

## The Witch 121

### Chapter 121: Eye Massage

"Oh?" Dahlia Payne lifted her round glasses and squinted before asking with interest, "And what do I need to do for your diagnosis? You're not trying to take advantage of me, are you?"

"How would I dare, my Lady?" Vaan shrugged with a rueful smile before saying, "You're a noble Senior Witch, while I am just a man without any aura training. If anything, shouldn't a helpless man like me be worried about you taking advantage of me instead?"

"Oh, I suppose that is true. Ehe," Dahlia Payne chuckled with a cute yet silly look. "Then, what will you do, Vahn? It wouldn't include a facial massage, would it?"

Evidently, Dahlia Payne had overheard Vaan's conversation with the group of young witches from earlier in the library.

"I don't have magic, so I can rely on questioning and simply massages to understand what is going on inside your body, my Lady," Vaan calmly answered.

"However, if you are interested, I can also provide some facial or eye massage to help you slightly improve your eyesight."

"You can do something like that with a massage?" Dahlia Payne asked with astonishment.

"Of course, my Lady. Anything is possible with adequate knowledge," Vaan claimed.

"One's eyesight can't be recovered with normal healing magic because there's simply no wound to heal. Bad eyesight is a result of the eyeball growing too long or the cornea curving too steeply, causing light to focus on the front of the eye."

"Body Modification Magic can be used to alter the steepness of the cornea and restore vision. But few are willing to undergo such procedures due to the risk of losing vision entirely from a single mistake."

"However, I've read that the Healing Masters in the White Serpentine Kingdom were very good in eye modification treatments, whether it is to restore vision or even enhance them," Vaan explained.

"Mm, I've heard about the Healing Masters of the White Serpentine Kingdom being proficient in eye modification treatments," Dahlia Payne acknowledged Vaan's words.

But shortly after, Dahlia Payne shook her head with a despondent sigh.

"However, the White Serpentine Kingdom is the furthest from the Black Rose Kingdom. It takes time and money just to travel there. Furthermore, the cost of the treatment is much higher than what a librarian with low magic talent like me can afford."

"Any witch with a little bit of talent would become a Senior Witch by thirty, while I've only just become one three weeks ago at the age of thirty-five," Dahlia Payne stated.

Vaan's eyes flickered at the newfound information.

It would indeed be difficult for an ordinary Senior Witch to afford eye modification treatment in the White Serpentine Kingdom with the meager salary of an academy librarian.

Even so, the salary was still better than most jobs in the city with her ability.

Nevertheless, what attracted Vaan's attention was the timing of Dahlia Payne's ascension to Senior Witch and her strange allergy problem to enchanted books.

"Did you become a Senior Witch before or after the strange allergy surfaced, my Lady?"

"I became a Senior Witch a day before I started sneezing from touching enchanted books. Senior Rosina and the others also thought it might have been a defect in my ascension to Senior Witch that resulted in the strange allergy, but they weren't too sure."

"I see..." Vaan rubbed his chin thoughtfully before saying, "I think I might have an idea in regards to the issue you are experiencing, my Lady."

"We can skip the questioning, but I'll still need to inspect your body with a simple massage, my Lady."

After clearing the books from the double-size mattress, Vaan politely instructed, "If it's alright with you, can I get you to lay down for the massage, my Lady?"

"Alright," Dahlia Payne nodded.

She took the clear path to the mattress and laid down before she softly cried with joy at the comfort brought by the soft mattress.

"Ahh, this feels great~!" Dahlia Payne stretched her limbs in relaxation, almost losing herself in it and forgetting she was in Vaan's presence.

"Ahem!" Dahlia Payne collected her composure with a cough before coolly saying, "By the way, Vahn. You still haven't explained how eye massage can improve eyesight."

"Eye massage stimulates the pores around the eyes, allowing mana to gather in the eyes, my Lady," Vaan explained.

"Although the effect won't be great, pure mana does strengthen the eye to perceive more light. And when that happens, eyesight will naturally improve. It's like turning up the tap to pour more water, and the eye massage is like muscle training."

Of course, only witches got to enjoy such benefits.

Aura Users could only produce aura to strengthen their bodies through physical training. On the other hand, witches undergoing the same physical training would improve their bodies directly through the nourishment of pure mana.

That's why physical combat training was part of the courses in an academy of magic.

"I see... So it's actually like that," Dahlia Payne nodded with enlightenment before her eyes brightened further. "Then I would like the eye massage first, Vahn."

Vaan was immediately amused by Dahlia Payne's request. She actually prioritized her eyesight improvement over her strange allergy treatment.

Nevertheless, Vaan saw no reason to decline.

"As you wish, my Lady," Vaan obliged.

Shortly after unequipping his utility belt and fang daggers and putting them aside with the wooden box, Vaan hopped on the mattress and positioned himself where Dahlia Payne's head rested on his lap.

"Then, I will begin now, my Lady."

"Mm."

After Vaan removed her round glasses and informed her, Dahlia Payne consented with a soft mumble while feeling strangely excited.

It was an interesting and rare situation for her to be in, considering she never really took care of her appearance. Thus, men don't really look at her.

But when Dahlia Payne glanced up, she could see Vaan's attentive gaze on her, and her heart skipped a beat.

Shortly after Vaan started working his magic fingers around her eyes, including her temples, forehead, and nose, Dahlia Payne felt a wave of comfort gathering on her face before spreading to the rest of her body.

"Ahhh..."

Chapter 122: Tempting Dahlia

Dahlia Payne felt so good that she unconsciously let out a soft moan before she quickly covered her mouth in the next moment.

At the same time, Dahlia Payne quickly felt embarrassed for losing control of herself. She didn't expect Vaan's so-called simple massage to be so heavenly.

Nevertheless, she could feel the comforting nourishment of pure mana gathering around her eyes and flow into them.

It made her feel good, and the feeling traveled down to her lower body, making her legs fidgety as she rubbed them together to feel even better.

"Mm..."

Dahlia Payne suppressed her moan with her hand while feeling good from the overall pleasant sensation brought by Vaan's magical touches.

They were like god's hands, knowing exactly where and when to pinch, rub, knead, tap, and poke, and with the right strength to make her feel explicable pleasure.

Dahlia Payne couldn't believe how impressive Vaan's 'simple eye massage felt and started to wonder how much better a full-body massage would feel.

Each time Vaan touched her, the ember of desire in her heart grew until it was set ablaze.

Vaan could tell the rest of Dahlia Payne's body was becoming sensitive without being directly stimulated by his hands.

Dahlia Payne's body belonged to the more sensitive, and it was even more so because she wasn't a promiscuous person who indulged in the pleasure of the flesh.

"Is this really a simple massage? What kind of massaging technique is this, Vahn?" Dahlia Payne could not help but ask. It had truly piqued her curiosity.

"The Heavenly Massage at the basic level, my Lady," Vaan calmly answered before saying, "If you'd like, I can let you experience the higher levels of mastery in this technique."

"The Heavenly Massage?" Dahlia Payne was quickly stunned by Vaan's answer before she asked, "Isn't this technique extremely difficult for men to master?"

"For other men, yes. For me, no," Vaan casually replied.

It was no surprise to Vaan that Dahlia Payne would be surprised. In fact, any witch that knew about the Heavenly Massage would react the same way.

Hester Thornton wasn't an exception, and neither would Dahlia Payne be.

The Heavenly Massage was an all-encompassing comprehensive technique. It wouldn't be farfetched to say that mastering it would make people become great physicians.

This is because the Heavenly Massage required a very strict understanding of the human body, including the twelve major meridians, two-thousand acupoints, five million pores, and the intricate nerve system of the human body.

A normal person wouldn't be able to remember everything, let alone their interactions and connections with one another.

Nevertheless, everything could be summarized into two things; the good spots and the bad spots, which also vary slightly from person to person.

Knowing how to press the good spots to produce pleasure was the basic level of the Heavenly Massage.

Knowing how to press both the good and the bad spots, alternating between pain and pleasure to produce even greater pleasure, is the intermediate level.

And finally, knowing how to amplify the pleasure consecutively by pressing the right order of good and bad spots is the expert level.

According to Vaan's speculation, there was no limit to the level of amplification.

After all, the human body held countless possibilities, but thirty-six-point chain orders were already enough to generate the fourth level of pleasure and one-hundred-and-eight-point chain orders for the fifth level of pleasure.

But if there were ever a day that Vaan needed to study beyond the fifth level of pleasure, which may not exist, it probably wouldn't be a human—or at the very least, not a normal human or witch.

...

"Mmm...!"

Dahlia Payne's muffled moan sounded through the small gaps in her hands as she covered her mouth, and her face blushed with a pinkish complexion.

Coupled with her haggard breathing, Dahlia Payne couldn't keep her loud beating heart in check.

If Dahlia Payne weren't noticing the slight improvement in her vision firsthand, she would have asked Vaan to stop the massage immediately.

After all, Dahlia Payne felt like she was sinking into the depths of depravity; the longer she prolonged the massage, the deeper she fell.

Eventually, Dahlia Payne would hit a point of no return, unable to escape from Vaan's clutches.

Just when Dahlia Payne steeled her resolve to put a stop to the pleasurable experience, Vaan suddenly ended his massage.

In that instance, Dahlia Payne felt like she had lost something. Instead of feeling a sense of relief, her heart felt empty.

"Why did you stop, Vahn?" Dahlia Payne softly asked.

"There's a limit to how much your eyesight can improve in one session, my Lady. After all, the eyes are delicate organs. Overloading them with mana could cause irreversible damages rather than improvement," Vaan calmly explained while smiling in his heart.

The abrupt ending of the massage by his choice and not Dahlia Payne's will would leave a seed of regret.

This seed of regret would fester in Dahlia Payne's heart until she could not help but ask for more massage from Vaan.

"I see..." Dahlia Payne uttered with disappointment.

However, the look of disappointment only lasted for a few moments before Dahlia Payne recalled there was still another full-body inspection massage.

Dahlia Payne's hopes were reignited like she was about to scratch an itch she couldn't previously reach.

"Are you going to perform the full-body massage to determine the source of my allergy problem now, Vahn?" Dahlia Payne asked.

Regardless of whether Vaan could or could not, Dahlia Payne was more interested in the massage.

"Yes, my Lady. If it's fine with you," Vaan replied with a nod.

"Of course, it is fine with—Ahem, I mean, I'm alright with it," Dahlia Payne coughed to hide her overly eagerness, excitement, and anticipation. She tried to maintain a calm composure.

But after Vaan repositioned himself and commenced the full-body massage, Dahlia Payne yelped with delight.

"Ahhh...!"

Vaan's sudden forcefulness as he started with the chest took Dahlia Payne by surprise.

"Ahh... I haven't permitted you to touch me there yet, Vahn."

"But you never specified where I can and can't touch, my Lady."

Chapter 123: Dahlia's Problem

"That's true, but... Ahh..."



Due to her reservation as a lady, Dahlia Payne had some aversion to Vaan's massage, which could make her lose her mind and not think straight.

Such a thing was quite scary to her.

However, her breast was assaulted without warning, and a tantalizing sensation spread across her body, ensnaring her heart, mind, and body in the cage of euphoria.

Another soft moan escaped her lips, and an inexplicable sense of pleasure filled her body.

It was nothing compared to the eye massage earlier.

Vaan slowly worked his magic fingers around Dahlia Payne's chest to her arms and legs before mounting on top of her and fondling her supple breasts, which weren't overly large nor too small.

They fit perfectly in his hands.

In truth, Vaan did not need to perform a full-body massage to study Dahlia Payne's body.

Vaan's upgraded sense of touch and tremor sense worked wonders, allowing him to sense the changes in her body with just the eye massage.

He was just collecting interest with the extra massage to compensate for the time he wasted cleaning up the library.

After Vaan slowly weakened Dahlia Payne's defenses, he started carving a way into her heart. His hand slid down her body and slipped under her skirt before reaching up to her tight flower bud.

"Ahhh...!"

Dahlia Payne's hand instinctively grabbed Vaan's hand before she looked into his eyes with her own, which were filled with a mixture of suppressed desire and resistance.

"Y-You can't, Vahn. It's not right for us to be doing this when we just met," or so Dahlia Payne said.

However, her tone was a little weak, her resistance was almost non-existent, and her heart was beating wildly with a vague sense of excitement.

With a few more magical touches, Dahlia Payne's body suddenly quivered from reaching climax before melting with softness.

In that instance, Dahlia Payne felt like it wasn't so bad to let herself loose.

Dahlia Payne suddenly raised her head and glanced at Vaan's handsome face with an irresistible and charming smile.

She could see him more clearly without her glasses after the slight improvement in her eyesight.

"I'm not a very attractive woman, and no man has looked at me the same way you do. If you desire me that much, I feel like I should answer to those desires."

"You shouldn't devalue yourself, my Lady. You are a very charming woman. If you dress up and have more confidence in yourself like others, you can also be attractive—if not more."

Dahlia Payne's eyes flickered at Vaan's words before she suddenly wrapped her arms around Vaan's neck.

"Hey, Vahn. Are you sure you haven't been trying to take advantage of me from the start? You weren't serious about looking into my illness, right?" Dahlia Payne softly asked.

Vaan's eyes flickered.

Although Dahlia Payne's alluring voice was filled with seduction, there was also a hint of hidden danger mixed within them.

"I meant what I said about your health being of utmost importance, my Lady. I may have been a little dishonest, but I've already figured out your problem, my Lady," Vaan calmly replied before adding, "That being said, it would be a shame if we stop here, right?"

Dahlia Payne narrowed her eyes for a moment before her smile widened charmingly again.

"Heh, you're right. It would be a shame for us to stop here. It's not like I am losing out on anything. With your skill level, I might grow faster this way," Dahlia Payne licked her lips flirtatiously before saying, "As such, I'll believe you."

"However, if I end up finding out you lied to me... you understand the consequences, right?" Dahlia Payne added with a hint of threat.

"Then wouldn't you like to hear what your problem is first, my Lady?" Vaan replied with a calm smile, but he was thinking about Dahlia Payne's character change in his mind.

It was as if he had flicked on a switch and awakened something inside of her.

"Save it; I will hear about it later. We should enjoy ourselves. You did plan for this, did you not? Well, I can't hold back any longer!"

Right after throwing out those words, Dahlia Payne stole Vaan's lips, unleashing her pent-up feelings of lust.

Dahlia Payne kissed Vaan passionately, but it was clear to him that she was inexperienced despite her assertiveness.

Vaan slowly fought back with his tongue and reclaimed his dominance of the situation before leading Dahlia Payne on, making her feel pleasurable.

"Mmm..."

After Vaan lifted Dahlia Payne's skirt, their clothes slowly disappeared piece by piece, and their bodies connected and a furious battle on the double-sized mattress.

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Sometime later, Vaan and Dahlia Payne lay in each other's arms and enjoyed each other's warmth at the end of their seventh round—or more precisely, the end of Dahlia Payne's seventh round.

"You can talk about the issue with my problem now, Vahn," Dahlia Payne stated after her passion died down.

Nevertheless, she made herself comfortable by resting her head on Vaan's bare chest and rubbing her silky smooth legs against Vaan's.

"Actually, your issue isn't very serious, my Lady. It's just a temporary problem. Of course, it can also become serious if you are not attentive."

"Oh? Elaborate for me, Vahn. Don't speak in circles."

"It's because your mana is of the wind attribute, and it hasn't been stabilized after you became a Senior Witch, my Lady," Vaan stated.

"The enchantments in the library books all have anti-erosion spells, which mainly ward off the air around them. Because your unstabilized mana is of the wind attribute, the enchantment spells also repels the wind-attribute mana in your body when you come in contact with the enchanted books."

"This causes reverse flow in your wind-attribute mana. And as we know, the reverse flow of mana is a dangerous process. That's why you sneeze so violently, my Lady," Vaan explained.

"Fortunately, that also acts as a kind of self-defense mechanism in your body, forcing you to release the enchanted books, my Lady. Otherwise, it's hard to say what would happen if you prolonged the reverse mana flow."

"I see... That all makes perfect sense. No wonder this strange situation only happens to me," Dahlia Payne's eyes brightened with enlightenment. "I just need to wait until my mana stabilizes before I can read books normally again."

"Actually, your mana should have already been stabilized during our intimate session, my Lady. Of course, we can also continue if it hasn't," Vaan said with a slight smile.

"Oh?" Dahlia Payne raised an eyebrow in surprise before lifting her head to glance at Vaan. "I thought you just wanted to get under my skirt. Did you actually plan all of this from the start?"

"That... Well, I'll just leave that to your imagination, my Lady," Vaan replied vaguely with a slight smile.

However, it was also a smile that Dahlia Payne found irresistibly charming and handsome. It captivated her.

"I'm a bit sore, but we can continue," Dahlia Payne whispered with sudden shyness.

#### Chapter 124: Dominating Dahlia

Shortly after Dahlia Payne whispered, she lifted herself up and straddled on top of Vaan's lap before reaching under for his little brother.

But when Dahlia Payne touched Vaan's hot bulging rod, her hand retracted with a startled look. She wasn't expecting the little guy—or rather, the big guy to be ready to play.

Dahlia Payne cast her glance at Vaan and noticed him looking back at her with amusement.

"We've already gone at it for seven rounds. Shouldn't you be used to it by now, my Lady?" Vaan asked, intrigued by Dahlia Payne's slight reservation and inexperience. "Do you need my help?"

"No need," Dahlia Payne slightly pouted before saying, "No matter, it was still my first time engaging in such intimate exercises. So pardon me if I'm still not used to it."

"Even though you know how to seduce and act captivating, my Lady? And you said that you're not that attractive?" Vaan slightly smiled.

"You've already seen what the younger ones are like in the academy, Vahn; you've experienced just how playful they are. Watching ladies like them tease other men so many times in the academy, even I would eventually learn how to do a thing or two like that," Dahlia Payne retorted.

Although Dahlia Payne appeared slightly dissatisfied, she seemed quite cute at the same time.

Nevertheless, just when Dahlia Payne mustered her courage to grab Vaan's hot bulging rod and stick the tip into her newly blossomed flower cave, Vaan gave her a push, thrusting his little brother deep into her womb.

"Ahhh...!" Dahlia Payne cried with inexplicable elation.

Her upper body froze, but her lower half repeatedly twitched at the relentless waves of pleasure assaulting her body like a thousand chain explosions going off one after the other.

The lingering pain of her torn hymen was drowned out by the overwhelming blissful sensations filling her body.

Dahlia Payne had climaxed with a single thrust.

Shortly after Dahlia Payne recovered from her quivering honey cave, she shot Vaan a dirty look with a complaint. And yet, it was also filled with temptation and enticement.

"Aren't you a little too vigorous down here, Vahn? How can it still be so lively after so many rounds? We've even taken a short break."

"It's one of my strong points, my Lady," Vaan smiled proudly and said, "Seven rounds is not a lot. I can keep going all night until you are completely satisfied. Furthermore, with an attractive woman like you with me, how can it not stay active down there?"

"Oh please, you're just saying that. If I was attractive as you say I am, how come other men never look my way the same as you?" Dahlia Payne asked with doubt.

Nevertheless, Dahlia Payne inwardly felt happy from Vaan's compliment.

"As I said, my Lady, you don't lack attractiveness; you lack self-confidence. You are beautiful, and you are attractive. I can say these words a thousand times until you believe it," Vaan stated.

Vaan could compliment a woman as many times as it takes for them to believe. The only thing he wouldn't do was insult a woman's beauty.

After all, tell a woman she is beautiful, and she'll believe for a moment. But tell her she is ugly, and she'll remember it for a lifetime.

"In today's society, women are the breadwinners. Even if you are attractive, if you don't have the confidence to show them a bright future, how can men take an interest in you, my Lady? There are countless attractive women. Thus, if men have to choose, they will naturally pick the more capable women."

"That being said, It's not like it matters to you anymore, my Lady," Vaan added.

"Why not?" Dahlia Payne asked.

"Because you have me," Vaan smiled confidently before suddenly flipping Dahlia Payne around and switching their positions, putting himself on top and assuming dominance. "Do you think you can still think of other men when you can't even handle me?"

"If you want me, I'm the only one you need to think about from now and forever. Of course, I can still have other women," Vaan asserted.

"Aren't you a little too ambitious, Vahn? Do you really think I can't handle you—Ahh...!"

Vaan suddenly started moving his hips and thrusting his long bulging rod in and out of Dahlia Payne's honey cave while his hands caressed her breasts and stimulated all her pleasure points.

"Ahhh~!" Dahlia Payne could not help but let out a euphoric moan.

Under Vaan's sudden assault and the relentless waves of blissfulness, Dahlia Payne suddenly couldn't think.

Her honey cave filled with love nectar tightened, and her legs wrapped around Vaan's hips.

She savored the pleasure as much as she tried to endure it.

However, it soon proved too much for Dahlia Payne to handle as her body spasmed from achieving orgasm, heightening her sensitivity along with an even greater sense of pleasure.

The pleasant feel of gathered mana only served to heighten that even higher.

"Ahhh...! W-Wait, Vahn! This is too much!" Dahlia Payne gasped with surprise. She was startled by the level of pleasure that just kept increasing.

"Nooo~~!"

As Vaan steadily increased the pleasure to the third level, Addiction, Dahlia Payne eventually lost her reasoning and indulged herself in the wondrous feeling.

Nevertheless, Vaan didn't end it there; he continued to increase the pleasure up to the fourth level, Dominion.

At that point, Dahlia Payne couldn't last more than five rounds before she was deprived of energy and passed out into deep slumber.

Only the peaceful smile on her face revealed how satisfied she was.

Ding!

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

<You have acquired a large quantity of wind-attribute refined mana>

<Calculating rewards>

<...>

...

Ding!

<The rewards have been calculated>



<Based on the large quantity of wind-attribute refined mana extracted from an Early-stage Senior Witch, a list of suitable rewards is available>

<Please select one of the following rewards>

<Option 1: Reinforce your auditory organs with wind-attribute refined mana and enhance your sense of hearing>

<Note: There is a slight chance of developing a sound-type talent>

<Option 2: Reinforce your body with wind-attribute refined mana and increase your overall speed by five points>

<Note: There is a slight chance of developing a speed-type talent>

<Option 3: Reinforce your legs with wind-attribute refined mana and increase your leg speed by ten points>

<Note: There is a slight chance of developing a speed-type talent (leg-related)>

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

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

Chapter 125: New Ability

Ding!

<You have selected option one reward>

Vaan selected the first reward without hesitation.

When Vaan learned of Dahlia Payne's wind-attribute mana, enhancing his hearing had been his aim from the start.

Ding!

<Your auditory organs have been reinforced with wind-attribute refined mana>

<Your sense of hearing has improved>

<Your auditory organs have been reinforced with wind-attribute refined mana>

<Your sense of hearing has improved further>

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Vaan felt the wind-attribute refined mana channeled to his ears and fused them, enhancing his hearing as the system notified.

Sounds from the library's entrance could be heard from the office room, indicating Vaan's hearing had already reached the super hearing level.

While super hearing could be a special ability, it wasn't what Vaan was aiming for.

Luckily, Vaan had collected quite a far bit of wind-attribute refined mana. Thus, his sense of hearing was still improving.

<Your auditory organs have been reinforced with wind-attribute refined mana>

<Your sense of hearing has improved significantly>

Upon reaching a certain level of improvement in his sense of hearing, Vaan could determine the source of noise at the library's entrance in greater detail.

"Hey, do you think the new handsome library assistant will still be here?"

"Why wouldn't he be? The library is still open, is it not?"

Vaan heard the voices of two young ladies, but he heard three pairs of footsteps.

Coupled with their voice, movements, and his tremor sense, Vaan precisely pinpointed their positions, numbers, and appearances.

The three young ladies at the library entrance were the three second-year True Witches, Sabrina, Euphenia, and the last, whose name he didn't get a chance to learn.

Ding!

<A special phenomenon has been detected>

<You have awakened a sound-type special ability, echo sense>

<Please give this special ability a name>

Vaan's eyes flickered.

Echo sense, also known as echolocation, echolocative radar sense, and radar pulse, was just what he wanted to enhance his detection abilities.

Now Vaan had tremor sense and echo sense for both ground and air.

Ding!

<Echo sense has been registered as Sound Pulse>

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Ding!

<Unique conditions have been met>

<Magic Vision, Sound Pulse, and Earth Pulse have been merged to create a new detection-type special ability>

<You have awakened Omni-Sense (Low-rank)>

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[Omni-Sense (Low-rank) (Upgradeable)]

Overview: The ability to sense the presence of everything and anything within a fixed distance, whether they are matter or energy.

Note: This special ability is incomplete and not at its full potential. Its range is severely limited.

Upgrade Method: Improve your six senses.

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After Vaan finished perusing the information about his new special ability, he received more notifications from the system.

Ding!

<You have acquired an Early-stage Senior Witch's primal essence>

<A condition has been met>

<The system has issued you an objective mission>

<Objective mission: Collect 5 Senior Witch-level primal essences>

<Upon completion of the mission, you will be able to awaken a Senior Witch-level Specialized Magic>

Vaan's eyes flickered.

A Senior Witch-level Specialized Magic was much stronger than a True Witch-level Specialized Magic.

Even so, the condition to acquire Senior Witch-level Specialized Magic was equally more challenging than the condition to acquire True Witch-level Specialized Magic.

'Objective mission!' Vaan willed.

Ding!

<You have two ongoing objective missions>

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<Objective Mission 1: Collect 5 True Witch-level primal essences>

<Reward: A random True Witch-level Specialized Magic>

<Progress: 1/5 True Witch-level primal essence>

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<Objective Mission 2: Collect 5 Senior Witch-level primal essences>

<Reward: A random Senior Witch-level Specialized Magic>

<Progress: 1/5 Senior Witch-level primal essence>

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After taking a look at his mission progress, Vaan left Dahlia Payne on the mattress and covered her sleeping body with a blanket.

Then, Vaan tidied up the room, folded up their scattered clothes, and cleaned himself with a dry cloth, which he found in the cabinet with attires provided for library assistants.

It was a simple yet formal black and white suit that matched with the black and white dark academia dress that Dahlia Payne had worn.

Shortly after putting on the suit, Vaan left the office room.

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"There's no one here. Even Librarian Dahlia is gone," Euphenia mentioned while searching around the library for people with Sabrina and her other friend.

"That's strange," Sabrina furrowed her brows and said, "It's not that late yet. How come Librarian Dahlia and the new handsome assistant are not here?"

"Could they be in the back office?"

Just when Sabrina had that thought, the office door creaked open before Vaan exited by himself. He closed the door on his way out.

In that instance, the three True Witches glanced over from their respective positions before their eyes lit up.

Looking at Vaan's new clothes, he looked more handsome and suave.

"Can a person look this hot in such a simple suit? Why doesn't the academy have more men like this?"

Euphenia fanned her face with her hand while appearing a little too overly excited and borderline fangirling.

"Vahn does look much more handsome. He's like a prince from a noble household, quite different from those muscle heads," Sabrina commented with a thoughtful look.

Most men had no choice but to undergo rigorous physical training to become Aura Users, so they could at least make a living for themselves.

Slim men like Vaan without aura training generally belonged to noble households because their wealthy background supported them.

However, that didn't necessarily mean their lives were better. After all, they were also commonly used as tools for political marriages.

"We were just looking for you, Vahn," Sabrina stated after she and Vaan approached each other.

"It's good to see you again, my Lady. I take it that you are still interested in trying my facial massage," Vaan greeted amicably before turning to the other two. "I assume the same applies to the two lovely ladies over here as well?"

"Yes!" Euphenia and the other True Witch, Glinda, nodded excitedly.

Although they would like to chat Vaan up, they didn't mind Vaan's approach as he didn't beat around the bush.

They were also keen on the facial massage, even though they didn't know what to expect from it.

"Very well," Vaan calmly nodded before gesturing to the private study area with a suggestion, "How about taking a seat over there, and I will tend to miladies one at a time?"

"Sounds good."

Vaan quickly received Sabrina and the other two's agreement.

## Chapter 126: Enticing Offer

Over at the private study area, besides tables and chairs, was a small lounge area.

The small lounge area was right by the wall, where a fireplace was found. It had soft brown leather couches and armchairs positioned around a low snack table and also under a large rug.

It was a social area for witches to read books and share their insights with their peers.

After Vaan headed over with the three True Witches, they chose the more comfortable and cushy couches and armchairs over the hard wooden chairs.

"Alright, which one of you lovely ladies would like to go first?" Vaan inquired.

The True Witches all looked forward to Vaan's massage, but they also didn't know what to expect. They did know if it would actually be great or bad.

After passing the honor back and forth, hoping someone else could test the waters for them, they gradually settled on Sabrina.

"You were the most curious at Vaan's youth-rejuvenating facial massage, Sabrina. You can try it first."

"Yeah, Sabrina. We'll let you go first. No need to thank us. That's what friends are for, right?"

After Euhphenia and Glinda spoke with such pretentious generosity, Sabrina glanced back at the two with speechlessness.

"You two...." Sabrina uttered before eventually shaking her head. "Well, whatever. I will go first then. Don't regret it later."

After a snort, Sabrina turned her attention to Vaan.

"You heard them, Vahn. Please do me first."



"Sure, I'll do you first."

Although Vaan's words were somewhat ambiguous and suggestive, which surprised Sabrina, she couldn't determine if he meant anything else due to his calm and unreadable expression.

"Lean back against the couch, rest your head, and relax your shoulders, my Lady."

"Mm."

After Sabrina followed Vaan's instructions, Vaan, while standing behind the couched, moved her long black hair to one side, revealing more of the delicate skin on her face.

At the same time, their gaze briefly contacted before Sabrina glanced away, feeling a bit shy and nervous.

Looking down past Sabrina's face, Vaan could see her cleavage perfectly.

They weren't big and could even be considered close to petite, but they were pretty revealing from his angle, only hiding the tips. It made them quite exciting and lovely to look at, regardless of their sizes.

Vaan wasn't a man who favored one size over the other. Big or small, he liked them both; both were good.

Nevertheless, Vaan had seen all types of breasts during his working days at the Earthly Pleasure Manor.

From flat washboards to large mommy milkers or the more exotic yet generally less desirable saggy cow teats to the gravity-defying torpedo tits, Vaan had seen them all.

As such, Vaan didn't feel overly excited over seeing them like virgin boys.

Vaan only had a simple appreciation for Sabrina's petite breasts like he was looking at a budding flower that had yet to blossom.

There were no lust or nefarious thoughts.

Due to that, Vaan's gaze didn't feel invasive or violating to Sabrina, who had become conscious of his gaze. That made her feel strangely excited and not repulsed, which also surprised her.

Nevertheless, Vaan's gaze didn't linger on Sabrina's cleavage for long before returning to meet her black eyes that were like the night skies.

"I will begin now."

"Mm."

Sabrina felt mildly disappointed that Vaan didn't get excited over her breasts.

Were they that unattractive?

'Should I start drinking milk?' Sabrina seriously contemplated.

Nevertheless, Sabrina's random thoughts were soon washed away by the comfort on her face as Vaan massaged them with his magical hands.

"Ahhh...!"

Sabrina unconsciously moaned before she quickly covered her mouth with a startled look. She didn't expect her body to react to such a brief touch.

But to Vaan, such a scene was all too common. Once she offered up her body to him, her body was already at his mercy.

As Vaan increased the intensity of his facial massage, causing mana to gather quickly and nourish Sabrina's face, her erotic moans were the only thing Euphenia and Glinda could hear.

The two bystanders watched how Sabrina's body squirmed, and her legs rubbed against each other, feeling good about herself.

Before they knew it, Sabrina's ecstatic mood also affected them, causing their bodies to feel hot and aroused.

Euphenia and Glinda started to cast their furtive and expectant glances at Vaan, wondering when he'd be done with Sabrina.

They started to feel impatient and uncomfortable.

After Vaan was done with Sabrina, he moved on to the next, leaving her to melt on her couch with a big blush on her face.

Vaan had only touched her face, but she climaxed twice during the facial massage.

When Sabrina regained clarity of her mind, she couldn't help but cover her face with shame and embarrassment.

Vaan cycled through with Euphenia and Glinda before falling into similar states, each having climaxed twice before their facial massage ended.

Sometime later, Euphenia recalled the purpose of the facial massage before she pulled out a mirror to check her face.

"Wow! I'm like a baby; so soft, smooth, and glossy!" Euphenia poked her still slightly reddish cheeks while staring into the round hand mirror with surprise.

Sabrina and Glinda didn't need to pull out their hand mirrors. They could understand the effectiveness of the facial massage just by looking at each other's faces.

"Hey, Vahn. This isn't permanent, is it?" Sabrina turned to ask.

"No, it's not, my Lady," Vaan calmly shook his head and said, "It's just like washing your face; it'll only last a day before returning to normal. You'll have to receive a regular massage to see some more permanent effects."

"I see..." Sabrina uttered thoughtfully, but she wasn't disappointed.

Nevertheless, the wetness in her nether region quickly made her recall she had climaxed twice and gotten her black uniform wet.

Her embarrassment caused her face to flush red again.

"I... I need to return to my dorm now. Thank you, Vahn. Your massaging skills were otherworldly. I'll repay you next time we meet," Sabrina quickly excused herself in a hurry to leave and wash up in a bathroom.

However, after taking a few steps, Vaan's following words made her pause, and the other two also glanced over.

"I also offer full-body massages and dual practice services if you decide to be exclusively contracted to me, my Lady."

Chapter 127: Exclusive Contract

Vaan didn't forget to throw out more bait after planting his seeds, even if it meant making himself look like a manwhore on the streets trying to sell his body.

And as expected, Sabrina immediately took the bait as she turned around with a look of curiosity, postponing her departure.

"What do you mean by an exclusive contract, Vahn?" Sabrina asked.

"Exactly as it sounds, my Lady," Vaan calmly said.

"It means you will only seek me for dual practice and no one else. If you do seek other men for dual practice while under an exclusive contract with me, it will be the immediate termination of our contract and my services."

"This..." Sabrina furrowed her brows before saying, "This means that even if I have a lover, I can't do anything with him while under the contract with you, right?"

"That's what an exclusive contract means, my Lady," Vaan acknowledged with a nod.

Sabrina quickly frowned before Euphenia barged in to their conversation and asked, "Can more than one person enter this dual practice exclusive contract with you, Vahn?"

"Yes, but this is a special deal that I only offer to witches who have yet to dual practice before, my Lady," Vaan patiently explained.

"That means we can only dual-practice with you, while you can dual-practice with as many women under an exclusive contract with you," mentioned Glinda.

Glinda had the best hourglass figure out of the three, and her rear and breasts developed nicely. She had groomed herself well for the day she finds the one for her.

However, Vaan wanted to monopolize them, which happens very rarely for a man. It was usually the other way around in the present age.

After all, men can only follow a single witch unless they work in the red-light district where they are not bound by any witch.

"This doesn't sound very fair, does it?" Glinda asked shortly after with narrowed eyes. "In fact, it sounds very ambitious of you. Do you think you're worth it, Vahn?"

"I don't force anyone to enter the exclusive contract with me, nor do I dare, my Lady," Vaan calmly stated before adding, "However, I do provide a full-body massage for free to let witches have a taste of what I am capable of and what they're getting into."

"Furthermore, you can always terminate the contract when you want to end my service and find someone else," Vaan added.

"What benefits do we get from entering an exclusive contract for dual practice with you, Vahn?" Sabrina asked, feeling a little interested but more so curious about the free full-body massage.

"Those under an exclusive contract with me will receive my services for free, my Lady. Others will only receive a one-time free service. The following service will be charged, and it will also depend on my availability," Vaan explained.

"How much do you charge for dual practice, Vahn?" Euphenia asked with a thoughtful look.

In her mind, Vaan had changed from a noble household's young master to a common manwhore on the streets.

However, that didn't make Vaan any less likable; it even made him more approachable.

"I don't charge for dual practice service, my Lady. It's only limited to witches with exclusive contracts with me," Vaan replied.

Vaan had always been clear with his terms of service, even back in the Blackmoon Academy.

Massage services were open to all, but only dual practices were limited to exclusive contracts. He didn't want to risk catching the Zeller's Curse.

Alas, there were also self-entitled witches like the spoiled princess of Blackmoon City, who didn't respect his rules and wanted more.

"Limited to exclusive contracts..." Sabrina muttered thoughtfully before smiling. "About the free full-body massage, can I try now?"

Vaan didn't answer immediately.

After glancing around the library and determining the time of the night, he deemed that there wouldn't be any more visitors to the library.

Thus, he was free to close the library and leave to do other things.

"Yes, my Lady," Vaan confirmed with a nod before adding, "However, I don't have any private room to carry out the service yet. I'm sure you wouldn't like to experience my full-body massage here in the library either, my Lady."

"Hmm, that's true," Sabrina calmly nodded, but then her eyes lit up eagerly the next moment. "Then, would you like to return to my room and perform it there, Vahn?"

"If Lady Sabrina invites me, I see no reason to refuse," Vaan answered with a smile.

"Great! Then it's settled!" Sabrina exclaimed, feeling a little excited and expectant about the full-body massage.

Nevertheless, Euphenia and Glinda quickly pulled Sabrina to the side just as she was about to leave with Vahn.

"Are you really going to try the full-body massage, Sabrina? He could be trying to take advantage of you, you know?" Glinda whispered into Sabrina's left ear.

"Well, it's a bit too much to say that Vahn could be taking advantage of her since his massage was indeed great," Euphenia whispered to Glinda before turning back to Sabrina. "But you're thinking about the exclusive contract, aren't you? Sabrina?"

"Well, I did think about it. If Vahn's full-body massage is indeed great, I might consider it," Sabrina seriously thought.

"Think about it; we've all become True Witches in our second year, but the others are improving faster than us. I bet they are secretly dual practicing with their servants. Take that bitch, Bellatrix, for example. I'm familiar with her family background. She shouldn't be wealthy enough to afford many mana stones, magic potions, or miraculous medicines."

"If Vahn can make me improve much faster than someone cocky like her, then I don't mind giving him my first time," Sabrina stated.

"Still, aren't you rushing things, Sabrina?" Glinda whispered with concern before adding, "We've only just met Vahn today."

"Well, this is strictly business, so why does it matter? That being said, I still need to check how great his full-body massage is. I'll let you both know after I experience it," Sabrina said while shoving the two out of the library in a different direction from where she was going to head.

Shortly after getting rid of Euphenia and Glinda, Sabrina turned back to Vaan.

"Follow me, Vahn."

"Sure thing, my Lady."

## Chapter 128: Istana Gleriath's Madness

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### Blackmoon City

Inside Istana Gleriath's castle dungeon, Hawdyn and his group of wolf-men were tortured and interrogated by Ember Killian.

For more than a day, Ember Killian deployed various torture methods on Hawdyn and his wolf-men, including cutting into their flesh, whipping, burning, drowning, shocking, pulling out their nails, tongue, and eyes, and more.

Their blood scattered across the torture chamber in the dungeon before Istana Gleriath's castle, and several buckets were filled with their nails, toenails, and even severed fingers and toes.

"Where has your organization taken Vaan Raphna's body?" Ember Killian coldly interrogated with blinking an eye as she drilled molten-hot metal in Hawdyn's thigh.

"Garghhh!"

Hawdyn's scream resounded throughout the torture chamber.

Even after enduring so many torture methods, Hawdyn still had some energy to spare, unlike the rest of his wolf-men, whose spirits were broken and bodies devoid of energy.

"I've told you many times before, and I'll tell again and again, as much as you want to hear! My answer will still be the same! For the love of fucking gods and devils, I don't know who the fuck Vaan Raphna is!" Hawdyn roared venomously with frustration and anger.



"Maybe someone else in the organization had taken his body anyway; I don't know! Maybe it was an A-rank Hunter's work, or maybe it was the work of another dark organization or even a witch, I don't know!"

"I can't tell you what I don't know, and I definitely can't give you what I don't have! What I can give you is my life, so just end me already!" Hawdyn thundered.

The moment Hawdyn was caught, he already knew his life was over. Death was a release, and living was prolonging his suffering.

"No matter how many times I see it, this wolf-man's regenerative ability is astounding. He can grow back missing limbs without the aid of magic," Astoria Braveheart commented with a frown, feeling slightly disturbed.

Nevertheless, no matter how much or how cruelly Ember Killian tortured Hawdyn, his answer couldn't satisfy Astoria Braveheart and her.

Only Istana Gleriath seemed happy with the results. But at the same time, her eyes glistened with coldness.

"Kekeke, don't you think we have something more important to talk about?" Istana Gleriath mentioned with a sinister, near frenzied look.

"In the end, this branch doesn't know anything about Vaan Raphna. Do you know what that means? It means that the person you believed to be dead is likely to still be alive! My instincts can't be wrong."

"I can feel it. It was as if I was there when my daughter was killed. Her shock, fear, and hate, I feel them. It has to be him! No, it is him! I'm sure of it!" Istana Gleriath muttered, almost like a crazy person who couldn't think of anything but revenge.

"This feeling grows with each passing day! That bastard is definitely the murderer! If not for him, none of this would have happened! Wise Scholar Eniwse would still be around, and my daughter wouldn't have been killed!"

"You dare bring up Wise Scholar Eniwse in front of me? Your daughter had no respect for her seniors and teachers. Not even a Wise Scholar like Eniwse was respected. She deserved to be killed!" Astoria Braveheart condemned her.

Istana Gleriath's eyes flickered ruthlessly at Astoria Braveheart.

In the next moment, Istana Gleriath impulsively fired a lethal fire arrow at Astoria Braveheart—only for Astoria Braveheart to casually deflect to the side with her large greatsword.

Boom!

The fire arrow struck a corner of the torture chamber and exploded, collapsing the stone walls and ceiling in the area and reducing them into rubbles.

"You've gone mad, Lord Istana," Astoria Braveheart coldly stated.

At the same time, Ember Killian glanced at Istana Gleriath with a frown when she noticed the red glint of madness in the person's eyes.

Shortly after, her eyes narrowed with suspicion.

With little time for Ember Killian to think further, Istana Gleriath suddenly attacked again—only for Astoria Braveheart to swing her large greatsword and slap her body with the flat side.

Peng!

Astoria Braveheart's brute strength sent Istana Gleriath's body flying, smashing through the stone ceiling and flying out of the castle.

Shortly after, Astoria Braveheart leaped through the hole in the ceiling and chased after Istana Gleriath.

"Watch them," Ember Killian instructed the Senior Witches under here to guard Hawdyn and the wolf-men before following Astoria Braveheart shortly.

Meanwhile, Istana Gleriath drew an arc in the air before she landed on the ground outside the castle with a heavy thud.

She spat out a mouthful of blood while suffering from the pain of multiple broken bones and ruptured organs.

With a quick healing spell, Istana Gleriath's body slowly recovered.

Istana Gleriath got up from the ground before wiping the traces of blood on her lips and staring at Astoria Braveheart with a sinister grin.

"You sure didn't hold back your strength, Astoria. We should have done this from the start. You and every bitch that idolize that bastard as some savior should all go to hell!" Istana Gleriath spat venomously.

Nevertheless, Istana Gleriath struggled to keep herself standing as healing magic wasn't her forte.

Ember Killian overheard everything as she arrived at their location and her eyes sharpened with more certainty of her suspicion.

"At first, I thought your behavior was just the grievance of a mother who lost her precious daughter. But no, it's way past that now. You've completely lost your mind, Istana," Ember Killian criticized sternly.

"No, should I say senile? Hmm, but that's not right either. You've definitely gone senile, but there's also a little something else," Ember Killian added with narrowed eyes. "Ah, yes. I think I know what it is."

"You must have tried to push yourself to the High Witch rank because you felt the end of your lifespan drawing closer. Did your Fire Magic backfire and fried your brain a little during your attempt or something?"

"I don't care how you feel about Headmaster Astoria; you should know better than to attack someone above your rank. I've already ignored it the first time. But the second time can no longer be considered a coincidence," Ember Killian stated.

"So what if you're right!? So what if you're wrong?!" Istana Gleriath retorted with a more hideous and sinister expression. "It doesn't change the truth that...!"

#### Chapter 129: Ember's Judgment

"It doesn't change the truth that you two had no intention of helping me exact my revenge if that bastard is still alive! But I'm sure of it! My instincts can't be wrong! That bastard is definitely alive!" Istana Gleriath spat as her hair turned partially grey.

Astoria Braveheart heaved a sigh before giving it some thought.

The sixth sense of a Senior Witch nearing the end of their lifespan might have some truth behind it.

After all, it was possible for Senior Witches to develop strange abilities near death.

While it was established that Senior Witches could live over three hundred years, there were instances when their lifespans could be depleted prematurely.

And those instances are when they burn their lifeforce to use magic.

In the Holy War with the Gehenna Realm's demons three hundred years ago, many of today's surviving Senior Witches were forced to burn their lifeforce in many instances during the great battle, whether it was for their own survival or for the continuation of humankind.

"If Vaan Raphna is still alive, that would be great. And even if he killed Isabelle Gleriath, I wouldn't persecute him. Teacher Raphna did our Blackmoon Academy a great favor by ridding that tumorous wench," Astoria Braveheart coolly stated.

"You bitch...!" Istana Gleriath gnashed teeth hatefully.

However, before Istana Gleriath could make another move on Astoria Braveheart, she was swatted to the ground by the large greatsword.

Pfft!

Istana Gleriath spurted another mouthful of blood.

"Don't forget that it was your daughter who caused Librarian Eniwse to go berserk! Librarian Eniwse, a Wise Scholar! Even if your daughter wasn't murdered, she would have received the death penalty to appease all the academics across the seven witch kingdoms who would be saddened by Wise Scholar Eniwse's loss!"

Astoria Braveheart kept Istana Gleriath planted on the ground with her large greatsword while criticizing her.

"You're wrong! It wasn't my daughter's fault! It was all that bastard's fault! Men are to be blamed! They are the root of all problems! I've said it before, and I will say it again!

If he didn't exist, none of this would have happened!"

Istana Gleriath howled madly.

Her fingers dug into the hard ground, splitting her nails and cutting her skin as her hands clenched, using all her strength to free herself from Astoria Braveheart's suppression.

Alas, Istana Gleriath's efforts proved to be futile.

"You can try to shift the blame all you want, but the truth won't change," Astoria Braveheart stated coldly.

"Teacher Raphna has contributed much more to the advancement of magic than your daughter ever would. Not only has she not contributed anything, she even caused us to lose talented people!"

"If your daughter was still alive, I would have cut her head off myself!" Astoria Braveheart claimed.

"Ptui! Fucking hypocrite bitch!" Istana Gleriath spat under Astoria Braveheart's greatsword. "Are those the words a Saint should be saying?! What a joke!"

"Oh?" Astoria Braveheart's eyes glistened with ridicule.

"I might be called the Battle Maiden of Holy Light, but the title of Saint isn't something I claimed for myself. That was a title given to me by others under the misconception of my kindness and impressive healing magic."

"You, of all people, should have known that. I guess old age has made your memory go bad, so let me help you jog your memory. For the continuation of humanity, I've picked up the sword and felled my fair share of demons during the Holy War."

"If not for my light-attribute mana giving me such a false image of holiness, perhaps a title like the Butcherer of Ten-thousand Demons would have been more fitting for me," Astoria Braveheart coolly stated.

"And that's why we get along," Ember Killian smiled at Astoria Braveheart as she inserted herself into their conversation.

"What a sorry mess you are, Istana. If I had to become like this when my lifespan is ending, I would have killed myself to avoid causing trouble for others."

Ember Killian shook her head contemptuously at Istana Gleriath's unsightly demeanor as she clawed the ground fruitlessly.

"You've caused enough trouble, Istana. And in case you've forgotten, you still have to answer for your own crimes. We may have caught the Assembly of Silent Night's lackeys together, but that doesn't make us friends."

"I will have you answer for the innocent lives that were lost by your reckless action of inciting the Dark Hellhounds," Ember Killian sternly stated.

"Heh, ptui!"

Istana Gleriath snickered disdainfully before spitting on Ember Killian's lower dress. And as a result of that action, Ember Killian kicked several teeth out of her mouth.

Shortly after, Istana Gleriath spat out some remnant broken teeth along with her blood.

"Did I strike a nerve?" Istana Gleriath continued to antagonize the two High Witches despite her pathetic situation. "You can only bully me like this because my strength is inferior."

"However, let me remind you stinky hypocrites who the Lord of the Blackmoon Region is, me! What I do with the people of my territory is up to me! You have no right to take punishment into your own hand! Your only job is to report what I've done to Her Majesty!"

After Ember Killian cleaned the stain off her dress with magic, she started to look at Istana Gleriath's unsightly appearance with a mixture of pity and disdain.

"I suppose three hundred years of ruling the Blackmoon Region have made you complacent about a lot of things, Istana. You are wrong about everything," Ember Killian stated.

"First of all, the people within the Blackmoon Region aren't your people; they are Her Majesty's people. They were entrusted under your care. And secondly, I can do more than just report to Her Majesty. As the Grand Inquisitor, I can execute anyone below my nobility rank as long as I have sufficient justification for doing so."

"But since you disrespected me, immediately death would be too easy for you. I'm bringing you back to the capital, along with the wolf-men, of course. I'm sure Her Majesty has a suitable judgment for all of you."

"That being said, you can forget about being a lord any longer. Someone else will become the new Lord of the Blackmoon Region," Ember Killian declared.

#### Chapter 130: Destination: Redpine City

Sometime later, a magic tool was used to handcuff Istana Gleriath and seal her magic.

After basic healing was cast on Istana Gleriath, Ember Killian glanced at the witches and aura users gathered near the castle's gate, not knowing what to do.

"Your lord has been captured and stripped of her lordship under my authority as the Grand Inquisitor! Do you all have a problem with that?!"

"No, Grand Inquisitor!"

After Ember Killian questioned them, the witches and aura users under Istana Gleriath denied it in unison.

Even if they had a problem with Ember Killian's decision, they didn't have the strength or courage to oppose her.

"What loyal retainers you have, Istana," Ember Killian mocked.

However, Istana Gleriath didn't respond. She remained silent and grew more gray hair by the moment. At the same time, her fair and smooth skin turned dry and wrinkly, turning her into an old lady.

Although no one truly knows the extent of witches' lifespans, one thing was certain. Once their supposedly eternal youth ends, turning them into old hags, their days are numbered.

Istana Gleriath was precisely undergoing such a change.

Usually, such a transformation would have happened much more slowly.

However, the process was sped up by healing magic which boosted Istana Gleriath's body's natural regeneration, draining her limited lifespan quicker.

Shortly after, Ember Killian started arranging her people for the departure, loading Istana Gleriath and the wolf-men under the castle onto the magic airship.

"Are you thinking about Vaan Raphna's possibility of surviving despite the death conclusion from the Senior Witches in your academy, Headmaster Astoria?" Ember Killian asked after noticing her pondering look.

"You've read through me, Marquis Ember. That's right," Astoria Braveheart nodded before saying, "If Teacher Raphna is still alive, it would be very great for humanity."

"However..." Astoria Braveheart glanced at Ember Killian.



"You don't have to worry about me. I won't report him to Her Majesty for killing a witch if he is alive," Ember Killian quickly shook her head before saying, "But if he did kill Isabelle, he still needs to be investigated. The way Isabelle died was questionable."

"That being said, all the details point to the work of a dark organization, not to mention there more branches of the Assembly of Silent Night hidden in the kingdom. Vaan Raphna's body could have been taken anywhere."

"I wouldn't pin my hopes on the words of a delusional hag, Headmaster Astoria," Ember Killian stated.

Astoria Braveheart understood Ember Killian's point and nodded.

It wasn't easy to fake one's death in front of multiple Senior Witches, not to mention with a gaping hole in one's chest at that.

"Although I've sent the word out to track down all the remaining forces of the Assembly of the Silent Night in the kingdom, my people will still need my strength and leadership to eradicate the remnant forces."

"So after returning to the capital to turn in the captives, I'll be heading back out to do exactly that. What about you, Headmaster Astoria? What will you do?" Ember Killian inquired.

"I am hoping to hitch another ride with you to the capital, Marquis Ember," Astoria Braveheart stated.

"More than a day has passed since my arrangement in the academy was made. The task I've passed to Senior Elaine should have been completed by now. Please wait for me. After I fetch the copy of Teacher Raphna's notes, I will follow you to the capital to see Her Majesty."

"If you are willing to wait for me further, I will follow you to eradicate the remnant forces of the Assembly of Silent Night. I might be able to learn more about Teacher Raphna from the higher-rank hunters of the organization."

"At the same time, I think my strength will be of great help to you. What do you think, Marquis Ember?" Astoria Braveheart sought her opinion.

"It would be reassuring to have you with me, Headmaster Astoria," Ember Killian welcomed her aboard the mission.

"The remnant forces of the dark organization have most likely retreated into Red Goblin Mountains if my information is correct. Your strength might be vital to this mission. Nevertheless, I still need to meet with my subordinates in Redpine City for a more accurate report on the situation."

"You wouldn't mind if we stop by Redpine City first, right?" Ember Killian asked.

"Not at all, Marquis Ember," Astoria Braveheart shook her head before asking forthrightly, "How can I have a complaint when I am getting a free lift?"

"Hahaha, alright. Then, let us meet at the airship in half an hour, Headmaster Astoria. That should be enough time to fetch what you want from the academy, right?"

"Definitely," Astoria Braveheart confirmed.

Shortly after, Astoria Braveheart departed from the city lord's castle and headed for Blackmoon Academy to see Senior Elaine.

After she disappeared from Ember Killian's view, Ember Killian turned her attention back to the city lord's castle to wrap up her business there.

"You over there, I believe your name was Eartha, right? You were the highest-ranking combat witch under Istana Gleriath, no?" Ember Killian inquired, singling out the witch from the mass.

"N-No—I mean, Yes, Grand Inquisitor! I am Eartha, the highest-rank combat witch under Lord Istana."

Eartha was stunned before replying with a stuttering voice, unsure if she was in trouble or not, which caused her to nearly lie to Ember Killian's face.

Nevertheless, Eartha chose honesty in the end.

"Good! From now on, you're the new city lord. The Blackmoon Region is yours to manage temporarily until an official lord is assigned to the Blackmoon Region. Do you have a problem with this arrangement?" Ember Killian coolly asked.

Eartha was stunned again before her eyes glimmered with multiple thoughts and emotions in the next moment.

Fortunately, she had chosen to reply honestly. Otherwise, she would have missed out on a golden opportunity!

"No problem, Grand Inquisitor! It will be an honor to manage the Blackmoon Region for Her Majesty," Eartha answered.

"Good to hear! I hope you do a better job than the previous city lord. Otherwise, you'll be hearing from me again," Ember Killian stated before instructing her people, "Let's move out!"

"Yes, Grand Inquisitor!" Ember Killian's people answered.