

Vile 781

[Chapter 781 New Possibilities In Potioning P1](#)

Eren's study room.

The smell of old books lingered in the air. There was a large window and balcony outside it.

The large window had a spacious alcove that doubled up as a slightly large single bed. The windowsill had been converted into an ideal place to read and write.

The ideal placement of luminescent gemstones exuded natural light. It made the space well-lit, giving it a soothing ambiance.

This was time to get back to the core of potioning.

Eren was reading a book sitting by the window alcove. He was only wearing his black pants and looked to be completely focused on his studies.

He was lying prone while reading and writing things down in his notebook. He had been doing this for hours on end at this point. Alephee was the only one keeping him company. She was seen meditating by sitting on the ground with her legs folded.

Eren often wondered what use did Alephee's meditation have for her when she couldn't practice any ranking technique. But every time he asked, she would just chuckle before shaking her head.

The alcove bed had many things spread over it. They included some old parchments, scrolls, array disks containing various records, books, and loose pages apart from the books Eren was currently working on.

This was the culmination of what Eren had done so far for his potioning study.

Eren was looking through Levins's books and her research findings as well as her personal recipes. He had also been catching up on all the experiments conducted by her on ales so far.

Eren had learned nearly all he needed to know from the potion book he had received from Purgatory. He would often use it for reference now.

There was also some potioning material shared with him by Layla who tried to refine Eren's potioning standards in her own way. However, Eren would always try to grasp the knowledge brought by Layla with little enthusiasm. Because she would often skip steps and explanations while describing potion recipes and procedures.

Then there was the research he did that pointed to elven heritage. Eren had obtained it through Lensa's help. Lensa had provided handwritten supplements for the steps and procedures that weren't part of human recipes to the extent of her knowledge.

Finally, he also read through Marie's research and hypothesis. The halfling had many theories, hypotheses, and ideas with her. She would often conduct research based on her hypothesis to achieve a breakthrough.

He studied these things simultaneously to find and record the links he found in them. He would often compare the material he was studying with real-life results obtained by him personally. This was to

understand what kind of tweaks were needed for him to obtain the same results mentioned in the study material.

'Hm. This Marie was up to something here. I'm glad I roped her in.'

He smiled mildly as he read her research and hypothesis. The halfling was very meticulous in conducting the results. She adhered to the same standards of measurements and quality Levine had instilled in him.

It was apparent that Marie admired Levine's work. Her way of conducting research and obtaining data was almost a carbon copy of what Levine was used to doing. Eren could identify this peculiarity right away because Levine had taught him personally.

This habit Marie also made it easier for Eren to browse through her research papers with ease. He would quickly get the point she was trying to make by the way she conducted the research, recorded her findings, and presented them.

"A lot of her hypotheses revolve around this missing ingredient it seems."

Eren mumbled to himself as he read the discussion Marie had with herself in her research paper. She had conducted a lot of experiments regarding the same topic to prove or confirm her hypothesis. And so far, she had Eren sold.

A cultist way of potioning based on ancient techniques and practices must have worked in Marie's favor. As such, her research and procedures often contained information Eren hadn't encountered before.

Eren had to say that Marie's decision to look for cultist connections and become a Beast Bloods member might not have been wise for her personal life. Her sister Marla has also driven away from her because of that decision. However, she couldn't have gotten anywhere with her groundbreaking research if she had stayed as a normal ranker.

Turning into a cultist and adopting their ways had been a huge success for a potioner and researcher of Marie's caliber. Professionally, she had only benefitted. Therefore, Eren could understand why the halfling made her decisions.

Eren noted down the most crucial points Marie had made about the so-called missing ingredient and its hypothesized properties. He found more links with the data he had read in other study materials as he read more about it.

Eventually, he came to a doubtful conclusion that required immediate verification. He closed all the books and took the study material back into his storage space before getting up from his lying position.

,m 'Time to confirm this hypothesis.'

The butcher stretched his body before disappearing from his position.

The lightning struck in the potion lab as Eren appeared inside out of thin air. He immediately got to work by standing inside the array eye and operating the space adjacent to it.

Many raw ingredients started floating in the air. They were subjected to various elemental treatments at the same time.

Some raw ingredients were getting burned by various types and sizes of flames while some were getting drenched in many forms of floating liquid masses. Some ingredients were getting coated in various paste types while the others were trapped inside wind-element cubes.

Eren had been able to expedite his potioning process by many levels with Adept mana and mana sense. He was getting more and more proficient at crafting potions. Watching him work was like listening to some sound expert playing a sonata.

The butcher's potioning work had started looking like a work of art. The sonnet of potioning he was playing didn't have any acoustic brilliance to it. But its visual impact wasn't something one could easily forget.

[Chapter 782 New Possibilities In Potioning P2](#)

Two days went by since Eren started conducting his own experiments to prove Marie's hypothesis.

During these two days, Eren did nothing but focus on his potioning and taking note of his results. He would often get back to reading the study material he had.

He would have preferred if Levine was here to discuss a few things with him. But unfortunately, she had left the city for her work.

Discussing these things with Marie was inconvenient. Eren could understand what the halfling would come up with or say to any of his problems by looking at her research papers.

Frankly, Eren thought that Marie was taking on more than she could chew for her current rank. She would have had refined results had she been in the Adept rank while drawing her hypothesis.

When there was nobody nearby to help him, the butcher decided to do everything by himself. He isolated himself in his lab and carried on with his experiments.

"This should be it."

Eren thought out loud as he looked at the floating cauldron in front of him. The contained solution was surrounded by flames generated by the array, and there were sounds of the solution boiling.

It looked like the cauldron was about to implode from the instability generated by the potion. The cauldron would blow and the experiment would be ruined if he didn't introduce the missing ingredient at this point.

Eren looked at his open palms and pondered for a bit. He then retrieved the space-element dagger from his storage before introducing a tiny slash at the tip of his right index finger.

A drop of red blood came out of his self-inflicted wound. That was all he needed. He let his Adept-ranked body's rapid recovery rate take over and close the wound.

"What are you doing?"

Eren was about to drop the drop of blood into the cauldron when he heard a familiar voice from behind him. He looked back to see Alephee looking at him keenly.

"Just testing some theories."

Eren said and turned his attention back to his experiment. Alephee would do that sometimes—appearing out of the blue whenever she felt like it. So he wasn't surprised by her presence.

Alephee raised her eyebrows as she looked at the potioning experiment Eren was conducting. She could figure out what he was about to do instantly.

'He is trying to find out more about his blood.'

Alephee looked at Eren's back and smiled as she had a random thought. However, she didn't say anything and let him carry on with his experiment.

Eren dropped a drop of blood into the cauldron and sealed the lid. He then closed the slightly opened lid once again and paid close attention to what happened.

The about-to-be-imploded cauldron was in a constant state of vibration because of the pressure it had generated inside it. But as soon as Eren's blood entered the cauldron, the vibrations started to diminish.

It took a while but the cauldron and the contents inside were eventually stabilizers. The butcher's blood had done its job as he had hoped it would.

Eren stopped working on the array immediately after confirming Marie's hypothesis. The cauldron crashed on the ground when the array was stopped abruptly. The test potion inside it would have spilled all over if the cauldron didn't have a tight, rune-sealed lid over it.

Eren crashed to the ground as well. He was exhausted after conducting the test for two days straight without taking any breaks. Panting, he chuckled before commenting to himself.

"Mine... it was my blood that was the missing ingredient!"

Eren concluded his remarks when he summarized the test results.

Marie had hypothesized the properties of the missing ingredient. The primary purpose of the missing ingredient was to make the elven method of imbuing elemental attainments into concoctions work with human recipes.

An ingredient that can serve as a bridge between two schools of concoctions. An ingredient that is neutral to all elements. It can be made reactive to all elements at the same time, depending on the catalysts added to it or other external parameters.

The non-elemental conflict nature of Eren's bloodline had led him to see his blood as the missing ingredient in Marie's experiments. And the result just now proved his hypothesis to be right.

Eren started laughing when he understood what the success of this experiment entailed. A new brand of potioning was made available to him. And only to him.

It's only a matter of time before he could make an original blend of White Raven ale a reality. An ale that can be produced en masse using human recipes and having the blessing of elemental attainment. It might also have various special characteristics attached to it depending upon how it was made.

This concept is not limited to ale, but could also be adapted to a variety of potion recipes after a few modifications. A new, more potent variant of any potion could be synthesized using Eren's blood as one of the raw ingredients.

If Eren were right, even artifact manufacturing would benefit greatly from applying the experiment's results differently. An artifact with multi-element compatibility could be made possible with Eren's blood added into the equation.

Eren raised his hands in front of his eyes while lying flat on the ground. He was suffering from mana exhaustion. As a result, his hands were shaking a bit due to fatigue. However, he didn't care. He looked at his hands with excitement and a bit of greed.

The ideas kept popping in Eren's head like wild mushrooms as he extended his thought process. He only wished he had infinite mana that would have let him carry on with the new batch of experiments.

"No. This is big. It would be more challenging for me to do this thing all by myself when I have a shitload of things to do.

I can't concentrate on everything at once. I need a division of labor. Someone to take over my place and spearhead this path for me."

Eren told himself not to tumble down the rabbit hole of self-experimentation. He needed to learn to count on others if he wanted to progress in all fields at the same time.

"Marie... that lass is more capable than I had thought her to be. I need to... have her in my inner fold."

Eren made up his mind as he came to a decision. Just when he got up, Alephee came close to him with a smile on her face. She looked at him intently before speaking up.

"I need you to do something before you start your experiments. We can't allow you to take unnecessary risks, you see."

[Chapter 783 "Puberty Did You A Solid"](#)

House Carren's estate in the city of White Raven.

p A spacious hall with a chandelier hanging from its roof.

Dan Carren and Eren were seen sitting opposite each other on their plush sofas. Eren was looking at his reflection in one of the faces of countless gems the chandelier was studded with. He liked the way he looked today.

He smiled to himself in the reflection before looking ahead to see a grumpy-looking old elf looking at him as if he had committed something horrible.

"So you and my Linny... you guys are... let's say... together?"

"Linny?" Eren raised his eyebrows before repeating the word Dan had used. It took him a moment to realize what the old elf was talking about.

"Oh, I got it. Lensa! Oh yes. We are together."

Eren said and chuckled before adding further.

"That's an endearing way to call her. I'll borrow that from you, grandfather Dan."

Dan's stressed expression became that of suppressed anger. As he clenched his fists, he said aloud.

"Don't call me grandfather, boy. I'm not your grandfather."

Eren looked into Dan's eyes before speaking.

"I am not your boy, old man."

Eren's words left Dan stunned. But before he could react to Eren's pun, the latter clarified it for him. The butcher wasn't sure the old elf would understand he was just kidding with him.

"No need to act so stiff. That was a joke."

Eren said and raised both his hands as if giving up.

"Of course, you can call me boy, Eren, Linny's man. And I'd call you with whatever you are comfortable with."

A feminine chuckle was heard when Eren called Lensa with Lenny. Lensa was obviously keeping tabs on the meeting taking place between Eren and her grandfather. It was just that she was asked by Dan to not be present in the same space as the guy she had fallen head-over-heels with.

Dan was called to the city of White Raven by Lensa and Dineria to talk about a possible alliance with Eren and his guild. To be more precise, the guild's production unit. There was also a moisture balance array in the greenhouse that needed fixing.

Dan wrapped up his work in the city of New Beginnings and rushed to White Raven. He had come to find out that Lensa was completely swooned by Eren. He hadn't seen her this passionate about talking about someone.

The elf prodigy had told her grandfather everything Eren wanted her to tell about. Besides, she added a few more pointers to make the deal even more tempting for the old elf.

Dan understood that Lensa was being partial to this new guy who had come into the picture out of nowhere. He just didn't understand what had taken place between the two for Lensa to have gotten so close to this up-and-coming brat.

Dan eventually learned from Dineria that things had progressed much further between his granddaughter and Eren. The elf was glad that Lensa was able to snap out of her supposed depression after breaking her engagement with Ken. However, when he started reading about Eren's personal life, he couldn't help getting angrier at him.

Dan learned Eren was a certified womanizer. No matter how lowkey his affairs had been with the ladies, they couldn't all be hidden away if people wanted to look for them.

Dan thought that Ken was a ten times better choice for Lensa than this vile man ever could be. Not that he was seeking to reestablish and regrow his ties with House Riverine. For some reason, the old elf wasn't too comfortable with marrying her to another Big House and using her as a pedestal to grow his House. At least not anymore.

So engagement with Ken was water under the bridge for Dan. However, he thought that Lensa could do much better than the man who was sitting in front of him.

Dan told Lensa not to be present in the meeting because he would have a hard time standing against her wishes. And her wishes were completely in line with Eren's and his guild's well-being.

Reclining back to the sofa he was sitting on, Eren folded one leg over the other. He placed both his hands on the folded leg before continuing.

"If you don't like me calling you grandfather, fine. I'll call you Dan. But can we move forward with our talks here? That criticizing stare that you are giving me isn't doing anything to help either of us."

Eren said and pursed his lips. On normal days, he would take his time getting the old man to his side with his glib tongue. With a little effort and careful placement of words, the butcher knew the old elf could be handled just fine by him. Because of what he had to offer him, he had that confidence.

Eren was reminded of the first time he had seen this old man in front of him. He was merely a Novice ranker at the time. The situation was tense because Lensa was not waking up from her self-induced coma.

Eren was more tense than the rest present at the scene because he was the real culprit behind the incident. Plus, he had Reen on him. The old man was in the solid stage of the B-rank. Just a step away from attaining the Grandmaster rank. The butcher was worried that all his secrets would be found out by this old elf.

However, things had changed a lot between Eren and Dan. The old elf had indeed found something peculiar about Eren when he first met him. He was sure that Eren wasn't like ordinary humans just by the way his presence felt to him. But he couldn't pinpoint what was odd about Eren.

Dan stopped caring about Eren after meeting him for the first time at that time because he had bigger things to worry about. He had sensed that Eren of that time was lowkey wary of him.

And the same guy was now sitting in front of him like he controlled the space around him.

"Puberty did you a solid, boy!"

Dan said and snorted air through his nostrils before adding further.

"We can indeed talk about business. But first, tell me something honestly. How many women are you involved with as of right now?"

[Chapter 784 Spell Synthesis Array](#)

"We can indeed talk about business. But first, you need to tell me something honestly. How many women are you involved with as of right now?"

Dan asked, looking at Eren keenly. The latter felt that he was put in a tough spot. Not because he didn't want to say the number out loud. But because he had honestly lost count.

"Um... I don't know. You must have read something about me. You tell me."

Eren said and shrugged his shoulders. He continued before Dan could get angrier at him than he already was.

"Look, we all know it's normal for some rankers to have multiple partners. You can't tell me how to live my life just because you are one of the big houses of the kingdom and it complicates things for you.

I have also read the file about you. You were a one-woman man. So I get what kind of point you are trying to make. But that's more of a self-imposed boundary than a virtue in my opinion. Or an utter blessing from who knows where.

Sometimes, a man finds a complete piece of the puzzle for himself. And sometimes, he finds pieces of it as he moves on with his life. The goal is to complete the puzzle. Not count the pieces it is divided into."

Eren said and sighed. After pondering for a bit, he continued.

"Lensa has chosen to be with me despite my involvement with others. I know you feel that your granddaughter shouldn't be with me if I look at this whole thing from your point of view. And you are probably right.

But I'm only respecting Lensa's wishes. As long as she sees me as hers, I'll treat her right. If her happiness is being with me, I'll not be the selfless idiot who pushes her towards what is "right".

I'm selfish enough to claim Lensa for myself. And a lot of others who I consider deserving of my affection. I'm selfish enough to complete the puzzle in my life however I see fit."

Eren said with a smile on his face. He was only glad that the old elf could only know about his misadventures with humans. His bullshittery would not have worked if Dan knew about his "monstrous" lifestyle as well.

Dan opened his mouth to say something to Eren. But no words came out. He found himself tongue-tied when Eren didn't try to deceive him and instead came clean to him. And also in a way that would leave Dan speechless in the philosophical maze.

Dan sighed when he saw Eren was looking at him with the same restless eyes as before. It was apparent that he was in a hurry to do things. The old elf shook his head before saying out loud.

"Alright. I had many things to say to you about this subject, boy. But I guess they would fall on deaf ears.

Even that silly goose won't listen to me. Why should I even try?

Alright. Come out, you two."

Dan said, before reclining back. For some reason, he prevented himself from copying the stance Eren was sitting with. Lensa appeared out of the blue and froze on the ground she was standing on. She first greeted her grandfather and waved at him before sitting beside Eren.

Dan could tell that smile on Lensa's face was genuine. There was no point in keeping her out of the discussions anymore. The old elf had realized that Eren would find a way to make Lensa approach him and do things the way he wanted House Carren to do anyway.

Controlling the couple together was much more effective.

Dineria appeared following Lensa's entry. She sat beside Dan, looking at the young couple in front of her with a bit of a smirk. She was impressed with the way Eren had carried himself under the high-ranked elf's status.

Dineria was also happy Lensa ended up with Eren instead of Ken. Elf ladies could be considered weird that way.

"I take it you want to use Lensa's Ability for your commercial use? Elaborate on that."

Dan finally got down to business. Eren stopped smiling and nodded with a stoic look on his face. He explained everything that he and Lensa had come up with from last time.

Eren also added a few more pointers from the manufacturing point of view that he hadn't talked with Lensa before. Since Dan was the official representative of House Carren, it was better if he had this talk with the old elf himself.

Eren's idea was to use spell synthesis array setups to manufacture two distinct products. One was the healing potion. Another was Lensa's ability to be synthesized as an alchemy bomb.

The spell synthesis arrays required array masters to copy the spell's effects into the runic details incorporated into the respective array setups. Normally, anyone would then be able to use the array provided they were of the same ranking status as the spell that had been converted into an array setup.

This spell would be cast the same way as the reference spell it is based on. Its effects would be identical to those derived from reference spell casting as well.

Things were a bit different in Lensa's case since she was using her Ability instead of a singular spell or a spell combo. Therefore, a higher-tier version of the spell synthesis array needed to be used to commercialize Lensa's Ability.

Lensa needed to fire spells inside these spell synthesis arrays when deformities arise in manufacturing. In this case, the mechanism incorporated into the arrays would treat the recent Ability deployment as a new reference point for resolving manufacturing errors.

Of course, this was an Ability, the manufacturing outcome wouldn't be as good as the original one. Still, it would be satisfactory considering the number of products it churns every day.

A huge commitment was needed from both parties to create a setup like this. Their first challenge would be to find capable array masters to pull this off. Plus, they would need to burn thousands of Extols in creating and operating these array setups before they could see the profits.

[Chapter 785 Lost Cause](#)

Using spell synthesis arrays had a lot of limitations.

No matter how talented an array master was in their craft, the arrays they created would always fail to synthesize the spell outcomes as well as their original counterparts. And the output was bound to deteriorate with time. Therefore, the production line would only work smoothly when Lensa was there to fix the errors that would pop out now and then.

Mass production of anything is based more on quantity than quality. As long as sufficient quality standards are met, the more products are produced, the greater the profit. Provided there was a corresponding demand for them.

Eren explained everything to the old elf patiently while highlighting the nitty-gritty of two separate projects and two separate products using the same foundation that was Lensa's Ability named Radiant Destruction. He also divided the roles between the two sides equally and offered a 50/50 profit sharing for House Carren.

Only now did Dan realize why Eren had been so successful in his endeavor to establish his own city. The guy knew how to do business and how to pull people towards him with all his entrepreneurship skills.

However, Dan discovered one problem with Eren's plans.

"Boy, you have planned far ahead. But you don't realize that manufacturing alchemic bombs is not something the kingdom of Edinburgh would take a liking to.

The healing potions are no problem. But you wouldn't be able to mass produce the alchemy bombs without the kingdom's approval. They'd shut us down as soon as they got the whiff of this thing."

Dan said after listening to Eren's speech. Producing an alchemy bomb wasn't a morale issue for the old elf. He even knew who to contact to make this setup a reality. But it would be a dead investment if the project gets banned before the products hit the market.

Eren chuckled when he heard Dan's issue. He reminded the old man of something.

"Dan, this would have been a problem in times of peace. But you are forgetting the fact that there are clouds of something sinister brewing on the horizon.

Hehe. Forget about them banning the alchemy bombs. I'm expecting royal manufacturing contracts from Edinburgh."

Dan was puzzled at first. But he opened his eyes wide when something clicked in his mind. Dineria didn't understand what the two men were talking about. So she asked Eren upfront.

"Boy, what are you talking about?"

Eren looked at Dineria and smiled. He held hands with Lensa confidently before speaking up in a slightly excited tone.

"War!

There's a war brewing between Edinburgh and Layos.

We will supply our products to the kingdom's army, mercenaries, and adventurers involved in the war conflict. How the kingdom regulates these products in those groups would not be our concern.

There will be no responsibility falling to us at the time of signing these kingdom contracts. So that we can avoid any trouble coming our way soon."

Dan wanted to say something after hearing Eren's speech. The latter knew exactly what the old elf would speak about. So he responded before hearing the question.

"Of course, Edinburgh would be difficult to convince at first. But if and when it faces enough pressure from Layos, it will eventually sign contracts with us.

This way, we'll make profits while the kingdom faces war. Deepen our ties with the bureaucrats. Plus, we'd get to claim that we are doing this because we care about the safety of Edinburgh and the people inside it. Good credit is always helpful for business.

I think a guy like you would be the perfect representative of our alliance to make this deal happen. I'm sure you'd know who to use and who to approach to get the approval and manufacturing contracts. I can already see it on your face. Names are popping in your head."

Dan nodded at Eren. He could indeed manage things on bureaucratic levels if the plan was to take shape for real. He was just amazed by how far into the future the young man in front of him had thought. On one end, it was visionary. On the other hand, it was lowkey scary.

'He... he is not bad.'

Dan looked at the interlocking of hands Eren and Lensa displayed. He then looked at Lensa and sighed.

"Lensa, you had said that you didn't like your Ability because it was destructive. And you were not comfortable with that.

Do you see what this man is trying to do with your Ability? We are planning to bank on the kingdom's manufacturing contracts. And make money on people's sufferings.

For this guy, war is a business opportunity. Are you fine with all this?"

Dan asked, trying to take the final jab at Lensa to test her resolve. Of course, the old elf didn't have any problem going ahead with the plan. However, he didn't want his granddaughter's conscience getting affected in the process.

'This old man wants to kick me out of Lensa's life. It makes me want to get even closer to her.'

Eren chuckled to himself before putting his left arm across Lensa's shoulders. He then pulled closer to her and almost embraced her. He scratched on her earlobe with his left hand and looked at her keenly.

Lensa had a bit of a blush on her cheeks when Eren tried to show signs of affection right in front of her Gramps. But she suppressed her cocktail of emotions and answered Dan honestly.

"Well... Eren had already discussed these things with me. He says people are going to die in the war one way or the other. Violence breeds violence. But overwhelming violence keeps things from escalating any further by acting as a deterrent.

These alchemy bombs will soon be seen as a deterrent. Even if they are not seen as a deterrent, these bombs would help outside a lot and would help save their lives at least."

Eren nodded at Lensa's words before encouraging her to speak some more.

"Tell him about the healing potions."

Dan had black lines on his forehead when he watched how Eren influenced her point of view which was so different before meeting with him. He only had one thought in his mind as he listened to Lensa say that Eren was right in saying that they were counterbalancing the alchemy bombs by manufacturing healing potions as well.

'She's a lost cause.'

[Chapter 786 Ice Fairy's Kiss And RDX](#)

Ice Fairy's Kiss and RDX.

These were two products slated to be derived from Lensa's Ability.

Ice Fairy's Kiss was supposed to be a top-of-the-line healing potion that would get sold at a cheaper rate than any premium-grade potion. But it would produce almost identical results to those five-star concoctions.

Ice Fairy's Kiss was one of the most ideal choices for mass production. It could easily manufacture such goods with the approval of the kingdom. Plus, it had an excellent usability-to-affordability ratio.

Ice Fairy's kiss could be used as an all-purpose remedy and worked better than an all-stats recovery potion. As its manufacture would depend only on spell synthesis, it would be much cheaper to make than the most commonly used, yet relatively expensive concoction.

Radiant Detonation X or RDX was a name given to the alchemy bomb that was supposed to be created using Lensa's Ability. The name was inspired by Lensa's Ability.

The butcher was sure that RDX was going to be even more popular than Ice Fairy's Kiss because of the potential destructive properties it contained. The upcoming war would provide an ideal environment for his products.

Eren would sell most of these products under his guild's name. That is if he was selling them officially.

He would provide the facilities and handle manufacturing. House Carren will be responsible for handling the potential kingdom contracts made by various factions present within the army.

Of course, both sides knew that RDX was not meant to be sold to the general populace. At least not openly. The old elf was thinking of selling RDX on the black market to make a ludicrous amount of profit over time. He could always blame things on cultist organizations counterfeiting the alchemy bomb.

Eren wasn't thinking about the black market. Because penetration into the black market could be done at any time. The butcher was more interested in selling his goods to the kingdom of Layos. That way, Edinburgh would be forced to give more manufacturing contracts to him in the hopes of out bombing its enemy.

Of course, he needed to plan these things right. He couldn't just use the same setup to manufacture the alchemy bombs that are slated to be sold to the enemy kingdom. Otherwise, the mana signatures they would produce would only give away the RDX bomb's identity.

Eren needed to create a different array set up at a different place. Possibly in the Badlands. All his dealings with the kingdom of Layos could be done from there.

Eren had the same plans for Alephee's weapons as well. He was planning to sell the weapons she made to Layos— a kingdom that would buy those at good prices because it would be in dire need of one.

Eren had decided to visit Bigua's tribe soon while discussing the nitty gritty of their manufacturing. He had gotten the tribe's information as well as its location from Ror.

Bigua's tribe was located near an ideal place that could be used to intercept the forces of Layos should they decide to penetrate Edinburgh. After subjugating the tribe, he could use the location to establish a second setup there and sell his goods to Layos.

This way, both his manufacturing lines would work independently of each other. He could create teleportation arrays nearby to make it easy for Lensa to move between the two facilities. After all, he wouldn't care about burning a few hundred Extols when he was making tens of thousands per day.

White Raven Ale, Pleasure Paradise, ranked weapons, Ice Fairy's Kiss, and RDX.

Eren was going to shock Edinburgh's market completely with his upcoming product lineup soon. Except for Lensa's Ability driven products, he had been preparing to launch the rest of the products for some time.

Pleasure Paradise was ready to be sold and produced in sufficient quantities. Weapons produced in bulk by Alephee were ready to be sold.

White Raven Ale had everything ready in theory. The butcher only needed to fix a potion recipe and assign someone to take control over the process so they would be able to serve as his proxy.

"Alright, boy. You have me sold. Ice Fairy's Kiss and RDX huh!

Hehe. Both products are going to be a hit because of the upcoming storm. We just need to see how successful they become."

Eren chuckled as nodded at Dan and Dineria. He knew he would be able to find common ground while striking a deal with House Carren. Plus, a 50-50 profit-sharing margin was neither too large nor too small for either side.

The alliance he had established with House Carren was a bit different from his alliances with the other two Houses. It would allow him to penetrate almost every market in the kingdom. He was also looking at the prospects of earning cross-kingdom profits.

"Alright...now for the final deal."

Eren looked at Lensa and said. He then released her and sat upright himself. This was one of the most significant points in dealing with House Carren.

"Gramps, Eren needs a few vials of Astral projection potion from you."

Dan looked at Eren angrily when he used Lensa to make such an absurd demand from him. The Astral projection potion was one of the sought-after potions for high-ranking entities. At their level, only drinking potions like these would offer them tangible results.

Dan was reluctant to share the potion with Eren for the simple reason that it was crazy rare and thus very expensive. The old man was addicted to using the potion. But Lensa finally convinced him to relent.

"Here you go. Three vials of Astral Projection potion."

Three transcendent-grade potion vials appeared in front of Eren who stored them as soon as he could. He didn't want Dan reducing the vial count midway.

Another part of the Lazarus project was completed at this time. Eren smiled at nobody before taking his leave.

He needed to find Marie and give her something precious to her. Only after ensuring his guild's steady function could Eren leave the city in peace.

[Chapter 787 Rank-Up Program](#)

"This..."

Marie gasped when she saw the lab in front of her. Eren had given Marie a separate lab to work in. She had all the amenities inside the potion lab along with the must-have array setups and raw ingredients stored nicely in separate spatial storages.

The potioning lab also had a mini library and a study corner Marie could use in case she needed to check on any research material available. She also had a corner for rest. The butcher had provided her with everything an Ace-ranked potioner could ask for.

There was an optimum ambiance, the right amount of ventilation, and moisture control present in the lab even though it was an underground facility. Plus, there were various safety precautions in place to ensure minimal damage occurs to surroundings and raw ingredients in case of concoction failures.

"This is really a dream come true, Ma Cherie. I... I am really impressed by the care Adept Eren had extended for us."

Only now could Marie understand why Master Levine didn't take her as an official disciple. She doubted she could create this kind of setup for just herself, much less for people under her. She even doubted she could have people under her.

Eren hadn't cut corners when it came to potioning. Marie could tell that Eren was a genuine potioner and worthy of being taught by Levine. Because only a true potioner could understand the care given to their labs.

"Hmph! Don't get me wrong Marie. Adept Eren had indeed given us special treatment. But the way this lab looks, it's more like he wants you to stay in this lab forever."

Arizihana derived an alternate meaning behind why Marie was gifted with such a potioning lab. The most effective way to keep a prisoner from staying inside the prison willingly was to make their cell as attractive as possible.

Marie scrunched her nose when she heard Arizihana's words. Part of her couldn't help agreeing with her. But that didn't prevent her from feeling equally grateful.

"Well... he could have chosen to not provide me with this lab and still expected me to deliver the results he wanted. I have seen the rankers operate. And I have seen the way cultists do their things. Both wouldn't have offered me this kind of facility because I'm only a halfling.

I just want to research my potions in peace. I am this close to cracking the code and revolutionizing potioning for all potioners. Hehe! If this lab provides me the way to achieve that, I'm ready to sacrifice my freedom for it."

Arizihana sighed when she heard Marie's statements. But then again, the Marie she knew was exactly like that. She chose to stay with the cultists to follow her own path as a potion maker. She had chosen to cut ties with her sister for this path. Arizihana thought that she shouldn't be surprised when Marie entertained the idea of compromising her freedom to pursue her path.

Swoosh. Bzzt. Boom.

"Who told you you'd have to compromise your freedom to achieve what you want to achieve?"

A deep and curious voice was heard in the lab when Marie finished talking. Both ladies looked back to see a bolt of lightning strike at the space not too far away from them.

Eren had appeared inside Marie's dedicated lab. He was looking at both the ladies with keen expressions as he walked toward them.

"I... I didn't mean to say that, Adept Eren. What I meant was..."

For some reason, Marie would feel a subtle form of suppression whenever Eren was around. Arizihana would be stressed too when he was around. But the halfling could tell the suppression she felt was different.

"It's fine. I was just asking. How did you like this lab? Do you want anything added to the facility?"

Eren asked while putting his hands in his pants' sleeves. His long black hair, his emerald green eyes, and his keen gaze gave him a charm of his own. The light black beard he had on his face made him look mature while maintaining the vibe of his youthfulness.

On one end, Eren would look more mature for his age. On the other hand, he would look like he had barely gotten into adulthood. His aura was different than other rankers too.

Marie and Arizihana could not figure out whether they felt fear whenever Eren was around or were they merely intimidated. He had a certain pull that would usually be felt by everyone around him.

"Hm? Oh! Oh no, Adept Eren. ... this is more than enough. In fact, it looks like this lab was made for Adept rankers. An Ace ranker like me won't be able to make full use of it. If you want, I'm fine with having a lab suitable for my rank."

Eren raised his eyebrows when he heard Marie's words. If he was in her shoes, he would never say anything like this. At most, he would highlight his gratitude more than he genuinely felt.

'Hm. I guess she's been fighting all alone for so long that she has forgotten the feeling of being treated nicely.'

Eren sighed when he concluded Marie's condition in his mind. As soon as his soul sense had awakened, he would subconsciously use it to connect with the people around him and know about their true feelings.

"I think you are misunderstanding something. This is indeed a lab meant for Adept rankers. But there's no mismanagement on my part.

I don't want you ladies to slack off in your ranking journeys. You are no use to me if you stay in the same rank for months to come. Find ways to reach Adept rank. Only then can you be of real use to me.

Fortunately or unfortunately depending upon the way you perform and obtain results, you would have to participate in a special rank-up program that will commence shortly."

Eren said matter-of-factly. He wished that he had all the Adept ranker potioners and guild members working for him. But individual growth would take time to take place naturally. Not everybody could use shortcuts like him. And not everybody was as talented as someone like Drin.

Hiring Adept rankers was not an easy task either. Especially since the war was brewing. The kingdom of Edinburgh had basically called dibs on any unaffiliated Ace and Adept rankers. It was also trying to rope in Experts and Masters.

So Eren came up with his own solution.

[Chapter 788 Real Deal](#)

Eren was seen thinking to himself while standing in front of Arizihana and Marie.

'If I can't get Adept rankers, I'll create my own. Potion-induced breakthroughs, forced breakthroughs, mid-battle breakthroughs, and special arrays. I'll do anything and everything to make these seeds mature early.

My plans won't wait for their natural growth. And I'll make sure that they don't have to.'

Eren thought to himself as he looked at the two ladies with stoic expressions.

Airzihana and Marie looked at each other as they processed what Eren was trying to say to them. Both the ladies were quite a bit away from their ranking breakthroughs.

Eren smirked when he saw the faces of his two guild members with stressed expressions.

"Don't worry. I will provide you with the right kind of resources to help you achieve your ranking breakthrough in the shortest time possible. I have given you a heads-up today to help you mentally prepare for the process.

You are not the only two. Each member of the White Raven guild will be treated the same way. Those who succeed in our program will be provided incentives. And those who fall back will be encouraged by being penalized.

They will be penalized following the effort they put forth and the results they received. I understand that no two individuals are the same. Therefore, penalties will not discourage you from participating in this rank-up program.

Agatha will manage this program in my absence. She is always available to assist you if you need anything special. Your payments will be adjusted accordingly.

The guild will try to provide you with the best-in-class resources. In exchange, I want you to do only one thing."

Eren said and checked his pockets. He took out his Sativa Stick and lit it up before concluding.

"Don't slack off. That's the only requirement to benefit from this White Raven special rank-up program."

Eren said, releasing clouds of smoke from his mouth. He felt a subtle calm wash over him when he did that. Half of Eren's stress because of being part of mana circuit training was washed away at that time.

Eren had once thought of subjecting every guild member to the same form of mana circuit training he was put through. But Alephee told him that it would be a terrible idea for his guild. Nobody would remain in his guild if he did that.

Eren had to drop the idea upon Alephee's suggestion.

Arizihana had handled administrative roles when she was in charge of the city of Silvermoon. She realized that there was another reason for Eren to provide such a top-of-the-line facility for Marie.

The avid smoker in front of Arizihana was getting his guild members accustomed to certain standards of living. He planned to provide them with rich resources so they would become accustomed to having them.

Only then could these guild members feel the true burn of being penalized. The penalty would revoke their access to the resources they would have gotten used to by that time.

If Arizihana's guess was right, the penalty for falling behind in Eren's rank-up program would make Marie lose privilege in her lab. She would face a similar kind of psychological pressure tailored to her needs and situation.

'This man is manipulative as hell.'

Arizihana thought in her head. But she froze in her place when Eren suddenly looked at her and smiled as if he had heard what she was thinking about.

"You know what kind of conspiracies I like, Arizihana? Those that they call open conspiracies.

Call it manipulation of psychological dependence. Or wrap it in flowery words like custom training modules. I don't care about the labels attached to the processes. I only care about the results they deliver."

Eren then had an extensive talk with the two ladies. He laid out his expectations for them. And also briefly told them about the rank-up program he was planning to start throughout his guild community.

In the end, he took out a vial of potion from his storage and threw it toward Marie. The halfling caught it easily even though she was surprised by his actions.

The butcher explained what the potion was before the potioner could ask him about it.

"This..."

Eren took the last puff from his smoke and dispersed it in thin air before speaking up.

"This is the information you were looking for. I sort of found it by accident when I was reading through your research."

Marie looked at the colorless liquid in the vial with puzzlement before looking back at Eren. It took her a while to understand what Eren was talking about.

"This... this can't be!"

Marie's hands started shaking when she realized what she was holding. Her eyes got wide open. His lips started trembling. And her breathing became uneven.

She looked at Eren with a mixture of shock and suspicion. She needed to confirm.

"This missing ingredient?"

Eren chuckled before answering truthfully.

"You were not running after a mirage. All your arduous work and all your efforts. The sacrifices you gave to achieve what you want. They were not in vain.

The vial of potion you are holding is indeed the fabled missing ingredient you had hypothesized about in your research paper."

Eren confirmed Marie's suspicions, which made her almost lose her grip over the vial. Instead of holding it casually, she cradled it like a tiny baby in both hands.

One part of her couldn't believe this was the thing she was looking for after becoming a cultist. It's been years. It's been countless experiments. Many sleepless nights. Doing things she didn't want to do.

She looked at Eren with tears in her eyes. No words were coming out of her shaky lips. Eren understood what she was trying to ask him.

"Hehe. Don't look at me like that. Why would I swindle you?

You can verify the potion's properties yourself by putting it through any form of test you had previously devised yourself. All the results you get will then scream at you to believe that the thing in your hand is the real deal."

Eren said confidently while pointing his index finger at the vial Marie was holding. In the next moment, he felt he was being embraced.

The halfling was so emotional that she forgot everything and hugged Eren directly.

[Chapter 789 Straightening Up](#)

What Eren had given Marie was a concoction derived from his blood.

Alephée had prevented Eren from using his blood directly in any potioning experiment. Especially if those experiments were going to be conducted by someone else.

She had taught him a potioning method to extract the properties of his blood that gave it its non-elemental conflict nature. The process got rid of any other attributes that made it his blood. Therefore, the concoction resembled water.

This colorless liquid would show various properties from time to time. In some cases, it would not reflect any light that fell on it, turning the liquid completely black. Sometimes it would defy gravity and not fall into the vessel even if the vial was tilted so that it was poured outside.

Sometimes this liquid would stop being colorless and exude brilliance in distinct shades. And sometimes it would change its phase—turning gaseous from liquid and solid from gaseous before finally reverting to being liquid within a fraction of a second.

Alephée told Eren that this was the normal reaction for the extracted liquid. Only after confirming that the liquid did not have any blood-like properties did she give him her green signal to hand it over to Marie.

Eren was surprised when Marie hugged him with her emotions all over the place. But that didn't stop him from patting her back as he spoke up.

"You should control your emotions now. You are acting like your search is over when it has just begun. We are just getting started."

Eren tried to calm Marie with his words. But the latter had many things swirling inside her head. She couldn't help remembering the struggles she had to face.

She felt grateful that Eren proved her hypothesis right. But there was one part of her that wanted to discredit the derived solution. Because that part of her thought that only she had the right to discover it through the process she had created for herself. She wanted to be the one to claim the discovery of the missing ingredient.

Eren chuckled and caressed Marie's back before commenting.

"Hehe. Trust me. You wouldn't have been able to come up with the missing ingredient no matter how much you thought you were near to discovering it.

This concoction in your hand is something only I can give you. No matter how many years you spend researching your hypothesis, you wouldn't be able to produce even a single drop."

Marie was shocked when she heard Eren's words. Her ego as a researcher was telling her he was wrong. But there was something deep inside her that told her that Eren was speaking the truth.

The missing ingredient she had been looking for was always elusive. She always thought she was close to distilling it but the experiments would often go haywire at the last moment. But then how did Eren manage to derive the solution after reading her research papers and her hypothesis?

It meant that only Eren had the missing piece of the puzzle that validated her hypothesis and her research. Therefore, only he could make this concoction a reality.

In the end, Marie accepted the fact that Eren was telling the truth. That nobody but him could produce the missing ingredient. He had little to gain from lying about it.

Still, she wanted to learn more about this elusive ingredient.

"How...?"

Marie asked Eren in simple words. Eren pursed his lips before responding casually.

"um... It's a long process. Something you shouldn't worry too much about. After all, we all have our secrets. Potioners have them even more so than the rest."

Before Marie could ask Eren any more questions, she felt a strong tug on her shoulders. Arizihana had appeared behind Marie, trying to separate her from hugging Eren.

Eren raised his eyebrows before focusing his attention on Arizihana.

"Jealous much?"

Eren asked, a mischievous smile on his face. He could read what was transpiring inside Arizihana's head. He was a bit taken aback after realizing the fact that both the ladies were in fact "scissors sisters."

"What... what has that got to do with you, Adept Eren?"

Arizihana said with signs of stress on her face. Eren laughed before using his hand to pull the elf into his embrace as well.

Arizihana was shocked when she found herself resting her head on Eren's chest beside Marie. She could not believe that a senior ranker and their guild master would initiate such advances on her.

"Adept Eren... what is the meaning of this?"

Arizihana asked, giving up on her attempt to rescue Marie from Eren's embrace. The halfling was an emotional glob at the time.

"The meaning is simple. I want to brand you both."

Using his Sin Series Ability in conjunction with his soul sense, Eren said. This was one of the enlightenment he had received while awakening the soul sense.

Eren used his soul sense as a foundation to mimic the triggers of his Ability. In the next moment, both Marie and Arizihana felt that something had touched their inner vaginal walls.

Mark of the Seven Sins: Mist of Lust

Eren was able to activate his Ability without the penial penetration that was supposed to be its trigger. Since it was his soul sense that had been manifested in the way it did, the Ability's runes treated it as him fulfilling the trigger. After all, a person's soul sense was the most fundamental manifestation of himself.

Of course, only the mist of lust was activated this way. The branding process still required the usual action.

Both Marie and Arizihana kept looking at each other to figure out what was going on. But before they could process what was happening, the ladies started feeling waves of lust and ecstasy taking over them.

Eren didn't shy away from using the Ability on both the ladies even after knowing their "preferences". After all, he needed complete control over the experiments Marie was supposed to spearhead. And there was no better way to do it than branding them with his Sin Series Ability.

No matter how emotionally responsive he got, the butcher's self-interests were still paramount to him.

Both Marie and Arizihana were lower in ranking status than Eren. They couldn't offer any resistance to Eren's Ability that had been refined with his rank-up.

"Hehe. Let's get you ladies straightened up."

Eren chuckled at his pun as he hugged a halfling and an elf who had started writhing in lust in his embrace.

[Chapter 790 Warmonger](#)

A corner in Marie's huge lab was dedicated as a resting spot.

There was a large bed there that could accommodate three people.

"I... I'll never forgive you."

Arizihana said, looking at Eren with expressions that screamed that she had been wronged. Eren and Marie were sleeping on either side of him. The butcher had both his folded arms used as a cushion to rest his head on.

Arizihana's voice sounded coquettish to Eren while he was smoking his Sativa Stick. The three rankers were sleeping in their birthday suits.

Arizihana and Marie had been branded. Marie had just fallen asleep after she was branded because of the emotional turmoil she was facing before Eren even initiated his Ability.

Arizihana was the only one who could understand what had happened. She had been overwhelmed by feelings of lust under some external influence. That led her and Marie to sleep with Eren. And in a way that made it seem like their lives depended on them being with him.

Marie was snoring a bit as she was sleeping on her stomach.

'I guess she was never fucked so much her brain would just shut off.'

Eren chuckled and mushed the halfling's exposed buns and slapped them gently before responding to Arizihana.

"Ha. It doesn't matter what you say, you are now loyal to me. And that should be enough for me. However..."

As he faced Arizihana, Eren spoke. He threw his smoke away and used his free hand to trace the elf's shapely and curvy waistline.

Airzihana wanted to slap Eren's hand away from her naked body. But for some reason, it reacted differently to his touch. It welcomed his touch and wanted him to continue a while longer.

Eren had to admit that Arizihana Agnoth was a very charming snow elf. Her snow-like supple skin would turn pink every time his fingers put gentle pressure on it. The butcher would leave a trace of pink behind every time he latched onto any of her grabbable body parts.

Erne leaned over and kissed Arizihana and the latter was powerless to resist. Once she felt her desires reawakening, even the resistance in her head melted away.

Eren broke free from the kiss and pulled Arizihana's cheeks before commenting.

"See? You can't fool me with your misleading words."

Arizihana didn't like that Eren stopped kissing her just when she was getting into the mood. Eren had already addressed some of her questions related to what had transpired between them. He also answered some of her more serious questions. However, he still needs to answer some questions.

One of the good things about Eren's soul sense and the connection he shared with Arizihana and Marie was that she didn't have to voice her queries. The butcher knew them as soon as she thought about them.

"Hm? I don't have any problem if you and Marie decide to get cozy with each other. As long as you could accommodate me in the play when I'm with you, all fine and dandy."

Eren said and caressed Ari's hair. The latter nodded at her master before asking him another question.

"Oh! Do you feel that you have seen me before? Haha. That's right. You have indeed interacted with me before we met in this city."

Eren said and chuckled before lying flat on his back, prompting Arizihana to get on top of him from his right side. Arizihana's puzzled expressions intensified when the confirmation arrived.

Instead of replying verbally, Eren morphed into Ron Damien in front of Arizihana. Arizihana was shocked by what Eren could do. And she was even more shocked by who he had changed into.

"You... Ron! You were the one who had blackmailed me when I was in the city of Silvermoon."

Arizihana's mana signature fluctuated with agitation when she saw Eren had messed up with her long before she knew who he really was. It looked like the guy had made a habit out of blackmailing and taking advantage of her.

"What... what are you guys talking about?"

Marie woke up from her slumber when she felt Arizihana's agitated presence and her shocked and loud voice. She looked at the man who she was pinning with her body.

The halfling remembered what had taken place between her, Ari, and Eren. Unlike Arizihana, she quickly made peace with the fact that she had been branded by Eren.

However, the person Arizihana was pinning with her body weight was someone else. And she knew that person very well by his face.

"You... how the fuck...!"

Eren laughed before explaining to the two ladies a bit about his burned identity, Ron Damien. He only provided them with the information that was relevant to them.

"And what happened to those two Adept rankers from Beast Bloods and Illuminati?"

Marie asked, still processing the shock she had received from Eren. He waved his hand as if he were squashing a fly before saying casually.

"Oh. I killed them."

Arizihana and Marie both looked at each other as if they were too stunned to even talk about it. It took a while for Arizihana to voice what she was thinking.

"You have started a war between two large cultist organizations. Are you aware of that?"

Marie sighed when she heard the elf's question. She answered the question for Eren.

"Of course, this warmonger is aware of what he has done and lowkey proud of it. We could safely say that this was not the first time him fucking us good."

Ari was visibly angered when she realized how Eren's interventions had affected her and Marie's lives. He had basically made them both relocate to a different duchy and start things from scratch.

Ari couldn't control herself from biting Eren's neck in anger. Marie chuckled before following her lead, placing a gentle bite on the other side of Eren's exposed neck.

Eren couldn't help but smile as he allowed both the ladies to try to bite him. He lowered his natural mana defense layer just enough for their bite to leave a mark. This was the least he could do to offer them some form of reparation.

He caressed both the ladies' backs while commenting.

"Heh! I'll start as many wars as I need to get what I want."

Eren said before engaging himself in another round of carnal play with Arizihana and Marie.