## **Apocalypse? I Prefer the Beast World Real Estate Market Novel Chapter 16 - Chapter 16**

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Chapter 16 Law of the Jungle  ${}^{\mbox{\tiny $Q$}}$   ${}^{\mbox{\tiny $Q$}}$  Finished When the crowd finally dispersed , Rosalie packed her things , her heart still racing . She hadn't expected the stew to draw such a frenzy , but it had . Her name was already spreading . On the way home , a warm evening breeze brushed against her face . Her hair swayed lightly , carrying a soft , clean scent that drifted toward Leon . Leon walked a few steps behind her , his eyes fixed on her back . His lips curved slightly , just enough to hint at a smile . Rosalie did the math in her head .

She had sold hundreds of bowls and earned over a thousand copper coins -about an ounce of silver . It wasn't much , but it was a start to a better life . Next time , she needed to bring more . And she had to start brewing soy sauce soon . Her supply was almost gone . If she could track down that Westland merchant again , she could buy a few jugs to save time . Her mind raced , full of plans . Then a scream tore through the night . Rosalie froze as birds scattered from the treetops . A heavy crash followed , and then another shrill cry that split the silence apart . Her eyes hardened .

The forest had turned pitch black , the air thick and still . It felt alive , like a beast ready to swallow them whole . Leon stepped in front of her . Cameron moved behind , losing the distance to protect her . Rosalie didn't want to get involved . But the desperate screams echoed through the trees , cutting deep into her chest . They pushed forward . The sounds grew louder . The snarls of beasts clashed with terrified voices . The trees were streaked with claw marks . Blood stained he ground in thick , dark smears . The cries faded , one by one , until the forest fell silent again .

Rosalie stopped walking . Whoever had been calling for help was already gone . Rosalie lowered her gaze . In the beast world , the strong uled and the weak fell . It was the natural order , yet it still left a sharp ache in her chest . A fox tail brushed against her hand . Its thick fur was sof almost hot to the touch . Rosalie looked down at Cameron and smiled faintly . She closed her hand around the tail . Cameron's eyes lingered on her face , full of quiet worry . For once , he didn't argue . " Let's go ," she said . The sky was pitch - black now . They had to get home .

Then a sound broke through the silence . Someone wasrying in the woods . The faint sobs came from somewhere ahead . Rosalie stopped walking . Her feet tuned toward the noise , but Leon reached out and 111 O r 1/3 18:17 Tue , Dec 30 G Chapter 16 Law of the Jungle blocked her path . " Stay here , " he said . " I'll check it out . " 9 % Finished The sound of his boots pressing into the leaves echoed through the still night . The forest was so silent that Rosalie could hear her own heartbeat drumming in her ears . Leon's figure vanished into the trees .

When he came back , he was holding something in his arms . Rosalie's breath caught . It was the wolf cub . Her heart jumped . The cub's gray fur was streaked with blood , his small body shaking violently . When he saw her , Christopher reached out and grabbed the edge of her coat . His voice trembled . " Lady , please . Save my father . " Rosalie moved quickly . The beastman she had met before was lying in a pool of dark blood . His chest was split open from a deep claw mark . Blood spilled down his side , soaking the ground . His breathing was shallow . His chest barely lifted .

He's probably ... Rosalie's throat tightened . She dropped to her knees and pressed two fingers to his wrist . There was a pulse -faint , but real . She let out a shaky breath . He was still alive , but not for long . If he kept bleeding out , he would die . She opened the system shop in her mind . A hemostatic pill appeared on the list . Price : five ounces of silver . Her stomach turned . She didn't even have two . She looked down at Christopher . His eyes shimmered with tears , his lips trembling . Rosalie felt her resolve melt . She asked silently , " System , can I buy it on credit ?

There was a pause . The voice answered at last . " Get one bunce of silver and you have to repay two in its place . " " You've got to be kidding me , " she muttered . Cameron frowned . " What ? " Rosalie forced a cough and pretended nothing was wrong , but her blood boiled . " System , you're worse than a usurer ," The voice came again , cool and detached . " You don't have to take the loan if you don't want to ." Rosalie gritted her teeth . " Fine . I'll take out a loan . Just give me the pill . " A black pill appeared soundlessly in her palm . She pushed it between the beastman's lips .

The bleeding stopped the instant he swallowed . admin

## **Apocalypse? I Prefer the Beast World Real Estate Market Novel Chapter 17 - Chapter 17**

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Chapter 17 Healing Up 9 % Finished Pulling out something like that was risky . Anyone would start asking questions . But if she'd waited a second longer , the man wouldn't have survived . Leon's eyes locked onto her . They were dark , cold , and filled with suspicion . When Rosalie looked up , their gazes clashed . Her heart lenched . It had been so long since Leon had looked at her like that - like he didn't know her at all . She steadied her breath . " You two carry him back . I'll take Christopher ." Leon said nothing

.

His form shimmered , muscles shifting beneath his skin until his body turned into his beast form . He hoisted the wounded man onto his back and disappeared into the shadows , swift and silent . On the way home , Cameron reached to take Christopher , but the boy's arms locked around Rosalie's neck . He refused to let go . " I've got him , " she said softly . " I'm not tired . " Cameron hesitated , then nodded and backed off . As they neared the door , a tall silhouette waited at the entrance . Rosalie slowed , her eyes narrowing . The figure stepped into the candlelight . It was Micah .

He came closer , his gaze sliding over her like a silent scan . When he saw she was unharmed , his shoulders relaxed . Rosalie's tone turned sharp . " You shouldn't be standing outside at this hour . The air's freezing ." " Cameron was with me , " she added quickly . " I wasn't alone . " Micah's eyes flicked toward Cameron . His voice was calm but edged with frost . " Your medicine has been working great for me . I'm fine now . The cold won't kill me . " Rosalie didn't respond . She carried the sleeping Christopher inside and set him down carefully on her bed .

Then she hurried to the other room where the injured beastman lay . Candlelight burned weakly in the corner . Their pale light flickered against the walls , stretching long shadows across the floor . Three figures stood inside . Leon was near the bed . Elijah leaned by the window , arms folded , watching . Declan stood in the far corner , silent and unreadable . It was a rare sight . All her beastmen were together . Rosalie stepped to the bedside . Leon moved just enough to give her space , but stayed close to watch her . Her back stiffened .

The air felt heavy, She could feel every pair of eyes locked on her, sharp and cold. The gaze beside her was the most unbearable of all. It presse against her skin, hot and intense, making her pulse race. "Cameron, get me a bucket of hot water. And bring a clean hide while you're at it." Cameron moved without a word. He returned quickly, acing everything beside her. 1/2 18:17 Tue, Dec 30GG. Chapter 17 Healing Up 43.9 % Finished Rosalie wiped the dried blood from the beastman's che. She bought some anti- inflammatory powder from the system. The gash was deep.

If it got infected , he wouldn't survive the night . She clenched the powder in her fist . She couldn't just pull it out of thin air in front of them . So she walked into the kitchen , pretended to grind herbs , and came back holding it like she'd made it herself . But her husbands didn't leave . Not one of them . They stood there , quiet and watchful , their eyes following her every move . Her heart started racing . She knew she hadn't slipped up . Not until today , maybe . But if they found out she wasn't the real Rosalie , what would they do ? They already hated her enough .

She didn't even want to think about it . Her hand stayed steady as she sprinkled the powder , but her heartbeat was all over the place . When she finished , she forced a calm smile . " It's late . I'm going to bed . " She turned to leave . A strong hand gripped her wrist , hard enough to crush bone . Pain tore through her arm . Rosalie cried out ,

her breath catching . Leon's eyes were like black ice . " You're not our Matriarch . Who are you? " The words hit her like a slap . Her knees went weak . Where had she slipped? She asked herself . Elijah stepped closer .

His expression was just like that night he nearly strangled her . The cold edge of a knife pressed against her throat . The blade caught the candlelight , sharp and silver . Rosalie's breath hitched . Sweat slid down her temple . " What are you doing ? " she shouted . " Let me go ! " Cameron's voice broke in panic . He had no idea why things were taking a turn for the worse all of a sudden . " Are you out of your minds ? You can't threaten her like that ! Let her go ! " Declan grabbed him before he could reach her , holding him still . Rosalie felt her stomach twist . Her body trembled .

She shut her eyes , took a long breath , then opened them again . Tears blurred her vision . Her voice cracked . Her body shivered . " I know I made mistakes before . I was kicked out of the tribe . I lost everyone . " Send Gifts admin

## **Apocalypse? I Prefer the Beast World Real Estate Market Novel Chapter 18 - Chapter 18**

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Chapter 18 Interrogation " I'm already destroyed . What more do you want ? Must Idie before you're happy ? " She moved forward , eyes closed , pushing toward the knife . Finished The blade jerked back . Elijah's laugh was soft , cold , and ruel . " If you didn't look exactly like her , I'd swear you were a fake . " Funny how you've changed . Suddenly you can cook . Suddenly you can save lives . You've become someone worth watching . " The icy tip of the knife lifted her chin . Elijah's face was awless and cold , like marble lit by firelight .

Rosalie's heart pounded , but she didn't look away . She held his gaze , knowing exactly what kind of man stood before her . Elijah wasn't bluffing . He would kill her without hesitation . " Enough ." Leon's voice tore through the room like thunder . He swung his arm , knocking the knife clean from Elijah's hand . The blade nicked Rosalie's jaw , and a thin line of blood shimmered down her pale skin . The sting burned . Elijah turned his head , his eyes locking with Leon's . Rosalie's knees went weak . Her body turned to ice

She started to fall , but Leon caught her around the waist before she hit the floor . Her wrist still ached from where he'd grabbed her earlier . Without thinking , she shoved him away . Leon froze in place , arms suspended midair , disbelief flickering across his face

. The door slammed open . Micah stood in the doorway , his gaze cutting straight to Rosalie's pale cheeks and the crimson streak on her face . The air in the room changed instantly . It grew heavy , sharp , suffocating .

He stormed forward , his movement quick and violent , knocking Leon aside before sweeping Rosalie into his arms . His pupils thinned into razor slits , gleaming like a serpent's in the candlelight . Every breath he took seemed to hum with the threat of venom . Elijah sighed , bored , his lips curling faintly . " How dull . " e turned and walked out , his footsteps echoing coldly down the hall . Leon reached forward , his hand trembling slightly . He wanted to wipe the blood from Rosalie's chin , but she turned her head and buried it against Micah's chest , refusing his touch .

Micah's hand shot out , slapping Leon's away with force . lis tone was as cold as steel . " She doesn't want you touching her ." He lifted her with ease and walked out . Cameron tore free from Declan's hold and chased after hem , panic flashing in his eyes . Leon's hand moved to his chest . The sound of his heart eat pounded against the faint crackle of the candle 1/2 18:17 Tue , Dec 30GG . Chapter 18 Interrogation flame .  $_{\rm Q}.9~\%$  ° Finished He didn't understand himself anymore . He knew she wasn't the same Matriarch he once knew . He could have exposed her truth tonight .

Elijah had practically handed him the chance . But he hadn't taken it . He'd stopped the knife instead . And when she looked at him with fear in her eyes , his chest had twisted with pain so deep it almost made him sick . She was scared of him . That realization clawed at him like a wound that wouldn't heal . Leon stood there in silence for what felt like forever . Then he exhaled slowly , his gaze dropping to the floor . Something inside him shifted , quiet but final . In her room , Rosalie sat at the edge of the bed .

Micah knelt in front of her , carefully wiping the blood from her face with a soft cloth . Her body had stopped trembling . She looked at him and forced a faint smile . " Thank you , Micah . " His eyes softened , full of worry that seemed to darken at the edges . He took her hand gently , his thumb brushing her skin . " Matriarch , " he said softly , " what do you think of me ? " Rosalie froze . Her breath caught . She tried to pull her hand free , but his grip only tightened . " You're a good beastman , Micah , " she whispered . " You're the gentlest one I've ever met .

"His gaze lingered on her face , intense and unshaken . " Then let me be yours , " he said quietly . " Let me be your real husband , Matriarch ." Rosalie's thoughts scattered . She couldn't grasp if Micah meant what she feared he meant . Micah spoke again . His voice was steady . " Matriarch , I'm serious . I don't care how you treated me before . I'm done holding on to that ." He leaned closer . " I want to stay with you . I want to protect you . I want to take care of you . " " Micah , I told you I would write you a letter of release , you ... " She never finished .

Warm lips brushed hers and stole the rest . His scent swept over her . The kiss broke a second later , quick but enough to freeze her breath . Micah dropped to his knees . His back stayed rigid . " Matiarch , don't talk about any release . I won't leave . " His knees hit the floor with a hard thud . The sound shot through the room like a strike . It made her own legs twitch . Heat climbed up her neck . He had brought this up so many times , and she had dodged him each time . Now he knelt in front of her , stubborn and determined . She let out a sigh . She couldn't run from it anymore .

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## **Apocalypse? I Prefer the Beast World Real Estate Market Novel Chapter 19 - Chapter 19**

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Chapter 19 Stand Up " Stand up ," she said . He stayed glued to the ground . " I won't move unless you say yes ." He almost never pulls this . A small laugh slipped from her lips . Fine . I'll let you be my husband . " Micah's head snapped up . His eyes went wide . " You mean it ? You really mean it ? " Rosalie held his arm and helped him up . " I mean it . I'm not lying ." 39 % 8 Finished Her chest tightened . Micah had been the first to worry about her after she arrived in this world . He had waited for her when she came home late .

He'd left warm oatmeal by her bedside , and blown out her candle when she drifted off to sleep . She had seen all of it . If she needed someone by her side , Micah would not be a bad choice . Rosalie wasn't the type to hide her feelings . If she liked someone , she could take a chance . She held his hand . Her eyes looked bright and clear . " Micah , I know how good you are to me . " If you want to be my husband , then I'll say yes . " But if the day comes when you want to leave , tell me . I treated you wrong before . I won't lock you in . " Micah's voice shook with anger and devotion .

" Matriarch , I'm never leaving you . Only death can make me go . " Rosalie smiled . She leaned in and placed a light kiss at the corner of his lips . " Matriarch ... " A rosy blush swept across Micah's face . His eyes stayed fixed on Rosalie , warm and full of emotion . The space between them pulled tight . The air felt charged . A heavy crash shattered the moment . The door flew open . They broke apart fast . Cameron burst in with wild energy . He didn't notice the shadow of annoyance in Rosalie's eyes . Micah almost growled . He wanted to drag the fox outside and leave him there for days .

Cameron darted forward . His hands clamped on Rosalie's shoulders . His voice shook . " Matriarch , are you hurt ? Tell me right now ! " Micah smacked his hand away . His tone dropped low . " Is late . She needs rest . Stop hovering over her . " " Oh ." Cameron stepped back , then turned . " If the Matriarch is going to sleep , why are you still here ? " Micah's jaw tightened . Read the room , you for ! 1/2 18:17 Tue , Dec 30GG . Chapter 19 Stand Up Rosalie touched Micah's shoulder with a gentle tap . Her voice softened . " Go on . Get some sleep ." Micah's eyes warmed again .

" Matriarch , goodnight ." " Goodnight , Micah . " 9 % Finished Cameron pointed at himself . " Matriarch , I need a goodnight too . " Rosalie let out a tiny sigh . " Goodnight , Cammo ." Cameron brightened . He tugged Micah out of the room Rosalie drifted into sleep . A quiet shadow waited outside her window and did not leave . By morning , the wolf cub lay beside her bed . His eyes were large and wet as he stared up at her . Rosalie knew he was frightened . She reached into her pocket and slipped a piece of candied fruit into his mouth . Christopher had never tasted anything so sweet .

His tight nerves eased at once . Rosalie checked on the wounded beastman . The injury looked awful , but the skin had begun to knit . She added more powder and prepared to send someone to fetch Grace . The man and the cub had been gone all night . Grace had to be terrified . Leon walked toward her with a bowl of corn oatmeal . Rosalie eyed the bowl . Something felt strange . Leon rarely acted thoughtful . Leon caught the look and seemed stung . He lowered his gaze . " Matriarch , please eat some corn oatmeal . " Leon stepped forward .

Rosalie jerked back fast , like fear snapped through her nerves . She stumbled right into Micah's calm , solid chest . Her frightened eyes softened as soon as she saw him . " Matriarch , watch yourself , " Micah murmured . Their eyes met and held . The air thickened between them , sweet and quiet . Leon watched the scene . A sharp sting shot through his hest . His breath scraped like sand in his throat . " Matriarch ..." he said , his voice rough . Rosalie finally acknowledged him , but she still didn't look his way . " Please head to the tribe , " she said .

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**Apocalypse? I Prefer the Beast World Real Estate Market Novel Chapter 20 - Chapter 20** 

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Chapter 20 Advice  $\sqrt[3]{\frac{2}{3}}$  9 % 2 Finished " Tell Grace her beastman and Christopher are here . " Tell her also that they're safe , and she can take her time " Yes , " Leon said . When he reached the doorway , he looked back once . Rosalie's fingertip hooked around Micah's , swinging his finger like she was holding onto a small secret . Leon shut his eyes . His body shifted into his beast form as he sprinted into the distance . Grace's beastman was awake . She sat beside him , tears streaking down her face as she held the little wolf cub tight against her chest . Rosalie spoke gently .

" Grace , he's alive . That's good news , so don't drown yourself in fear ." Grace clutched her hand . Her voice shook . " Rosalie , I can't thank you enough . " If you hadn't helped him , he would be gone ." She wiped her cheeks and nudged the cub toward Rosalie . " Rosalie , take Christopher as your godson . We'll always break bread with you . " Rosalie gave a soft , helpless smile . She opened her mouth , but Cameron jumped in , outraged . " No way ! " he shouted . Grace stared . She had never seen a beastman act like that . She grabbed Rosalie's hand . " Rosalie , you can't spoil him .

A husband needs rules . If you let him act up , he'll walk all over you ." Rosalie laughed lightly . " Cammo , go bring us some water ." Cameron knew he had gone too far . He lowered his head . " Yes , Matriarch ." Grace already spoke to Rosalie like she was family . " Rosalie , keep the cub . He'll help you when he grows up ." She glanced at the corner of the room . " And those husbands of yours don't seem very thoughtful . You can always release them . " Grace kept talking , drifting off more and more . Rosalie listened with a small smile , the corners of her eyes soft and bright .

The bowl shattered on the floor . Cameron's face drained of color . His eyes rimmed red . is lips shook . " You want to release every single one of us? " He froze as if a thunder struck him frozen . His teeth binto his lip until it turned bright red , staring at Rosalie with hurt and fury tangled together . Then he spin around and bolted out of the room . Grace jumped up . " Rosalie! Your beastman needs someeal manners . He actually had the gall to throw attitude at you . " 1/2 18:17 Tue , Dec 30 Chapter 20 Advice 9 % Finished Rosalie pressed her hand on Grace's arm .

"Grace, ever since I was kicked out of the tribe, I've been thinking a lot." I used to be arrogant. These men only stayed because they were forced. "I see things clearer now. There's no point holding on to husbands who never cared for me. When the time comes, I'll let them all go." Grace's voice softened. She could hear the forlornness in Rosalie's voice. She let out a sigh. "Rosalie, no matter what you did before, I know you're a good person." If they don't treasure you, that just means they don't know quality when it's right in front of them.

"Rosalie gave a faint nod . Grace tugged her closer . " So take this cub . I see you as family . Don't push me away . "Rosalie crouched so she faced the little wolf cub . " Christopher , do you want to be my godson? "Christopher blinked at her . "If I become your godson, will there always be the sweet fruit in the morning?" Rosalie touched his

soft fur . " If you want it , you'll always get it ." He grinned wide and leapt into her arms . " You're my godmother then ! " " Of course , " Rosalie answered softly . Once things settled , Grace got ready to leave .

Her husband had to stay for a few more days . The wound was too deep to risk moving him . The cub refused to leave Rosalie's side and Grace let him stay . Before stepping out , Rosalie asked , " Grace , that beastman who brought you soy sauce last time . Where did you run into him ? " Grace paused to think . " Near the House of Delicacies . Someone was chasing him . He hid there with a bad injury . If we hadn't walked by , he would've died . " Send Gifts admin