

## The Immortal's Wine Store

# Chapter 401 - Demon Empress Ganda's Surprise

The next day, Demon Empress Ganda arrived in Morlon City. Standing behind her was Lou Baiqing dressed in his noble outfit.

Their arrival immediately attracted the attention of the crowd.

Dressed in her most favorite crimson robes with gold and white highlights, Demon Empress Ganda was the focal point of everyone's gazes. Even though she was wearing a veil, the crowd could still see her captivating pair of eyes. Her noble and elegant disposition also made her appear like an ethereal being.

"Who are those two? They look like nobles..."

"That woman looks freakin hot! Look at those eyes..."

"I think that man is Lou Baiqing of the Narda Principality. I heard that he came to Morlon City a few days ago as a delegate. They should be here to discuss something with His Majesty. You guys should watch your mouths or you might get killed without you knowing why."

Lou Baiqing was already used to this scene, so he ignored the crowd's stupefied expressions. However, he was worried that the Demon Empress might be offended by their gazes. He only sighed in relief when he saw that she didn't care.

"Lou Baiqing, can we not fly to that wine store?" Demon Empress Ganda felt slightly uncomfortable under everyone's watchful eyes. As someone who was focused on cultivation, she wasn't used to going out in public. She only comes out of her room when she had something else to do.

Lou Baiqing sweated when he heard her words. Non-citizens of the Great Demon Empire are not allowed to casually fly in key cities of the empire. They would be deemed as enemies if they did that!

"Your Majesty, it is a rule of the Great Demon Empire that non-citizens aren't allowed to fly in key cities. Morlon City is one of the important hubs for trade in the empire, so there are quite a few restrictions here for outsiders. But don't worry. The wine store is nearby, so we can just take a beast carriage to go there." Lou Baiqing explained patiently. He was confident about Demon Empress Ganda's strength, but he didn't want to provoke the mysterious Jiu Shen without knowing his power.

Demon Empress Ganda furrowed her eyebrows, but she still nodded her head. She wasn't an idiot and she could already guess what Lou Baiqing was thinking.

"Alright. Lead the way." She muttered calmly.

Lou Baiqing nodded his head and led her to a transportation building that had luxurious carriages. He made sure that the Demon Empress would not be dissatisfied.

Lou Baiqing acted as the coachman while the Demon Empress sat comfortably inside the carriage. After a while, he then whipped the Saint-rank Dragon Horse and it immediately neighed and started pulling the carriage.

It was a huge savage beast with four muscular legs. Even though it had a dragon bloodline, it was so diluted that it can only serve the purpose of a mount to the nobles.

Inside the carriage, Demon Empress Ganda observed the bustling Morlon City. Although it wasn't as large as Narda Principality's Hegante City, she could see that the citizens here were quite wealthy and strong.

"I can't believe that a boorish man like Balmond can actually make a city this prosperous..." Demon Empress Ganda muttered.

Lou Baiqing chuckled at her words. After observing Morlon City for many days, he knew that the prosperity of the city wasn't Balmond's work. It was the result of Demon Emperor Jun's proper management and skillful ways of negotiating with the merchants.

Demon Empress Ganda heard him chuckling. She frowned and said in a cold tone. "Do you want to say something?"

Lou Baiqing awkwardly smiled as he replied. "No, Your Majesty."

The journey was silent after that short exchange. Lou Baiqing didn't dare say anything again, while the Demon Empress only watched the city's scenery.

Less than an hour later, their carriage stopped in front of a tall metal fence.

Lou Baiqing jumped down and opened the door of the carriage. He then offered a hand to the Demon Empress, but the latter swatted his hand as she jumped down by herself.

She was already a Void God Realm expert! Why would she need someone's help to go down a carriage?

Demon Empress Ganda ignored Lou Baiqing's hurt look and stared at the blooming azure lotus building behind the tall metal fences. It was breathtakingly beautiful and even her private house looked like rubbish in comparison to this building. She then moved her gaze towards the garden outside of the lotus building. It was filled with hundreds of Nascent-rank and Origin-rank spiritual plants! There were even some plants that emitted a strong amount of true essence!

"Void-rank spiritual plants?!" She muttered in shock. This garden actually has Void-rank spiritual plants! She then recalled what Lou Baiqing had told her.

According to him, Garland planned to steal a high-level spiritual from this place. She felt that it was unbelievable, but looking at this garden that was filled with vibrant energy, it seemed like Lou Baiqing did not lie to her. If that's the case, is the owner of this place truly involved with Garland's sudden disappearance?

Thinking about this, Demon Empress Ganda's expression turned solemn. From the looks of it, things might not go as she had planned. How would she face the owner?

'Do I have to attack him? What should I do?' A hint of nervousness crept into her heart. She thought that Lou Baiqing was merely exaggerating things, but from what she was seeing, he still underestimated the owner!

As she was in a dilemma, she soon noticed a succubus holding a strange object in her hands. It looked like a stone, but when she took a careful look, she discovered that it was actually a compressed form of a high-level metal! This thing was heavy!

"What is that girl doing?" She looked over curiously.

Lou Baiqing followed her gaze and saw the crown princess of the Great Demon Empire holding a spherical object in her hands. "Cornelia?"

## Chapter 402 - One Surprise After Another

"Cornelia? You mean the crown princess of the Great Demon Empire?" The Demon Empress had a perplexed look as she stared at the succubus who was lifting the compressed metal ball with a face full of sweat.

Lou Baiqing nodded his head. Suddenly, his face stiffened when he saw the figure seated on a chair behind the succubus.

"Your Majesty, you see that man sitting on a chair? That's the owner of this lotus building and everyone calls him Wine Master Jiu Shen." Lou Baiqing said while pointing at the silver-haired youth who was holding a bottle of wine.

Demon Empress Ganda narrowed her eyes as she scrutinized Jiu Shen. The young man was handsome even by her standards of beauty. However, what surprised her more was the man himself. She felt like she was just looking at an ordinary human. Strange.

Suddenly, a beautiful girl in her early twenties came out and walked towards them. Her face was full of wariness as she stared at Lou Baiqing and Demon Empress Ganda. "Hey, you two! Why are you suspiciously looking at my master's garden? Are you guys planning to steal his spiritual plants?!"

The faces of the two demons stiffened when they heard the girl. They were actually suspected as thieves?

"Little Sister, we just came to Morlon City and we were fascinated by this lotus building's architectural design. Whoever made this must be an artistic and talented person. Furthermore, we have so many Blood Stones, so why would we still someone's spiritual plants?" Lou Baiqing stepped forward as he hurriedly explained. He was quite eloquent and well-versed in communicating with other races, so he was able to come up with a random excuse.

Upon hearing his words, the girl's face eased up and she smiled. "Hehe. My master was the one who made this lotus building. Everything you see here, including the garden is his creation! He is a true genius!" She said with a proud tone of voice.

Lou Baiqing nodded his head exaggeratedly as he replied. "Indeed. Little Sister, is there still any available spot for the two of us inside?"

The girl nodded her head as she answered. "The first floor might be at full capacity, but looking at you guys, your strength is beyond the Nascent God Realm, right?"

Hearing this, Lou Baiqing took a quick glance at the Demon Empress before he nodded his head. "That's right. What about it?"

"In that case, you guys can go to the store's second floor. The environment there is much better than on the first floor. There are a few things there that might even help you improve your cultivation." The girl said mysteriously.

Lou Baiqing and Demon Empress Ganda merely smiled at her words. With their cultivation, there are only a few things that could help them enhance their strength. As for what she said, they just took it as an advertisement for the wine store.

"Thank you for the information, Little Sister. Oh, right! What's your name?" Lou Baiqing asked politely.

The girl smiled at him and answered with a cheerful voice. "Just call me Ivy. I'm a temporary gardener here."

Gardener? A Nascent God Realm expert is proud of being a gardener? Is this girl an idiot??Of course, Lou Baiqing wouldn't dare say it out loud.

"Little Sister Ivy, we won't bother you anymore. Thank you." Lou Baiqing said before he turned to look at the Demon Empress.

Ivy nodded her head and left.

"Take me to the second floor of this lotus building. As for the owner, we can talk with him later." Demon Empress Ganda calmly said.

"Yes, Your Majesty!" Lou Baiqing replied. He then brought her inside the lotus building while occasionally staring at the spiritual plants in the garden. Even until now, he was still envious and fascinated by this garden. Behind him, the Demon Empress also kept on looking at the spiritual plants. She felt her heart beating wildly when her gaze stopped on those Void-rank spiritual plants.

When the two came inside the store, they saw a huge hall with dozens of tables and hundreds of chairs. Everything inside this place from furniture to utensils screamed luxury.



The hall was packed with customers, but the place still appeared to be spacious. Everyone chattered with smiles on their faces as they drank their cups filled with wine.

To the surprise of Lou Baiqing and the Demon Empress, they discovered that although everyone was chatting, none of them dared to create too much of a noise and ruckus. It was very perplexing since they knew the wild personality of their demon brethren.

How could they act like cultured individuals? It didn't fit their ferocious faces at all!

"Welcome, dear guests! Is it your first time coming here?" A blue-haired girl came up to them and politely greeted the two.

Lou Baiqing and Demon Empress Ganda unconsciously nodded their heads.

"The first floor has been fully occupied, but since you guys have cultivation levels above the Nascent God Realm, I can take you guys to the second floor." Blue said with a smile. She could sense the Origin God Realm cultivation of the male demon, but she couldn't discern the strength of the woman behind him.

"Alright. It's our first time here, so please lead the way." Lou Baiqing said with a smile. This girl was a peak stage Nascent God Realm. She was just a step away from the Origin God Realm!

First was the gardener, and then, this young lady. The both of them are Nascent God Realm experts. Are all the employees of the wine store this strong?

Blue led the two demons upstairs where they met a cold-faced blonde-haired young lady guarding the entrance of the second floor. She had a black armor filled with battle marks, making her look like a valiant warrior.

Seeing her, Lou Baiqing furrowed his eyebrows. Peak stage Origin God Realm?

Similarly, Demon Empress Ganda also felt slightly threatened by this girl's aura. Although her cultivation level was lower than her own, the Demon Empress sensed a hint of danger coming from this young lady.. There must be something about this valiant woman that made her feel threatened.

## Chapter 403 - The Peculiar Paintings

Jiu Shen stared at the two demons talking to Ivy with an amused look. He knew who the male demon was since he had seen him together with Garland a few times. As for the beautiful demon lady, she should be someone of high standing in the Narda Principality.

"They finally couldn't hold back their curiosity..." He muttered to himself as he grinned. The Narda Principality should be here to observe the situation and also to check his power.

"Wine Master Jiu, did you say anything?" He heard the succubus ask with panted breath.

"No. Continue holding that metal ball for another two hours. You have to practice well since the enemies have already come to our doorstep." Jiu Shen smiled as he leaned back on his chair.

"Huh? What do you mean?!" Cornelia dropped the metal ball and turned her head towards Jiu Shen.

Jiu Shen stood up and smacked the back of her head. "Did I say you can drop the ball?"

He then picked up the metal ball and handed it to Cornelia who glared at him with malevolent eyes. Even so, she still accepted the metal ball and held it with a contorted expression on her face.

"Don't drop it again. Hold it for three hours." Jiu Shen said as he sat back in his chair.

"Didn't you say two-" Cornelia immediately closed her mouth when she saw Jiu Shen's smile. At first, she thought this smile was the most beautiful thing in the world, but at this moment, she didn't want to see this devil's smile again...

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Theia inspected the two demons standing behind Blue. The male was a peak stage Origin God Realm, while the woman was a mid stage Void God Realm. She felt surprised upon seeing this, but she maintained a composed look on her face.

"Staying here has a limit. You can check the details of the rules here on that scroll pasted on the wall. Remember. Don't cause any trouble or I'll kick you out forcibly..." Theia warned them with a cold look.

'This girl is beautiful, but she has a problematic personality.' Lou Baiqing thought as they stepped inside the second floor.

This room was a place of absolute grandeur! The design, the paintings... Wait those paintings...

Lou Baiqing walked closer to a painting and a baffled look slowly covered his face.

"Eh?" He exclaimed in astonishment, but then he suddenly felt a sharp stare boring down on him. He turned his head and saw Theia looking at him with an icy gaze. He smiled awkwardly at her before he turned to look at the painting again.

It was a depiction of a warrior floating above the clouds with a sword in his hand.

When Lou Baiqing first saw this painting, he felt that it had something hidden within, but no matter how hard he stared at the painting, he could no longer feel the mysterious sensation. "Weird. Did I sense it wrong?"

Looking at another painting was Demon Empress Ganda. She was staring at a depiction of a faceless woman seated cross-legged on the mouth of a volcano.

The Demon Empress narrowed her eyes and she used her spiritual vision to observe the painting. When her spiritual power touched the painting, she suddenly felt that she had become the woman in the painting!

She was cultivating her fire arts on the mouth of the volcano. She felt the temperature around her rising, but she could also sense that her fire arts was improving at a rapid rate!

"Your Majesty..."

"Your Majesty..."

Demon Empress Ganda abruptly opened her eyes and saw Lou Baiqing poking her arm with an anxious look. She glared at him as she said. "Why are you disturbing me?!"

Lou Baiqing's mouth twitched. You stared at this painting for several hours and used up all your time standing like a fool.

While scratching his head, Lou Baiqing answered nervously. "Your Majesty, our time is up. That lady said that we have to go out now..."

Hearing this, Demon Empress Ganda had a stunned look. Huh? I thought only a second has passed by. How come a few hours have passed without me sensing anything?

Demon Empress Ganda stared at the painting again. She shook her head in regret before she went out of the second floor. It was a pity that staying here was limited or she would have stayed just to dig the secrets of the painting.

The two demons saw the blonde-haired woman waiting for them outside. "You two exceeded the time limit. According to the rules, you will have to pay six thousand Blood Stones since every minute of exceeding time is worth a thousand Blood Stones. But since this is your first time here, I will let this go. Just be mindful the next you visit here."

Six thousand Blood Stones for six minutes!

"Thank you for your understanding, sister. Can I ask for your name?" Demon Empress Ganda smiled as she stared at the cold-looking Theia.

"Theia."

"Alright Sister Theia. We're leaving now." Demon Empress Ganda smiled at her and went downstairs. She still hasn't tasted the wines sold in this store. Hopefully, there might be vacant seats now.

As they were walking down the stairs, Demon Empress Ganda soon noticed the changes in her body. Her essence of fire element became ten percent denser and stronger! This was a substantial increase for her! How did it enhance her fire elemental essence? And what was that painting?!

"Your Majesty, is there anything wrong?" Lou Baiqing asked worriedly when he saw the flickering eyes of the Demon Empress.

"Those paintings. There is something peculiar about them. After staring at one of those paintings for a few hours, my fire elemental essence increased substantially." Demon Empress Ganda replied. Her voice contained a hint of surprise and bafflement.

'So that's why she stood there for a few hours. That means what I sensed at that time wasn't a mistake! What a pity!' Lou Baiqing felt regret in his heart upon hearing the Demon Empress' words.

## Chapter 404 - Frightened Demon Empress

Demon Empress Ganda held the bottle filled with blue wine. When she removed the cover, her nose was assaulted by a wave of oceanic fragrance that reminded her of the vast seas. She also discovered that just the smell alone of this wine made her cells extremely active and agitated. It was as if something had woken them up. This feeling was similar to when she was in her cultivation room. She found it hard to believe that a wine's smell actually has the same effect as a cultivation room!

"1000 Blood Stones is too cheap for it. If I was the one selling this, just the smell alone would be worth 5000 Blood Stones." Lou Baiqing suddenly said as he inhaled the fragrance of the wine.

Demon Empress Ganda ignored him and drank her wine silently.

It was delicious.

She licked her lips as she glanced at the wine bottle with surprise. "5000? I would even pay 50,000 Blood Stones for this."

Huh?

Lou Baiqing stared at her in wonder, but when the wine went down his stomach. He felt his body slowly changing. "This..."

"This wine is capable of enhancing spiritual power. That means, a much faster cultivation speed for people at our level of power. I wonder how that human created such a precious wine..." Demon Empress Ganda sighed as she thought of the silver-haired youth seated on a chair outside the store. He was truly a mysterious person. Just this wine alone was enough to make the Demon Empress feel that there was something more about this human.

Lou Baiqing nodded his head in agreement. He could also feel the churning of his dantian. It wasn't just a minor increase in spiritual power. In fact, it was equivalent to a few years of spiritual cultivation! Just imagine how much time they could save if they could drink this wine daily. It was truly precious!



"Lou Baiqing, if this man was truly involved with Garland's death, we might not be able to avenge him. Besides, he caused his own death!" Demon Empress Ganda sighed and no longer spoke after she said those words. She felt truly helpless with their situation.

She had seen Jiu Shen earlier and although she had yet to see his true power, she was certain that the human was stronger than her. 'If he can kill Garland without difficulty, then he should be a peak stage Void God Realm expert! With that kind of power, no one in the Crimson Fiend Continent is his opponent...'

"Your Majesty, what do we do now?" Lou Baiqing asked as she stared at the Demon Empress, but the latter merely shook her head in reply.

Seeing this, he decided to remain silent and just drink all of his wine.

After drinking her wine, Demon Empress Ganda stood up and walked towards the door leading outside the store as she muttered. "You pay for the wines."

Hearing this, Lou Baiqing could only speechlessly glance at her back.

As she stepped outside of the store, Demon Empress Ganda directly headed to where they had last seen Jiu Shen and the crown princess of the empire.

At this moment, she once again saw the garden filled with numerous spiritual plants. Her eyes were almost blinded as she stared longingly at these spiritual herbs and flowers.

She forcefully ignored the garden and searched for Jiu Shen. Luckily, they didn't go anywhere.

Demon Empress Ganda saw that Jiu Shen was still seated lazily on his chair as he watched the crown princess hold the metal ball. She felt like laughing when she saw this scene, but instincts told her not to.

With a face full of curiosity, she approached the human.

Cornelia slightly turned her head when she heard a series of light footsteps. She definitely didn't want anybody to see her in her current condition. It was too humiliating for a crown princess like her to do this kind of thing in public!

When the succubus saw the face of the demon walking in their direction, her eyeballs almost popped out in shock. It was a demon with long red hair and beautiful facial features. The succubus even felt inferior as she stared at this demon lady.

Cornelia turned around to check Jiu Shen's reaction, but the man didn't even stare at the newcomer. He was only leaning on his chair with his eyes shut tight.

Looking at this, Cornelia felt slightly relieved for no reason.

"Greetings, Wine Master Jiu Shen and Your Highness Cornelia." The beautiful red-haired demon greeted in a pleasing voice.

Cornelia tried to smile, but she could only put on a crooked smile with great difficulty. The metal ball was too heavy! Goddammit!

Jiu Shen slowly opened his eyes and stared at the Demon Empress with an expressionless face. "So you must be the hidden leader of the Narda Principality."

Demon Empress Ganda's face changed, but she soon calmed down. She smiled as she stared at Jiu Shen. "It seems like Wine Master Jiu Shen is already aware of my presence. That's right. I'm indeed Narda Principality's hidden leader. My name is Ganda."

Cornelia's eyes widened and her grip on the metal ball loosened. It immediately fell to the ground with a loud thud.

"Ah, this... I didn't do it on purpose! I swear!" Cornelia hurriedly explained while looking at Jiu Shen with pleading eyes.

Jiu Shen smirked and stood up from his seat. He then grabbed the fallen metal ball and handed it back to Cornelia. He then whispered to her ears. "I'll let you go this time, so disappear out of my sight before I change my mind."

Cornelia's heart chilled and she hastily left the scene. She didn't even bother to say goodbye to the Demon Empress...

Jiu Shen chuckled as he looked at the retreating figure. He then turned his gaze towards the Demon Empress who was looking at him with an amused look. However, to her surprise, Jiu Shen's smiling expression suddenly went cold when he stared at her.

"Since you are the leader of Narda Principality, you should know Garland, right?" Jiu Shen icy voice made the Demon Empress feel a bit afraid.

This guy was frightening!

## Chapter 405 - Jiu Shen The Greatest Bully

"So you've killed him..." Demon Empress Ganda sighed as he looked at Jiu Shen with a complicated gaze. Initially, she wanted to avenge Garland for his death, but when she discovered that she couldn't even discern Jiu Shen's power, she immediately discarded those thoughts. This man was a lot stronger than her!

Jiu Shen shrugged his shoulders as he replied with a bit of embarrassment. "I wanted him to work as a gardener under me, but that guy was strongly against it. He was very violent, so I had no choice but to scare him a bit. However, the guy actually died when I released my aura. I didn't kill him on purpose though..."

Hearing this, Demon Empress Ganda's face twitched.

Garland died when this guy released his aura? Do you think I would believe that? Although Garland was just a newly ascended Void God Realm expert, even she would find it difficult to kill him. And now, Jiu Shen is telling her that he killed Garland with just his aura? Did he think that she was an idiot?

When Jiu Shen saw Demon Empress Ganda's doubtful expression, he waved his hand and took out Garland's corpse. It was still in perfectly preserved condition.

The Demon Empress' eyes widened in shock when she saw Garland's body in front of her. She scrutinized his corpse using her spiritual vision, but she discovered no internal nor surface wounds. However, when she checked Garland's heart and brain, she realized that Jiu Shen might not be lying. Could it be that he truly killed Garland by merely releasing his aura?! That was absurd! Even those above the Void God Realm could not do that! Unless...

Demon Empress Ganda felt her heart shivering when her thoughts reached that point. She could not help but glance at Jiu Shen who was looking at Garland's corpse with a hint of regret.

Ehem!

Demon Empress Ganda cleared her throat. She then glanced while putting on a calm look. "Wine Master Jiu, Garland may have coveted your spiritual plant, but do you really have to kill him?"

Jiu Shen turned his gaze at the Demon Empress. His face was calm, but it frightened her silly. She could even feel her feet slowly getting cold.

"But since Wine Master Jiu didn't intentionally do it and besides, Garland is also at fault for trying to steal your spiritual plant. I won't pursue this matter any further, but I hope that I can take his corpse with me. He might be foolish, but he had been a loyal subordinate." The Demon Empress could only compromise while nervously looking at Jiu Shen. She regretted not waiting for Lou Baiqing. If he was here, they could at least share the pressure...

Jiu Shen was inwardly laughing in his heart. This girl was still trying to put on a calm facade when he could clearly sense her nervousness. She was too cute...

Maybe I could bully this girl...

He was getting addicted to this especially after bullying the succubus for many days. It was fun...

"Yes, you can, but my garden... You have seen it yourself. It is quite large and the spiritual plants in it made many people feel greedy. A few young ladies at the Nascent God Realm might be guarding it now, but they are still too weak to protect it against stronger individuals. That was why I tried to ask Garland to become my gardener..."

As the Demon Empress continued to listen, she felt like things might not go according to her plans. It was as if she was dancing in the palm of Jiu Shen's hand. It felt truly uncomfortable, but she couldn't do anything about it since Jiu Shen was too powerful! Even the whole Narda Principality might be eradicated if he was angered! She didn't want this to happen.

"But since Garland is now dead, how about you take his place instead?" Jiu Shen sincerely glanced at the Demon Empress. He had checked this girl earlier and noticed that she was a bit talented. She also possessed a strong bloodline that might be related to the Vampiric Fire Demons. He wasn't sure though since he has yet to see her dantian.

Hearing his words, the Demon Empress felt her mind going crazy. How can he say it so calmly?

Demon Empress Ganda regretted going here to Morlon City. She shouldn't have gone here to see this devil! He was the incarnation of a Demonic God! Wait... She was the demon here, but why did she feel like Jiu Shen was more of a demon than her?

"This... You're joking, right?" Demon Empress Ganda stared at Jiu Shen while smiling stiffly behind her veil.

Jiu Shen who was seated on his chair suddenly stood up and moved closer to the Demon Empress. He smiled evilly at her as he whispered. "Do you think I'm joking with you right now, Little Girl Ganda?"

The Demon Empress took a step back and she finally could not hold back her fearful look, but a look of defiance slowly covered her face as she glared at Jiu Shen. "I'd rather di-"

"Vampiric Fire Demon, that's the bloodline running in your veins, right? You must have gotten it from one of your parents... What a pity... I wanted to give you a surprise, but it seems like you don't want to..." Jiu Shen said with a look of regret.

"You! How did you know that!? Everything related to us should have been erased already! Just who are you?!" Demon Empress Ganda had a look of terror as she pointed at Jiu Shen. This man was actually able to see through her bloodline. She didn't even discover how he did it!

Jiu Shen raised his arms innocently. "I'm just a winemaker. You don't need to be so tense."

No need to be tensed? After all you said?

Demon Empress Ganda suddenly felt like she was being played with. Is this guy making fun of me? For the first time in her life, she wanted to cry her heart out....

## Chapter 406 - Removing The Veil

Demon Empress Ganda's face suddenly turned frosty. She might be weaker than Jiu Shen, but she'd rather die than be humiliated like this!

Their Vampiric Fire Demon bloodline was one of the noblest bloodlines in the entirety of Nuar. She didn't want to bring shame to her ancestors!



Her aura suddenly spiked and her long red hair danced wildly as crimson flame covered her entire body. Strangely enough, her clothes didn't disintegrate despite the high temperature of the flame around her.

'Eh? This girl is too hot-headed. Too bad. She would have looked good as a gardener and with her looks, she would certainly attract more customers. Hmm... How do I make her calm down?' Jiu Shen wasn't worried about his store and his garden. The materials used in making his store were all Celestial-rank items and even the soil in his garden was more precious than the spiritual plants.

Jiu Shen immediately brought the angry demon girl to his Spirit World. He didn't want to cause a commotion in Morlon City and the Great Demon Empire. This Demon Empress was way stronger than Garland and her attacks would surely be catastrophic to the nearby lands. The only way to prevent her from wreaking havoc was to bring her to his Spirit World.

Demon Empress Ganda soon noticed that she was brought to a different place. Looking at the beautiful blue sky and the vast mountains and forest, she frowned. "Where is this?"

She then looked at Jiu Shen who was now looking at her with a calm expression. She also sensed that this human was slowly releasing his true essence. Just that she still could not discern his power. This made her feel perturbed.

"Do you really have to be so violent?" Jiu Shen asked as he lightly shook his head.

'Why are most demons so violent? Coercing them to become my subordinate is too hard. Luckily, Burlock and Balmond weren't like these guys. Wait, Burlock was also like this at

first, but when I beat him up... No. This girl might commit suicide if I do that to her... Sigh. To think that I Jiu Shen would face a moment of difficulty like this...'

Demon Empress Ganda glared at Jiu Shen. Her beautiful pair of golden-red eyes flickered with an intense glow. She then took out a shield and a large heavy sword that are both disproportionate to her frame. After equipping her weapons, her aura rose to a terrifying level and it could even be compared to a peak stage Void God Realm expert!

Seeing this, Jiu Shen felt even more tempted to make her his subordinate. Her Vampiric Fire Demon Bloodline was of high purity, but this girl didn't have their ancestral cultivation technique, making her weaker than those Vampiric Fire Demons of the Primordial God Realm.

"Initially, I don't want to fight with you, but you forced me to do this!" Demon Empress Ganda muttered through gritted teeth. The crimson flame around her suddenly grew and consumed the trees and plants. It burned everything in its path!

Jiu Shen remained calm as he looked at the forest being consumed by the crimson flames. He then stared at the valiant-looking demon girl who was holding her two large weapons. 'She used a heavy sword and a shield. These two weapons are typically used by male Vampiric Fire Demons. It seems like the technique inherited by this girl are meant for men...'

When she saw that Jiu Shen was silent, Demon Empress Ganda became even more infuriated. She stomped her foot and lifted her huge sword and struck it before Jiu Shen. Her attack created a huge fire vortex that melted everything in its path!

Looking at the fire vortex, Jiu Shen calmly snapped his finger as he produced a small wisp of dark fire. He then flicked it towards the huge fire vortex causing an ear-splitting explosion!

BAANG!

Demon Empress Ganda immediately lifted her shield when she saw this. 'Shit! What kind of fire is that?' A small wisp of it can actually destroy my fire vortex?!

When the dust subsided, a huge crater can be seen between Jiu Shen and the Demon Empress. It was almost as large as the entire Morlon City! That was how destructive their power was!

After gathering her senses, Demon Empress Ganda pounced towards Jiu Shen as she threw another volley of fire projectiles!

The temperature around them swiftly rose as hundreds of crimson fireballs littered the sky.

Jiu Shen raised his head and created an invisible force field using his spiritual power.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Violent explosions rang out as the fireballs struck Jiu Shen!

Demon Empress Ganda hovered above the clouds as she panted heavily. That attack consumed at least twenty percent of her true essence! Even a Void God Realm expert would be severely injured after receiving that attack! She stared solemnly at the ground, waiting to see the figure of Jiu Shen.

However, a shadow suddenly teleported in front of her and she felt a sharp pain at the back of her head before she lost consciousness. 'How?'

Jiu Shen grabbed the demon girl's weapons and placed them inside his storage earring. He then descended to the ground while carrying the unconscious Demon Empress.

"I'll let you go this time. You would be a great opponent for Yue Bo and Balmond. Without your presence, Narda Principality would also fall. That won't be good for the development of Cornelia since I still want her to experience the battlefield of the top experts in this world. In that way, she would be able to gloriously ascend to the throne." Jiu Shen muttered as he stared at the demon girl's face. He slowly removed her veil and saw a devastatingly beautiful face. It was even comparable to the Theia of his past life!

He could already imagine the number of customers this girl could bring to his store if she becomes his subordinate. Just thinking about it made Jiu Shen chuckle.

"Alright. Your subordinate must be worried about you now, so I have to bring you out of this place...."

# Chapter 407 - Fell Unconscious Because Of Heatstroke

Lou Baiqing was speechless. He thought that the Demon Empress would be the one paying for them, but he ended up being the one to pay for their wines.

"Sister Blue, can I get one more bottle of Bejeweled Ocean Nectar, please?" Lou Baiqing called out to the blue-haired young lady.

'She was just a waitress of this store even with her peak stage Nascent God realm cultivation. In our territory, people like her have high positions...' Lou Baiqing thought to himself as he scanned Blue. Although she was a savage beast, Lou Baiqing didn't mind being acquainted with her. After all, this girl wasn't weak! The crown princess of the Great Demon Empire, Princess Cornelia might not even be her opponent!

"Alright. Is there still anything you want?" Blue asked Lou Baiqing while looking at him with a smile.

Lou Baiqing shook his head at her.

'Her Majesty might still be discussing something with Wine Master Jiu Shen at this moment, so I should just drink one more wine here before I go outside.' He thought to himself as he looked at Blue who was going to the wine storage area.

While waiting for his wine, Lou Baiqing scanned the customers on the first floor. After checking everyone, he noticed that most of them were Saint-rank experts and below. However, there were a few Nascent God Realm cultivators hidden among them. Lou Baiqing was also familiar with one of them. It was Leaf! According to the rumors he heard, this guy ranked second in the Heaven Battle! He only lost against General Nangong in the final match! This elf was one of the strongest individuals below the Origin God Realm.

At this moment, Lou Baiqing saw that Leaf was talking with a few Nascent God Realm experts. They seemed to be discussing about something important.

Lou Baiqing was curious about what they were talking about, but he didn't dare eavesdrop in this place. There were too many strong people guarding this place!

"I wonder what those guys are discussing..." He muttered while looking at Leaf's group.

"Here's your Bejeweled Ocean Nectar. Enjoy." Blue smiled as she placed the bottle of wine on Lou Baiqing's table.

"Thank you, Sister Blue!"

On the other corner of the place, Leaf was seated together with the top participants of the Heaven Battle. There were six of them including Leaf. The other five were ranked sixth to tenth in the last Heaven Battle. They were very strong among the Nascent God Realm experts!

At this moment, they were discussing about forming a team to search for treasures in the Divine Beast Continent.

"Brother Torgrim, are you sure that the Torgrim Family has a teleportation array formation that can lead us to the Divine Beast Continent?" Leaf asked a muscular demon with a doubtful look. He couldn't trust these people since they had just known each other. It would be foolish for him to believe people that he had just met. Besides, he already had his fair share of betrayals after leaving the territory of the elves.

The other four also turned their gazes towards the demon surnamed Torgrim. This guy's family was quite a big deal in the Great Demon Empire. Together with the Lycan Family, they stood shoulder to shoulder with the Bloodfallen Imperial Family.

"Of course! The family was happy about me placing fifth in the last Heaven Battle, so the elders decided to give me the opportunity to go to the Divine Beast Continent to hone my skills and search for treasures. However, that place is infested with numerous high-level savage beasts, so that's why I invited you guys here to discuss about forming a team with me." Torgrim Barkary said with a grin.

Leaf and the others nodded their heads at his words.

"Then how do we split the spoils?" One of them asked.

Torgrim Barkary smiled as he answered. "Whoever can find the treasures or spiritual plants can keep it, but if the group joined hands to acquire a certain item, the distribution will depend on everyone's contributions. How does that sound?"

Hearing this, the eyes of Leaf and the others lit up. This was advantageous to them since they didn't need to pay for the teleportation array formation. The only problem was the danger associated with going to the Divine Beast Continent. However, when they thought about the spiritual plants and treasures that they could find there, all their hesitation vanished.

"Alright. I'm in!" Leaf was the first one to join the team. He was the strongest among the bunch and he was also confident that he can reach the Origin God Realm before they go to the Divine Beast Continent. After all, he placed second in the Heaven Battle and he got a precious reward which can help him ascend to the next realm!

'If these guys betray me... Hmph!' Leaf scoffed in his heart, but he didn't show it on his face.

"I'm in!"

"Me too!"

After seeing that everyone has agreed to join his team, Torgrim Barkary could not help but smile widely. 'These guys are quite strong. With their help, we can gather many spiritual plants and treasures!'

Meanwhile, Lou Baiqing had just finished drinking his wine. After paying the bill with a pained look, he went out of the store to search for the Demon Empress. "Where are they?"



Why aren't they here? This was where we last saw Wine Master Jiu Shen and Princess Cornelia, but I can't even see their shadow now..."

Lou Baiqing suddenly felt anxious. He walked around the lotus building, but he failed to see Jiu Shen and the Demon Empress. "Shit! Did Her Majesty bring Wine Master Jiu Shen into Hegante City to discuss in private? No way! She would beat me up for not following her immediately..."

Just as Lou Baiqing was about to go away, he suddenly felt a vibration in space behind him. He turned his gaze and saw Jiu Shen carrying the unconscious Demon Empress in his hands.

"Quick. I think your boss fell unconscious because of heatstroke."

Hearing this, Lou Baiqing cursed Jiu Shen in his heart. A Void God Realm expert falling unconscious because of heatstroke? As if I'd believe you!

## Chapter 408 - Where Are My Weapons?

Demon Empress Ganda slowly opened her eyes as she let out a soft groan, but then, she suddenly recalled something. She abruptly sat up straight and observed her surroundings.

She found herself in an unfamiliar room. She hurriedly checked her clothes and found out that nothing seemed to be misplaced. Even her veil was still covering her face.

"Where is this?" She muttered as she scanned the area two hundred meters around her.

After scanning the place, she saw Lou Baiqing standing outside the room with a nervous look on his face.

Seeing this guy, Demon Empress Ganda was confused but she could not help but let out a sigh of relief. She then stood up and went out of the room.

"Your Majesty! Are you all right?" Lou Baiqing asked with a hint of anxiety in his voice.

The Demon Empress walked past him and glanced in a certain direction. From the layout and designs of the buildings, she could tell that they were still in Morlon Cit.

"That man Jiu Shen... I'm not his opponent... I don't know his cultivation level and I couldn't even last a single move against him. If he is truly behind the Bloodfallen Imperial Family, then we can only cut our ties with the Lycan and Torgrim Family. Becoming enemies with that person isn't worthwhile." The Demon Empress' voice was filled with helplessness and fear.

"What?! The Empress couldn't even last a single move against that guy?! Cut ties with the Lycan and Torgrim Family? This..." Lou Baiqing was stunned when he heard the Demon Empress' words.

Demon Empress Ganda turned her cold gaze towards him and muttered. "Trust me. The Torgrim Family and the Lycan Family would be erased if they continue to act against that man. Jiu Shen's power already exceeded the limits of this world..."

Hearing this, Lou Baiqing's body shivered. From the looks of it, Garland's death became meaningless...

"What about the resources we got from the two families? Our army has already used a bit of it." Lou Baiqing suddenly asked.

The Demon Empress shook her head as she replied. "Return everything they sent. As for the used items, compensate the two families with something of equal value. Also, you will be the one responsible for the turnover. I don't trust anyone else..."

Lou Baiqing felt overwhelmed by her gaze, but he hurriedly nodded his head. "I'll get it done, Your Majesty!"

"You can leave first. I want to remain here and observe the situation." The Demon Empress was curious about Jiu Shen's objective. With his power, he could already take control of the whole world and even those high-level savage beasts of the Divine Beast Continent could only bow down to his might. She was certain of this since she had experienced Jiu Shen's power!

Lou Baiqing bowed at the Demon Empress and left with haste.

After seeing him leave, the Demon Empress went to check her storage ring and her face drastically changed. "Where are my weapons!? Wait... I used them during my fight with Jiu Shen! Is it with him? Damn you, Jiu Shen!"

Meanwhile, Jiu Shen was now inside his store. He was observing the two weapons he got from the Demon Empress. One was a huge shield that weighed at least several tons, while the other was a heavy sword that was even taller than a person.

The shield had a diamond shape and was made of Dark Ember Metal, making it have a dark obsidian-like color. Jiu Shen also noticed ancient array carvings on the surface of the shield, but these array carvings had already lost their ability to extract power. However, this ancient shield could still be considered as a Void-rank weapon despite its damaged array carvings.

On the other hand, some of the heavy sword's array carvings are still working. About half of it was damaged, but the remaining half can still be used. As for the blade, Jiu Shen noticed that it has some rusted parts and battle marks that made the heavy sword lose a bit of its power. Overall, this heavy sword barely passed as a Void-rank weapon in its current state.

"These two weapons are peak level True God-rank weapons, but since there are no True God-rank Array Formation Master here in Nuar, these weapons devolve into a mere Void-rank weapon. I wonder how that demon girl's family came to have these weapons..." Jiu Shen muttered to himself as he kept the weapons inside his space earring. He wondered if the Demon Empress would have the guts to come back for her weapons... If not, why would he return it to her?

"Meili, use the teleportation array formation and come back to the Profound Dragon Continent. Bring Ren Shuang and Yang Zenke here. I have things for them to do." Jiu Shen said as he glanced at the lady behind him.

Long Meili nodded her head. "Yes, master."

Just as she was about to leave, she suddenly heard Jiu Shen's voice. "Also, bring Elyk back to the Silver Wing Empire. He's done his objective here."

"Alright." She replied before she left to find Elyk.

"Meow!"

Poof!

The fat white cat in Jiu Shen's arms suddenly transformed into an adorable little girl. She slowly turned her gaze towards Jiu Shen as she asked curiously. "Jiu Shen, why do you want Ren Shuang and Yang Zenke to be here?"

Jiu Shen squeezed her cheeks hard. "I want Ren Shuang and Yang Zenke to experience more war. The Blood Sword Division under Yang Zenke also needs more tempering. Only through battles would they become a stronger force!"

Ice rubbed her aching cheeks with her chubby hands. She then asked him. "Why are you so obsessed with strengthening everyone? You were like this since the first day I met you..."

Hearing this, Jiu Shen's eyes flashed, but it soon vanished. He then adjusted the little girl's sitting posture and rubbed her head gently.

"For revenge..."

Ice shivered when she heard the cold voice of Jiu Shen. It was the first time she had heard this kind of tone from him. Just what was the story of this man... She wondered...

'Hopefully, he will tell it to me one day....' The little girl muttered in her heart as she held Jiu Shen's hands tightly.

## Chapter 409 - Breaking Through 3 Minor Realms In Seconds

A few hours later, Long Meili arrived with Ren Shuang and Yang Zenke. The two men stared curiously around the store as they followed behind Long Meili. She told them that Jiu Shen has asked them to come and meet him here. They were wondering what Jiu Shen wanted them to do in the Crimson Fiend Continent.

As they went down to the second floor, they saw a few individuals who had strong cultivation levels. Most of these beings were demons, but the two men still noticed some beings of different races.

"Look at those two humans following behind Sister Meili. I haven't seen them here yet. Are they also Wine Master Jiu Shen's subordinates?"

"That seems to be the case. They came from the third floor. The third floor is closed for the time being, so only the staff of the store can go there."

Hearing the chattering of the crowd, Ren Shuang and Yang Zenke were both amazed. Even in the Crimson Fiend Continent, Jiu Shen was still a famous individual. This made them feel proud in their hearts.

"Master, I've brought them here." Long Meili said to Jiu Shen.

"Greetings, Sect Master!"

"Greetings, Sect Master!"

The two greeted Jiu Shen while bowing their heads.

Jiu Shen inspected the cultivation of the two with his spiritual vision. He first checked Ren Shuang and soon noticed that this quiet guy was already at the peak stage of the Origin God Realm! His progress was fast, but it was still a bit slower than Theia's speed.

Nonetheless, Ren Shuang's growth was quite big, but Jiu Shen wasn't that surprised because he left a huge amount of cultivation resources to the sword tower before he left.

As for Yang Zenke, Jiu Shen was a bit surprised by this kid's growth. He started with a lower cultivation than Ren Shuang and even his talent was ordinary at that time, but after Jiu Shen's miraculous pills improved his talent and physical condition, the once weak teenager had now become an expert at the early stage of the Origin God Realm!

"You two did well with your cultivation." Jiu Shen praised them with a smile.

Ice who was in her human form was also surprised when she saw the two. She had just broken through the late stage of the Origin God Realm and she thought that she had already left the others in the dust. However, it seems like everyone was also doing their best to increase their cultivation!

"Hmph! At least you didn't waste the cultivation resources given to you!" Ice scoffed in disdain as she crossed her little arms. She then transformed back to her cat form and snuggled into Jiu Shen's arms.

Ren Shuang remained calm when he heard the little girl's words, while Yang Zenke could only smile helplessly. Jiu Shen doted on her the most and they didn't want to go on her bad side, so they could only swallow everything that the girl said.

"Sect Master, why did you call us here?" Yang Zenke asked curiously while looking at Jiu Shen's calm expression.



Jiu Shen glanced at the two and replied with an indifferent tone. "There will be war in the coming days. I want you two to join this battle. Ren Shuang, you will help the Bloodfallen Imperial Family in leading their army. Yang Zenke, you and your Blood Sword Division will temper yourselves in this war. Make sure that everyone in the continent will know the might of our Heavenly Sword Tower's Blood Sword Division!"

Hearing this, the two men solemnly nodded their heads as they replied in unison. "Yes, Sect Master!"

"Good! Long Meili, tell them about the power structures of the Crimson Fiend Continent. Ren Shuang, once you are done listening to Long Meili's instructions, gather information about the Lycan Family and Torgrim Family of the Great Demon Empire and then tell everything you've learned to Princess Cornelia. As for you Yang Zenke, bring your Blood Sword Division and train them properly to prepare for the incoming war!" Jiu Shen issued a series of commands.

The three nodded their heads and soon left to do what they were told to do.

"Hey, Jiu Shen. What about me? I want to do something too." Jiu Shen suddenly felt a cat's paw scratching his arm. He turned his gaze and saw Ice looking at him with her big adorable eyes.

Jiu Shen stroked the fat cat's fur as he chuckled. "That's quite surprising. The lazy cat who only knows how to eat actually wants to do something? Interesting!"

Ice bared her fangs at him and threatened him with her chubby cat paws. "Meow! Just give me something to do! I'm almost bored to death here!"

Jiu Shen smiled at her as he thought for a moment. "Alright. Do you remember that girl Cornelia? Go and protect her in secret. She is still at the Nascent God Realm and those two noble families might send assassins to kill her. Make sure that she won't be killed, but you can only intervene if her life is threatened."

Ice jumped to the ground and bounced a few times before she stabilized herself. "I'll go now!" She said eagerly as she rolled with her fat body.

Jiu Shen chuckled as he stared at her figure. "Now that they're gone. Maybe I should consume the remaining three pieces of the Fruits of Cultivation."

He stepped out of the lotus building and ascended to the clouds. He then took out the three Fruits of Cultivation from his space earring. He received five of these from his last mission and he already consumed two to breakthrough to the Void God Realm. Now he only has three of this left.

Without hesitation, Jiu Shen swiftly chowed down the three fruits. After that, his cultivation slowly increased...

Early Stage Void God Realm

Mid Stage Void God Realm

Late Stage Void God Realm

Peak Stage Void God Realm!

Jiu Shen felt slightly speechless at the speed of his growth.. He broke through three minor realms in just a few seconds! Just thinking about it made him question the hard work he spent in his past life.

## Chapter 410 - Herald Lycan And Torgrim Stormhoof

Inside a grand hall, more than a dozen old demons were seated before a round table. Two of them who had higher cultivation levels were seated in the two most prominent seats. They were discussing something with solemn expressions on their aged faces.

"How come the Narda Principality returned the resources we provided them? What does this mean?" An elder with a ferocious wolf-head asked the surrounding elders in a cold tone. This person was the Demon Emperor of the Lycan Family, Herald Lycan. He was a mid stage Void God Realm expert!

A demon with a muscular physique furrowed his eyebrows upon hearing this. He then glanced among the elders and asked them. "What's the current status of the Great Demon Empire? Why did something like this happen during our solitary cultivation?"

This muscular demon was the Demon Emperor of the Torgrim Family. He was a bit stronger than Herald since his cultivation level has already reached the late stage of the Void God Realm! His name was Torgrim Stormhoof!

The elders stared at each other for a brief moment before one of them gritted his teeth and answered with a hint of nervousness. "Demon Emperors, we are also unsure why Narda Principality suddenly returned the items that we gave them. We tried to extract more information from their representatives, but they refused to give an answer. However, we feel that their change in attitude might be related to a certain individual that suddenly came to Morlon City!"

The two Void God Realm powerhouses frowned as they stared at the elder. They waited for him to continue.

"During the two Demon Emperors' solitary cultivation, a mysterious human suddenly arrived in Morlon City. He miraculously created a blooming azure lotus building overnight and stunned everyone with its beauty. This human sells precious wines that can enhance the consumer's cultivation progress! Not just that, this human also has a garden with hundreds of rare and valuable spiritual plants! If my guess is right, the leader of the Narda Principality might have had a secret deal with this human."

Hearing this, everyone inside the grand hall thought that this might be plausible. Even the two Void God Realm experts were deep in thought. A mysterious human who sells wine? He has a garden that has hundreds of rare spiritual plants?

"Have you investigated this human and his force?" Torgrim Stormhoof asked as he eyed the elder.

The elder felt scared under his stare, but he still answered. "We sent multiple teams to investigate this human. We even sent a few Demon Lords (Nascent God Realm) to scout his store. And after several weeks of monitoring him, we still failed to discern this human's cultivation level. However, his subordinates are quite strong! We noticed the presence of a few Origin God Realm experts guarding his store and there was even a human gardener at the Void God Realm! If I remember correctly, this gardener's name is Yue Bo!"

Hm?

A Void God Realm gardener?!

The two powerhouses felt that they were hearing things, but seeing the elders nodding their heads, the two lapsed into a moment of silence.

"If he has a subordinate who is at the Void God Realm, this human has to be at least an expert at the mid stage Void God Realm or even at the late stage Void God Realm! To think that there is actually a living human who has reached this level of power! I thought all their Void God Realm powerhouses has already died of old age." Herald Lycan muttered in a solemn tone.

"Hmph! It doesn't matter if the Narda Principality has reneged on their promise! I have already broken through the late stage of the Void God Realm! I'm confident that I can beat someone on the same level as me! We will proceed according to the plan! We have already waited for several ten thousand years for this! No one can save the Bloodfallen Family, not even that human!" Torgrim Stormhoof slammed the round table, breaking it into smithereens!

Herald Lycan also smiled ferociously. "Brother Stormhoof is right! The plan should proceed as we discussed! I will breakthrough to the late stage of the Void God Realm in a few weeks. By then, who can stop our two great families?! Hahaha!"

Hearing his loud laughter, Torgrim Stormhoof also smiled. He then glanced at the elders and commanded. "Leave the human powerhouses and Balmond to us. Your objective this time is to assassinate the descendants of Balmond! Without them, the future of the Bloodfallen Family will be bleak!"

"Yes, Your Majesty!"

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Cornelia was practicing the set of boxing movements that Jiu Shen taught her. It was difficult and strenuous for her since she didn't have a good physical body foundation. However, after training according to Jiu Shen's teachings, Cornelia discovered that her physical body's strength has increased substantially. It won't be long before her body reaches the standard of a Nascent God Realm!

"This body strengthening technique is even stronger than our Bloodfallen Family's Ferocious Tiger God Art! And to think that he made this technique on the spot... Wine Master Jiu Shen is truly incredible!" Cornelia praised him with a look of admiration. Other than her father, he was the first man she admired.

Cornelia adjusted her posture according to the set of movements drawn by Jiu Shen. She had practiced it several times now so she was more proficient this time.

"My progress has slowed down. I think I need real combat experience to increase my progress! Hmm. Where should I go this time?" Cornelia thought to herself with a pondering look. From her memories, there was a huge forest near Morlon City. That place should have many high-level savage beasts!

She then gathered a few things and kept everything inside her storage ring. After checking her weapons and equipment, the succubus nodded her head with a smile. "I should leave in secret. According to Wine Master Jiu Shen, the Lycan Family and the Torgrim Family might be after my life..."

At the cover of the night, Cornelia left the imperial palace in secret.