

A Journey 631

Chapter 631 Dark Magic (R18)

When Archer heard her gasps and moans, it fueled his desire as he whispered huskily, "Do you enjoy being my slave?"

Halime barely managed to nod as lust overwhelmed her. "Yes, Master. Give me more, please."

Archer grinned and got rougher, causing her love juices to splash everywhere and soak his hand. As he did this, her moans got louder, which sent him over the edge.

Not long after that, he felt like he was ready to shoot his seed down Talila's throat and spoke in a breathless tone. "Slave. I'm going to finish in your mouth. Make sure not to spill any."

Talila didn't reply, but she stroked faster and moved her tongue. After a minute, he pushed deeper into her mouth and finished. She swallowed it all, enjoying the taste, and moaned softly.

While pleasuring Halime with his fingers. He watched as Talila stepped back and wouldn't take her eyes off the scene unfolding before her. He watched her wait with a lewd smile, knowing he would see to her soon.

As the snake girl reached her climax, her body tensed with bliss, and she let out a primal howl that echoed through the cabin. Archer's fingers persisted, guiding her pleasure to its zenith.

Halime experienced a sudden rush, and liquid gushed from her, soaking his hands and the sofa beneath her. With a satisfied grin, he watched as she collapsed onto the couch, her breath ragged and her body still quivering from the intensity of her climax.

Archer leaned over her, tenderly kissing her forehead before focusing on Talila. He spoke lustfully. "Your turn, slave. Now bend over."

She obeyed without hesitation, bending over as commanded. Archer wasted no time, his hands moving to her drenched pussy, slick with her juices. He teased her entrance with his fingers, feeling her tremble with excitement and lust.

That's when he plunged deep into her tight pussy, igniting a primal moan from her. Her body arched, craving more of his powerful touch, her senses overwhelmed by the passion of his thrusts.

Archer's relentless rhythm pushed her closer to the edge, each powerful movement driving her toward a peak of ecstasy. Talila's cries of pleasure echoed through the room, blending seamlessly with Halime's contented sighs.

He gripped Talila's hips firmly as he got rougher with the mixed elf. She arched her back, her red eyes rolling back in bliss as waves of pleasure washed over her. Her screams echoed through the room.

With each thrust, Archer's desire intensified, his primal instincts taking over as he ravished her with unreserved passion. Talila's nails dug into his arm, her moans growing louder with each powerful movement.

She surrendered completely to the intensity of their lovemaking, lost in a whirlwind of sensation. As Talila reached the height of pleasure, her body trembled beneath Archer's touch, her cries of pleasure filling the air.

With a loud cry of pleasure, they both reached the height of their passion, their bodies tangled in desire. He poured himself into her, filling her while she climaxed, drenching him with her love juices.

Breathless and flushed with passion, he turned his attention to Halime, who watched the scene with wide eyes and flushed cheeks. Her desire burned brightly, fueled by the raw intensity of everything.

Archer approached the sofa she was sitting on and leaned in to kiss her. When their lips connected, he pushed her back and got in between her legs. They locked eyes, a simmering passion ignited between them.

With gentle touches and tender kisses, he explored every inch of her body, savoring the softness of her skin before he rubbed his manhood on her pussy and gently slipped it inside her.

Halime moaned in pleasure as she clung to him. She buried her head into his shoulder once again while her moaning increased. His slow and deliberate movements sent waves of pleasure through Halime's body.

As Archer whispered sweet words of love, she felt herself surrendering completely to the intensity of their connection. Halime's pleasure grew stronger with every gentle push, reaching a peak that almost overwhelmed her.

She soon reached the peak of euphoria and cried out in pure bliss, her body trembling with the intensity of her release. The couple lay intertwined, their bodies slick with sweat, as their passion reached its peak.

With one last thrust, Archer released his essence deep inside her, triggering a powerful release. Halime arched her back and screamed, her body trembling as she squirted, drenching him with her love.

Afterward, the snake girl lay unconscious on the sofa, wearing a lewd smile in her sleep, while Talila struggled to stand and spoke in a strained voice. "Arch! We have the fights to find out what groups we're in today. What if I do bad?"

With a grin, he approached the mixed elf and cast Aurora Healing. As Talila felt the magic wash over her, the tiredness and pain vanished, prompting a smile as she hugged him in gratitude. "Thank you for that. We better get back."

Archer nodded in agreement before speaking. "Yeah. Let's wake up Hali, then we'll leave."

He parted from Talila and approached the sleeping snake girl. Casting Aurora Healing on her, he watched as she woke up with a smile, rubbing her eyes. "What happened? I wasn't sleeping, Arch."

The two chuckled before Archer planted a kiss on her cute nose, fully waking her up. Halime's yellow eyes glowed briefly as she smiled and stood up, stretching. "Let's get going. The others are waiting for us."

Archer smiled and opened a Gate back to his room on the manaship. He stepped through, followed by the two. When entering, they saw the other eight girls talking to Nalika, Leonora, and Cassie.

He noticed Lioran, Cian, Alaric, and Aeris chatting among themselves. When they saw Archer, the boys smiled at him, but he noticed the black-haired boy stared too long before greeting him with a handshake.

The lion boy commented. "Looking forward to the grouping fights?"

Archer nodded. "Does it affect our overall score or place in the tournament?"

Cian was the one to answer. "No. It's to find what groups we're in. After that, it will be like a knockout between the students, and the winners will head to the Sabat Kingdom's Knockout Stage."

"How many fights will each student have during the Qualification Round?" Archer asked in a curious voice.

Lioran quickly answered. "We'll have eight fights each, and we must win at least four to move to the Knockout Stage."

He nodded before looking at Aeris. "How are you?"

The black-haired boy smiled. "It was okay, I guess. All I did was study my new spells, which drained my mana."

"You tired?" Archer asked with a raised eyebrow.

Aeris laughed before waving him off with a nervous chuckle. "Just low on mana. I'll be fine soon."

Archer quickly stepped forward and grabbed him by the shoulder before sending a mana flood into his body. When Aeris felt this, he let out a rather feminine moan, which made them laugh until he was finished.

After that, the black-haired boy scrambled backward with a red face as he complained. "Don't just touch me, Arch! Ask me first."

When everyone heard this, they laughed even more before Lioran spoke. "You sound like a girl when you moan, Aeris."

Cian and Alaric agreed while Archer chuckled as he sat down. He motioned to the chairs opposite for them to sit down.

As the boys sat down, excitement filled the air. They gathered around the table, eager and excited. Lioran exclaimed, his voice tinged with eagerness. "Can you believe it's finally here? The group fights are just around the corner."

Cian nodded in agreement, his grey eyes gleaming. "I've been training non-stop for this. I'm ready to give it my all."

Alaric chimed in. "We've all seen Archer's skills in action. There's no doubt he'll dominate the fights."

He looked at the elf boy and commented. "Who knows? I'm only fighting on Master Rank to make it fair for everyone else, plus it would be more fun that way."

When the four heard that, they laughed before Archer turned to Aeris. "You using dark magic? I love that magic; it's fun if you know the right spell."

Aeris eyebrow raised. "What do you mean?"

"I never used it until I could do this."

Archer raised one of his arms while summoning a shadow claw, which shocked the four boys, and Aeris went pale. He felt the fear radiating from him, so he dismissed it and asked. "Problem?"

He shook his head and spoke in a nervous tone. "Can I talk to you in private?"

Archer nodded before standing up as Aeris led him to a nearby balcony and stepped outside. The black-haired boy sighed before speaking. "You're the Shadow Prince? The one who destroy the Gordia Island?"

"I don't know. This is all new to me, but I haven't destroyed any islands." He answered, causing Aeris to relax.

That's when a pair of red eyes stared into his before something happened that took him by surprise, causing him to summon his claws.

Chapter 632 When Do We Land

Archer watched Aeris transform into a similar shadow figure to the one he had, but it wasn't as strong. Once he sensed no hostility, he put his claws away. He knew the boy couldn't harm him, so he calmed down and scanned him.

[Aeris Redcliff]

[Race: Dark Wraith]

[Age: 20]

[Rank: Master]

[Exp: 7660/12000]

[Level: 90]

"A dark wraith? Like a ghost?" He asked.

Aeris boy shook his head. "No. We're born from pure mana, like you, but less potent. Our ancestors created a spell to let us take human form."

Archer smiled before commenting. "That's awesome. What's it like to be a wraith? Do you scare village children at night? Or haunt the evil noble plaguing the land?"

He just looked at him with a deadpan expression before shaking his head and asking in a worried voice. "Shut up! Why would I scare children? Do I look like an evil ghost? But doesn't it bother you that I am a wraith?"

"Seriously, Aeri, no sister to introduce me? Are you sure you're not secretly a woman? You've got that feminine flair going on," Archer teased with a mischievous grin.

The black-haired boy blushed furiously, avoiding eye contact while retorting, "Knock it off, Arch! Why are you picking on me? And hey, I've got my grandmother; she's just like me."

His eyes widened as he spoke. "Let me see her, Aeri."

"Why? You don't plan to court her, do you? She's a mean woman but lovely to me." Aeri answered after sighing.

He shook his head. "No. I have enough women for now, and I've never met your grandmother. But I would like to. So what's her name?"

Aeri shook his head. "Narcissa Redcliff. The Dark Witch of the South."

After speaking, he took a Mana Recorder and passed it to him. "Send some mana into it, and you can see her."

When hearing the boy's instructions, Archer nodded in agreement and looked closer at the recorder. As he peered into the device, he was greeted by the sight of a seductively beautiful woman.

She had long, flowing black hair and captivating red eyes mirroring Aeri's. She possessed a seductive hourglass figure. Her curves were highlighted, giving her a goddess-like appearance.

The woman looked like she was teaching and saw Aeris casting dark magic spells, which amazed him. But he couldn't take his eyes off the woman whose plump ass caught his attention when it jiggled as she moved.

Archer was captivated by Narcissa's beauty, but before he could fully appreciate it, the recorder was yanked out of his hand, causing him to become annoyed.

When Archer snapped out of it by shaking his head and turning to Aeris, wanting to know what happened, Aeris responded immediately, saying, "Quit staring at her like that. Yes, she's pretty, but no, she's not into charming dragons like you."

He chuckled before changing the subject. "Did you think being a dark wraith would make me dislike you?"

The black-haired boy agreed. "Yes, when people find out, or I've told them, they tend to avoid me because wraiths are seen as evil. But we're just like any other race, with both good and bad individuals among us."

Archer looked at the black-haired boy and reassured him. "Aeris. I want you to know something. Whether you're a dark wraith, a slime, or a donkey, it doesn't change a thing between us. We're friends, and that's that."

Aeris glanced up at him, surprise flickering before a small, genuine smile spread across his face. The weight of uncertainty lifted from his shoulders, replaced by a warmth that radiated from within.

"Thanks. You don't know how much it means to me. I've never really had friends." After that, they returned to the room with everyone else and sat to wait for the ship to land outside Greenwood City.

Lioran and Cian turned to him when they sat down before the lion boy commented. "Did Aeris try to kiss you, Arch? I've seen the way he looks at you."

"Shut up, Lio. He just wanted to talk, and I asked if he had a sister but had no such luck." Archer replied with a grin.

When Aeris heard this, his cheeks went red, and he instantly looked away, causing Cian and Alaric to laugh at the reaction. Archer shook his head and spoke. "When do we land? This ship is getting on my nerves."

Alaric was the one who responded, his voice steady and composed. "About an hour, Once we land, Mother and Father will be waiting to welcome us with a feast. And tomorrow marks the beginning of the fights."

He grinned mischievously while nudging the lion boy with his elbow. "Hey, Lioran, don't forget to save a dance with your grandmother Malaika for me at your wedding. I hear she's quite the catch."

Lioran rolled his eyes, a playful smirk tugging at his lips. "Keep dreaming, Archer. I highly doubt she is in the market for a husband, especially one like you."

Alaric chuckled at their banter, enjoying the light-hearted exchange between his friend. Despite the teasing, warmth, and friendship bound them together as they looked forward to the festivities awaiting them.

He didn't let it go and continued. "How come? I already have Nala. Why not add Malaika Goldheart? She would love to have such a handsome dragon for a husband."

"How do you know her name?" Lioran asked with narrowed eyes.

Archer chuckled at his reaction. "Nala told me about your family, who live on the southern continent, Avidia. How come you ended up here?"

Lioran smiled before elaborating, "The Lionheart family rules the lion demi-human kingdom on Pluoria, while the Goldhearts reign over the empire on Avidia. My mother married into my father's family and moved here years ago."

"Oh, interesting." He commented with a smirk.

When Lioran saw this, he snapped. "Don't you get any weird thoughts, you lewd dragon! Don't be chasing every woman in my family."

Archer innocently smiled. "I don't know what you're talking about. You're overreacting."

Everyone laughed, and he noticed Aeris listening intently while looking at him. After a little while, Cian asked him with a curious expression. "Hey, Archer, what do you think of my sister Maeve?"

He paused for a moment, considering his reply. "Well, from what I've seen, she's beautiful and seems nice. But honestly, I'd like to get to know her better."

A smile spread across the orange-haired boy's face at Archer's answer. "That's great to hear! I'll make sure to arrange for the two of you to spend some time together. I think you'll get along well."

Archer nodded appreciatively, grateful for the opportunity to get to know Maeve better, but was suspicious. "Why are you doing this? Isn't she engaged to a prince?"

Cian let out a sigh of frustration. "Yeah, I know. But what bothers me the most is the guy she's marrying. He's notorious for using girls for his own pleasure and then tossing them aside. And the worst part? She's getting married after the Arcane Tournament."

"Why are you telling me this? What do you need from me?" Archer's confusion was obvious.

The desperation in Cian's eyes was real as he pleaded, "Take her away from that wedding. Kidnap her if you must. Make her yours, please. Just help my big sister!"

When Archer heard Cian's request, something inside ignited, and something about kidnapping a princess on her wedding day excited him, causing his violet eyes to glow.

"Oh, great. Now you've sparked something inside him. Watch the rumors of the white dragon kidnapping the princesses he likes will spring up now." Lioran commented with a run.

"Oh god. Should I hide my other sisters?" Alaric asked the lion boy.

Lioran shook his head with a grin. "Yes. You never know if he will be interested."

Archer looked at the two boys and then at Aeris, who was laughing alongside Cian. He spoke in a frustrated tone. "I'm still here, you idiots."

He looked at Alaric and declared. "I have no interest in your sisters. I love Llyniet and only her, so don't worry."

The brown-haired boy nodded, causing Archer to turn to Lioran with a mischievous grin. "Now, watch closely, Lion Boy. I'm going to marry all the women in your family."

"Shut up, you playboy. My grandmother would run rings around you." Lioran answered with a smirk.

Archer chuckled before retorting. "You'll have to babysit loads of cubs in the future."

Lioran looked at him before he started to laugh, and soon, everyone joined in until Nala interrupted them. "What are you boys laughing about?"

Nalika and Leonard also appeared, with Cassie waiting for the lion boys' answer. He stretched his cheek while looking at Archer, who shrugged. "Tell her. I don't hide anything from my girls."

The blonde boy nodded before turning to Nala. "He was teasing me about claiming grandmother Malaika and having me babysit all the cubs."

When hearing that, Nala started laughing before walking over to Archer and sitting on his lap as she replied. "Well, if Grandmother and our aunties want to join, they could if he likes them. Having family in the pride will be so good."

Chapter 633 Stop Being Dramatic

?Archer saw the look on Lioran's face and started to laugh before the lion boy spoke. "How could you corrupt my innocent little sister, Arch? I thought we were friends."

"Stop being dramatic, you idiot. He hasn't corrupted me, but his idea of having you babysit our cubs when they come is very good."

Lioran sighed, causing everyone to laugh before Archer reassured his friend. "I would never corrupt any of my girls, Lio. I care too much about them to do that, plus I love seeing their smiles and can't do that if they're not themselves."

After he spoke, Lioran nodded with a smile and was about to talk until the Captain's voice boomed. "All passengers, can you proceed to the exits please? We will be landing outside Greenwood City."

When hearing that, everyone jumped up while making their way out of the room. Archer, his girls, and the rest went to the College Of Magics section and saw Headmistress Ophelia standing there waiting for the student.

She turned to them and smiled. "Archer and friends. How was your flight? I do hope you enjoyed it."

Everyone nodded as they went back to waiting. That's when he heard the students surrounding him talking about the Church of Light summoning five people to deal with a darkness that had fallen on Verdantia.

Archer started listening to the gossip as the ship descended to a snow-covered grassland that bordered Greenwood City. After a while, it got before, so he stepped up to the window of the airship, drawn by the allure of the landscape unfolding before him.

He was taken aback by the scene he was seeing. Before him lay a vast city unlike any he had ever seen; buildings stretched as far as the eyes could see, dwarfed by the immense trees that intertwined with them.

'It reminds me of an Ewok village from a film I loved back on Earth.' Archer thought as he took in the city below.

It was like the city had been seamlessly woven into a forest, with buildings among the branches and foliage. The trees were colossal, their ancient limbs reaching out like guardians over the bustling metropolis below.

Archer could hardly believe his eyes as he watched birds flit between the branches and vines cascading down the buildings. The city seemed alive, pulsing with life as people moved through the streets below.

He could see dozens of bridges and walkways connecting the buildings, allowing the citizens to traverse the city on foot and through the treetops.

'So beautiful. It's like a forest paradise.' Archer thought to himself.

[Svarograd City - Novgorod Empire - Main Church]

While Archer was nearing the Oakheart Kingdom, Pope Jeremiah Volkovitch stood on his balcony, watching dark clouds gather over the continent. The emperor had sent a message, alerting him to sudden attacks by frightening creatures.

The church armies were holding them off at the banks of the Volga River, but they needed reinforcements. Jeremiah's advisor brought him a book found in the ruins of the old world when the knights were on an expedition.

It would allow them to summon people from somewhere else with powerful magic and skills that could help them. The creatures were very strong, and only their strongest soldiers and knights could handle them.

Jeremiah looked north and mumbled. "The high elves are lucky they have that woman. She is a powerhouse to be able to encircle the Nightshade Empire in an impenetrable wall that the nightmarish creatures couldn't breach."

That's when his thoughts turned to the Fae, who vanished into their forests and hid away from the creatures, but he suspected the elves left them behind the wall as the Feywild Empire was the smallest of the three.

While getting frustrated, someone barged through the door to see his son Silas running into the room. He quickly spoke in a breathless voice. "Father. They have breached one of the bridges, and the commander requests reinforcements. Allow me to lead them."

He looked at his second son and nodded. "May the God of Light watch over you, my son. We will start the ritual soon."

Silas bowed before leaving the room as his advisor entered. "My lord. We are ready and waiting for you."

Jeremiah nodded. "Let's begin. Hopefully, these heroes can beat back these creatures as we won't hold out for long without help."

The pope followed the man to an underground chamber where a group of mages had gathered, chanting an unknown language. All he knew was that the God Of Light blessed the people the spell summoned.

The last time the spell was used was to bring down the old dragon empire, but it hadn't been used since. As the mages completed the summoning ritual, a shimmering portal appeared.

Five figures dropped from it with a crackling energy, stepping into the room with uncertain expressions. Among them was a girl with striking black hair and eyes that shifted between blue and grey.

She looked around with wide-eyed excitement, her heart racing with adrenaline before exclaiming, unable to contain her excitement.

When Jeremiah heard her accent, he was taken aback by how different it was. "We've been summoned to another world!"

The other four, two girls and two boys, exchanged puzzled glances. One of the girls, who had blonde hair and blue eyes, furrowed her brow in confusion. "What do you mean, another world?"

The black-haired girl grinned eagerly. "You know, like in the light s! We're the chosen heroes who are destined to save the world from the demon king!"

He watched the young ones blink in surprise, processing the girl's words. It was clear that they were not entirely sure what to make of this revelation, but he decided to make the first move and step forward.

Jeremiah quickly introduced himself. "Welcome, brave souls. I am Pope Jeremiah Volkovitch, leader of the Church Of Light and servant of the God of Light. You have been brought here by powerful magic, summoned from a distant world to aid us in our time of need."

The young heroes exchanged uncertain glances, their expressions a mixture of curiosity and apprehension.

He continued, his tone unwavering, his words carrying the weight of prophecy. "You are the chosen ones, destined to become the saviors of Verdantia. Darkness has descended upon our land, and evil beings threaten to plunge us into eternal chaos. But with your strength and courage, we shall stand against this darkness and emerge victorious."

Jeremiah paused, allowing his words to sink in before continuing. "You possess unique talents and abilities, gifts bestowed upon you by the God of Light Darikha. Together, we will harness these powers to drive back the forces of evil and restore light to our world."

After speaking, he noticed the five looked interested, but one of the boys with brown hair and blue eyes commented in a strange accent that he could barely understand. "What will happen to our old lives? Won't people worry?"

He sighed when hearing this because he knew what this spell entailed and decided to lie to the group to get them on his side. "This ritual only summons people who have passed away and started their journey to the next life."

When the group heard that, they became visibly upset, causing Jeremiah to internally chuckle as he succeeded in fooling the five. Once they accepted their new lives, he would save the central continent before turning to that white lizard with his new soldiers.

After getting over his excitement, he spoke to the quiet group. "I will get my maids to show you to your rooms so you can relax."

They nodded, but Jeremiah noticed the black-haired girl looking around excitedly. She looked at him before approaching. The girl spoke with a big smile that confused him. "So Mr Pope. We will be hunting down monsters and killing bandits?"

When he heard that name, his eyebrow twitched as the face of a certain lizard appeared in his mind. Jeremiah shook his head and thought the possibility of them knowing each other was impossible, so he answered. "Yes, Lady?"

"Oh, you can call me Tammy Reynolds." She replied with an excited smile.

He watched as she shifted her attention to the others and added, "These are my companions. The one with black hair and eyes is Natsumi Suzuki. The blonde-haired girl with green eyes is Emily Jameson, and the two boys are Jason Barnes and Tim Bennett."

Jeremiah was about to talk when the door slammed open, causing him to spin around and see the Novgorod Emperor Anatoly Novgorod and the third Princess Yevdokiya entering the hall with The Imperial Dragoons.

The emperor had short grey hair and glowing red eyes. He stood at seven feet tall and was wearing Dragonsteel Armor. Jeremiah looked at the princess who shared features with his wife and her sister, which didn't shock him as they were her aunt and grandmother.

She had short grey hair and bright crystal blue eyes. Jeremiah always thought the princess was beautiful and would be the perfect wife but would never try anything as the emperor was overprotective of his daughters.

Chapter 634 Come With Me

?[The Summoned Heroes POV]

She watched as a tall, muscular man approached their group along with the stunningly beautiful girl who seemed to be a few years older than them.

Emily moved close and spoke in a hushed voice. "Tam. What's happening now?"

Tammy grinned as she eagerly explained. "We will be invited to stay in that dude's Palace to train before being sent out to hunt monsters."

Upon hearing this, Emily sighed. "Why do you sound overly excited about this? We died and won't be able to go home!"

The black-haired girl shrugged in response to Emily's question. "There's nothing we can do, Em. There's no point in being sad about it. We might as well enjoy our new lives."

"Does that mean we get to use magic? I've heard you talk about it a lot back home," Natsuki asked.

Tammy replied with a big smile. "Most likely. They will tell us soon, so don't worry."

Jason and Tim nodded in agreement as they waited to hear more. Suddenly, the tall man approached them after talking to the Pope.

He addressed the group with a thick Russian-like accent, "Heroes. Welcome to my realm. I am Emperor Anatoly Volkovitch, and this lovely woman is my daughter, the Third Princess Yevdokiya. Would you let us take you to the palace so we can explain everything?"

The girls examined the princess. She had short grey hair that cut off just under her ears. A pair of beautiful crystal blue eyes shone like a star in the night sky. Natsumi nudged Emily and commented with a voice full of jealousy. "Look at her body; it's even better than the models back home. They would die for a figure like hers."

Yevdokiya had a perfect hourglass-shaped body that her armor clung to. Tammy shook her head and whispered in the same tone. "Look at her boobs! They are big and without an inch of shag. What is this blasphemy!"

The other two girls agreed with a nod. The emperor and princess just watched this with amused looks. While the girls were being jealous, Jason looked at the princess. His eyes widened in shock as he had never seen a beautiful girl.

Emily quickly noticed Yevdokiya noticed him staring, and a look of disgust appeared on her face, but that didn't seem to faze him. As Tim saw this, he slapped his friend around the back of the head, returning him to reality and leaving Jason embarrassed.

Tammy shook her head, ignoring the boys, and asked in a hope-filled voice. "Is there any way to go home? Or are we stuck here?"

Anatoly shook his head before answering with a sad smile. "Unfortunately not. You died in your previous worlds and were brought here by higher powers. Now I'll explain everything back at the palace."

The five nodded before the emperor and princess led the way. When the group stepped outside, they grew confused upon seeing a large blimp-like craft sitting there. Jason was the one to comment first. "What is this thing?"

"That is a manaship. Our family uses it to travel across the empire." A voice echoed from behind the group.

Turning around, the group saw a young woman with short burgundy hair and beautiful green eyes. At that moment, the emperor turned to her with a smile. "Sofia, my lovely niece. How's the tournament?"

Tammy watched as the girl respectfully bowed before answering. "I'm fine, uncle, and fighting some of the other top students in the empire is fun."

After replying, she looked at them and continued. "Are these the people grandfather summoned without permission?"

Natsumi leaned in and whispered to the two other girls, "Seems like there's some family drama with that deceitful Pope."

The black-haired girl nodded with a smile as the emperor answered. "Yes, my dear. I was going to talk to him but decided to summon him to the palace tomorrow."

"Okay, uncle." She replied.

Once she was finished speaking to the emperor, they noticed her approaching with a friendly but sad smile. "I'm sorry you died in your old world, but I assure you this one is full of wonders that even the imagination couldn't create. By the way, my name is Sofia Volkovitch. I'm a student at the Vladivostok College of Sorcery."

Everyone introduced themselves to her before Tim spoke. "It's nice to meet you, Sofia. What do you study in this Sorcery College of yours?"

She turned to the boy and answered. "I specialize in light, fire, and water magic. So the college believes I should learn healing and attack magic."

When Jason heard that, his eyes widened in amazement before inquiring. "Can you show us a spell, please?"

Sofia looked toward the emperor, who nodded. "Go ahead. I want to see how strong the famous Volkovitch devil is."

After speaking, the group looked at the innocent-looking girl and couldn't put the nickname to her, but Sofia nodded before closing her eyes as they felt something rushing around them, causing their bodies to react.

It reminded them of wind, but this stuff resonated with them before Sofia cast a Fireball into the air and caused it to explode. The five friends' eyes widened in amazement and shock when they saw this.

Tammy couldn't contain her excitement anymore as she asked, "Will I be able to do that?"

Sofia nodded with a smile. "I'm sure you will, hero. You will learn everything you need to know when you get to the palace."

While she spoke to the magician girl, Emily, and Natsumi turned to the two boys as they looked around in amazement. The blonde girl spoke to Tim with a sad smile. "Your little brother would have loved this place."

Tim nodded before answering in a sad tone. "Yeah, he would have. But enough of the past now. That died with us, and all we can do now is live our new ones."

After that, they were ushered on board. After saying goodbye to Sofia, the Emperor and Princess led the five heroes onto the manaship. The group couldn't help but feel excitement and apprehension.

The towering vessel loomed before them, its sleek design decorated with complex runes that shimmered in the dim light. As they stepped aboard, they were greeted by the soft hum of mana that pulsed through the air.

Anatoly spoke with a hint of pride in his voice. "Welcome aboard. This vessel will take us to the capital, Novgorod City, where you will begin training as our heroes."

The heroes followed their hosts into the ship's heart, where they found themselves surrounded by a labyrinth of corridors and chambers.

As they settled into their seats near the windows, the heroes watched in awe as the manaship began to ascend. With a gentle hum, the vessel lifted off the ground, defying gravity easily.

Through the transparent panels, they caught glimpses of the world below—a patchwork of lush forests, sprawling cities, and winding rivers.

"It's incredible." Jason breathed, his eyes wide with wonder.

Tim nodded in agreement, his gaze fixed on the breathtaking vista unfolding before them. "I never imagined we'd see anything like this."

Tammy's smile was infectious, her excitement noticeable. "Just wait, until we explore those towns and cities up close! Wait until we take down hordes of monsters"

Natsumi leaned against the window, her expression filled with contemplation. "It's hard to believe that we were ordinary people living ordinary lives just a short time ago. Now, we're embarking on the adventure of a lifetime."

When she said that, the group grew quiet. It dawned on them that they would never see their loved ones again.

[Princess Yevdokiya Volkovitch's POV]

Yevdokiya noticed the solemn mood that suddenly engulfed the cabin they were sitting in. While watching them, her father spoke. "Come with me, Yev."

She nodded before standing up and following him to a private section reserved for their family. When they arrived, her Father spoke in a soft voice. "Yev."

She turned to him, her blue eyes meeting his with curiosity. "Father, what is it?"

Anatoly paused, carefully selecting his words. "I have a request, my daughter. As the Third Princess and a skilled warrior, I need you to keep an eye on the heroes who have arrived in our realm."

Yevdokiya frowned, her brow furrowing in confusion. "But Father, why me? Shouldn't this task fall to one of the palace guards or advisors?"

Anatoly shook his head. "I trust you, Yev. You have a keen sense of judgment and a strong sense of duty. Besides, if the white dragon were to attack, they would need someone with your skills to protect them."

Yevdokiya's eyes widened in realization, understanding the weight of her father's words. The boy has been causing non-

stop trouble with the Church Of Light.

She nodded with a determined smile. "Okay, father. I'll do it, but what happened when I attended the Celestial Magic Tournament?"

Her father smiled before answering. "They will go with you and fight. I've already put the five in our two hundred, which gives us enough time to train them with your help, my daughter."

Chapter 635 The Empress Is Waiting

Yevdokiya nodded as it made sense before speaking. "I assume I'll be taking them to the Black Fog Forest? And other places?"

Anatoly grinned. "Exactly. This way, we can have five powerful heroes to combat the menace if he challenges us."

"Menace?" Her brows furrowed in confusion.

"Yes, the white dragon Archer Wyldheart. The bandit stole the church's riches and caused much trouble for the Pope, but we won't have to deal with him until the Celestial Magic Tournament begins. So that's a good thing."

Yevdokiya agreed. "Okay, Father. I'll do my best to make the five stronger."

After speaking, she returned to the heroes, eager to get a good look at them and assess who she would be dealing with. Yevdokiya entered the cabin where they were and began examining them.

Tammy had jet-black hair and sparkling grey/blue eyes tied into a ponytail. Yevdokiya noticed she was slender and had some meat on her, but the thing that caught her attention was the girl's infectious smile, which hinted that she might enjoy this situation too much.

Turning her attention to the girl named Natsumi, who had shorter black hair and beautiful brown eyes. This girl was smiling while talking to the other and was thicker than Tammy with bigger boobs but seemed to be the quietest of the three.

She looked at the last female hero with long blonde hair and emerald green eyes. She noticed the girl was the curviest of the three. Yevdokiya guessed they came from a well-pampered world where they didn't have to fight unlike Thrylos.

After examining the three girls, she turned her attention to the two boys. One had brown hair and blue eyes, while the other had blonde hair and green eyes. The two were similar in size and looked like two pretty boys who had never fought.

Yevdokiya thought the two looked innocent and had never suffered through hard times. Once she looked at the five, she listened to their conversation while waiting for her father.

[The Summoned Heroes POV]

Meanwhile, the somber mood still hung over them back in the cabin. Thoughts of their previous lives weighed heavily on their minds, casting a shadow over their newfound adventure. Emily sighed, her gaze fixed on the floor as she wrestled with her emotions.

Tammy glanced around at her friends, noticing the melancholy atmosphere that surrounded them.

"Guys. I know things seem bleak right now, but dwelling on the past won't change anything. We're here, in this incredible world, and we have the chance to make the most of it." She said, her voice soft, but they all picked up on the excitement.

Natsumi nodded in agreement, her eyes meeting Tammy's with newfound resolve. "She's right. We can't change what happened, but we can choose how we move forward."

Jason and Tim exchanged glances before the latter spoke up, his voice echoing their shared sentiment. "We may have lost everything and everyone back home, but that doesn't mean we can't find something worth fighting for here."

Everyone agreed with Tim's words and somewhat cheered up. Emily and Natsumi looked outside, shocked at the beautiful sight before them. A vast expanse of lush greenery stretched as far as the eye could see.

Forests teeming with life, grasslands swaying in the breeze, rivers winding their way through the landscape, and mountains towering in the distance.

Tammy's breath caught in her throat as she took in the continent's beauty, her heart swelling with a newfound hope as she whispered, her voice barely audible over the drone of the engines. "It's... it's incredible."

The blonde girl smiled, a flicker of excitement dancing in her eyes. "I never imagined we'd see anything like this."

Natsumi leaned forward, her gaze fixed on the landscape, and exclaimed as she pointed out different regions. "Look at all the different biomes. There's so much to explore!"

They watched as a herd of bison-like beasts rushed by and stopped by a large lake. Tim spoke. "There isn't anything this beautiful back on Earth."

Everyone nodded in agreement and admired the view outside until they noticed the emperor standing nearby. They turned to him as he spoke. "Once we reach the palace, the court mage will check what magic you have by testing your affinities."

The five's excitement grew, but the older man continued. "But for now, if you think 'Status,' you will bring up a screen. The average person's common stat is five hundred to one thousand, but it will be higher for talented people."

Tammy excitedly volunteered first as she mumbled. "Status."

[Tammy Reynolds][Race: New Human][Age: 21][Rank: Novice][Exp: 0/2000][Level: 0][HP: 3000/3000][Mana: 5000/5000][Magic:][Strength: 3000][Constitution: 3000]

[Stamina: 3000][Charisma: 2000][Intelligence: 2000][Status Points: 0]

When she saw her status screen, she was astonished and murmured, "It's like a video game."

The emperor and princess looked confused but allowed them to continue checking their status since it was new to them.

Natsumi was the next to check, and then the others followed.

[Natsumi Suzuki][Race: New Human][Age: 22][Rank: Novice][Exp: 0/2000][Level: 0][HP: 3000/3000][Mana: 5000/5000][Magic:][Strength: 3000][Constitution: 3000]

[Stamina: 3000][Charisma: 2000][Intelligence: 2000][Status Points: 0]

[Emily Jameson][Race: NewHuman][Age: 19][Rank: Novice][Exp: 0/2000][Level: 0][HP: 3000/3000][Mana: 5000/5000][Magic:][Strength: 3000][Constitution: 3000]

[Stamina: 3000][Charisma: 2000][Intelligence: 2000][Status Points: 0]

[Tim Bennett][Race: NewHuman][Age: 21][Rank: Novice][Exp: 0/2000][Level: 0][HP: 3000/3000][Mana: 5000/5000][Magic:][Strength: 3000][Constitution: 3000]

[Stamina: 3000][Charisma: 2000][Intelligence: 2000][Status Points: 0][Spells:][Skills:]

[Jason Barnes][Race: NewHuman][Age: 23][Rank: Novice][Exp: 0/2000][Level: 0][HP: 3000/3000][Mana: 5000/5000][Magic:][Strength: 3000][Constitution: 3000]

[Stamina: 3000][Charisma: 2000][Intelligence: 2000][Status Points: 0][Spells:][Skills:]

Once they all checked their status, they grew excited. However, Emily turned to the princess and asked, "Why do we all have the same status?"

Yevdokiya shrugged. "Well, as you died and were brought here, I guess the gods rebuilt your bodies and gave you the stats."

"Will they change once we start training?" Jason asked while looking at his status.

She was about to reply, but the emperor jumped in. "Yes, each of you will pick a weapon and a way to fight to learn from the master at arms. He'll figure out what suits you best just by seeing you."

The five nodded before Tim asked the next question. "Do these stats mean anything?"

"Yes, young man. These stats give an estimate of your overall strength. For example, if you just boost Strength to twenty thousand, it won't make you the strongest. If you don't know how to use it, you'll be like a glass cannon, vulnerable to being defeated by someone more skilled than you."

As they watched in awe, the majestic city of Novgorod came into view from the windows of the manaship. Its towering spires and elaborate architecture stretched into the sky, casting long shadows over the land below.

The sight alone was enough to leave them speechless. But their silence deepened as the manaship descended towards the imperial shipyard. The unbelievable scene unfolding before them left them stunned as they approached.

Tammy saw a shipyard that looked like it came from a fairy tale. Big buildings made of shiny white stone and covered in fancy designs stood tall above the ground. Banners fluttered in the breeze, bearing the symbols of the noble families in the Novgorod Empire.

Gardens filled with beautiful flowers and exotic plants surrounded the shipyard, their colors so vivid they seemed almost otherworldly.

Streams of sparkling water flowed through the gardens, crisscrossing over ornate stone bridges adorned with statues of mythical creatures. The group was amazed as the ship landed on the platform.

They looked at each other in shock, unable to believe what they saw. It was so different from anything they had ever known. Quietly, they got off the ship and stood on the ground of the shipyard.

Each was deep in thought, trying to understand the scene before them. This was nothing like Earth, and they had to accept that fact. When everyone was ready, the guards brought a luxurious carriage.

The emperor spoke. "Now, let's get in. The empress is waiting at the palace, and she would want to meet you five."

They nodded, but Tammy wondered why she wanted to meet them. But she shrugged and entered the comfortable carriage, which perfectly fitted everyone. Once inside, it started driving forward as the guard commanded the beasts.

Natsumi watched the streets speed by as they were moving fast. Tim looked at Tammy and asked in a nervous voice. "Won't they hit someone going this fast?"

Before she could answer, Yevdokiya answered. "The capital is a section of the roads where imperial carriages can travel, and the people know to be careful when crossing it."

Everyone nodded before returning their attention to the fantasy-like city. After ten minutes of marveling at the sights, they reached the palace, enclosed by towering walls, catching the five off guard.

Chapter 636 No Damsels In Distress Here

The manaship touched down outside Greenwood City, and the passengers exited onto a snow-covered field where a stage was set up to the right. Archer and the girls stepped off the ship and were ushered to a row of seats.

Lioran, Cian, Alaric, and their girls followed behind. Everyone started sitting down. After ten minutes, all the College Of Magic Students sat down, while the Starlight Academy had its own space, just like the other institutions across Pluoria.

Archer noticed the Headmistress Ophelia walking toward the stage and standing at the podium with most Professors behind her.

"Dear students," she started speaking with a smile. "This afternoon marks the commencement of our pre-qualification group matches, which will determine the groups you'll be placed in. I encourage each of you to compete with integrity and uphold the reputation of the College Of Magic. Remember, losing in these preliminary bouts holds no consequence, for the true test lies ahead in the Qualification Rounds that will be held in a week."

She paced gracefully before them, her words infused with an unwavering conviction. "I want you to give it your all in these fights, not just for yourselves, but for our college. Fight with honor, fight with courage, and most importantly, fight with your heart."

A soft murmur spread through the group of students as they nodded and smiled at each other. The headmistress's words inspired them to do their best in the tournament.

She continued, her voice ringing with promise. "And fear not, for when the Qualification Round finishes, we'll return to Starfall City just as the Frostwinter Festival begins. There, amidst the festivities, we shall celebrate our achievements and forge memories that will last a lifetime."

Cheers erupted from the students, and their enthusiasm was real as they envisioned the glamorous celebrations that awaited them. Ophelia's words had kindled a flame of excitement and competition within them.

With a warm smile, she finished, "So let us face these fights with courage, knowing that our efforts shall be rewarded tenfold. Together, we shall make our mark upon the world when we head to Verdantia!"

Archer watched as everyone around him erupted into applause. The anticipation of the challenges ahead and the festivities filled the air, binding them together in a shared journey of triumph and celebration.

Ella turned to him and said, "Are you excited, Arch? Look at everyone else."

He glanced around the field and saw all the students smiling and eagerly discussing the upcoming fights.

"I am excited, El. I want to fight all kinds of people while using the limiter to test my abilities." Archer answered.

The half-elf smiled, but then the two heard Sera ranting at Nefertiti and Hemera, who were giggling at the redhead. "I'm telling you, girls, I will be in the two hundred just like the rest of you. Stop doubting me!"

When they laughed even more, it angered the dragon girl whose ruby-red eyes glowed. "How about we fight now, then? I'll take both of you on."

Nefertiti nodded her head. "I'll fight you, little Sera. What about you, Hemi? Or are you too scared?"

The sun elf's eyes narrowed, but agreed with one condition. "We can't harm each other?"

When Archer heard this argument, he interrupted. "No one will be fighting until we return to the empire. Someone will get hurt and won't be able to compete. So stop being stupid, or I'll punish each one of you."

After that, he watched them calm down, but they still planned to fight in the domain while traveling back to the empire in two weeks.

He turned back to Ophelia, who concluded with her speech. "Now. The Professors will break you down into groups of fifty and take you to the fighting stages so we can figure out what group you'd be in."

Once she was done talking, the Professors started approaching groups of students. Gianna walked toward them and spoke. "Archer. I have you, your ladies in my group, and another fifty."

Hearing the green-haired woman speak, they all stood up and said farewell to Lioran and the others before following her.

Archer walked next to Gianna and asked, "What's the point of this group stage? Why not just fight it out during the Qualification Round."

A pair of cat eyes turned to him and answered with a smile, "Well, my little nephew. The rulers decided on this group stage because this part of the tournament has thousands of challengers, and we need a way to organize it."

She motioned to the groups and continued, "The seven groups represent different skill and power tiers. For example, you and some of your girls will be in Cosmic, which is the top group in this round. It will allow you to fight stronger opponents."

Archer nodded with a grin as the other students joined them. He rejoined the girls, who were all excited and talking among themselves. He heard Nefertiti comment in a confident voice. "We all will win. Since the day our husband started making love to us, we've grown stronger."

Everyone's eyes widened because some were still trying to figure it out, but it all made sense now. Archer grinned before checking each girl's status.

[Ella][Race: Half-Elf][Age: 17] [Rank: Magus] [Exp: 3410/12000][Level: 198][HP: 2500/2500][Mana: 7000/7000]

[Magic: Light-Earth][Strength: 2200][Constitution: 4000]

[Stamina: 5000][Charisma: 8000][Intelligence: 4500][Status Points: 12]

[Teuila Aquaria][Race: Aquarian][Age: 18][Rank: Magus]

[Exp: 0200/12000][Level: 120][HP: 4300/4300][Mana: 5000/5000][Magic: Aquarian-Water][Strength: 10000]

[Constitution: 9000][Stamina: 7000][Charisma: 6000]

[Intelligence: 4800][Status Points: 100]

When he saw the two girls' status, he was shocked. They were powerful and had large mana pools. From reading, Archer knew that a talented person's average mana is three thousand.

Archer shook his head, then decided to see what others' statuses were like and turned to the dragon girl who was standing there annoying Nefertiti.

[Sera][Race: Fairy Dragon][Age: 19][Rank: High Mage]

[Exp: 13500/15000][Level: 330][HP: 10000/10000][Mana: 9000/9000][Magic: Enhancement-Earth][Strength: 12000]

[Constitution: 10000][Stamina: 9000][Charisma: 8000]

[Intelligence: 5000][Status Points: 16]

[Nefertiti Sharifi][Race: Succubus][Age: 18][Rank: Magus]

[Exp: 10000/15000][Level: 187][HP: 7000/7000][Mana: 15000/15000][Magic: Arcane][Strength: 8000][Constitution: 10000][Stamina: 7000][Charisma: 12000][Intelligence: 8000]

[Status Points: 50]

'Oh wow. Do succubuses have that much mana normal? Or is it because of Draconic Synergy?' He thought to himself.

Archer was pleased when he saw the two girls Rank, which was strong for their ages. After diverting his attention from the two, he shifted his focus to Hemera, Leira, Talila, and Leira, who were absorbed in a spellbook discovered in the common room.

[Hemera Helios][Race: Sun Elf][Age: 45][Rank: High Mage][Exp: 5660/12000][Level: 312][HP: 5500/5500][Mana: 9000/9000][Magic: Enhancement-Earth][Strength: 5500]

[Constitution: 6000][Stamina: 7000][Charisma: 9000]

[Intelligence: 1000][Status Points: 200]

[Talila][Race: Sun/Moon Elf][Age: 21][Rank: High Magus]

[Exp: 14000/15000][Level: 234][HP: 6000/6000][Mana: 6500/6500][Magic: Sun-Moon][Strength: 9000][Constitution: 8000][Stamina: 10000][Charisma: 8000][Intelligence: 5800]

[Status Points: 10]

[Leira Avalon][Race: Cat Demi-Human][Age: 19][Rank: Arch Magus][Exp: 1000/12000][Level: 220][HP: 5200/5200]

[Mana: 9000/9000][Magic: Fire-Thunder][Strength: 3700]

[Constitution: 6000][Stamina: 8000][Charisma: 8500]

[Intelligence: 10000][Status Points: 0]

'Does sex really boost them this much? I can't imagine what Rank they'd be in a couple of years. But this is really good.' He thought to himself after looking at their stats.

Archer felt relieved they could take care of themselves and checked the last three, noticing they were staring at him curiously.

[Llynnei Oakheart][Race: Wood Elf][Age: 17][Rank: Arch Magus][Exp: 5660/12000][Level: 202][HP: 6000/6000][Mana: 9000/9000][Magic: Enhancement-Earth][Strength: 4200]

[Constitution: 6400][Stamina: 8900][Charisma: 8000]

[Intelligence: 6800][Status Points: 2]

[Nala Lionheart][Race: Lion Demi Human][Age: 18][Rank: Magus][Exp: 5660/12000][Level: 181][HP: 6500/6500][Mana: 7000/7000][Magic: Enhancement-Earth][Strength: 8500]

[Constitution: 6000][Stamina: 12000][Charisma: 6000]

[Intelligence: 5500][Status Points: 0]

[Halime Nagendra][Race: Snake Demi Human][Age: 19]

[Rank: Magus][Exp: 5660/9000][Level: 123][HP: 4200/4200]

[Mana: 8000/8000][Magic: Poison][Strength: 4000]

[Constitution: 7000][Stamina: 4500][Charisma: 7500]

[Intelligence: 6500][Status Points: 15]

'No damsels in distress here. Unless someone powerful attacked them, they should be fine. That's why they are constantly guarded.'

After thinking, he looked at their shadows and saw thousands of eyes staring back at him with respect and fear radiating from them. He wanted to compare them to someone else and looked around.

Archer soon spotted the orange-haired girl Maeve, who was busy talking to Aurelia while their Professor explained something. While she was preoccupied, he scanned her.

[Maeve Avaloch][Race: Human][Age: 20][Rank: Expert][Exp: 7000/9000][Level: 65][HP: 2500/2500][Mana: 3000/3000][Magic: Thunder- Wind][Strength: 4500]

[Constitution: 3500][Stamina: 4000][Charisma: 8000]

[Intelligence: 5000][Status Points: 0]

'Oh, you can see the difference. It was defiantly that skill Tiamat gave me, but this good.'

Archer decided to try Draconic Synergy at night to see if it could strengthen them even more. He also wondered why it didn't affect him, but he figured it might be because he was already stronger than them.

After finishing his assessment of the girls, he chose to use the Status Points he had saved up, totaling two thousand from all the hearts he ate.

Chapter 637 The Arcane Tournament Begins

?Archer smiled at Nala, Llyniel, and Halime before commenting. "I was just checking out how much you girls have grown stronger."

The three nodded before getting back to chatting. After that, he checked his current status before spending the points.

[Experience: 1325000/4000000]

[Rank: Sovereign Mage] (Limiter Activated: Master Rank)

[HP: 29500>30000]

[Mana: 678690>685000]

[Strength: 27500>28000]

[Constitution: 26000>26500]

[Stamina: 27000>27500]

[Charisma: 21500>22000]

[Intelligence: 27500>28000]

[New Magic's Learned: Poison - Shadow]

[Shadow Prince: 2>4]

[Shadowspawn: 6>7]

[Timewarp: 3>4]

[Dragon's Domain: 5>7]

[Analyze: 9>10]

[Anti-Magic: 9>10]

[Immunity: 8>9]

[Draconic Synergy: 2>4]

After checking his status, he allocated two hundred points each to HP, Mana, Charisma, and Intelligence and four hundred points to the remaining stats, which boosted him immensely.

A burning sensation shot through his body due to the intense change in his status, causing him to shiver as the Regeneration kicked in and started healing him. Archer shook his head before taking a deep breath and checking his new status.

[SP:2000>0]

[HP: 30000>34000]

[Mana: 685000>689000]

[Strength: 28000>36000]

[Constitution: 26500>34500]

[Stamina: 27500>35500]

[Charisma: 22000>26000]

[Intelligence: 28000>32000]

Excited by the boost, Archer was in a good mood but remembered he wanted to remove some of the spells he'd never used. That's when he started thinking about the ones he wanted gone.

After a few seconds, he felt something, and a screen popped up.

[Cure Wounds]

[Flashpoint (7)]

[Aurora Borealis]

[Beacon Of Clarity]

[Spells removed but not forgotten. If you use them in the future, they will reappear]

Archer shook his head and thought that was helpful. After messing with his status, he saw students walking toward the stages while others were fighting.

With a confused expression, he turned to Teuila and spoke. "What's happened? I was busy thinking about something."

She giggled before filling him in on what he had missed. "The fights have started, but it's no one we know. You're fighting someone called Wulf Steelbane, which will be in an hour."

He grinned. "Who is he?"

Teuila scanned the surroundings before singling out a tall human boy of Archer's age, distinguished by his brown hair and striking red eyes. Archer observed his opponent, noting the boy's imposing size, and felt excitement at the prospect of testing his strength.

Despite the intimidating presence of the giant axe he carried, Archer remained unfazed, confident in his scales' ability to withstand such weapons without threatening him.

"Wulf looks like he will put up a good fight, but who are you fighting, my Ocean Princess?" he asked in a curious voice.

She turned to him with her pretty smile. "I fight some boy called Dorian Blackwood. Gianna told me he specialized in using spear and earth magic, which would be easy to deal with when I used my Aquarian magic."

Archer grinned with pride. "I know you'll beat him. You girls have grown so strong it even took me by surprise."

She giggled, then leaned closer. "It's all because of you and your naughty side. The amount of sex we have has added up. Now we're a lot stronger than ever."

Archer nodded, and they turned their attention back to the ongoing fight. Two girls were battling it out using fire and earth magic, which bored him, but then the earth mage managed to get a sneaky attack and sent the other flying.

Her attack caused the crowd to cheer, and the referee called for the next match. For the next hour, the fights continued until it was Ella's turn. Their arena was massive and beautifully decorated with banners from the participating kingdoms.

Archer noticed that the arena could hold most students and officials who attended the group fights. Waves of cheers and shouting could be heard as other fights were going on, but the noise soon died down when the last battle was ended by knockout.

A notice could be heard, quieting the arena as The announcer spoke over a mana speaker. "Ella Wyldheart and Emilia Brightwood. Could you two step onto the stage for the next fight."

When the half-elf heard this, she quickly approached Archer and expressed. "Wish me luck, husband."

He hugged her without warning, causing a sweet smile to appear on Ella's pretty face. After embracing her for a while, he leaned down and gave her a gentle kiss on her soft pink lips.

His actions sent a shockwave through her body, causing her to smile even more. She returned the kiss with a passionate one of her own. Once they separated, Archer replied. "Good luck, El. I know you can win the fight."

"You can win, Ella! Show her what you can do!" Sera shouted excitedly, followed by the other girls' encouraging words.

Teuila was the next to holler. "Come on, Ella! Show our husband what you can do!"

The half-elf smiled at him and the others before stepping onto the stage. Archer looked to see who her opponent was and saw a brown-haired girl with bright yellow eyes.

She was built like a warrior, but there was something about her. That's when he remembered as she saw the sword on her waist. 'She must be a knight.'

That explained the serious attitude and stern-looking face. He thought she was pretty but in a girl-next-door way. Archer wondered where she came from but shook his head because it didn't matter.

Archer and the girls were sitting at the arena's edge, his eyes fixed on the spectacle before him. The tension in the air was noticeable as Ella and Emilia faced off in the center, their determination evident in every movement.

As the referee signaled the start of the match, Archer's heart began to race with anticipation. He watched Ella swiftly reach for her quiver, selecting explosive arrows to use first.

He watched as she notched them, her movements perfect. With a flick of her wrist, Ella released the arrows, each trailing sparks of fiery energy as they streaked toward Emilia.

The girl attempted to dodge, but the explosions were relentless, engulfing her in a fiery blast that sent her stumbling backward. Archer's breath caught in his throat as he witnessed Ella's prowess, which he hadn't expected.

When seeing this, he thought to himself. 'Wow. She is really strong now. I wonder when she trains.'

She wasted no time, closing the distance between them in the blink of an eye. Emilia swung her sword desperately, but the half-elf dodged it by sidestepping the attack, the blade slicing through the air where she had just stood.

With a natural expression, Ella unleashed a powerful Earth Blast. The spell struck the brown-haired girl squarely in the stomach, the force of the impact knocking the wind out of her.

She doubled over, gasping for breath as she struggled to regain her footing. But Ella was relentless, just like him. With a fierce smile, she advanced on Emilia, her bow held aloft like a club.

Without wasting more time, she brought the bow crashing down, the wood connecting with Emilia's jaw with a resounding crack. Archer watched in awe as the girl crumpled to the ground, defeated.

The crowd erupted into cheers, their voices echoing through the arena as they hailed Ella as the victor. With a triumphant smile, she raised her bow high in the air, her victory clear for all to see.

As Archer celebrated with the crowd, he felt a surge of pride for Ella, who had fought with courage, proving herself to be a force to be reckoned with.

While he watched her bask in the crowd's admiration, he knew she had earned every moment. After the cheering died down, she approached them with a smile.

Archer jumped up and wrapped his arms around the half-elf, who let him do it as she sunk into his embrace. The other girls circled Ella while congratulating her after he let her go.

Once that was over, the large group watched more fights, but they recognized a few students who attended the College Of Magic. After that, it was Archer's fight, then Teuila's.

The other girl's fights would be held later on or tomorrow. Once a dozen battles ended, the announcer spoke. "Archer Wyldheart and Wulf Steelbane. Please come to the stage."

When Archer heard his name, a big grin appeared before he stood up. He approached each of his girls and kissed them as they wished him luck. Afterward, he went to the stage to spot his opponent, Wulf Steelbane, and his axe.

With a grin, he stepped onto the stage and heard his women screaming at him. Ella was first, her blue eyes shining with confidence. "Now it's time to show them what you're made of, Arch!"

Teuila added her voice to the mix. "You're strong, Darling. Believe in yourself, and you'll come out on top!"

Sera shouted in excitement, "Go get 'em, sweetheart! Show him what you're made of! We're all rooting for you!"

When he heard all ten screaming excitedly, his heart swelled at the support he received. The crowd cheered and screamed when they realized who stepped on stage.

Chapter 638 Glad You Like It

Archer stepped on stage to see the referee and Wulf staring at him like he was a beast. He grinned before coming to a stop as the brown-haired boy commented. "So you're the infamous white dragon the continents speaking of."

His nod prompted Wulf to continue. "What's the point of us fighting when you can wipe me away without much effort? You're a dragon, after all."

Upon hearing that, Archer held up his wrist to show the boy and referee the bracelet before explaining. "This a limiter I set on myself to have fun and make it a challenge. I'll be fighting with the power of a Master ranked mage."

Wulf smiled as he wanted to fight properly and not be blown away. The referee just shrugged and announced the start of the match, but neither moved. Archer grinned before casting Element Bolts made from fire that shot toward his opponent.

As the bolts got closer, Wulf swung his axe and deflected all of them, making his smile grow as he summoned his greatsword and wanted to fight using brute strength.

The tension thick like a storm ready to unleash its fury. Archer gripped his greatsword tightly, the weight of it reassuring in his hands. Wulf swung his axe with ease, the metal gleaming in the sunlight.

Without a word, they charged toward each other, the excitement etched on their faces like battle scars. His weapon clashed against Wulf's with a resounding clang, sparks flying as metal met metal.

Each blow they exchanged thundered through the arena, shaking the ground beneath their feet. Archer danced around Wulf, his movements precise, his greatsword slashing through the air like a deadly whirlwind.

The brown-haired boy roared with fury, swinging his axe with brute force, each strike aimed to cleave him in two. But he was swift, dodging and parrying with skill and finesse, his every move calculated to evade Wulf's relentless assault.

The crowd watched in awe as the two warriors battled on, their cheers and shouts echoing throughout the arena. Archer's greatsword sang as it sliced through the air, leaving a trail of destruction in its wake.

Wulf fought with primal ferocity, his axe crashing like thunder, each blow threatening to shatter bone and steel alike. But Archer was undaunted. With a mighty roar, he unleashed a flurry of strikes, his greatsword a blur of steel as he pressed the attack.

The brown-haired boy fought back with equal enthusiasm, his axe a whirlwind of death as he defended himself against his relentless attacks.

Their fight continued like that for minutes until Archer spotted Wulf breathing heavily, and with a grin, he deflected the next attack, causing the axe to lodge itself in the stage.

When Archer saw that, he took the opportunity to finish the fight and struck the boy in the chest with a powerful kick, sending him flying off the stage and crashing into a nearby wall.

He fell to the ground with a thud, causing the crowd to erupt in a frenzy, and Archer raised his arms while being declared the winner. Once that was over, he dismissed the sword and returned to the girls.

They all had smiles while greeting him with kisses. Teuila walked up to him and grabbed his arm before speaking. "I loved the way you used the greatsword. Can we fight one day?"

Archer nodded before they left the arena, as everyone else's fight was the next day. When they stepped onto the field, the manaships they saw a sea of tents.

As the group took in the sight, Llyniel commented with a proud smile. "Mother and Father made sure we had the best. Follow me."

Everyone turned to her as she started walking. Archer caught up with her using Blink, which made the wood elf jump. She quickly spoke in an annoyed voice but still had a smile. "Why frighten me, Arch! I was taking us to the tent my parents gave us."

Archer smiled before grabbing her hand and pulling her close. When she was staring up at him in confusion, he leaned down and stole her lips, which caught everyone's attention, including the soldiers patrolling the area.

Once the couple separated, Llyniel informed any approaching guards that Archer was her fiance and should be treated with the same respect.

Afterward, the group followed the wood elf through the bustling arena grounds, met with curious stares and whispers from the onlookers.

She walked confidently, her posture proud as she led them through the maze of tents and bustling activity. The wood elf soldiers stationed at the row of tents straightened as Llyniel approached, their eyes recognizing her authority.

With a swift hand, Llyniel acknowledged their salute, and the soldiers bowed respectfully as she passed, granting her passage without question.

The group continued to follow Llyniel until they reached the end of the row, where a massive tent stood tall and imposing against the backdrop of the arena.

Its fabric fluttered in the breeze, adorned with detailed patterns and symbols that spoke of ancient traditions and powerful magic. Llyniel led them into the massive tent.

With a gentle sweep of her hand, she pulled aside the entrance flap, revealing everything within. The group stepped into a vast space, far larger than they had anticipated.

The inside of the tent seemed to stretch endlessly, illuminated by flickering torches that cast warm, golden light across the room.

Their eyes widened in awe as they took in the sight. The tent wasn't fancy but just right. But the rows of comfortable-

looking sofas arranged in a seating area at the tent's center caught their attention the most.

When Archer saw this, he grinned before flopping down on one of the sofas. Llyniel started talking as everyone else started sitting down. "My parents assigned one tent for all of us while in the Oakheart Kingdom."

He smiled. "Tell them I said thank you."

"They want to see you once the Qualification Round begins. I hope you don't mind."

Archer shook his head. "That's fine. I have to meet your father anyway, so this will be the best time to do that."

After that, the group relaxed while Ella, Halime, and Sera were cooking while the others were doing their own thing. Archer sank into one of the comfortable sofas within the clan's grand tent.

Plush cushions wrapped around him like a cocoon, and the gentle flicker of torchlight cast a soothing ambiance over the space. As he leaned back, closing his eyes for just a moment, the weariness of his journey caught up with him.

The sounds of conversation and laughter from the girls provided a comforting backdrop, lulling him into a state of relaxation. Time slipped away, and soon, the soft embrace of sleep enveloped him completely.

He drifted into a deep slumber, his breathing steady and his mind at ease. The smell of freshly cooked food stirred him from his dreams.

Archer's senses awakened to the scent of warm bread and savory meat, filling the air with a mouthwatering smell that made his stomach growl in anticipation.

Opening his eyes, he found Ella standing before him, a warm smile gracing her lips as she held out a plate of food. "Hey there, sleepyhead. I thought you might be hungry."

Archer blinked away the remnants of sleep, sitting up with a grateful nod. He accepted the plate from her, his mouth watering at seeing the meal before him. The bread was warm and crusty, the meat juicy and flavorful, and a feast for a weary traveler.

"Thank you, El." Archer said sincerely, his voice filled with gratitude. He took a bite of the food, savoring the flavors that exploded in his mouth.

Ella chuckled, watching him eat with amusement. "Glad you like it," she replied. "You looked so peaceful, I almost didn't want to wake you."

Archer smiled warmly, feeling a sense of contentment wash over him. At that moment, surrounded by everyone and comforted by good food, he felt truly at home at the start of his journey.

As the day wore on and the exhaustion settled upon them like a heavy blanket, they decided to go to bed so they could get enough rest for the fights tomorrow.

The air was filled with the soft murmur of conversation and the gentle rustle of blankets as they prepared to settle in for the night. With a yawn, Archer stretched his arms above his head, feeling the weariness seep into his bones.

He glanced around the spacious room, noting the rows of ten cozy beds lined up against the wall, each beckoning with the promise of rest and relaxation.

But before he could even think about claiming a bed for himself, he was surrounded by a flurry of activity as they clamored around him, vying for the spaces next to him.

The others joined in the playful commotion, each vying for a spot next to Archer, their laughter filling the room with warmth and joy. Nefertiti and Halime won the competition and got comfortable next to him.

Chapter 639 Your New Friend Can Stay With Us

As the three got comfortable, Archer felt Halime and Nefertiti cuddle up to him. As they did that, the other eight girls piled onto the bed and claimed any part of him they could rest on.

Archer smiled when seeing this and soon fell asleep. He woke up the following day to a heavy wind hitting the tent, causing a rattling noise, before using Blink to get out of bed because the girls were all over him.

He stretched while walking over to the window to check out the weather. When he looked outside the window, wind and rain battered the tents while the dark clouds hung overhead.

That's when he saw Professors and other students rushing around the field where the group stages were being held. While watching, he spotted Aeris walking along but noticed that a group of girls and boys were following him.

Seeing this, Archer walked out and followed behind, forgetting to put on a shirt as he only had a pair of pants and boots. He trudged through the wet camp while getting soaked himself.

They paused near a small tent when one of the girls spoke sharply. "Why do you look like a woman, Redcliff? Aren't you a man?"

Aeris stood in the center, head bowed, enduring the taunts and insults with a stoic silence. Suddenly, one of the girls in the group lashed out, her hand connecting with his cheek in a sharp slap. The black-haired boy flinched but remained passive, his eyes fixed on the ground.

The sight struck a chord within Archer, stirring up memories of his own experiences with bullying, the pain and humiliation he had tolerated at the hands of his own family.

Anger boiled within him, fueling a newfound resolve. Without hesitation, he cast Blink, reappearing in front of his bleeding friend. His violet eyes blazed with fury as he faced the bullies, his fists clenched at his sides.

"You think you can push people around because you're stronger?" His voice was low and menacing, cutting through the air. "Well, not anymore."

Archer launched himself at the bullies with a primal roar, his fists raining down on them with relentless fury. Gender became irrelevant as he unleashed his pent-up rage, striking out against anyone who dared to harm Aeris.

The bullies were caught off guard by the sudden onslaught, their faces contorted in shock and fear. But Archer did not listen to their cries for mercy, his mind consumed by a singular purpose: to protect Aeris at all costs.

The scuffle drew the attention of onlookers, who watched in awe and disbelief as Archer fought with the ferocity of a cornered beast. After five minutes, the bullies lay defeated at his feet, battered and bruised. He stood tall and defiant, his chest heaving with exertion.

Turning to Aeris, Archer offered him a hand, and his expression softened. "Are you okay?"

Aeris nodded, a grateful smile gracing his lips. "Thank you."

But that's when Archer noticed his cheeks going red as he looked at him, which caused him to become confused until he looked down and realized he was only wearing pants.

Archer grinned when he spotted everyone looking at him, which sent his narcissism skyrocketing. He turned back to Aeris, who was staring at his body, which made him uncomfortable as he commented. "Like what you're seeing, ay? It's a shame you're not a woman. I bet you'd be beautiful if you were."

When Aeris heard this, he quickly looked away, becoming even more embarrassed, which made Archer laugh. The two were about to walk away when a group of Professors appeared.

Two men and a woman he had never seen appeared in front of them with angry expressions before one of the men, who was chubby and bald, stepped forward to demand. "Why have you hurt our students, boy? They are from the Starlight Academy."

Archer looked at the man with a grin. "They were bullying my friend and deserved what they got."

The woman looked understanding, but the second man protested. "You've hurt them just before their fights. The healers won't be able to heal them in time."

"Oh, that's all you care about, eh? I'll heal them, but Aeris Redcliff is staying with me from now on." Archer answered.

That was when the woman finally spoke up. "That's fine. Aeris will be fine with that, right?"

Archer turned to the black-haired boy; he soon realized he was still blushing and teased him. "Why are you acting like a lovestruck girl? Do you want to stay with me and the girls or not?"

Aeris turned to the woman and gave her a nod, eliciting a smile of satisfaction from her. She then turned to Archer and asked in a polite tone. "Could I talk to you in private for a second?"

He nodded but cast Aurora Healing on Aeris and the students, which healed everything apart from their bruised egos. When they stood up, the group rushed off, avoiding the black-haired boy.

After that, Archer approached the woman with a smile, admiring her beauty. Her short orange hair framed her beautiful face, drawing his attention. As he looked into her eyes, he couldn't help but notice their matching color.

His gaze then trailed down to appreciate her curves, admiring the way her figure filled out her professor's robes, mainly her massive boobs that sat perfectly on her chest.

While studying her, Archer was interrupted by a cough, causing him to look up and meet the woman's amused gaze.

She smiled teasingly before speaking. "I see those eyes of yours wandering all over little old me. I didn't know someone as young as you would be interested in older women. Not many boys your age pay attention to us. They prefer younger, prettier girls."

Archer chuckled as he replied. "Well, boys my age are stupid. Older women are still beautiful and charming. I honestly don't care for ages. If we like each other, then there's no issue."

The woman smiled before introducing herself. "I'm Professor Eleanor Ravenscroft. I teach the Magical Creature Studies at Starlight Academy."

"Isn't the Summerfield Duke called Harrington Ravenscroft?" He asked in a curious voice as he remembered Sia mentioning him.

Eleanor smiled. "Yes. He's my elder brother."

The woman with orange hair gently shook her head before speaking again. "Thank you for taking care of Aeris. It's not easy for him, given his circumstances, and the other students don't let him forget it. So, when I witnessed you standing up for him, I was taken aback. Most people tend to avoid him."

He glanced at the woman and surmised she might be friends with the Redcliff family. With a nod of acknowledgment, he replied, "Aeris is my friend. Naturally, I'd stand up for him. Him being a dark wraith doesn't bother me; he's always been open about it. But I must ask, is he actually a girl?"

When Eleanor heard this, she started laughing before shrugging. "Who knows, Archer Wyldheart. Now I must check on the students who you dealt with."

Archer nodded with a smile. After she vanished into the crowd, he glanced at Aeris, noticing the unknown look in his eyes. It was a mix of gratitude, confusion, and something else that he couldn't quite translate.

"You alright?" He asked while approaching the black-haired boy. Aeris looked up, meeting his gaze with a mixture of emotions swirling in his eyes.

"I... I don't know," he admitted but continued. "Thank you for standing up for me, Arch. But... why did you do it? Why risk your reputation for someone like me?"

Archer reached out, placing a comforting hand on the boy's shoulder while replying. "Because you're my friend, Aeris and I don't care for reputation or anything like that. It's meaningless to me; otherwise, I'd be a noble in the empire instead of a wandering dragon who does as he pleases."

Just as Aeris was going to reply, a voice was heard. "Darling! Ella's cooking. Want some?"

He turned back to see Teuila standing outside, smiling at him. When the blue-haired girl saw Aeris, her eyes narrowed before speaking again. "Bring your friend as well."

Archer smiled as he returned to the tent, with Aeris nervously following behind him. When they entered, nine pairs of eyes looked at him and smiled, then greeted him with kisses.

After that, Llynriel approached him with a smile as she spoke. "Mother and Father want to see you. Can you come now?"

He nodded at her before turning to Aeris, who nervously fidgeted. Wondering why he was acting like that, he asked. "Can you stay here? And why are you acting like that?"

Aeris was just about to reply until Nefertiti interrupted. "You see Lyn's parent's husband. Your new friend can stay here with us."

Archer smiled before grabbing the elf's hand and letting her lead after putting on a shirt. Who happily took him to her family's tents, where he would meet her father for the first time.

When he was gone, Hemera approached the nervous black-

haired boy before speaking knowingly. "Don't you think you owe us an explanation, Aeris Redcliff?"

Chapter 640 Archer Doesn't Discriminate

[Aeris Redcliff's POV]

Aeris looked at the brown-skinned elf with blonde hair and bright yellow eyes staring at him.

He shrugged before answering. "I don't know what you mean."

The elf sighed as she got straight to the point. "We know you're a girl. It's obvious by the way you look at our husband, and you do look female."

That's when the girl with pink hair looked bothered, making Aeris even more anxious. "Stop lying to us. What is your reason for being around Archer? Fame? Gold?"

Aeris started panicking because she thought the spell would work, but not with these girls. She undid the magic with a sigh, which didn't change much before explaining her reasoning.

"He's the only person outside my family to look out for me and show genuine worry. You must have seen it when he dealt with the bullies that have been making my life hell. Only my grandmother has ever defended me like he did." Aeris answered as she looked down at the floor.

After she spoke, she realized they were all staring at her with narrowed eyes. The only difference was her body became curvier, her chest appeared larger, and her facial features appeared more feminine.

Once Aeris returned to normal, she noticed a small redheaded girl with a tail swaying behind her, who was the first to bound over and speak. "I'm Sera—one of Archer's fiances. So you were a girl. Why were you hiding it? I didn't think you were one, but with these small changes, it makes sense."

Aeris continued to look down in embarrassment before answering. "Well, students in the Summerfield Duchy tended to bully me due to being a wraith and the daughter of a noble family that's fallen from grace due to my father's poor handling of our old land."

She looked down before taking a deep breath and continuing. "I went into hiding due to the bullying, but when I got accepted into Starlight Academy, I decided to see if it would continue if I presented myself as a boy, but as you saw, it doesn't help, and they still treat me the same."

They all nodded before she noticed a blonde elf with a devious smile. "Let's keep this from our husband and see how long it takes him to figure it out?"

When everyone heard this, they giggled before Aeris noticed a black-haired girl with beautiful yellow snake eyes asked in a concerned tone. "Aint that horrible? I feel like we're lying to him."

The pink-haired girl who spoke before was the one to answer that with a chuckle. "Well, only suspects Aeris of being a girl. Imagine his surprise when he finds out. It would be funny, especially if we tease him."

'They want to play games with him? Why wouldn't they tell Arch?' Aeris thought to herself.

Aeris shook her head and asked. "Why are you hiding it from it? Wouldn't that be lying? He will be upset."

She watched all nine girls start laughing at her question, but the blonde-haired half-elf answered. "Archer won't be angry over it. He will laugh because he sees you as a friend and will be confused when he sees your boobs and butt."

Hearing the girl speak, Aeris became red, causing everyone to laugh at her reaction. She wouldn't look up due to the embarrassment until she heard someone approaching her.

She looked up to see a tall girl with light blue hair and the smoothest brown skin she'd ever seen. Aeris noticed the girl was muscular like some of the others, which caused her to think. 'Does he like muscles?'

After thinking, she looked at the other girls and realized only a few were built like that, while the others were all different shapes and sizes. The blue-haired girl spoke in a suspicious voice. "What is your intention with our husband? I can see your interest but won't do anything about it."

Aeris grew nervous before revealing the truth. "I'd like to be his friend. He accepted me without worrying about me being what I am and defended me when that meant his reputation would take a hit."

When she finished speaking, she noticed everyone looking at her and started laughing. Aeris was confused, but a girl appeared, which shocked her because she forgot that she was Archer's fiancée.

'Leira Avalon. The third princess of the Avalon Empire. I can't believe he's marrying her.' She thought to herself as the purple-haired girl stopped in front of her.

"Do you only want to be his friend, or do you want in his pants?" Leira asked in a casual way, which caught her off guard.

When she heard the cat girl's question, Aeris was sent into a realm of chaos as she imagined Archer on top of her as they made love, which caused her face to go bright red before denying such lewd things. "No! I want to be his friend. I can't just have sex with him p, Princess. Grandmother said it must be with someone I truly love and who loves me."

When Nefertiti finished speaking, all the girls smiled before Ella gestured for her to join them. "I haven't introduced myself yet. I'm Ella Wyldheart. Initially, I served as Archer's maid, but as you can see, things have changed..."

But she was cut off by the redhead, who started cackling like a hyena, causing Ella to give her a dirty look. But the girls spoke. "Sure, things have changed, El. Now you're on your back, moaning his name for all of us to hear. You lewd half-elf, stop acting all innocent."

Aeris watched Ella's face turn red as hers as she scolded the redhead, who was still laughing. "Seraphina! Why say such lewd things? That's our business, and you cheeky dragon. You're the one who howls in pleasure. You even scare the life out of the Brownies while they clean the treehouse."

She watched Sera shrug. "Of course, I'll howl. Sweetheart knows how to push my buttons, so naturally, I'd react. I won't just lay there and be a passive participant."

When Aeris watched the exchange, it reminded her of the days her aunts used to bicker back at home, bringing a smile to her face and catching the pink-haired girl's attention. "What's making you smile?"

"The two of them remind me of my aunties. They do the same thing at the dinner table, forcing grandmother to scold them, which is funny." She answered.

The girl nodded before introducing herself. "I'm Nefertiti Sharifi. A Princess of the Zenia Empire in the Southlands."

When Aeris heard that, he remembered what her mother had said. 'The Zenians are powerful Arcane magic users.'

Nefertiti began introducing the girls. "You might already know some of us, but I'll introduce everyone again."

"The girl who first spoke to you, with the golden blonde hair and yellow eyes, is Hemera Helios. The one with blue hair is Teuila Aquaria and the blonde lioness is Nala Lionheart."

Aeris smiled at the girls as Nefertiti was about to continue speaking. "The silver-haired is Talila Helios and is Hemera's niece. It seems you know Leira, but then the last lady is Halime Nagendra."

She greeted them all and received warm smiles in return but wanted to clear the air. "I judge him as a friend. He stood up for me when many wouldn't because of what I am."

Once she was finished speaking she stood nervously amidst the group of girls, she felt a wave of apprehension wash over her. The revelation about gender had left her feeling exposed and vulnerable, unsure of how the others would react.

But as she looked around at their expectant faces, she was surprised to see warmth and understanding in their eyes.

With a tail swaying behind her, Sera stepped forward with a kind smile. "We're really glad you decided to be honest with us."

Aeris felt a sense of relief flood through her at Sera's words. Maybe she hadn't made a mistake in revealing her true self.

"Thank you, Sera," she replied, her voice still tinged with nervousness.

Teuila chimed in next. "Yeah, we can tell you're genuine. And we appreciate that. So here's the deal. We're going to keep up the charade with Archer for a bit longer, just for fun. But don't worry, we'll make sure he finds out eventually. In the meantime, let's all be friends, okay?"

As Aeris stood nervously amidst the group of girls, she felt a wave of apprehension wash over her. The revelation of her true gender had left her feeling exposed and vulnerable, unsure of how the others would react.

But as she looked around at their expectant faces, she was surprised to see warmth and understanding in their eyes. Aeris wanted to ask one more question. "Does it bother you that I'm a Dark Wraith?"

Everyone's head snapped toward her before Teuila grinned. "No girl. We're all different races, and Archer doesn't discriminate. I'm sure they would claim here that a ghost girl caught his fancy."

Aeris started laughing with everyone before they began gossiping and telling her about Archer's escapades when he met some of them in his younger years.