D. Extraction 341

Chapter 341 Charm

Professor Zach Everette had, of course, noticed Vale's presence in the class. However, he simply nodded at Vale like they didn't have an unpleasant experience before.

Vale didn't mind it as he listened attentively to the class. He started to like their Alchemy Class, especially after he successfully created a simple potion that could extend the storage life of his Healing Water.

So he didn't really mind if the Professor had a bad relationship with him as long as they had good teaching skills.

Luckily, Professor Zach was indeed a good teacher.

After a few discussions, the class transferred to the laboratory to continue with their experiment. They would have to make the potion that Professor Zach taught them just now. It was quite fast, but it was also exciting for everyone.

As they entered the laboratory, Professor Zach instructed them to group into three to make this potion.

However, since Neil was missing, one group only had two members.

In the end, they were Vale and Leonore, who had somehow become partners because of Professor Zach's insistence.

"Alright… To start, we'll need a base of distilled water. Measure out precisely 200 milliliters and pour it into your cauldrons." Professor Zach said. He didn't have plans to show his alchemy skills and simply watched his students do what he instructed them.

Vale and Leonore carefully measured the water, ensuring accuracy, before pouring it into his cauldron.

Seeing everyone was following, Professor Zach continued. "Next, we'll add the dried treated chamomile flowers. Crush them gently to release their healing properties, and add two tablespoons to your cauldrons."

Several more instructions followed as the potion requires a total of 4 Supplementary Ingredients and 2 Main Ingredients.

Vale and Leonore worked together, enjoying the soothing aroma that filled the air as they made the potion.

Everyone continued to follow the instructions, and a sense of excitement filled the room. They observed the transformation of the potion, noting the color changes and the subtle shifts in energy.

Leonore whispered excitedly. "I can't wait to see the healing powers of this potion…"

Aubrey, who was beside them, wryly smiled as she commented. "Don't expect too much. This potion is very basic and can only cure minor injuries. It's nothing compared to the real potions of other Factions."

Chad nodded, his eyes gleaming with curiosity. "That's true… But this is just the start. We'll certainly learn other potions in this class."

"Well, you'll learn more if you select the Dark Alchemy Branch in your fourth year..." Vale commented as he waited for the ingredients to dissolve in the cauldron.

Professor Zach noticed that everyone had done great, and only the last step was missing.

"Lastly, we'll need to infuse the potion with your Dark Energy... Select a member of your team who will focus on channeling your Dark Energy into the potion. You have to remember to stop once you feel that the cauldron is filled with your Energy."

Everyone was aware of this last step since they already discussed this in the classroom. However, now that they are on this part, they hesitated about which of their team member should complete the last step.

"You can do it…" Vale gestured to Leonore, who seemed very excited.

"N-no… You can do it, Vale. I might ruin the potion." She replied with a bit of nervousness in her tone.

"You can do it… Just go ahead." Vale said as there might be a different effect if he did it. After all, he had a mixed energy inside his body, especially after he activated his Meridian Access.

Perhaps he would try it later once he was alone.

"Fine… Let me do it."

After a few more encouraging words, Leonore was finally convinced.

She went on ahead and put her palm on top of the cauldron before she closed her eyes, visualizing her Dark Energy and gathering them on her palms…

After that, she continued infusing the Dark Energy, hoping to bring relief and well-being to the potion she was making. Of course, while making the potion, her intention or thoughts may not matter to the result, but she still felt that she must do this with all her heart.

"Well done, everyone! Your Second Breath Potion is complete. Take a small vial, carefully ladle your potion into it, and label it with your names." Professor Zach said as he looked at the students with a gentle smile on his face.

'I guess this approach is better than getting on Vale's wrong side.' Professor Zach Everette thought to himself.

Unaware of his thoughts, Vale and Leonore carefully transferred the potion into a vial, feeling a sense of accomplishment.

As the class concluded, Vale and his friends had even gathered to compare their potions out of excitement.

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Their days in the Academy peacefully continued like this, even after several months.

Perhaps there was only one person in the Academy who had been restless over the past few months…

It was Professor Gale Evans.

Gale Evans was a beautiful and seductive woman who worked as a professor in the Academy. She had long silver hair, blue eyes, and a curvy and voluptuous body.

In her office, she wore a tight red dress and high heels, and a pair of glasses on her nose. She taught the subject of Soul Path and Dark Arcane Enchantment, which was the art of creating and using mystical items in the sixth-year and seventh-year classes of the Dark Magic Branch and Rituals Branch.

She was also a master of charm spells, which was the art of influencing and manipulating the emotions and thoughts of others, but she wasn't teaching a subject related to this spell.

Anyway, she had a special interest in Vale Chambers and had been observing him over the past few months. She had been impressed by his talent and potential in various fields of Dark Arts. Well, she had also been attracted by his appearance and personality, which were different from the other students.

"He's really impressive…" Professor Evans muttered to herself as she licked her lips. She was reading the news about Vale, where it stated that he had just passed the Acceleration Exam of another subject. It was the Intermediate Spirit Law!

Chapter 342 Foreboding

As Professor Gale Evans continued to read about Vale Chambers' achievements, her curiosity and interest in him grew. She couldn't deny the strong connection she felt towards him, both intellectually and physically.

However, she was aware of the professional boundaries between a professor and a student, making her internal struggle even more intense.

"Vale… Are you related to that Lightning Strike that happened at our Academy a few months ago?" Gale muttered to herself as she kept recalling how a strange phenomenon was triggered in the Academy, leading to the descent of a strange lightning.

Furthermore, this lightning resulted in the Thunder Emperor's and the Previous Headmaster's appearance in the Academy. What was even more terrifying was that the Elite, and perhaps the Legendary Bounty Hunter of the World of Mysticism, was also attracted by that strange lightning.

She had a strange feeling that Vale was related to this event. To be exact, it was probably related to the Soul-Bonding Method that he tried learning from her.

Unfortunately, she could not prove it unless she got Vale to confess.

***

Days turned into weeks, and Professor Evans found herself unable to resist the desire to get to know Vale on a deeper level. She decided to approach the situation with caution, mindful of the potential consequences. One evening, after the day's classes had concluded, she lingered in her office, contemplating her next move.

'I need to do something…'

Deep in thought, Professor Evans reached for her collection of Ancient and Forbidden Spellbooks, searching for a solution that would allow her to explore her feelings without compromising her professional integrity.

When she previously charmed Vale, she actually felt a strong resistance from him. She could only overpower him at that time since Vale didn't seem to have control over his defense. However, that may be different now.

Vale would surely become cautious of her and not allow himself to be at her mercy again.

In addition to that, she also had to do something with the Dark Spirit that was intelligent enough to act on its own and protect Vale…

That Dark Spirit had truly wasted such a perfect opportunity for her.

Flip… Flip… Flip

As she flipped through the pages, her eyes fell upon a forgotten spell—a spell of Shared Dreams.

This Spell wasn't on the list of Forbidden Spells, but since it's not a popular Spell that could commonly be used, it was basically forgotten, and no one bothered learning it.

Intrigued by the possibilities, Professor Evans delved into the Spell's intricacies, studying the requirements and potential outcomes. The Spell had the power to create a shared dream experience between two individuals, allowing them to connect on a subconscious level and explore their deepest desires and emotions in a safe and controlled environment.

Her heart started beating faster as she continued reading the page.

'This is it…' She silently thought while her eyes were glued to the book.

The more she read, the more convinced she became that this Spell could provide the opportunity she sought—to understand Vale on a profound level without overstepping boundaries or jeopardizing their positions within the Academy… or at the very least, that is what it appears outside.

"Ha ha…" Professor Evans couldn't help but chuckle as she realized how good this Spell was.

Once Vale fell asleep, his natural defense would undoubtedly be weaker, and she would have a perfect opportunity! What was even better was that Dark Spirits could never stop this kind of Spell at all!

With a newfound determination, Professor Evans prepared for the ritual to start Recording the Spell. It will be very difficult since she found out that it requires 2 Spell Lights to record this Spell.

It means that she had to be very careful since if she damaged any of her Spell Lights, it would take her a very long time to recover and delay her plans.

'It won't be long, Vale…' Professor Gale Evans muttered as she closed the book.

***

It was a typical day at the Academy, and Vale found himself engrossed in practicing Touchless Extractions… Of course, on the surface, it seemed that he was only practicing his Ghost Hands Spell.

As Vale stood in the training room, he focused his energy, channeling it through his fingertips. His classmates, Lisa Grayback, Aubrey Hall, and Chad Bulmung, were also present, each engrossed in their own magical practices nearby. They rent one big room to practice their Spells today since it would be cheaper and more efficient since they get to use a huge practice area for themselves.

Anyway, Vale wasn't 'Extracting' his classmates, but he was simply practicing to shorten the delay of his System Notifications. After all, the System Notification would only appear in 4 to 6 seconds once he touched his target using his Ghost Hands… It was too long, and he was trying to find a way to shorten it.

Vale's mind wandered momentarily as his Ghost Hands began executing random but seemingly complicated movements. But as he closed his eyes, a sudden wave of unease washed over him. It felt like a premonition, a warning of something ominous on the horizon.

Unsettled by the sensation, Vale paused for a moment, trying to shake off the feeling.

'Is that my ESP Spell working?' Vale thought to himself.

"Is something wrong, Vale?" Lisa asked, noticing his sudden change in demeanor.

Vale forced a smile and replied. "Oh, it's nothing. Just a passing thought. I'll get back to practicing."

Determined to push aside his concerns, Vale resumed his training. He focused his concentration, visualizing the target he intended to extract... It was Lisa who was on his opposite side.

She was also practicing her Dark Spells as she tried removing one of Vale's Ghost Hands by using her Darkness Manipulation.

Poof!

Vale's Ghost Hands suddenly exploded, giving Lisa a scare. She wasn't injured but was surprised by the sudden destruction of his Ghost Hands.

"What happened, Vale? Are you alright?" Lisa asked as she noticed that something was off with Vale today.

Vale took a deep breath as he shook his head. "I'm fine, just a minor mishap. I must have lost focus for a moment."

As the group confirmed that he was fine, they all returned to practice.

On the other hand, Vale couldn't shake off the persistent feeling of foreboding. He wondered if this bad feeling earlier was bothering him to this extent. Despite his curiosity, he resolved to continue with his daily routine, hoping it was simply a coincidence.

Chapter 343 Dream

As the end of the Academic Year drew near, Vale's anticipation for his third year at the Arcane Academy grew with each passing day. He had immersed himself in his classes, soaking up knowledge like a sponge, but it was the Magic Circle Fundamentals Class that had truly captivated him.

Yes, it was the Class that Professor Morton was teaching.

One sunny afternoon, Vale and his friends gathered in the courtyard, discussing their plans for the upcoming academic year.

Aubrey, always full of enthusiasm, exclaimed.

"I can't wait to delve into the Advanced Applications of Magic Zone! I really want to control my magic zone to any shape like how Professor Harrison does it. There's also the Enchantments… I'm sure they'll be very interesting to learn."

Lisa, known for her curiosity and love for experimentation, chimed in.

"I'm more interested in exploring Ancient Rituals. They hold the key to unlocking forgotten powers, and I want to be at the forefront of that discovery."

Chad, the practical and methodical thinker of the group, added.

"While enchantments and rituals are fascinating, I believe mastering Weapon Sealing Circles will give us an edge. Imagine being able to seal the negative aspects of our mystical items… It will be safer for us to use our Contribution Points for Mystical Items in the Exchange Hall."

Vale nodded, listening intently to his friends' aspirations. Since these things would be difficult to learn outside the Academy, he couldn't help but realize that he truly needed to stay here. Furthermore, there was also the Spell Fusion Class in the 8th-year to the 10th-year classes that he could possibly learn if he stayed here for that long.

A surge of excitement coursed through his veins, and he said with a smile… "I want to explore all of those areas."

"But I can't help but wonder if there's something even more extraordinary waiting for us in the depths of the Academy…" Vale said mysteriously as he recalled his book with Forbidden Spells and the existence of the Planar Spells and Celestials. There was also the Stormbringer, which was filled with mystery.

As his understanding of the mysterious sword deepened, he discovered that the Three Paragons may not be some sort of imagination but real beings that had once existed in this mortal world. This belief had strengthened a lot after he placed the recovering Golden Pocketwatch together with the Stormbringer together.

'I should really stay in the Academy to learn more about it…'

Vale's eyes suddenly widened as he reached this thought.

'Wait… Am I being influenced by my missing Shadow now?' Vale shuddered at this thought… For some reason, he found that his recent thoughts of staying in the Academy might have something to do with the Headmaster's subtle influence on his Shadow!

"What do you mean, Vale? Do you have something specific in mind?" Lisa asked as she raised an eyebrow, intrigued.

Vale paused for a moment as he gathered his thoughts. He recalled their conversation as he carefully chose his words.

"Aren't you from the Library Committee? I've heard rumors of a hidden section in the Academy's library filled with ancient texts and forbidden knowledge. I can't help but wonder what secrets lie within those pages." He answered.

Lisa gently nodded.

"That makes sense… I haven't been to the third floor or the fourth floor. That is where they're probably keeping such knowledge."

Aubrey's eyes widened, her curiosity piqued. "Forbidden knowledge? That sounds risky but incredibly thrilling. Unfortunately, it won't be easy to learn them."

"You probably have to sell your soul to the Academy for that…" She added with a laugh.

Chad, ever the cautious one, nodded. "Indeed… Forbidden Spells or knowledge often comes with consequences."

As the group continued their animated discussion, their excitement for the future grew. They exchanged ideas, speculated on potential challenges, and shared their dreams of becoming powerful Arcanists.

It was in these conversations that their individual paths began to intertwine, forging a bond that would carry them through the trials and triumphs of their magical education.

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Professor Evans was reading a book in her office near the Dark Soul Tower.

After a few moments, she closed the book and looked at the time.

Seeing that the time was ripe, she began her ritual.

She already gathered the necessary ingredients and materials for this attempt.

She had also learned the Shared Dream Spell Model a few days ago.

However, she still had to perform a ritual to ensure that Vale's defenses wouldn't stop her plan.

Soon, she performed the intricate incantations, channeling her own Dark Energy and Desires into the Spell Model to complete the ritual.

'I must do this in one try…' Professor Evans thought as her eyes were filled with determination.

Finally, as she felt that her ritual was enough, she cast the Shared Dream Spell, directing it towards Vale, who was at the edge of her Magic Zone, hoping he would be receptive to the shared dream experience.

It didn't take long before she lay asleep on the ground.

***

That night, as Vale lay in bed, his mind drifted into a realm of dreams.

Unbeknownst to him, Professor Evans' Spell had taken effect, forging a connection between their subconscious minds.

In the dream realm, they found themselves in a serene forest, bathed in moonlight.

Walking through the dream together, Professor Gale Evans and Vale engaged in deep conversations, exploring not only their shared passions for the Dark Arts but also their desires, fears, and the depths of their souls.

Almost all of their secrets were revealed in this dream, but the Professor wasn't satisfied with that.

'Something's wrong...' Professor Evans thought to herself as she realized that there was a huge part of Vale that she couldn't uncover no matter what she did.

Nevertheless, she decided not to do anything too suspicious, or Vale might stop cooperating.

'This is more difficult than I thought'

She could only give up unveiling Vale's deepest secrets and continued to condition his mind.

They laughed, they debated, and they discovered new facets of each other's personalities. It was a profound and intimate experience that allowed them to connect on a level beyond the boundaries of their academic roles!

As the dreamscape began to fade, Professor Evans and Vale found themselves back in their own rooms, waking up with a mix of confusion and intrigue.

The shared dream had left a lasting impression on both of them, sparking a newfound understanding and curiosity about their connection.

As Vale recalled what had happened, he shuddered in fear as his back was filled with sweat.

"That's not me..." He softly muttered.

Chapter 344 Confrontation

"That's not me..." Vale softly muttered, his voice tinged with a mix of confusion and unease. The vivid memories of the dream were still fresh in his mind.

He couldn't shake off the lingering sense of disconnection.

The intimate moments and profound conversations they shared in the dream felt foreign to him as if he had been a mere observer of his own actions. It was as though someone else had taken the reins of his consciousness, guiding him through the dreamscape.

Vale held his head as if it would help him think of what had happened.

"Not good…"

As Vale tried to make sense of it all, a wave of anxiety washed over him. The realization that he had been an unwitting participant in this shared dream left him questioning his own identity and the boundaries of his own thoughts.

'If it's not me, then that's…' Vale had an idea what had happened, but he shook his head. There was no way that the real Kyle still existed… After he took over this body, he never felt any signs of its owner.

However, he couldn't just ignore the strange feeling he had.

"I felt... different," Vale admitted to himself, his voice barely above a whisper.

"I had no control over my own actions. What if the dream revealed a hidden side of me that I didn't know existed? Darkness Possession? No... Is there still another soul inside me?"

Doubts plagued his mind as he grappled with the unsettling notion that perhaps the dream had unveiled a part of him he had suppressed or ignored.

The fear of losing control and succumbing to the unknown thing gnawed at his core.

It took him a long time to calm down as he decided not to overthink his dream for now. He felt a headache just by thinking about it.

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On the next day, as soon as Vale woke up, he checked the seal of his Golden Pocketwatch. It was kept hidden in his wardrobe under his clothes.

'Tsk…'

Vale immediately stepped back as he felt that his Stormbringer had started reacting on the golden pocketwatch.

'Should I also use my Soul-Bonding Method on the Pocketwatch?' Vale thought to himself before closing the wardrobe.

He already confirmed that the seal was fine and didn't require any more sealing. Based on his observations, the Golden Pocketwatch was regaining its powers faster and faster.

Before, he only needed to seal it every three months. Then it changed to every two months and over the past few weeks, he realized that he might do it every month from now on.

Anyway, Vale continued his routine as he cleaned himself before going out to have breakfast.

Since there were no classes today, he considered visiting the Club Room afterward. However, as he was having his meal, he saw Professor Gale Evans in the corner of his eyes. She had already attracted a lot of attention since she was certainly one of the most attractive professors in the Academy.

Some students started having conversations about how they wanted to be together with Professor Evans, even if it was only in their dreams.

At this point, Vale couldn't help but recall what had happened in his dreams last night.

"About that dream… Is it a premonition? Did she bring me to her dreams? Or perhaps it's the desire of the previous Kyle?" Vale shook his head as he felt that the last part was a ridiculous thought. The previous Kyle would never have a chance of encountering the Professor.

It means that the dream he had was probably his own or influenced by the Professor.

'Is there even a spell to make us meet in our dreams?' Vale thought to himself as he considered the possibility. In this world of mysticism, there wouldn't be any surprise if the Professor could really do that…

Perhaps the Professor noticed his gaze as she actually turned her head to look at Vale's direction and gave him a gentle smile before she left completely.

Of course, there were other students beside him, so many of them also considered the possibility that it was them being eyed by the Professor.

Vale heard their excitement, but he just sighed at this and continued eating.

After a while, Vale started hesitating about what to do… He was afraid that that dream would happen once again, and this time, his secrets might be revealed to her. He had a strange feeling that revealing his secret in his dream would also let the Professor know about it.

'I need to get to the bottom of this…' Vale silently thought. He was now filled with determination. He would confront Professor Gale Evans.

'I'm not sure if the Professor influenced my dream… It's better to ask her… However, I need to make some preparations.'

He knows very well that confronting the Professor might be a trap. If he failed to resist her charm, Yvaine may no longer choose to protect him.

Vale made his way to the Contribution Points Exchange Hall, scanning the shelves filled with mystical items or artifacts.

His eyes fell upon a small amulet, shimmering with a protective aura. The description indicated that it granted immunity to Charm Spells or any Mind-Controlling Spells for a limited time. According to the book, the strength of the amulet relies on the user's Spirit Strands, which is the perfect item for him.

Although the Professor had an effective way to bypass his defenses, Vale had confidence that he had a higher Spirit Strands than her.

Drawing on his accumulated Contribution Points, Vale exchanged them for the Enigma Amulet for 10 Contribution Points.

It was that expensive since it was a Low-Grade Noble Rank Item…

'I can't believe I'm using my hard-earned Contribution Points for this.' Vale thought to himself as he received the amulet.

As he fastened it around his neck, a surge of reassurance washed over him. He knew he had taken the necessary steps to safeguard his mind and emotions.

With the protective amulet in place, Vale finally felt ready to seek answers from Professor Gale Evans.

Well, with the addition of his strong Phantasm State, Arcane Armor, and Spell Dispersion, he believes that he would be fully protected against her.

Soon, he approached the Professor's office, still wary but determined to uncover the truth behind that strange dream.

Knocking on the door, Vale entered the Professor's office.

Professor Evans looked up, her eyes meeting Vale's with a mixture of curiosity and warmth. However, Vale noticed a flicker of surprise in her expression, as if she had expected a different reaction from him.

Chapter 345 No Wonder

Inside the grand chambers of the Church of the Three Paragons, the Three Cardinals gathered around a large, ornate table.

Cardinal Sophia, the wise and perceptive leader, Cardinal Lucius, the charismatic and persuasive diplomat, and Cardinal Marcus, the stalwart and courageous warrior, exchanged concerned glances as they contemplated the recent turn of events.

The failure of the Thunder Emperor to retrieve the Divine Sword from Vermont Academy weighed heavily on their minds.

What was even more troubling was the fact that the Headmaster of the Vermont Academy used some sort of manipulation spell on the Thunder Emperor, making him like a puppet under his control.

The Academy had completely thwarted their plans, leaving them no closer to obtaining the powerful relic.

Cardinal Sophia, her voice filled with determination, broke the silence. "We've got all the reports about the Mountain Bandit's condition. Jean Hoffman, the Headmaster of Vermont Academy, has proven to be a formidable adversary. Not killing that Bandit was such a great move… We underestimated his cunning and influence. I thought he would only be as strong as that old Charles."

She paused momentarily as she looked at the other two's expressions before continuing. "But we cannot let this setback deter us from our ultimate goal. The Divine Sword must not fall into the wrong hands."

Cardinal Lucius, his eyes ablaze with fervor, nodded in agreement. "Indeed, we must adapt our strategy. The Headmaster's control over the Thunder Emperor, or that Bandit, is a grave concern. I think we should try and regain control of him. Jean might be expecting this to happen, so we have to be careful. We can't just kill the Mountain Bandit since he should still possess vital information about the location of the Divine Sword."

Cardinal Marcus, his grip tightening on the hilt of his staff, spoke with conviction. "I will assemble a team of our most skilled operatives. We shall infiltrate Mountain Bandit's base, rescue that foolish person… Then, we'll reclaim the Divine Sword with our full force. If we have to flatten the Vermont Academy, we must do it."

Cardinal Sophia hesitated, but she still nodded. "Yes, but we must proceed with caution. The Academy's defenses are formidable, and the Headmaster's influence runs deep. Isaac was also a big problem. We've tried buying information about him, but it's not going well."

The Three Cardinals exchanged nods, their resolve unyielding. They knew that their quest to retrieve the Divine Sword was not only crucial for the Church's cause but also for the balance of power between the Five Churches and the Twelve Arcane Factions.

Cardinal Sophia thought for a moment before outlining the plan in her mind. "We will gather intelligence, we can consider recruiting allies within the Academy, and strike when the time is right. The Headmaster's hold over the Mountain Bandit must be broken, and the Divine Sword must be secured. Our operatives shall be prepared for any challenge that lies ahead."

As the Cardinals dispersed, each taking on their respective roles in the intricate web of their mission, a sense of determination and anticipation filled the air.

They knew that the path ahead would be treacherous, but they were unwavering in their commitment to retrieve what was rightfully theirs.

Of course, they also kept cursing the Masked Devil, who had completely disappeared after the incident. As a matter of fact, the three of them were already suspecting that the Masked Devil was actually the Headmaster of the Academy, but none of them dared to mention this yet.

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In the meantime, Isaac Vermont, unaware of the Church's renewed determination, was getting bored. Jean asked him a favor to guard the base of the Thunder Emperor while he returned to the Academy.

He was watching over Thunder Emperor's movement for several months… However, the people who had hired this person had never appeared.

"I guess this bait is not working, huh… Should I make my move?" Isaac muttered to himself.

However, after some thought, he immediately shook his head. He knows that the Secret Organization, or whoever was behind the Thunder Emperor, would soon make their move.

He just had to be patient.

Unfortunately, even after several weeks had passed, the enemies did not make their move.

"I underestimated their caution," Isaac muttered, frustration evident in his voice.

"But I mustn't let impatience cloud my judgment. They will reveal themselves soon, and when they do, I will be waiting." He said as he comfortably reclined on his chair.

After another day had passed, Isaac realized that he had to do something…

'The Church should have three Ancient Relics of the Three Paragons… They don't have the pocketwatch and lost possession of the divine sword. As for the third item…'

Isaac's eyes lit up as he finally understood what he should do.

He sent his subordinates to find out about this item.

While he had little personal interest in the items left by the Three Paragons, he recognized their significance as potential sources of information about the Church's plans and the Secret Organization's motives.

Soon, he got hold of rumors and whispers within the underworld that hinted at the existence of the third Divine Item, known as the Creation Ring.

It was indeed not in possession of the Church, and they were also searching for it. The one their Pontiff wore seemed to be just a replica of the original Creation Ring.

Its powers were said to be shrouded in mystery, capable of granting unimaginable abilities to its wielder. Isaac knew that uncovering the secrets of this ring could provide invaluable insights into the plans of both the Church and the Secret Organization.

"Creation Ring…" Isaac muttered.

With renewed determination, he dispatched his informants to scour ancient texts, hidden archives, and underground markets in search of any leads on the Creation Ring.

It was a race against time as the Cardinals of the Church continued their preparations, unaware of Isaac's shift in focus.

Days turned into weeks, and Isaac's informants finally unearthed a cryptic clue about the whereabouts of the Creation Ring.

"No wonder Jean wanted Vale to participate in that deadly competition…"

Chapter 346 Longing

After Isaac heard about the clue that his team found out, he couldn't help but recall Jean's plans to send Vale to the competition, specifically, the Arcane Trial Tower Contest, which was part of the Twelve Academies Competition.

It turns out that the Creation Ring might be one of the rewards to be given to the winner of this contest!

He had agreed to help Jean change the Twelve Academies Competition's requirements for a different reason. It turns out that Jean had deeper plans than him.

He couldn't help but smile at this. He didn't mind that Jean was keeping secrets from him…

He understood fully well that Jean wouldn't be the Headmaster just because of his talent as a Dark Magician. It was because of his cautious behavior, capability to read people, and connections that run deeply.

Without these skills, Jean would not become a Headmaster this early.

'I guess I should just let him continue with his plans. However, isn't this a bit too risky? Is he betting it all on Vale's talent? That boy can still lose or even die in that contest.' Isaac thought for a moment as he tried recalling Vale's skills.

Although he had to admit that Vale had great potential, he couldn't imagine that Vale would dominate that contest, especially if no other students had ever completed the Arcane Trial Tower, not even the ninth-year or tenth-year students of other Academies!

Isaac shook his head as he decided not to overthink this. Jean must have his plans. Perhaps the Dark Spells of the Malefic Branch was the key to conquering that Tower.

In the end, he just decided to continue with his job. He sat comfortably on his chair, waiting for the Secret Organization to rescue or silence the Thunder Emperor.

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In the meantime, Vale found himself in an awkward position inside Professor Gale Evans' office.

"Professor Evans… That dream last night. Was it your doing?" Vale asked as he entered the room. His Phantasm State was active, and his Spell Dispersion was ready to release in case he found something off.

This Professor knows a way to bypass his defenses, and he couldn't be too careful when meeting her.

"Dream? Ahh… Are you fantasizing about me even in your dreams? I didn't know you'd be so naughty, Vale." Professor Evans said as if she had no idea what that dream was.

To be honest, if Vale wasn't an "observer" of that dream and was really the one chatting and laughing with her in that dream, he would probably be infatuated with her or succumbed to her charm.

Vale squinted his eyes as he tried to see if the Professor was just messing around. There was no way he would believe that Professor Evans had nothing to do with that dream. It was too suspicious, and that dream was too detailed in his memory. He never had such a vivid dream until then.

'She's playing innocent?' Vale thought to himself.

For now, he just wanted to know if she made that other 'Vale' inside the dream to mess with his mind or if that person in his dream was actually the leftover soul of the previous Kyle.

He wanted to know if there was still a "Kyle" inside him once and for all!

Of course, if the truth wasn't in any two, he would gladly take it as long as he knew what was really going on inside him.

"Vale… Are you only here to ask that question? Or do you want to continue from where we left off?" She asked with a teasing smile on her. She even started unbuttoning her coat while looking at him.

This time, Vale realized that this Professor wouldn't really admit what she had done. Perhaps she could also tell that her intention to make him submissive and closer in that dream had really failed.

That was why she was a bit surprised when she saw him enter the office calmly in the first place.

Vale's suspicions grew as Professor Gale Evans' playful demeanor shifted into something more dangerous. Her true intentions began to reveal themselves, and it became clear that she had ulterior motives.

"Vale, my dear," Professor Evans purred, her voice dripping with seduction. "You possess a power that I could use to further my own ambitions. You could also use me to get stronger. Join me, and together, we can unlock a level of Arcane Art that exceeds anything you could achieve on your own."

Vale's heart pounded in his chest as he listened to her enticing words. The idea of gaining unparalleled strength under Professor Evans' tutelage was tempting. He felt a strange attraction to her offer, his mind clouded by the promise of power.

Just as Vale was about to give in to Professor Evans' persuasion, his Enigma Amulet, the mystical item he had recently taken from the Exchange Hall, began to glow with an intense light. It pulsed with energy, clearing his mind and reminding him of the danger he was facing.

Realizing that he was being manipulated without his Spell Dispersion being triggered, Vale took a step back, his expression hardening with determination.

He couldn't allow himself to be trapped by Professor Evans' selfish desires.

'Again with that strange Charm Spell… How come I'm completely helpless on that?' Vale gritted his teeth as he held the amulet tightly. Once activated, the amulet could only last for 10 minutes. It could even be shorter, depending on the strength of the Spell it was dealing with.

He needed to get away.

"I'm sorry, Professor Evans, but I can't accept your offer," Vale said firmly as he started leaving. Since he couldn't get an answer from the Professor, staying here was no point.

'I won't allow myself to be used for your personal gain.' Vale thought to himself as he shrouded himself with his Spell.

Professor Evans' charming facade cracked, her eyes narrowing with a mix of frustration and anger.

She had painstakingly used her 2 Spell Lights to use that Shared Dream Spell, but it had actually failed to make her closer to Vale!

"You dare reject me? You foolish boy! I have the power to make you great, to shape your destiny!" Professor Gale shouted.

Each of her words created a buzz inside Vale's head as he felt Gale's charm getting stronger and stronger.

Vale's grip tightened on his Enigma Amulet as he took a cautious step towards the door to escape.

"I refuse to be a pawn in your game, Professor. Find someone else to fool around…"

With that, Vale fully activated his Spell Dispersion before he turned and fled from Professor Evans' office, leaving behind the allure of power and the dangerous temptations that she represented.

As Vale raced through the corridors of the Academy, he couldn't shake off the lingering feeling of betrayal, danger… and longing for the Professor's embrace.

His body was filled with cold sweat as he realized that the Professor had still affected his mind, even with all of his preparations.

He then shifted his attention to his amulet and realized that there was already a huge crack in its middle!

Just like that, his Mystical Item worth 10 Contribution Points was destroyed!

Chapter 347 Idea

Vale's heart raced with a mix of fear and confusion as he hurriedly made his way to the Headmaster's Office.

There was no way he would just forget about this incident and go on with his life. Professor Evans was just too much!

He needed to seek guidance from Headmaster Jean about Professor Gale Evans' aggressive behavior and the dangerous hold she had over him. Since his mystical item had already been damaged, he had to make an assurance that he wouldn't just get charmed by the Professor without his knowledge.

As he entered the office, Vale found Headmaster Jean seated behind his desk, engrossed in a stack of papers. Sensing Vale's presence, he looked up, his eyes filled with curiosity.

"Vale, what brings you here?" Headmaster Jean asked, his voice gentle yet authoritative.

Taking a deep breath to steady himself, Vale recounted the events that had transpired with Professor Evans. He explained the manipulative tactics, the allure of power, and the lingering effect it had on his mind, even after his escape.

Headmaster Jean listened attentively, his expression growing increasingly grave as Vale spoke. When Vale finished, the Headmaster leaned back in his chair, his fingers steepled in thought.

"I apologize for what you've experienced, Vale. It seems that Professor Evans has crossed a line." Headmaster Jean said, his voice tinged with regret. "I will personally address this matter and ensure that such behavior is not tolerated within our Academy."

Relief washed over Vale as he realized that Headmaster Jean was taking his concerns seriously. He had placed his trust in the right person.

As Vale left the office, a faint smirk played across Jean's face.

Unbeknownst to Vale, Headmaster Jean had been aware of Professor Evans' actions all along. He may not have orchestrated the entire scenario, but he had allowed it to happen as a test to gauge Vale's resilience and discernment in the face of manipulation.

Deep in thought, Headmaster Jean pondered Vale's next steps. If Vale were still affected by Gale's scent, it would be challenging for him to conquer the Arcane Tower, a formidable challenge that he needed to win in the Twelve Academy Competition.

Determined to help Vale overcome this obstacle, for his own greed, Headmaster Jean considered a dangerous mission that could test his abilities further.

"I have no other choice… This is for your own growth." Headmaster Jean muttered to himself.

After careful consideration, he decided to send Vale on a mission during the break before the new Academic Year started.

The mission would not only test Vale's skills but also provide him with an opportunity to grow, both as a Dark Spellcaster and as an individual… or at least, this was what he was hoping to happen.

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After a few days, when Headmaster Jean completed his preparations, he decided to visit Vale inside his room to break the news of his mission. In any case, this would involve something that he really wanted, so he could guarantee that Vale would do anything to get assigned to this mission.

"Hmm?" Jean raised his brow as he felt a strong force blocking his entry into his room.

It caught him by surprise, and he wasn't mad about it.

It took him a few seconds, but he managed to forcefully enter Vale's room. Then, he suddenly felt a strong killing intent sweeping over his whole body, which was still shrouded with Darkness.

Since it came to this, Headmaster Jean decided to just continue with the act.

'Let's see what you got…' Jean thought as he tried looking for Vale.

However, before he could even locate Vale's position within the room, he suddenly felt that the Darkness around him was being stripped away!

This alarmed him for a moment as he expected Vale to attack using strong offensive Dark Spells or even use his Dark Spirit. The sudden suction or removal of the Darkness Energy caught him by surprise.

Nevertheless, it wasn't enough to make him reveal himself. This action even revealed Vale's position.

'Let's try to use Shadow Soldier Spell on him… Let's see how he'll react.' Jean mused as he triggered his Shadow Soldier Spell.

However, for some reason, the Shadow Soldier refused to come out of Vale's Shadow!

That's right. It refused to go out, or perhaps it couldn't go out!

'How is he doing it?' Jean thought to himself… He could tell that the Spell had activated, and the Vale's shadow was already squirming.

Jean then recalled Vale's Dark Spirit and realized that it was probably the one causing trouble.

'What a strong Dark Spirit…'

Soon, he felt Vale gathering a frightening amount of Dark Energy as if he was ready to surrender his life just to defeat him!

"Stop! It's me, Headmaster Jean…" Jean immediately said and revealed himself, afraid that Vale would harm himself.

"So it was you, Headmaster. I thought it was Professor Evans getting her revenge after you scolded her." Vale replied with a smirk on his face.

Jean simply waved his hand as he decided to forget about this matter.

"I came here to give you a good news. I heard from Professor Zara, Mark, and Cyrus about your request to get access to some corpses of humans or Arcanists. They asked me for permission since they were afraid that it might harm you… Don't think badly of them since they were just looking out for you. They even canceled their arrangements to have you fight against their Fourth-Year Students for your sake..." Jean said with a smile.

"They canceled the arrangements?" Vale wryly smiled at this. "In any case, I don't mind even if they consult you about it, Headmaster. Are you going to give me access now? Where are they?" Vale asked with a hint of excitement.

If the class started once again, he would probably have to wait for another year before he gets a chance to extract corpses.

One year without any Extraction felt so disastrous!

"Yes… I made special permission for you to enter the Dark Soul Tower of the Necromancy Branch! You'll get plenty of corpses there!" Headmaster Jean replied with a creepy smile that was familiar to Vale.

"Dark Soul Tower?" Vale frowned as he felt that his intention to look for corpses was being misunderstood by the Headmaster and those three Professors.

If the Necromancers were using that place, the Tower might be filled with Undead and Spirits, instead of corpses! What he needed was fresh corpses, or at least those that were well-preserved since the quality of his extractions would deteriorate if the corpses were badly damaged.

Headmaster Jean noticed Vale's frown, so he chuckled and explained.

"Don't worry… It will be filled with fresh corpses from ordinary humans, including Dark Arcanists… You just need to reach the third floor."

Chapter 348 Convinced

"The third floor?" Vale's excitement was tinged with a hint of concern as he had already heard rumors about this Dark Soul Tower, thanks to Chad Bulmung, who was always up to date with the latest news around the Academy.

The thought of encountering undead and spirits instead of the well-preserved corpses he needed troubled him.

Even if there were corpses in that Tower that he could extract, he knew that the quality of his extractions would suffer if they were badly damaged.

Vale hesitated for a moment as he carefully chose his words. Although he was quite interested in this Dark Soul Tower, he must make his priority clear.

"Headmaster Jean, I appreciate the opportunity, but I must emphasize the importance of obtaining well-preserved corpses." He spoke with a determined tone, hoping to clarify his intentions.

"Ahem… My Dark Spirit also needed to replenish her energy, and quality directly affects her recovery. Even if they aren't fresh, well-preserved bodies are crucial."

Vale wryly smiled as he couldn't believe he was having such a conversation with the Headmaster. It feels like he was some sort of gourmet trying to negotiate with the best quality ingredients out there.

Headmaster Jean nodded understandingly, realizing the significance of Vale's request.

"I understand your concerns, Vale. I assure you that the Dark Soul Tower will have a designated section with the necessary resources. You will find well-preserved corpses of ordinary humans and Dark Arcanists on the third floor. I can guarantee that… If you're not satisfied, I will allow you to take any one of the items inside my secret basement."

"Secret Basement? That one with… Immortal Corpses and Immortal Item?" Vale asked. He knows the value of anything that was inside the basement. Even the stone beds where the corpses lay were extremely precious in his eyes.

"That's right. Are you still doubting me?" Jean asked with a confident smile on his face.

Relieved by the Headmaster's assurance, Vale's frown eased.

"No, Headmaster. I will make the necessary preparations and get this done with utmost care."

"Good… You only need to clear the third floor. Don't think about entering the fourth floor, as I won't be able to save you there."

"I understand, Headmaster… But may I know what's on the fourth floor?"

"Just think of it as a place where only Necromancers could survive. You don't have the Passive Ability of Necromancers called Enduring Body that lets them resist the power of Corruption so you'll die the moment you step into that floor... " Headmaster Jean quickly replied.

"Hmm?" Vale raised his brows as he looked at the Headmaster carefully. "The fourth floor has the power of Corruption?"

"That's right. The first floor is the Labyrinth of the Dead. The second floor is the Chamber of Illusions. The third floor is the Hall of Shadows, and the fourth floor is the Jail of Corruption. As for the fifth and sixth floor, you'll get to learn it if you decide to enter the Necromancy Branch."

"I won't become a Necromancer, Headmaster. They look too creepy for me. Ahem… I mean, Necromancers had this strange aura that made them easily identified on the outside. I want to be like a normal citizen, Headmaster." Vale replied.

Headmaster Jean just shook his head as he explained what Vale should do in the Tower.

Well, the possible corpses that Vale could extract weren't the main thing why the Headmaster decided to send him to the Tower.

Headmaster Jean wanted him to train his Magic Zone in that place… He wanted to strengthen his Phantasm State since that was the only way he could defend against Professor Evan's charm in the future.

"Headmaster, are you telling me that I have a weak Phantasm State?" Vale asked in surprise.

"Not exactly. You have a strong Phantasm State in terms of its duration and range. However, it was only a single layer of protection. You have to learn the layered Magic Zone, and you can learn it inside the Tower… Well, you have at least 10 to 15 percent chance of learning it." Headmaster Jean added.

Vale seriously noted this as Professor Evans was indeed a threat to him. He also recalled Sherman, the Elite Bounty Hunter that he couldn't penetrate with his inspection spells, like Spirit Vision and Divine Sense.

Perhaps Sherman was actually using a multi-layered Magic Zone, so he was unable to use his Divine Sense against him!

'It's finally making sense…' Vale thought to himself.

He expressed his gratitude to the Headmaster, his mind already racing with thoughts of the challenges that awaited him.

Headmaster Jean was satisfied with their conversation. He was actually thinking of enticing Vale with contribution points if he refused to cooperate.

However, it didn't even reach that point as Vale just accepted the "good news" he gave.

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Over the following days, Vale dedicated himself to meticulous preparations.

Since the Dark Soul Tower was still being used by one of the classes in the 7th year, Vale had three days of preparations until they left and two weeks of attempts to clear the three floors of the Tower.

Anyway, he sought guidance from the Academy's Library, studying various things related to necromancy… He wanted to set his expectations once he entered that place, after all.

Aside from the Library, he also decided to visit the three other Professors.

Professor Zara, Mark, and Cyrus, who had initially expressed concern, became valuable sources of knowledge, sharing their insights and experiences in the Dark Soul Tower.

Vale also spent hours refining his spells, focusing on three spells that would aid him in his journey through the Tower.

Finally, the day arrived for Vale to venture into the Dark Soul Tower. Headmaster Jean met him at the entrance, his expression a mix of anticipation and caution. "Vale, the path that lies before you is treacherous and filled with unknown dangers. Are you prepared?"

Vale straightened his posture, determination shining in his eyes. "I am ready, Headmaster. I have prepared myself mentally and physically, and I am confident in my abilities."

With a nod of approval, Headmaster Jean extended his hand, holding a small, intricately carved key. "Take this key, Vale. It will grant you access to the first floor of the Dark Soul Tower."

Chapter 349 Chamber

Vale accepted the key, his fingers tracing the intricate patterns etched into the metal.

He didn't have to enter his Phantasm State, and he could already tell that this was a Mystical Item.

"With that key, you can escape from the Tower anytime. However, it only works on the first and second floors. The floors above them have different escape routes if you no longer wish to continue and take a rest. Remember, you have two weeks to use this Dark Soul Tower. You don't have to rush." Headmaster Jean reminded.

Vale had also learned this from the three other professors, so he nodded without questions.

"Go ahead…" Headmaster Jean said as he gestured for Vale to enter the Dark Soul Tower.

Vale didn't hesitate as he had been waiting for this for several days.

He took the prepared torch near the door of the Tower before opening it with the key given to him.

As Vale stepped through the towering doors of the Dark Soul Tower, a chill wind greeted him, carrying whispers of Ancient Spirits and the faint scent of decay. The atmosphere was heavy, and the darkness seemed to swallow the feeble light that emanated from his torch.

Whom~

The first floor stretched before him, a labyrinth of winding corridors and hidden chambers. Shadows danced along the walls, and eerie noises echoed in the distance.

Vale took a deep breath, steeling himself for what lay ahead.

His Phantasm State was now activated.

"So it's like this…" Vale muttered.

As soon as the door closed, he realized that his Magic Zone was indeed restricted. He could only cover about 100 meters ahead of him, which was already quite impressive if compared to other students entering this Tower, according to Professor Zara.

She mentioned that most students could only use 10 meters of Magic Zone to scan their surroundings.

"It still has an advantage… Let's go."

Vale ventured further into the labyrinthine corridors of the first floor. The shadows seemed to twist and elongate as he moved, creating an ever-shifting maze that challenged his sense of direction.

The echoes of his footsteps reverberated through the stone walls, adding to the eerie ambiance.

Perhaps, if his Magic Zone only reaches 5 to 10 meters, he would be quite afraid inside this labyrinth.

As Vale explored, he discovered the first hidden chambers that were scattered throughout the first floor.

According to Professor Cyrus, each chamber held its own secrets and challenges. Some contained ancient tomes filled with forbidden knowledge or useless knowledge while others concealed traps and puzzles that tested his intellect and magical prowess.

Of course, Vale was repeatedly reminded that even if he gets to have a copy of a forbidden knowledge here, he wasn't allowed to practice it if he didn't want to be expelled from the Academy.

"Tsk…"

Vale tried to sense what was inside, but his Phantasm State couldn't reach past the door, so he had no other choice but to open it. Spirit Vision and Divine Sense don't work as well.

Creak…

Pushing open the heavy stone door, Vale found himself face-to-face with a horde of Unclean Zombies and Infested Zombies. The putrid stench of decay filled the air as they lurched towards him with outstretched arms, their vacant eyes fixed upon him.

They immediately sensed his presence and growled with their foul breath.

'This is the worst!' Vale thought to himself.

He didn't mind if he encountered a Slender Zombie or a Plump Zombie. Although they had the stench of death around them, it was bearable! It was unlike these two!

Drawing upon his dark energy, Vale unleashed the spells he prepared to combat the undead.

Spectral Hands materialized from the shadows, reaching out to grasp and immobilize the zombies.

Ghost Hands, ethereal and chilling, tore through the ranks of the undead, dispersing them into ashes. Since his Ghost Hands were already in the Advanced Realm, Vale didn't doubt that he'd crush these zombies.

'Hmm? They're not disappearing?' Vale thought as he noticed that the Zombies just kept spawning.

Aware of the potential danger, Vale quickly cast Arcane Armor, encasing himself in a barrier that provided protection against the zombies' attacks.

Crash! Crash!

Suddenly, he realized that his Spectral Hands were caught by one of the Unclean Zombies and were bitten so hard that they just crushed into nothingness.

His Spectral Hands couldn't be summoned for another 5 minutes, so he used a different spell for now.

Darkness Coil, a spell that summoned tendrils of darkness, entangled the zombies, rendering them helpless.

In the midst of battle, Vale spotted a group of Infested Zombies closing in on him.

This Infested Zombie was abnormal, if he would describe it. It could avoid his Ghost Hands and could actually think when was the best time to charge in and attack!

It wasn't just blindly throwing itself at him!

Thinking quickly, Vale released his fourth Spell, Corrupted Chains.

His current limit in his simultaneous spellcasting was only three… If he tries to use a fourth spell, his control with other spells would be unstable, and there's an extremely high chance that his Dark Energy would collapse, and all the spells would be canceled in the process.

In short, he shouldn't be doing this.

However, Vale was fearless. He had 70 points in his Strength and 68 Points in his Agility… Even without all these Spells with him, he was quite confident that he would survive this swarm of Zombies.

Soon, his Corrupted Chains bound the disgusting and smelly Infested Zombie.

Seeing how it was struggling and how he felt that his Spells were also about to collapse, Vale smiled.

With a thought, he triggered his Touchless Extraction!

One… Two… Three…

Within three seconds, Vale saw a notification from his system.

[Undead Being has been discovered. Would you like to start the extraction?]

Vale couldn't contain his excitement the moment he saw this message. There were so many undead within this chamber! Even if he only gets 1 Energy Point each, he would gladly accept them!

Without a doubt, he wouldn't say no to this question.

Chapter 350 New Rewards

[Extraction Successful. Energy +4]

[Extraction Successful. Memory Fragment.]

Vale looked at the result of his Extraction with curiosity. The four Energy Points didn't surprise him as it was quite acceptable. However, he was curious about the Memory Fragment.

It was the first time he had seen this. He accepted the Memory Fragment and he waited for something to happen.

At that moment, a flood of memories surged into Vale's consciousness. Scenes from the zombie's past flashed before his eyes, fragmented and distorted. He caught glimpses of a life once lived, a family left behind, and the tragic circumstances that led to his transformation into an undead abomination.

Vale was captivated by the intensity of emotions emanating from the extracted memory fragments. He witnessed the zombie's struggle against its own insatiable hunger, the maddening thirst for human flesh that consumed its every thought. He felt the sorrow and remorse buried deep within, remnants of the humanity that had been lost.

'Shit… That was dangerous!' Vale opened his eyes as he got himself entangled with a zombie. Luckily, his Arcane Armor was still active.

He was merely surprised. He then ignored the zombies clutching on him as he controlled his Ghost Hands to crush the zombies in the surroundings.

The memory that flashed through his eyes felt like a revelation to Vale. The Extraction of memory fragments was not just a mere ability; it was a profound connection to the essence of these creatures, a glimpse into their forgotten lives.

The weight of this realization settled upon him, leaving him awestruck by the significance of what he had discovered.

'Memory Fragments… Very interesting. Let's try some more.' Vale thought as he looked at the horde of Unclean Zombies and Infested Zombies around him.

With renewed focus, Vale continued to engage in combat, his Ghost Hands moving with precision and speed. One by one, he extracted fragments from the remaining undead creatures, each memory revealing a unique story of tragedy, loss, and the relentless hunger that consumed them.

'Quite useless memories… They're all about their daily lives…' Vale thought to himself. Nevertheless, he wasn't too disappointed since these Zombies were quite normal in terms of their ranks. Perhaps he could get something better if he tried it on higher-level Zombies or Undead.

As the number of zombies dwindled to half, Vale's anticipation grew. He could sense that something significant awaited him at the heart of the hidden chamber.

He wasn't sure what it was, but he felt a strong and cool energy somewhere in the chamber.

Suddenly, he saw a radiant blue crystal pulsating with otherworldly energy at the far corner of the hidden chamber.

"I knew it…"

It cast a gentle glow that illuminated the surrounding area, dispelling the darkness that had shrouded the chamber. The Zombies were previously blocking it, so he didn't notice them.

He then used one of his Ghost Hands to lift the crystal carefully.

To his surprise, the onslaught of zombies ceased the moment this happened. The remaining Zombies crumbled into dust, never spawning again.

The chamber fell silent, the oppressive atmosphere dissolving into a calm stillness. It was as if the crystal's presence had severed the connection between the undead beings and their relentless pursuit of flesh.

'So this is how you clear the chamber? Focus on the objective and ignore the horde of Zombies?' Vale silently thought. It was quite a pity that he didn't get to extract the remaining Zombies.

He tried returning the blue crystal, but even after doing this, the Zombies didn't appear. This confirmed his guess.

Vale sighed at this as he controlled his Ghost Hands to hand over the blue crystal.

As soon as he got it, a trace of information was injected into his mind.

Incomplete Planar Spell Model: Aurora's Embrace. (First Part)

"This…" Vale was shocked as he didn't expect such a reward…

However, he immediately calmed down after recalling the problems with the Planar Spells or Celestial Arts.

'They're not spells that just any Arcanists can learn… In the end, this is quite useful for me but not for the others. This is probably just one of those Forbidden or Useless Knowledge they reminded me…' Vale thought as he tried checking the information he got.

Once he got the complete Spell Model and recorded it successfully, it was actually quite a powerful Spell!

This spell would allow him to manipulate and channel celestial energies, creating dazzling displays of light, harnessing the power of the stars, and bringing forth the essence of the cosmos.

Well, the description he got might be exaggerating it a bit, but it was probably something similar to Solar Energy or Solar Power that he knew.

Vale then started to imagine what he could do with this Aurora's Embrace if he ever recorded it in his Spell Light. He could probably use it to create shields to protect himself or his surroundings or unleash a solar beam that bursts his target with blinding light…

Vale couldn't help but chuckle after reaching this thought.

'I don't even have any Golden Spell Light anymore… I can't record it for now. I wonder how I can get one again…' Vale thought to himself as he kept the crystal in his pocket and picked up his torch that was thrown to the ground a while ago.

Vale continued on his way and on his second hidden chamber… He extracted a dozen of Plump Zombies and received their 4 Energy Points and useless Memory Fragments. It was their same daily lives or memories that made them feel happy as a human.

Anyway, he had been careful not to destroy them with his Ghost Hands as he still needed their Energy Points.

As for the reward within this chamber, he actually got a scroll containing a Forbidden Dark Spell! Unfortunately, a huge part of the Spell Model was missing.

It was called Dark Eye Sacrifice, where you'll exchange your eyes to get the vision of a Devil.

'Useless…' Vale muttered as he already saw the complete Spell Model in his Forbidden Practice of the Unlighted book.

He was also tempted to learn this before, but the fact that his eyes would turn completely red made him reject this idea. He didn't like a Spell or technique that would change his appearance unless it was temporary.