

## Vile 31

### Chapter 31: The Most Un-Ranger-Like Ranger

“Isaac!”

“Ralph!”

Lin quickly approached Ralph’s body. He didn’t touch the cadaver for the fear of disturbing the crime scene and making the historian’s job difficult.

But Lin observed the clothes and skeletal structure closely, confirming the body’s identity for good. He did the same for Isaac’s body. And only then did he stop in his tracks and close his eyes.

Lin’s party members and Nina could see Lin getting emotional over the bodies. They figured he knew them personally. So they didn’t disturb him.

Sometimes all a man needs to deal with his grief is some uninterrupted quiet time!

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Lin Karr was not a regular party leader of the party he was currently leading. He had a close connection with Osan Braveheart Hunters’ Association. That’s why he was given free reins to act within the association serving as a regulatory officer. In exchange, he would take up the association’s sensitive missions, ensuring they reach their ideal conclusions. Likes of which he was currently involved in.

Lin Karr served as a regular lecturer at the LA academy. He just had taken a break from that profession to look for opportunities that would allow him to continue his ranking journey.

But Lin wasn’t the only one that belonged to the LA academy, the academy Eren was soon going to get enrolled in. There were a few students of the academy as well, currently serving as fast food for the vultures.

That’s right. Isaac’s party was made by last year students of the LA academy. They had come here to complete their on-field experience program.

Ralph Karr was the son of Lin’s elder sister. His sister had divorced her husband and retained her family name. Ralph carried the name Karr as a result of being with her. He was Lin’s family.

Ralph was a very bright man. He was smarter than most people his age. His IQ and EQ both were top notch. And his ranking journey had started smoothly. In short, he had all the qualities that were needed for someone to keep on breaking through their ranks.

Ralph was the one Eren referred to as the smartass. He was also the last one to get killed by the latter.

Isaac was the reason the group had come to the city of Osan to complete their on-field experience program. Isaac Osan was the grandson of Isen Osan, the current city lord of the city of Osan.

Isen also served as a baron in the kingdom of Edenberg. Therefore the city lord’s title became hereditary to his family.

Why would you look for some other place when you have your grandfather helping you out with your assignment? Isaac, therefore, had come home and brought his friends along to make their life easier as well.

But this only lasted until Lin came to the city of Osan for his work. When Lin saw that his academy's students were just lazing around under the guise of the on-field experience program, he was just inches away from requesting for the involved students' expulsion.

Lin would have proceeded further to apply for an expulsion even when he knew the group had his nephew Ralph within it. But Isen intervened and put some pressure on him. In the end, both the parties had to settle for a compromise.

Isaac and his friends would have their grades lowered for the program by Lin. They will also have to take the program seriously and serve as regular hunters in the Osan Braveheart Hunters' association.

Lin served as a regulatory officer in the Hunters' association. So it was easy for him to keep an eye on these brats who were looking to skip hard work.

Then the Osan woods disturbance started. The city and kingdom sanctioned missions were starting to get distributed. Isaac's party was allowed to select the simplest mission they could find. Lin wanted them to work hard but not die doing it, after all.

Isaac's party was only supposed to enter the woods from the northern side, trace the map that they had been given, and reach Simar lake while observing the altered patterns of demon beasts population that they found in their way. The northern side of the forest was relatively less chaotic than other parts during the disturbance.

It was the simplest form of on-site data collection mission. No big deal right?

But Isaac managed to f\*ck that up too. He was the party's ranger. He led his friends to a different route, and eventually to their deaths.

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Coming back to the present.

When Lin realized who these corpses belonged to, he was feeling multiple emotions at the time. First, he felt guilty for making the students take their experience program seriously.

Second, Lin felt extreme grief for the death of his highly talented nephew.

Third, he cursed Isaac and his whole family for being so careless and incompetent. That birdbrain was the party's ranger. He had one f\*cking job. But he had led his friends to this site, in the middle of b\*tt f\*ck nowhere.

Lin had seen the route the party was assigned to. They were nowhere near that route when they decided to come here.

How un-ranger-like a ranger has to be to choose this route? Lin thought the world should now have a scale from Isaac 1 to Isaac 10 to describe the worst lot of rangers, with Isacc 10 being the guy's replica!

And finally, fourth, Lin felt some repercussions coming his way and the back of his neck felt cold at the thought of it.

Lin was the one who had insisted on the group completing their program sincerely. But he never thought that Isaac's party would manage to die even on the simplest of missions in the whole disturbance. Not just die. This was a complete party wipeout.

Even if it was the ranger's mistake, Lin will be blamed now for all their deaths at this stage. And no matter what explanation he gave and how logical they sounded, it wouldn't lessen the amount of sh\*t that was heading his way.

'I shouldn't have let Ralph mix with this birdbrain. This was all my fault for not intervening in their friendship sooner.

Ralphy, no matter how smart you were in other aspects, you were f\*cking terrible in choosing good friends.'

Lin thought all that when he had his eyes closed. When he opened them up, the D Rank hunter had gained his clarity back. He made his way back to his party and told them about the bodies' identities.

Lin's party and Nina were shocked by Lin's revelation. Isaac Osan had died in this area. They had heard about the city lord's grandkid attending the LA academy. They weren't aware the kid was taking part in missions related to Osan wood's disturbance.

The party first secured the area. Then they let the historian find clues about the incident with his skills. They were sure that the unknown person who came with Dom might have had something to do with this. It was through following his trail did they come across the gruesome sight.

The historians had some of the weirdest spells. It was thanks to one such spell, the party was able to see the condition of the bodies right after they died if the bodies are not older than a certain period. The spell would simply project the visuals right over their dead bodies.

The party members could now see the bodies' immediate conditions postmortem. But when the group got to Selena's visuals, they had goosebumps.

Selena died with her larynx in her hand. But in the end, she smiled!

Each member thought that she was looking at them when she smiled. Like she was peeping into the future and mirthlessly smiling at them, ridiculing their efforts of finding the one responsible for this event.

"Which vile creature kills in this way? Handing the larynx of its victims to their hands!"

Nina couldn't help but ask this question, to nobody in particular. Another from the team continued that line of thought:

"And this Ralph kid also died a horrible death. He must have died last, judging his position away from the rest of the bodies.

I think the killer had a score to settle with Ralph. He killed the kid by making him experience his head getting crushed right after witnessing his friends getting killed in front of him. That too when the kid was clearly in a begging position to make them spare his life.”

“Peter, why don’t you shut your mouth for a while and keep the analysis to yourself. We have a historian in our team. Let him finish his work first.”

One of the ladies in the group named Ela admonished Peter for saying those things out in the open about Ralph whose uncle was now present among them at the time. Peter immediately shut his mouth after that.

“No point mincing words at this point...”

The historian finally said while looking in the air and thinking about something:

“Peter’s analysis is right. It is almost spot-on. But I’m not sure if a person killed these guys!”

“What do you mean?” Lin couldn’t help ask this the historian!

“Well, I can’t see most of the details. But... what I AM sure about is that there’s a demon beast involved at the crime scene!”

### **Chapter 32: Wrong Ideas**

“There’s a demon beast involved at the crime scene.”

The historian finally dropped the truth bomb on everybody. The members were stunned first, before feeling puzzled and then horrified when they all arrived at a single conclusion:

‘Someone has tamed the demon beast and is now on a killing spree.’

It was a very grim piece of news. The person that tamed the demon hadn’t come out in the open yet. That narrows down the status of that person even further.

That person was a rogue entity.

“Is the tamer the same person we’ve been following the trails of?” One of the party members asked the historian.

“Not sure. It looks that way but it is difficult to tell at this point. And even after using my unique Truth-Seeking Goggles, I could only barely follow that person’s trails. So trying to see anything more will be a fruitless endeavour.”

“Did the beast kill these young kids?”

“Not sure about that either. I get no human aura that gets attached to the dead bodies if they die unnaturally by that human’s hands. I can only sense a C Rank demon beast.

But this is not a work of a demon beast. At least we hope it’s not. The killings are too savage and brutal with absolute precision in them. If a C Rank beast uses their power THIS precisely, we are in a soup of our own.”

“Damn it. So we don’t have anything to go on. How are we going to report all this?”

Peter voiced his frustration. Ela continued:

“For now, we should focus on preserving these bodies so that we can give them a proper burial in the city’s burial grounds. All the bodies can be processed for emergency burial, except one. Isaac’s. I’m sure the city lord will conduct a procession for his last rites.”

Everyone present at the scene was a veteran hunter by now. They knew death was part of the deal in their line of work. The entire world was riddled with so many risks, no matter which profession you choose. But their job took the cake of being one of the riskiest.

Therefore, as a hunter goes through life and death crises time and again, they become immune to the mortality around them. Or to more be precise, as immune as they could get without getting washed over by emotions.

Even Lin recovered from this event shortly afterwards. And this was despite the fact that he knew the students personally with one of them even being his nephew. His last thought about their deaths was his well-being and how he can get away from any possible repercussions.

Lin’s party knew this incident would now be prioritized over everything else by the city lord. Even they, the finders of this crime scene, would be grilled for a while.

Therefore, everybody needed to get their stories in check even when they were speaking the truth. The party decided on their next set of plans. And it did so by standing right in the middle of the crime scene. Without caring about the bodies or the smell.

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Meanwhile, at aunt Nina’s apothecary!

Dom Walker was walking oddly and nakedly in the open space of the house’s ground floor. It was so odd that one would replace his ‘Walker’ surname with ‘CrabWalker’.

The spectators would even overlook the fact that Dom was naked after witnessing his inhuman stride.

He was making steady progress though. At least today, he didn’t try to plop or skate his way towards Eren who was standing at the far end of the open space.

Dom Walker wasn’t walking the earth again. Sadly, there were no second chances for him in this world. It was Reen shapeshifted into Dom’s form. She had been practising bipedal walking under Eren’s guidance.

But that was not all.

“Erooon. Cooooooo.. mi... ngyaaah!”

Reen spoke some gibberish in Dom’s voice. The first word was probably her calling out Eren by his name. He wasn’t sure about the second word she had spoken though.

“She can walk and run fine after another two days. But she’ll be busted as soon as she opens her mouth to speak. There’s no quick solution for that. I’ll need to keep her mouth shut for the operation.”

Eren scratched his beardless chin. He was thinking about his plan to frame Dom in everything that he has done so far. He needed to take steps carefully while ensuring there are no loopholes.

Guiding Reen wasn't that difficult. Eren only needed to send his thoughts as feedback on her progress and she would show improvements in her next attempts.

He also told her to coat his entire body and walked the space while being in that coating, looking like a devil that became the grim reaper of Isaac's party. He had asked her to pay attention to every muscle contraction and expansion that happens in the bipedal walk when he does it. And now he just asked her to mimic everything.

Reen would get most things right but end up missing a few. But that too was slowly being ironed out by both their efforts.

For her language training, Eren decided to speak his words while sending thoughts her way at the same time. And he told her to do the same whenever she wanted to communicate. And he'll correct it whenever she'd make mistakes. That way, she'll grasp the language quickly.

There was no chance of miscommunication even if Reen doesn't quickly understand the meaning behind a certain word Eren says or misspells a word to him. The thought sharing channel was still open between them.

"Reen, just break down your words if you can't speak them in one go. Just say Er first and then En. Same with Coming. Try saying Co, Mi, and Ng first before thinking about joining them."

Eren spoke to Reen verbally as well as mentally. The Dom-looking demon nodded and tried it again:

"Er. En. I. Am. Co. Mi. Ng. Hun. Gry. Fee. D. Me!"

"Now that's some improvement. Alright, keep on walking from one place to another till evening. Make sure you don't break anything. And once the night starts to set in, we'll go out and secure some food for you like usual."

Eren had come to ignore her pesterings about feeding her. He had understood that the emotion was dominant in her not only because of her physiology but also because no other thoughts had occupied her brain.

Once she cultivates some maturity and is given loads of thoughts to think about, her hunger will probably drop down to acceptable levels. Probably!

Eren had been taking Reen out for a walk during these two days in the evenings. He would have Reen hiding inside his shirt and make her stay in there quietly without letting her leak her demon beast aura.

Eren would go to a random, poorly lit alleyway and disappear in the dark. And would appear from a different alleyway with the face mask on.

Then he would head to the shady places within the city where criminals, robbers, thieves, and hookers strived. His presence there would attract some attention due to his short stature and mask.

But it wasn't that the taste of criminal life was only limited for adults and the unmasked braves. There would be a lot of children who would be partaking in thievery and more when they get sick of being poor and hungry. So Eren's presence was quickly overlooked amid the crowd.

Eren had been hunting these criminals and feeding them to Reen. Not because he liked serving vigilante justice. But because the criminals' disappearance wouldn't get investigated that thoroughly.

Eren and Reen had killed seven such criminals during these two days. It was their third day. Reen's hunger bout was showing signs of being satiated. After this feeding session, she'll probably complain for the upcoming days.

Eren was walking outside the gambling den now. It was in the form of a poor excuse of a diner & bar with drunk and about-to-get-drunk patrons packed to the brim.

Eren didn't go inside. He didn't have to. He just wore a single rankless pendant he had gotten from one of the ID stones. Of course, he didn't flaunt it openly. He just barely showed that he wore it as if he was trying to hide his possessions.

And the bait was taken soon after!

Eren was told by Reen using her mana sense briefly that they were being followed by five people when he was heading to a random corner away from the populous.

Five!

'Today's haul is going to be big.'

Eren thought and broke into a broad smile, which was hidden behind his mask.

The 'Fantastic Five' decided to show themselves when they found out that it was only them and their feeble victim.

They surrounded Eren from all sides before one of them breaking the silence to speak:

"Kid, hand over whatever you have nice and slow, including the pendant you are wearing. And we'll probably let you go."

Eren nodded his head in affirmation. The Fantastic Five thought it would be one of the most effortless robberies they've ever done. But they were immediately weirded out by Eren's next words!

"Alright. I'll hand over the pendant if you hand over your bodies to me."

All the five robbers backed a step away from Eren after being creeped out by him. One of them couldn't help but clear any 'possible misunderstanding':

"Kid, I think you've got some wrong ideas. We are not into young boys."

An awkward silence was being observed by both the parties!

### **Chapter 33: Ranking Journey**

Reen was done digesting the fifth and final guy after some time. Eren had quickly taken care of them by entering the slime devil form. He didn't have to exert much because these goons were rankless. He didn't even check their loot and threw it away. They were so poor, Eren felt pity for them.

He already had plenty but didn't have many ways to spend his newfound riches.

Eren again made his way to the house without anyone suspecting him. He had completely taken care of Reen's appetite. She was content and happy.

Reen kept on stretching and contracting her slimy mass on Eren's chest to show her affection. She also kept on telling him how her food tasted and differed from each other.

Eren ignored Reen's shenanigans and assumed a meditative state. He was using a traditional ranking technique to sense mana around him. So far the training has been in vain but he didn't give in.

Eren already knew that sensing mana took time. It didn't come to humans as easily as the magic or demon beasts. And sensing mana was only the first step.

The second step required attracting the mana within your body and forming a mana core. The third step involved activating that mana core to draw the energy from it. A person enters F Rank when the third step is followed through.

A mana core has three phases that define the stages within the rank. For example, an F rank mana core will be formed right below the person's navel after the second step is achieved. In the third step, primary mana pathways will open that will allow a person to draw and circulate the mana from the cultivated mana core.

The F Rank mana core will first enter the vapour phase that indicates the person is in the initial stage of that rank. When mana core enters the liquid phase, it will be considered as the person entering the middle stage of that rank. And the upper stage of the rank would mean the core has entered the solid phase.

For a rank up, the core needs to be burst from within to allow for a higher tier of mana to condense and take its place. After a successful ranking promotion, a new mana core will be formed and observed to be in the vapour phase again. But this vapour phase will be of Rank E tier. The mana core needs to go through the same three phases again until it reaches the saturation limit. It again goes through implosion once that happens and paves the way for the next rank up.

An F Rank mana core will attract the mana of the same tier. And so will be the case for other ranks. The amount and density of the same-tier mana required to progress further in the ranking journey increased with each rank up. That's why it became difficult for high ranked entities to keep on breaking through to the next ranks.

Eren had entered F Rank during his second academic year. That meant two years from now on. And he had stayed in the F Rank after graduating from the academy. He was nowhere near the E Rank when he graduated.

Isaac's party members were also in the F Rank but all of them were close to breaking into E Rank with Ralph being the closest among them. This on-field experience program also served as a trigger for the LA



academy's students to break into E Rank before they graduated. And this had almost become a norm. Therefore when Eren graduated with his F Rank, he was looked down upon.

But Eren had decided that he would enter F Rank before he even attends the academy. He had less than a month but he predicted that it was still doable with the right resources and determination.

Eren stayed in the meditative state for a few more hours before calling it quits. He then asked Reen to resume being a good coffee mug, which she did with a lot of complaining.

Eren was informed by aunt Nina that she'll be back after a week. But discovering the city lord's token in one of the ID stones had him spooked.

Eren predicted that if and when his second crime scene gets discovered, aunt Nina will have to prioritise coming to the city first before everything else.

Nina's visit to the city of Laurel will have to be postponed. Therefore Eren didn't take any risks and would ask Reen to stay in the inorganic form when he sleeps.

Eren's mindfulness paid off. Aunt Nina returned the next morning, four days after her departure. Eren had just woken up and gotten fresh by then. Aunt Nina told him she too needs a fresh bath before doing anything.

Eren made fresh egg bread toast for breakfast by the time Nina came downstairs by the breakfast table. He made her sit and served her breakfast with orange juice before taking the same menu for himself.

Aunt Nina liked the attention Eren was giving her these days. She started having her breakfast while answering Eren's queries about how did she had come so soon:

"I couldn't go to the city of Laurel, Erni. We discovered something in the forest that made us change all our plans.

Soon the entire city will come to know about the incident so no harm in telling you. Isaac Osan, the grandson of Isen Osan has died an unnatural death in the Osan woods.

Isaac's entire party has been wiped out. The ones who died with him are all students of the Lionheart Adventurers' academy including him.

Plus, the guy that you met the other day, Lin Karr. His nephew Ralph also died in that wipeout. Lin is a lecturer in the LA academy. He had decided to take a break to continue his ranking journey.

But after this incident, Lin is looking for an umbrella to hide from criticism and repercussions. He had insisted for Isaac's party to complete their on-field program sincerely, you see.

Isen Osan might see him as the one who is responsible for this tragedy and target him illegally. So he has decided to resume his lecturing duties in the academy to gain a haven.

So you might see Lin during your academic years. If he reaches that place safely without getting killed, that is. What else? Ha yes, the city lord will soon organize a city-wide procession to honour his grandson and will make an important announcement on that day.

The curfew is withdrawn for the time being as there's no risk of demon beast initiating beast tide anymore. It will stay this way until any new news regarding the same emerges that says otherwise."

Eren nodded and resumed having his breakfast. He didn't remember Isaac or Lin from his previous life. Probably because, in his previous life, Isaac hadn't died. He and his party members would graduate from the academy the same time he entered it.

Plus, without Isaac dying, Lin had no reason to return to the LA academy. So he didn't know about the lecturer either.

"When will the procession take place?"

Eren asked while having his juice.

"By tomorrow it seems."

"Alright. If the city is open now, I'll visit the markets. Have a few things to buy." Eren said while taking both their plates to the sink.

"Underpants? Hehehe!"

Eren could hear Nina's query and laughter from behind him. He could only laugh mirthlessly at that. He indeed needed to buy them before he entered the academy.

### **Chapter 34: Osan Woods' Butcher**

The next day, after Nina's return!

A procession was being held at Osan city square. A five-storied tower stood at the centre of a huge open space.

The space was now filled with loads of people. The Osan healer's association had its elevated mini-booth set at the corner of the square. Nina was granted a seat at the booth. And Eren was standing behind her. He could see the tower and the gallery-like platform that was located on the tower's top floor.

There was a huge open carriage located just below the tower. It had an expensive-looking casket placed over it, adorned with various flowers. There were other small carriages with caskets placed on each of them with similar settings.

Everyone present at the square knew that the most decorated coffin belonged to Isaac while the rest belonged to his friends that had died with him.

A band of musicians was playing a sad tune accompanied by the same level of sadness sung by a chorus of singers.

Almost everyone at the healer's association booth was bored to death. The healers would rather spend their time researching in their field, hone their craft, make potions to earn money and do everything else to progress further in their ranking journey than attend this ceremony.

Most ranked entities thought along the same lines, not just people in this booth.

But they all had to attend the procession as they represented their respective associations in offering condolences. Baron Isen Osan was known to show displeasure to the slightest of grievances after all.

The ranked entities were talking to each other silently. They used this time to converse and catch up with their friends and acquaintances. The ranking journey and professional life would consume most of their time. They seldom had such leisure time.

“So did you buy the underpants yesterday?”

Aunt Nina asked Eren in a hushed voice while looking in front of her. She too was feeling bored and decided to talk with her plus one.

“Why? Do you want to see them?”

Eren used the same hushed voice with a little bit of tease to give her a reply. He too didn't look at her while replying either.

“Hmm. Sure. You haven't used them before. So I wonder how your colour choice is going to be?”

“Show me yours and I'll show you mine.”

“Little rat, I see that you are becoming bolder by the day. I just asked because you might get a hard-on after I stand up from my seat. And you see my butt in your view again. It will be embarrassing for both of us if that happens, you see.”

“Haah! You don't need to stand up for that to happen. Your presence and a little bit of my imagination are enough to get a hard-on.

Don't worry though. I have worn the underpants. There would be a slight bulge that'll go unnoticed if I were to have a boner now.”

“I see. Good for you, Erni. I can stand up without any worries then. Hehehehe!”

Nina suppressed her chuckle by keeping her hand pressed against her mouth. She was having fun teasing Eren. But Eren wasn't one to back down either, especially when it came to matters like these. She heard his counter next:

“Yes. Stand away and make my day by all means. You can also walk a little ahead so that I can see some of that jiggle physics. That would be so much better to watch than this boring procession.

No scratch that. That would be so much better than watching anything for that matter.

By the way, I have worn dark blue underpants. What's your colour today?”

“I guess it's only fair that I tell you after knowing about yours. Today's colour is black. Did you start imagining already?”

“Why don't you look at the bulge that has formed in my pants just now and tell me?”

Nina looked back briefly and saw what Eren asked her to see. She again suppressed her chuckle and resumed her earlier posture.

Before she could reply to Eren though, she noted the music and chorus quieting down. She knew the main event was about to start.

The city lord Isen Osan could be seen approaching the edge of the tower's gallery. He had a stoic look. The square quieted down after his attendance was known by the spectators.

Isen Osen was a C Ranked entity. He circulated mana in his vocal cords while speaking. Therefore, he could be heard clearly by everyone loud and clear, no matter their distance.

"I thank all the citizens that are present at my grandson's funeral today at this place. I thank all the high ranked venerable entities for gracing my Isaac before he starts his final journey.

I also thank Osan Braveheart Hunters' association for finding my boy and doing everything in their power to preserve and safely bring him back here.

These two days have been the most difficult to endure for my family. Isaac was going to graduate soon. We were planning to send him to the kingdom's army so that he can wholeheartedly serve the soil he was born in.

I'm sure he would have made his kingdom proud with his exceptional performance.

[Unknown to both, Eren and Lin had the same thought running in their head after hearing Isen's speech till here: 'Yeah right!']

Therefore, Isaac's untimely departure is equally damaging to the Edenberg kingdom as it is to our family.

Isaac was an honest young man. Despite his friend's insistence against it, he was adamant about completing the on-field experience program given by the LA academy by participating in missions.

[Lin almost had a heart attack after hearing Isen's absurd claims that twisted the truth like Eren had twisted aunt Nina's brown buds.]

My caring grandson was always worried about the safety of this city's citizens. When he heard about the Osan woods disturbance, he was visibly shaken by the grim possibility of the city getting run over by the beast tide.

Therefore Isaac forced his lecturer to assign him the most crucial mission he could find and rushed to the forest. His friends didn't have a choice but to follow him in his passion to protect this city at the cost of risking life.

[Lin was gripping his hands on his chair's armrest hard. He had dug his nails in them after hearing Isen's blood-curdling speech. The armrest was almost about to snap under his D Rank body stats.

But Lin somehow controlled his outburst. He would get in more trouble than he already was if he were to lose his cool during Isen's speech]

My grandson Isaac and his friends were in the middle of finding the root cause behind the woods' disturbance. But they never knew they would be targeted for doing the same by some high ranked rogue cultist.

That rogue cultist killed them all in the cold blood as soon as they saw Isaac's party. We've come to know that the cultist has tamed the demon beast. The cultist was probably thinking about hiding their identity when they killed these bright young children.

The cultist must be thinking they got away with it. But let me warn them, no matter where they are, whoever they are, they'll be brought to justice for committing such a heinous crime. They have robbed the Edenberg kingdom off from receiving bright stars in the future.

Therefore, I've got an announcement to make today. The kingdom has allowed the LA academy to deploy an investigation team to the Osan woods. Our Osan city's law and order will work with this team to find more about the criminal, capture him alive, and punish him for his deeds.

I will also make another announcement in a personal capacity. I will announce a reward amount of 10,000 Edenberg dollars to anyone who helps in capturing this vile cultist.

We have named him The Osan Woods' Butcher and raised the bounty contract under the same name. This will be a bounty contract active in multiple nearby cities, not just the city of Osan.

The various associations will be given the details about the case we've collected so far. They can then activate this bounty contract for their members. That'll be all."

The citizens and the high ranked entities started to discuss the new topic that they've been given by Isen. Everyone was wondering who the Osan Woods' Butcher would be.

Meanwhile, the rogue cultist was busy thinking about everything 'black'. When he heard the bounty raised on him under the pseudonym, he couldn't help but think:

'Hmm! Osan Woods' Butcher! That has a nice ring to it.'

### **Chapter 35: Dinner Date**

'Hmm! Osan Woods' Butcher! That has a nice ring to it.'

Eren kinda liked his new title. But he thought the bounty amount was Lil demeaning to him. He should at least have a million dollars as the first bounty contract on his head.

Nina's query made him break his line of thoughts:

"Little rat, why are you so fazed out? The procession is over. We should head out too before the rush kicks in."

"Of course, aunt Nina. Ladies first!"

Eren said this while bowing a little before winking at Nina. Nina knew exactly what he wanted to do by offering her to walk ahead of him. She couldn't stop feeling a little excitement in her heart. It was like a long lost spice was brought back in her staple food.

Eren had again started mixing a dash of aphrodisiac in aunt Nina's food from yesterday when he was making it. He was controlling the quantity though.

Eren was aiming to gradually get her accustomed to her heightened sexual appetite and see Eren as its cause. He wanted her to see him as the target for those urges.

And it was showing its effect. Aunt Nina had been the one to bring the subject of his underpants, possibly knowing full well that the conversation would unfold in this way.

Nina started walking ahead of Eren. She could see her body was swaying more than usual, subconsciously enhancing the jiggle physics Eren had subscribed to prime viewership of.

When they got home, Eren and Nina both could feel some sexual tension between them. Nina was thinking about how to break the ice when Eren broke it first for her:

“Aunt Nina, you wait here. I’ll go get your gift from my room.”

“Gift? Which gift? I only gave you money for some shopping yesterday and that is all accounted for.”

“Hehe! I had some money saved up from before. You don’t need to overthink. It’s not that expensive of a gift.”

“Then what are you waiting for? Go bring me my much-needed award for taking care of a scoundrel like you.”

Saying that Nina pulled Eren’s cheeks and sent him towards his room. Then she went to sit on the ground floor’s sofa.

Eren came downstairs soon after. He had a small, gift-wrapped box in his hands with a bow tie ribbon on it.

Eren handed the gift to Nina while sitting by her side. She smiled at him and unwrapped it with some excitement. It’s been a long time since she received a gift like this.

Nina was soon staring at a small perfume vial that looked elegant and luxurious at the same time. She hadn’t used this perfume but knew she was going to like it.

Nina always liked wearing floral perfumes. She sprayed a little on her hand and inhaled the scent to gauge its effect.

Enchanting!

The fragrance was captivating. Just as Eren had said, this Be Erna Soliflore was an apt EDP for her. She instantly decided she’d change her original brand with this perfume from now on.

“Erni, this was a nice gift. You need to keep on giving me these gifts every so often you know. It’s so much trouble to raise a shut-in like you.”

“Be that as may. Aunt Nina, don’t you think I should be receiving some return gift in exchange?”

“Yeah? What do you want?”

“What else? A nice and healthy liplock to soothe all my sorrows!”

“Little rat...”

“Hear me out first. It’ll only be a liplock. It’s not like we haven’t done it before. At most, it’ll be our third and last instance before I leave for the academy.

I also want you to wear that perfume while I kiss you. But we already have today's delivery of potions lined up that was postponed due to Isaac's procession. So why not finish our work first, freshen up, and have some dinner outside.

We will go out by let's say 7 PM. I've already got a knee-long one-piece dress for you that I've kept in your bedroom.

Don't worry though. I've kept your body size and your preferences in mind while buying it so you would feel comfortable in it. You can then wear the EDP that I've got you as a gift.

It'll be like a date. Me taking you out. Of course, I'll pay for everything. And if my lady likes it and agrees to it willingly, I can kiss her post our successful date. What do you say?"

"H... how did you get so much money? Did you sell something from the house?"

Nina started looking around the house as if to check if something was missing.

"Haah! How little do you trust me, aunt Nina? I sometimes sell the elementary potions that I make from almost expired ingredients.

I can't sell them legally since I don't have a potioneer's license yet. But I know a guy who knows a guy. He helps me sell it personally to adventurers.

Of course, the profit isn't much. But I've accumulated enough to buy these gifts and take you out today. Now are you satisfied, or do you want to launch an official investigation on my financial condition?"

Eren said this while showing a little anger on his face. Of course, that was all bullshitery.

Eren had become a hard-working guy in his restarted life. And he could indeed do what he said he had claimed just now. But he already had wads of cash. Why would he not spend them to date aunt Nina instead of slogging his ass?

"Aah! I'm sorry Erni. It's just that I wasn't aware. Since you use almost expired ingredients, I of course don't have a problem.

But you could have told me you wanted to sell the elementary potions. I could have sold them under my license and given you your share."

"How would it be a surprise then? Do you have any idea how long I've been planning something like this?"

Saying this, the Osan Woods' Butcher turned his head away from aunt Nina in a quick motion, as if very angry to look at her.

Nina immediately understood her mistake. She had underestimated the level of crush Eren had on her. He was probably aiming to take her on a date for so long. She quickly took Eren in her embrace, kissed her on his cheeks before continuing:

"Alright! Alright! It's a date. I'm excited about the evening you've planned for us. So I'll go check the dress out. You also need to wear something nice, mister. Otherwise, you'll get kicked by the restaurant owners before they allow a poorly clothed brat like you to have dinner with me. Hehe!"

Saying this, aunt Nina went upstairs to check out her new dress. Eren smirked a little before putting on the apron and approaching his lab desk.

Eren knew Nina would like the dress. Because she had brought the same dress when he had come to visit her once in the past. She had said then that this was among her top favourites.

Eren used that little piece of information to score some brownie points with Nina.

As expected, Nina came downstairs looking happy. The dress was just the right fit for her. The dress style was elegant but it accentuated her hourglass figure. She hadn't worn dresses like these for years now. And she was excited.

When Nina came down, Eren had already started working on his batch of elementary potions. She too started working immediately, lest they get late on their date.

It was almost 6 PM when Eren and Nina were finished with their deliveries. The Osan Woods' disturbance had quieted down. So there was no need to produce extra potions.

But since the association had paid in advance for expedited deliveries, it expected them to be on time.

It was now time to get fresh. Both of them retired to their respective bedrooms.

When they got out, both Eren and Nina were ready for their first date!

### **Chapter 36: A Night to Remember P1\***

Eren and Nina were ready for their first date!

Nina had worn the violet dress and the perfume Eren had gifted her. She looked stunning. Her shapely curves were aptly accentuated by the dress without going skin-tight on her. It seems that Eren knew about her measures to a T.

Eren had worn a simple yet elegant dark blue jacket over a white casual shirt. The black formal trousers complemented his overalls.

Nina was surprised. Eren had always worn casuals no matter the occasion. But today, he had taken efforts to dress up. He was out to impress.

"M'lady, can I call you just by your name tonight?"

Eren asked Nina while holding his open palm in front of her. Nina gave her hand in his and replied while flashing a beaming smile:

"Hmm! I'll allow it. I'll also try not to call you 'little rat' tonight!"

"I'm grateful. So Nina, tell me, are you ready for a memorable evening?"

"I am, and looking forward to it. Where are we going?"

"It's a reservation-only restaurant that goes by the name Soirée Gracieuse. I have reserved a table for two. A carriage will come to get us within a few minutes."



“My my, Erni! You have planned everything for tonight. But are you sure your sleeves are warm enough to eat at Soirée Gracieuse? You know its rates, right?”

“Hmph! Nothing is too expensive when it comes to spending it on a beautiful lady like you. And you don’t need to worry about the prices. I’ve taken care of everything.”

“Alright. I’ll leave everything up to you then.”

\*\*\*\*\*

Eren and Nina reached at Soirée Gracieuse. They ordered a sumptuous meal. Nina also witnessed Eren knew about the dishes she hadn’t even heard the names of. It made her wonder where he learned these things from.

It wasn’t that Eren had eaten out at posh restaurants in his previous life. He had worked in the back kitchen of one such establishment for some time. That’s how knew about the dishes made there.

Eren and Nina had a ball savouring the exotic dishes and taste-testing the finest of beverages. Eren was a minor so he couldn’t drink alcoholic drinks. But he had ordered a vintage wine for Nina who gulped it down one sip at a time with a small slab of cheese.

A rankless wine wouldn’t affect Nina. Therefore Eren had paid a premium amount and ordered a wine made from C Rank ingredients, which had the potency to affect an entity of the same rank. Such a wine would spell instant death or harm to rankless and low ranked entities.

Nina was feeling slightly intoxicated due to the wine. Her cheeks had tinges of red and she was feeling light-headed.

The dinner was done. Eren and Nina had returned home. Eren wanted to take her to explore the city but it seemed the wine was a little too strong for her taste. She insisted they return home.

Eren took Nina to her bedroom and brought her a glass of water to drink. He asked her calmly after seeing her settling down:

“How was it Nina, did you like this evening?”

“Yes, Erni. I loved it. It’s been years since I could unwind like this. Thank you for a wonderful evening. The wine was too strong though. I’m still feeling giddy. Now I’d like nothing more than to just lay in my bed and float myself to sleep. Hehehe!”

“You are forgetting something, my lady.”

Eren looked at her and gave a playful smile:

“Aah! The kiss. Erni, tonight may not be the best time. I’ve already had so much to eat and haven’t brushed. Plus, I’m not in my right senses. Maybe tomorrow?”

‘That was the plan, my sweet summer lamb.’

Eren said in his mind while wearing the mask of injustice on his face

“That’s not fair, Nina. A date should end on a good note. And what better conclusion than a kiss from a gorgeous lady like you?”

“Hehehe! Am I that gorgeous to you? You must be exaggerating!”

Eren didn’t need any extra push. He started praising Nina with his glib tongue. He kept on talking about how important and beautiful she was in his eyes. Nina was getting emotional and happy at the same time:

“Erni. Come here, you little rascal!”

Nina finally gave in!

Eren was embraced by Nina tightly. The fragrances of aunt Nina’s natural bodily musk, Be Erna Soliflore, and vintage wine quickly entered his nostrils.

Nina took the initiative to kiss Eren on his lips. The latter responded in kind. He didn’t wait for long before turning it into a French kiss.

Eren soon started fondling Nina’s breasts and perked up brown buds. That sent Nina on an edge she was already heading towards. She tightened her embrace on Eren as if wanting to absorb him into her body.

Thankfully, some part of her brain was still subconsciously placing limiters on the power she was exerting. Otherwise, Eren would have been hugged to death.

Eren knew the time was ripe to make huge progress with aunt Nina. He started to make use of his magic hands. They had minds of their own now. They would touch and hold every part of Nina as if to let her know their omnipotent presence.

Nina had completely given in to her desires at that time. She kissed and smooched Eren as if her life depended on it. She even allowed his hands to grab her right butt cheek by shifting to her left side. Her body was craving for the attention Eren’s hands were trying to offer.

Eren started lifting her knee-length one-piece upwards. And Nina let him. Her lady part has started oozing juices aplenty by now.

Eren lifted the dress enough to see Nina’s black innerwear. When he pressed on her mound from over the flimsy fabric, he could feel her body quivering in excitement. Nina locked her legs with each other in response to such an intruding touch.

‘Damn. I need to note down the name of that wine and have it stockpiled here!’

Eren crafted his future designs while enjoying every moment of the present. Eren had broken their liplock and was now planting kisses and small bites across Nina’s neckline. She too was holding Eren by the back of his head and guiding him to places.

Eren’s fingers had started tracing Nina’s mound while the neck assault was in progress. The fingers could feel the overwhelming wetness even before they got into the pants.

“Hmmmmm! Erni... there... yes!”

Nina had started moaning and taking Eren's name the way she had never taken before. By now, Eren had unzipped the dress from behind and exposed her breasts still wrapped in a lacy black camisole. Nina cooperated with him to make the mushy masses get out in the open for good.

Eren was still impressed with the size of those breasts. They were heavy, mushy, and yet perky enough not to get flattened out when she lay on her back. They retained their shape under any position.

"Aunt.... Errr... Nina, I like your butt. We both know that there's no denying that. But let me come out and also say that these breasts are equally impressive. Let me tend to them!"

Eren quickly went down to nib on Nina's left brown bud that had gotten stiff and ready to be sucked on by now. Eren took the left one in his hand and started fine-tuning it like nobody's business.

### **Chapter 37: A Night to Remember P2\***

"Aaaaaah! Erni... press them some more. Bite them. Yessss... now shift your focus to the other one!"

Eren obliged and did the same with her left breast. Nina's dress was now limited to only covering her waist. Eren found it bothersome so he tried removing it from downward. Nina had to lift her waist to aid him in doing it.

He was about to jump right in when Nina placed the base of her right foot over his chest:

"Tit for tat young man!"

She declared while pointing at his clothes with her eyes. Eren stripped down so fast; it was like he wasn't wearing anything from the get-go.

"Hehe! These underpants seem slightly bigger for you. Maybe you were thinking about your growing size when you opted for one size bigger wearable."

Nina looked at Eren's new purchase and commented. Eren responded by landing on top of Nina, grinding his Lil member right above her wet nether region.

"Indeed darling. Now let's resume!"

Eren was about to kiss Nina again but she placed her index finger on his lips before he could do so:

"Erni, I want you. You can see that with my response. And I'm drunk enough to be unable to control my desires. But that doesn't mean we can take it to the very end. Especially after what we had discussed that day.

There won't be any penetration. Do you still want to proceed further?"

Eren was offered a choice.

He could see that Nina was fighting a mental battle in her head. Her body was telling her to go with the flow. Whereas, her brain was telling her to stop at this instant. In the end, she had listened to both sides and came up with this compromise.

It would be a lie if he told her that he wasn't disappointed. But that didn't stop him from making new progress with Nina today. He tried finding the positive in this situation.

“You mean anything apart from the penetration is on the table?”

Eren smiled and didn't show any remorse. Nina was again impressed with his maturity. In response to his question, she simply nodded and sucked on his lips hard.

Eren had already gotten his due permission to barge his fingers into Nina's wet cave. He inserted his right roaming hand into her pants and touched her wet fold for the first time without there being any fabric in between.

Nina lifted her waist slightly in response and started kissing and smooching him frantically. Eren's left hand was now pressing Nina's right butt cheek.

His right ring finger had started to trace the overwhelmingly wet vaginal crack while his index finger touched and played with her clit. He could feel the juices kept on flowing with even more vigour than before. Aunt Nina was bathing Eren's fingers with her blessed water.

Eren stopped his exploration of Nina's nether region with his hands. The latter wondered why he stopped when she witnessed his actions. He had brought his wet and goey hand in front of his nose and smelled it:

“So this is where the fishy smell comes from!”

Eren smiled wickedly and looked at Nina. She couldn't help but blush a little!

“Aunt ... err... Nina, as I said that day! I've been wanting to have fish food for so long now. Hope my appetite gets satisfied down there. Wish me luck!”

Eren went down on Nina after saying that. He first tried removing the black and now soaked-wet drawers Nina was wearing. Nina again fought a small internal battle before enabling him to take it off.

Nina's wet cave was on full display. She tried covering it with hands at first. But Eren just parted those hands with his before digging his nose right in to inhale the earthy smell.

Eren rubbed his nose right inside the crack. That encouraged Nina to let go of her last bit of hesitancy. She finally grabbed his head from behind and pressed it hard against her mound.

Nina had a dense pubic growth. The musk, therefore, was enhanced even further. Eren made his tongue come out and start its assigned job. The tip of the tongue touched the pink button first. Eren gave it multiple licks before moving downwards.

Nina felt a dam had been broken inside her vagina. She could feel her salty nectar coming out in serious quantities to welcome a foreign intruder.

She opened her legs in eagle style and pressed onto Eren's head hard from behind. She reclined in her position with eyes closed and started enjoying the lapping.

Nina was convulsing in her bed as she felt waves of pleasure and ecstasy hit her. She wouldn't dare to call Eren inexperienced right now.

“Aaahh... there... right there.... Yes... suck on some more.... You are driving me numb... little Erni.... How and when did you get so pro in this?”

Erni licked sucked the clit some more before answering from his positions:

“Like every other teenage boy, Nina. Adult comics!”

“You must have gotten your hands on some serious shit, boy. This is the best tongue-storm I’ve ever been offered!”

Unaware of herself, Nina had started using crass language. She kept on pressing Eren’s head. So much so that he was starting to feel some suffocation. But that didn’t make him stop his tongue job.

Eren inserted his right finger into the wet cave while he was still licking the clit and wet folds. And he kept on drinking the love juices Nina was producing unendingly.

Nina already had more than two orgasms. And the third one was on its way. Her nether region had gotten rather extra sensitive because of repetitive orgasms. But she didn’t stop Eren. She didn’t want to. Not at that moment.

When he found out that Nina had gotten comfortable with his rhythm, Eren inserted another finger into the wet cave. It was only a matter of time before Nina’s entire body shook and jerked, coming hard on Eren’s face and fingers. Only then did Nina close her legs tight to show that she needed a break.

Eren too needed some time to catch his breaths. He laid beside Nina and looked at the ceiling with a smile on his face.

Nina took her time to look at the kid sleeping beside him with his face shining with her juices. She again felt a mix of emotions bubbling inside her. But before she could voice her concerns, Eren’s voice reached her ears:

“That was one awesome fish I had. It was a little saltier than anticipated though.”

Eren used his hand as a headrest to look at Nina and teased her some more:

“Yeah. I can see that in your face, how much you loved having it. Sorry I haven’t... you know... mowed the lawn for some time. Hehe!”

“Aah! That’s fine. I only found it difficult to work my way around there with my tongue. I don’t mind the look. And I certainly don’t mind the aroma it cultivates!”

Eren replied to her while winking his left eye.

“Little ra... I mean Erni. I see that you made your preparations on all fronts before taking me out to dinner. It was like I was playing in the palm of your hand. Tell me honestly, did you foresee this happening tonight?”

“Foreseeing is a strong word. I was only HOPING for it. Thanks, au... Nina. At least some of my long-standing desires have been satiated for the time being.”

“Long-standing, you say. I don’t see your little guy erect now. Did you perhaps burst without even doing anything to it? Hehe!”

“What do you expect from a 16 years old boy who has been given a chance to ‘take care’ of the lady in his dreams in this way?”

Eren didn't feel ashamed at his nut and blamed it on Nina being a dream woman in his eyes. Nina's heart was again touched by the latter's glib tongue. Even more deeply than what his real tongue did to her lady part. She thought she should return the favour at least:

"So are you spent right now?"

Nina asked playfully!

### **Chapter 38: A Night to Remember P3\***

"So are you spent right now?"

Nina asked playfully!

Eren was indeed feeling some fatigue but the latter's meaningful question made it disappear in the thin air! He asked in a voice painted with anticipation:

"What do you have on your mind?"

Nina only had a misplaced camisole on her while Eren was wearing his newly bought underpants. The former had gotten over her shyness by now. She removed the last bit of fabric from her body and dropped it on the ground.

Nina then climbed on top of Eren with her butt touching his groins. Her legs were on either side of him. She bent forward and guided Eren's mouth on top of her left nipple. Hinting him to suck on it. Meanwhile, she started rubbing and grinding her huge butt on Eren's groins. Soon she felt the reaction she was expecting.

Eren's little guy had woken up again inside his underpants. Nina neither removed them nor Eren tried to. Nina had already told him there would be no penetration. So this was the compromise she was extending for him.

Eren grabbed her butt with both his hands from either side and started massaging them with force. Nina too was again getting into the zone. She sped up her gyration and its intensity against the stiff target. Eren's underpants were already spoiled from his nut. But aunt Nina's love juices were making them soaking wet.

"Your butt is your best ass\_et, Nina!"

Eren found his wits amid ecstasy and made a pun on Nina's derriere. He was now actively shoving his underpants-covered bulge between Nina's butt crack. Nina too was responding to his shoves with equal and opposite rhythm.

"You want to see it up close and personal?"

Nina winked at him when she asked. He knew what was going to happen and just nodded his head:

Nina got up from her position and positioned her mound right over Eren's face with her legs stretched over either side of his face. She dropped her mound right over his nose while closing in on Eren's stiff member from the other side.

Eren again breathed in a now-familiar smell. He parted the vertical lips with his fingers and inserted his tongue inside the wet cave. His hands were shifting between working on her clit and mashing her butt. But he soon had a pleasant sensation of his Lil guy getting wrapped inside a wet and warm place.

Eren looked down to see that Nina had pulled his underpants enough for the Lil guy to stand tall out in the open, with all its glory. And Nina was licking it from all sides with her tongue before finally taking it inside her mouth.

Eren wouldn't lie. He had BJs in his previous life. But nothing would come even remotely close to what he was feeling right now. He felt like his long lost dream had been suddenly realized.

"Erni dear, don't stop what you were doing with your tongue just now!"

Nina paused from her 'job' and reminded Eren to continue the work that was upon him. He soon snapped out of his reverie and followed her instructions.

Both of them lasted long before bursting for another time. They already had orgasms before. So it took them some time to have it consecutively in a row. But they weren't in a hurry anyway and just enjoyed the ride.

It was already past midnight when they both decided to call it quits. They both went to sleep at the same place. Closing their eyes was all that it took for them to sleep peacefully.

The next day, when Eren woke up, he was still in aunt Nina's bedroom. But she was nowhere to be found. He looked at the mana-powered table clock. It was already past 8 AM. He usually has breakfast during this time.

Eren had overslept.

'That was to be expected. Yesterday's was a night to remember!.'

Eren thought to himself. Eren was in a jolly mood today. One of his desires from his previous life had almost been completed! Almost.

Eren got up slowly and headed towards his bedroom. The Osan Woods' Butcher did things lazily today. He didn't feel like rushing into anything today.

Eren had his bath, taking a fair amount of time to clean himself. He wore a fresh pair of clothes. And only then did he go downstairs.

Eren saw Nina had resumed today's batch of potion-making. It would take a couple of days before their delivery is completed. Since the Osan woods disturbance has been declared to be benign for the time being, the healer's association didn't place more orders.

When she saw Eren coming downstairs, Nina gave him a welcoming smile. Eren could see the smile had only a tad bit of awkwardness hiding within it. But there was no guilt, shame, or shyness anymore.

Nina had accepted what had happened last night to be a reality and didn't run away from it. This was all thanks to Eren's talks and behaviours nudging her in this direction without making her feel pressured. Eren's plan had been successful. It only needed a little bit of 'pushing in to win' now.

“Morning sleepy head. I’ve made some sunny side up eggs. Have some before you resume the work.”

Nina told Eren before busying herself with work. Eren nodded and had his breakfast. Then he went on to make the elementary potions he was supposed to be making.

It was already 2 PM when the day’s delivery ended. Eren started fixing a simple lunch for both of them while Nina watched him.

“Erni, about last night. Do you want to talk about it?”

“Hmm? Sure, if it leads to the same result that is!” Eren winked at her while chopping onions.

“That’s not what I meant silly. I mean what do you feel now? Last night was a huge leap for us? Let’s say that... you saw things that you hadn’t seen.

Do you not regret it even slightly?”

‘Aah! Women with their post-nut pillow talk about feeling and shit! Can’t a man feel happy with just a good f\*ck and some nice food to eat the morning after? What can be so complicated that it needs a talk? I should be glad she didn’t start this last night!’

“Nina..”

“Aunt Nina!”

Nina corrected him quickly. Eren forgot that last night was special. And he was only allowed to call her by the name yesterday.

“Aah right! AUNT NINA! Happy now!? You don’t need to worry about my mental being. I love what I saw and felt yesterday. I’m perfectly fine and dandy, as you can see from the way I behave and talk. But I do feel guilty about one thing if you ask me!”

“You do?”

Nina asked with concern and disappointment in her eyes. The concern was for Eren and disappointment for herself. But before both emotions could take hold of her, Eren cleared what he wanted to say:

“Yepp. I only regret that we couldn’t do it as soon as my first awakening happened. I regret not taking you to such dates before yesterday. Not giving you the gifts you deserve. And I also regret us not taking the final step yesterday. Other than that, I regret nothing!”

Eren said this while stirring the onion-tomato curry he was making. He also had sent pieces of meat-jerky and some veggies in it. The duo already had flatbreads to go with the Eren styled, mixed veg jerky curry. Their lunch was almost set.

“Hehe! Little rat, you almost gave me a mini heart attack. The academy will start soon. You’d be gone for at least five years, coming here only during long holidays.

So I’m open to us having dates these days. You can call me by my name during our dates. But I can’t promise anything more.



Gifts are always welcome. But I'd suggest you save up some money. I can take you up for dates with my money alternatively. And about the final step, let's think about that when you grow up a little!"

### **Chapter 39: Magenta**

Gifts are always welcome. But I'd suggest you save up some money. I can take you up for dates with my money alternatively. And about the final step, let's think about that when you grow up a little!"

Eren smiled mirthlessly at Nina's last reply and nodded. Nina had compartmentalized her aunt-persona and her more-than-aunt-persona to make a sense of things happening between them.

Eren guessed the near future. From now on, their days would be filled with the usual stuff they were used to doing all these years. And the dates in the evenings would lead to some form of action like yesterday, but they won't pave the way for the final act. It was now Eren's job to see that they did.

Eren served Nina her lunch and proceeded to take some for himself. He asked the latter while having his first bite:

"Aunt Nina, when are you going to visit the city of Laurel?"

"Let's see. We should first expedite our deliveries to settle our weekly order from the association. That will take up to three days. Two, if we grind it.

So I can go three days from now on. I'll take a week to settle my business there and return. And then, it'd be business back to usual. Do you want to come with me to the city of Laurel?"

Eren wanted to say yes. But he had so many things to do here in this city. The fake Dom was waiting on him to get framed. Therefore he could only reply with:

"I want to, but I'll pass. I need to take a look at a few books that are mentioned in the academy's syllabus. Don't know if I'll get time to do this afterwards. So I'll do that while you are gone."

"Alright. The curfew has been lifted. But there's still some strain on public law and order in the city due to Isaac's death. Make sure you don't roam around after the sun sets while I'm gone."

"Yes."

Eren couldn't wait for Nina to leave the city. Only with her absence could he execute his plans. The more he waited, the more would be the chances of his identity getting revealed.

Killing Dom was one thing. But now that he had killed Isaac and his friends as well, who were the students of the previous LA academy; Eren was sure he could get hunted by the entire kingdom.

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Three days later!

Nina was going to leave for the city of Laurel today. The last two days had been a bit busy for both of them.

"Erni, remember, be at home after the sunset. And have your meals on time. Don't skip on them thinking that it is a bother. Do you have anything to ask before I leave?"

“Yes. I have one crucial question to ask before you leave.” Eren asked while creating suspense.

Nina got tense.

“Yes?” Her Voice also got lower as a result.

“It is related to what we had discussed the other day.”

“What is it?”

Nina was on edge now.

“What’s your colour today?”

Eren asked and winked at her.

“What’s my colour today!?”

Nina didn’t get it at first. She had to think for a while and associate it with Eren’s smirk to understand what he was asking.

Eren was asking about the colour of her panties today.

“Little rat, you are always up to no good these days! You have changed completely after your ‘awakening’!”

Nina pulled up Eren’s cheeks while having a fake pout. But she was laughing internally at his shenanigans.

“Bye now. I’m leaving.”

Nina finally got to the door and walked outside. Eren waved her goodbye and was about to close the door on her before he saw her making her way towards him again.

‘She must have forgotten something.’

Eren thought before opening the door wide, allowing her easy access.

But Nina didn’t go in. She stopped at Eren and got close to his ears. Then she whispered something that led his blood rush to his nether region:

“Erni dear, today’s colour is magenta!”

Eren opened his eyes wide in surprise. His aunt Nina was flirting back. Then he smiled and gave a thumbs up to her. She softly kissed him on his lips before heading out for real.

Eren went to his room and woke Reen up. She immediately plopped onto his shoulder. She thought Eren had woken her up because he must have thought she was hungry. She cleared that up with him, saying her hunger has not returned yet.

Reen almost always thought about having food. Eren had a mini headache before he told her to shapeshift into Dom.

Eren had been talking with Reen ever since he hatched the plan of framing Dom. He had realized that the mental channel he had with Reen wasn't something Nina could discover.

Therefore Eren kept that channel always open, letting her read his thoughts. He was also correcting her mistakes in vocabulary and pronunciation.

Reen was a smart girl. Probably smarter than a demon beast her age could get. She kept on learning new things from Eren and started making sense out of them in her head while she remained as a coffee mug. She also kept on asking Eren questions all the time.

And Eren would answer those questions patiently. To him, Reen's vocabulary and her oratory skills was a long-haul project. Sure, it would have some use during his current framing job. But that would not be the end of use for her shapeshifting skills.

Eren would achieve great results only if he starts training Reen now. And he wanted Reen ready for his plans in the academy.

Eren told Reen to show him her progress in bipedal walking. And she did. She had improved a lot.

Now nobody would be able to think that it wasn't a human when Reen walked in Dom's form. At most, the eyewitness would regard it as Dom having some injuries related to his legs or just being drunk as a reason behind his weird walk.

"Er en. How deeed aai do?"

Reen asked in Dom's voice. Her speech was improving.

"You've made huge progress, Reen. I'm proud of you. I see that the division of words is working for you. I can at least understand what you want to say even if I were to only hear your voice.

Keep on practising these things when you become an inorganic object. Use your idle time thinking about the words and speeches. You can always ask me something you don't understand. Is there anything you want to ask now?"

"Er en. Whaat deed yu eat three days byaak after the evening? Deed yu hyaav good food?"

"Hmm? Which evening are you talking about?"

Wait a minute... don't tell me!

The channel was open at that time?

Reen was keeping track of my thoughts when I spent time with aunt Nina?"

#### **Chapter 40: Julie Ekheart**

"Reen was keeping track of my thoughts when I spent time with aunt Nina?"

Only now did Eren realize that Reen was reading his thoughts and emotions when he had his way with drunk aunt Nina post their dinner date. He was in ecstasy due to repeated orgasms. His long-awaited wish had come to reality.

Reen connected those feelings with having very good food and asked him about the same. He could only smile mirthlessly after realizing that the mental channel had been left open by him during his intimate moments with Nina.

Eren had kept the channel open in these three days so that she could ask him questions anytime. But he forgot to close it that night.

“Yes, Reen. I had fish for that day. My favourite.”

Eren laughed at his pun. But he started laughing uncontrollably when he heard Reen’s next words:

“Aai olsou want to hyaav some feesh!”

Reen asked while running towards Eren. They were fine-tuning her walk in the ground floor’s open space now, before tonight’s events. Every little, last-minute preparation mattered before partaking into something like this.

Eren immediately stopped her in her tracks by mentally giving her commands when he saw her running towards him. He was visibly shaken by the intimidating view.

Eren didn’t want to see naked Dom’s body coming towards him with open arms, aiming to hug him. He had already killed the guy. What would he do by forming such bonds with him?

The evening arrived. Eren made fake Dom wear the clothes that he had received from the original Dom’s ID stone. He also told him to retract his prowess and not leak any of it.

Reen by now had understood and learned to not leak her demon beast aura, thanks to her training of staying as inorganic objects. She could now shapeshift into people while assuming the status of inorganic matter. Her ruse would work as long as there’s no higher-ranked entity inspecting her.

Eren and fake Dom walked out of the house and disappeared into the darkness. They then visited the same gambling den they had previously to lure the Fantastic Five. This time Dom went in while Eren stayed behind.

The first thing the fake Dom did after entering the bar was to order a pint of E Rank booze in his weird accent and kept the tab open. He started chugging pints after pints until he was satisfied.

Eren wanted fake Dom to do that so that he can have a good excuse for his weird accent. Fake Dom’s facial expressions and his stride were anyway. So drinking that much booze justified everything about him.

Dom kept on looking at the bar’s crowd from time to time as he had his booze. Then he approached a female rogue, apparently to impress her. He reached her table and took a seat in front of her before trying to woo her.

Reen had her mental channel open while acting as a fake Dom. She would send all her thoughts and experiences to Eren in real-time. And he would be aware of the audiovisuals happening in front of and around Reen at almost the same time as her.

Reen was only conveying what her master wanted her to say. The real conversation took place between Eren and that lady rouge:

“Hi, beautiful. Don’t you think this bar is too crass for ya? Why don’t you come with me and we can find some nice cosy place to spend the night?”

“Damn. Saying that you are drunk is an understatement, strange man. What’s with that weird tone and speech? Are you not from here?”

“Hahahaha. No need to think of me as an outsider. I might have something else to drink before coming here. My head’s still buzzing. This is an after-party after an after-party, you see. Will you like to join me for some fun? All expenses will be paid by me of course.”

“That’s all good. And you look okay, I guess. But I don’t know you. And don’t get me wrong, but you are weird. So I’ll pass.”

“Lady, please wait before you reject the deal. Let’s know a little about each other if that’s what you want. I’ll go first. My name is Dom. Dom Walker. I’m an E Rank hunter steps away from becoming a D Rank.

Life is fleeting, young miss. Tonight I’m asking you to spend the night with me. Tomorrow, you might not even get the chance to have a word with me to show your approval.

That’s because I’ve struck gold. I’ll tell you at this moment, mark my words. I’ll become so successful that my name will spread throughout the entire kingdom like some viral flu of the season.”

Dom said this while emptying another pint. Of course, he said this in his weird accent. But that wasn’t important anymore to either the lady or the nearby audience that was listening to their conversation.

“Hmm? Dom Walker? Where have I heard this name? Wait... Dom Walker. An E Rank Hunter. Are you from the OB (short for Osan Braveheart Hunters’ association)?”

“I was. Not anymore. Wait! Should I say this out loud? Haah! Who cares? I don’t have to work in that guild anymore and struggle for every penny. My backer is huge.

My point is, young lady. I’ll soon be walking on the path of success that’ll take me away from this backwater place called the city of Osan. Why not follow me till you can?”

Dom said this and started eating the chips that had been ordered by the lady without asking her. But she didn’t mind. The scoop in front of her was worth more than the price of those chips.

“But they say that you died. And your entire party was wiped out in the Osan woods’ disturbance. How can you be alive after all that?”

The lady asked Dom what the entire audience of that conversation was dying to. Dom acted as if he didn’t care. As if his backer was not something to be taken lightly of.

“Aah! That. Let’s say I’m a dead man walking then. Hahaha! Don’t worry about the details. What’s your name? Are you leaving the place with me tonight or not? Decide quickly. I don’t have time. I’d rather go avail of ‘professional services’ if there’s nothing to be gained from here.”

“Name’s Julie.”

Julie had to give him something to keep this filthy blabbermouth hooked to the seat.

“As I said, I don’t know you so how can I come to a decision this quick? Listen, why not tell me what happened to you and your team in the Osan woods. And about your backer as well. I’ll come with you after you give me these deets.”

“Is that so? I’m going to leave the city anyway. I guess there’s no harm in telling you. But you have to promise not to speak a word about this to anyone.”

“I promise.” Said Julie loudly.

‘We promise.’ Said the audience in their heads.

“Alright. So listen closely.”

Dom bent forward a little to make the conversation more private. But contrastingly, his voice remained on the same volume.

“The road to success in the ranking journey is forged with the corpses of your enemies and friends. Yes, I killed my party members. It wasn’t any rogue cultist. And it certainly wasn’t a demon beast. Sure, it ate the dead bodies. But those bodies were dead because of me.

Do I regret it a little? Yes, maybe. But will I do it again after being offered the same choice? Abso fokin lutely yes!”

“Why did you kill them?”

Julie asked and touched her sheathed dagger’s hilt attached to her waistband, trying to find some sense of security while talking to this maniac.

Julie was an E-Rank entity in the initial stage. Her on-field experience wasn’t as rich as the guy. She wasn’t Dom’s match in a frontal assault. But she was confident of saving herself from any mishap, thanks to Dom’s drunken state.

“Why, you ask? Of course, it was to feed that damn demon beast. It was raised especially by that backer, you see. And it needed ranked entities to feed on.”

Dom said this like it is the most obvious thing in the world.