

Endless 451

Chapter 451: Isn't This What Alchemy Is All About?

"What do you think you're doing, Chuck?" the Professor of the Alchemy Class, Professor Nora, asked as the troublemaker added a few strange ingredients into his cauldron.

She had asked the class to make a basic Fire Resistance Potion. The ingredients were listed on the board.

Chuck's additions were nowhere on that list.

"Professor, this is a new and improved Fire Resistance Potion that I thought of just now," Chuck explained while patting his chest with confidence. "Trust me. This will work!"

The corner of Professor Nora's lips twitched as she zeroed in on the tail of the red salamander that Chuck was about to drop in his cauldron.

"Chuck, do you want me to give you a failing grade?" Professor Nora asked, convinced that she had just seen the tail twitch.

"Professor, why do you always target me?" Chuck protested, looking so pitiful that anyone who didn't already know him would assume he had been unfairly treated. "Just look at Dim Dim! It's also adding a bunch of stuff into its potion, but you're turning a blind eye! This is favoritism!"

Hearing someone call its name, Dim Dim turned to look at Chuck while holding a bar of chocolate.

The little bun blinked once then twice. When it was certain that Chuck was looking at it, it casually tossed the chocolate bar into the bubbling mixture.

Dim Dim then hummed as it used a little ladle to mix everything inside its cauldron, which was releasing a sweet scent inside the classroom.

"That's because Dim Dim is not a student," Professor Nora replied coolly. "Also, it's not making a Fire Resistant Potion. Dim Dim is just mixing ingredients to make a chocolate cupcake!"

Seeing the look of disbelief on Chuck's face, she pointed at the little bun as it cracked an egg against the edge of the cauldron.

It then used a little whisk to mix the ingredients before taking out a carton of milk from its dimensional storage and poured some into a measuring cup.

Chuck cleared his throat before shifting his attention back to the Professor.

"Professor, trust me, I will make a higher quality Fire Resistance Potion," Chuck declared. "I believe that as a student, I shouldn't be satisfied with the existing formula. I should push the boundaries of knowledge by trying to bring out a better product! Isn't this what alchemy is all about?"

Professor Nora reluctantly nodded. "Fine. But, if you fail to make a better version of the Fire Resistance Potion, I'll give you a punishment for not following instructions. This is still a class for fundamentals. You cannot be running before you can walk. So prove to me that you indeed can walk already."

"Deal!" Chuck nodded.

He then added the tail of the red salamander into his concoction and mixed it in.

A red smoke was rising from his mixture—which was now neon pink—but he paid it no mind. He was simply following the inspiration he had received from his Unique Skill, Burning Will [EX].

This skill not only increased Chuck's firepower, it also made him more prone to experimenting. Chuck, being Chuck, was certain that his experimentation had a high chance of success.

Alex glanced at Chuck before shifting his attention to Dim Dim, who was still humming while shifting some flour into its cauldron.

Just like his roommate mentioned earlier, Professor Nora did give Dim Dim preferential treatment.

The little bun was well behaved in her class. It often baked confections during Alchemy Class, which it shared with the professor.

Professor Nora had found Dim Dim's creations so delicious that she had added some baking ingredients to the pantry for the little bun to use.

Half an hour later, Alex finally finished crafting the Fire Resistance Potion.

'Just a low-grade one huh?' Alex frowned. 'Maybe the fire is too hot. It might have affected the mixture.'

One by one, the other students also finished crafting their potions.

Alex could tell that Lavinia's potion was a mid-grade one as it was closer in color to the example on the board than his own.

As for Nessia, she once again received high marks for crafting a high-grade Fire Resistance Potion.

Suddenly, Professor Nora felt a faint ripple of power coming from Chuck's cauldron.

A moment later, a few puffs of golden smoke hit Chuck straight in the face, but it only made Chuck laugh like a mad scientist.

"It's done!" Chuck declared before slowly siphoning the mixture inside a small vial.

Professor Nora went to check the troublemaker's new creation.

"Let me see it, Chuck," Professor Nora said.

Chuck grinned. "Here you go, Professor."

The Alchemy Professor narrowed her eyes as she gazed at the rich red potion that glittered due to the specks of gold inside of it.

She had to admit that it looked very impressive, so she decided to use a tool to appraise it properly.

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< High-Grade Greater Fire Resistance Potion >

— A potion that will increase Fire Resistance by 50% for two hours.

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The potion that Professor Nora had asked the class to make could increase Fire Resistance by 20%.

The one that Nessia made was a High-Grade one with a 25% increase in Fire Resistance.

It was very obvious which of the two students made the better potion, so Professor Nora decided to reward Chuck properly.

“Chuck gets 500 Academy Points for making a High-Grade Greater Fire Resistance Potion,” Professor Nora announced.

Her declaration shocked everyone, including Nessia, who had always been at the top of the class.

Chuck laughed proudly with his arms crossed over his chest.

This was the first time that he managed to top the class in any alchemy assignment, and it made him feel good about his hard work.

Alex also clapped his hands to applaud his roommate, who seemed to be improving after learning the skill, Burning Will [EX].

'If only I had more Academy Points, I might have given Nessia and Evangeline some Skill Books as well,' Alex thought. 'But since Nessia already has the Codex of Eternal Weave, she will still become strong as long as she keeps on making Runic Formations.'

When the class ended, Dim Dim also finished baking its cupcakes, which it shared with everyone in class.

The little bun was now considered the mascot of Class 1-C, having already won the hearts of the girls, who also had a weakness for sweets like their Professor.

Just like Chuck, Renard and Charles also showed great progress when the Martial Classes started.

Both of them became significantly stronger, surprising their instructors, who were quick to praise them for their improvement.

Renard had been working hard as of late, even training late at night to master his new skills.

Clearly, he was preparing for the upcoming duels in the kingdom of Solara so that he could protect someone whom he didn't expect to become so dear in his heart.

Chapter 452: I Never Expected Anything From The Start

The sound of a boulder breaking seemed to mark the start of a short break.

Renard took a few deep breaths as he once again took a fighting stance. As if waiting for that moment, another boulder appeared in front of him.

The young man stared at his target for nearly a minute before throwing out a punch.

He was five meters away from the boulder. And yet, a loud crack echoed inside the room.

On the boulder's surface, a fist size indentation expanded to create a small crater that was at least two-feet wide.

"Too shallow," Renard muttered as white smoke oozed out of his right fist.

After taking another deep breath, the young man released one punch after the other.

The boulder in front of him started to have several cracks in it as the young man continued his barrage of punches a distance away from it.

A minute later, the boulder shattered into pieces as Renard knelt on the ground, panting for breath.

'This Unique Skill feels like second nature to me,' Renard thought. 'It was as if this skill was personally tailored for me. Just how did Alex get this?'

Right now, he could unleash an attack from five meters away without directly touching his opponent.

This was a Martial Arts that was perfect for Renard who fought at close range.

If his opponent didn't know about his fighting style, his first blow would take them by surprise and that might just be enough to end the battle then and there.

Even from a distance away, the power of his punch could already leave a mark on the boulder. If his actual fist had hit the boulder, it would have instantly and completely shattered.

It was not an exaggeration to say that Renard had become twice as strong in the short period of time since learning his Unique Martial Skill.

A few hours ago, he received a letter from the Saintess of Solara, Lady Celestria. She apologized for the trouble that she had caused him.

Celestria even advised that Renard should just ignore the duel that would be held when the First Years arrived. She promised that she would handle the situation herself, so he didn't have to do anything.

Renard read the letter twice over, making sure that he didn't miss anything.

There was no plea for help and there was no mention of her getting engaged to someone.

Still, he felt that there were things that Lady Celestria was hiding from him, perhaps due to his commoner background.

"I never expected anything from the start," Renard mumbled.

He was a commoner and she was a Saintess.

She had been the one to make the first move by trying to get close to him even though he hadn't—and still didn't—want to mingle with nobles.

Renard didn't trust anyone.

He had been betrayed many times in the past, so he decided that he would no longer allow anyone to betray him.

This was why he genuinely pursued strength more than anyone else. For him, the moment he became the strongest, no one would dare to mess with him anymore.

But there was one exception.

Although he had hated him, Renard still found himself trusting Alex. While he knew that his club president was no paragon of virtue, he instinctively believed that the young man wouldn't betray him.

He didn't know why he felt this way.

Still, he had a feeling that even if the entire world became his enemy, Alex alone wouldn't turn against him.

The young man stood up slowly and took a few deep breaths to calm himself.

When he finally regained his composure, he once again took a fighting stance.

The boulder once again appeared, and Renard once again unleashed a punch with the intention of raising his familiarity with his new martial arts before they headed to the Solara Kingdom.

Regardless of what was waiting for him in Solara, he would press onwards.

Whether it be a battle of pride or love, he was someone who would not allow other people to take hold of his destiny.

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Inside another training room...

Charles' body shuttered uncontrollably before he collapsed on the floor.

His arms and legs were pitch black and oozing black mist.

But that wasn't all. There were also two small black horns protruding on top of his head.

Charles' eyes also were glowing with a faint crimson light that slowly turned to gold after a minute passed.

He finally regained his consciousness after he had forced himself to enter a Berserk Phase.

The young man's shadow extended a bit and from its depth a three-meter demi-human ant emerged.

A golden crown could be seen on the Ant's head, and it looked down on the young man with unmistakable delight.

"Right now, you look more like a monster than me," the Queen Ant commented before helping the young man sit on the floor. "Don't push yourself too hard, Charles. This new skill you obtained from that boy might be good, but forcing yourself like this to mutate your abilities is not a good thing.

"You are now a Void-Touched, half of you is no longer human. Do you really want to turn your back on humanity and become a true monster?"

"Of course not," Charles answered. "This is why I am trying to master this power. The more I understand it, the more I will be able to preserve my humanity. Like you said, half of me is no longer human.

"But that is also part of my strength. Turning a blind eye on it would not do me any good, so it is better to confront it and make it truly a part of me."

The Queen Ant no longer said anything. Instead, it handed the young man a honey-colored, jelly-like orb.

Charles accepted it and ate it like it was a simple riceball.

When he finished eating, his eyes once again turned crimson. The young man then clashed with the Ant Queen, who had the strength of a Rank 5 Boss Monster.

Within that private training room, Charles' roars echoed repeatedly as he tried to kill a monster that was several times stronger than him.

Chapter 453: The Worst Scum In The World

Alex blinked once then twice before looking at Charles, who had several bruises on his face.

“What happened to you?” Alex asked.

“I fell off the stairs,” Charles replied.

He remained still as Nessia tended to his injuries with a cotton bud soaked with a healing potion.

They were currently in the clock tower, so no one would tease the two who had already become a couple.

Alex smiled faintly. “Won’t it be better to go to the infirmary instead?”

“It’s just a scratch,” Charles explained. “There’s no need to go to the infirmary.”

Alex’s smile morphed into a smirk. “I guess you prefer to be treated by Nessia’s tender loving care than the nurses’ punches and kicks. Lin’s and Rin’s healing skills, Heal Slap and Feel Better Fist, are the real deal, but at what cost?”

Charles winced as if he was recalling a very bad memory. The two nurses were very competent, but the way they treated their patients was... rather unique.

Alex even commented that there were many masochists who idolized these two ladies for using the power of brutality to heal any injuries.

“I got injured today in a sparring match and went to the infirmary,” Vaan said, joining the conversation. “But when I got there, Lin only gave me the Feel-Good-Massage. And all the aches I felt disappeared like I had dreamt them up.”

“”””What?!””””

Renard’s head snapped back and he looked at Vaan to see if the pretty boy was pulling his leg. From his spot, he could see Alex, Charles, and Chuck looking at Vaan with expressions that surely mirrored his own.

Getting injured during sparring matches was very common, so the students who didn't have potions would either ask their classmates who knew healing magic to heal them or head to the infirmary to be treated.

It was no surprise that many students preferred to be healed by their friends than the two demonic nurses.

There was even a rumor circulating that Lin and Rin were too lazy to help others and had learnt this brutal way of treatment to reduce their workload!

That way, the students wouldn't play truant by lazing around in the infirmary because they were too frightened of being beaten up by nurses who could leave no injuries behind as evidence.

"Rin and Lin are actually pretty nice, you know?" Vaan said. "It's just that massages must actually take a lot of work. When they give me a full-body massage, I can hear them breathe heavily from the exertion."

"Wait, you mean they massage you while you are naked?" Chuck asked.

"Yes." Vaan blinked, confused by why Chuck was confused. "That's normal. How do you expect them to use the massage oil if you don't take off your clothes? Do you want to wear oily clothes?"

Chuck glanced at Alex, who gave him a nod while sporting a serious expression.

"Mary, can you punch m—ahhh!" Chuck wasn't able to finish whatever he was going to say because Mary kicked his bum, sending him crashing towards the floor.

Chuck then raised his right hand. No one knew what he was doing until Alex walked over, bent down, and gave him a high five.

Without a second word, the club president lifted his roommate with one hand and walked towards the infirmary with the conviction of soldiers heading to war.

“Umm... is this really how this club works?” Lapiz asked. “Are they really going to the infirmary?”

After joining Endless Horizon, she had experienced many weird things that she hadn't expected to see in one of the most secretive yet popular clubs in Frieden Academy.

“You'll get used to it,” Eleanora said while giving the younger girl a few sympathetic pats on the shoulder.

Internally, she was on cloud nine. For her, seeing Chuck suffer was the best thing ever.

If she had gotten her hands on a recording crystal, she would have recorded all the times the troublemaker was beaten up by either Princess Xenia or Mary and rewatched those clips for her own pleasure.

Unfortunately, even though Chuck seemed to be the weakest member of Endless Horizon, the moment he drank his Conqueror's Heart Potion, Eleanora wouldn't be a match against him.

Even now, she was still feeling bitter because behind closed doors, she was forced to call him Master. She was still trying to accept this.

She saw that incident as something akin to being bitten by a rabid dog. If she ever received the opportunity to do so, she would kill that accursed dog without a second thought.

“Anyway, let's forget about those two idiots for now,” Princess Xenia said. “There's something that I need to share with all of you. Here is the list of the people that will be accompanying us to Solara.”

Mary handed a scroll to Nessia, whom Alex had made vice president.

Nessia glanced at the list, and frowned afterwards.

“Hey, aren’t all of these Chuck’s friends?” Nessia looked at Princess Xenia doubtfully. “They are the troublemakers of each class. How have they become the class representatives on this mission?”

Al Beback – Class 1-A

Chris P. Bacon – Class 1-A

Bill Board – Class 1-B

Paige Turner – Class 1-B

Sal Vage – Class 1-B

Gene Pool – Class 1-D

Stan Dupp – Class 1-D

Polly Teeshan – Class 1-D

Dan Druff – Class 1-E

Luke Warm – Class 1-E

Moe Mentum – Class 1-F

Cliff Hanger – Class 1-F

Princess Xenia pinched the bridge of her nose before gesturing towards Mary.

Mary stepped in bravely to offer the explanation in the princess's place even as resignation and helplessness were written all over her face. "After getting first-hand information, Chuck informed his... circle of friends about the quest. They conspired to have their names added to the list."

"Shouldn't this have been decided by the student council?" Lumi asked. "Why did they approve of this list then?"

"It's because all of them are very skilled individuals," Princess Xenia answered. "Although they are troublemakers, they are still geniuses in their own right. The student council believes that once they know what it is like to be responsible for others, they will have a change of heart."

A minute of silence descended inside the room before a collective sigh escaped the old members' lips.

"Is it that bad?" Lapis asked. "I know Paige and Sal. Both of them are very kind people. They even helped me study before the history monthly test."

Princess Xenia tried to smile diplomatically. "I'm not saying that they're bad people," she clarified. "They are just known to cause trouble when given the chance. You've been here for a while. You probably think that Chuck is a kind person, right?"

"Well, although he is a little boastful of his good looks, Chuck seems pretty nice to me." Lapis blinked. "He hasn't bothered me since I joined this club. Usually, people stare too much at me because I am an Elf. But he has been treating me like a friend without discrimination."

"You're right." Mary nodded. "But that doesn't change the fact that he's still scum. Scum that even innocent baby slimes know to avoid instinctively."

"I agree," Eleanora chimed in. "The worst scum in the world."

Mary and Eleanora stared long and hard at each other before exchanging a fist bump.

Today, their relationship became closer due to a common enemy.

Evangeline, on the other hand, frowned slightly after seeing the list.

As the daughter of the Vampire Lord, she was privy to some confidential information.

And, to her shock, everyone on the list were actually agents of the Demon Worshipers, who had snuck into the academy to gather information.

'Is this a coincidence?' Evangeline wondered. Much as Mary and Eleanora seemed to dislike Chuck, she didn't think he was the kind to cooperate with Demon Worshipers.

She was starting to feel a little anxious about the upcoming trip to Solara because their group would have so many Demon Worshipers Agents with them.

Of course, she and Eleanora were also part of the organization, but she had no intentions of hurting Alex.

'I need to tell him about this.' Evangeline narrowed her eyes. 'That way, Alex will not be caught unprepared.'

Just as she made up her mind, the teleportation circle inside their club room activated.

Everyone gasped after seeing Alex and Chuck enter with black eyes, split lips, and broken dreams.

A moment later, laughter rippled inside the room. The ones laughing the loudest were Eleanora and Lumi, who were both holding their stomachs due to the pain of laughing so much.

Clearly, Lin and Rin hadn't appreciated these two annoying patients who had tried to get free massages.

After listening to their request, the two nurses had beaten the crap out of them.

Left with no choice, the two had fled straight to the clock tower because that was the only place where the two nurses couldn't enter so easily.

Chapter 454: Wanted Dead Or Alive

In an inn inside the capital city of Harmonia...

"To think that all of us accepted the mission to escort Princess Xenia and Prince Edward." A young man with sharp features smirked. "Coincidence? I think not. Are you sure Chuck's family isn't among the nobles backing our organization?"

"I asked my superior, and he said that the No Rizz Family truly aren't one of our backers," a young lady replied. "Although this might sound too good to be a coincidence, it is indeed a coincidence."

The twelve teenagers inside the room still looked doubtful. However, they didn't have much time before the day of their escort mission, so they unanimously decided to start discussing the most important matter of all.

"So, how do we capture Alex Stratos?" Dan Druff asked. "According to our agreement, the bounty will be equally split among the twelve of us. We might belong to different factions, but in the end, we're from the same organization. This is a win-win for everyone, isn't it?"

"That's right." Chris P. Bacon nodded. "We can also avoid having a conflict of interest. Let's not sabotage each other and instead get rich together. That said, traitors will be dealt with harshly."

The teenagers in the room were the agents sent by the nine Elders of the Demon Worshipers.

After Willow's death, one of her subordinates took her place as the new Elder of their faction and took control of her forces.

"But how can we catch him?" Sal Vage asked. "He will probably stick to the princess and his club members. We might not get an opportunity to lure him from the group."

"There is a way," Cliff Hanger commented. "All we need to do is..."

The teenagers looked in the young man's direction, waiting for what he had to say.

However, even after a few minutes of silence, Cliff hadn't said a single word.

"..."

"..."

"..."

"... All we need to do is what?!" Paige Turner asked. "Damn it! Your habit of not finishing your sentences is annoying!"

"Calm down, Paige." Polly Teeshan fixed the glasses on her face using her middle finger. "We already know this guy's bad habit. It would be best if we just ignore him."

As if waiting for that moment, Cliff spoke up once again.

"Alex has many weaknesses," Cliff stated. "He is very close to his friends. But his friends are not pushovers. The only way to capture him alive is..."

And just like always, Cliff once again stopped at the right moment.

"""" ..."""

"Give me a moment. I'll be back," Al Beback said before dragging the bastard out of the room so he could beat the other up.

The sound of Cliff Hanger's anguished screams from outside the door made everyone feel better, so they continued their discussion.

“Paige, Polly, and Moe, why don’t you try to seduce him and bring him somewhere in the city the guards don’t patrol?” Bill Board proposed. “According to our sources, Alex is weak against pretty ladies.”

“Is he?” Polly arched an eyebrow.

“All the girls in his club are beautiful ladies,” Bill stated. “I think that’s proof enough of his weakness against the opposite sex.”

“Well, he’s not bad looking,” Polly smiled faintly. “I might just agree to your proposal.”

Moe narrowed her eyes because she had a feeling that seducing Alex might not be simple. After all, some rumors say that he and Vaan were already a couple.

“I don’t know if you guys are aware, but a new rule has been applied to Alex’s bounty,” Gene Pool commented. “The Vampire Lord has spoken, and he said that anyone who can capture Alex alive and bring him to the Lord will receive double the bounty.”

“It seems like he got pissed off after Alex killed his subordinates. Maybe he plans to drain all of his blood.”

“D-Double?!” Stan Dupp stood up in shock after hearing his colleague’s statement. “Are you joking or not?”

“I’m not joking.”

“Damn! We need to capture him alive then!”

Alex’s bounty had already risen to three million gold coins. What did double bounty mean? A whopping six million!

Everyone in the room was now more motivated to capture their target. Six million divided by twelve was five hundred thousand gold coins.

They were not nobles and came from poor families. In other words, that amount of money would set them for life. Capturing Alex was now at the top of their list.

However, they didn't dare to hunt him alone. They all knew Alex was strong. But if all twelve of them work together... He certainly couldn't escape even if he grew wings!

Of course, they weren't the only ones targeting Alex. The other Demon Worshipers stationed in the Solara Kingdom were already waiting for his arrival so they could claim his bounty as well.

If anything, the Demon Worshipers were more worried about clashing against different teams from their organization. With such a lovely prize, all of them had one goal in mind—capture Alex Stratos, dead or preferably alive.

After a heated discussion, they had agreed to work together to capture Alex using different methods.

Plan A was seduction, which would be carried out by Paige, Polly, and Moe.

They might not be as beautiful as the girls in Alex's club, but they were pretty enough to have some of the nobles in their class pay close attention to them.

While these teenagers were busy finalizing their plans, their target was enjoying a date with Evangeline in a cafe within the academy grounds.

Since Alex's safety was her priority, she decided to choose a venue where he couldn't be openly targeted by Demon Worshipers.

"Alex, have you seen the list of other students who will accompany us to escort Princess Xenia and Prince Edward?" Evangeline asked.

“Yes.” Alex nodded. “Princess Xenia gave me a copy.”

Evangeline sighed. “All of them are agents of Demon Worshipers. I don’t know how they all managed to become part of the escort mission, but there’s a high chance that they will be targeting you.”

Alex frowned after hearing the young lady’s confession. Since Evangeline didn’t want Alex to be hurt in any way, she deemed that sharing this information was of utmost priority at the moment.

Chapter 455: Evangeline’s Bad End

Evangeline believed that as long as the young man was aware of the dangers, he would be able to come up with a plan to handle them.

Alex would disguise himself as Princess Xenia’s butler, but the Demon Worshipers who took the mission might still recognize him. In case of the worst-case scenario, it was best that he knew of the enemies so that he’d have countermeasures prepared.

“Thank you, Eva,” Alex replied. “Just yesterday, Chuck bragged about squeezing his friends onto the escort mission. Looks like he attracts troublemakers just like him quite well.”

Evangeline giggled and nodded in agreement. “Well, Chuck is charming in his own way. If not, Princess Xenia and Mary would have already given up on him.”

“True.” Alex smiled. “He does have his charm. However, I noticed that Eleanora would often sneak glances at Chuck as if she wanted to eat him up. Do you know the reason why?”

Evangeline tilted her head in confusion because she didn’t know anything about this.

“Do you mean to say that Eleanora has developed a crush on Chuck?” Evangeline asked in a serious tone. “Well, I do agree that he is handsome. But I’m sure that he’s not Eleanora’s type.”

“Oh?” Alex’s attention was piqued by the young lady’s words. He didn’t know much about Eleanora aside from her being a Mini Boss in the game at the beginning of the story.

“Eleanora likes handsome, refined gentlemen,” Evangeline stated. “She likes them kind, loyal, caring, dependable, a good cook, and capable of carrying her shopping bags without complaining.

“She said a man must be responsible and take initiative. Someone who doesn’t wait to be asked before doing something thoughtful like cleaning her room.”

Alex blinked. “That’s... oddly specific.”

“Oh, I’m not done,” Evangeline continued with a perfectly straight face, raising one finger for each trait.

“He must also be patient, emotionally mature, able to listen without interrupting, smell good, have decent fashion sense, know when to shut up, know when to talk, and know the difference between the two.”

Alex chuckled. “So, basically, she wants a saint with a skincare routine.”

“Yes. And there’s more.” Evangeline leaned forward. “He also needs to be brave enough to protect her, but gentle enough to lend his lap when she’s tired. Must know how to compliment her dress, her hair, and her nail polish without sounding like he read it from a script.”

“That sounds scripted already.” Alex smiled wryly.

“Oh, and she hates lazy men,” Evangeline added. “He has to be hardworking, goal-oriented, able to plan ahead, and...” Evangeline moved closer to whisper in Alex’s ear as if she was about to share a state secret.

“He must be willing to kill spiders without hesitation.”

Alex laughed. “So bravery includes spider extermination?”

Evangeline nodded seriously. “Non-negotiable.”

She continued counting on her fingers.

“He must be financially responsible, but not cheap. Generous, but not reckless. Strong, but not arrogant. Has ambition, but won’t forget to write her a letter when he goes on a business trip. Last, but not least, his blood must be delicious.”

Alex looked amused. “Her criteria for the perfect boyfriend are stricter than the King’s requirements for his heir. Good luck finding such a man.”

Alex already knew that Eleanora was a vampire, so he wasn’t too surprised when Evangeline said that her type of man had delicious blood.

“I thought that Eleanora would want someone who would treat her like a Queen,” Alex stated. “And someone who will not play games with her heart.”

Evangeline smiled. “Every lady wants to be treated like a Queen. So, Alex, if you plan to play with my heart, I will hate you for life.”

The young man reached out to hold Evangeline’s hand. For some reason, he liked holding her hand like this, as if this was a hand that “Alex Stratos” had held many times in the past.

“I’ll do my best,” Alex replied. “And I also agree to your request of letting you suck my blood at least once a week.”

At that, Evangeline’s face brightened like a blooming flower. If her father could see her at this moment, the Vampire Lord might have given Alex a good slap in the face that would have broken a few of his teeth.

After Prince Aetherius disappeared from her life, Evangeline had focused on her training in order to become stronger.

But since she had made a vow that she wouldn’t drink any blood aside from her childhood friend’s, she had fended off her blood cravings by consuming Blood Pills.

And now, she had awakened her bloodline powers after drinking a few drops of Alex's blood.

That wasn't enough to fully awaken her true powers, so Alex decided to take responsibility and allow her to drink more of his blood every week.

Evangeline was a cold, calculating female lead in the game.

She was the textbook example of a Femme Fatale.

However, that cold and icy queen was nowhere to be found right now—only a young lady who didn't hesitate to look at someone with a tender gaze while having a sweet smile plastered on her lips.

Even Alex preferred this version of Evangeline better than the one he met in the game.

The Vampire Princess in ELO seemed to have lost her will to live and just wished to see the world burn.

Among the three heroines, she normally started on the dark route. Only if the player managed to convince her to change paths would she get her happy ending.

'I will not allow you to get a bad ending in this lifetime,' Alex thought as he gave Evangeline's hand a light squeeze. 'I promise.'

The young lady's bad end was truly pitiful. After razing the kingdoms of Avalon, Solara, and Faellarun to the ground, she raised a massive army and waged war against the Aetherion Empire.

At the end of her journey, she was seen sitting on a hill of corpses, looking at the player with a crazed smile on her face.

Her final words in the game were...

“I have finally avenged you. So, wait for me, okay? I’m coming to you now.”

And with that, she stabbed her chest with a Holy Sword, burning her own body into ashes.

That was the tragic end of the Vampire Princess who waged war against the strongest empire on the continent to avenge the death of someone she held sacred in her heart.

Chapter 456: A Mouthful of Memories [Part 1]

Just as he promised, Alex let Evangeline drink his blood.

Even when he was aware that offering himself like this was risky.

He knew Evangeline’s bloodline powers from the game. One of them could let her read a person’s memory after consuming their blood.

Of course, mere droplets wouldn’t be enough to activate her power. She would need at least a mouthful. But Alex already anticipated that Evangeline would suck more than that.

Despite that, he still decided to push through, trusting that Evangeline wouldn’t betray him. Aside from that, he also wanted to know how much she could see from his memories.

There might be suppressed or forgotten memories that Alex wasn’t currently aware of, but she might be able to access them once her special ability was activated.

As for where they would do it, his dormitory room was not at all an option. Chuck might suddenly barge into the room while they were busy and Alex didn’t even want to think about what could happen after that.

Even though the chance of that happening was rather slim, it would never be impossible because this was Chuck! Alex wanted to spare himself from the menace.

The clock tower was also not an option since it was practically Latifa's domain. Although he had already told her about Evangeline, he was sure that she wouldn't look kindly on any lady who would drink his blood.

Within the academy, there was only one relatively safe place where they could do it.

The Old Library.

The same place where Eleanora lured her pitiful prey so she could drink their blood.

"Please stand guard and make sure that no one enters here, okay?" Evangeline said firmly.

"Understood." Eleanora nodded before glancing in Alex's direction. "I won't let anyone enter, no matter what."

Truth be told, she also wondered about what Alex's blood tasted like. Fortunately for him, her Mistress seemed to treat Alex as someone special, so Eleanora wouldn't dare to subdue the young man just to have a taste.

Although she didn't look threatening, Eleanora was actually a Rank 4 Vampire Reaver.

A master of the Blood Arts.

Alex was glad he didn't have to deal with the "Mini Boss" who was supposed to appear during his first year in the academy.

Once inside the Old Library, Evangeline gently pulled Alex's hand and led him to the stairs.

She deemed it more prudent to bring their business to the second floor. In case Eleanora failed to prevent someone from entering the Old Library, being upstairs would buy them enough time to react.

When they arrived at the second floor, Evangeline took Alex to a corner hidden from sight by several book shelves.

But when they finally arrived at their destination, Alex and Evangeline found an old man leaning on the wall while standing up.

His eyes were closed and he seemed to be sleeping. However, the two teenagers could instinctively tell that the old man was wide awake.

Evangeline immediately took a fighting stance, pushing Alex behind her back.

She didn't know who the old man was, but she could feel that he was strong.

Incredibly strong.

Just as she was planning to ask who the old man was, Alex lightly patted her shoulder.

"What are you doing here, Sir Lex?" Alex asked. "Are you perhaps playing truant?"

The old man chuckled after hearing the young man's words.

"I'm not playing truant," the Guardian of the North, Lex Luthor, replied. "The Headmaster told me to be useful and asked me to clean up this Old Library. Can you believe that? He wants an old man to clean this place alone?"

Evangeline eased up a bit after seeing that Alex and the Old Man seemed to know each other.

When she noticed the old man's clouded eyes, she instantly realized that he was blind. But his voice and mannerism felt familiar to her.

Suddenly, her eyes widened in shock.

"S-Sir Lex?!" Evangeline looked at the old man in disbelief. "You're alive?!"

"Hmm?" Lex glanced in the direction of the young lady before he, too, realized something.

It might have been years since he had last seen her, but her aura was the same. Lex used this method to identify people now. It might not be a bad thing because now he could no longer be fooled by physical changes or disguises.

"Is that you, Miss Eva?" Lex looked pleasantly surprised.

Smiling genuinely and tenderly, the Guardian of the North was exceptionally happy to learn that the two kids who had spent time together in that remote villa had finally reunited.

"Yes. It's me, Sir Lex." Evangeline walked towards the old man and fearlessly held his hand. "It's me, little Eva."

Another chuckle escaped Lex's lips before he lightly patted her head.

"You're no longer little Eva," Lex replied. "You've grown up to be an exceptional lady. But what are the two of you doing here in the Old Library? Your Highness, don't tell me that you plan to cook rice here in the library?"

(A/N: Those who knows, knows. Kekeke!)

Evangeline blinked once then twice before her face turned beet-red.

She then glanced at Alex as if asking him if he really planned to do such a thing.

"That's not it, Sir Lex," Alex insisted hastily. "Please stop teasing Eva. Her face is already as red as a tomato."

The old man chuckled. If only he could, he would like to see Eva's blushing face. Unfortunately, there was nothing he could do about it. He decided to ask the two teenagers what they were doing inside the library.

"I plan to let Eva drink some of my blood," Alex admitted.

"Ah!" Lex nodded in understanding. "When the two of you were younger, you did let her drink your blood regularly."

The old man then smiled mischievously before walking toward Alex to pat his shoulder.

"This third wheel will be leaving now," Lex announced. "Just make sure to clean up afterward. It's hard for a blind old man to clean the mess left by youngsters. Oh, and Alex, Eva is still young. Make sure to not overdo it, okay?"

The corner of Alex's lips twitched because the old man was still teasing them.

Shouldn't the old man be worried about him instead? His blood was going to get sucked! The old man should have told Evangeline not to overdo it!

Eva's face was now a shade redder than it was before, which Alex found quite cute because her reaction was perfectly normal for an innocent maiden like her.

Suddenly, a surprised cry followed by the sound of hurried footsteps reached their ears.

Clearly, Eleanora had discovered that someone else was inside the Old Library, which was supposed to be the most deserted place in the academy.

Chapter 457: A Mouthful Of Memories [Part 2]

The two then heard hurried footsteps from the stairs, and Eleanora came into their view.

“Eva, an old man suddenly appeared out of nowhere!” Eleanora exclaimed anxiously. “Did he do anything to you?!”

“It’s okay, Eleanora,” Evangeline replied. “He is Sir Lex, an old acquaintance of mine.”

Eleanora still felt doubtful. But since her mistress looked perfectly fine, she soon calmed down.

She then glared at Alex before walking down the stairs to continue guarding the door of the library.

The two teenagers stared at each other for nearly a minute before smiling faintly.

“Why didn’t you tell me that you’ve already found Sir Lex?” Evangeline pouted. “You could have told me.”

The young man pulled the pouting girl into his arms and hugged her.

“It just slipped my mind,” Alex replied. “Many things have been happening as of late, so I didn’t get the chance to tell you.”

“Are you still hiding things from me?” Eva asked.

“Yes,” Alex answered. “But I’m sure you’ll learn about it after you drink my blood.”

Evangeline’s eyes widened in shock. Back in the villa, she had indeed seen a bit of the Prince’s memories after feeding on his blood.

She had then discovered why he had left the place of his birth, pursued by the Aetherion Empire.

Perhaps it was why Evangeline felt a lot closer to Alex. His situation was pitiful. Just like her, he understood what it meant to suffer.

“Now I’ll find out if what Eleanora is correct,” Evangeline said with determination. “She claims that you have four wives, six mistresses, and two babies.”

Alex blinked. “You shouldn’t believe Eleanora’s words so readily. I already told you about my Queens, Lavinia, and my agreement with Efa.”

“Yes, you did. But there might be someone else.” Evangeline lightly pulled Alex’s cheeks. “You also mentioned that you’re seeing a lady in your dreams. Is she your secret lover or something?”

“Are you talking about my Guildmaster?”

“Guildmaster?” Evangeline frowned. “You’re part of a guild?”

Alex smirked. “Just drink my blood and maybe you’ll understand. Just make sure to control your bloodthirst, okay? I don’t want to get drained completely and turn into a mummy.”

Evangeline’s expression became serious. “Don’t worry. I’ll control myself. I won’t drink more than what I need.”

“Good.” Alex nodded. “Let’s start.”

Alex then leaned on the wall and lowered his head a bit.

Evangeline took this opportunity to kiss his cheek before placing her lips on Alex’s neck.

A moment later, a muffled groan escaped Alex’s lips as the young lady sank her fangs into his neck and drank his precious blood.

To his surprise, the pain only lasted for a few seconds before it started to feel... good.

The vampires all had this passive ability so that their prey were less likely to struggle and resist while they were feeding.

Usually, they would also use a charm spell to render their captives helpless before they drink their blood. But since Evangeline was drinking Alex's blood with his consent, they skipped that part.

A minute later, Alex shuddered when he felt the young lady in her arms lick his neck.

Evangeline fought the strong urge to keep feeding. Thankfully, her feelings for Alex had helped her break free from her trance.

She used her power to heal him, closing the small puncture marks on his neck. Even so, there were still two faint red spots left, marking where her fangs had embedded themselves earlier.

Eva's eyes glowed crimson and she was panting for breath. To calm herself down, she pressed her head against Alex's chest and listened to his heartbeat.

His beating heart made her feel safe. She soon calmed down, after which she activated her bloodline power.

When Eva next opened her eyes, she saw Alex... or at least she believed she was seeing Alex.

The young man in front of her looked exactly like the person that Alex transformed to when he was wearing the Mirror Mask.

She saw him walking in what seemed to be a city with buildings that were several stories high.

The young lady also saw a giant bird, which seemed to be made out of metal, passing overhead.

The sights and sounds in the surroundings all felt foreign to her. She was particularly interested in the horse-less carriages, which came in different colors and designs.

She watched as Alex accompanied a young lady with long black hair in a park and went to a viewing platform at night.

There, she saw colorful flowers that bloomed in the sky, illuminating the darkness.

“So pretty,” Evangeline muttered as she gazed at the fireworks in the distance.

Suddenly, the young lady with long black hair accompanying Alex turned her head to look in her direction.

For a moment, Evangeline thought that the young lady was looking at someone behind her, so she turned around to see who it was.

However, there was no one there, which made her shift her attention back to the young lady.

To her surprise, the lady smiled at her, and her gaze told Evangeline that she could indeed see her.

‘S-She can see me?’ Evangeline shuddered. ‘But how can this be? This is just a memory!’

As the sounds of the booming fireworks spread in the surroundings, Noelle mouthed something while facing Evangeline.

“Wait for your turn.”

Evangeline could only gasp in surprise, unable to figure out how the young lady could see her and also seemed to know who she was.

The scene then changed to Alex lying on his bed with a fever.

Noelle was once again there, taking care of him after his sickness had rendered him helpless.

Suddenly, the world shattered. Evangeline found herself in utter darkness.

“Are you afraid of the dark?”

The beautiful lady with long black hair who had accompanied Alex in his memories appeared before Evangeline.

“Who are you?!” Evangeline asked, feeling a little pressured by the young lady’s gaze. “What are you?!”

“Who and what I am is not important,” Noelle replied. “I came here to give you some advice. If you or your father hurt him, I will come to find you and I will kill you.”

“I will never hurt Alex!” Evangeline declared.

“Good.” Noelle smiled. “Then that means that we’re on the same team. Take care of Alex for me. He can be reckless at times, but he is a very loyal and caring person. Oh... and don’t tell him about me, okay? Or else, I’ll make you sorry.”

The young lady then waved at Evangeline, and the pitch-black world once again shattered.

She now found herself hugging Alex desperately, as if fearing he would disappear completely.

“What’s wrong, Eva?” Alex asked. “You look pale.”

“I-I’m fine,” Evangeline forced herself to reply. “I still haven’t fully digested the memories that I got from your blood. It will take some time to skim through them.”

“Just take your time,” Alex said as he hugged Evangeline tighter and patted her back to help her calm down. “I’m not going anywhere, okay?”

“Un.” Evangeline hugged Alex tighter, using his body heat and his heartbeat to chase away the fear and anxiety that had seized her after she had gazed into the eyes of that beautiful lady, who seemed to hold an important place in Alex’s heart.

Chapter 458: That One Doesn’t Count

‘Just what kind of memory did she see earlier?’ Alex thought but didn’t ask, simply allowing Evangeline to hug him tightly.

Her pale face soon regained its color, and her breath started to calm. The two spent a few more minutes hugging each other, broken only when Evangeline reluctantly pulled back to look at Alex’s face.

Suddenly, the young lady wrapped his hands around his neck, stood on tiptoe, and gave his lips a quick peck.

Perhaps one wasn’t enough, so she kissed him again two more times before resting her head on his shoulder.

“Alex, I still don’t understand many things. But from what I’ve seen... you already died once, right?” Evangeline said softly.

She was still resting her head on Alex’s shoulder, and her eyes were closed as if making sure that she had seen everything properly.

“Truth be told, I’m still trying to verify some facts about myself,” Alex answered. “I don’t remember much about my childhood as Prince Aetherius. However, I recently recalled a memory where the Paragon of Ice froze me. After that, I fell off a cliff, and my memory ended there.”

Evangeline hugged Alex tighter. She also saw that memory, making her hate the Paragon of Ice with a vengeance.

If not for the fact that the Paragon of Ice was confirmed dead, she might have started scheming on how to kill that bastard with her own hands.

“Are you close with the girl named Noelle?” Evangeline asked.

"She's my Guildmaster," Alex replied. "Both of us played a game called E#d*e*s L**e%#g O*\$i@e."

"Huh? Did you say something?" Evangeline felt like she had heard something, but these words were gibberish and escaped her memory as if it didn't belong there.

Alex blinked. "I said, we both played a game called E#d*e*s L**e%#g O*\$i@e."

Evangeline frowned. By the looks of it, some kind of interference prevented her from understanding what the young man was talking about.

Alex also realized that Evangeline seemed to fall into a trance every time he said the words "Endless Leveling Online".

Since both of them couldn't do anything about it, they decided to set aside this matter for now. Just as the young lady was about to continue talking, she suddenly remembered a memory that made her face turn beet red.

"I understand that you and Noelle have a close relationship," Evangeline said as a blush crept on her face. "But to think that the two of you have... have done that."

Alex blinked once then twice before finally understanding what Evangeline was talking about.

He had wanted to make an excuse that both of them got drunk after going to the karaoke bar one time, which left Noelle no other choice but to spend the night with Alex.

Both of them were young, healthy, and secretly had feelings for each other.

One thing led to another, and before the two knew it, they had both crossed the line that shouldn't be crossed.

Back then, Noelle didn't ask Alex to take responsibility since both of them were drunk at that time.

A week later, she pretended that it didn't happen. As usual, she visited Alex, helped him clean his house, and cooked for him.

Alex had already decided to take responsibility for his actions, even declaring it directly to Noelle.

But she only smiled at him and said that she would think about it.

A month after that, Alex cleared Charles Lambert's tutorial quest and was sent to Arcana, unable to even say goodbye to the lady who held a place in his heart.

"That one doesn't count." Evangeline lightly patted Alex's chest. "You were drunk, and she seduced you."

"She didn't need to seduce me," Alex replied before heaving a sigh. "Let's not talk about this now. She and I are far apart, never to cross again. The only time I get to see her is in my dreams."

"Don't worry. I'll make you forget about her," Evangeline said with confidence.

Alex was leaning on the wall, and she moved closer to him, pinning him there.

Without any warning, her lips pressed over his, as if trying to overwrite that memory that she had seen a few minutes ago.

Alex didn't resist and allowed Evangeline to do what she wanted. He had already accepted her, and not only because she was Prince Aetherius' childhood friend.

The memory of her Bad End in the game made him understand that Evangeline fought an Empire to avenge him.

His heart wasn't made of stone. After realizing why the young lady had become a cold and indifferent person in the game, going as far as to raze an entire Kingdom to the ground just to avenge him, his view of her changed.

He also felt very sad when Evangeline took her own life at the end of her storyline, just to be with the person whom she loved dearly.

She had fought for his sake, so how could he possibly not develop feelings for her?

Alex already made a promise that he would not allow that Bad Ending to happen to Evangeline.

He would do his best to live a long life and use his second life to the fullest.

A few minutes later, the two finally stopped kissing as Evangeline gasped for breath.

She apologetically healed the small wound that she had accidentally inflicted on Alex's lips, drawing his blood as they kissed each other.

"Are you feeling better now?" Alex looked at the young lady, whose eyes were glowing crimson.

"Yes," Evangeline replied. "I'm sorry for everything."

"Silly girl, why are you apologizing?" Alex patted her head.

He then took out a handkerchief and wiped the sweat on her forehead, then the faint traces of blood on the corner of her lips.

Evangeline did the same. The scene of the pair wiping each other's faces with their handkerchiefs might have made Eleanora roll her eyes had she been around to witness it.

Fortunately, she wasn't there. Else, she might have also puked sugar on the spot.

After both of them looked more presentable, they walked hand in hand down the stairs and left the Old Library together.

Eleanora glanced at her Mistress and noticed that her cheeks had become very rosy.

Evangeline looked like a maiden who had fallen in love for the first time in her life, and it made Eleanora's teeth itch.

"Looks like both of you had some good time together," Eleanora said, making an effort to hide her contempt for Alex.

For Eleanora, her Mistress was too good for the bastard who was only talented at attracting trouble left and right.

Alex pretended not to notice the hostility in the young lady's eyes. Anyway, as long as Evangeline was on his side, Eleanora couldn't do anything to him.

The two teenagers continued to hold each others' hands, only letting go when they needed to part ways to go to their respective dormitories.

Evangeline still hadn't fully digested all of Alex's memories, and she needed a quiet, relaxing place to do that.

Alex had nowhere to go at the moment, so he decided to look for Dim Dim in Fran's farm.

He subconsciously ruled out going to the clock tower. It wouldn't be a great idea, considering that Latifa and her two Alters had superhuman senses that might let them sense the scent of blood still lingering on his body.

But, just as he was about to turn to the corner of the hallway, he saw an old man wearing Dim Dim's gangster sunglasses, leaning against the wall as if waiting for someone.

Naturally, that someone was none other than him, so Alex did what he needed to do and... pretended that he didn't see Lex and tried to walk past him.

"Hold it right there, young man," Lex reached out to grab Alex's shoulder, holding him in place. "You have some explaining to do."

"Explaining?" Alex blinked. "Explain what?"

"You didn't tell me that you and little Eva have reunited," Lex replied. "Isn't that something that you should report to me as soon as possible?"

"Sir Lex, I think you're misunderstanding something." Alex faced the old man, who admittedly looked cool while wearing the gangster sunglasses. "My relationship with Eva is our business. I am not obligated to tell you anything."

"Fair enough." Lex smirked. "But there is one matter that we should be discussing together."

"And that is?" Alex arched an eyebrow.

"Your trip to Solara," Lex stated. "I'm going with you."

The young man almost forgot about their trip to Solara after everything that happened with Evangeline.

What Lex didn't know was that Alex already planned to invite him to accompany him during their trip.

The incident that happened during his date with Evangeline in the city had made him understand how serious the Demon Worshipers were about collecting the bounty on his head.

If the Guardian of the North was with him, he wouldn't have to worry about facing stronger members of the organization who thought that they could earn easy money by eliminating him.

“Very well. You can come with me,” Alex said. “However, you need to listen to my instructions.”

Alex told his Guardian about the disguise he planned to take during the escort mission. Lex thought that it was a brilliant idea.

“Help me talk to Princess Xenia,” Lex stated. “That way, I can also sneak into your group without drawing too much attention.”

“I think you’ll draw attention just fine.” Alex smiled faintly. “An old man wearing gangster sunglasses would stand out anywhere, but that’s not necessarily a bad thing.”

That way, Alex would be able to carry out his disguise as a butler in training, allowing him to evade the eyes of the Demon Worshipers, who were currently strategizing on how to capture him, dead or alive.

Chapter 459: The Butler Of Endless Horizon

“Hmm... not bad,” Latifa commented in a neutral tone even as she fought the urge to smile.

“It suits you more than I expected.” Lavinia nodded in satisfaction.

Evangeline didn’t say anything, but for some reason, Alex thought that her pupils had turned into hearts while looking at him.

Even Lapiz couldn’t help but appreciate how Alex looked right now.

“Hmph!” Lumi scoffed with her arms crossed over her chest. “Even a monkey can look like a gentleman when wearing fine clothes.”

Alex smiled faintly and glanced at Lumi as she badmouthed him again. However, he had already developed an automatic translator for the words of contempt that the young lady spouted.

(Alex’s Translation of Lumi’s real thoughts: Why... Why does he look so good? Stop smiling like that. My heart can’t handle it!)

The young man was currently wearing the butler's uniform without his mask on. Mary had brought the butler suit over after taking the young man's measurement a few days ago.

She knew a tailor in the capital who was proficient in rushing orders without compromising on quality.

In truth, she hadn't only commissioned one set of butler clothes. She had paid for two.

And Chuck was wearing the other set right now.

"Hah... even wearing a servant's clothes can't hide how handsome I am." Chuck flipped his hair.

Princess Xenia and Mary wished that they could pinch the arrogant young man to oblivion. But they had to agree that Alex and Chuck wearing butler suits were pure eye candy.

Even Eleanora grudgingly admitted that the troublemaker looked good as a butler. For a brief moment, she even imagined Chuck kissing the back of her hand like a true gentleman while carrying out her orders.

After letting the girls admire him for a few minutes, Alex finally took out his Mirror Mask and put it on.

His appearance then changed to the twenty-one-year old "Alex" from Earth.

"Well, how do I look?" Alex asked in a deeper voice before flashing a confident smile that made Latifa's, Lavinia's, Evangeline's, and Lumi's hearts skip a beat.

While three of the four girls weren't able to regain their composure immediately, there was someone who did and made sure to say her thoughts out loud.

"Hmph. Don't get cocky just because you look slightly less like a potato. A polished pebble is still just a pebble."

Latifa choked.

Lavinia stared.

Evangeline froze mid-breath.

Lapiz blinked.

Chuck laughed out loud.

Dim Dim snapped a picture with its little camera.

Alex slowly turned his gaze toward Lumi, who stood with her arms proudly crossed like she had just declared a profound universal truth.

“...A pebble?” Alex asked, deadpan.

“Yes,” Lumi replied, refusing to back down. “A shiny pebble. But still a pebble.”

Even though the others were speechless, Lumi held her ground, chin raised high in smug triumph.

But Alex’s Lumi Translator didn’t fail him, automatically uncovering the real meaning of her words.

(Alex’s Translation of Lumi’s real thoughts: “He’s not as handsome as his original form... but I think I like this version more.”)

Because of that translation, Alex forgave Lumi and played his role as a butler by pouring drinks for the girls.

In order to make his disguise perfect, Alex had been tutored by one of the butlers employed by the Royal Family after his classes everyday.

He had been training for only a week, and they would be departing for the Kingdom of Solara in six days.

Fortunately, Alex was a fast learner, having had to pick up many menial jobs back on Earth before playing ELO.

"Hmph! Why aren't you serving me tea?" Lumi complained after seeing that Alex ignored her empty cup and poured some tea into Lotte's cup instead.

"I'm sorry, My Lady," Alex replied. "This tea doesn't suit your fine taste. Instead, I'll pour you a healthier drink."

Alex then took out something from his storage. Just as he was about to fill Lumi's cup, the young lady angrily stopped him. She read the label of the bottle that was in the young man's hand just in time!

Apple Cider Vinegar.

Lumi came dangerously close to flipping the round table inside their clubroom.

"What do you think you're doing, huh?!" Lumi grabbed the bottle. "I'm not going to drink this!"

"Does it not suit your liking?" Alex blinked innocently. "Then, how about this one?"

Alex took out another bottle from his storage ring and showed it to Lumi.

The young lady read the label and almost choked on her saliva after seeing the words written there.

Aunt Agnes' Pickle Juice — Fermented Extra Sour Edition

“Guaranteed to melt your pride before it melts fat.”

— — —

Chuck and Dim Dim burst out laughing at the same time while the girls only shook their heads helplessly.

Alex was now fighting back against Lumi's tyranny and they found it quite amusing.

Even Latifa and Lotte were all smiles because they knew what Lumi was really thinking. They were part of the same whole.

Although she would rather drink apple cider vinegar than admit it, they already knew that Lumi liked Alex as well.

After the two teenagers finished their little squabble, Alex finally poured tea on Lumi's teacup and even gave her a shoulder massage.

“Still rough on the edges, but I think we can give him a pass,” Princess Xenia commented. “What do you think, Mary?”

“I think the same, My Lady,” Mary replied before shifting her gaze at Chuck. “But maybe we should have also sent Chuck to learn how to be a butler as well.”

“Me? A butler?” Chuck crossed his arms over his chest. “Over my dead, sexy body! I mean, let's be honest here, just look at me.”

The young man raised his chin in arrogance, as if he was perfection personified.

“Every strand of my hair falls perfectly into place like it was choreographed by the heavens themselves. My posture? Impeccable. My aura? Radiates charm, confidence, and an undeniable magnetism that could make even the coldest queen swoon in a single glance.”

Chuck even gave Princess Xenia a side-long glance before shifting his attention back to Mary.

“And look at my smile!” Chuck smiled. “It’s the kind of smile that poets write sonnets about and painters attempt to capture in vain. In vain because mere paint and canvas cannot contain such perfection!

“Putting me in a butler’s uniform? I’m fine with that because I look good in anything I wear or do. But letting me serve tea for mere mortals? Preposterous! Absolutely preposterous!”

Princess Xenia put down the empty tea cup on top of the table and lightly tapped the table with her right hand.

“Chuck, pour me some tea,” Princess Xenia ordered.

“Yes, Ma’am, right away!” Chuck held the teapot and expertly poured tea into the cup without spilling a drop.

Clearly, this wasn’t his first time serving Princess Xenia tea because he was simply flawless in doing the job.

“Anyway, since we have only six days left, I will always be on butler mode when I arrive here in the clubroom,” Alex said. “I will also serve everyone tea and prepare some desserts as practice for the real thing.”

His declaration made the girls happy because who would complain about a handsome butler serving them tea?

“By the way, where is Renard, Charles, and Nessia?” Alex asked after noticing their absence.

“Renard is always in the training room,” Chuck replied. “As for Charles and Nessia, the two of them are training as well.”

Alex smiled faintly because it seemed that Renard was truly taking this trip seriously.

None of them knew what would be waiting for them in the Kingdom of Solara, but one thing was certain.

A more powerful version of Renard would make his appearance. Alex was already looking forward to what was going to happen next.

Chapter 460: A Midsummer Night’s Dream [Part 1]

Alex was starting to think about his life choices as he sat between Lavinia and Latifa on the bed.

There were only two days before they left for the Kingdom of Solara. He had been doing his job properly as the butler of his club to serve as practice for the real thing.

He was doing his role properly, but for some reason, Lavinia and Latifa asked him to just sit beside them while they rested their heads on his shoulders.

Of course, he was fine with this. But the two young ladies suddenly asked him some questions, which made Alex feel like he was playing some kind of truth or dare with hidden consequences lying in wait.

At first, Lavinia asked him if he was a cat person.

Alex had taken care of both cats and dogs in the past because one of his part-time jobs had been house and pet sitting.

While dogs were really dependable companions, they were also very needy and would like to always spend time with their owners.

Cats on the other hand were different. While they didn’t mind showing affection to their Masters, Alex always thought of cats as very independent creatures.

Not only that, they treated their Masters as pets.

Yes! Cats treated their owners as their pets.

The moment its owner returned, a dog would immediately greet them and wag its tail like crazy.

As for cats, they would just give their owners an indifferent gaze that meant “Oh, you’re back human. Do your job and feed me.”

However, seeing Lavinia looking at him with a serious expression made Alex understand that he needed to tread carefully.

“Yes, I love cats!” Alex replied.

The young man’s gaze then shifted to Lavinia’s tail that was lightly swaying behind her back.

‘Yes, safe!’ Alex did an internal fist pump.

But before he could fully enjoy his victory, the young lady seated on her right side asked a question.

“Are you a fox person?” Latifa asked.

Alex did his best to make sure that the smile on his face wouldn’t twitch or stiffen.

A fox person?

This was a tricky question that required great consideration.

While there were people who raised foxes as if they were pets, they were far and few in between.

Lumi and Lotte looked at Alex with the “Hehehe, you already know what you should and shouldn’t say, right?” gaze, which made him unleash an ability that stopped time for a brief moment so that he could think of what to say next.

Alex didn’t have any experience in handling foxes in real life, but the young lady beside him was technically a fox girl so...

“Yes, I love foxes!” Alex answered without hesitation. “I’d like to keep one—errr three of them at home if possible.”

At his answer, Latifa, Lumi, and Lotte, all smiled at the same time in satisfaction.

Fortunately, he didn’t say that he was a cat person earlier or else this might have complicated things a bit.

Just as Alex was thinking that he had evaded a landmine, Evangeline appeared, grabbed a chair, and sat in front of him.

“How about Dhampirs?” Evangeline inquired. “Are you a Dhampir person?”

Alex blinked once then twice before sweating profusely.

A Dhampir person?

Did such a person exist?

If so, where can I find them?

I would like to ask for advice!

Those were the questions that were swirling inside his head, but he understood that he had no one to lean on aside from himself.

Dim Dim wasn't around, busy patrolling campus grounds with Daisy and Rex, so Alex really didn't have any allies at the moment.

But seeing Evangeline's gaze filled with tenderness was enough for Alex to give his reply.

"Of course, I like Dhampirs as well!" Alex answered without batting an eye.

"As a pet?" Evangeline smiled faintly, reaching out to lightly caress Alex's right cheek. "You want one as a pet, right?"

Alex froze. "Yes? Uh... I mean... no! I mean... yes? I—wait—what?"

The young man was feeling flustered and was just spouting random words.

Suddenly, he felt pain on his head, which made him open his eyes wide.

When Alex realized what had happened to him, his body was already halfway off the bed, and his head was resting on the floor.

"A dream?" Alex stayed in that position for nearly half a minute before he sat up properly.

He glanced at the bed by his side and saw Chuck sleeping peacefully while hugging a pillow.

Dim Dim was also sleeping peacefully in its basket, breathing softly.

When Alex was certain that everything he experienced earlier was just a dream, he was finally able to sigh in relief.

Although the dream he had wasn't a bad dream, he still felt that what he saw could really happen in real life.

Glancing at the clock hanging on the wall, Alex realized that it was only three in the morning.

After pouring himself a glass of water and drinking all of it, the young man opened the window of their room and looked at the starry sky.

But the moment he opened the window, he suddenly saw a lady wearing a fox mask hovering right in front of their room.

The eyes behind the mask were glowing golden, and yet, a black mist was oozing from her body.

Alex almost screamed like a little girl after seeing such an eerie sight. Fortunately, he managed to cover his lips just in time before he woke the entire dormitory up.

After he regained his calm, he recognized the lady who had helped save them inside the Dungeon of Beginnings.

'If I remember correctly, her name is Himea, right?' Alex thought. 'But what is she doing here this early in the morning?'

As if reading what was inside his mind, the young lady behind the mask spoke in a voice filled with mischief.

"Don't mind me," the masked lady said. "I couldn't sleep, so I decided to stroll the academy at night."

"I-I see," Alex replied. "Taking a stroll when you can't sleep is perfectly normal."

“How about you?” the fox lady asked. “You can’t sleep as well, right? If that’s the case, why don’t you take a stroll with me?”

Alex had planned to reject her proposal, but before he could say anything, Himea made a “Come over here!” gesture, which pulled him right out of his window.

The fox lady then waved her hand, covering the young man and her with a black mist that soared into the night sky.

The window of Alex’s room closed by itself, leaving no trace of what happened behind.