

## Esper 161

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#### Chapter 161: Comforting Rebecca

Rebecca opened her eyes and found herself covered under a blanket.

"..." She removed the blanket and stared at the ceiling with a confused look on her face.

"This is the best sleep I have had in months," she muttered.

She sat up and yawned while rubbing her eyes and uttered, "What's the time? Is Rudy back yet?"

She looked at the clock, and much to her shock, it was past 8 PM.

"...!" She immediately got up from the bed and rushed to the living room, only to find it filled with Joe's apartment stuff.

"Right. This was supposed to come today. Joe even called me in the morning to remind me about it..." Rebecca sighed and rubbed her hands on her face in frustration.

"Wait, if the stuff is here, then that means, Rudy is home too. Oh my god, I am already late for work and I have yet to make dinner!" Rebecca panicked. "Today has been a horrible day for me. Everything is messed up!"

She immediately rushed to the kitchen to cook something for Rudy before leaving for work, but she saw the stove was on, and she could smell the delicious aroma of the food.

"..."

Confused, she walked further in and removed the lid to see the butter chicken was being cooked. She couldn't help but take another sniff and fill her lungs with the aroma.

"Did Rudy make this?" Rebecca wondered. "But who taught him to cook like this? And how did he bring the ingredients?"

Rebecca was even more confused than before, so she decided to ask Rudy.

GASP!

'Wait, did he bring a girl with him?!'

She walked upstairs to check on Rudy and see if he really brought a girl with him, but much to her surprise, the room was empty.

"Huh? Where did he go?"

Rebecca went downstairs again and knocked on the bathroom door.

"Rudy, are you taking a bath?"

Rebecca waited for a few seconds for a reply, but she was met with silence.

"Could it be that he is not home yet?" Rebeca went to the front door to check if his shoes were there.  
"His shoes are here, and his sandals too. So where is he?"

Rebecca searched through the entire house, but she didn't find Rudy.

"Where did he go?!" Rebecca panicked.

She immediately rushed to her room to grab her phone, so she could call his phone, but she stopped when she saw a horned shadow in her room.

She stopped in her tracks and stood in silence as the shadow grew bigger, meaning it was coming closer to her.

Rebecca instinctively stepped backward as the shadow kept getting closer. But she bumped into something and jolted with a scream: "Eeek!"

"Whoa! Mom. What's wrong?" Rudy asked from behind Rebecca.

Rebecca turned around and hugged Rudy without saying anything.

'Her body is shaking!' Rudy hugged Rebecca back and stroked her back until she calmed down.

"What happened?" Rudy asked in a calm voice.

"Where were you?! I have been calling your name for ages!" Rebecca yelled with teary eyes.

"I was in the bathroom," Rudy replied calmly.

"Then why didn't you reply when I called you?!"

"I was wearing clothes, and I was holding the towel with my mouth. I came out as soon as possible," Rudy replied.

"..." Rebecca glared at Rudy without saying anything.

Rudy caressed Rebecca's face and asked in a gentle voice: "What's wrong. Did you have a nightmare or something?"

Rudy brought his face close and kissed Rebecca on the lips, leaving Rebecca speechless.

"...!"

Rebecca pushed Rudy back, and she suddenly opened her eyes.

"..."

She looked at the ceiling with a disappointed look on her face and muttered, "So it was a dream?"

Rebecca got up from her bed and left her room. But she stopped in her tracks after seeing Joe's stuff in the living room. She also smelled the same delicious aroma she smelled in the dream.

"..."

She hesitantly walked into the kitchen and checked the food, and it was indeed butter chicken.

Baffled, she turned around to look at her room, and sure enough, she saw a horned shadow there.

"...!"

She stepped back and bumped into Rudy.

"Whoa! Mom, what's wrong?" Rudy asked.

Rebecca skipped everything because she was too scared, and pointed her finger in her room and said, "I saw a shadow in my room."

As soon as Rudy heard that, the glass on the table shattered into pieces.

Rebecca turned to the kitchen and muttered, "What's going on?"

"Don't worry, mom, it was just wind."

After saying that, Rudy entered Rebecca's room and activated his see-through ability to inspect the room thoroughly. But no one was there.

'I was standing right behind mom, but I didn't see anything. I don't sense any presence either. Maybe she just saw her reflection or something? It's night and only a few lights are on. She was also sleeping a while ago, so there is a chance that she just...'

Rudy glanced back at Rebecca, who was still looking at the broken glass with a confused look on her face.

'I managed to keep my anger in control. But I guess that glass was weak, to begin with.'

Rudy walked back to Rebecca and said, "There is nothing, mom."

"But I saw a shadow," she said.

"Maybe you simply saw your shadow?" Rudy wondered and pointed his finger at his shadow that was falling in Rebecca's room. "See?"

"But it had horns! And it was getting bigger as I stepped back..." Rebecca stated with a troubled look on her face as though she was having second thoughts about what she saw.

'Horns? Now, that's not something one would see in a normal condition...' Rudy once again scanned the entire house, and he couldn't see anyone.

'Well, I have to calm her down, so let's act natural for now.' Rudy placed his hands on Rebecca's shoulders and said, "Let's eat dinner."

"I will take care of this broken glass first."

"There is no need. Let it be, I will take care of it later."

"But—"

"You are getting late for work, right?"

Rebecca reluctantly agreed and went to the kitchen with Rudy.

"I will serve—"

"There is no need." Rudy placed Rebecca on the chair and said, "Let me do it."

"..."

Rebecca was confused because Rudy was acting differently, but she didn't mind being treated with love.

Rudy served the food to Rebecca and sat beside her.

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#### **Chapter 162: Feeding Rebecca**

Rebecca kept glancing at Rudy as they ate dinner together.

"What's up with you? You are acting like a gentleman today," Rebecca asked with a grin on her face.

"I just want to show you my gratitude for raising me alone. It must have been hard, and I can't imagine the hardship you went through. You must have sacrificed a lot of your dreams, so I can fulfill mine," Rudy said with a gentle smile on his face.

"..."

Rudy held Rebecca's hands in his hands and continued, "You are the best mom in the world."

Rebecca's heart fluttered after hearing that, and she couldn't stop but stare at Rudy's lips which kissed her in her dream.

She placed her finger on her lips and wondered, 'If I had acted the same as I did in the dream, would he have...'

Rebecca shook her head and threw all the indecent thoughts. She wanted to enjoy dinner with her son with no other intention.

As Rebecca was eating dinner, Rudy moved his hand toward Rebecca to feed her.

"..." Rebecca was reluctant, but she opened her mouth after seeing the innocent look on Rudy's face.

"You have been eating for a while now, but you didn't tell me how the food tastes," Rudy remarked while eating.

"Oh!" Rebecca exclaimed and said, "It's really tasty!"

Rebecca's mind was occupied with lots of thoughts that she forgot to praise Rudy's cooking.

"Where did you learn to cook, though? And did you bring the ingredients and chicken from the market?" she asked curiously.

"Yes. There was a sale going on, so I bought them. And then got the recipe from the internet," Rudy replied as he fed another bite to Rebecca.

However, Rudy was lying.

After moving all the stuff in the living room, Rudy noticed that Rebecca was still in deep sleep, and she wouldn't wake up anytime soon. So he went to the market and bought chicken and the ingredients.

He knew how to cook because he had learned it from Elise.

Besides, his phone was destroyed, and he hadn't bought a new phone yet. He was planning to buy it today after school, but he didn't get time.

"You don't have to worry too much about lunch and dinner, mom," Rudy said calmly. "I can cook just fine, and this dish is proof. So you can take a rest and enjoy your time after a long, exhausting day."

"..."

"And besides, once Joe and Lucy move in, Lucy will take care of the household."

"Why would you say that? She is not coming here to become a maid, you know?"

'Well, she took care of everything in my past life, so... as if I can say that... not until I find the origin of my powers...'

Rudy looked and smiled at Rebecca, who was enjoying the dinner he had with his hands. For some reason, his heartfelt relief, knowing that he could still feel and find happiness in others' happiness.

'I haven't changed...' Rudy began eating dinner, but he didn't like the taste.

Of course, it was tasty as Rebecca had said, but Rudy didn't like the taste of his own cooking. He would rather eat Rebecca's cooking, which was the most delicious for him.

He hadn't eaten the cooking of his harem members yet, but he had eaten the cooking of Elise in his past life. However, Rebecca's cooking still remained his first choice.

As Rudy was lost in his thoughts while enjoying dinner, Rebecca called out to him.

"Rudy," she said in a low voice.

Rudy looked up to see Rebecca was trying to feed him with her hands.

"Say Aah," she said with a flushed face. She was feeling embarrassed, but then she recalled how Rudy fed her without flinching.

'What's wrong with me? Why can't I act normal? I have been managing fine for 18 years! I only need to wait for a few more weeks! But it's all his fault for acting like this. My fragile heart can't take it.'

Rudy opened his mouth and Rebecca fed him.

"..."

For some reason, that bite tasted different to Rudy. He wanted to taste more, but obviously, he couldn't ask Rebecca to feed him again and again. He didn't want to trouble her.

'Where is Angelica? She is usually awake by this time. But I guess she did stay awake for more than usual and even carried me all the way here from Alice's house. She also looked after me for the entire night until I woke up, so I guess she will be waking up late tonight.'

Rudy couldn't help but miss Angelica as he felt alone without her company. She had become an important part of his life; without her, he felt incomplete.

After eating dinner, Rudy turned to Rebecca and said, "Go wash your face and hands if you want to. Then we will leave together."

"Huh? To where?" Rebecca asked with a confused look on her face.

"To the convenience store you work at, of course."

"Why, though?"

"I have something to buy, so I thought I would go with you."

Of course, Rudy was lying. He simply wanted to escort Rebecca to her work as he was worried about her.

"What do you want to buy? I will bring it when I return home," Rebecca asked curiously.

"Do you not want me to come with you?" Rudy asked with a judging look on his face. "Could it be that you are embarrassed to bring your son to your workplace?"

"No. Of course, not!" Rebecca sighed and said, "Fine. Get ready."

"I am already ready."

"Then wait." Rebecca entered the bathroom to wash her face.

Rudy took that chance to wash the dishes and clean the kitchen. He also took care of the broken glass and cleaned everything.

By the time Rebecca came back after five minutes, there was no trace of anything in the kitchen. It looked as though they never ate dinner.

'He used his powers, didn't he?' Rebecca thought to herself.

She glanced around to look for Rudy, but he wasn't there.

"Rudy?" She called out to him.

"I am here, mom," Rudy replied. He was standing at the front door, waiting for Rebecca.

"Wait. Let me grab my purse and phone from my room." Rebecca rushed to her room and grabbed her purse and phone. But before leaving her room, she glanced around and sighed in relief.

'I guess I just missed the dream and reality.'

Rebecca closed the door, locked the front door, and left with Rudy.

"Let's go."

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#### **Chapter 163: Walking with Rebecca at Night**

Rudy and Rebecca were walking on the street at night.

Rebecca was in a hurry, and she was repeatedly looking at her watch to check the time.

"I am 45 mins late!" she panicked.

Rudy glanced at her from the corner of his eyes and asked, "Does it matter? I mean, would you get in trouble?"

"No, but they will cut my pay as I am getting paid on an hourly basis," Rebecca responded.

"Then it's fine." After a brief pause, Rudy said, "I want you to enjoy your work rather than stress over it. You don't have to worry about the money anymore. We have been living just fine before, so we can surely live the rest of our life."

"I am your mother, and I have certain responsibilities like every mother has," Rebecca stated. "You can't change that just because you want to. The adult world is full of compromises and sacrifices."

"I will change that," Rudy uttered in a low voice.

"You can't change the way this world works; it's impossible," Rebecca remarked.

"I know. But I am not talking about changing the world for everyone, I am talking about changing your world."

"..." Rebecca was confused, so she tried to understand what Rudy just said.

"Everyone in this world lives in their own world. They have their own rules, morals, ideas, and perspectives. They think they are right in this world. They rule that world. That's why, I want you to rule your world," Rudy asserted in a solemn voice.

"Yeah, I don't understand."

"My life could have turned out differently if you had made different choices in your life. Maybe if you had focused on your dreams and hadn't made sacrifices for me, our relationship wouldn't be the same as it is now. But surely, you would be living a happy life if you had achieved your dreams, am I right?" Rudy asked with a curious, yet calm look on his face.

Rebecca stopped walking and turned to Rudy.

"What...?" Rudy asked.

"What if I tell you that my dream was to become your mother?" Rebecca asked with a judging look on her face.

Rudy pondered for a while to think of a reply, but he gave up and shrugged his shoulders.

"Checkmate, huh?" Rudy let out a loud groan and said, "I can never win against you."

Rebecca grinned at Rudy but didn't say anything. But Rudy felt good after seeing the grin on Rebecca's face.

The streets eventually got empty as the time got past 9 PM. They lived in a town where everything closed at 7:30 PM, and only one convenience store was open where Rebecca worked.

The convenience store was located near the main street that led to the highway, and many passersby and travelers stopped there to get refreshed after a long ride. It was truly the best place for the convenience store.

'Well, Eleanor is the smartest person I have ever known. And everything she does is perfect. Her choices are always right. It's almost as though she knows what will happen in the future,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

As Rudy and Rebecca were walking, the streetlamps went off after flickering a couple of times. Then, the rest of the lamps on the street went off the same way and filled the entire street with nothing but darkness.

The full moon was covered with clouds and there was no other source of light to illuminate the street. Due to that, Rebecca couldn't see anything that was one meter away from her, but Rudy could easily see everything thanks to his superpowers.

Rudy knew Rebecca was scared of darkness since she always slept with her lights on even in the daytime, and when they didn't have electricity, she used her phone's flashlight.

When Rudy saw Rebecca stopping in her tracks, he grabbed her hand and said, "Don't worry, I am here."

"...!" Rebecca clenched Rudy's hand tightly and said, "This hasn't happened in a while."

There were frequent power cuts in the town and that was the normal thing. But the streetlights remained on most of the time as they were connected to the different power grids.

'Her hands are trembling...' Rudy uttered inwardly. 'I am glad I came with her.'

To calm Rebecca down, Rudy decided to start a conversation while walking. He slowly opened his mouth and said, "Even after the apocalypse and pandemic, nothing has changed around here."

Rudy wanted to know about the apocalypse, but he was more curious about how it affected Rebecca's life.

"Yeah, even when the entire world was having a hard time, this town, and the few neighboring towns and cities, remained untouched. The zombies never entered the area," Rebecca responded.

'So that's the reason why. And most of the things are damaged due to lack of maintenance, not the apocalypse.'

"It was almost as though they were afraid to enter the area, like something was stopping them," Rebecca added. "Once, a zombie entered the neighboring city, and it killed itself out of panic after realizing that."

"How is something like that possible?" Rudy wondered. "Zombies don't have any intellect."

"According to the officials, the zombie leader— T.A, had the power to control the zombies, so they theorized that T.A had ordered them to not enter the area, and when that zombie did, it killed itself because it went against T.A's order," Rebecca stated.

"Now that's one loyal pawn..." Rudy murmured.



After walking in the dark for a while, they finally reached the other side of the town that had the lights on.

SIGH!

Rebecca sighed in relief and said, "Thank god, the power is on here. I didn't want to spend the night in the convenience store without lights."

Rudy glanced at Rebecca from the corner of his eyes and said with a knowing look on his face: "I am sure they have a generator for times like this."

"Oh... yeah..."

A minute later, they reached the convenience store. But Rudy met someone in the store.

It was the first girl who had forgotten her purse and also saw Rudy and Alice flirting in the park. Not only that, but she was a former bully who used to bully Rudy.

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#### **Chapter 164: Janet, The Former Bully**

Rudy saw the girl, but ignored her and entered the convenience store with Rebecca.

The girl first looked at Rudy with a confused look on her face, and then she raised her brows when she saw Rudy was holding hands with Rebecca.

"..."

She tried to act normal and filled her cart with the stuff she was there to buy. But she followed Rudy and Rebecca with her cart to make it look like she was simply shopping.

Meanwhile, Rebecca finally noticed that she was still holding hands with Rudy.

"...!" Her face flushed when she realized that it was not Rudy who was holding her hand, but it was her who was holding his hand.

She let go of Rudy's hand and tried to act normal, but the embarrassment on her flushed face said it all.

"Oh, Rebecca, you are here," a female co-worker spotted Rebecca and said, "I thought you weren't going to come today since you left late today. Welcome."

"Yeah, I am sorry for being late," Rebecca apologized to her co-worker. "Where are the other two?"

"Oh, they didn't come today. So I am really glad that you came. Otherwise, I would have had to spend the entire night alone," she said with a smile on her face.

She then noticed Rudy standing beside Rebecca and asked, "Can you take care of the customer? I am confirming the products on the shelf."

"Oh! Uh... Rachel..." Rebecca placed her hand on Rudy's shoulder and said, "This is my son, Rudy."

"Oh..." Rachel walked closer to Rudy and squinted her eyes at him. She pinched his cheeks and said, "He looks like a high school student."

"I am a high school student," Rudy responded.

"What?" Rachel turned to Rebecca and said, "How do you have a son who is in high school? At what age did you get pregnant? Or is he perhaps adopted?"

"Mom~! I can't find my favorite shampoo~!" the first girl said from the other side of the row.

"One minute..." Rachel went to the other row and asked, "Yes, JanetJanet? What shampoo are you talking about?"

Rachel was Janet's mother, just like how Rebecca was Rudy's mother. It was an awkward introduction to four of them.

The convenience store in the town and the neighboring cities were run by Eric's mother— Eleanor, and she made sure to hire the people who were in need of money and having tough times. She also paid them considerably well compared to the other job that paid hourly wages. And it was easy to take a leave since they were friends with each other.

After Rachel found Janet's favorite shampoo, she looked at her cart and said, "Are you buying a month's worth of products?"

"No, It's only for a week," Janet replied.

Rachel shook her head and said, "Stop wasting money on make-up and stuff."

"But I have to look pretty in school!"

After hearing the commotion, Rudy and Rebecca walked to the other row and saw Rachel and Janet arguing.

"You are already beautiful without make-up. And besides, there are chemicals in this stuff. It will damage your skin for a long-time, you know?" Rachel commented with a knowing look on her face.

"Shut up! You don't know how important it is for a girl to look pretty in school! And if you are worried about the money, then I will pay you back once I get a job after I finish high school since my school doesn't allow students to work."

SIGH!

'She is going to bite back on her words after she finishes high school,' Rudy sighed.

"But you are already pretty!" Rachel looked at Rudy and Rebecca and asked, "Rebecca, what do you think?"

"Yeah, she is pretty," Rebeca nodded.

"See?"

"..." Janet was frustrated, but she couldn't retort.

"Everyone can be pretty from the outside, what matters is how the person is from the inside," Rudy remarked with a smirk on his face.

Janet glared at Rudy but didn't say anything. She grabbed her cart and rushed towards the empty counter.

RING!

She rang the bell to call the cashier— who was Rebecca.

"Coming~"

Rebecca went into the changing room and returned a few seconds later after wearing an apron over her clothes, which was also the dress code for the job.

"What am I going to do with this girl?" Rachel sighed. "She has entered a rebellious phase after getting into high school."

Rudy strolled around in the store for a while and waited for Janet to leave because he didn't want to interact with her.

After a while, Rudy also decided to leave, so he walked to the counter to greet Rebeca.

"Oh? Are you leaving?" Rebeca asked. Rebeca looked at Rudy's hands which were empty and asked, "And what did you want to buy?"

"I didn't find what I was looking for," Rudy responded in a calm voice. "I will try asking Eric. He should know about it. Or maybe he can order online too."

"Yes, but what was it?"

"It's a secret."

"..."

"Okay, bye~" After saying that, Rudy left.

"..." Rebecca was upset that Rudy left without answering her. But she was glad that Rudy wasn't in a rebellious phase like Janet.

However, Rudy didn't come to buy anything. He simply wanted to drop Rebecca at her work because he was worried about her.

Rudy was walking his way back home, but he decided to visit Reina and see how she was doing.

He activated his see-through ability and glanced around to make sure no one was looking at him before he teleported. But surprisingly, Rudy saw someone hiding in the corner.

"..."

"Who is here? Come out! I can see you," Rudy said out loud.

A few seconds later, Janet walked out of the corner with bags in her hands.

"..." Rudy raised his brow in confusion and wondered, 'Why is she here?'

"What? Were you waiting for me to come out, so you can bully me?" Rudy asked with a scoff.

"No!" Janet yelled. "I want to ask you something."

"If it's a confession or something, then my answer is no," Rudy uttered nonchalantly.

"It's not!"

"Then, what is it?"

Janet furrowed her brows at Rudy and asked, "Why are you cheating on your girlfriend?"

'What is she talking about?' Rudy asked himself. 'Did she see me kissing Reina in the water park? Or maybe Alice. But... wait...'

"What girlfriend are you talking about?" Rudy asked to confirm.

"I am talking about Rias, of course."

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#### **Chapter 165: Bully Getting Bullied**

"Rias...?"

'How does she know that name? No one remembers her, so how...?'

"What do you know about my relationship with Rias?" Rudy asked curiously.

"What am I supposed to know?"

"Do you know how I met her or how we started going out?" Rudy asked calmly.

"Why are you asking me all that?!" Janet uttered in an annoyed tone.

"Then why are you asking if I am cheating on her?" Rudy questioned back.

"That's..." Janet averted her gaze and passed the bag from her left hand to her right hand, seemingly it was heavy for her to carry.

"That's..." Rudy asked. But after a brief pause, he asked, "Are you sure you don't have a thing for me?"

"I don't!" Janet yelled.

"Then why do you interfere in my relationship? And what made you think I am cheating?"

"I saw you today with Alice."

"...!" Rudy was surprised, but he didn't let his expression change. 'She saw us? When? In the classroom? On the rooftop? Or when we were in the park?'

"What's weird about that?" Rudy shrugged his shoulders and said, "You already know Alice and I are childhood friends, so what's wrong if we are together?"

Janet squinted her eyes and said, "I saw you hugging her from behind and touching her boobs."

"That's.... Normal skin ship between childhood friends," Rudy said while avoiding eye contact with Janet.

Janet furrowed her brows and glared at Rudy before saying, "I thought you were a kind and innocent boy, but you turned out to be the same as every other boy."

Janet was born in a low-class family because her mother was a single mother. When her mother was 19 years old, she started university and there she met a foreign guy with blonde hair.

They had many classes together and they became friends. One thing led to another, and they ended up dating. But after dating for three months, when Rachel told her boyfriend that she was pregnant, he started acting strange.

One night, he told Rachel that he was going to buy milk, and then he never returned. He changed his phone number, deleted his social accounts, and moved to a different university far away.

When Rachel's parents found out about it, they kicked her out and stopped giving her tuition fees. So She had no other choice but to drop out of the university and do a part-time job to make money.

Around the same time, Eleanor had started her business and she gave the post of manager to Rachel. But after giving birth to Janet, everything changed, for good.

Rachel found herself happy with her daughter and she was enjoying the life of a single mother, and she had no regret in giving birth to Janet, even though her parents wanted her to get an abortion and marry someone.

Janet's natural hair was blonde, just like her father, and her eyes were blue, just like her mother's. Both Rachel and her ex-lover were beautiful looking, and Janet inherited the beauty.

Naturally, she was popular in school, among both boys and girls, so she was also the target of bullying. But after entering high school, she decided to become a bully herself.

While she never physically abused someone, nor did she hurt them emotionally, she threatened everyone and gave 'don't come near me' vibes. She thought she would be fine without making any friends. She simply pretended to be a bad girl.

But just as honey attracts insects, Janet attracted other bullies who wanted to be friends with her. Janet knew that if she denied them, then she would get in trouble, so she started hanging out with them.

But unlike Janet, who was only acting to be a bully, the other girls were real bullies who bullied weak boys and girls of the class who were also alone with no friends to protect them.

Out of everyone, Rudy was one of their targets. And as a new member, Janet was forced to bully Rudy.

Janet was well aware that if she didn't do as they said, her cover as a fake bully would be exposed, so she had no other choice but to bully Rudy.

Rudy, however, knew about Janet as he was the constant target of bullying because of his weak body and meek behavior. He also knew that Janet wasn't a bad person.

A few days passed by, and the bullies kept asking Janet to bully every loner student they saw. And due to that, Janet's grades dropped, and she was suspended many times before getting a final warning from the school.

Apparently, the bullies who asked Janet to bully others snitched on Janet when they got in trouble.

That's when Janet finally realized that she was getting bullied by them all along. She then broke her friendship with them and started hanging out with other girls in the class, including Alice, who was also one of the popular girls in the school.

It took everyone a while to accept Janet, but everything worked out eventually.

"That reminds me, you never apologized for bullying me," Rudy remarked with a grin on his face, seemingly, he was teasing her.

"I did apologize!"

"When? I don't have a memory of that."

"I placed an apology letter in your bag..." she uttered in a low voice.

'Oh! So it was her? She never wrote her name, and I was constantly bullied, so I never figured out who it was.'

Rudy looked at the bags in Janet's hand and said, "You should drop this all 'pretty girl' act. You are trying too hard to achieve something you already have."

"Shut up! You don't know how the world works for girls!" Janet retorted.

SIGH!

Rudy sighed and recalled his past life memories about Janet.

Everything was the same in this life, but Rudy and Janet never interacted again in high school.

Janet kept trying to get more fashionable and that attracted lots of playboys, who all left her heartbroken in the end. She then graduated from high school and went to the same university as Rudy.

Rudy and Janet eventually became good friends, but it seemed as though they were about to become friends in high school in this life.

"I will tell you what I know about Rias," Janet asserted.

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#### **Chapter 166: Future Friends**

"As you should know, Rias transferred to our school when the second year started, but she only came to school for 2 days," Janet stated.

'I know that much from what Rize told me, but I guess I can ask Janet for details without acting suspiciously. But why does she remember her and others don't? Even Rize didn't remember anything other than her name and a few things,' Rudy wondered.

"So, you were tasked to visit her and keep her up to date with the school. Weeks passed by and Rias suddenly started to come back to school every day. And you had also gotten a lot closer to her. But then stopped coming one day, and she hasn't returned since."

Rudy pondered for a while and said, "Do you have a picture of her?"

"Why would I have a picture of her?" Janet asked with a confused look on her face.

"Don't girls take selfies and pictures all the time? So I assumed if you ever took a picture of her, accidentally on purpose," Rudy acted natural and responded with a shoulder shrug.

"You have become weird..."

"Ouch. So now you have started verbally bullying others, huh?"

"I didn't!" Janet frowned her face and said, "Are you trying to take revenge on me by mentioning the word 'bully' again and again?"

"What? Of course, not." Rudy scoffed softly. "I am a kind and innocent boy, remember?"

However, Rudy was indeed trying to take revenge on Janet by making her feel guilty.

While it was true that they became good friends in the future, but that was in his past life. In this life, they were still only classmates and close to strangers as they didn't know anything about each other, or at least, Janet didn't.

Janet bit her lips and hugged herself. She glanced repeatedly at Rudy from the corner of her eyes and slowly opened her mouth to say, "Look, I know I did the wrong thing, okay? I am extremely sorry for it."

"Do you realize how bullying someone can change their entire life? Some even get trauma and develop social anxiety. They get communication disorders and many more things. Their life becomes hell. And you think a simple 'sorry' is going to cut it? You are wrong. Only if it was that easy," Rudy uttered in a disdainful tone.

Janet lowered her gaze because she didn't have the courage to look into Rudy's eyes. Her guilt was over the roof, and she truly wanted to atone for her sins, but there was nothing she could do.

Rudy's words hit her hard as she knew he told the truth. A sorry was but a mere word; without any emotions behind it, it was nothing.

"What... what should I do to make you forgive me?" Janet asked in a low voice, seemingly afraid to know the consequences of her sentence.

"Hmm~" Rudy hummed in amusement as he pondered for a while and said, "What can you do?"

"Anything...? As long as I can repay my sins..."

"Oh? Anything?" Rudy inspected Janet's body from head to toe with a seductive gaze in his eyes.

Upon noticing that, Janet covered her body by placing her hand on her visible cleavage and said, "You are not thinking of anything indecent, right?"

"Who knows?" Rudy said while licking his lips.

Janet backed some steps and made some distance between them.

"Heh!" Rudy smiled at Janet and said, "Don't worry. I was joking."

"Jokes like that are not funny!"

Rudy shrugged his shoulders and said, "And bullying someone is not funny either. Listen, I am not trying to make you feel more guilty. I am just trying to make you realize that the world won't work the way you want. Just because you think you have changed doesn't mean the world thinks you have changed. You will have to prove them wrong."

"I am trying..."

"And if you truly want to do something to make me forgive you for bullying me in the past, then just be yourself," Rudy stated in a neutral tone.

"Huh?" Janet couldn't be more confused than she already was. She was just a teenager, while Rudy was giving her adult talk that required a decent amount of maturity to understand.

Janet was experiencing puberty, and she was going through a rebellious phase, so it was highly unlikely that she would take other's opinions into consideration. But Rudy wanted to change that. He was trying to save Janet from the fate awaiting her.

"You are honestly fine just the way you are. Stop trying to look pretty, you are plenty pretty. And if someone dares to say you are not, just let me know, I will show them what 'not' pretty means," Rudy said with a gentle smile on his face.

"...!" Janet's face flushed a little after hearing that. 'It's my first time someone has told me that...'

Janet forgot that her mother was telling her the same thing not long ago.

"Do you..." Janet looked into Rudy's eyes and asked, "Do you really find me pretty?"

"Regardless of your personality, yes," Rudy nodded in response.

"Am I prettier than Alice?!" she asked with a curious look on her face.

"Of course not," Rudy scoffed out loud and said, "You are ten years too early to be compared to her."

Janet puffed her cheeks and left.

"..." Rudy watched her walk into the dark and muttered, "She is surprisingly tamer than I thought."

Rudy was about to leave as well, but Janet returned from the dark and squirmed in front of Rudy.

"What?" Rudy asked.

"I don't know, but for some reason, all the streetlights are off, and it's really dark. Can you... can you accompany me to my house?" she asked with a flushed face.

"Oh? Are you inviting me to your house at night when no one is at home and your mother is working the night shift? You are too bold," Rudy remarked with a grin.

Janet looked at Rudy with teary eyes and muttered, "Who is being the bully now?"

Rudy grabbed the bag from Janet's hand and said, "I will drop you off."



Unbeknownst to either of them, they were being watched from above the clouds, by a feminine winged figure that was small enough to go unnoticed by Rudy's radar, or was it?

### Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

#### **Chapter 167: Bonds**

When Rudy was walking Janet home in the dark, Janet tripped a couple of times after stumbling on the rocks and the uneven road.

That was something normal in the town covered by the farms, even more so when there was no light to see what lay a meter away from them.

Rudy could see everything as clear as day, but he purposely let Janet trip, as it would have been weird if he warned her. She would get suspicious and ask him many questions, and Rudy wanted to keep their walk as simple as possible.

Of course, Rudy didn't let Janet get hurt, and Rudy grabbed her whenever she was about to fall. And that led to him touching Janet's parts that shouldn't be touched by a boy.

Getting annoyed by tripping, again and again, Janet grabbed Rudy's hand and said, "Don't get the wrong idea. I am only holding your hand, so you don't get lost."

"..." Rudy shook his head in disbelief and thought, 'This side of her never changed, even in the university.'

After walking for a few minutes, they finally reached Janet's house.

"This was a nice way of showing me your house address," Rudy commented with a grin on his face.

"Shut up! And don't you dare ever come to my house! Or I will break your teeth!" she yelled at Rudy.

After walking and talking with Janet, Rudy couldn't help but recall all of his past life memories with Janet where they spent good times as friends. And their friendship had gotten so deep that his girlfriend—Elise, sometimes felt jealous of her because Janet knew Rudy since high school while she only met him at university.

Despite that, Rudy and Elise had quarrels several times because of his closeness with Janet, but it was nothing serious.

However, soon after that, Janet confessed her love to Rudy, but she didn't ask him out as she knew how much Rudy loved Elise and there was no chance and space for her in his heart.

They still remained friends, but there was awkwardness between them. A year later, Janet volunteered to go overseas for a project that was one semester long.

Rudy didn't know why Janet agreed as it was related to her least favorite subject, and he always thought that Janet did that, so she could get away from him, but he wasn't sure.

When Rudy got into the accident, she didn't know about it as she was working overseas as an intern because of the connections she made on the project and had excellent growth. While in truth, she focused more on her studies to forget about Rudy.

However, when she heard the news about Rudy's accident from her university friends, she flew straight to Rudy without caring for anything else.

She cried for hours after seeing Rudy's condition. She couldn't taste the food or drink water, nor could she sleep well.

Rudy didn't know about Janet's visit as he was unconscious most of the time. And no one knew about it, since no one was around to take care of Rudy at that time. She eventually had to fly back overseas for work, and never got a chance to visit again.

But when she did, Rudy was no longer in the hospital; he was taken to the gene experiment center.

"Thanks... for dropping me off..." Janet said with a flushed face.

"No worries, but now you owe me two favors. Remember that," Rudy responded in a rather calm voice despite the expression on his face.

Rudy then turned around after saying, "See you at school tomorrow."

"Wait!" Janet called out to Rudy and said, "Umm... do you want to... come in?"

"No," Rudy rejected her instantly.

Janet was a little disappointed, but she was also glad.

"Rias was a lot similar to you yet, different from you sometimes," she said with a distant smile on her face. "But I guess I know why you fell for her. And not going to lie, you two were perfect for each other."

After seeing Janet talking about Rias with a distant smile on her face, Rudy couldn't help but feel more desperate to find out about Rias.

"Of course, we were," Rudy responded, not wanting Janet to become suspicious of him.

"You also always used to braid her red hairs and—"

CRACK!

Once again, Rudy felt something breaking inside him, but this time, it was the most impactful than every other time.

Rudy wanted to know, even more, so he asked, "Do you remember how I used to try different hairstyles on her to see what suited her the best?"

For some reason, Janet seemed zoned out, as though she had seen a ghost.

"Janet?" Rudy called out to her in a calm voice.

"Ah... yes?"

"You were saying something?"

"Yeah....? About what?" Janet wondered with a puzzled look on her face.

"About Rias..."

"Uhh... who is that?" she asked with a curious yet confused look on her face.

For some reason, Janet forgot all about Rias and everything related to her.

"..." Rudy didn't know what to say, so he simply smiled at Janet and said, "No one."

"Huh...?"

"Good night."

"Good... night..."

Rudy left, but Janet was still confused.

"Who is Rias?" she asked herself.

She then closed the door and turned on the flashlight on her phone, seemingly, she purposely tried to make Rudy walk her home.

"Stupid Rudy..." she muttered.

Meanwhile, Rudy was infuriated. He didn't know what to do.

"Dammit!"

He has been looking for clues about Rias, but with no luck, he didn't find anything. The only person who remembered everything about Rias was Janet, who forgot about Rias in front of him.

"I have decided... if they don't want me to notice them, I will make them notice me..."

Rudy flew to Rias' address and stood between the debris of the demolished house.

"According to what Janet said, everything started from here. So I will just have to start again...."

Rudy then recalled the strange feeling he had when he had taken Angelica to the forest to have sex with her.

"I had my suspicions, so time to prove them right."

Without wasting a single second, Rudy walked into the forest.

### [Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

#### **Chapter 168: Vampire**

Rudy walked deep into the forest and stopped at the spot where he was going to have sex with Angelica.

He crouched down to get the same level of sight he got that night and looked in the direction where he felt someone was watching him. His gaze fell on the tall mountain, but it was too far away.

"I don't think anyone can see from that far... but well, I will go check."

Rudy flew to the mountain and landed on top of it, but as he had expected, there was no one. He then looked at the spot from the mountain and nodded.

"I can see fine, but I still need to squint my eyes to get a clear view. So whoever was watching me was obviously not human, but what could it be?" Rudy wondered with an amused look on his face.

'People are forgetting about Rias, so something supernatural is definitely involved. Doesn't that mean Rias is not a human?'

"That could explain why there are no pictures of her. But why... does no one remember her?"

'And just how our relationship was? Did we truly love each other?'

Rudy's mind was overflowing with too many questions, and he wasn't getting answers to any of them.

'So what happened between us? Why is she no longer with me, and why does no one remember her in the first place? Did we break up or something? That answers some of my questions...'

"Wait..." Rudy placed his hand on his chin and wondered, "If we actually broke up, then is there any meaning in looking for her?"

Rudy pondered for a while and uttered, "From what I understood from all the clues I got so far; Her name is Rias. She has red hair. She is not a human. She never came to school, so I visited her and that's when something happened, and we apparently started dating. So... we dated for around three months and broke up. She erased everyone's memories and went back to where she came from."

Rudy came to the conclusion that the reason no one remembered Rias was because she did something to them to make them forget about her. And the logical reason why she would do that was that she wanted to get away from everyone.

However, there was still one thing Rudy wasn't certain of.

"It's obvious that she erased everyone's memories, but did she erase mine too?" Rudy wondered.

'I entered this body after that event, so I am not sure that. I haven't regained the memories of the Rudy of this world since I didn't know about the apocalypse and the pandemic either. So there are chances that Rias didn't wipe my memories, and maybe we never broke up?'

Now, Rudy had a reason to search for Rias. Or, at least, he wanted to.

"Even if we truly broke up, I want to meet her..." Rudy was curious about Rias in more than one way.

'I don't want to sound melancholic, but I am... I mean, I was kind of dense in my past life. And since I always focused on my studies and my future, I neglected everyone's feelings. Even in the university, I was the same. But one day...'

Rudy smiled wryly and uttered, "One day when I laid my eyes on her, I felt as though the chain binding my heart suddenly broke loose. I don't want to call it 'love at first sight', but it actually was."

'To this day, I still don't know what was the reason I fell for Elise, but I am glad I did. That's why... I want to know how Rias managed to make me fall in love with her.'

"She has to be someone exceptional if she managed to capture my heart."

Rudy's wish to meet Rias was growing more and more, and there was nothing to stop him from meeting her.

He slowly opened his mouth and uttered, "I... wish to meet Rias..."

Rudy wasn't sure if wishing to meet Rias would actually make it real since that wasn't his power, but he still did that and had hope in his heart.

Suddenly, the clouds that were covering the moon slowly faded away and illuminated the forest with the moonlight.

His ears twitched as he heard a faint noise coming from somewhere around him, but he couldn't pinpoint it since it was echoing from all around.

He activated his see-through ability and gazed around to where he thought the sound was coming from, but his ability couldn't catch it.

'Could it be that it's bypassing my see-through ability?' Rudy wondered as he jumped and hovered in the air, so he could inspect more easily.

He still couldn't see anyone, but he could hear the echoing noise. After listening to it for a while, Rudy finally realized that the sound was coming from the sky.

He looked up and followed the sound of the noise even though he couldn't see anyone, and that's when he saw it.

When the noise passed through the moonlight, Rudy saw a fog of mist flying in the sky.

"No wonder my see-through ability wasn't working..."

Rudy flew towards the mist, but as soon as he got near it, he was slammed to the ground by an invisible force.

Rudy landed on his feet and once again launched himself into the mist, but this time, he used telekinesis to control the mist. At first, he struggled, but eventually got a hold of it.

"I don't know who or what you are! Reveal yourself now, and I will consider forgiving you!"

The mist finally stopped struggling and slowly gathered to form the shape of a bat.

"..." Rudy's eyes widened in shock as he uttered, "A... vampire...?"

Rudy felt the same sting in his heart, but he felt as though something was finally broken inside him.

The bat slowly changed its shape to a beautiful silver-haired girl with red eyes. She had a pale body and the moonlight was making her body shine. She was naked when she transformed, but her chest was covered by her long silver hair.

She looked Rudy in the eyes and said, "Rudy... you shouldn't be here..."

Rudy furrowed his brows and asked, "Who are you? And Why do I feel my blood boiling after seeing you?"

## Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

### **Chapter 169: Fighting with a Vampire**

SNAP!

The silver-haired vampire girl snapped her fingers and conjured clothes around her naked, pale body.

"Are you... Rias...?" Rudy asked with a curious yet calm look on her face.

The girl frowned her face at Rudy and said, "I don't know how you still remember even though I used a top-tier charm spell, but you should leave."

SIGH!

Rudy sighed and uttered, "So I guess you are not Rias? And you are the one who made everyone forget about Rias?"

"...." The girl raised her brows with a confused look on her face and thought, 'Why is he acting as though he has never seen me before? Could it be that he actually doesn't remember anything?'

'If that's the case, then I can easily fool him and drive him out of here! I will charm him by looking into his eyes and hypnotizing him to forget everything once again.' the girl thought to herself.

"No, you are wrong." The girl looked into Rudy's eyes with a confident look on her face and said, "I am Rias."

She had already started hypnotizing Rudy using her charm abilities.

"Are you, now?" Rudy asked with a knowing look on his face.

"You don't believe me?" the girl made a dejected look on her face to show she was sad. She wrapped her arms around Rudy and said, "I am your Rias, your girlfriend."

"..."

'Done! I successfully hypnotized him! That was so easy! As expected of me! I am the best vampire in the world!'

"Now, go home," she said to Rudy.

Rudy shrugged the girl's hand and said, "Your weak charming ability won't work on me."

"...!" The girl's face turned pale after hearing that, even though her skin color was already pale, the shock was visible on her face.

"Why are you still sane?!" she yelled.

"Your ability is weak as fuck, and you call yourself the best vampire? Hah!" Rudy scoffed out loud and said, "That's laughable!"

The girl's face turned red in embarrassment.

"How do you know all that!" she asked with a furious look on her face.

"You tell me."

"Don't tell me..." the girl's red eyes widened in shock as she muttered, "You can... read minds...?"

"Wow. I actually didn't expect you to get it right the first time." Rudy clapped his hands and said, "Well done."

"Enough of this!" the girl yelled. "How are you doing all this?!"

"How indeed~"

The girl's face twitched after realizing Rudy was messing with her. She raised her hand, which immediately turned into a sharp claw, and swung her hand at Rudy.

Rudy grabbed the girl's hand with ease and crushed it with his grip.

"Argh!" she yelled in pain.

Rudy twisted her hand, which caused the girl to turn around. Otherwise, her arm would have been dislocated.

Rudy grabbed her other hand too, and said, "I will ask again."

After a brief pause, Rudy uttered, "Tell me where Rias is and what happened between us."

"I won't tell you!" she yelled.

"Then take her to me. If you do as I say, then I won't kill you," Rudy uttered in a solemn voice, seemingly, he was serious about it.

"How..."

"Hmm?"

"How can someone change so much in a mere three months?!"

"What are you talking about?" Rudy asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

"You were a weakling three months ago. I should have killed you right there and there for seducing my innocent sister! But I spared your life because Rias asked me to. That was the biggest mistake of my life. And I have come to regret it now!" the girl yelled at the top of her lungs.

Rudy instinctively let the girl go after learning that she was Rias' sister, which could make her his sister-in-law.

The girl took the chance and bit Rudy in the neck with her sharp fangs!

"...!"

She sucked his blood and kept sucking it, but Rudy's body was creating new blood in his body,, so he could never run out of blood.

Rudy wanted to push the girl away, but for some reason, he couldn't.

Of course, it wasn't as though she had suddenly become stronger than him, but getting his blood sucked reminded Rudy of a nostalgic feeling, and his heart ended up skipping a beat.

In short, he was enjoying getting his blood sucked, and that made him feel horny for some reason.

Eventually, the girl got tired after sucking Rudy's blood for minutes, and she stopped for a few seconds to catch her breath. But as soon as she removed her fangs from his neck, Rudy stopped feeling good.

Thus, he was back to his senses.

Rudy grabbed the girl's head and slammed her to the ground, but she spread her wings and saved herself from getting smashed to the ground.

She turned into a bat and then into mist, but Rudy was already familiarized with that now.

Rudy assumed the girl would run away, but instead, she flew into the forest.

"Come on..." Rudy sighed.

He landed on the ground and activated his see-through ability, but instead of trying to find her with his eyes, he used his ears to locate her position.

Whenever the mist passed by the trees and other things, it created a strange noise that gave out the girl's location.

Of course, that wouldn't be the case in normal conditions or if it was only a normal human. But with his super-hearing ability, Rudy could hear the sound of all the frequencies that could only be heard by certain animals and birds.

The girl thought she would be able to hide her presence and attack Rudy when he let his guard down, but she didn't know that Rudy was already on to her.

Of course, the girl didn't have anybody's features when she was in her mist form, but Rudy looked directly into her as though he was looking deep into her soul.

Then, Rudy spread his arms and clapped as loud as he could, creating a wind wave in all directions.

### [Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

#### **Chapter 170: Fighting with a Vampire (Last part)**

The grass, rocks, plants, trees, and insects in the forest were razed into nothing. The area had turned into an empty ground with nothing, but cracks on it.

The girl who had turned into mist had changed her form into a bat and flew up as far away as possible to save herself from the wind wave.

However, it was too late, and she was caught up in it. But luckily, for her, Rudy used telekinesis to hold her steady, and then, he slammed her to the ground, creating a hole in the ground.

SIGH!

Rudy casually walked to the pit and saw the girl had changed into a human form to save herself from the impact.



"Are you dead?" Rudy asked in a cold voice.

The girl moved her body and grunted in pain, but she was still alive.

"I guess it is hard to kill a vampire, but then again. I wasn't trying to kill you," Rudy uttered in a low voice.

"Now." He jumped into the pit and said, "Do you want to live or not?"

"...."

"If you want to live, then start speaking and tell me what exactly happened between me and Rias, and where she is right now," Rudy threatened with an emotionless glare in his eyes.

The girl slowly raised her hand, even though it was trembling.

Rudy furrowed his brows and uttered, "Do you still want to fight in this state?"

But after looking into her eyes, Rudy realized that she was trying to do something else. So he let the girl do whatever she was trying to do.

She placed her hand on Rudy's forehead, and a magic circle appeared on the tip of her finger.

"^\*#\*^\*^\*#" she muttered something in a very low voice.

The next second, Rudy felt an agonizing pain in his head. He felt as if his brain was getting shredded again and again.

"ARGH!" he grunted out loud in pain and held his head in his hands. He glared at the girl and asked, "What did you do?!"

However, the girl had already passed out.

"Argh!" Rudy's pain was making him angry, and he couldn't endure it anymore. The ground started cracking and destroyed everything remaining in the forest.

He raised his head to kill the girl because he assumed his pain would go away if he killed the girl. However, as soon as he was about to kill the girl, he stopped.

"..."

His pain suddenly stopped and everything went back to normal again. He was confused as to what happened and what exactly did the girl do to him as everything was the same, but suddenly, unknown memories started flowing into his mind.

"Did she give my memory back or something?" Rudy muttered in confusion.

The girl had removed her charm from Rudy, and that caused Rudy to remember everything.

"So that's what happened..." he muttered.

He looked at the girl and uttered, "Her name is Jane, and she is Rias' twin sister. She was ordered by the vampire monarch to bring Rias back from the human world."

Rudy was smiling as he recalled all his moments with Rias, but the smile on his face soon turned into a frown.

"How dare someone come into my love story! How dare someone interferes in my life! And how dare someone take my love away from me!"

To Rudy, his memories with Rias were foreign, and they didn't belong to him, or so he used to think. But how, he was confused.

The only reason Rudy was able to learn about Rias in this world was that Rebecca accidentally mentioned it while talking, and that led him to Eric, who didn't give him any valuable information, but he was still grateful for his support.

He then went to school to learn more about it and ran into Rize, who told him what she remembered about Rias. He got Rias' address from Rize, but when he went there, her house was demolished.

In short, everything occurred due to a small incident. Now, Rudy was both curious and confused about what happened in his past life.

What if he also had Rias as a girlfriend in his past life but because Jane had wiped everyone's memory, he couldn't remember it?

Rudy only got to know about Rias through Rebeca, and that was because he ate dinner with Rebecca. But what if Rudy didn't eat dinner with Rebecca on the same date and time in his past life?

Rudy genuinely wanted to know about that, but there was no way of knowing it.

After regaining the memories of the time he spent with Rias, Rudy's heart ached. It contained both happy and sad memories. But the memories alone didn't mean anything if there weren't any feelings and emotions behind them.

When Rudy regained his memories, he also regained his feelings and emotions behind the memories, and that made him wonder if Rias was his girlfriend in his past life too.

"Rias promised me that she would always love me and wait for me. But she also asked me to wait for her. She believed that one day I would come to save her, or she would come to me, and we would reunite again," Rudy muttered.

"I don't know if Rias was my girlfriend in my past life too, but that life ended. I didn't meet her again, and she never returned to me. Maybe she waited desperately for me to come to save her, but I never remembered her and spent the rest of my life... until I got into that accident."

After a brief pause, he uttered, "But this time, I remember her, and I know that she is waiting for me to save her. I am coming, Rias. Wait for me."

Rudy carried Jane in his arms and took her into the mountains. Then, he came back to the forest and stood in the middle.

"I don't know where the vampires live, and I don't know how to get there. But I know one thing, which is that nothing can keep me from Rias, not anymore."