something?" Dahlia Payne raised an eyebrow.

"Well, I suppose I might have to if I have no other place to sleep. I haven't been informed of any salary or accommodation being arranged for this job, Lady Dahlia," Vaan casually replied before adding, "I was hoping you would know more about it."

"Since you'll be working as my assistant, you can be regarded as a person of the academy and indeed entitled to a fixed salary and accommodation," Dahlia Payne furrowed her brows before saying, "I will have to check with Headmaster Tabitha tomorrow."

"As for the assistant attire, you can wear whatever you like as my assistant. However, there are some attires for assistants in my office. Follow me," Dahlia Payne added.

Shortly after, Dahlia Payne led Vaan to the back of the library.

Along the way, Vaan was a little worried when Dahlia Payne walked past the bookshelves, but his concerns were unfounded.

'It seems Dahlia's symptoms only flare up when she is in direct contact with the enchanted books of the library,' Vaan thought.

After Vaan entered the library office with Dahlia Payne, he was slightly surprised by its state.

The library office had been transformed into Dahlia Payne's personal bedroom, which could be seen by the double-size mattress laying on the ground beside the office desk with piles of books scattered everywhere.

"Ahem, it's a little messy, but you can sleep here for now until your accommodations are arranged, Vahn," Dahlia Payne stated.

"But then, where would you sleep, Lady Dahlia?" Vaan asked thoughtfully.

"Naturally, I will also sleep on the bed. There's enough room to fit the both of us, Vahn. You didn't think I would give you the whole bed, did you? Or do you have a problem with us sharing a bed?"

Dahlia Payne gave Vaan an answer he was unlikely to hear in his previous life.

"Not at all. It would be my honor to share the bed with beauty like you, my Lady," Vaan replied flatteringly before furrowing his brows. "However, wouldn't leaving all these books around cause trouble for you, my Lady?"

"It is," Dahlia Payne nodded with a helpless smile and said, "But I can't exactly clean them up, can I? I would just make a bigger mess."

"Then allow me to tidy up the room for you, my Lady," Vaan offered and started packing up the scattered books right away.

"Thank you, Vahn. You're a lifesaver," Dahlia Payne expressed her appreciation.

"By the way, my Lady. Have you not found any Healing Masters to look into your problem and find out why the enchanted books of the library cause you to sneeze?" Vaan casually inquired further into her issue.

"I have seen quite a few masters in the art of healing in the past three weeks. But as I've previously mentioned, no one knows the exact cause. None of the Healing Masters could determine the root cause of my problem," Dahlia Payne mentioned.

"However, they did confirm that it isn't caused by Curse Magic or any toxic substance that weakens my immunity system or tampers with my mana interactions. It could only be some sort of allergy with an undetermined source."

"Anyway, you seem quite interested in my matter, Vahn?" Dahlia Payne asked with her curiosity piqued.

'How can he not be was the better question,' Vaan thought wryly.

He didn't want to waste time cleaning up any further incidents in the library.

Thus, he had to find a way to resolve Dahlia Payne's problem or ensure she doesn't touch any more enchanted books.

"As your assistant, your health is absolutely important to me, my Lady," Vaan replied with a flattering smile.

"Would you like me to take a look at you and share my insights, my Lady?" Vaan offered shortly after. "I'm not trying to look down on other Healing Masters, but you know, I'm something of a doctor myself."