

Vile 221

[Chapter 221 - Unique Experience Pack](#)

"Win your bid by raising your bidding amount, mister. Not your voice. Hehe!"

The lady with the sweet voice berated the middle-aged man. And yet the man didn't find it in him to get angry with her. This was because her voice felt enchanting to anyone who had heard it.

The middle-aged man tried to raise the bidding amount. But every time he did that, it would be topped by the lady's newly raised amount. The middle-aged man smiled mirthlessly after realizing that the lady wasn't about to back down no matter what he did. So he gave up on the experience pack 01 and sat down by the table assigned to him.

The lady with the sweet voice won experience pack 01 in the end. She approached the girl still being carried by Dino on his shoulder. The guy saw that the lady was approaching them with a fervent look in her eyes and lowered Vivi down.

The girl tried to break free again. But with her drugged status and Dino's strong grip, she couldn't dodge the grim fate Eren had bestowed upon her.

"Um... Ronny. My ranking technique requires me to follow a certain procedure, you see. So I'll need a separate room to... do stuff with my experience pack. Don't worry though, the experience pack will not be altered much.

Will it be okay now to give me some personal space with my pack?"

The lady asked Ronny. To which he replied affirmatively:

"But of course, miss. Customer satisfaction is paramount to us. You will be taken to a separate room along with your experience pack. The expansion is included in the bid amount. So feel free to hear her cries. But no information sharing is allowed.

My guardian angel will keep an eye on you through her mana sense to ensure the experience pack stays intact after you are done with it. I hope you don't mind."

Eren said and gave a courtesy bow to his lady customer. He had a taller, more muscular visual profile when he was Ron Damien. So his bow didn't look as elegant.

"Sure. I don't mind. Mr D, lead the way."

Dino sighed and led the lady to a room while dragging Vivi. Eren didn't wait for experience pack 01 to be over. He started the bid for the next experience pack.

Experience pack 02 contained Luna. The conditions were mostly the same as the previous pack. But instead of the mana core, the pack dictated that Luna's mana circuits be harmed.

The expansion pack allows the buyer to break off Luna's limbs and flay the skin of both her arms. This time the expansion pack was won by the middle-aged man. He thought this pack was more suitable for him than the previous one. So he was glad he could save his money for the pack he needed the most.

The guy didn't need a separate room. He started indulging in his experience pack right then and there. Luna cried and screamed. But to the guy who was inflicting pain, her cries sounded like the sweetest melody he had heard in a while.

Soon the experience packs 01 and 02 were over with. Mr R. and Mr D. took the now-unconscious, ranking-status-wise wasted girls inside.

Other normal rankers might think Eren was cruel with his revenge even if they learn about his circumstances. But in his head, the butcher thought he dealt lighter punishments to the two girls who had a hand to play in his downfall in his previous life.

Through the experience packs, Eren had controlled the severity of the girls' suffering. As a consequence, only their ranking statuses were lost, aside from a bit of bodily harm. Having trauma was also the other type of suffering that wouldn't be visible.

But Eren couldn't care less about the girls' trauma. His whole previous life had been marked by the trauma Sienna and her friends inflicted on him. So it was only natural they would have a trauma of their own as repentance, as far as Eren's revenge was concerned.

It might seem that Eren had gone much softer with Ron and Dino. Eren, however, thought the exact opposite. These guys were the pawns he could easily dispose of. Instead of a one-time event, Ron and Dino's sufferings were going to be episodic.

The main event of the second half of the auction was saved for the very end. It was now Sienna's turn to get sold off as an experience pack.

"Ladies and gentlemen, this experience pack is truly unique. Not because of its contents. But also because of the subject included in the experience pack.

This featured girl is also a talented ranker of her generation. Her beauty knows no bounds. She has jet black hair and crimson eyes. Her oval face spells perfection. Her smooth and clear skin is so sensitive that it turns pink as soon as you touch it even lightly.

She is a fine specimen of how a ranker could be the epitome of excellence in every field one could think of. This experience pack features this special young lady, making it even more special than previously two packs combined.

Furthermore, she is a famous personality in the ranking community. I will not reveal her name or her origin to keep the excitement factor of the experience pack intact. But in the coming days, you will be shocked to know the identity of the person. So when that day comes, you will regret that you didn't get the experience pack should you choose to hesitate to buy it today.

The speciality of this experience pack does not stop there, however. For this pack, we are going to have multiple participants. Ten to be precise. That means each place will have its bid and we will select 10 people from you guys to unlock this experience pack.

What can you expect, you might ask. Well let me tell you, for this pack, we want an explosion of carnal desires.

Each of the ten people takes turns sexually pleasing themselves along with the subject in question. Everything sexual in nature is allowed as long as the subject doesn't die from it.

The experience pack will provide you with some personal carnal time with the subject through bidding. So the first place bid winner will get to enjoy the subject for the first time all by themselves. This up and close personal proximity is only for a limited amount of time. The experience pack will continue until the 10th placeholder is satisfied.

The requirement here is that you have to keep the subject active at all times in your adventures. The experience pack will last for three hours.

Fret not. All of you and the subject will be given the recovery potions. These potions would allow you to deliver your full potential while enabling the subject to last all three hours.

In the expansion pack, you will again be provided with some carnal time with the subject. But this time, all ten people will be summoned at once. I hope you know what that entails.

Isn't this experience pack 03 very exciting? It is open for auction now.

Let the bid begin."

Eren said out loud in Ronny's voice.. One could hear and feel a tinge of excitement in that speech somewhere.

[Chapter 222 - Consumer Culture](#)

"In the expansion pack, you will again be provided with some carnal time with the subject. But this time, all ten people will be summoned at once. I hope you know what that entails.

Isn't this experience pack 03 very exciting? It is open for auction now.

Let the bid for first place begin."

Eren said out loud in Ronny's voice. One could hear and feel a tinge of excitement in that speech somewhere.

"10,000 Extols."

"12,000 Extols."

...

...

The bidding value of first place began to escalate quickly. Eren couldn't help feeling a tinge of excitement as he conducted the auction.

'You like framing guys for rapes, right? Now you can legitimately make that claim against 10 of your bidders.'

Eren thought to himself. He felt that most of his grievances from the past timeline had been alleviated considerably. He did think of fu*king Sienna up pretty well. But every time he saw her, he would feel an almost uncontrollable desire to cut her into a thousand pieces.

Eren's hate for Sienna was too strong for him to even think of doing the deed she had accused him of doing. Her visage would send his blood rushing to his brain instead of towards his groin. That was because he couldn't find it in him to see her as a woman.

The bidding price for the first place was the highest. Then it slowly depreciated with each passing place. But Eren didn't mind. He was just happy raking Extols while having his vengeance.

Eren did not simply drug Sienna to make her unable to exert her ranking power. He had also administered her with a hallucinogenic that would induce panic attacks. Jake's father Jack brought him the potion, which Agatha delivered to him a few days before the plan started.

Eren didn't administer Sienna with an aphrodisiac because he didn't want her to feel joy while she was being devoured by those ten degenerate rankers. He wanted the experience to make a deeper mark on her psyche, just like the Recluse Rap*ist incident had happened to him.

The panic-inducing hallucinogenic potion he had administered to the scion of Slughorn would keep her senses intact for the most part. She would be aware of what was happening with her and around her. However, the potion caused her to see things exaggeratedly, triggering her sense of fear and alarm.

"What is this? Aaaaah!

Why are there monsters surrounding me?

Help, help.... Ken... help me... these monsters would kill me.

Help... someone...anyone..."

The experience pack 03 was unveiled in front of everyone. Sienna was pinned to the ground by the same middle-aged man who had won first place in the bidding. He beat her up a bit and made her scream before he could get on with the deed. Her scream was what gave him the hard-on in the first place.

Nine degenerate rankers surrounded the duo, waiting patiently for their turn. There were seven men and three women who had won the bid for experience pack 03. The lady with the sweet voice who had won the first experience pack was also among them. But she was a little disappointed because this was not how she wanted to enjoy her pack.

The lady was also thinking that she had seen the girl somewhere or read an article or two with her image. But she wasn't sure. Eren had already declared that the experience pack 03 would be special. As a result, she just assumed Sienna must be a rising star of her generation in Edinburgh.

Sienna kept screaming as she felt she was getting ra*ped by devils from hell and beyond. The emotional impact of being defiled was getting heightened even further by the hallucinogenic potion Eren had administered her.

The first place bidder was soon done with his deed. Sienna was given a vial of recovery potion by Eren to keep her in her sense.

Sienna was energized by the recovery potion as soon as Ron forcefully made her drink it. As a result, her suffering resumed and intensified even further with each passing bid winner.

Soon all the placeholders had their turns. Everyone took a breather to cool off and talked to each other while smiling. Eren served the participants snacks and drinks to please them even further.

To Eren, every participant who paid him Extols was his valued customer. He didn't even glance at the freeloaders, much less offer them snacks or beverages.

If he had his way, Eren would just put the freeloaders through the same form of torture as the one Sienna was facing. He would also curse their seven generations for wasting his time and resources. Scrooge in him was a staunch supporter of consumer culture after all.

Now that the default experience pack 03 was over, it was time for the promised expansion pack. The participants were energized and the subject was terrified. That was because she was seeing the devils eyeing her with their piercing gazes that spoke volumes about their hunger for more.

Sienna felt like dying was a better option than feeling the things she was feeling. She wanted to kill herself but the participants surrounding her would make sure that nothing of that sort happens. They had paid a hefty amount to the wretched auction organizer. Now they needed their money's worth.

Sienna would have settled for staying unconscious throughout the whole event. But Eren had made sure that every bit of pain and agony she feels by getting violated is etched onto her very soul.

The expansion pack unfolded just the way Eren wanted it to. He had already arranged a couple of refreshing rooms along with a few sets of basic amenities so that participants could clean themselves up.

Sienna was still awake. But she was now an empty husk of her former self. The formally arrogant-to-the-bones girl didn't even speak or cry anymore. Her tears had run dry.

Now she was looking blankly into the void as if wondering what had gone wrong in her life.

[Chapter 223 - The Slughorn Scandal](#)

Eren didn't forget to place a visual capture artefact that'd record the whole event in a 3D spectral format. It wasn't that he only wanted to look at his revenge-fulfilment trophy. It was only a part of the reason.

Eren was going to make multiple copies of the recording and sell them to the rest of the audience who couldn't participate in the event. He had already announced that the buyers would get to buy the recordings at a reasonable fixed price this time, sans the bidding format.

This wasn't because Eren was satisfied with the amount of Extols he made. Scrooge felt all the money he had collected so far was still not as much as he would like to be under his control.

However, he had another reason for spreading the visual content of this act. He wanted to sully the Slughorn name and damage its reputation. And what better way to do it than sell it to the degenerate rankers who would spread the captured content like an unstoppable wildfire.

Eren didn't just want to kill or put Sienna through a tough time as a form of his revenge. He wanted the entire Slughorn household to pay for the hell he had been forced to endure in the past timeline.

The Sluhorns needed to be brought down from their high pedestal. And publicising this act was the beginning of that plan.

Eren wanted to create a potion industry that would rise within the Edinburgh kingdom. But the potioneering market had been extremely saturated because of the big players like the Slughorns that had hogged the majority of sales and distribution chains.

If the foundation of the Slughorns were to be shaken, the house would face some loss on the market. And that would allow small-time potioneers like him to breathe a bit easier.

Eren had been coordinating with Jack for this very reason. Unlike the previous timeline in which he was prevented from making a living as a potion master, Eren wanted to dominate the kingdom's market one day with his potions and make a killing out of it.

Eren knew that this ill-publicity would not be enough to cause a huge loss in the market for the Slughorns. But it was a start. And this was just a bonus he had planned. The main price was the scar he'd leave on Sienna's conscience.

Soon the expansion pack was also over. And the participants were made to stop the act, lest Sienna becomes too much of a dead fish. It would defeat the purpose of torture if the subject stopped feeling pain.

Eren then handed the copied recordings, which were pebbles with runic inscriptions. These were all F-Rank artefacts of the three-star grade. Eren had already included the amount he had to put in buying the artefacts when he sold the recordings to his bidding audience. So he wasn't at a loss.

Eren knew nobody would recognize Sienna that easily. And he had made sure to keep her identity under wraps, lest the participants get chicken feet and run away from the bidding venue.

The butcher knew nobody would even dare to touch Sienna had they known who they were literally fu*cking with. This is why he gave her hallucinogens so that her thoughts would become too distorted for her to identify herself. And instead of keeping things completely wrapped, he just revealed enough information to make more bucks out of it.

Eren knew Sienna's recording would get so famous that it would be analyzed repetitively by a lot of experts. The participants who had won the bid and actively ravaged Sienna up ran the risk of getting their identity exposed even when they wore masks.

If that happened, the Slughorn household would make sure that all the degenerate rankers who had taken part in the event would pay with their lives and more. They would do this by actively hunting them throughout the kingdom.

Eren knew that two more people would also get hunted apart from the degenerate rankers. They were Edward Jener and Ron Damien AKA Ronny. He had already taken care of Edward by killing him off first. So that was an almost dead end. And he was going to burn his Ron Damien identity after this event.

The Slughorns weren't the only people Eren had to worry about. He knew he would be equally hated by the degenerate participants for painting targets on their backs. While being hunted by the Slughorns, they would try to hunt him with all their might. So Ron Damien had to disappear the way Edward Jener had been.

Eren sold all the recordings and bid farewell to his audience. Then he called Ron and Dino up and ordered them to do another of his bidding:

"Sell the remaining recordings on the black market. Make sure you sell it under the tag of Slughorn Scandal to make the buyers aware of what they were buying.

Don't use your regular contacts while selling the recordings in bulk and make sure you stay anonymous. This would be a one-time transaction. So try to get the most out of the deal. You'd get a 30% cut from this."

Eren handed Ron the recordings in a storage device and instructed him to proliferate the recordings to blow the Slughorn Scandal out of proportion. This was a countermeasure if the degenerate rankers somehow came to know about the real identity of the subject and decided to sit on their recordings.

Ron didn't want a 30% cut from the deal he knew to be too risky to continue. But he also knew that vile creatures like Eren and Ronny shouldn't be provoked. Especially when he was enslaved to them. So he sighed and nodded his head.

Eren also told the berserker boys that had turned into his goons to take Sienna, Luna, and Vivi from this site and drop them somewhere safer. The butcher wanted the ladies alive so that they could feel the agonies exacted on them by reliving them every time they closed their eyes.

Eren told Reen to destroy the entire house with her lightning element AoE she had copied from him. He didn't want a refund of his booking amount from the city administration anyway.

Reen's mana signature was convoluted. It would make it near impossible for any investigation team to use any historian or tracking related spells at the site.

Eventually, because of Reen's spell, the rankers nearby would come to check out the place. So he left the place with Reen as soon as she was done executing her spell.

'The Slughorn Scandal would become even more famous than the Recluse Ra*pist Incident. Hehe!'

Eren thought amusedly to himself as he travelled further away from another of his crime scenes.

[Chapter 224 - Rising Hunger](#)

A few days after the Slughorn Scandal.

Eren could be seen practising his ranking technique late at night inside his dorm room. He had assumed a meditative position with his eyes closed, tongues of lightning dancing over his skin.

Eren could feel that the technique he had been using was making him feel that it had become slightly incompatible with him. It did make him progress in his ranking journey. But he was starting to have a hard time following the steps mentioned in the technique.

Sometimes the mana points that the technique wanted him to activate would remain dormant. And other times, the mana would circulate faster than he needed to through his mana circuits, forcing him to start the sequence all over again.

And despite the slight incompatibility, his ranking journey had gotten fast-paced instead of slowing down. Tonight was no different either.

Before his transformation, Eren needed to spend at least three to four hours every night practising the technique perfectly. But post his transformation, he could be done with his ranking technique in an hour despite having to restart a few times.

Eren had first thought that the technique itself has a problem once the practitioner reaches closer to the upper stage of the F-Rank. It was known by rankers that a few techniques would speed up or slow down at a particular stage within the rank because of their peculiarity in channelling the mana through your body and strengthening the mana core. So the butcher drawing that conclusion wasn't surprising.

Eren hadn't practised a five-star ranking technique in his previous life after all. He didn't know what to expect. He never really linked the peculiar state he experienced while practising his running technique to his transformation at first.

But reading JJ Edgar's journal opened Eren's eyes to the truth that was in front of him. Indra's Levin was meant to be practised by pure humans. And he had ceased to be one when he transformed.

Edgar's journal had hypothesized that the demi-humans would not be able to practise ranking techniques. At least not completely. Or the way they should be practised. This was based on the fact that a human's position of mana points and mana circuits would be different from that of the demi-humans, because of the difference in their constitutions.

Eren connected the dots and realized that something similar was happening to him. And yet when Edgar's journal hypothesized that the techniques would be incompatible, it only created a slight discomfort for him. As if his body could deal with the incompatibility or mould itself up subconsciously to adapt to the technique.

Indra's Levin was completed just fine. And Eren was about to get up. But before he could do that, the mana started to circulate inside his body on its own and started activating the mana points on its own.

This was as if the mana had a mind of its own. Eren decided to cancel the plan of halting his technique and observed what was happening inside his body with keen eyes.

Eren could feel that whatever was happening to him right now was not detrimental. He could feel that the autonomous circulation of mana was even better at nourishing his body and mana core than the current ranking technique he was practising.

Minutes soon turned into hours. Eren had changed from technique-guided mana circulation to an autonomous one when it was over. He was hoping he could taste the incredibility of that small miracle once more. But alas, it turned out that he was being too greedy. Autonomous circulation did not take place.

'I have changed. Yet I feel like I haven't.'

Eren sighed and recalled only his body stats onscreen:

Name- Eren Elijah Idril (Verified)

Base Stats:

HP- 4.8 / 4.8

MP- 5.7 / 5.7

STR- 4.0

AGI- 5.0

INT- 3.6

BTP~ 23

BTP Visibility- Private

'Damn! My BTP rose again.'

Eren exclaimed to himself after seeing the autonomous mana circulation had shot up his BTP value. Now he just needed a little push to enter the upper stage of the F-Rank.

'This is way too fast even if I consider that the technique is five-star grade and I practise it diligently. It all must be due to my tra...'

Eren's chain of thoughts was cut by the extreme hunger he felt right afterwards. He felt like he could eat the food ordered for all his teammates all by himself if it was presented to him right now.

'What is this? What is happening to me?'

Eren asked himself as he caressed his stomach with his right hand to calm it down. He had never experienced his tummy making growling noises before.

Eren had eaten moderately all the time, this and in the previous timeline. He had never overindulged when it came to food. That was because he ate for sustenance. And his sustenance would be ensured after he had just the right amount of meals every few hours.

But the feeling of strong hunger Eren was feeling now had almost overwhelmed all his thoughts. It was to the point that he could now eat raw meat if it was offered to him.

The butcher immediately retrieved all the staple ration he had in his storage and started eating them. But his demon beast was one step ahead of him.

She had separated herself from Eren to let him practise his ranking technique without any disturbance. And she felt his extreme emotions of hunger as soon as he got out of the practice session.

Reen always had a stash of food with her when she used to feel hungry. And since she didn't have the abundance of stashed human nuggets in her storage all the time, the demon beast had opted to store good human food of every kind she had found interesting.

She immediately retrieved some high-quality beef steaks that had been grilled to medium-rare and offered them to Eren. The latter stopped eating dry food after he saw that his demon beast had produced a heavenly treat for him. He wiped away the dripping saliva from his mouth and started devouring the steaks as he had never had them ever in his life.

"See, Erni. Didn't I tell you before? Always stock up on good food."

Reen said smiling and started having a piece of steaks too.. The duo then had the steaks in silence, enjoying every moment of it.

[Chapter 225 - White Raven Shop](#)

"Brrrrrrrrgh!"

Eren produced a loud burp after eating his fourth steak. He felt full and content now that he had ample food in his stomach. He could think again.

"What was that? Fu*ck. I thought I was going to die from not eating."

Eren asked out loud to no one in particular. But Reen was there to answer him:

"Isn't it normal to feel hungry when you don't have food for a few hours? I find it strange that you ate so little before. This is the way we should eat, Erni. There's nothing wrong with this."

Reen told her master to make him feel comfortable. The latter smiled and patted her head before speaking to himself:

'Edgar's journal doesn't mention anything like this from what I've read so far.'

Eren thought before shaking his head. JJ Edgar was swinging in the dark when he wrote that journal. He couldn't possibly know the extent of effects one would feel or experience after being turned into a demi-human.

Eren had realized that this was Reen's trait that had been passed down to him ever since his transformation. Only now did he truly understand what Reen was used to feeling now and then when she was hungry. This kind of hunger would have driven him mad if he hadn't had his extended life experiences to keep him sane.

'No use thinking about it now. Anyway, hunger can be managed by simply eating enough food. It's not the most troubling side effect of my transformational change anyway.'

Eren decided to deal with one problem at a time. He already had a lot of fish to fry these days. He couldn't waste his time pondering over the fact that he would have bouts of hunger pangs from now on.

"Eren... is that you? How did you progress so much in such a short time."

Agatha asked her master as soon as she saw him. Agatha was staying in Jack's shop, where they were meeting.

Eren hadn't hidden his mana signature. So she could see a distinct difference. The latter just shrugged his shoulders before replying:

"Money and potions are enough to make miracles happen. Anyway, did you do what I had asked you to do?"

'This guy never shows all his cards even to his allies. His opponents would die in suspense.'

Agatha thought and sighed after realizing what kind of a person her master was. She then nodded at him before answering:

"I purchased a two-story building near Jake's shop with the money that you gave me. He helped us a lot with that. We utilized all of his channels and contacts to get the property confirmed.

I've bought the property in your name. You just need to attest the document with your mana signature."

Agatha had chosen a shop that was situated in a prominent location within the city of Lionhearts. The infrastructure of the shop was simple, elegant, and spacious. It had all the basic amenities and facilities.

Furthermore, the shop also featured an ample-sized underground room that was suitable for Eren's potioneering experiments and productions, should he choose to perform them here. This was one of the must-have requirements Eren had set for the shop when he had tasked Agatha. Needless to say, she did everything by the book and got him his first store.

The shop was meant to be used for Eren's potions that he would be selling over the counter. The anthope was ordered to buy a place near Jake's shop so that the potions' import and export would become easier.

Eren also had plans to buy a shop in the city of Laurel. It was blessed with an abundance of potion-related ingredients due to its herbs market after all. Agatha was supposed to go there once Eren had enough funds to make that happen.

Eren was getting poorer by the day even when he was raking Extols in abundance. But that didn't stop him from investing. He knew these investments were the gifts that would keep on giving once they've been set in place.

But that did make Eren more desperate for money. Even his pool of auction money was going to get dried up soon if and when he starts his business and tries to expand. He knew it was going to be a while before he started seeing profits.

Agatha handed Eren a scroll that had an array seal placed at its bottom. He read the document carefully before imbuing the contract with his mana. The array seal reacted as soon as it came in contact with Eren's mana. The seal changed itself and now had an intricate runic pattern.

Eren handed the document to Marla for further processing. She only needed to ask one thing from him:

"Congratulations, mas... master. You are now a proud owner of a two-story shop in the city of Lionhearts. Now you only need to come up with a name I can register the shop with."

Eren raised his eyebrows after he heard Agatha struggle with calling him a master. He replied nonchalantly:

"No need to call me master if you don't feel comfortable with it. It sounds cliched anyway. Just call me Eren.

About the shop's name. Hmm! I don't want things to be too complicated. Let's stick with White Raven."

Eren replied and started walking towards the exit. Agatha cursed herself for calling Eren master. She didn't want to. But something had come over her and subconsciously affected her.

When Eren came in contact with her, Agatha thought that her status as an anthrope was insignificant in front of him. The pseudo-mutagen elements coursing through her veins were feeling the inherent suppression of the higher being. And that suppression was was manifesting itself in her calling him master.

Eren thought of something before completely disappearing from Agatha's vision and turned back before saying:

"Agatha, make sure that you finalize the procedure as soon as you can. Soon there will be a shit-load of political storms happening all around us. We don't want to delay our plans by getting caught in them.

And you can start living inside the White Raven shop once the procedure has been completed. The top floor will be yours. I'll be leaving now.. See you soon."

[Chapter 226 - Marie](#)

"You can start living inside the White Raven shop once the procedure has been completed. The top floor will be yours. I'll be leaving now. See you soon."

Agatha was left to her own devices by Eren after he gave her permission. The latter didn't know what he was talking about. But she was sure about one thing. Her master had his fingers dipped in a lot of pies.

Eren met Jacke next and talked about some finer details about his next set of plans. The latter was happy to coordinate with him. Because by now he had realized that Eren was going to be an exceptional potion-master of his generation. It was always better to form cordial relationships now that he was still growing both as a person and as a businessman.

"Morning, teacher Levine. Congratulations on gaining your regressed ranking status back.

And I might add that you look more stunning than before."

Eren greeted his teacher before congratulating her for regaining her ranking prowess as a Master ranker. The latter hadn't released any of her powers. There was no sign of her mana signature or mana sense.

But Eren could feel that his teacher had gotten more mysterious than before. And he could subtly perceive a faint threat coming from her even when she did not do anything. This was akin to a beast-like perception that mana beasts were blessed with. For example, a wolf will never try to challenge the territory of a lion just because it was lying dormant.

Levine's physical features didn't change much. But now she had a youthful vibe about her. Her skin had regained its lost sheen and shade, looking healthy pink. Her dull hair had regained its shine. And her ample bosoms looked firmer than before.

Eren could see that the Master potioneer had gotten her youth back while extending her already long lifespan. Plus, he knew that this must have been just the beginning of her recovery period. By practising her original B-Rank ranking technique, Levine would turn the clock back on her bodily age.

Levine smiled graciously after hearing Eren's comment before replying:

"Morning Eren. I would have called you out for your glib-tongue if it hadn't been the fact that you have praised my looks even when I had regressed into a D-Rank. As if you knew I was going to get my rank status back. Good.

I have reentered B-Rank. But I'm still quite a bit away from resuming where I had been forced to leave off. *Sigh. Good things take time so I won't complain.

Anyway, are you ready for your lessons? I have so many things to talk to you about. And frankly so short of time. I might have to wrap things up with a few basic points and then give myself enough time to come back to my previous status."

Eren nodded before replying with a solemn tone:

"Of course, teacher. Your ranking journey should be of paramount importance to you. And as your disciple, I'd want you to be at your peak. I'm fine with my basics getting covered for now. That'll also serve as a test for you to decide how much you can teach me at my level."

"Indeed, Eren. I'm glad that you understand potion-making is not as easy as it seems. By the way, you are apprenticed under that lass Marla right?"

Eren was confused before nodding at Levine's question

"Um... yes. You don't have to worry about my apprenticeship schedule with Adept Marla. I'll take care of adjusting my routine as per your lectures."

Levine shook her head before explaining what she was trying to ask:

"I didn't ask because of your schedule. I was wondering to ask how Marla reacted when she found out that you had been accepted as my disciple?"

Eren got even more confused about Levine's line of questioning now. But he answered everything truthfully anyway:

"Well, she seemed shocked but didn't say anything after that. For some reason, she also knew that you were looking for Malva Hibiscus. You know each other personally?"

Levine smiled lightly. She closed the book she was reading and placed it on her desk. Then she poured a tea for herself while replying:

"I can imagine there was a bit of anger mixed with the shock as well. I don't know her as much as her sister.

Marie was or is Marla's elder sister. She served as my apprentice for a while.

Marie wanted to become my disciple. But I had rejected her after seeing her talent. It was better than the average. But it was not enough to make me take her as my disciple.

I had heard Marie had defected and became a cultist later down the line. But I had lost contact with her long before that.

So listening to you being taken as my disciple must not have been a pleasant thing to hear for Marla. I have met with her. She doesn't say it out loud. But she must think that Marie's defection could have been avoided had I taken her as my disciple."

Only now did the realization dawn on Eren. He remembered Marla sympathizing with Renar after he was done torturing him. And he also remembered how Marla had addressed Levine as an old vixen when he had first mentioned the Master potioneer's name to the close combat expert.

Eren's line of thoughts was broken by Marla's next words:

"You seem to be in your thoughts. Don't worry. I don't hold anything against Marie or Marla. Those two sisters were always close to each other. So I can understand my rejection would have put Marla in a foul mood as well.

I remember that lass Marla had an unhealthy obsession for elven ales. And it only worsened when she learned about her sister. Does she still get hammered on those ales?"

Eren could only smile mirthlessly after affirming Levine's guess. As it appeared, Marla had the same idea of drowning her sorrows in her drinks. Marla of now and Eren of the past both were trying to find a cure in booze when it didn't solve anything in reality.

But that realization has never been enough to stop the heavy drinkers anyway.

[Chapter 227 - White Raven Ale?](#)

"I'll give you a stock of my elven ales. Instead of a debuff, this elven ale carries a buff that can nourish her constitution. Give Marla a bottle of my stock. *Sigh. That lass can't be cured of her addiction anymore. We can at least try to channel it differently."

Levine retrieved two bottles of elven ales from her storage space and handed them to Eren. It was clear that the other bottle was for him to relish in. Eren wasn't interested in the intoxicating effects of the ale. But he wanted to try the effects of the buffs the drink can grant him.

"Teacher Levine, you keep calling Adept Marla as lass and she is old. How old does that make you?"

Eren asked without thinking after he retrieved those bottles and immediately regretted it. That was because it seemed that the atmosphere around him suddenly started turning colder.

'Damn it. I should never ask these old female rankers about their age.'

Right after, Eren praised Levine's beauty with a glib tongue. Even with his skill with words, it took him a while to pacify the Master potioner. He tried changing the subject with another question just to be safe.

"Teacher, are there elven ales with buffs as well? Why are they not known or get sold at liquor shops then?"

Levine narrowed her eyes on her disciple as if she was still pondering if she should forgive him or not. She knew he had brought up the question to change the subject. But she answered anyway:

"Of course. There are a few elven ales that come with their own set of buffs. Some can give you a pleasant high and help you circulate your mana through the mana circuits better, making them sought-after drinks to be had just before you start your daily practice of ranking technique.

Some can give temporary buffs that can increase a particular set of your body stats. While the other can help you cast spells better by exciting your mana points. The only drawback of elven ales as compared to the normal potions is the fact that they affect your senses. So they are not ideal for on-field operations."

Eren listened carefully. He had never given a second thought to a relatively expensive yet common beverage within the Edinburgh kingdom. He had taken it for granted in both his lives. There were so many wondrous places, items, and more in the world of rankers. So something such as elven ales, even with their logic-defying effects, could be referred to as common. At least that's what Eren had thought.

Eren had intended to ask the questions just to save himself from the heat. But he couldn't help becoming curious about the Elven ales as a result of the question he posed and the responses he received.

"Teacher Levine, how do they make elven ales? Can anyone make them?"

Levine chuckled lightly by pressing her palm against her mouth before replying:

"The elven ales are easy to drink if you are someone rich with connection. But they are not easy to make.

Why do you think they can only be made by elves? It's not like humans haven't tried to produce ales with the same type of buffs or debuffs. And some came close. However, they remained nothing more than cheap imitations.

The elf potioners guard the recipes of their elven ales with their lives and only pass them down within their families or other elves. It is almost impossible for us to get the recipes from them.

Well, some humans did succeed in illegally obtaining the elven ale recipes. But then they would just mysteriously disappear somewhere. We can conclude what must have happened to them and who was behind them."

Eren raised his eyebrows after he heard more information about the peculiarity of eleven ales. Levine's answers had birthed more questions for him

"Why do human potioners can't produce or completely imitate a potioneering product no matter how fancy it may seem? Or come up with our versions of the ales? Do we lack talent in our field than the Faeruns?"

Levine shook her head after hearing Eren's question. She drank a sip from her poured tea and explained to her disciple:

"It's the racial difference between us. I hate to admit it but the field of potioneering is dominated by the elves because of their inherently higher proficiency in the way of the elements.

It's not a concept you could understand even when I explain it to you. It's something you feel personally. Only that can make you understand the way of the elements.

The recipe is only one part of it. The concoction of elven ales is heavily dependent on the potioneer's understanding of the way of the elements.

Since elves are better than us in that ranking field, our concoction stays as a poor counterfeit while theirs become a sought-after drink throughout the kingdom."

Eren pondered over everything that was explained to him by Levine while caressing his chin. He suddenly remembered that he wasn't a complete human anymore. Considering his newly acquired status as a non-human, he wondered whether this would facilitate his progress in the way of the elements. And if that in turn could allow him to concoct potions and ales that weren't normally possible for humans.

'Can I succeed in making my variant of an eleven ale?'

Eren had this thought and it started to take root in his mind. If he could make his version of elven ale, the elves wouldn't have any bones to pick with him.

Additionally, the humans would think that the ale was made by them. As such, they'll at least try to buy the product as an encouragement to him and to show the elves that they weren't lesser than them.

What if he could use such a novel ale as his USP for the White Raven shop? If that was possible, it would give him the confidence to create his space in the potioneering market.

Eren knew this was a long-haul project that couldn't be achieved overnight. He had never studied potioneering past F-Rank after all. So he didn't know how to incorporate a potioneer's understanding of the way of the elements into the concoction.

'Let's cover the basics first before I even think of something grand-scale like this.'

Eren resumed his conversation with Levine after he had that thought.. This was the time for him to learn a few things about potioneering from the Master potioneer.

[Chapter 228 - Bend The Rules](#)

Eren resumed his conversation with Levine after he had that thought. This was the time for him to learn a few things about potioneering from the Master potioneer.

Both only had about a week before Levine wrapped up a few things and went into isolation. So Eren thought of making the best use of his time by halting everything else apart from his daily practise regime and focusing on the potioneering.

He would come to meet Levine every day and she would start teaching him from morning till late evening. The latter was focused on sharing all that she thought Eren could make use of on his current level.

He first asked about all the information Levine had about the elven ales. The latter only knew about some finer details but she explained to him all that she had on the subject.

Then Levine started explaining to her disciple about various things to consider when performing potioneering at his level. She gave him her take on his way of doing things in processing herbs, purifying ingredients, and the actual concoction process.

The Master ranker also shared a bunch of her old notes with her disciple, telling him not to share with anybody. He nodded and kept them aside before asking

"Teacher, are you going into isolation immediately?"

Levine massaged her head and made a face that said she was irritated before replying:

"I want to. But someone has spread the rumours in the academy that I'll be conducting a test to take a few students in as my apprentices. Now LA wants me to conduct a test.

They said I can reject everybody if I didn't like any of them. But I have to organize a test event at least. I swear if I find those idiots who think a Master ranker is free enough to run behind a bunch of teenagers, I'll skin them alive."

Eren maintained a blank face the whole time after hearing Levine's threat but his mana signature fluctuated a little. That was enough for Master ranker to look at him with a questioning guess

"Eren, you know something about the event?"

Eren scratched his chin and nodded his head before speaking up

"Um... yes. Kinda. I also had heard about the rumour so I thought of sending my friend here for a test. Will that be okay?"

Eren tried to use the bullshitry on Levine to hide his involvement in the case. It was him and his berserker goons that had spread the rumours to lure Sienna along with all the rich kids. Now that rumour was about to bite him in the arse.

Eren could have two more days to learn from Levin if she wasn't influenced by LA to conduct the test. But given the choice, Eren would still have spread the rumours. it was a crucial step in his plan after all.

Now he just needed to deal with the aftermath.

That's why he gave off the impression that his subtle mana fluctuation was due to him wanting his friend to get selected. Thankfully, it worked in his favour as Levine seemed to have found an answer to her time-consuming chores.

"That's fine, Eren. As my disciple, you can conduct a simple test on my behalf. The qualifiers would be those from my lectures

And select the ones that you want. Just ensure that they are decently talented in order not to make it obvious that the competition was rigged. Hehe!"

Levine didn't care about who was made her apprentice. It was the academy's tradition to send students into apprenticeships. But she didn't care about that tradition.

The Master ranker had only wanted her lab chores to be done by her apprentices. She didn't assign them any more assignments. So it was a nice gig for potioneer students as well.

Marie was selected as Levine's apprentice for the same reason. The potioneer didn't care much about Marla's sister.

This was another subtle difference between rankers and cultists. The cultists knew how to break the rules. But the rankers knew how to bend them to their advantage without breaking them. Levine and Eren were no different in that regard either.

"Alright, teacher. I'll conduct a test with the help of the lab-in-charge assigned to you. I'll select my friend Jake as your apprentice. He can maintain your lab and do lab chores for us just fine. If you are alright with it of course."

"Hehe! Why would I not be? We'll get to discuss some more topics that way in the next two days without me spending my time regulating a test that was created based on a false rumour."

Eren spent the next two days with Levine, discussing some more potion-related stuff. Levine had provided a lot of study material to him. Now that his brain was loaded with so much relevant information he hadn't heard in the past, he needed to spend a great deal of time practising the art.

Levine went into seclusion off LA grounds after those two days were over. She made the arrangements for Eren to organize a test and select Jake as her apprentice.

Eren wanted Jake with him so that the guy could help him in his potioneering as his go-to henchman. He was going to use Levine's lab in her place. So whenever he was busy in his potioneering session, Sullivan Jr. would be there to support him and his concoction.

Eren was sure Jake would be happy that he was going to get selected as a Master ranker's apprentice. His father would feel the same too, thinking that it was all Eren who must have put forward his son's name.

Eren was happy to give the man that impression even when he did it for his sake. He needed Jack's help for his plans after all. The happier the businessman was, the better it was for him to ask him for favours.

[Chapter 229 - Aftermath Of Slughorn Scandal](#)

The Slughorn Scandal came out in the open in a few days.

Eventually, everybody had come to know that Sienna Slughorn was involved in a grim cultist incident as a victim. There were also some rumours of two more LA female students involved but their names weren't much known or discussed. Because Sienna hogged all their attention.

The entire incident was now blamed on Edward Jener. Rumours about him being involved in cultist activities had already been spread by Eren's berserker goons. Plus, the way Eren handled the whole thing while shapeshifting Edward strengthened those rumours even further.

The Slughorn household was incensed. It had found Sienna in a poor state just outside the city of Nilaami. They tried to suppress the news in the fear of their name getting tarnished. The extensive content Eren recorded on that day eventually ensured that one of the most prominent business tycoon houses of the kingdom wouldn't be able to keep things under wraps for long.

LA had also tried to suppress the incident, lest it gets blamed for neglecting the students' safety. But the captured content started getting circulated within known and hidden ranking communities and that's when all the hell broke loose.

The Slughorn household tried to change the identity of that person captured in the content to someone else. But the various experts in the field came out in secret saying that the content wasn't doctored and it was indeed Sienna.

The Slughorn household refused to confirm the mass suspicion, still insisting that it was Sienna's lookalike. However, it also blamed LA for being careless about Vivi and Luna, who until now were hardly known by the masses despite being victims of the same incident.

LA had tried to play it cool at first. But after hearing Slughorn House's accusations, it stopped doing it. It came clean with everything that it had found out about the case so far.

As per the academy's investigation, Edward Jener had defected to the cult while serving as a lab-in-charge. The academy apologized for this "fact" openly and assured the masses that the mistake won't be repeated.

But LA didn't stop there. Since it had admitted to Edward being a cultist, it had no qualms about saying what it had found out about him so far. The report concluded that the guy had been receiving bribes from students.

LA also stated that Edward Jener was bribed by Sienna Slughorn to alter her lab tests. She along with Vivi, Luna and a bunch of other rich students had been gathered by LA's rogue lab-in-charge to get bribes from them. And all of them had travelled to the city of Nilaami voluntarily to participate in that "fundraiser".

This news sparked a huge storm in the kingdom. The Slughorns regretted blaming everything on LA. But the deed had been done. Slipping back from their stance was not beneficial. Thus, they continued to maintain their facade.

This act affected the Slughorns' business heavily. But in their defence, the incident was going to affect their business anyway. They just made it more difficult by trying to pick a bone with LA.

Edward Jener and Ron Damien were declared as the most-wanted criminals by the Edinburgh kingdom. Both were declared to be closely linked with each other, working in the shadows for the Beast Bloods.

As a result, Beast Bloods also emerged as one of the most talked-about cultist organizations within the kingdom. But Slughorns weren't happy with just that. Both of Eren's aliases were designated for separate anonymous bounty payouts.

The Slughorns had also activated their underground channels to know more about anything related to the two guys, Beast Bloods, and anything linked with the Slughorn Scandal.

Slughorns eventually started zeroing in on the degenerate participants who had taken part in the incident. The famous potioneering house couldn't officially declare the bounty on these characters as they had decided to stay firm on their stance that the girl in the recorded footage wasn't Sienna.

So just like what they did with Edward and Ronny's cases, they declared big bounties on the degenerates anonymously.

The kingdom-spanning manhunts began in every direction. A lot of adventurer's guilds, famous parties, and private mercenaries had been roped in eventually. It became difficult for the degenerate rankers to stay in the shadows and save their hides.

They all blamed only one person: Ron Damien AKA Ronny. They used their organizations to start pursuing leads on Ronny so that they could catch him first before rankers and whip his ass.

Ronny had fuc*ked with both the rankers and the cultists. So his name, appearance, and other subtle details recorded by the eyewitnesses quickly got well-known.

Being pursued by so many people at once had to produce some results. The masses soon found out that Edward Jener was seen at Grand Hiyat some days back. He had been a patron of the place for a night and he had shown up here with a girl that had no background.

The rankers suspected that the girl was the point of contact between Edward Jener and Ronny, which resulted in Reen's Elena-like alias getting known to the public as well.

It took only a few days before another news reached peoples' ears that one of the degenerate rankers who was involved in the Slughorn Scandal had been hunted. The unknown bounty hunters had made a "blood eagle" out of him to make a statement, as suggested by the Slughorns.

And this was only the beginning. Soon more of these stories started popping up. The crime rate in the kingdom also increased because rankers started using the Slughorn Scandal incident as an excuse to do their dirty work. They would kill the person that they had wanted to kill and blame it on the bounty hunters who were out for the degenerate cultists.

The Edinburgh kingdom observed that the increased crime rate was related to Slughorns blowing things out of proportion. This was due to the crazy money they had started to pump into their underground channels. So it decided to suppress the house by raising taxes on its potion production under some silly economical excuse.

As a result, the Slughorns had to increase their prices of potions by a small margin.. But it was still enough for people to badmouth the house for its greedy nature despite the problems it was facing.

[Chapter 230 - \[Bonus \] Dumbfounded Roody](#)

Eren's stunt had damaged the Slughorn house more than he had anticipated. And it was now on the back foot because of the Edinburgh kingdom standing against it.

The house finally understood the message the kingdom wanted to convey with its actions loud and clear. It stopped pouring money into the underground network and decided to wait a while. It was going

to be a long while before the dust settled in for the Slughorns. That is if they don't get dragged into another storm by a certain shapeshifter who had screwed them big time.

Three months after the Slughorn Scandal.

Nothing much had changed since the scandal became general knowledge among the rankers and cultists of the Edinburgh kingdom. The rankers were still hunting the cultists and the two people who were directly involved. The cultists were also hunting those two people in secret while staying in the shadows.

The two sides were again placed in front of each other. And another series of cold wars had begun. But since it was a cold war, it had stopped being apparent. Now both sides fought in the shadows, and their battles took place in the dark.

The reason behind this whole incident was now facing another of his inter-year ranking wars. And he didn't seem worried at all.

The Slughorn Scandal had created a huge sensation in LA too. A lot of rich students had been forced to leave the academy or they had gotten out voluntarily. One could hear all of them cursing only one name under their breaths: Edward Jener.

The guy had not only taken their bribe once or twice. He had also organized a fundraiser event to make them cough up Extols for something that he couldn't control at all.

Bue Edward didn't stop there. He also got himself involved in cultist activities. And fuc*ked one of the few entities in the kingdom that shouldn't have been fuc*ked. And by doing that, he had also widened their holes because of his association with them.

The rich kids and the families behind them were angry at Edward Jener and all those he had been presumed to be associated with. But since LA had played it safe and came clean in not defending its lab-in-charge, it was only natural for it to persecute the other students who were involved in the bribery as well.

It had started kicking those rich students out of the LA grounds who were involved in the incident out after confirming their involvement. That's why to save their skin, the other kids had decided to leave the academy themselves to salvage any further losses.

LA stopped pursuing the students who had left the premises after their voluntary exit. That's how the entire group of first-year students almost became clean of its parasitic student rankers.

The butcher's act didn't only cause destruction. It had also brought other lesser privileged students some breathing room now that the game of talent was hard-reset again.

Eren didn't care or find pleasure in the fact that some of the hard-working students were low-key celebrating the Slughorn Scandal. He hadn't done what he did for them anyway.

Eren and his team were standing in front of their opponents. It was Roody's Wreckers. And no, it wasn't a coincidence. Roody had used his "right to battle" pass against Eren's team to summon it on the battlefield against him and his team.

"Eren Idril, long time no see. Did you find joy in beating my team when I was forced to stay out of it? Did you enjoy beating my teammates when they were down?"

Tell me, Eren, what are you expecting from this match? Do you have any hidden battle passes that I don't know about? Hehe!"

It was clear that Roody had been keeping tabs on Eren and his team. The butcher was busy in his pioneering sessions. He had focused most of his time on honing his elementary skills. So he had to obviously neglect the ranking matches and the battle points.

His ranking in every field dropped. And because he did bare-minimum matches with absolutely no surprising moves or stunts, he didn't earn any battle pass.

Eren's teammates had been in the same boat as him. That was because the butcher had assigned specific goals to work on. They were working almost as hard as he was on their schedule.

If Eren couldn't earn a battle pass during this period, there was no point in talking about his teammates doing something like that. They also did their compulsory matches and became part of the bare-minimum gang of students.

Roody's snarky remark was a testament to the fact that he knew that Eren's team couldn't pull any more magic tricks this time. The guy was waiting for his first-year opponent to admit his wrongdoings because of encroaching despair.

But Eren surprised him yet again. For the worse.

"What are we expecting?"

Hmm. We are expecting to lose this battle, of course. Our chances of success are non-existent without the right battle passes.

Why did you ask that though? Do you think we are delusional? Or do you expect us to be some sort of protagonists from cliched novels to make us stand above the rest no matter what?"

Roody still had the same smile plastered on him that he had flashed at the start of the conversation. But that smile somehow looked to be in a sorry state because of Eren's blunt and honest reply.

Orton Jr. raised his hand and pointed at Eren to say something. But he didn't have words to describe what he was feeling. He found joy that the opponent that had shamed him and his team in the last inter-year ranking war in front of his second-year buddies was now admitting openly that he and his team were inferior.

But there was no despair or shame in Eren's voice that he was expecting. It sounded like he was just saying the usual things. Like two plus two equals four. And in this case, it was.

But that didn't stop Roody from being dumbfounded by Eren's nonchalant expression.

