

Chaos' Heir 101

Chapter 101 - Blanket

Everything was on fire. Even Khan's mind burnt while he remained on his knees and stared at the gory scene. The monster was dead, but the hunting groups had to pay a steep price to win.

Multiple trails of thin smoke came out of the ground. Khan could often see a Niqols or a human at their base. Most recruits had fallen unconscious after the recent attack, but their skin didn't stop burning. A single monster had almost taken out two entire classes on its own. Updated chapters on [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

'Dammit,' Khan couldn't help but curse in his mind when he inspected the state of his body.

The last acceleration had created multiple burns on his front. They had fused with the injuries caused by the lightning bolt, which gave Khan a reddish and feverish appearance.

Khan's consciousness and strength dwindled as his position grew unstable. He felt on the verge of falling forward, but he called upon all his remaining power to bend backward and let his back hit the ground.

His injuries felt cold while they remained exposed to the stale air inside the forest. His uniform had disappeared during the battle, but he couldn't remember when that had happened.

His mental barrier surged and crumbled cyclically. The burning sensation was too intense, so Khan rarely managed to keep the pain away for more than a few seconds.

Khan managed to hear hurried steps around him whenever the mental barrier was up. He had long since closed his eyes, but his sensitivity to mana and ears allowed him to gain a vague understanding of his surroundings even in that situation.

Muffled orders reached his ears. Khan heard Paul and Chief Alu's voices, but the pain that filled his mind made him lose part of their words. The two leaders were managing the battlefield and tending the injured, but Khan couldn't understand the various details of that process.

A cold sensation suddenly spread on Khan's left arm and made him tense his body. That feeling had arrived when he was busy rebuilding the mental barrier, so he had been too surprised to remain calm.

"Don't move," Paul's voice reached his ears while he opened his eyes and saw the soldier sitting next to him. "This should make you feel better in no time. I believe only your hand will take a while to heal."

Paul was spreading a dense half-transparent ointment over Khan's injuries. He took the substance from a big cylindric flask placed next to him and carefully applied it over the entirety of Khan's torso and legs.

"You must let your skin absorb the lotion," Paul explained. "Don't move for a few hours. Try to sleep if you can."

Khan nodded, but a snort resounded in his mind when he saw Paul grabbing the flask and leaving him. Sleeping wouldn't make him stay still at all.

The cold sensation that filled Khan's front appeased the burning sensation and made him able to endure it without the help of the metal barrier.

His condition seemed to improve as the minutes passed. Only his left hand and waist continued to annoy him, but the rest of his body began to feel better in no time.

Khan did his best to help the lotion with his meditation. Two hours went by quickly while he spread mana through his body and aided the healing process. However, his skin had yet to change color by the time he opened his eyes. It was still red and full of burns.

'I guess this relief is part of the lotion,' Khan sighed in his mind as he tilted his head left and right to inspect the area.

The corpse of the monster wasn't next to him anymore. Only the puddle of blood released by its broken head had remained at his side. Some Niqols and humans in the distance shared his condition as they waited for their bodies to absorb the lotion.

Khan even noticed Paul going over a few Niqols sitting next to trees. Their different species didn't stop him from applying the lotion to their charred spots, and the aliens accepted the treatment after Chief Alu confirmed that it was harmless.

Two more hours had to pass before Khan's body absorbed the lotion. His skin felt slightly numb when he forced himself to sit on the ground, but pain still spread from his left hand and the long horizontal burn on his waist.

'I'm a mess,' Khan sighed at the sight of his red skin.

It would take him at least a full day to recover, but his annoyance didn't only come from the time that he would lose to get better. The many injured humans and Niqols generated doubts in his mind. He couldn't help but feel that sending those recruits against the monster had been a bad decision.

"You shouldn't be up," Chief Alu announced while approaching Khan. "Rest is the best medicine. Allow your mana to heal you. Paul, Liiza, and the other Niqols have told me what you did. I'm actually envious that you belong to the human species now."

Chief Alu wore his gentle smile during the entirety of his speech, but Khan didn't know how he could appear so relaxed after most of his underlings had suffered injuries.

Khan's mind was still too messy to give birth to a polite answer. He felt that he would complain just like his father did with the inept soldiers if he opened his mouth.

"I'll make sure to tell my superiors about your feats," Chief Alu continued. "Who knows? They might finally decide to bring the relationship between our species to the next step."

The foul feeling that Lieutenant Kintea had managed to originate returned after he heard those words. Khan knew that the outcome of the hunt should make him ecstatic, but he couldn't feel happy after witnessing the monster hurting so many recruits.

Yet, Khan still grunted as he placed his right hand on the ground and stood up to perform the iconic bow of the Niqols. Chief Alu revealed a surprised expression when he saw that gesture, but his smile soon returned as he proceeded to reply with the same salute.

Chief Alu left to assist the other wounded at that point, and Khan remained still to inspect the battlefield once more. A dark figure eventually captured the entirety of his attention and almost made him fall into a daze.

Liiza was helping Paul and Chief Alu with the wounded. She attended the recruits from both species, and she showed no hesitation in front of their gruesome injuries when applying lotions and bandages.

Liiza had the chance to glance at Khan when she switched patients. He even believed that she had seen him from the corner of her eyes. Yet, it was clear that she was holding back from staring directly at him.

Khan moved his gaze away quickly. He didn't want to be the reason behind the shattering of her self-restraint. He didn't want to take risks even if his desire to rest on her lap seemed to be stronger than the pain released by his hand.

George, Sonia, and a few recruits who had suffered superficial injuries eventually entered the battlefield while carrying large flasks and provisions. They seemed in charge of relocating the camp, and they couldn't help but smile when they saw that Khan was on his feet.

George put down the flasks and unsheathed his sword while showing a wide smile. He had found his blade, but its color had changed. Its sharp edges had been pale-silver before, but they were completely black now.

Khan showed his charred palm and pointed at it with his other hand. George gave the thumbs up at that scene. It seemed that the blade had endured part of the lightning bolt that had spread through Khan's arm, and George was clearly glad about that outcome.

The messy battlefield filled with wounded recruits, loud groans, and a few cries was something that Khan didn't want to endure. Those scenes only made his desire to talk with Liiza increase, so he preferred to walk back to the previous gathering point and resume his meditation there.

Khan walked slowly. He felt tired, and the sudden movements made his many burns hurt again. Yet, he felt better after a while.

The path back to the previous camp was relatively straightforward. Paul and the others had left clear tracks, and Khan had even gained a general idea of his position after the hunt. The familiar empty spot soon unfolded in his vision, but his mind suddenly sensed a dense mass of mana past it.

Khan let his curiosity guide him. The mana in the distance didn't move, so he knew that it didn't belong to anything dangerous. He walked past the empty spot and among the trees until two figures appeared in his eyes.

The first figure was easy to recognize. It belonged to the monster that Khan had killed a few hours ago. The mana inside the corpse had fused with its dead flesh by then and had made it safe to handle even for normal humans.

Instead, the other figure made Khan's expression grow colder. It had a human shape, but a brown blanket covered the entirety of its body while it lay next to the monster's corpse.

Khan had already seen George and Liiza, so no worries appeared in his mind. However, he still walked toward the corpse and gave voice to a grunt while he bent to lift the blanket.

Glenn's face soon appeared in his eyes. The boy's expression was peaceful, but the scent of charred flesh came out from under the blanket and made Khan cover its face again.

His mind then sensed a familiar presence nearing him from behind. Khan straightened his position and saw Paul walking toward him while wearing a complicated expression.

"The others still don't know about it," Paul revealed as his eyes fell on the corpse covered by the blanket. "I tried to restart his heart, but nothing worked. The medical bay in the camp might have done something more, but...."

Paul fell silent, and Khan didn't say anything either. The two simply stared at the brown blanket. Silence could be deafening at times, but they didn't want to hear anything else now.

"Was this really necessary?" Khan asked. "Is this the best that two intelligent species can do?"

"Don't start questioning your orders now," Paul sighed. "That's a slippery slope, and I'm not only talking about your position in the army. It helps to separate your mind from all of this."

"What exactly is this?" Khan asked. "I thought we were here to reinforce the relationship with an alien species."

"Today's events did that," Paul explained. "You did that. Glenn did that. His death will bring humans and Niqols closer. He will be a hero of our species."

"He was only a kid," Khan whispered. "All of them are."

"They stopped being kids when they enlisted," Paul replied in a cold voice. "Our mission on Nitis is delicate. We can only go along with what the Niqols say and rejoice if we gain something out of it. This opportunity might make you believe that we are special, but the Global Army wouldn't hesitate to sacrifice all of us to grow closer to the aliens."

"A relationship founded on blood and corpses," Khan commented.

"Don't be dumb," Paul snorted. "Do you have any idea how many experts have blown off their own limbs to perfect the stable martial art in your hands? The same applies to everything connected and unrelated to mana. Blood is the most valuable currency in the universe. It's only a matter of being willing to use it."

"How are the others?" Khan asked while his mind absorbed Paul's words.

"They are mostly fine," Paul sighed as the faint anger from before vanished. "A few weeks of meds and meditations should be enough to bring everyone back on their feet."

"Has Captain Erbair already announced the break?" Khan asked while turning toward Paul for the first time during their conversation.

"She has yet to receive the message since the network is unstable here," Paul explained. "Still, I believe she'll give a few weeks off from the lessons."

A tinge of warmth spread through the coldness that had filled Khan's mind. He couldn't help but think about Liiza when he heard about the break. His desire to talk with her was so intense that it almost made him forget about his injuries.

"Focus on resting now," Paul ordered when he saw Khan lowering his gaze back on Glenn. "Get that hand patched up and sleep. We'll stay here at least another day, so get a new uniform from the backpack. You can't stay like this."

Paul's words reminded Khan that his uniform had almost completely disappeared. He only had a few rags covering his pants, but everything else had vanished. His shoes even had a few holes that revealed his toes.

Chapter 102 - Return

Khan didn't put everything in the back of his mind at that time. Paul and the others continued to manage the camp and take care of the injured, but he ignored them. He isolated himself in the previous gathering point and resumed training after changing his uniform.

Complicated thoughts ran through his mind during his meditation. Khan had grown so used to that exercise that he could lose himself in his reasonings while his flesh opposed the expanding mana.

The sharp pain that spread inside him from time to time didn't break his concentration and didn't interrupt the conflicting feelings that he experienced. He could think about his current situation, and everything appeared dark except for a few light shades.

That wasn't his first time experiencing that internal conflict, but he still couldn't grow used to it. The training camp on Nitis had been a heavenly place in his mind before the hunt since it helped appease Istrone's memories, but everything had vanished after Glenn's death.

Khan opposed his realizations at first, but he couldn't lie to himself. The Global Army had revealed its true nature during the hunt, and he couldn't ignore how its image changed in his mind.

Living in the Slums for eleven years had made Khan quite cynical toward human nature. He had never once trusted the Global Army, but Ylaco's training camp, Onia, and Nitis had given him memories that he treasured dearly.

The relationship with Lieutenant Dyester and the respect showed in front of his achievements were commendable behaviors that left Khan positively surprised. The disregard for his background even made him believe that the Global Army could be an overall good place at times.

The issues with the bullies and the Blackdell girl were inevitable problems that existed in every organization. Khan could go past them and believe in the Global Army as long as everything else was good.

However, the hunt had proven his cynical approach to be on point. The recruits on Nitis were nothing more than cannon fodder meant to solidify the foundation of the relationship with the Niqols.

It didn't matter what happened to that cannon fodder. The Global Army would be happy as long as the recruits seized benefits from the Niqols. The greater good of humankind was above the frail lives of those young soldiers.

Khan could vaguely justify that point by considering humankind as a whole. He knew that people could have strong ideals capable of making them forget about individuals and only see humanity as a whole.

Yet, he couldn't do that. Khan couldn't even come close to caring about strangers after what he had experienced in the Slums.

His reasoning led to a sad realization. That idea had always been in his mind. Still, the tragic events that he had to overcome had reinforced it and had turned it into a power that he couldn't ignore.

Khan couldn't believe in the Global Army, but he needed it for his personal goals. Hence, he decided to see it only as a tool. He would help and complete tasks, but only the missions that could grant him real benefits would deserve his best efforts.

Truth be told, Khan didn't feel good about that decision. He liked Paul, Captain Erbair, and some of the other recruits, but a wall appeared in front of his heart after he made up his mind.

Paul and the others partially stopped being human beings. They transformed into figures with a specific value that depended on how much Khan could benefit from them. Ne/w novel chapters are published on no/vel(/bin(.).co/m

That dirty feeling grew stronger when a whole day passed and Khan decided to help with the injured to improve his value in the eyes of the alien species. Still, seeing Liiza created a stark division inside his mind. Part of it became cold, dishonest, and manipulative, while the other struggled to remain warm and hopeful.

'Improve without getting used to it,' Khan reminded himself. 'The world sucks. You have always known it. Use it without letting its filth taint your core. You have endured almost twelve years of nightmares. This is nothing.'

Only three people in the entirety of the camp noticed the faint changes in Khan's mindset. Paul sensed that his face had grown slightly colder, George's mind sent him back to Istrone whenever he saw Khan's expressions, and Liiza felt something ache inside her when she glanced at him.

The rather difficult situation in the camp didn't give the time for personal interactions or talks, so everyone simply focused on completing their tasks and getting all the injured ready for the return.

The treatment with the ointments eased most of Khan's burns, but his left hand and waist remained quite serious. Yet, the day of rest made him suitable to ride Snow again, and the other recruits also improved enough to start the preparations for the return.

Paul couldn't hide Glenn anymore once everyone was ready for the long travel. The revelation left both recruits and Niqols stunned. The death of a peer was tough to handle at their young age, and seeing Khan helping secure the corpse on an Ugu only made the scene harder to endure.

Khan knew that Liiza was watching him while he tied Glenn to the creature. She saw how uncaring he appeared when he ordered Snow to make the Ugu stay still and handled the figure covered by the brown blanket as if it were a simple item. The ache inside her intensified, but she made sure to divert her eyes before anyone noticed her behavior.

The group eventually departed. Chief Alu led the group of Niqols inside the forest after exchanging polite salutes with Paul, and the latter ordered everyone to move after handling those political necessities.

Khan and Liiza flew on their Aduns and guided the recruits back to the training camp. The travel lasted a bit less at that time, and everyone could only feel glad about it.

Paul and the Ugu that carried the provisions were in the lead. All the recruits could see Glenn's corpse going up and down during the entirety of the travel. The brown blanket that covered his figure became a hideous blade that cut away all the naïve feelings that had managed to survive until then. Everyone even started to hate that particular color after staring at it for many hours.

Khan and Liiza were hard to see from the ground, but they played it safe anyway. They didn't exchange glances at all and focused on sleeping or training during those long hours.

The familiar camp eventually appeared in the distance, and Liiza's Aduns gave voice to a loud screech before turning to fly toward the nearby city. Snow partially translated that cry for Khan. Liiza had simply saying that he could handle the rest of the travel on his own now.

Khan made Snow descend toward the Ugu to notify Paul and his companions that they had to follow him from that point onward. The eagle hovered right above the group and made sure that everyone could see how easily Khan kept his balance. He didn't even grab the creature's neck while he informed Paul and returned in the sky.

The group returned to the camp after spending a bit more than two days away. Their free time was already coming to an end, but everyone felt too tired to complain.

Paul sent everyone to their rooms or the medical bay depending on their condition. Khan silently returned to his habitation after sending Snow away, and his mind notified him about his exhaustion when he saw his bed. He had only taken naps during the past days, so his body desperately needed rest.

Khan woke up as soon as the afternoon ended. His stomach growled, so he made sure to stuff it with the best meals that the canteen had to offer. Then, Paul announced a mandatory meeting through the network, and all the recruits able to stand gathered at the center of the camp.

Paul, Lieutenant Kintea, and Captain Erbair wore serious expressions as they waited for the class that had joined the hunt to gather in front of them. Less than ten recruits created a row in front of the leaders, and a heavy mood soon fell among them.

"You won't have mandatory lessons for the next month," Captain Erbair announced once everyone took their position. "You can still attend them, but you won't receive demerits if you decide to skip them. I won't even keep track of your behavior, so be at ease."

Captain Erbair cleared her voice before scratching the side of her bionic eye and continuing. "Glenn Padlyn's death is a tragedy that the Global Army will make sure to honor properly. His family will receive great benefits, starting from the name of the new pact sealed by the superiors of both species."

Captain Erbair took out her phone and activated holograms that materialized between the recruits and her. Those images depicted a sheet written in two languages and carrying two very different marks that made it official.

"The Niqols have agreed to grant us access to the Aduns," Captain Erbair explained while the recruits read the sheet. "Humans will also receive other benefits, but you don't have the clearance to know those details."

"Anyway, good work out there. You have brought honor to the Global Army, so the Global Army will honor you. The Niqols will also hold a formal event next week, and they have invited all of you. Congratulations. You have officially become part of the historical records of two species."

Captain Erbair's words inevitably brought happiness into the heavy mood that had fallen on the recruits. Glenn was still dead, but the survivors had become a core part of the relationship between the two species. Their profiles had instantly gained immense value, and they could only rejoice when they learn that.

Khan decided to wear a fake smile only when he noticed that George was searching for him with his eyes. The two nodded at each other, but they both sensed the faint sadness that lingered under that happiness.

"Go back to your rooms now," Captain Erbair ordered. "Delay the celebrations for when your injuries are completely healed."

The recruits performed a military salute before turning toward their building. Their phones quickly appeared in their hands since they couldn't wait to notify their families about the recent events, and Khan followed them while planning his next move. Still, Captain Erbair's voice suddenly resounded again and made everyone turn.

"Khan, I need to have a word with you," The Captain ordered, and Khan didn't hesitate to follow her toward her office under everyone's curious gaze.

Captain Erbair sat on her large couch and pointed at the armchair. Khan quickly took his seat there and remained silent while she played with her phone to activate a few functions of the room.

A few images quickly appeared on the wall. They depicted a series of reddish figures immersed in a dark-blue environment. Most of them had a human shape, but others showed Tainted animals that Khan found familiar.

"Did you record the hunt, ma'am?" Khan asked as some surprise appeared in his eyes.

"Wait a second," Captain Erbair said while activating more functions on her phone.

The images slowly gained a few details. Trees, leaves, and other features appeared on the scenes as soon as they started moving. Faces appeared on the various reddish figures, and Khan could soon recognize himself when staring at the wall.

The images played the scenes of the entire hunt while Captain Erbair changed the point of view to focus on different sites. The various details appeared vague once she zoomed on certain battles and spots. It was clear that the program had only built those pictures by using data stored by the Global Army.

The scenes stopped moving after Khan killed the monster, and Captain Erbair even clapped her hands a few times after turning off the program.

"You live up to our expectations," Captain Erbair suddenly revealed. "You even surpass them actually. Great job out there. Now, tell me what you want."

"I'm sorry?" Khan asked in surprise.

"I'm talking about a reward for your feats," Captain Erbair explained. "You don't have any backing, so it's up to the army to nurture you. Tell me what you need, and I'll make sure to get it. Of course, try to be reasonable."

Khan felt that everything was happening too quickly, but he didn't take much to come up with a request. "I need a training knife, something suitable for the Divine Reaper."

Chapter 103 - Revelations

The meeting ended there, with Captain Erbair's promise to take care of the matter related to the knife. Khan had even been vague on purpose so that the soldier could decide the quality of the weapon on her own.

The battle against the monster had shown to Khan once again how the Lightning-demon style had evident flaws. Stronger opponents could endure his quick blows, and the issue had started to annoy him.

Captain Erbair would take a bit to get the knife, and Khan planned to approach the competent proficiency level with the Lightning-demon style in that time. He didn't commit any mistake during the last battle, so his plan didn't sound too unreasonable when he thought about it.

Hesitation filled Khan's mind when he stepped on the camp's streets. The faint sound of cheers and laughs reached his ears when he approached the building with the various rooms. Clearly, the recruits were celebrating the important achievement, but he didn't feel in the mood to lie and pretend for a whole night.

Even lying about his condition to isolate himself into his room didn't sound like a good option. Khan's hand and waist still needed care, but the other recruits had seen him riding the Aduns for half a day without flinching. They would understand that he was only coming up with excuses to remain alone.

Khan felt the intense desire to stop pretending, but Nitis only gave him two options where he could be himself. One of them saw him being on his own, and the other involved Liiza. Luckily for him, the mountains offered him the chance to get both of them.

The metal doors of the building began to slide open, but Khan quickly sprinted toward the exit of the camp before the laughing recruits could lay their eyes on him. No one could notice him while he kept running until the base was nothing more than a tiny dot in the distance. He could directly sit on the ground and wait for his companion to arrive at that point.

The azure light radiated from the city in the distance shone on his face from time to time, but Khan barely noticed it. He meditated among the uneven plain until a foreign sensation spread inside his mind and made him gaze at the descending white figure.

Khan let Snow enjoy itself as a reward for the long and tedious flights of the last days. The Aduns didn't go too hard on him since bandages still covered his left hand and waist, but it still accelerated and spun whenever it felt right. The eagle only held back from performing sudden dives.

The familiar mountain with the flat spot near its half eventually unfolded in Khan's eyes. Still, his gaze immediately went on a dark figure sleeping in the corner of the rocky wall. Liiza was wearing

a large black tracksuit, and she was using its big hood as a pillow while she rested on the uncomfortable rocks.

Snow didn't hesitate to drop Khan on the flat area and set off while making sure to remain silent. Liiza sensed their arrival and awakened anyway, but the eagle didn't want to disturb the couple more than necessary since it could feel part of Khan's foul mood.

"I knew you wouldn't have rested at all," Liiza exclaimed in a sleepy voice while opening the upper part of her tracksuit and showing the white tank top under it. "I'll make sure that you rest tonight."

Liiza patted her lap and took off the large upper part of the tracksuit. It turned out to be a hoodie that she wanted to use as a blanket to cover Khan.

Khan smiled and crouched to kiss Liiza, but she promptly covered his mouth and stopped his actions.

"No kissing until you rest," Liiza explained. "Licking won't get you anywhere today."

Liiza sensed Khan's smile from under her palm. She could feel his compliance in his tired gaze, so she slowly retracted her hand and stretched her legs to create a pillow for him.

Khan lay on the ground and placed his head on Liiza's lap. She shook her head when she saw that he made his face point toward her waist. She could sense his nose and mouth touching the skin covered by the thin tank top, and her lower lip inevitably ended between her teeth.

Still, Liiza managed to restrain herself when she saw the bandages on Khan's hand. She placed the hoodie over him before reaching his hair to caress it.

The thin tank top couldn't stop Khan's breath. Khan made her waist warm in no time, and she couldn't help but pull his hair softly whenever he kissed her in that spot.

"Stop!" Liiza exclaimed as cute giggles came out of her mouth. "I'll lift every restriction in a few hours if you behave!"

Khan stopped teasing Liiza after those words. He continued to breathe warm air on her waist, but he didn't try anything funny again.

The two remained in that position for a while. Khan bathed in the cold sensations released by Liiza's body, and she caressed his hair while enjoying the warmth he carried.

The smile on Liiza's face slowly disappeared when she noticed the few strands of azure hair on Khan's head. That was her first time seeing them, and she inevitably connected them to the large scar on his chest.

"I couldn't sneak out any medicine," Liiza couldn't help but say when the images seen through the binoculars crossed her eyes. "I-I was afraid that they could find out about us."

Khan instinctively tilted his head to gaze at Liiza when he heard the hesitation in her voice. Her face had grown aloof, and she even diverted her eyes. There seemed to be shame and sadness in her expression. Check out *latest novels* on [novel/bin\(.\)com](http://novel/bin(.)com)

Khan felt the urge to hug her, but Liiza promptly pushed his head back on her lap as soon as he tried to straighten his position.

"I know what you are about to say," Liiza snorted. "It's not my fault. I did the right thing. Humans have good meds too. That's all true, but it's annoying anyway. I had to stay put while the monster hurt you, and I can't even help you with your injuries. I can't do anything for you."

Khan suddenly realized that Liiza had probably seen the battle. Paul was the only one in the group who could have been close enough to record the hunt, and she had been with him.

He couldn't even start to imagine how she must have felt during the hunt. Liiza didn't only force herself to ignore him after noticing his injured state. She had to remain still while he endured lightning bolts.

Khan had felt angry when the other Niqols ignored her. He didn't know how he would have reacted during the hunt if he were in her place.

"It's not about what you can do for me," Khan eventually said while caressing her side with the back of his sane hand. "It's about showing my true face. I don't need to lie and pretend when I'm with you, and that's everything for me right now."

Liiza's expression froze at those words. Her eyes slowly returned on Khan, and the two inevitably stared at each other for a while. Khan even started to straighten his position again, but Liiza eventually remembered to put him down.

"A few nice words won't be enough today," Liiza snorted as her voice grew sweeter and a smile reappeared on her face. "I know that you have barely slept since we got together, but you went through a lot just two days ago. Please, rest for a bit. Do it for me."

Liiza was basically begging Khan, and the latter read her worry on her face. She desperately wanted to do something for him, even if it meant forcing him to sleep.

Khan moved his gaze on the white tank top, but his thoughts were elsewhere. He had already slept for the entire day, and he had even gone through the nightmare multiple times since the pain coming out of his hand had often awakened him.

He didn't feel sleepy, and he had no desire to review the Second Impact. Khan only wanted to be himself after spending more than two days pretending to be a perfect soldier, and he wished for Liiza to be part of that time.

"I hate sleeping," Khan eventually revealed.

"That was obvious," Liiza gave voice to a faint laugh, "But your body needs it now. Get back on your feet so you can jump on me again."

Liiza never stopped caressing Khan, but he wasn't really paying attention. He felt her careful touch and heard her teases, but his focus was on different thoughts.

"I can't stop dreaming about it," Khan whispered, and Liiza frowned since she didn't understand the meaning behind his words.

"What do yo-?" Liiza started to ask, but Khan interrupted her before she could finish her line.

"I always relive the day when I got this," Khan revealed while patting his chest. "The fire, the corpses, the smoke, everything returns as soon as I fall asleep."

Liiza felt dumbfounded, and even her hands stopped caressing Khan. She slowly absorbed his words, but it felt hard to apply them to the real world.

"Do you have nightmares about the Nak?" Liiza eventually asked. "Isn't that normal after a trauma? I bet many Niqols will dream about the monster for the next months."

"You don't understand," Khan sighed as he turned to stare at the dark sky. "It's not a nightmare that appears every once in a while. I dream about the incident every time I fall asleep. I relive it from the fire to the arrival of the Nak. It has gone on for almost twelve years by now."

Liiza's eyes widened at that point. Her hand carefully went under Khan's uniform to touch his azure scar, but she didn't feel anything off there. Her fingers then reached his forehead, but nothing happened there either.

"Twelve years, you say?" Liiza asked in a worried tone. "Did they ever miss a day?"

"No," Khan revealed. "I have the nightmare if I'm asleep. No exceptions."

Liiza fell deep into her thoughts. One of her hands even left Khan's head to scratch her cheek while she reviewed the issue.

Khan's condition didn't seem to come from his psyche, but Liiza couldn't confirm that mana was the issue either. Yet, Niqols had a great understanding of that energy, and she could think of many figures that could help him.

"I might know someone," Liiza announced after a while.

"I have already sought help," Khan sighed. "It didn't work. I actually joined the army to find the Nak and see if I can put an end to this problem."

Liiza opened her mouth at that important revelation, but she held back from talking about it now. She had something more important to say to her boyfriend now.

"You don't understand," Liiza explained. "The Niqols can help you search for eventual stains in your mana."

"But I had these nightmares before obtaining mana," Khan complained.

"The Nak's mana changed you!" Liiza shouted in a helpless tone. "You smell like a Nak, your eyes and hair carry their shades, and you clearly have a great talent for mana. I'm saying that the cause of the nightmares can be in your mutations, and I know someone who can help without exposing us."

Chapter 104 - Shaman

"How sure are you about this?" Khan asked as faint hope appeared inside him when he saw how resolute Liiza was about the matter.

"Niqols know mana in ways that humans can't even begin to comprehend," Liiza smiled while removing the hair from Khan's forehead. "Our knowledge might not solve your issue, but I'm sure that it will at least point in the right direction. Humans might become able to help at that point."

"I was talking about our relationship," Khan replied as a complicated smile appeared on his face.

Khan had survived the nightmares for almost twelve years. His desperation was a core part of his personality, and the fact that his father didn't manage to solve the issue had forced him to accept his condition.

Hope wasn't enough to make him risk what he had. Liiza granted him a peace that he wasn't willing to endanger, even if it meant remaining with the nightmares until the duo didn't have to hide anymore or he solved the issue by himself. Discover *new chapters* at [novelbin\(.\)com](http://novelbin(.)com)

His answer left Liiza completely stunned. The intense attraction that they shared made them extremely unwilling to give up on their relationship, but she didn't believe that Khan would decide to put her above such a severe issue.

However, Liiza soon understood that Khan's words didn't only come from his feelings. His answer mainly was the result of his helplessness. Part of Khan had basically stopped to believe that he could vanquish his nightmares.

"I didn't think you were a coward," Liiza snorted while wearing her aloof expression, but her hands remained on Khan's head.

Liiza continued to fondle Khan's hair. She appeared pissed and annoyed, but her cheeks grew paler. Khan had seen that reaction during their most intimate moments, but he understood what it meant only during that conversation.

"I like when you blush," Khan said as his smile became peaceful.

"Shut up," Liiza snorted again before diverting her gaze. "Cowards can't speak."

"Maybe this someone can solve my nightmares," Khan sighed. "Maybe only a Nak can remove them. Maybe they don't even come from mutations. I can't be sure about any of that, but I know that I can endure until my position in the army improves. Why would I risk losing you now when I can simply wait for a few years?"

"Why do you have to be the only one to endure?" Liiza complained while shooting an angry glance at him. "Why can't I take part of that weight? I don't need your protection, and we should work together to make us work."

Liiza wanted to add more words, but she held back from saying them. Giving an ultimatum to Khan would only make him change his mind out of fear of losing her, which wouldn't solve the issue. He had to reach those conclusions on his own. The problem would return otherwise.

Khan suddenly realized that he could be at fault. In theory, he had done everything correctly. Liiza was having a boyfriend that never forced his schedule on her.

However, his inexperience in relationships made him fail to realize that Liiza didn't want to feel happy on her own. She wanted Khan and her to have the same status in the relationship, with both helping each other whenever something was wrong.

Liiza had to get angry to make Khan understand that. He only had to imagine himself in her position to experience her many foul feelings.

Liiza had merely felt annoyed when the matter involved only her powerlessness in helping Khan. Yet, that feeling had transformed into real anger when she saw Khan directly refusing her assistance to avoid creating problems for them.

Khan wasn't trying to protect Liiza. He was only avoiding risks since he was happy about his current situation. Still, he could understand how that behavior could annoy her since it was creating a wall between them that she couldn't cross.

Moreover, Khan was the very reason why she couldn't cross that wall. He was pushing her away by trying to avoid creating problems.

"I'm sorry," Khan eventually exclaimed while diverting his gaze. "I'm new to this. I didn't think that trying to make things easy for you would hurt you."

Khan had been sincere, and Liiza sensed it. Her anger slowly dispersed when she noticed how regretful he appeared through his cold expression.

"I don't have much experience either," Liiza revealed as her hands resumed caressing Khan's hair. "It has never been so intense."

The two spent a few minutes in silence. They had argued for the first time, right at the end of their first week together, but they only wanted to get closer now.

"How much do you trust this someone?" Khan eventually asked.

"She has been a shaman in my family for many generations," Liiza revealed a sweet smile. "Still, my mother had to kick her out due to her anti-human policies."

"How is that supposed to reassure me?" Khan frowned and tried to raise his head, but Liiza promptly put him down while giving voice to her cute giggle.

"Let me finish first," Liiza shouted before continuing in a plain voice. "She has been my nanny for a long time, and I've remained in contact with her behind my mother's back. She still relies on the old ways, so the devices developed during the cooperation with the humans can't find her."

"Why didn't you contact her to get us a way to communicate?" Khan suddenly asked as his eyes lit up.

"I don't even know how to explain the old ways to you," Liiza shook her head. "It would take a few days to contact her and even more to complete the items. How could I even justify disappearing for so long?"

"That issue also applies to my situation," Khan commented, but Liiza softly pecked his forehead and pouted until he wore an apologetic face again.

"The Niqols will hold a formal event at the end of the next week," Liiza explained. "Everyone will be busy with the preparations, and... I believe that the humans will also refrain from special activities."

Talking about the incoming free time reminded Liiza about the hunt. Seeing Khan handling Glenn's corpse so effortlessly made her chest ache, and part of his previous revelations even reappeared in her mind.

Khan had revealed that he had joined the Global Army to find the Nak. His cold pretenses obviously came from that decision. Liiza couldn't help but feel sad when she considered everything he had gone through and was enduring even now.

"How are you, really?" Liiza asked when she found Khan looking at her. "I'll handle the matter with my nanny and tell you the details once everything is ready, but I don't want you to feel on your own in the meantime. I'm here for you, okay?"

The evident concern in Liiza's glowing eyes made Khan's thoughts vanish. Only the conversation about the attraction caused by their mana remained in his mind.

"I want to talk more about what you said in front of the forest," Khan announced. "Our feelings and mana, can we clarify?"

"I thought you didn't like to talk," Liiza teased him, but her faint laugh remained stuck in her throat when she saw how serious Khan appeared.

"Let me sit now," Khan said without moving his eyes from Liiza, and she slowly removed her hands from his head.

Khan straightened his position and sat next to Liiza. Their bodies faced each other, and Khan wrapped his arm around her waist to pull her closer.

Their foreheads touched, and their eyes half-closed as they inspected each other's faces. Their cold and warm breaths mixed as their lips drew close, but they didn't kiss yet. There was something that they had to clarify first.

"There's nothing much to say," Liiza whispered. "We have elements that express ourselves. The same goes for feelings. You know what we experienced when we first met."

"How could I forget?" Khan laughed. "It happened only a week ago."

"Don't ruin it, dummy," Liiza tried to scold him, but only a cute laugh came out of her mouth. "You wanted this. We can go back to kissing if you can't handle it."

"We are like this after one week," Khan said in a mocking tone. "Where does your superior knowledge think we'll end up in a month?"

"I won't say anything specific," Liiza giggled, "But I believe our attraction will intensify until proper feelings appear."

"And that will be the end," Khan laughed.

"Indeed," Liiza sneered before wearing a pensive expression. "Do you ever think about the future?"

"Our future?" Khan asked.

"That too," Liiza replied in a timid voice.

"I don't know," Khan sighed while raising his sane hand to caress her cheek. "I've barely started climbing the ranks inside the army. I don't even know how long my stay on Nitis will last. I can only think about simple stuff for now. I'll keep training and seeing you."

"It's the same for me," Liiza explained. "I actually envy you since you have a clear goal. I don't want to turn into my mother, and the other Niqols even avoid me because I keep disobeying orders. I don't know if I'll ever find my place here."

"You have me now," Khan teased her.

"I do have you," Liiza repeated as she spread her legs and wrapped them around his waist while sitting on Khan's lap. "I don't know for how long, but it feels nice now, and that's enough for me. Just promise that we'll face the stuff that comes at us together."

"I promise," Khan swore. "I'll be better."

"You already are," Liiza smiled, and the two lost their desire to speak at that point.

Their lips instinctively drew near until they touched, and their minds went blank. They stopped thinking as they lost themselves in each other's embrace.

Chapter 105 - Events

The free time granted by Captain Erbair allowed Khan to train a lot and stay with Liiza without affecting his sleeping schedule. Still, he ended up being the only one who decided to attend the three afternoon lessons necessary to become an ambassador.

The event naturally surprised Paul since Khan had previously requested more free time, but he never got the chance to question him during the week after the hunt.

Khan was a ghost inside the camp. He appeared only to attend the three lessons concerning xenolinguistics, politics, and alien customs, but he left right after them. The other recruits didn't even bother to attend those classes after the hunt, so no one had the chance to talk with him.

Khan completely disappeared during the free days. He stashed provisions in his backpack before spending his entire time among the mountains. The cold accompanied his training and his moments with Liiza, but he barely felt it anymore.

The couple never stopped indulging in their intimate moments, but Liiza forced herself to set clear boundaries whenever they risked going too far. Their attraction continued to intensify, but she didn't want to rush things due to the feelings generated by their mana.

The purpose of their boundaries didn't involve only Khan. Liiza also felt her self-control waning as she spent entire days with her boyfriend. She managed to reset her mind whenever she disappeared to contact her old nanny, but her feelings came back stronger than ever once she gazed at Khan again.

Khan understood how scary the mana that affected his feelings could be during his second week on Nitis. He sensed his mind growing dull whenever he spent more than a minute with Liiza. Even glancing at her from a distance could make him end up in a daze.

Those irrational desires were so dangerous that the couple had to come up with strategies to avoid doing something that they would regret. Liiza wanted to wait before going all the way with Khan, and he didn't want to force her. Also, the issue about the condoms remained, so it felt easier to enjoy his girlfriend without worrying about that problem.

The strategies mostly involved mandatory breaks that the couple had to take to calm down. They would decide to fly among the mountains, train, attend specific matters, or directly converse about various topics to let their minds calm down.

Luckily for them, they both had relatively high control over their mana. The Niqols didn't normally restrain themselves, but they could do it if the situation required it, and Liiza rarely hesitated to use

that ability. Meanwhile, Khan's mental training gave him the chance to seal away his feelings and desires in no time, so he only needed to decide to do it to calm himself down.

The couple developed new types of breaks as the week passed. Liiza and Khan were in a peculiar position due to their roles on Nitis. They both needed to learn more about their partner's species, and they didn't mind spending long hours conversing about customs and habits.

Khan even took that chance to learn the Niqols' language. He already attended lessons in the camp, but Liiza felt happy to help him with the matter.

A notification eventually arrived on Khan's phone near the end of the sixth day, and the context of the message didn't surprise him. Liiza had already warned him about the event previously that week. The seventh day would feature the formal celebration inside the city near the camp, and the army had even planned Glenn's funeral to happen in the morning.

"She should answer in these days," Liiza explained after kissing Khan and taking a step toward her Aduns. "You might have the chance to meet her next week."

"There's no hurry," Khan warmly replied while also stepping toward his Aduns. "I can wait more weeks if it helps you doing everything safely. I'll spend five months here at the very least. I have time."

"This is still my planet, Khan," Liiza announced while wearing a smile and jumping on her Aduns. "Don't worry. I became an expert at covering my tracks after sneaking out of my house for almost seven years."

Liiza set off after that announcement, and Khan quickly jumped on Snow's back to return to the camp. His injuries had healed by then, so he let his Aduns have fun during the flight.

His return to the camp didn't go unnoticed, but everyone had grown used to the occasional noise released by Snow's wings by then. Khan's behavior had even gained a different aura after the hunt. His feat against the monster had made the other recruits look up to him and create rumors concerning his trips.

Khan was too resolute to be a mere asocial recruit in their minds. Everyone even knew that he didn't take a single break from the lessons connected to the ambassador's role.

Many had started to believe that he traveled across Nitis to learn more about the planet and improve his position in the network's lists. Others thought that he had found a special training area in regions that they couldn't reach. Some simply used his Aduns to explain the need for many trips.

Still, none of them could ever get clear answers from him since he barely spent time in the camp. Moreover, the other recruits didn't have real reasons to bother him, so they limited themselves to spread rumors.

Some recruits tried to convince George to act as a bridge between the seemingly unapproachable Khan and the rest of the recruits, but he categorically refused every time. George had basically been to war with Khan, so those requests didn't even faze him. He even tried to justify his behavior with the power that he wielded.

Khan knew that he should socialize, but time wasn't on his side. His schedule had never been so packed with a girlfriend and his relentless training with the Lightning-demon style. Captain Erbair had promised to him that the knife would arrive in a few weeks, so he felt the need to increase his proficiency level as soon as possible.

Everyone in the camp gathered right outside the fence the next day and organized a small funeral to remember Glenn. Even the classes from the other training camp traveled all night to attend that event.

The funeral consisted of a symbolic burial of an empty coffin accompanied by speeches from the two Lieutenants, Paul, Captain Erbair, and the few recruits that knew the boy well. Glenn's corpse was in line to reach the teleport and return to his family, but organizing that event anyway felt needed, especially when it came to those who had joined the hunt.

Four relatively large groups formed as the various recruits started to follow their respective leaders and orders. Nitis' four human classes had all gathered there, but they had different tasks to complete. Only Khan's group had ended up gaining access to the formal event.

Captain Erbair and Lieutenant Kintea could join the event because they were the direct superiors of the hunting group, but they couldn't reach the city on their own. Humans still didn't have free access to it.

An envoy riding a black Aduns landed at the edges of the training camp right before lunch. The Niqols had notified Captain Erbair about that arrival, so Khan had already summoned Snow by then.

Chief Alu sat on the black Aduns and didn't leave its back while the recruits, Lieutenant, and Captain gathered around his figure while riding their Ugu. Only Khan was waiting slightly in the distance with Snow ready to set off.

The group didn't exchange many words. The travel started as soon as Chief Alu set off, and everyone followed him closely. The city was nearby, but the trip would still last an entire hour.

Chief Alu made his Aduns fly above the buildings once he reached the city. Khan did the same, and he soon found himself hovering above the bustling city. The azure glow of the many structures didn't make Snow grow confused. The eagle could follow the black creature closely and land on a large landing platform above the buildings.

"The event will happen right below," Chief Alu explained with its usual gentle tone. "Someone will get you something to wear. Can I trust you to welcome your group on the first floor?"

"Of course," Khan promptly replied, and a trapdoor that led to the insides of the tall building opened on the floor. Follow new chapters at [nov/\(e\)l/bin/\(.\)com](http://nov/(e)l/bin/(.)com)

Khan found a series of Niqols wearing luxurious white armors that covered them from head to toe when he followed Chief Alu inside the building and crossed a few corridors to find elevators. The defensive items had azure symbols on their imposing metal figures that seemed to enhance them.

The soldiers let Khan pass since he was with Chief Alu, so the duo quickly reached sliding metal doors that revealed elevators featuring the rotating azure cubes that the Niqols used as menus.

The elevators there were clean and rather small. They didn't have chords or gears attached to their metal structures, but the mana in the area created an environment similar to what Khan experienced on the teleports.

Khan took one of the small elevators by himself and made it go down. He reached the first floor in an instant, and more Niqols donning white armors waited for him there. The aliens remained at his side until Captain Erbair and the others arrived. The relatively large group quickly filled the luxurious hall that featured drapes and large couches all over it.

The Niqols took care of leading the group toward a series of large elevators that could contain all of them. The soldiers entered the structures with them and made them travel to the twentieth floor, where a series of aliens who carried white fabrics left and right welcomed them.

The Niqols quickly provided new clothes to all of them. The group wore tight white robes as they returned to the elevators and let the soldiers lead them even higher in the building.

A large hall unfolded in their vision once they reached their destination. Multiple figures wearing white robes filled the area, but only a few of them were powerful enough to be potential threats.

Alien soldiers filled the walls of the hall, but two figures soon attracted Khan's complete attention when they appeared in his vision.

Two female Niqols were waiting for everyone to enjoy the delicacies placed on the two long tables that divided the room. One of them was the captivating Liiza who was wearing a tight white dress that exposed her curves. The other had a similar dress, but an intense mature aura surrounded her and made her appear far more beautiful than his girlfriend.

Chapter 106 - Drinks

The Niqols had adapted to the darkness that never stopped covering the planet. Their architecture and artistic sense showed those customs. The aliens had the chance to fill the insides of their buildings with light, but they limited themselves to dim azure symbols that kept everything relatively dark.

The corridors, elevators, and halls that Khan had crossed were all quite dark. The lights released by their azure symbols allowed him to see everything clearly, but humans would prefer more illumination anyway.

Instead, the hall where the celebration happened was far brighter. It seemed that the Niqols were trying to make their guests comfortable by raising the intensity of the azure lights radiated by the symbols on the ceiling.

Liiza was stunning in her dress. The thin white fabric stuck perfectly to her flawless skin and created a stark contrast on her chest, where an attractive cleavage highlighted the curves of her gracious breasts.

The dress ended in a diagonal skirt that opened right below the center of her left thigh and finished on her right ankle. Liiza's aloof expression and detached aura even enhanced the pure grace that her figure radiated.

However, the woman next to her belonged to a superior realm. She shared some of Liiza's facial features, but she was taller than her. Her V-shaped cleavage emphasized her ample chest, and her long skirt couldn't hide her attractive round waist.

The female Niqols had a mature aura that attracted the attention of every male in the room. Even some of the females couldn't help but steal glances of her sexy figure. She merely appeared in her thirties, but her glowing eyes carried a wisdom that only elders would have.

The woman was clearly aware of the attentions converging on her, but she appeared at ease in that situation. She even revealed cute smiles and covered her mouth to hide her laugh whenever someone cracked a joke or approached her to talk.

Her behavior perfectly matched and enhanced her natural beauty. Khan glanced at Liiza after inspecting the woman, but he found his girlfriend looking at him. Her aloof expression was still there, but Khan felt that she was angry.

'Is she the famous mother?' Khan wondered when he sensed something off in Liiza's gaze.

Liiza and the woman had their hair combed in the same way. Long white braids fell from their heads and descended on their backs. It felt obvious that they had prepared for the event at the same time, and Khan used that as a clue to guess the Niqols' identity. Get the *latest novels* at [n.o/\(v\)/e/l/bin\(.\)com](http://n.o/(v)/e/l/bin(.)com)

"Our guests have finally arrived," The woman announced in a sweet voice that managed to spread through the entirety of the room. "Please, eat and drink. Today we celebrate a significant step forward in our relationship."

Those in Khan's class who had yet to notice the woman couldn't help but remain stunned when they saw her. Some of the boys even opened their mouths and found themselves unable to close them.

"It's an honor to see you again, Ambassador Yeza!" Captain Erbair announced in a tone loud enough to startle the other recruits awake and made them perform a polite bow.

"It's a pity that we are both too busy," Yeza revealed a broad smile. "I would plan weekly meetings otherwise. Of course, Lieutenant Kintea would also have to come."

"I wouldn't dare to refuse, Ambassador Yeza," Lieutenant Kintea politely replied while managing to ignore that Yeza's voice had become more sensual when she called him.

'She is a vixen!' Khan shouted in his mind without breaking his polite bow.

Yeza clearly knew how to use her beauty to her advantage. She even pointed her shining smile at the boys that didn't manage to keep their heads down.

Khan happily discovered that Yeza's beauty didn't affect him as intensely as Liiza. He felt nothing more than mere physical attraction toward her.

Her title and Liiza's annoyed gaze had made Khan almost sure that Yeza was her mother. The mental barrier immediately appeared and fended off his feelings at that point. Khan didn't want to risk revealing anything in that situation. Even the faint exchange of glances felt too much with Yeza in the same room as his girlfriend.

"Stop standing there," Yeza laughed. "We are all friends here. No need to exaggerate with the formalities."

Captain Erbair decided to break her bow at those words, and the others around her did the same. The Niqols in the room could finally approach the group, and they didn't hesitate to call the recruits to make them at ease in that foreign environment.

"Do you mind if we take something to eat together?" Chief Alu asked when he approached Khan.

"Not at all," Khan replied while wearing a fake smile and following the alien toward one of the tables.

The group experienced similar scenes. The other Niqols in the room mainly were the young soldiers who had fought against the monster. Those aliens called some recruits and led them toward the tables or the various couches to make sure that they enjoyed the celebration.

Chief Alu pointed at plates that Khan had to try, and the latter didn't hesitate to eat everything. It didn't matter if the meals involved worms or odd-looking insects. Khan let the Niqols guide his appetite to keep him satisfied.

"You really adapted to the Niqols' cuisine," Chief Alu laughed after Khan wolfed everything that he had pointed at. "Let's get something to drink now."

A series of cups carved from black wood stood next to a large basin that contained a dense pink liquid. Chief Alu didn't hesitate to fill two mugs with that beverage before handing one of them to Khan.

"We consider it bad manners if you don't look at your companion in the eyes when drinking," Chief Alu explained, and Khan quickly fixed his eyes on him.

Chief Alu nodded and raised his cup to take a sip of the pink liquid. Khan did the same, and the two continued to look at each other during the action.

A warm sensation spread through Khan's mouth and throat as he drank the pink liquid. He immediately realized that the drink was similar to some of Earth's liquors, but that small quantity didn't manage to affect his mind.

Khan had only tried booze to appease his curiosity. It had never been hard to find it in his house in the Slums, but he didn't like it. Bret even was a constant reminder of how bad drinking could be, so Khan had always ignored that habit.

Still, he knew how booze worked. The Niqols apparently didn't have an age limit when it came to drinking, so Khan inevitably called upon his knowledge to remember how to avoid getting drunk. According to his memories, having a full belly would already keep him safe from that single cup.

Chief Alu led Khan toward one of the couches. The two exchanged polite lines that mostly involved the differences between Earth and Nitis and the personalities of their respective Aduns after they sat and started conversing.

Their conversation never became too serious since Chief Alu only had to entertain Khan and avoid that he remained alone while the celebration continued. The other Niqols had the same tasks, and all the humans ended up having casual chats with the aliens.

Yeza and Liiza had also moved toward two couches divided by a small table. Captain Erbair and Lieutenant Kintea were in front of them and laughs often came out of their mouths. Only Liiza

remained emotionless as she limited herself to nod and give short replies whenever the conversation required her to answer.

Yeza eventually stood up, and the two humans immediately imitated her. She shot a warm smile toward them before clearing her throat and claiming everyone's attention.

"I think it's time to move the event to its main topic," Yeza announced before tapping on an azure square on the ground with her white shoe and activating series of functions of the room.

The squares on the four walls lit up and released faint beams that created a detailed image at the center of the room. The sheet containing the new agreement between the two species appeared and showed the various details that the superiors had added during the week after the hunt.

The most striking feature of the agreement was its name. Its official title was "Padlyn's deal", which obviously wanted to remind of Glenn's sacrifice.

"Humans will gain access to the Aduns' nests starting from next week," Yeza announced while everyone was busy reading the sheet. "I hope that all of you succeed in taming our wonderful creatures."

A curse inevitably resounded inside Khan's mind when he realized that his private spot in the mountains with Liiza might become unsafe once other humans gained access to the Aduns. Still, he quickly calmed down since he believed that his girlfriend could find something equally nice in no time.

"Many academies have also agreed to share their training areas," Yeza explained in her sweet voice while her glowing eyes moved through the room. "Friendly tournaments and joint activities will definitely happen in the next months."

Captain Erbair and Lieutenant Kintea didn't show surprised expressions during the explanation since their superiors had already informed them about the final state of the agreement. However, the recruits from both species widened their eyes when they learnt about all of that.

"You can also gain access to our cities from now on," Yeza continued, "But you'll still need an escort to explore them. Still, we'll make sure to create a group in charge of the task."

Yeza continued to speak and mentioned multiple topics that made the recruits happy about the new agreement. The humans could finally bring new buildings to Nitis and have more freedom on the planet. The Niqols even hinted at the chance to allow new human classes in the following years.

All in all, the agreement was a huge step forward that made everyone get another cup of the pink liquid to celebrate.

Khan politely offered to get it for Chief Alu, and the alien didn't refuse. He remained on his couch while the boy approached the table and refilled both cups. Khan's mug was still half-full, but the Niqols didn't seem to mind that he was holding back from drinking.

"You've finally met my mother," A familiar voice resounded from behind Khan, but he didn't turn and continued to fill the cups.

"Shouldn't we avoid speaking here?" Khan whispered as Liiza waited for him to be over with the ladle.

"This is a formal event meant to celebrate the relationship between our species," Liiza commented. "It would be strange if I didn't speak to you. They might even punish me."

Khan had offered to refill the cups after everyone had taken care of their drinks. No one stood near the tables since most plates were empty. He was alone with Liiza, and the others were too caught in their conversations to look at them.

"She is your mother then," Khan replied while handing her the ladle.

"What do you think about her?" Liiza said while filling her cup. "You must have taken a good look."

"She is beautiful," Khan honestly replied, "But I'd still choose you over her."

"I find it hard to believe it," Liiza commented. "My mother is one of the most beautiful women on the planet. I'm just a normal girl compared to her."

"Tell that to my mana," Khan picked one of the cups and turned to fix his gaze on her eyes.

"No reactions?" Liiza asked as she imitated him and remained with her cup in front of her mouth.

"Not at all," Khan revealed before both of them took a short sip without breaking the stare.

"What did you think when you saw us then?" Liiza timidly asked as she watched Khan picking the other cup and turning toward Chief Alu.

"I wondered if you could bring that dress to the mountains," Khan revealed, and Liiza quickly turned toward the table to fill a plate.

Khan returned to Chief Alu, but Liiza remained on the table with her head lowered on the plates. She appeared focused on picking her food, but the truth was that her cheeks had blushed after those words, and she had to hide them until the feeling ended.

Chapter 107 - Call

The event went on peacefully, and Khan never ended up conversing about serious topics with Chief Alu. The two went on speaking about the Aduns, and the Niqols even revealed some tricks on how to handle those creatures.

Two recruits led by two young Niqols approached Khan and Chief Alu's couches before the duo could grow bored of those superficial talks. George and Natalie performed polite bows, and Chief Alu didn't hesitate to stand up while giving voice to a gentle laugh.

"I'll stop boring you now," Chief Alu announced while bowing toward Khan. "This has been nice. Let's go for a flight together at some point."

Khan stood up and bowed while the four sat on the couches. The Niqols immediately started talking about the hunt and compliment Khan's ability, and a light-hearted conversation began.

It was clear that the two aliens had compelled George and Natalie to drink a bit. Natalie's eyes appeared heavy, and her usual cold expression had disappeared to leave room for a broad smile. She even laughed often whenever George or the Niqols cracked a joke.

George's cheeks were slightly red, and he swayed left and right whenever his back left the couch. However, his words were still clear, and he never risked revealing classified information during the conversation.

Khan limited himself to interact only when the Niqols directly talked with him, but he made sure never to appear distracted. Still, he didn't fail to notice how the aliens often asked him to drink.

Khan had to accept a few times, but he didn't hesitate to refuse once the pink liquid started to make him feel lightheaded. It was easy in his situation to justify his rejection. He only needed to mention the Aduns to make the aliens give up on the matter.

'Do they want to get us drunk to see if we reveal something classified?' Khan wondered while he kept his two companions in check without ignoring the two aliens.

Drinking on Earth was legal from the age of sixteen, but that practice wasn't popular among young recruits. It was even hard for them to find booze in the camp.

Instead, the Niqols appeared relatively unaffected. Khan couldn't understand if their species had a higher resistance to the liquid or if they had grown used to it over time. However, it was clear that the human group would have to leave soon before some recruits made the army lose face.

Captain Erbair seemed to agree with Khan's conclusions, and she soon stood up to announce her need to leave. Yeza didn't try to convince her to stay, so the two exchanged polite bows while the Lieutenant gathered all the recruits.

"You don't need to lead the path," Captain Erbair announced after the group performed a formal salute and approached the elevators. "The Ugu remember the road."

Khan could only nod at those words take a separate path after he recovered his uniform. The Niqols had cleaned it and folded it inside a backpack, so he didn't need to change clothes before using the elevator that led to the roof.

The decision to leave the celebration had been rather sudden, so Khan didn't find Snow waiting for him when he reached the roof. Instead, he found a few young Niqols in the corner of the area encircled by a short metal fence.

The Niqols seemed to panic when they heard the trapdoor opening, but they slightly relaxed when they noticed Khan coming out of it. Those aliens had been inside the event hall just a few minutes ago, but it seemed that their role had ended after the human group left.

A trail of smoke was coming out from behind them, and a strange smell even filled the area. Still, Khan didn't say anything as he went into the opposite corner of the roof. It was rather early since the celebration had lasted less than two hours, so noises still came out of the streets below.

"You killed the monster, right?" One of the Niqols eventually asked while Khan was busy looking at the distant streets.

"I did," Khan revealed while turning toward the group, "But I didn't kill it on my own."

The alien group had a boy and three girls. The male had been the one to speak before, and he wore a complicated expression when he moved his eyes between the trail of smoke and Khan.

"I won't say anything," Khan quickly announced, and the four revealed a smile at those words.

"[He's actually cute]," One of the girls said before her friends exploded into a laugh.

"[You should hit on him]," A girl replied while suppressing a giggle. "[You might get a reward if you are the first Niqols to have sex with a human]!"

The four laughed loudly, but the boy soon justified himself when he saw Khan studying their behavior. "We were talking about your technique. It was quite amazing."

Khan revealed a fake smile. He didn't know enough about the Niqols' language to understand what they said, but he could sense that their words didn't involve his martial art.

"Hey, your planet has daylight, right?" The male Niqols eventually asked as the girls continued to speak among themselves.

"It does," Khan replied.

"Is it good?" The Niqols continued.

"It's quite good," Khan smiled as his eyes went on the dark sky. "It's hard to describe it."

"You don't need to," The Niqols laughed. "Nitis will experience its first daylight after two thousand years soon. I can't wait!"

"How soon?" Khan asked as his eyebrows arched.

That sounded like something classified. Khan didn't even know if his superiors were aware of that event.

"It should be a matter of mont-," The Niqols revealed before one of the girls pulled his arm and shot an admonishing gaze at him.

"Don't mind my words," The boy quickly added when he realized that he had said too much. "I had too much to drink, and...."

The Niqols glanced at the trails of smoke coming out behind the girls before exploring into a laugh. Khan revealed a fake smile, but his eyes recorded everything. He noted in his mind that he had to learn more about that imminent event.

An awkward atmosphere fell on the roof, but Snow soon arrived and saved Khan from those Niqols. The eagle wanted to go directly toward the mountains, but Khan made sure to make it fly toward the camp until the city was far away before changing direction.

The faint effects that the pink liquid had started to cause on his body had vanished while he was on the roof. Khan felt in complete control of his senses while Snow shot through the sky and enjoyed itself. He only had to secure the backpack containing his uniform to his back before letting his eagle have as much fun as it wanted.

Snow dropped Khan on the familiar flat spot. The area was empty, so Khan didn't hesitate to sit on the ground and start the eleventh mental exercise.

It didn't take him much to fail. He still needed a while to complete one of the last steps before the Wave spell, but he didn't feel dejected. Khan improved every day, and it seemed that no one had caught up with him for now.

A dark figure eventually flew through the sky and encircled the mountain before dropping Liiza on the flat area. She was still wearing her dress, and a blush appeared on her face when she saw Khan standing up to stare at her.

"You look good too," Liiza commented as a faint smile appeared on her face. "I'm glad they let you keep the robe."

Khan didn't speak. He took slow steps toward Liiza without moving his gaze away from her. Liiza gave voice to a cute laugh, but her expression soon turned serious when she understood Khan's mood.

"We should avoid today," Liiza whispered when Khan wrapped an arm around her waist and pulled her closer. "We both drank. It's not smart."

Liiza refused Khan with her words, but her hands went on his hair soon as their bodies touched. She even started kissing him and pushing him toward the rocky wall.

Khan's back eventually hit the wall, and the two slowly sat as their hands made their clothes grow loose. Liiza left his face at some point, and the words she said made him almost go crazy.

"It's your job to stop me tonight," Liiza whispered while breathing roughly. "I know I won't. Can I trust you?"

Everything inside Khan begged him to find a way out of that conversation, but Liiza's appeared really worried about her condition. She seemed scared about what she could do.

"I'll stop you," Khan promised, and Liiza dived on him again. [Gett the latest novels at n.o/\(v\)/e/l/bin\(.\)com](http://n.o/(v)/e/l/bin(.)com)

Keeping the clothes on in that situation was impossible, but Khan mustered the entirety of his resolve to stop Liiza before she went too far. The process was basically torture for him since she appeared ready to go all the way. Yet, he didn't forget his promise, and Liiza slowly calmed down as the effects of the pink liquid waned.

"I've died a few times tonight," Khan sighed after the frenzy ended and Liiza opted for cuddles.

Liiza had placed Khan's robe over her while she sat between his legs. The situation didn't help his arousal since they were both naked, but it was easier to endure that feeling since she wasn't fighting his self-restraint now.

"You did incredibly good," Liiza announced while kissing his chest and snuggling closer.

"I've disappointed all the men in the world," Khan continued while wrapping his arms on Liiza's naked waist. "I can see my ancestors shaking their heads."

Liiza couldn't help but explode into a laugh when she heard Khan's disheartened voice. He was staring at the dark sky, but his mind kept playing the incredible scenes he had just experienced.

"You know," Liiza timidly said after suppressing her laugh. "Two weeks aren't nearly enough, and our different species makes everything worse. Yet, you have proven that I can trust you completely."

Khan lowered his gaze and saw Liiza staring at him while her hand remained clawed to his chest. The robe had stopped covering part of her body, but he seemed unable to stop looking at her eyes.

"Can we restart slowly?" Liiza asked while her hand slowly ran down his naked torso, but a frown suddenly appeared on her face.

Liiza stopped her actions and placed her back on Khan's chest as she pulled her other arm out of the robe. An azure symbol had appeared near her wrist, and its faint glow shone on the couple's faces.

"Dress up," Liiza quickly ordered while turning and kissing Khan. "We have to go."

Khan remained in a daze when he saw Liiza leaving the cover of his robe and wearing her dress right in front of him. The girl blushed when she noticed her attentive gaze, but she forced herself not to stare too much between his legs when she explained what was happening.

"My nanny has called," Liiza explained. "We must go now."

Khan's eyes lit up. He quickly called Snow as he straightened his position and wore his robe.

The two soon found themselves standing near the edges of the flat area. Liiza was in Khan's arms, and the couple didn't speak as they stared at the dark environment.

The arrival of the Aduns forced the two to separate. Liiza led Khan deeper into the mountain chain, into areas that he had never seen. The flight even lasted a few hours, and she descended only when a small forest appeared under them.

Liiza seemed to have committed the environment to memory. The Aduns left the two on the ground, and she led Khan across the dark trees without ever questioning her steps. The couple sprinted through the forest and stopped only when they reached a large tree with a narrow cavity in its trunk.

"Come," Liiza ordered while taking Khan's hand and nearing the cavity.

Khan struggled to enter that hole, but the path enlarged as a tunnel that led underground unfolded. A few burning torches even appeared as the two walked through the passage, and a large underground area appeared after a while.

Khan could barely believe his eyes when he inspected the underground area. The rocky walls featured strange symbols that released a red light. The corpses of a few Tainted animals hung upside down from the ceiling. A huge cauldron even occupied a corner of the cave, and a Niqols with long red hair slept next to it.

Chapter 108 - Zalpa

Everything about the cave felt off. The hung Tainted animals strangely were easier to accept than the glowing red symbols on the walls and the alien with hair that reminded Khan about blood.

Khan had basically just arrived on Nitis, but he believed to have mastered the basics concerning Niqols, especially for what concerned their appearance and typical uses of mana.

However, the scenes in the cave went against his knowledge. Nothing learnt in the past two weeks and before the travel to Nitis mentioned those blood-like red shades.

"I never understood if she gets the human language," Liiza explained while tightening the grip on his hand and getting closer to him. "I'll lead the conversation and translate. You follow my lead."

Liiza's words awakened the red-haired Niqols sleeping next to the cauldron. The alien sat on the ground and removed the dirty hair from her face to inspect her guests, and a disgusted expression soon appeared on her face.

"[You didn't tell me that he was a human]," The red-haired Niqols announced in a rough voice before spitting on the ground without breaking her eye contact with Khan.

The Niqols was clearly old. Wrinkles filled the corner of her eyes, the space between her white eyebrows, and her forehead. An awful smell came out of her ragged dark-grey robe that featured many black stains, and a layer of dirt covered her soles.

The old woman had long black fingernails on both fingers and toes, and her white eyes carried some scarlet shades that tainted the usual pure glowing gaze of the Niqols.

Khan couldn't help but think that her red shades weren't natural. After all, her eyebrows and eyes still tried to stick to the Niqols' innate features. Moreover, the odd reminder of blood caused by those dark-red colors made it feel like an artificial feature.

"She's happy to see you," Liiza said while caressing Khan's arm.

"I got that when she spat on the ground," Khan commented, but no anger managed to fill his mind since he saw how hard Liiza was trying to make that meeting succeed.

Liiza was holding Khan's right arm with both her hands. One of them squeezed his palm while the other caressed his elbow and made sure that it remained attached to her chest.

Her expression even appeared quite resolute. Khan felt hopeless about the whole matter after experiencing the nightmares for so long, but Liiza didn't hide her seriousness. She seemed willing to pay any price to help Khan.

Warmth inevitably filled Khan. He felt unable to move his eyes from his girlfriend. Liiza's resolute face tried to hide her worry and insecurities, and she was doing her best to support him even while those tumultuous feelings raged inside her.

'Maybe I've become too used to my suffering,' Khan thought as he committed that scene to memory.

Initially, Khan didn't want to plan that meeting since it could endanger his relationship with Liiza. He had eventually accepted because his actions were creating cracks in their bond. Yet, a new reason appeared in his mind when he saw how deeply his girlfriend cared about that matter.

Khan wanted to get better to make Liiza happy now. He couldn't force himself to forget what he had become used to endure, but he cared about her feelings enough to do what was best for his condition.

The old Niqols' mouth opened in a grimace when she studied the youngsters. Liiza's fervor and Khan's captivated expression felt cute and pure, but she hated it when she considered the boy's species.

"[You know that I hate humans, Lii]," The woman snorted. "[I would do anything for you, but helping them is too much]."

"[I'm not asking you to help humans]," Liiza explained as her hand went on Khan's chest and opened his robe to reveal the azure scar. "[I want you to hurt the Nak]."

The disgusted expression on the woman's face disappeared when the scar appeared in her vision. She quickly stood up and walked toward Khan to near her nose to his chest and sniff the tainted spot.

The woman's movements had been quite abrupt. They had almost triggered Khan's instincts, but Liiza had made sure to remind him to stay still.

"Zalpa was the best shaman of her time," Liiza explained while the woman's nauseous odor surrounded the couple. "She understands mana in ways that the current healers of my species can't even begin to comprehend."

"I thought the relationship with the humans benefitted your species," Khan exclaimed while tilting his head once Zalpa started sniffing his neck.

"Niqols became scared of sacrifices," Zalpa suddenly explained in a bad human accent before taking a step back while keeping her eyes on Khan's chest. "They want to force mana into hands, but mana is free."

Liiza appeared surprised that Zalpa could use the human language, but she didn't forget to continue the explanation. "Our old ways often required a cost. We learnt how to remove that price by sacrificing a bit of our understanding."

"[A bit]!" Zalpa snorted. "[You let the easy path tempt you]!"

"She doesn't seem happy," Khan commented.

"She rarely was even back then," Liiza smiled while laying her head on Khan's shoulder, "But she taught me about freedom. I would have never decided to stay with a human if it weren't for her."

Khan's eyebrows arched in surprise, and his gaze toward Zalpa inevitably grew softer. The old Niqols hated humans, but he couldn't see her in a bad light anymore after learning about that connection with Liiza.

"[Can you understand what's wrong with him]?" Liiza asked when she saw that Zalpa had started scratching her hair and mumbling with herself.

"[Yes]," Zalpa replied before resuming her mumbling.

"[Can you help him]?" Liiza continued in an excited voice.

"[Maybe]," Zalpa gave another short answer before going back to her incoherent muttering.

"[What is it then]?" Liiza asked when she saw that Zalpa didn't appear inclined to approach the task.

"[He is a human and a Nak]," Zalpa explained. "[Two reasons not to help him]."

Khan actually understood the first line, and his expression inevitably darkened. Doctor Parket had already informed him about his peculiar condition, and he had yet to accept it completely.

"[Please, Zaza]," Liiza asked in a pleading voice. "[Do it for me]."

"[Why would you even go so far for a human]?" Zalpa snorted. "[I know that your mother made you dislike the Niqols, but he can't feel like we do. He's probably using you for his species or his urges]."

"[He just held back from doing that]," Liiza explained as a faint blush appeared on her cheeks. "[He even wanted to stay with his nightmares because this meeting put our relationship at risk]."

Liiza's voice grew sweeter as her explanation continued, and she even tried to get closer to Khan during the process. He understood almost nothing of her speech, but his eyes met Liiza's gaze when he sensed the girl snuggling on his shoulder.

Zalpa had learnt a bit about Khan's situation in the past days. She knew about his condition, and her expression inevitably relaxed when she understood how caring he was toward Liiza.

Zalpa eventually raised her hand and gestured to Khan to get closer. Liiza wore a broad smile and kissed his cheek before letting him walk toward the shaman, but the latter suddenly grabbed his robe and made him bend with her superhuman strength.

"I know curses that kill your entire family," Zalpa whispered to Khan's ear before slowly letting him straighten his back. "Are we clear?"

"I won't hurt her," Khan promised when Zalpa's face reappeared in his vision.

"Feelings don't worry me," Zalpa snorted while turning toward the cauldron. "Niqols' love is stronger than humans. She'll happily get hurt in your place."

"[Zaza]!" Liiza shouted from behind Khan as her blush intensified. "[We have been together for only two weeks]!"

"[And you are already opening your legs]!" Zalpa snorted while bending inside the cauldron and throwing away various plants and other materials to clean its insides. "[I know you, Lii. You have never been so careless with the others]."

Liiza scoffed and turned her gaze away, but Khan noticed how her blush continued to intensify. Her cheeks had almost lost their dark shades at that point.

"You two must be really close," Khan laughed after that interaction ended.

"She is an old hag who can't accept progress," Liiza snorted. Fôllôw *new* stories at [no/v\(e\)lb/in\(.\)com](http://no/v(e)lb/in(.)com)

"She is a rebellious kid who likes humans due to her hate toward her mother," Zalpa replied in the same tone.

"Zaza!" Liiza shouted as her timid gaze went on Khan. "I'm not with you because of my mother."

"I know," Khan revealed a warm smile, but Zalpa suddenly pulled him to her side and turned him to face the cauldron.

The bottom of the cauldron still had a few items. Khan recognized a few large black leaves, a glowing silver mineral, and a piece of wood that had peculiar scarlet lines on its dark surface.

"Blood," Zalpa said while showing her palm to Khan.

"What?" Khan asked in confusion, but Zalpa snorted, and her hand shot to grab his right wrist.

Khan barely saw her movements. He found Zalpa holding his hand over the cauldron when he realized what had happened. Surprise filled his mind while he tried to guess the shaman's power from the mana inside her body, but pain spread from his palm and distracted him from that inspection.

Zalpa had opened a long cut on Khan's palm with her fingernails. She had only needed her thumb to create an injury that made many drops of blood flow toward the bottom of the cauldron.

Khan couldn't pull his hand back. Zalpa's grip was too firm and reminded him about his previous inspection. He found it hard to sense her power with his senses, but she felt more dangerous than Lieutenant Dyester in that situation.

A barrier seemed to cover her figure and stop Khan from understanding her actual level. Still, that alone proved how strong Zalpa was. She clearly was an expert in mana.

Zalpa placed her free hand on the dark-bronze side of the cauldron while Khan's blood continued to fall on the items in its insides. Then, a red glow started to fill the metal until it slowly stretched toward the materials and made them melt.

Khan watched the silver mineral and the piece of wood melting before submerging his blood and the leaves. The pale-red liquid that came out of that mixture continued to rise until it filled the entire cauldron and created a clear surface once it reached its edges.

The liquid turned into a pale-red mirror that reflected Khan and Zalpa's faces. It was so dense that no ripples appeared on its surface. Khan even wondered whether it had solidified at some point.

"Lii, don't you want to watch?" Zalpa shouted as she sniffed the pale-red mirror and let go of Khan's hand.

"I don't know if I h-," Liiza started to say in a timid tone, but Khan promptly interrupted her.

"Don't worry," Khan announced while turning toward her. "I have nothing to hide."

Khan even gave voice to a faint "thanks" when he turned to face the cauldron. He had understood that Zalpa had used the human language on purpose with her previous question, but she only snorted at his word.

"What should I do now?" Khan asked after Liiza approached the cauldron.

"Drink to create mental connection," Zalpa explained. "Revive the dream while pouring mana into the cauldron. Can you do that?"

Khan hesitated a bit before nodding. Pouring mana wasn't a problem. His only issue was with the strange liquid, but he didn't mind it too much after recalling what the Slums had forced him to eat.

Liiza took Khan's hand in her grasp while he bent toward the cauldron. A cold sensation spread through his lips when they touched the liquid, and that feeling spread through his throat when he took a short sip.

Khan didn't hesitate to make mana flow out of his free hand after he straightened his back. The familiar scenes of the nightmare appeared in his vision as his energy entered the cauldron's metal and flowed inside the pale-red liquid.

Then, faint images started to materialize on the calm surface. Both Liiza and Zalpa became able to witness the memories of the Second Impact that had afflicted Khan for almost twelve years.

Chapter 109 - Doubts

Khan's expression grew cold as he reviewed those familiar images. He had accepted the nightmares as part of his existence, but he had never managed to grow used to those memories.

The pain, fear, and desperation felt during that tragedy reappeared inside his mind as the images gained some clarity and started flowing forward. Those sensations even felt more intense now, but Khan blamed the dense pale-red liquid for that.

Liiza gasped when the mirror showed the Nak coming out of the crater. Her grasp on Khan's hand tightened when she saw the bleeding injury on his chest, and her expression darkened once the alien stretched one of its six fingers toward him.

Khan's nightmare always ended at that point, but a frown appeared on his face when the scene continued. An azure halo covered the Nak's hand before filling the images reflected in the mirror.

"Are these my memories?" Khan quickly asked.

"I can't show you what your mind doesn't contain," Zalpa replied.

Shock filled Khan's mind. His entire world fell apart. Those new scenes meant that he had seen a mere incomplete nightmare for the past years. However, the surprises didn't end there.

The wound on his chest started to close as an azure halo continued to fill those memories. The scar that Khan still carried appeared in the mirror, but strands of hair that featured the same shades slowly fell in front of his eyes and partially covered the scenes.

Khan instinctively let go of Liiza's hand to check his hair. It had become long enough to reach his eyes if he stretched it, but he only saw black strands. The azure hair depicted in the memories was nowhere to be seen. DiisCoover *updated novels on n(o)v/e/lbin(.)com*

Liiza understood that something was off, but the images shown on the cauldron were too captivating to risk missing even a slight detail. She had never seen such a vivid representation of a Nak either, so she couldn't divert her attention at all.

In the memories, Khan's azure hair continued to grow as those shades intensified. The entire world became azure as the Nak took slow steps toward him.

Many details of the world disappeared as the azure color became too blinding. The trio only managed to see the Nak's silhouette reaching Khan and bending toward him to place its huge hand on his head.

The memories didn't go dark when that huge palm covered kid Khan's vision. The azure color continued to fill them, and faint shapes slowly appeared as the light in certain spots intensified.

Shining and pale azure figures moved on the mirror to create a unique scene. The trio saw a blinding circular spot encircled by multiple thin rings that featured small spheres.

The light radiated by the rings grew dimmer depending on the distance from the central circular spot. They eventually became so vague that they mixed with the pale-azure color of the scenery.

The images started moving after everything took its place. The rings, the tiny spheres, and the central large spot began to rotate clockwise and counterclockwise. There didn't seem to be a specific reason for their direction, but Zalpa understood something that Khan and Liiza couldn't get from that scene.

"[This is a solar system]," Zalpa explained as shock filled her expression.

"What did she say?" Khan asked without moving his eyes from the scene.

"This scene resembles a solar system," Liiza promptly translated.

The scene continued to move until everything started to go dark. Blackness appeared at the cauldron's edges and moved toward its center until the mirror returned to its pale-red color.

"You can take away your hand now," Zalpa announced, and her voice wasn't as rough as before.

"Khan?" Liiza asked while placing a hand on Khan's shoulder when she saw that he didn't move even after Zalpa's reminder.

Khan ignored the nature of his feelings. His mind felt too messy to understand what was happening in its insides.

Khan had founded his entire life on his nightmares. He had survived the harsh life in the Slums and had waited until he reached the enlistment age to join the army and look for the Nak.

The Slums had forced him to learn how to lie, pretend, lower his head, and accept injustices, but he had gone past them without losing his ability to smile. His personality featured evident cracks due to the intense desperation caused by the nightmares, but he was still himself, and he wasn't crazy.

Yet, his nightmares had turned out to be incomplete. Actually, they only featured the least important parts of the Second Impact. They didn't show how the Nak had healed his injury, and they didn't even carry that significant last scene.

Khan didn't manage to think about the meaning behind those scenes right away because other details were too shocking to ignore. The growing azure hair forced him to think about his father. Bret had never revealed anything about that, but it felt obvious that he had found Khan in that state.

'Why didn't he tell me?' Khan couldn't help but wonder.

Bret was the second pillar on which Khan had founded his life before the enlistment in the Global Army. The nightmares gave him endless desperation, but his father was a source of truth. Khan had never once doubted his words, and that seemed a mistake now.

Khan could quickly find the truth in some of Bret's words since Doctor Parket had confirmed them after he joined the Global Army. His body wasn't mutating anymore. Something had happened during the Second Impact, but his condition was stable, and he was a proper human. Some of his features resembled the Nak, but that was it.

The Doctor had confirmed that Bret had really suppressed the mutations, but the whole story seemed to miss some details now. Khan had accepted every explanation without thinking too much about them in the past. Yet, he started to question some of them after witnessing the entirety of his memories.

'Did we really have to forsake our name due to the expenses of my treatment?' Khan wondered.

'Was it dad's fault that my nightmares were incomplete? Is he aware of the solar system?'

Khan didn't exclude anything. He didn't know the full extent of human technology, but he didn't underestimate it either. Moreover, his father had been the previous head of the scientific department of the Global Army as a mere first-level warrior. His talent had to go beyond what his peers could understand. There was a high chance that Bret had managed to see his memories, including the solar system.

Khan reached conclusions only to find new doubts. The previous reasoning made him wonder whether Bret was really a mere first-level warrior.

Everything in his life suddenly felt fake. Every explanation led to more questions, and eventual answers only made him doubt what he knew even more.

Khan abruptly left the cauldron, ignoring that Liiza's worried gaze never left him. He walked through the cave as countless thoughts filled his mind. He couldn't find peace. Nothing seemed able to bring stability. His foundation had crumbled and had turned him into a mass of doubts that didn't go anywhere.

Zalpa continued to stare at the pale-red liquid. Her face didn't reveal any emotion. She seemed deep into her thoughts as she reviewed the images that she had just witnessed.

Meanwhile, Liiza didn't know how to react to what she had just learnt. She knew that Khan had suffered quite a lot in his life, but seeing the actual scenes he had to experience every night left her stunned.

Liiza had developed a cold and aloof character due to the conflicts with her mother and her species. She was quite rebellious, but she could still decide to open up if the situation required it. However, her feats were nothing more than child's play compared to Khan.

Khan had literally gone through hell, and not only once. The scenes depicted by the cauldron were only the first of the harsh aspects of his life. They didn't consider the Slums, and they didn't even involve Istrone's crisis.

Liiza didn't know much about the latter, but she was aware that he had suffered there. She had even seen his first trauma now. It was hard to believe that Khan could still smile and care so much about others after everything he had gone through.

Khan's resolve to never slack was commendable. It showed his resilience in front of traumas and challenges. Yet, in Liiza's mind, his ability to enjoy some aspects of his life after those traumas was his best aspect. She couldn't even imagine how strong he had to be to succeed in those feats.

Still, that strong character seemed on the verge of falling apart now. Khan walked up and down the cave as he tried to find the faintest trace of stability in his life. He suddenly found himself without footholds. He couldn't understand what was real anymore, and he didn't even know who he could trust.

Khan eventually hit something when he turned again. The impact took him by surprise and made him angry, but his feelings froze when he saw Liiza scratching her nose and revealing a sad smile.

Khan had bumped into her, but she didn't say anything about that. She limited herself to smile in a desperate attempt to make him understand that she was there if he needed her.

Khan opened his mouth to speak, but no words came out of it. He tried to say something multiple times, but he always failed. He eventually gave up on the matter and sat on the ground while releasing a helpless sigh.

Liiza slowly kneeled in front of him, being careful not to touch him. Khan didn't look at her. His eyes were wide open as they stared at the ground and saw images that only his mind could generate.

Liiza mustered her courage and placed her hands on his cheeks. She tilted his face to make his eyes point at her, and Khan eventually focused on his worried girlfriend. She was doing her best to show a plain and peaceful expression, but it was clear that she didn't know what to do in that situation either.

"I'm lost," Khan whispered while using the white glow of Liiza's eyes to maintain his concentration. "I don't know what to believe anymore. Everything feels fake now."

"I can help you find what's real," Liiza announced.

"Please," Khan almost begged her, and Liiza quickly cleared her throat to suppress the slight tremor in her voice.

"I'm real," Liiza explained, "Snow is real, your feats among the humans are real, your power is real, and your feelings are also real."

Liiza placed a hand on Khan's uncovered chest before continuing. "Your heart doesn't lie. I heard it when you meditate, when you are with me, and when you flew for the first time. You would like those aspects of your life even without the Nak."

Khan couldn't help but take Liiza's hand in his grasp, and she revealed the most beautiful smile that he had ever seen at that point. She carefully bent toward him, and Khan helped her sitting on his lap.

"It feels that I'm back to square one," Khan revealed while laying his head on Liiza's chest. "Why did the Nak even save me? What was that solar system?"

Liiza didn't have answers to his questions, so she limited herself to take Khan's head between her arms. Her slow heartbeat resounded in Khan's ear as she carefully caressed his hair and left soft kisses on his forehead.

"Someone must know," Liiza eventually said. "I'll help you find answers. The knowledge of two species is at our disposal. How hard can it be to find a single solar system?"

"The Nak have probably seen thousands of different solar systems," Zalpa suddenly announced as she turned toward the couple. "Finding a specific one among their immense knowledge might take decades."

Liiza glared at Zalpa, but Khan shook his head while lightly squeezing her hand. He only wanted truths now, no matter how harsh they could be.

"I think the position of the solar system isn't important," Zalpa continued while ignoring the couple. "You should focus on why the Nak has implanted that image in your brain. If you ask me, it wanted you to go there."

Chapter 110 - Stroll

"Why would they do that?" Khan asked. "How is it even clear?"

Khan was desperate for answers, and Zalpa seemed to have them. He didn't know how the Niqols could feel so certain about a mere inspection of the nightmare, but he was willing to accept everything in his current situation.

"The dreams aren't natural," Zalpa shortly explained. "The Nak wanted you to have them."

Zalpa's behavior appeared far kinder now. She couldn't remain biased about Khan after witnessing what he dreamed every night. She hated humans, but she wasn't heartless, especially in front of a young man who had gone through so much suffering.

The trio fell silent after that revelation. The Nak had implanted that image in Khan's mind, but maybe it wasn't aware of the consequences that the event would cause to his mental state.

Doubts were stronger than truths right now. Khan, Liiza, and Zalpa could only come up with reasonable hypotheses, but they couldn't prove much.

"Lie there," Zalpa eventually said while pointing at the center of the cave. "I'll run tests."

Liiza nodded as soon as Khan turned toward her, and the couple separated. Khan lay on the cold terrain, and Zalpa didn't refrain from doing what she wanted with him.

Zalpa directly removed Khan's robe and left him with nothing more than pants while she played with the cauldron and the other materials in the cave.

The alien took some of Khan's azure hair, dropped dense blood on his skin to study its reaction, drew complicated runes next to the scar to trigger the power that it contained. She did everything in her power to understand the nature of Khan's mutations, and her discoveries led to conclusions that no one in the cave could appreciate.

"Your mutations are seamless," Zalpa explained when she gestured to Khan that he could dress up. "It almost appears that you don't have any, even if it's clear that you aren't completely human anymore. Still, I'm surprised that you could return to this form. Earth must have powerful shamans."

Khan inevitably thought about his father. Zalpa's words relieved part of his worry, but his doubts still resisted. He had never questioned Bret's love and ability. The issue was with his intentions and secrets.

"So, what exactly am I?" Khan asked after straightening his position and checking his phone.

The first morning of his third week on Nitis had arrived. Khan was still in time to attend the afternoon classes if he flew back to the camp in the next hours.

"Who knows?" Zalpa announced. "The other shaman's work makes you hard to read, but there is something else. Your body actively hides your mutations. I believe you can study them only from the inside."

"I've been in this state for almost twelve years," Khan commented. "I have no idea how to look for what's wrong inside me."

"I think everything would naturally become clear as your power increases," Zalpa explained. "You would have unlocked the map on your own at some point. The same should be true for the other mutations."

'Getting stronger is mandatory then,' Khan sighed in his mind.

Khan still struggled to understand how he had to feel. His life didn't change in the end. He still had to pursue the same goals set before enlisting in the Global Army. However, everything else in his view had changed.

"Don't you have some shaman way to make me stronger quickly?" Khan eventually asked while looking around the cave. "Can't you teach me something?"

Zalpa fixed her eyes on Khan before exploding into a loud laugh. Her voice was so coarse that she started to cough at some point, but she quickly cleared her throat and calmed down.

"Don't get the wrong idea, human," Zalpa sneered. "I helped you because Lii cares about you. I pity you a bit, but I don't care whether you live or die. Maybe I'm more toward the dying side so that the rebellious child can end up with a good Niqols."

Khan could only sigh at those words. He didn't feel too disappointed, especially since adding new stuff to learn would only turn his schedule more hellish. He was already sacrificing his interactions inside the camp to keep up with everything. A new training program would force him to stop sleeping again.

"Get out now," Zalpa suddenly ordered. "Daylight is coming, and I have a lot to prepare."

Zalpa's words reminded Khan of the conversation with the Niqols on the roof from the previous night. According to them, Nitis would experience its first daylight after two thousand years of darkness in the next months.

"Prepare for what?" Khan immediately asked while moving his gaze between Liiza and Zalpa. "Will something happen?"

"Zaza believes in the old legends," Liiza explained after heaving a helpless sigh. "Niqols don't have many records of the past daylight, but they are keeping the entire planet in check as the event approaches. Nothing strange is happening."

"[Fools]!" Zalpa snorted. "The entire planet evolved in darkness. Daylight will cause a catastrophe. The old texts are clear!"

"We still sent sacrifices to the Aduns two thousand years ago," Liiza shook her head. "How can you trust anything recorded in those texts?"

"You'll see in a few months," Zalpa exclaimed before her expression grew worried. "Promise me that you'll be in a safe place when the light arrives. Bring the human along even as long as you prepare yourself."

Liiza rolled her eyes, but she eventually nodded. Zalpa crossed her arms at that point, and the couple understood that their time to go had arrived.

"I didn't want to keep the daylight matter from you," Liiza revealed in a timid voice as soon as the couple returned into the corridor. "I wanted to make you a surprise."

Liiza hid her face when she said those words, but Khan heard the faint excitement in her voice. He waited until the duo climbed their way back to the surface to pull her arm and make her turn toward him.

"Are you excited about the daylight?" Khan asked when he saw Liiza's pout.

"How could I not be?" Liiza snorted. "I've never seen anything like that in my entire life. Though, I don't know how I would look outside the darkness."

Khan revealed a faint smile before shaking his head and reaching for Liiza's cheek. Yet, the latter grabbed his wrist and shot an admonishing gaze toward him.

"Don't even try," Liiza exclaimed in a firm voice. "There won't be any consoling me until you are better."

Khan's smile broadened, but his expression grew sadder. He had calmed down, but his situation didn't improve at all. Liiza had helped him establishing some stable aspects of his life, but the path ahead continued to appear grim.

A long conversation with Bret appeared mandatory, but Khan didn't know if he felt ready to have it. His father had probably lied to him for years, so nothing could stop him from doing it again.

Khan silently accepted that he was nothing more than a kid immersed in a complicated world. His seven months in the army weren't enough to give him enough experience in everything that happened in the universe.

A conversation with his father right now wouldn't lead to anything. Khan had to grow as a man and soldier to face him properly, which required more experience and years.

Lieutenant Dyester had warned him about the secrets and details that the Global Army refused to disclose to the public. Khan had already decided to climb the ranks and gain enough clearance to gain access to those reports, but the matter appeared mandatory now.

The sadness in Khan's eyes intensified while he silently decided that remaining on alien planets was the quickest way to gain merits. Returning to Earth would only slow him down.

'I hope they will let me stay on Nitis,' Khan sighed in his mind as his eyes fell on the stunning Niqols who was trying to do everything in her power to improve his situation.

His life was a broken mess, but he had managed to find faint happiness inside it anyway. The issues involving the different species, cultures, and politics suddenly lost any meaning when Khan placed his situation next to Liiza's resolute face.

Those problems felt so pointless when he considered his problems. Khan wasn't even seventeen, but he had already seen enough to make all the political issues lose value in his mind. They were nothing more than petty things that the rest of the world held in high regard for reasons that he struggled to understand right now.

"What is it?" Liiza asked when she saw that Khan was lost in his thoughts. REaad updated stories at n/o/vel/bin(.)com

"I think I'm in love with your dress," Khan said in a calm voice.

Liiza blushed before complaining loudly. "And I was even worried about you!"

Liiza let go of Khan's wrist and turned to leave the forest, but she stopped and glanced back at him when she saw that he wasn't moving.

"Aren't you coming?" Liiza asked in a concerned tone.

"I was just looking at you," Khan smiled and walked toward her before taking her hand. "I don't have to return to the camp right away. Do you mind if we walk like this for a while?"

Liiza revealed a sweet smile and stared at Khan's eyes for a few seconds before nodding and clinging to his arm.

The two walked slowly toward the edges of the forest. They didn't speak nor hurry back. Khan didn't want to use his time left to go back to the intense kissing from last night. He felt the need to make the pieces of his life that he could trust solidify in his mind, and having Liiza next to him in those moments helped in ways that she couldn't imagine.

Snow and Liiza's Aduns were already waiting for the couple at the edge of the forest. The two eagles even looked away when the couple exchanged a long kiss and a meaningful stare before separating to jump on their rides.

The meeting with Zalpa had revealed more than just Khan's problems. The interaction between Liiza and the Niqols had shown what the couple already knew. Liiza and Khan's feelings were intensifying, and they both knew where they were going.

The flight back to the familiar mountains where the Aduns separated felt good. Khan forgot about his many problems as the wind blew in his face. He let Snow go crazy to experience the adrenaline generated by the reckless eagle, and his intense sensations suppressed the issues that afflicted his mind.

It felt good to be alive. Khan could experience so many wonderful things even if immense problems tried to devour him from the inside.

His father had probably lied to him for years, but how could he feel angry when he could fly freely across the sky?

The same Nak who had caused the Second Impact had saved his life before forcing him to experience years of nightmares. However, using mana felt good, and being strong was even better. Khan rejoiced whenever he performed a perfect execution. His confidence even increased after every victory or feat.

Could he even hate the Nak after discovering that part of his talent came from that tragedy? Khan didn't have a clear answer to that question, but he knew that his desperation wouldn't simply disappear. Yet, he could change how he approached that feeling. After all, he could train harder than others due to the mindset obtained after years of nightmares.

His experiences on Istrone had turned him into a murderer. Khan had killed mercilessly and had suffered from the all-devouring emptiness that the act had generated. However, his achievements in the rebellion had granted him access to Nitis and had allowed him to meet Liiza.

The good aspects of his life couldn't make him see his tragedies in a positive light, but they helped him deal with them. Khan had goals, things that he liked, and could still experience intense feelings. His efforts had to be on making sure that his pain didn't prevent him from appreciating what he had.

'I think I get it now,' Khan thought as he imagined to speak with Lieutenant Dyester. 'It's not about forgetting the bad or focusing only on the good. It's about acceptance.'

Life could suck, but it was worth living as long as he could pursue what he liked. It didn't matter if his interests only involved martial arts, aliens, flights, and Liiza. They were enough to keep his crumbled self into one piece, and he would do everything in his power to protect them.