

## Esper 171

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

#### Chapter 171: Life of the Normal Highschool Student

Rudy was in the classroom, sitting at his desk, studying hard for the upcoming tests.

The school hours had already ended, but some of the students were still in the class to study for exams.

A teacher stood in front of the classroom door and called a group of girls for something.

Even though the students had stayed in the school to study, most of them weren't studying. They were either using their phones or talking with their friends. But Rudy wasn't.

Eric was sitting beside Rudy, using his phone. But suddenly, he got a message from his mother, asking him to cover a shift in one of her convenience stores as a manager for a day.

Eric had no other choice but to go, so he packed up his bag and turned to Rudy to ask him if he was interested in joining him. But he noticed Rudy was too focused on studying, so he chose to not disturb him, and left him alone.

Alice was also sitting next to Rudy, but she was studying and didn't pay attention to her classroom. But she suddenly felt like taking a leak, so she went to the bathroom.

Of course, Rudy didn't realize that either as he was too immersed in studying.

The group of the same girl, whom the teacher called earlier, came to Rudy and stood in front of his desk.

At first, he ignored them, but he couldn't ignore them after they started kicking and slamming on his desk. He finally raised his head and looked up at the group of girls.

The girls were actually bullies, and one of the girls among them was Janet.

The girls wanted to bully Rudy, but Janet secretly tried to help him by taking the initiative. She placed her hand on Rudy's shoulder and looked into his eyes before saying, "I have work for you."

"..." Rudy kept his mouth shut as he knew that he would get more bullied if he spoke something. But Janet knew that she would be forced to physically abuse Rudy if she didn't drive him out of the room.

"Are you listening to me?" Janet asked in an annoyed tone. "I said I have work for you."

"..."

Rudy still didn't say anything, and simply lowered his gaze to avoid eye contact with Janet or any of the girls.

"Go to this girl's house and give her your class notes and everything," Janet said.

"Didn't the teacher ask you?" Rudy finally spoke, but he had a low voice.

The leader of the bully group stepped forward to punch Rudy, but Janet quipped and said, "I don't want to go somewhere far away for no reason. Why should I care about a girl who never comes to school?"

"..."

Janet handed Rudy a piece of paper and said, "This is her home address."

Rudy looked at the address and realized it was truly far away from the other side of the town that was openly connected by the forest.

Rudy decided to walk out of the room and pretend to go to the girl's house, but he planned to go home directly. But then he saw a \$50 note with the paper.

Rudy glanced at Janet and tried to open his mouth to say something, but Janet glared at him and said, "Now scoot!"

Rudy realized that Janet was trying to help him and even gave him \$50 as compensation, so he decided to visit the girl, who was none other than Rias.

Rudy could have just taken the money and left the school without going to Rias' house, but he felt obliged as he thought Janet gave him money to do her work.

He placed his books in his bag and left the classroom. On his way, he decided to go to the bathroom as he was going to walk for at least 30 minutes to reach Rias' house.

He entered the washroom and stood in front of the urinal. After unzipping his pants, when he was taking a leak, a group of seven third-year students approached Rudy.

Rudy had already noticed their presence as they weren't trying to hide the fact that they were waiting for him to finish.

'Not again....'

Rudy zipped his pants and turned around to see the group of seven smirking at him. He quickly decided to leave without doing anything, but the group of boys had planned something different.

When Rudy was about to leave the washroom, one of the boys grabbed him by his backpack and pulled him back inside.

"Let me go!" Rudy yelled.

"Shut up, you piece of shit!" The boy kicked Rudy on the back of his knee, which caused him to fall to the ground.

"Argh!" Rudy grunted in pain, but he couldn't do anything.

Even if he tried to fight the group despite knowing that he would be beaten up, he couldn't possibly fight against all of them. He was a weak and non-athletic high school student who was below average in everything except knowledge, handsomeness, and his optimistic nature.

Rudy slowly got up and tried to leave the washroom, but another boy grabbed Rudy's leg and pulled him, causing him to fall again, but this time flat on his face.

THUD!

Rudy's head hit the floor, but fortunately, it didn't bleed. But it was painful.

Because of that, the paper and the \$50 slipped from Rudy's hand and fell to the floor.

One of the bullies saw it and read the paper that had Rias' address written on it.

"Oh, oh! What is this?!" he asked Rudy.

"..."

When Rudy didn't answer, he kicked him on the stomach and said, "You are a piece of shit to the core!"

"Hey, look!" another bully pointed his finger at the \$50 bill on the floor and said, "He got money with him!"

One of them immediately picked up the bill and asked, "How did you get this money?"

Rudy chose to stay quiet and uttered to himself: 'Don't worry, Rudy. This will end soon. Just endure for a few more minutes, and they will get bored.'

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#### **Chapter 172: Life of the Normal Highschool Student (ii)**

That was a daily occurrence for Rudy, and he was constantly getting bullied. He never tried to fight back as he knew he would never win. Nor did he try to complain to the teacher because that would simply make the bullies bully him even more than before.

"You are poor as fuck! And you don't even take a bath for a week! You stink more than my dog's ass!" one of the bullies said.

"There is no way this money belongs to him!" another bully said.

"I know, right?! He is dirt poor!" another bully seconded.

"He doesn't even have money to buy new clothes!"

"I think he stole the money from someone."

"His mother must be some cheap prostitute!"

"Haha! Maybe we will use this money on her!"

"That's a good idea! I will fuck her from the front, and you do it from the—!"

Before the bully could say even a word more, he received a punch in the face that made him stumble on his fist.

It was Rudy and his eyes showed pure rage.

"I will kill you!" he said.

"You piece of shit!" The group of the bully jumped on Rudy and started beating him mercilessly.

The bully who got punched by Rudy looked at his hand and saw blood. Rudy's punch had made a cut on his lips.

"How dare you punch me!" he kicked Rudy repeatedly while cursing him.

At the same time, Eric entered the washroom to take a leak, only to see Rudy ganged up and beaten by the group of bullies.

He immediately rushed to them and grabbed two of them from behind by their collars. He threw them into the urinal and kicked the other two. Then, he pushed the remaining ones and helped Rudy.

Fortunately, if it could even be called lucky, Rudy hadn't received any visible wounds even after getting beaten up so badly.

"Who the hell are you?!" The bully, who had gotten punched by Rudy, dashed at Eric to kick him from behind, but Eric grabbed his leg and slammed him into the cubicle.

Then, he got up and cracked his fingers before saying, "Gang up on someone with your size."

One bully tried to punch Eric, but Eric easily stopped one bully's punch and kicked him in the stomach, causing him to be smashed into the cubicle as well.

The rest of the 5 bullies tried to gang up and attacked Eric at once, but even Eric couldn't block or dodge 5 attacks at once. He was punched in the face by two bullies, but it didn't hurt him at all.

Eric grabbed one bully by his head and slammed him to the wall. Another bully tried to attack him, but he stepped aside, and the bully ended up slamming him into the urinal.

Now, only three of them remained. Eric looked at Rudy, who was sitting with a lifeless gaze in his eyes, as though he had given up on life.

Eric felt angry and ended up punching one of the bullies repeatedly. He grabbed another one by the neck and kicked him in the nuts.

Then, he looked at the last remaining bully— who was also the leader of the bully again— and said, "You pathetic piece of shit!"

Eric kicked him and grabbed him by his hair. Then, he dragged him to the cubicle and forced the bully's face into the toilet bowl.

The bully struggled to get up, but Eric forced his face even deeper by pressing his head with his feet.

"Taste what shit tastes like!" Eric said.

After making sure all the bullies had passed out, Eric helped Rudy get up.

"Are you okay...?" he asked.

Rudy quietly nodded and muttered, "Thank you."

"There is no need for to thank me. I did what anyone would do," he said with a smile on his face.

"You are always helping and saving me..."

"That's not true, and I didn't beat these guys up for you. Even if it was someone else getting bullied other than you, I would have still beaten the shit out of these bullies. And remember, you are not the only student they bully in this school."

"Still..."

"Enough of the chit-chat. Let's get you to the infirmary and get your wounds healed."

"I am okay..."

"No, you are not. You can't even walk properly."

Eric placed his hand around Rudy's shoulders and helped him walk out of the washroom. He took Rudy to the infirmary and said, "I will be right back. I forgot something."

Eric went to the principal's office and reported the incident.

"I honestly don't regret my action, and you can do whatever you want to me," Eric uttered nonchalantly. "You can suspend me, or even expel me from the school. I honestly don't care about education."

"Now that's not something you should say so proudly, especially in front of the principal, you know?" Anthony said to Eric with a knowing look on his face.

"This is getting ridiculous! This is your school, and your school has so many bullies! Why aren't you doing anything about them?!"

"It's not as simple as you think..."

"Listen, if they ever dare to bully someone again, and I happen to see them, they would end up in the hospital in a serious condition," Eric asserted with a furious look on his face.

"What would happen to you then?" Anthony asked. "Surely, when you said you don't care about education a while ago, you didn't truly mean it, right?"

"Oh, I mean it." After a brief pause, Eric continued, "My mother has a big business that's growing exponentially every month. In the next two years, she will enter the league of multi-millionaires."

"Even if I don't work, I will still live a luxurious life. And I can just support mom in her business and get into real estate or whatever. But I want to study and do something else. Because I don't want people to say I was born with a golden spoon in my mouth and became successful using her wealth," Eric stated with a straight face.

Anthony sighed and said, "Well, there are rich spoiled kids who end up on the street even by making wrong choices in their life."

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#### **Chapter 173: Classic Creepy House**

Anthony looked into Eric's eyes and said, "You see, life is not about the rights or the wrongs, and it's never about what you do in your life. One way or another, everyone in this world lives their lives. What matters is how they live."

Eric shrugged his shoulders and said, "What are you trying to say?"

"The bullies will remain bullies, or so you think, am I right?" Anthony asked Eric with a judging look on his face.

"Obviously. Shit is shit, and it will remain shit; just because u spray perfume on shit doesn't mean it will stop being a shit," Eric replied in a sarcastic manner.

"But that's not the case. I grew up in this town and met a lot of people. When I was a kid, I got bullied. When I was in school, I got bullied, a lot. But I had friends, and they saved me, just like how you care about Rudy, they cared about me."

"..."

"Do you know who my friends were?"

"How would I know?" Eric scoffed out loud.

"They were the ones who used to bully me when I was a kid."

"..."

"You see, just one action or let's say, even a repeated action of someone doing something, doesn't necessarily mean they would remain the same. Just a couple of weeks ago, I went to the board meeting at the state level regarding the opening of the schools after the apocalypse and the pandemic, but this school was already open last year since there was no damage done to this town or the neighboring cities. Oh! I am getting sidetracked."

After a brief pause, Anthony continued, "In the meeting of council, I met the leader of the bully gang who used to bully me in school. He had completely changed into a new person. He greeted me nicely, and we had a long chat. And when I was about to leave, he offered to drop me at the station. In the car, he apologized for his actions in high school and asked me to forgive him."

"...."

"Bullying is not something new. It used to happen ten years ago, 100 years ago, and even 1000 years ago. And believe me, it was far worse than the fistfights happening nowadays." he scoffed softly.

"So, what are you trying to say? I still don't understand." Eric raised his brow and asked, "Are you saying that those bullies will change?"

"No." Anthony shook his head and said, "Not everyone changes, obviously. I am saying that one day they would come to regret their actions, and that would weigh them and pain them more than the physical pain."

Eric yawned and left the principal's office after saying, "I will tell mom that you are encouraging bullying in the school."

"Oh, come on~" Anthony groaned. "Don't put words into my mouth."

SIGH!

Anthony sat on his chair and leaned back with a tired expression on his face. He then looked at the photo frame on his desk and smiled.

That photo frame had a picture of four kids; two boys and two girls.

One boy was Anthony and another was Rudy's father, one girl was Anthony's late wife and another was Eleanor— Eric's mother.

Eric made his way back to the school infirmary where he dropped Rudy off to get treated, but when he got there, Rudy wasn't there.

"Excuse me, I brought a friend around 15 minutes ago. Where is he?" Eric asked the nurse who was reading the paperwork.

"Umm... are you talking about that handsome boy...?" the nurse asked.

"Yes, that handsome boy. Where is he?"

"I think he left after saying he was getting late for something," the nurse responded.

"Where did he run off to...?" Eric sighed and phone-called Rudy, but his phone was switched off.

Eric left the infirmary and went to do his job at the convenience store.

Meanwhile, Rudy was walking his way to Rias' house.

"Her house is literally on the opposite side of the school. Why would she enroll in his school if it's so far away?" Rudy wondered.

"Maybe that's why she doesn't come to school?"

Rudy walked for minutes before he reached the crossways.

"Where is it now...?"

Rudy wasn't lost, but he wasn't sure about the correct way. The other three ways were leading in the same direction, but the destination was different.

"Great..."

Rudy picked up a rock and tossed it in the air.

'I will go where the rock falls!' he decided.

The rock fell in the middle lane, so Rudy decided to go straight.

He walked for a few minutes while recalling what he learned in school today.

"Who is that girl anyway? Rias... what a weird name. Well, my name is weird too, but—"

THUD!

Rudy stopped on his tracks when he heard a loud thud noise from near him. He carefully glanced around, but he couldn't find a single trace of what could have caused such a loud noise.

Suddenly, the clouds covered the sun, and everything turned dark.

"..." Rudy slowly stepped backward and said, "Yeah, Nah. I am going home."

Rudy turned around and was about to start running, but he saw a few houses in the distance.

"Come on..." Rudy let out a soft groan and muttered, "Since I am already here, I might as well just leave the notes and go back home."

Rudy was walking for who knows how long, and the sun was covered by the clouds, so he had no idea how much time had passed.

"I will inform mom just in case, so she doesn't get worried." Rudy took out his phone from his pocket to inform Rebecca, but his phone was dead.

SIGH!

With no other choice left, Rudy rushed to the house and stopped to catch his breath.

'There are like 7 houses here. And they have no number tag. How am I going to know which one is...'

Rudy squinted his eyes at the window of one house because he felt as though someone was standing behind the curtain.

CREAK~

Suddenly, the door of the same house opened and a gust of wind attracted Rudy to go inside.

"What a classic creepy house...."

Any thoughts on the cover?

[Esper Harem in the Apocalypse](#)

#### **Chapter 174: Inside the Creepy House**

Even though the house was giving a creepy vibe, Rudy couldn't stop himself from going inside.

He himself didn't know why he was walking towards the house even when he wanted to run in the opposite direction. It was almost as if he was captivated by the fragrance that came along with the gust of wind.

Rudy tried to stop himself from moving, only to end up making himself walk faster. The harder he resisted, the more he couldn't control himself.

Eventually, Rudy entered the house against his wishes.

THUD!

No sooner did he step his foot into the house than the front door closed with a loud thud that almost made Rudy jump in fright.

Rudy realized that his body was no longer captivated by the smell, and he could freely move his hands and legs.

'Nice! Let's leave now!' Rudy turned to open the door and leave, only to be left baffled.

The door wasn't there.



'What?! But I just entered through the door....I even heard the sound of it closing just a few seconds ago! What's going on!' Rudy panicked and began inspecting the wall where there once used to be a door.

"I knew it! I shouldn't have entered this house! Why did I even enter inside?! It looked creepy as hell from the outside and is no different from the inside either!" Rudy cursed while repeatedly banging on the wall.

"It was as if my legs were automatically moving because of that smell!" Rudy suddenly stopped banging and uttered, "Wait... what was that smell?"

Rudy sniffed around him, but the only things he could smell were the pale and earthly odor of an old abandoned house, books, wood, and dust. Rudy looked in the corners and saw the ceilings were also filled with spider webs and dust in them.

'What is this place?' he asked himself. 'How do I leave from here?'

While searching the house to look for an exit, Rudy spotted a window across the hallway.

"Nice!" He immediately rushed towards the window and looked through it to see the back of the house that was leading to the forest. He noticed that the window was slightly above the normal height, requiring him to jump outside, which didn't help him because of his fear of heights.

Rudy didn't think much as his priority was to get out of the house, so he slid up the glass window and climbed on it. He closed his eyes and took out his legs before jumping down.

SPLASH!

Rudy's shoes got wet as if he had stepped on the puddle.

Hoping to see a dirt puddle and nasty water all around him, Rudy opened his eyes only to find himself in a bathtub.

"..."

Confused, he looked up and saw a ceiling.

"What? I thought I jumped out of a window, so how is... there a ceiling...."

Rudy looked behind him to confirm whether he had jumped from the window or not, and much to his surprise, there was no window behind him.

"..."

Rudy immediately got out of the bathtub and searched for the door. But the door was not on the wall, it was on the ceiling.

"What's going on?!" Crouching down, he yelled.

He closed his eyes and held his head in his hands. After a few seconds, when he opened his eyes again and looked up, there was no door. Instead, it was on the floor, and he was sitting on top of it.

Before he could get up and run away, the door opened, and he fell through.

"Aaaa!" Rudy was afraid of heights, and the sensation of falling was something he was not enjoying.

If one fell from the first floor or from the tenth floor, falling was still considered falling, and Rudy was scared to death of that feeling.

He closed his eyes and waited for his body to hit something, but that never happened, which left him confused and curious at the same time.

He was afraid to open his eyes because he was sure he would see something that would give him another mental attack. But he had no other choice except to open his eyes to see what happened.

Rudy slowly opened one eye, but his vision was blurry, so he opened both eyes fully.

"Huh...?"

He was confused because even when both his eyes were wide open, he couldn't figure out what he was saying.

TAP! TAP!

A tennis ball came rolling and stopped in front of Rudy's face.

"...."

However, how could a ball roll in the air without making contact with anything?

Rudy finally realized that he was standing on the ceiling and he was seeing everything upside down. No sooner did Rudy realize that than he fell to the ground with a loud thud and cracking sound as his body hit the floor.

"..."

Although Rudy couldn't do anything other than look at the ceiling, he noticed that the ball rolling in the air earlier was still up there.

"..."

Rudy tried to raise his hand but couldn't move. So instead, he tried to lower his hand, and it moved up instead.

'The gravity is inverted in this room, but that's not the only thing... my thinking or rather... The actions are inverted too.'

Rudy closed his fist and opened it as he smiled.

'My guess was right! I just have to think the opposite of what I want to do, and it will happen normally.'

Rudy imagined lying down, but instead, he got up.

"Now that I have realized how this works, it's not that frightening...."

Rudy imagined moving his leg back, but they moved forward instead.

After spending a few seconds in that situation, he had already mastered using it to his advantage. That was Rudy's intelligence, and no one could win against him if he used his brain in everything.

He jumped to the ceiling and rolled around to move to the side.

Rudy grabbed the ball and said, "I will go towards the area where the ball came from."

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

#### **Chapter 175: Inside the Creepy House (ii)**

The room itself had a confusing design, and Rudy had no idea in which direction he was going, but he kept walking in one straight direction because he saw a door there.

Just like how the front door had disappeared as soon as Rudy entered the house, the door from the bathroom had also vanished when Rudy fell into that room.

"What's with this house? Is this some abandoned haunted house or something? If yes, then what did I do to deserve this?" Rudy asked, even though he knew that he wouldn't get an answer.

Rudy remembered what happened today in the school and how seven bullies bullied him in the washroom.

"What did I do to deserve any of that? I don't think bad of someone. I don't date anyone, nor have I ever hurt anyone. I never curse at people. I don't act rudely to anyone! I respect the elders, love the kids, and acknowledge someone with my age," Rudy uttered to himself in frustration.

"I never blamed anyone for being born into a poor family, and I am happy with what I have. I never demanded anything or wished for a better life for myself. I just want my mother to have a better life! What's wrong with being kind? Is it wrong to be naive? It's not like me being kind or naive will affect someone!"

"I am not stupid! What's wrong with being weak? And what's so great about being strong? Power corrupts people, and history is proof of it. Even a saint can turn into a devil if they give in to the temptation."

"What's wrong with being humble? That would actually make people like them even more! What's wrong with having less confidence? It's not always about confidence, and overconfidence makes people arrogant! There are always two sides to everything! The good and the evil."

"If something happens for good, then something happens for worse too. No one in this world is ever truly satisfied and happy with something. Some have nothing, yet they are still smiling despite not being satisfied because they are happy. And there are some who have everything, but they are not happy nor satisfied."

"What to do with that kind of life? I would rather not have anything and be happy than having everything and not be happy!"

Rudy didn't realize that he had already reached the door as he kept taking out all his pent-up frustration while trying to walk forward,

He slowly moved his hand to the doorknob, but before he could touch it, it started moving on its own as though someone was trying to open the door from the outside.

Usually, Rudy would have been scared and run away from there, but he was annoyed after taking out all the pain he was enduring, so instead of running away or hiding in the corner as he normally would, he grabbed the knob and unlocked the door.

As soon as the door creaked open, Rudy kicked the door and slammed it open. However, there was no one on the other side of the door. The effect on the room had also stopped and Rudy no longer had to think opposite to do something.

'Since the knob was moving, I assumed someone was there, but...' Rudy looked at the tennis ball in his hand and threw it in the hall.

The ball bounced a couple of times and started rolling, but it eventually stopped after moving for a while.

Rudy stared at the ball with a serious look on his face and didn't blink for a minute straight.

SIGH!

Just as he sighed in relief, the ball automatically started moving to the other side of the hallway. Then, Rudy heard the sound of a footstep from that direction.

He immediately dashed through the hallway and entered the room where he heard the sound, but it was empty, and the ball was rolling in a circle.

"..."

It was the living room, but it was empty with only one vintage chair in the middle, around which the tennis ball was circulating.

The back of the chair was facing Rudy as he couldn't see if someone was sitting in the chair or not. He slowly walked to the chair, his heart punting with every step.

He could clearly hear his heartbeat since the room was filled with silence, and the rolling sound of the ball was getting louder as he walked closer to the chair.

After a few more steps, Rudy was standing in front of the chair, but when he tried to take one step forward, the ball started moving at high speed.

Rudy stepped backward, and the ball returned to its normal speed. He took one step forward, and it once again started rolling at high speed.

Rudy only wanted to check whether someone was sitting in the chair or not, and there were many ways to know it. The easiest way was to approach the chair, but the ball wasn't letting Rudy get close to it.

However, Rudy had no need to get close to it. He could also see from afar if he just walked to the other side of the room.

And that's what he did. He walked to the other side of the room and saw the chair was empty.

"..."

One part of Rudy was relieved that there was no one, but another part of him was disappointed for the same reason.

Rudy noticed that the ball had stopped moving, seemingly it was to stop Rudy from getting near the chair, but Rudy outsmarted whoever had done that— although it didn't really seem smart to Rudy as it was an obvious thing to do.

Now, Rudy was back to square one, and he had no idea what to do. He still couldn't find the exit, nor could he progress in finding any clue about the house.

In all that, Rudy forgot why he was in the house in the first place.

However, that didn't last long as the ball started moving again and rolled out of the living room. And Rudy soon followed it.

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

#### **Chapter 176: Inside the Creepy House (iii)**

The ball led Rudy back to the hallway. However, it had changed. The rooms were located on different sides, and even the color of the walls had changed.

Earlier, the walls were empty with spider webs and dust all around, but now, everything was cleaned, and there was no sign of dirt. There were even paintings on the walls.

'Weird things are happening in this house, so I am not really surprised by this, but damn, this house looks a lot neat now. It no longer feels creepy; instead, it is very welcoming now.'

"So even the state of the house can change thoughts. I don't feel scared anymore, but that might be a cause of the adrenaline rush I am having right now. Once its effect ends, I know I won't be able to walk."

Rudy let out a deep sigh and walked through the hallway. He was curious about the paintings, so he looked at them, but they were blurred out.

The ball traveled through the hallway and entered a room that looked like a kitchen, but as he had expected, it was empty.

Rudy gulped down after seeing the faucet because he was thirsty.

'I walked for more than half-hour, and I have no idea how much time I spent in this house.' Rudy thought as he walked closer to the tap. 'I know this will be empty as the house is abandoned, but what's wrong with trying?'

Rudy slowly turned the tap, but the water didn't come out.

SIGH!

"What was I expecting..." he muttered in disappointment.

HUSH!

With a sharp hushing sound, water started dripping from the faucet.

"...!"

At first, red liquid poured down, and Rudy almost mistook it for blood, but he soon realized it was just rusted water. After a few seconds, the water got clear, and it looked clean.

However, Rudy wasn't sure about drinking it.

'I have no idea for how long the water has been there, and I don't think it's wise to drink water from a random faucet, especially in a creepy house, although it's no longer creepy.'

Rudy decided not to drink the water and proceeded to explore the house to look for an exit to leave the house.

Rudy turned around, only to see the ball wasn't there anymore.

"..."

He immediately rushed out of the kitchen and searched all over to look for the ball. He even entered the closed rooms and the places he had never been before.

'Where did it go?!'

"Where did it come from in the first place?" Rudy wondered. "Only if my phone had a battery could I call Eric to get me out of here. Although I doubt there would be any cell network in this house."

"A classic cliché of a horror movie..." he muttered with a sigh.

Suddenly, Rudy's ears twitched as he heard a familiar sound. It was the house of the ball rolling.

He immediately glanced around in all the corners and open ways, but the sound was coming from somewhere else.

"It sounds a little muffled as though it's... upstairs..." Rudy looked up at the ceiling, but the ball wasn't there either.

'When I looked at this house from the outside, it looked big enough to be a 3BHK house. I even saw someone peeking from behind the curtain, and then the sudden gust of the wind... wait...'

Rudy's eyes widened as a sudden thought crossed his mind.

"I think my eyes met with whoever it was, and their eyes were... red. That's when I lost control over my body. However, I have been in this house for at least 2 hours, and I haven't seen stairs yet."

But Rudy was sure that the house had another story above him, and the rolling sound of the ball was coming from there.

"Since everything in this house is tricky, there has to be a way to go upstairs. I just need to find a way to do that..." Rudy spent nearly an hour searching the whole house, trying to find a clue and lead, but to no avail.

"Come on... will I be stuck in this house forever?" Rudy asked with a loud groan.

Frustrated and annoyed, Rudy looked at the ceiling and yelled, "Listen! I don't know if anyone is up there! But if you are doing all this, I want you to stop, please!"

"I didn't enter this house on purpose, so please, show me how to leave, and I swear I will never come back again! I will also not tell anyone about this!"

The rolling sound of the ball suddenly got faster, as though it had started spinning at a fast speed.

"I am not lying! I am a good person, and I know I don't have anything to prove that! But I have to go home! I have a mother, and she will get worried if I don't go home in time! I would have called her, but my phone is out of battery! So please, let me leave!"

Rudy had no idea what he was doing, but it wasn't as though he had any other option but to call the house. If he got lucky, the house might let him leave.

Rudy waited for a few seconds for something to happen that would give him a sign that could provide him with hope.

A few more seconds later, the sound of the ball rolling eventually stopped.

"Did it work...?"

Suddenly, the photo frames from the walls of the hallway started shaking, and one of them fell down.

"..." Rudy assumed it was a way or a clue to leave the house, so he approached the frame.

He slowly picked up the frame and turned it around as the broken glasses fell to the ground.

Now that there was no glass in the frame, the photo wasn't blurred anymore, but it was still covered with dust.

He slowly took out the photo from the frame and brushed his fingers as it slowly revealed the contents of the photo.

"...!"

He saw something that made him lose consciousness, and the next time he opened his eyes, he found himself outside the house.

However, he realized that his backpack was no longer with him. It was still in the house.

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

#### **Chapter 177: Breaking Promise**

"You have got to be kidding me..." Rudy uttered in frustration.

'Not going to lie, when I opened my eyes and found myself outside the house, I thought it was all a dream, but...'

After Rudy woke up, he found himself outside the house. At first, he was happy that he finally got out of the house that could only be described as a haunted house.

He didn't know what he did to get out of the house, but he assumed it must be because of one of the things he said. He noticed that it was already night but didn't know how much time had passed.

He was about to leave, but he noticed something strange. He felt like he was forgetting something, and it didn't take him long to realize that he didn't have his backpack with him.

Now, Rudy must enter the house again and get his bag. Sure, he could just leave the bag behind, but he couldn't. There were books, house keys, and a wallet in the bag.

Books? Sure, he could leave them behind and buy or borrow new ones.

House keys? Maybe he could leave them behind and simply tell Rebecca that he lost them somewhere.

But his wallet? No, he couldn't leave it behind.

It wasn't as though the money in the wallet meant more to Rudy than his life; he didn't even have more than \$5 in it anyway. But there was something valuable in the wallet that Rudy couldn't leave behind.

Rebecca told him that the wallet belonged to his father, and it was a very precious thing to him. There was also a dollar coin that belonged to his family generation and was considered a memento as well as an heirloom of his ancestors.

It might sound stupid to risk one's life for something like that, but not for Rudy. The wallet was priceless to him, and he would even fight a demon to get it back.

With all that said, the adrenaline rush Rudy was having had ended, and he could feel his legs growing weaker as the strength in them left his body. He felt as though his soul would vaporize at any moment if she forced him to enter the house again.

However, Rudy had no choice.

Rudy glanced at the other houses that looked completely different from the haunted house. He wasn't even sure if the other houses were haunted too, or perhaps the entire forest was haunted.

Rudy gulped down and gathered his remaining strength to walk forward. But he recalled everything that had happened to him inside the house and his legs, no, his body started trembling in fear.

He realized that he might not ever come back again from the house.

When he thought about that, he started having second thoughts.

'Is it truly worth risking my life over a wallet?' he asked himself. 'Surely, mom would understand if I talked to her about this.'

Rudy then remembered what he said inside the house.

'I promised that I won't tell anyone...'

"But what if I tell mom that I lost the bag? That way, I won't have to tell everything to her, and I won't be hiding anything either."



After pondering for a while, Rudy decided to leave the bag as it was. He turned around and started walking toward the only path he could see. But suddenly, he recalled the memory when Rebecca gave him the wallet.

'She seemed so happy and sad at the same time...'

Rudy's thoughts had become a mess. He didn't know what to do, but he knew for sure that he never wanted to see his mother sad.

"Argh.. fuck it!"

Rudy turned around and rushed to the house, but he stopped as soon as he stepped his foot on the porch.

He could feel someone watching him.

'I am getting chills!'

Rudy didn't give in to his fears and walked to the door. He slowly moved his shaking hand to the doorknob.

"Please forgive me. I am only here for the bag. Will leave as soon as I get my bag, I promise," he muttered with utmost sincerity in his voice.

He turned the knob and the door opened with a loud 'CLUNK' followed by a sharp 'CLICK' noise, almost as though it was never opened for years.

Rudy creaked and opened the door but didn't walk in. He peeked around from the doorway and spotted his bag near the kitchen's hallway.

Rudy also checked the other things, and almost everything looked exactly the same as it did when he was standing in the hallway when he was stuck in the house.

Rudy's gaze automatically fell on the photo frames, but he couldn't help but feel uneasy.

'The frame that had fallen is no longer on the wall...' Rudy looked at the spot where the frame had fallen, hoping to see broken glasses, but it was neat and clean.

'Come to think of it, what was in the photo? I remember seeing someone in the photo, but the picture was too old. It was black and white and looked distorted, so it was hard to make anything out.'

'However, I swear I saw something moving inside the photo, and that's when I fell unconscious.'

After exploring the house with his eyes, Rudy was forced to remember everything that happened when he was stuck inside.

'I really don't want to go there, but the bag is right in front of my eyes!'

Rudy calculated the number of steps he would need to reach the bag.

'That's around seven steps. Even if I run and grab the bag, it will take me a minimum of 3 seconds to run out of the house.'

Rudy took a deep breath and focused his gaze on the bag. Then, he exhaled sharply and ran into the house.

STEP! STEP! STEP!

He grabbed the bag and ran out of the house, or so he wanted to, but the door was slammed shut as soon as he turned around.

"..."

Rudy felt something standing behind him, but he didn't dare to look back.

'What is this feeling?!'

"Didn't you promise you would never come here again?" a bone-chilling, devilish voice uttered in a disdainful tone that sent shivers down Rudy's spine.

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

#### **Chapter 178: Stupid or Brave?**

Rudy couldn't dare to turn around or even glance back. His soul had left his body, or so he thought.

His heartbeat grew louder than ever, and he felt like he was about to die. His legs gave out, and he nearly fell to his knees, but he managed to stand still.

"I am a good person, you said. I don't break promises, you said!" the voice yelled out loud as everything in the house started shaking.

"I am! I wasn't lying!" Rudy yelled back, but not because of anger or fear; he yelled back because his voice was getting overlapped by the noise.

"Lies! You promised you wouldn't come into this house again, yet you came back again just five minutes later! I shouldn't have let you go!"

"I just came back to take my bag! It's your fault in the first place! If you had thrown me out with the bag, I would have run straight home!"

Suddenly, everything stopped shaking. Then, footsteps approached Rudy and stopped right behind him.

"What did you say?" the voice asked from his shoulders.

"Okay, my bad. I shouldn't have said that." Rudy knew that he would be chopped into pieces if he repeated himself.

"I asked, what did you say?" the voice asked again, this time in a more furious tone.

Rudy gulped down and said, "I just said if you had thrown me out with the bag, I wouldn't have come back here to retrieve it."

"I did that on purpose to see how serious you were about your promise, but I guess I was a fool to trust you. In the end, all humans are the same!"

Rudy turned around to face the voice, but he was met with silence and an empty hallway.

"Did you just try to look at me?!" the voice yelled from behind Rudy.

Rudy turned back without caring for anything, but no one was there.

"Stop doing that!"

Once again, everything in the house started shaking— no, the entire house was shaking.

The house was turned upside down, and Rudy was repeatedly slammed into the walls and the ceiling. But even then, he never let the bag slip from his hand.

"I was still considering forgiving you, but you had to turn around, and not once but twice?!"

"Why don't you show yourself? Are you afraid or something? I don't know what you are, or maybe you are a ghost! But whatever you are, you should meet everyone face to face and talk with them."

"Shut up! Don't tell me what to do!" Now, it felt as if the house itself was talking.

"You are just making this worse! Nothing would have happened if you had simply shown yourself when I entered the house. And I definitely never intended to enter this house. I was charmed by something, and the door also opened automatically."

Rudy was saying everything he could to calm the house down. He wanted to make everything clear, but it wasn't as though there was anything else he could do.

He was at the house's mercy.

"What?!" the voice exclaimed. "You are lying!"

"I am not. How do you think I entered the house then?"

The house stopped shaking, and Rudy slammed onto the floor.

"Argh!" he grunted as he slowly got up and glanced around.

"Are you telling the truth?" the voice asked curiously.

"Why would I lie? And In fact, I only came here to bring notes from the school— although I am not sure if I am in the right house or not," Rudy said in a calm voice. "Does this house belong to.... Rias?"

Rudy patiently waited for the answer, but there was no response.

"Hello? Are you there?" he asked.

THUD!

The front door suddenly opened, and the voice followed, "Get out!"

Rudy ignored what the voice said and asked, "Are you Rias?"

"I said get out!"

"But are you Rias? Because if yes, then I would be forced to come here again, or maybe someone else will. And I am sure that they wouldn't be like me. If you do the same thing with them, they won't keep quiet about it, and who knows what might happen next."

"..."

"I am trying to help you here. I don't know why but your voice seems so sad and lonely. So I will ask you for the last time, are you Rias?"

A few seconds later, the front door slowly closed, but Rudy didn't seem to mind it.

"Yes. I am Rias."

SIGH!

"Then can you come out? I want to give you notes," Rudy asked in a calm voice.

"They mean nothing to me. I don't need your help to graduate from school. I contain high knowledge and definitely more than you," the voice commented sarcastically.

"Mind you, I am the top 3rd in the school. And I have never seen your name on the list," he scoffed softly.

"Are you trying to make me angry?"

"I am not. And I know you transferred to the school in the second year. But what I was trying to say is.... I am smart."

"Heh! I highly doubt that. You are a fool who entered the house again just for a mere bag. And when I opened the door to give you a second chance to live, you still stayed in the house. Now tell me, what does that make you?" the voice asked curiously.

"I can either be very stupid or brave." Rudy shrugged his shoulders and said, "But to me, it doesn't really matter."

"You are an interesting human. What is your name?"

"Umm... I am kind of scared to tell you that. What if you bind me to this house or something?"

"I can still do that without knowing your name. I can kill you in a moment if I want to. So tell me your name so I can know what you are," the voice demanded.

"How... will you check that by knowing my name? Is that some kind of superpower?"

"Answer me."

After a brief silence, Rudy reluctantly opened his mouth and said, "My name is Rudy."

"Rudy, huh?" Rudy heard a voice from behind.

"Can I turn around?" he asked in a calm voice.

"I dare you~"

Rudy took the dare and turned around to see a beautiful red-haired girl standing in front of him. She had sharp fangs and red eyes that were looking directly into his eyes. She licked her lips and smiled seductively at Rudy.

"Rias...?"

### Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

#### **Chapter 179: One Month After The Meeting**

"Alright, the class has ended," the teacher announced. "Be careful on your way home. Remember, this is the only town out of a few neighboring cities that has a school running. The rest of the world is still in the pandemic."

The school had ended, and everyone had started leaving. Rudy packed his bag too and prepared to leave, but someone hugged him from behind.

"Rudy~ Let's go~" a cheerful voice that belonged to none other than Rias said.

"..." Rudy furrowed his brows in annoyance but didn't say anything. He turned to Alice, who was sitting next to him, and said, "Alice, let's go—"

However, Alice grabbed her bag and left without even making eye contact with Rudy.

"..."

Eric had already left after attending the first three lectures.

"How rude of you, Rudy!" Rias puffed her cheeks and said, "I am inviting you to walk home with me, and here you are ignoring me!"

Rudy got up from his seat and finally looked at Rias. He shook her head at her and said, "I don't know what to say at this point..."

Rias and Rudy left the school together and walked their way to Rias' house.

Rudy glanced at Rias from the corner of his eyes and thought, 'So beautiful!'

It had been a month since Rudy and Rias met, and they had grown attached to each other since then, at least Rias was.

"Why are you so clingy to me?" Rudy asked Rias, who was walking beside him while humming cheerfully.

"I have already told you over a thousand times now!" Rias turned to Rudy and looked into his eyes before saying, "It's because I love you~"

"Yeah, and I don't believe that," Rudy sighed. "I still can't get over our first meeting."

After Rudy and Rias met for the first time, Rias jumped on top of Rudy and said, "You are an interesting human~ I will make you mine~"

"Come on~ I have already apologized for that! Why do you always bring that up?" Rias asked with puffed cheeks.

"To make you feel guilty," Rudy responded nonchalantly. "You know, I still have nightmares of your house."

"Aren't you overreacting a little now? I admit that what I did was wrong, but that's because I thought you were a burglar."

"Yeah, and you didn't see me wearing the school uniform or cared to recognize it even though you were also enrolled in the same school," Rudy remarked.

Rias averted her gaze and said, "That was my bad..."

"I will never forgive you for that. You have no idea how scared I was."

"But it's not like I was serious about killing you. I never harmed you, did I?"

"You did, actually. You gave me emotional trauma that keeps me awake at night!" Rudy hissed at Rias.

Rias bit her lips and jumped on Rudy, wrapping her arms around his neck and legs around his waist.

"What are you—!"

"Shut up! Just because I am being all kind to you, you are getting on my head now. Maybe I should switch back to the scary vampire girl again."

"..."

"I will scare you every day and night. And I will do everything to make you mine~!" she said in a seductive voice.

"I can't really tell if you are joking or not..." Rudy muttered under his breath.

"Do you want to test how serious I am?" she asked.

"..." Rudy padded with Rias on his back. He could feel Rias' big and soft breasts hitting against his back, but Rias was doing that on purpose.

"How did you fall in love with me anyway? I don't remember anything happening between us. And that's why, I can't take your confession seriously," Rudy asserted in a calm voice.

"Do I need a reason to love someone?" Rias asked curiously.

"Yes, you do. Otherwise, it might not be love," Rudy responded. "Maybe you are simply curious about me as I am the first human boy you have ever talked to?"

"No! It's love! Why can't you understand that?!"

"Do you have anything to prove your love?" Rudy asked curiously, thinking Rias would give up on him as he was sure she wouldn't have any proof.

"What do you want me to do for you? I will do anything!"

"..."

'What if she truly loves me, though? And what if I am hurting her every time I say she doesn't love me?' Rudy wondered. 'I mean, I would be sad as fuck if the girl I love constantly tells me that I don't love her.'

Rudy felt a little guilty after thinking about that.

"We don't even know anything about each other. And besides, you are not human. How are we supposed to have a relationship?"

"I don't know. But I love you~" Rias nibbled on Rudy's ears and said, "And I want you to love me back~"

"..."

"Love me back~!" she yelled.

"Shut up! Can't you see we are getting stares and glares from people around us?"

"Why do you always yell at me? I don't understand."

"..."

Rias rubbed her cheek against Rudy's cheek and then licked his nape.

"You know..." Rias looked at the vein on Rudy's nape and said, "I have always wanted to drink your blood ever since I fell in love with you~"

"Don't you dare do that! You promised me that you would never hurt me, remember?"

"I did. But my patience is running out. If you don't love me back, then I will have no other choice but to make you my slave and force you to love me back," Rias uttered with a grin on her face.

"You are joking... Right?"

"For the first time, I am not. I am serious about it."

"Wow. So this is your love, huh? Forcing me to love you back and make me your slave? I knew it! You are only interested in me because I am a human."

"You realize that there are billions of humans in this world, and I can't take anyone I want, but I am choosing you as my first and the last partner."

"..."

"I apologize if I made you angry. I don't understand human customs and thoughts, but I am trying my best to learn them for you," she said in a calm voice.

"..."

"Oh!" Rias suddenly exclaimed and got off Rudy's back.

"What?"

"I have got an idea!"

"What...? I am both worried and more worried..."

"Let's go to your house!"

"Huh?"

"I want to meet your mother, whom you praise so much!"

Oh. Oh! Oh!!

### Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

#### **Chapter 180: Getting Closer**

"No, no. Why would I ever take you to my home and let you meet my mother?" Rudy asked with a flustered look on his face.

"Because she is going to be my mother too?" Rias answered with a question.

"Why would you think that? I don't even love you. There is nothing between us, so stop calling her your mother," Rudy remarked.

"But I want to marry you..." she said with a dejected look on her face.

"Listen, you are a vampire, and I am a human. Nothing can happen between us."

Rias puffed her cheeks and said, "That's what you think."

"Anyway, I am not taking you to my house or letting you meet my mother, and that's absolute. Period!"

Rias squinted her eyes and said, "Maybe I should drop by uninvited and introduce myself to your lovely mother."

"Rudy turned around and pinned Rias against the wall. He glared into her eyes and said, "Don't you dare do anything to my mother!"

"Uhua~ So rough~" Rias licked her lips and said, "I like it~"

"Are you a masochist or something?" Rudy was disgusted by Rias' nature.

"I can be anything for you~"

SIGH!

"Talking with you is like talking with a brick..."

Rudy let go of Rias and started walking without her, but Rias caught up to him and jumped on his back again.

"You can't escape me. I will come after you~ I will follow you to the depths of hell~"

"I don't want to brag or sound arrogant, but I am pretty sure I will go to the heavens."

"Oh?" Rias raised her brow in amusement and commented, "Well, I have only known you for a month, but you are not exactly a saint."

After a brief pause, she added, "But I do want you to go to heaven."

"..."

Rias hugged Rudy tightly and muttered, "Although, sadly, I won't be able to accompany you there."

"Why not?" Rudy asked curiously. "I have done bad things?"



"Tons of them..."

"Well..." Rudy didn't expect to hear that as a response.

"But that's not why. I am a vampire, a monster. And monsters don't go to heaven."

Rudy felt a sting in his heart after hearing that. While he may not love Rias, he had gotten close to her and saw her as his friend.

"Will you be sad for me?" Rias asked in a curious yet calm voice.

"..."

Rudy didn't know what to say in response, so he kept his mouth shut. And it wasn't as though answering it would have made it any better.

"Why worry about the things we can't control? Let's enjoy our present and live our life to the fullest," Rudy reassured Rias.

"You are such a hypocrite, you know that?"

"..."

"You keep talking about things, and yet, you never implement them on yourself," Rias commented. "You say, 'Why worry about the things we can't control', and yet, you worry about your future all the time. You say, 'Let's enjoy our present and live our life to the fullest', yet I have never seen you smile or enjoy your present."

"It's different for everyone..." Rudy muttered.

"It's not.

"How do you know? What do you even know about me?" Rudy asked in a disdainful tone. "I am not the person you think I am. I am a pathetic loser, a weakling, who is only better at studying. I can't do anything besides that. And my future depends on it!"

"How do you know that? Have you seen your future?!"

"No, but what I do in my present will make my future! I have so much responsibility in my head. I have a mother to take care of! She has sacrificed so much for me!

"Argh! Future this and future that! What if you get into an accident after you study for your entire life?! There will be no future!" Rias yelled in frustration and jumped off Rudy's back.

"I wish that could happen. At least I wouldn't have to suffer every day!"

"You...!" Rias slapped Rudy on the face and glared at him with teary eyes. "How can you say that! What about your mother then?! This is like you are forcing yourself every day to live. That's not called being alive!"

"Why... are you crying for me?"

"Because I love you!"

"..."

Rudy stared at Rias for minutes, trying to understand his life. Rias' words penetrated his thick skull and his shallow mentality.

Rias also started feeling anxious as Rudy had been staring at her with an emotionless face for over ten minutes. She slowly gulped down in fear because she felt she had touched on a sensitive topic.

She was aware that Rudy didn't love her— although she was dead set on making him fall for her— she didn't want him to hate her, at least.

"You are right," Rudy finally said something. He smiled at Rias and said, "Thank you."

After seeing Rudy smile at her, Rias' heart fluttered. She immediately jumped on Rudy to hug him, but he pushed her back and said, "No hugging or touching me."

Rias puffed her cheeks and said, "You meanie!"

"No, that's a normal thing."

Whenever Rias hugged or even touched Rudy, she pressed her whole body against him. And Rias' scent was something Rudy was charmed by. He was a teenager, and having a girl hug him so passionately made him excited.

"So, just to confirm and put my heart at ease. You are not angry at me, right?" she asked hesitantly.

"No."

"And... you don't hate me...?"

"Uhh.. no."

"And you love me?"

"Hehe. Nice try. But no."

"So we go meet your mother now? I want to meet her so badly~"

"No. I am never letting you go near her."

Even though Rudy said that, after spending three months with Rias, Rudy took Rias to his house.

He was nervous because he was going to bring a girl over to his house for the first time in his life— excluding Alice since she was his childhood friend.

"Why are you so nervous?" Rias asked with a puzzled look on her face. "You already informed your mother that I am going to visit, right?"

"Yes..."

"So? Let's go."

"You don't understand. It's nerve-wracking for me..." Rudy uttered with his voice full of anxiousness.

Rias really didn't understand that and barged into Rudy's house.

