

Esper 181

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Chapter 181: Rias Meets Rebecca

Rias walked into Rudy's house without any manners and yelled, "I have come!"

Rudy rushed after Rias and pulled her hand to stop her.

"What the fuck are you doing?!" he whispered violently.

"Huh? I am letting your beloved mother know that I am here," Rias responded with an innocent look on her face.

"That's not how you greet someone."

She shrugged her shoulders and said nonchalantly: "I don't really care, you know?"

"So are you saying that you don't care if she likes you or not?"

"..."

"She won't allow me to hang out with you or even talk to you if you don't make a good impression on her," Rudy remarked.

Rias' face turned pale after hearing that. Her facial expression shifted from arrogant to meek, and her lips started trembling.

'Wow. She looks like a different person just by changing her expression...' Rudy thought to himself.

"Rudy? Is that you?" Rebecca asked from the bathroom.

"Yes, mom. And... I have brought the girl I talked to you about this morning..." Rudy responded in a calm voice.

"Oh! I see. So you weren't kidding about that, huh?"

"..."

"..."

Rias and Rudy shot an awkward glance at each other.

"Just give me a minute. I am not wearing clothes right now."

"You don't have to tell me all that!" Rudy shouted, feeling flustered.

"Is she always like this?" Rias whispered to Rudy.

Rudy didn't reply and walked into the house. Rias followed him but stopped in the living room to take a look at the house. While Rudy went to the kitchen to grab a glass of water for Rias.

'It's not as I was expecting, but okay. This place smells of Rudy's scent, and I feel like I can sniff all day and still not get enough of it! I want to pack his smell in a jar and take it home!'

'But wait, why should I take his smell when I can take him?!'

"Here," Rudy interrupted Rias' vile thoughts.

Rias drank the water and sat on the couch in a relaxed manner. However, her sitting position had no decency.

"Pst!" Rudy hissed at her and said, "Sit properly."

A few minutes later, the bathroom door opened, and Rebecca walked into the living room. She was wiping her hair with a towel.

Rudy's heartbeat got louder as Rebecca laid her eyes on Rias.

"..."

"..."

Rias and Rebecca stared at each other for a few seconds but didn't say a word. The silence was so awkward that Rudy had to quip in and start a conversation.

"Mom, this is Rias, my classmate. She is a transfer student who enrolled in my school three months ago," Rudy introduced Rias to Rebecca.

"And Rias, this is my mother— Rebecca. She has raised me all by herself, and she is the best mother in the world," Rudy introduced Rebecca to Rias.

Even after Rudy introduced Rias and Rebecca to each other, they still kept staring at each other without speaking a word.

Rudy couldn't be more anxious, and he didn't know what to do. He didn't want Rebecca not to like Rias, while he didn't want Rias to say something awful to Rebecca that would and could break their friendship.

"Umm... so today at school, there was this—"

"Rudy." Rebecca interrupted Rudy and said, "I forgot we are out of snacks. Can you go buy some from the market real quick?"

"Huh? Didn't you bring a bag full of snacks today in the morning after your shift ended?" Rudy asked with a puzzled look on his face.

"Those weren't ours." Rebecca smiled at Rudy and said, "You can tell the cashier to cut the bill from my pay."

"Okay..." Rudy reluctantly got up and left the house in a hurry. He ran as fast as he could because he didn't want to leave Rias and Rebecca alone.

"So..." Rebecca inspected Rias from her head to toe and said, "You are the one who has been trying to seduce my son."

Rias furrowed her brows at Rebecca and squinted her eyes before saying. "And you are the one who is stopping him from getting seduced by me."

Rias and Rebecca glared at each other, and neither of them seemed to back down.

"I have to admit that you are indeed a beautiful girl, but you are nothing compared to me," Rias said to Rebecca in a haughty tone.

"Have I ever seen you before?" Rebecca asked curiously.

"I doubt that. No one in this world can be compared to me and my never-dying beauty."

"You are not as how Rudy described you. He said you were a well-mannered girl. But all I am getting from you is pure arrogance," Rebecca remarked nonchalantly.

"I can say the same to you." Rias shrugged her shoulders and said, "You don't even come close to how Rudy described you."

SIGH!

Rebecca let out a weary sigh and said, "Since this is Rudy's first time bringing a girl, I don't know how to act. Maybe all girls are like your days."

Rebecca grabbed the glass from the table from which Rias had drank the water a while ago and asked, "Do you want to drink something? Although it's not like I have anything else to give you other than water."

"No thanks."

Rebecca went to the kitchen to prepare the plates for the snacks.

Rias bit her lips and said, "How long have you been living in a place like this?"

"Ever since I was born here."

"Did you ever think of doing something else? I am sure you can earn decently if you simply choose a different profession."

"I know what I have to do. You don't know the hardship of being a single mother," Rebecca said while placing the plates on the dining table. "And even if I want to do something else, I can't."

'I have to follow the diary,' she added inwardly.

Rias frowned her face after hearing that and said, "Just admit that you are purposely choosing to give Rudy this kind of life."

"...."

Rias turned to Rebecca and glared at her furiously.

"Give Rudy to me, and I will take care of him better than you ever can," she demanded nonchalantly.

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Chapter 182: Rias vs Rebecca

As soon as Rias demanded to take Rudy away from her, Rebecca smashed a glass filled with water on the table, and the glass shattered on impact. Rebecca's hand started bleeding, but her face showed no sign of the pain; she looked furious.

"I dare you to say that again," Rebecca challenged Rias to repeat her words.

Rias was taken aback by that, but she didn't show it on her face. She immediately rushed to the kitchen and grabbed Rebecca's hand, which was bleeding.

'If Rudy saw this, he would definitely blame me. Or his mother might even accuse me of harming her. If that happens, he will hate me for sure.'

Rias was a vampire, and blood was her favorite drink. She gulped down after seeing Rebecca's hand and smelled the fragrance of the blood.

'No, no! Rias. Control yourself!'

Rias brought Rebecca's hand close to her mouth and started licking her wound.

"..." Rebecca watched in amazement as her wound started healing. She was confused but not shocked.

After a few seconds, Rias licked all the blood from Rebecca's hand and healed it. She then stared at Rias and sighed, realizing that her identity as a vampire was exposed.

"...."

"Since you have seen this much already, I guess I should show you everything," Rias muttered and made some distance between her and Rebecca.

Then, she spread her vampire wings and revealed her sharp fangs, saying, "I... am a vampire."

Rebecca raised her brows in amusement and casually started picking up the broken pieces of the glass from the table and the floor.

"..." Rias' existence was collapsing after seeing Rebecca not giving any attention to Rias.

She checked her wings and placed her hand on her fangs to confirm she had them visible.

'What's with her?! Why is she not reacting?!' Rias couldn't fathom Rebecca being so nonchalant about it. 'It must be because of the dark. There is only one light in the living room, so she can't see my wings and fangs. Yeah, that has to be it!'

Rias rushed to the living room and stood under the light.

AHEM!

She cleaned her throat to get Rebecca's attention and proudly said, "I am a vampire!"

"Would you please stand aside? You are blocking the light. I can't see the glass pieces," Rebecca uttered without even looking at Rias.

"Why are you not scared!" Rias yelled at Rebecca. "Rudy was scared shitless!"

"I have seen worse than vampires, so this is nothing to me. And keep your voice down in my house."

"What do you—!" Rias savored the taste of Rebecca's blood in her mouth and muttered, "This blood surely belongs to a human, so she is a human."

'But...' Rias savored the taste once again and muttered, 'The blood is still young and healthy. At most, this is the blood of a 30-year-old. And... the strong fragrance is... a scent of a virgin.'

"You are not Rudy's real mother, are you?" Rias asked Rebecca with a knowing look on her face.

"Yeah, I am not."

"So that—"

"But that changes nothing." Rebecca finally made eye contact with Rias and uttered, "You can't take him away from me."

"Does Rudy know that you are not his real mother?" Rias asked with a judging look on her face.

Rebecca's body froze after hearing that. She had already guessed where Rias was taking the conversation.

Rias smirked after seeing Rebecca's reaction and said, "I wonder what would happen if Rudy gets to know about that. The mother he loved so dearly wasn't even his mother. What would happen to your relationship?"

Rebecca glared at Rias and said, "Don't you even dare..."

"Oh, I will~" Rias smirked even wider and said, "That's the old only and my ace card to steal Rudy from you."

Rebecca gritted her teeth in frustration and asked, "What do you want from him?"

"I love him, and I want to take him to the vampire world with me~" Rias said cheerfully, totally opposite to her tone so far.

"Give it up. He would never leave me behind. And don't forget that you are a monster, and he is only a human," Rebecca remarked.

"I know that. And that's why once I marry him, I will make him a vampire too~"

Rebecca clenched her fists and said, "How about we make a bet?"

"Oh? What type of bet?" Rias asked with a curious and amused look on her face.

"Once Rudy comes back, I will spill hot soup on both of us. And whoever Rudy chooses and shows confers for will be the winner," Rebecca suggested.

"How is that a bet?"

"This is the best way to know who Rudy wants to stay with."

"What if he comes to me?" Rias asked curiously.

"Then you can take him, and I won't stop you."

"And what if he chooses you?"

"I don't want to wreck your relationship, but if he chooses me, then you will have to step down." After a brief pause, she continued, "You can still be with him and you whatever you want, but don't you ever dare to even think of taking him away from me."

Rias pondered for a while and said, "Deal."

Rebecca reached her hand to Rias for a handshake and said, "Deal."

Rias shook hands with Rebecca and uttered, "No hard feelings."

A minute later, Rudy returned and gave the snacks to Rebecca.

"..." He turned to Rias and asked in a low voice: "You didn't do anything weird, right?"

Rias shook her head and replied with an innocent look on her face: "I would never do something like that."

After that, Rudy, Rebecca, and Rias sat at the dining table and started eating. A few minutes later, Rebecca spilled hot soup on Rias and herself as they had planned.

"...!" Rudy immediately got up from his seat and rushed to Rias, but he ran past her and spilled some cold water on Rebecca, where the soup had spilled.

"Are you okay, mom?!" he asked with a concerned look on his face.

"..." Rias watched Rudy and bit her lips. 'Even though I was sitting close to him, he chose her....'

Rias glanced at Rebecca, only to see her smiling wryly at her.

Rebecca had asserted her dominance over Rias.

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Chapter 183: The Winner

"Thanks for the food~" Rias said as she finished eating.

After eating dinner, Rias and Rebecca were doing dishes, while Rudy went to his room to grab something he was looking for.

Rias glanced at Rebecca from the corner of her eyes and asked, "Did you suggest the bet because you were confident that he would choose you?"

"No. It was also a test for me to see if I qualified to win a place in his heart or it was all just talk," Rebecca answered with a bitter smile.

"Then you won, I guess." After a brief pause, she said, "I will honor our promise won't try to take Rudy from you."

After that, Rias didn't say anything and continued doing the dishes.

Rebecca turned to Rias and looked at the sad expression on her face that clearly showed how devastated Rias was feeling.

"Do you really love Rudy?" she asked.

"Obviously~ Why would I go so far for a human I don't like?" Rias answered.

"You refer to him as a human, not a person. That's just like how humans refer to animals; they like animals but don't have romantic feelings towards them."

"Are you trying to say that my feelings for Rudy are just a normal feeling one would have between two species?" Ria asked with a bit of an annoyed look on her face.

"No. But to be honest, I am not sure either. If animals also had humanoid figures who could speak and had intelligence, maybe humans could also have developed romantic feelings for them. But that's too disgusting for me to imagine."

"Rudy told me the same thing. He claimed my love for him was not romantic. I don't know what to do to prove to him that I love him. I could have chosen any other human, but I chose him to be my partner. If that's not love, I don't know what is."

Rebecca washed her hands and leaned on the platform so she could talk face to face with Rias. She folded her hands below her bosom and asked, "Have you ever fallen in love before?"

"I... haven't...."

"Have you actually met with a human before?"

"Of course, I have. I enrolled into a human school, after all."

"Let me rephrase my question." Rebecca locked her eyes with Rias and asked, "Have you interacted with a human boy before? Preferably a boy around the same age as Rudy."

"Well..." Rias averted her gaze and broke eye contact with Rebeca.

"I will take that as a no."

"Are you saying that I fell in love with Rudy because he is the first human boy I interacted with?!" Rias asked with a furious look on her face.

"I didn't say that, did I?" Rebecca shrugged her shoulders and said, "It's honestly up to you. If you truly think you love him, then keep loving him. But if you aren't sure, then stay away from him."

Rebecca frowned her face and glared at Rias, which sent shivers down her spine.

"But if you ever hurt him or make him cry because of your selfishness, then your entire vampire race will go extinct."

Rias gulped down in fear and uttered while stuttering: "W-What can y-you do? You are j-just a h-human..."

"Then you shouldn't underestimate humans."

"Mom, I think I can't find it. Should I buy a new one?" Rudy asked as he came downstairs.

He was surprised to see Rebecca and Rias in the kitchen, as he never expected Rias to be so diligent suddenly.

'Is she that desperate to get acknowledged by mom?' Rudy wondered, not knowing anything about what he did and how he chose Rebecca over Rias.

"Sure. Ah!" Rebecca wiped her hands with the towel and suggested, "How about you come with me then? It's been a while since we last walked together. I also have to go for my night shift, and the store is on the way."

"Okay..." Rudy replied while looking at Rias.

"Great. Let me get my purse and the phone." After saying that, Rebecca rushed to her room.

Rias also walked into the living room and stood in front of Rudy.

"So, are you not going to drop me off at my house? Even though you promised me in the morning," she asked in a low voice, seemingly uninterested in hearing Rudy's response as she already knew what it would be.

"Umm... if you can wait until I return, then I will be glad to drop you off," Rudy replied awkwardly.

'So you are still choosing her over me and even go as far as breaking your promise for her? I guess I can't win against her, after all.'

"No, it's okay." Rias said with a forced smile on her face and continued, "I can go by myself. I am a vampire, after all."

"..."

After saying that, Rias grabbed her bag and left Rudy's house without even saying 'bye' to him.

"I never saw such a sad smile on her face before..." Rudy muttered under his breath.

Rebecca came out of her room while fixing her hair and noticed Rias wasn't there.

"Huh? Where did she go?" she asked curiously and glanced around.

"She... left..."

Rebecca could easily see and feel the sadness on Rudy's face and voice.

"Oh..." Rebecca realized that Rias felt defeated and left to save herself from further humiliation.

"You know what, just go after her. I will bring the thing you want on my way back from my night shift."

"But..."

"Just go."

"Thanks... mom."

Rudy wore his shoes and rushed after Rias.

"..."

SIGH!

Rebecca threw her purse on the couch and rushed back to her room. She opened her closet and took out the old diary.

She flipped the pages one after another and opened the seventeenth page, which had only one sentence written on it.

"Wait for one more year," she read.

Meanwhile, Rudy chased after Rias, but he couldn't find her.

'Did she fly her way to the house? But it's still not dark, and she said she only flies at night because that lessens the chances of her getting seen by someone.'

With no other choice left, Rudy ran his way to Rias' house.

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Chapter 184: Until the Very End

Rudy ran as fast as possible even though his legs were giving out. The sad look on Rias' face kept flashing before his eyes, giving him a reason and motivation to keep moving forward.

After running for more than 20 minutes, Rudy stopped for a few seconds to catch his breath. His vision was getting blurry because he had never run that fast before.

He took heavy breaths as his heartbeat loudly. He felt like his heart was about to explode.

Suddenly, he heard footsteps approaching him and stopping in front of him.

Rudy knew without looking that it was Rias because of her sweet scent. He raised his head to look at her, only to find her grinning at him.

"Why are you grinning?" he asked.

"It was so funny and satisfying to see you running like that," she replied.

"..." Rudy furrowed his brows and asked, "You.. you were watching me this whole time?!"

"Of course, I was," Rias scoffed softly. "I was walking my way to my house and saw you running on the opposite street. I was confused at first and assumed I saw the wrong person since I didn't see your mother with you. But I still followed you to confirm, and it was really you."

"...."

"I wanted to call you out and ask where you were going, but then I noticed you were running in the same direction as my house."

"And then you laughed your ass off while I was nearly dying here?" Rudy asked with a furious look on his face.

"Something like that, yes," she nodded in response.

SIGH!

"Now I regret running after you."

"Can I ask why you were after me?" she asked curiously.

"Because I wanted to drop you off at your house."

"But were you going with your mother—"

Rudy interrupted Rias and said, "She asked me to go after you."

Rias bit her lips and thought, 'So he only came because she asked him to? I got my hopes high for—'

"But.... I also wanted to come after you," Rudy added.

"...!" Rias' face flushed a little after hearing that. "Why... would you do that...?"

"Because I love you..."

"..."

Rudy looked into Rias' eyes and said, "I am charmed by you! Whenever I look at you, my heart flutters. Whenever I hear my name coming from your mouth, I get excited. Whenever you touch me, I feel... calm..."

Rias' mind had stopped working after Rudy confessed his love to her. She couldn't believe her ears because so far, Rudy had never shown any sign of affection towards her.

"For... how... long?" Rias stuttered. "For how long have you been in love with me?"

"For the last two months..."

Rias squinted her eyes and said, "And then you get angry at me for watching you run for a few minutes. When you were watching me try my best to make you fall in love with me."

"There is a big difference between them. I was unsure of my feelings and embarrassed too. This is my first time falling in love with someone, and I was confused too. So I had to take time and understand my feelings for you."

Rias didn't care about anything. She hugged Rudy tightly and buried his face under her breasts.

"I am so happy right now!" she said cheerfully.

For the first time in three months, Rudy hugged Rias back and enjoyed the warmth of her embrace.

"...!" Rias couldn't be happier.

"It's funny that you said vampires don't have body temperature, but I am feeling warm from your embrace..." Rudy uttered in a muffled voice.

"You are just feeling your own body heat."

Rias looked at Rudy's neck and said, "So now that you also love me, can I drink your blood?"

"No. I am not ready for that yet. So let's wait for a few more days and let our relationship progress naturally," Rudy replied.

Rias looked at the sky and noticed the sun had almost set. So she spread her wings and flew into the sky with Rudy.

"Wait! You know I am afraid of heights! Please put me down!" Rudy yelled.

"I won't."

"Is this your way of making me say yes?!"

"No. But I want you to get over your fear of heights since this is going to be a daily occurrence now."

"You can't just ask someone to stop being afraid of something they had been scared for their entire life!"

Rias looked into Rudy's eyes and asked, "Do you remember what you said when you were stuck in my house?"

"I said so many things, so I don't know what you are talking about..."

"I am referring to where you were spouting and taking out your pent-up frustration."

"Oh.. that. Yeah, that was embarrassing, so please forget about that," Rudy said with a groan and refused to look down.

Rias caressed Rudy's face and said, "Always remember; be kind but not weak, be strong but not rude, be humble but not timid, be proud but not egoist, and be confident but not arrogant."

"...."

"Do you understand?" she asked.

"Somewhat..."

"Good. You will understand it fully eventually."

Rias and Rudy stared into each other's eyes for a while, but Rudy still couldn't shake his fear of heights.

"Can we go to the surface?"

"First, answer me one thing." Rias kissed Rudy on the forehead and asked, "What is more impactful for you? Your fear of heights or your time with me?"

"How am I supposed to answer that..." he muttered.

"Rudy. You don't have to worry about anything. I am here for you, and I will always be there for you. I will protect you until the very end, and no one will ever break us apart."

As soon as Rias said that, a bright, red beam dropped on both of them from the sky and slammed them onto the ground. But luckily, Rias managed to save Rudy from a fatal injury.

Once the red beam faded away, a silver-haired girl who looked identical to Rias, hovered in the sky and looked down at Rias and Rudy with a lifeless gaze in her eyes.

"Time to go home, sister..."

"Jane..."

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Chapter 185: Way to Enter the Vampire World

Rudy hovered in the air and glanced around after activating his see-through ability.

'After Jane came to take Rias back that day, many things happened.'

At first, of course, Rias refused to go with her as she had already decided to spend her life with Rudy. But she wasn't to decide that.

When Jane told her that it was the order from the Vampire Monarch, Rias' resolve to stay with Rudy decreased.

She knew that if she defied the order of their king, then not only her but Rudy would also be punished. Rias didn't want Rudy to suffer because of her, but she knew that Rudy would suffer if she left.

She didn't know what to do, so she turned to Jane and asked her to give her some time. Still, she denied it and said that the Vampire Monarch was going to send someone else. Hence, she insisted on going to avoid major casualties.

The vampire world still wasn't aware of Rudy and Rias' relationship, but now Jane knew.

Of course, Jane was angry, and she wanted to kill Rudy because she thought he seduced her innocent sister even though it was the other way around.

Rias had no other choice but to leave because she didn't want to endanger Rudy's life. However, Rudy wasn't letting her go.

He challenged Jane to a fight, but he lost in a second. After all, a human could never compete against a vampire. But even after losing, he once again challenged Jane.

He fought with her dozens of times and lost all the time. Jane wasn't even fighting with her full power as Rias had warned her not to hurt Rudy.

After losing dozens of times, he knew that he wouldn't be able to win against Jane, and if that happened, he would lose Rias.

He was frustrated. He hated himself for being weak. He felt pathetic for not being able to protect the love of his life.

After realizing that he was going to lose Rias and probably never see her again, he was devastated. Rias couldn't take it anymore and changed her decision. She said she wouldn't go with Jane.

Jane had no other choice but to take Rias forcefully. So she trapped Rias in a magic ball and tried to take her away. But of course, Rudy stopped her.

He kept chasing after Jane even though he was weak and exhausted by the fights. But Jane didn't stop, so he tried to provoke her and got her angry.

Jane took Rudy to Rias' house and threw him inside, trapping him in the house. She thought Rudy would never be able to escape from there as the house was the deadliest trap of the illusion, but much to her surprise, Rudy walked out of the house in a few seconds.

That made Jane even furious and frustrated, so she immobilized him and flew to the vampire world.

When Rudy woke up, he was holding a tennis ball in his hand, and he had forgotten everything about Rias.

Jane had cast a unique spell on the school that made everyone forget about Rias. However, at that time, some people were out of her range.

But, Jane had already predicted something like that, so she had used another spell that triggered the first spell again and again.

If someone tried to remember Rias, they would forget about her. That was why Rebecca never mentioned Rias again. Eric also remembered about Rias, but he forgot as soon as Rudy asked him to remember.

Rize remembered her too, but she forgot her after thinking about her.

Jannet was the only one who hadn't forgotten about her. But she eventually did after describing her to Rudy.

However, everything has changed now. Rudy was no longer weak, and he easily defeated Jane in the fight. Now, he was looking for a way to enter the vampire world, but he had no clue.

'Come to think of it, where do the other races live? Surely, they don't live on the surface as they can easily be spotted one day with the technology advancing day by day. But that's where magic comes.'

"What if they hide their world using magic?" Rudy wondered. "That's the only way I can think of. Otherwise, they must be living in a different world connected to this one."

'There were so many things I wanted to ask Rias. Till the end, I didn't know anything about her. I thought I would get to know her better when our relationship advances, but that never happened.'

"Perhaps, she didn't want to tell me, or maybe she was waiting for a perfect time to confess everything. What was she doing in the human world in the first place? And why did she enroll in my school?"

'I will get all my answers once I get to the vampire world.'

Rudy took a deep breath and slowly opened his mouth to utter: "I... wish to go to the vampire world."

"I will take you there," Jane said in a calm voice.

Rudy looked behind him and saw Jane was hovering in the air. Her wounds had also healed, but her eyes still looked lifeless.

"I thought you were trying to keep me away from Rias," Rudy remarked.

"I was only keeping you away because I had promised Rias that I wouldn't let you get hurt. It was nothing personal," Jane responded.

"Yeah, right. You sucked my blood and even threatened to kill me many times now, but all your attempts failed. And now you say 'nothing personal'? Wow," Rudy scoffed out loud, seemingly trying to mock Jane.

Jane stared at Rudy and shook her head in disbelief with a disappointed look on her face.

"What's with that look?"

"You have changed a lot in the last three months. What happened to you?"

"You can say that I... woke up in reality..."

Jane raised her arms in the air, to which Rudy responded by summoning a fireball in his hand.

"Calm down. I am just trying to open the portal to the vampire realm."

"Oh..."

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Chapter 186: Into The Vampire World

"Portal, so does that mean the vampires don't live in this world?"

"It is connected to this world. In fact, all the worlds are interconnected with each other on this planet. You just need a way to access them," Jane replied.

Jane made a few hand gestures in the air and muttered something under her breath.

"What are you doing?" Rudy asked curiously. "Is that some sort of ritual to open the portal?"

Jane glared at Rudy without saying anything and continued her hand gestures in the air.

'I will learn her hand movements, just in case.'

After a few seconds, Jane stopped and turned to Rudy.

"To open the portal, the moon needs to be aligned with a certain constellation of stars. So even if you copy my movements, it won't work unless all the requirements are met," Jane asserted in a neutral tone.

"What are the requirements?"

"I already mentioned them. But the most important one is that it needs to be a full moon. The portal can only be opened when it's a full moon."

"So every 15 days, huh?" Rudy hummed in wonder and asked, "So you are always outside the vampire world for patrol duty or whatever?"

"Not always, but once every month. You can say I spend 15 days in your world and go back to the vampire world for the rest of the 15 days. And the portal only stays open for one hour. After that, you will have to wait for 15 days to return to your world."

"I only need one minute... no, I still have to deal with the vampire monarch, who tried to mess with me."

Jane continued to summon the portal, while Rudy looked at her and thought, 'Should I trust her?'

'I don't know if she is an enemy or not. She said she was trying to help me, but what if it's a trap? In any case, I don't have other choices, so I have to be cautious.'

A few seconds later, the moonlight created a portal in the air, and the stars were perfectly aligned to the borders of the portal even though they were in space.

Jane turned to Rudy and said, "Let's go."

Rudy pondered for a few seconds and said, "Ladies first."

SIGH!

Jane entered the portal, and Rudy followed her.

As soon as Rudy stepped his foot into the portal, he felt something change inside his body on a spiritual level. It was on the same level as to how one would feel dizzy after getting off a roller coaster, but as Rudy couldn't be physically affected by anything, it only affected his soul.

"You will feel a little weird... actually, a lot weird. Even I feel dizzy for a few seconds every time I pass through the dimension, and you are only a human... or maybe not."

'No human can be capable of such things.' Jane changed her sentence after remembering what Rudy did in the forest.

Rudy and Jane were still in the air, but everything around them had changed. The sky had three moons. One was red, one was white, and one was blue. But the red moon looked the most intimidating as it was a full moon, while the other two were only half.

"Ironically, tonight is a new year's eve for the vampires and the birthday of the vampire monarch. Everyone is celebrating at the palace. A perfect chance for you to take Rias and leave," Jane stated.

"Are you okay with that?"

"It's not like I have any other choice. It pains me to see her in pain, so it would be much better if you took her away." Jane shrugged her shoulders and said, "I will probably be branded as a traitor if they got to know about this, though."

"Wait, what do you mean? What did they do to Rias?!" Rudy asked with a furious look on his face.

"She was punished for falling in love with a human..." Jane replied in a low voice.

"If I take Rias with me, what are the chances that the vampire monarch would send someone after me?" Rudy asked curiously.

"One hundred percent."

"Then I can't leave without killing him," Rudy uttered nonchalantly.

"He is the vampire monarch. You can't win against him."

"Oh, I can. And I will." Rudy cracked his fingers and said, "He dared to punish Rias. Now, he will know the true meaning of punishment."

"Even if you somehow manage to do that, all the vampires in the world would come after you. How many of them will you hunt down?"

"As much as I can." Rudy glanced around and asked, "Now, take me to Rias."

"Follow me."

Jane flapped her wings and took Rudy to an underground valley near the forest where even the sunlight couldn't reach. They landed on the surface and walked for a few minutes until they reached the end of the valley.

"It's a dead end. Where are you taking me?" Rudy asked with a judging look on his face.

Jane ignored Rudy and raised her finger in the air.

"..."

Rudy watched as Jane made a cut on her finger, and her blood dropped to the ground, or it would have, but it floated in the air.

The drop of the blood turned into tiny droplets and sacred onto the dead-end of the valley. Soon after, the walls started shaking, and the mountain opened the door to a chamber.

"Come."

Rudy followed Jane into the chamber, and he was immediately attracted by something. After walking for a few seconds, Rudy finally laid his eyes on Rias, who was sleeping on the bed. But her body was covered in the magic shackles, and they were draining her power.

Rudy walked to Rias and smiled wryly at her before turning to Jane. "Remove this from her."

"I can't do that. Only the caster can undo this spell."

Rudy frowned his face and asked, "Who is the caster?"

"The Vampire Monarch himself."

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Chapter 187: Crashing the Party

"Wait a minute..." Rudy turned to Jane and asked, "Did you not ask me to take Rias while the portal is open? How did you want me to do that with this seal or spell or whatever it is on Rias?"

"A vampire's power is at its peak in the vampire world. So if you take Rias out of here, the spell would weaken, and I think even you would be able to break it with a little effort," Jane answered.

"Then I can break it here too." Rudy grabbed the shackles with his hands and pulled them, but they got tighter instead.

"Stupid! Don't do that! The spell effect will increase, and it will cause Rias more pain! Furthermore, it will drain your life force!" Jane warned Rudy with a concerned look on her face, although it was for Rias or Rudy, no one knew.

"Thanks for your concern, but if I can't endure a little pain for Rias, I can't prove my love for her. Rias once told me that no one could break us apart, but you did. Now, it's my turn to fulfill that promise!"

Rudy grabbed the shackles with his hands and grunted as it started sucking Rudy's lifeforce.

"You...!" Jane wanted to intervene and stop Rudy from doing that.

'What's wrong with him? He is purposely letting his life force get sucked! This is no different than suicide!'

Jane was left baffled after seeing the color of Rudy's lifeforce.

'Light blue color...? That's a holy color similar to gods and angels.'

However, she couldn't help but gasp in shock after seeing Rudy's life force change from blue to black.

'What? How did his life force change? Does he have two life forces? Impossible! No human or even entity can have more than one lifeforce!'

A few seconds later, Jane dropped to her knees after witnessing something mind-blowing.

'Blue, black, red, green, purple, and many more. How can someone have that much life force? I have read all the books in the vampire library, even the forbidden ones that were written from ancient times, such as lost races and magic. And I have never heard of this. Just what is he?! I knew he wasn't a human, but what the hell is he?'

Jane was so lost in her thoughts that she didn't realize the shackles had started to melt because they couldn't hold Rudy's lifeforce.

CRACK! CRACK!

With a creaking noise, all the shackles broke and fell to the ground with a loud clunk that rumbled the very ground they were standing on.

CLANK!

The shackles themselves weren't heavy from the start, but they became so heavy after sucking Rudy's lifeforce.

After shattering the shackles around Rias' body, Rudy turned to Jane and said, "What now?"

Jane was so afraid of Rudy that she couldn't help but tremble.

"Why isn't she waking up?" Rudy asked in a raspy voice. For some reason, Rudy's voice had changed, but Rudy assumed it was because his life force was sucked in a considerable amount.

"It seems... that the vampire monarch cast multiple spells on her. You only removed the first one..." Jane answered in a meek voice.

"How do I remove other spells then?"

"I don't know. Maybe if I knew what spells were used on her, I could help you."

Rudy clenched his fists and asked, "Where is the palace?"

"That's..."

"Where is the palace, Jane?!"

Jane slowly raised her trembling hand to the west and said, "You should be able to see it from the outside. The red moon's light falls directly on top of the palace's tower,"

"Thank you." Rudy placed his hand on Jane's shoulder and walked past her after saying, "Take care of Rias for me, will ya?"

After saying that, Rudy left the chamber and walked out of the alley. He immediately jumped into the air, soaring through the sky.

"Rias, the thing is... I have always been in love with you. The first time I laid my eyes on you, I was charmed by you. Your beauty is otherworldly, and I have never seen someone as charming as you. But... I was also scared of you," Rudy talked to himself.

"It was natural for me to be scared after spending hours in the haunted house. I have read many stories about vampires, myths, and even folklore. I was a big fan of all that, and I used to read them as a breather whenever I got bored of studying."

"Of course, I never believed in them as it was never scientifically proven. But I loved them regardless, and I also knew how dangerous they were. They were branded as monsters, and humans tend to fear those above them."

"I never told you this, but I was always scared of you. I never trusted you even though I loved you. And that's why, I never took you to meet mom. I may not worry about my life, but I couldn't put mom's life in danger."

"However, my feelings changed as I spent more time with you, and before I realized it, I had stopped fearing you. Or maybe my love for you had simply surpassed my fear for you. Or perhaps, I just didn't care about anything."

"I had so many dreams planned. I know our love story would never meet a happy ending as you were a vampire who could lie for thousands of years, and I was a mere human. Despite knowing all that, I still wanted to spend the rest of my life with you."

"It was saddening for me to think of the day I would die. But I felt more devastated after knowing that you would have to spend the rest of your life without me."

"After Jane took you back, I forgot everything about you. But just as I remembered everything again, it hadn't even been 30 full minutes, but I couldn't bear the pain of not being able to see you. I... couldn't imagine what you would feel like."

"However... not anymore."

Rudy hovered on top of the vampire palace and crashed through the ceilings. He landed in the hall where all the vampires were celebrating.

"Bring me the vampire monarch!" he beckoned.

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Chapter 188: The Beckoning

It was a dimly lit hall with only the chandelier's light illuminating the entire hall. The light from the chandelier wasn't coming from electricity or magic but from the red light of the red moon falling on it from the perfectly designed window.

There were hundreds of vampires in the hallway, dancing, talking, and drinking red liquid, which was not wine, but blood.

Many more vampires were wandering around the palace as they only got to enter the palace once a year on new year's eve and on the Vampire Monarch's birthday, which also happened to be on the same day.

There were three classes of vampires, just like in human society; low, middle, and high.

The high vampires were wearing luxurious clothing, and they were on the top stage in the hallway. The middle vampires were in the lower stage. While the low vampires weren't allowed in the hall, they enjoyed the party regardless.

However, the Vampire Monarch was nowhere to be seen. His throne was on the highest spot of the hall, but it was empty. But for some reason, none of the vampires cared about their king's absence. They were lost in their own world.

All of them were smiling, and the couples were flirting with each other. Looking at them, one wouldn't think of them as any different from the humans. Except they weren't one.

Suddenly, the chandelier started shaking, and it eventually crashed to the floor. The hall was covered with just, and the sharp pieces of the glass scattered all around.

The guards and the elite guards saved the high vampires from getting hurt, while the middle vampires were injured.

Everyone was left baffled as they couldn't comprehend anything.

How could a chandelier fall so suddenly? They all thought.

However, the dust slowly faded away, and they saw a figure standing in the middle of the hallway that didn't resemble a vampire at all.

Of course, that figure was none other than Rudy.

The Elite guards rushed at Rudy, but they stopped in their tracks after realizing it was a human.

"Sup bitches!" Rudy glared and beckoned them as he uttered, "Bring me the Vampire Monarch!"

"A human?"

"Is he really a human?"

"How did a human enter this world?"

"What is a human doing here?"

"Did he fall from the ceiling?"

"What's going on?"

"Why aren't the guards attacking him?"

Everyone started whispering to each other, but none of them dared to speak out aloud.

The leader of the elite guard walked forward and said, "How did you come here?"

"Are you the vampire monarch?" Rudy asked without answering the guard's question.

"I am not. Now.. answer my question, or you will have to face the consequences," the guard uttered in a calm voice, however, the expression on his face said otherwise.

"I don't talk with pawns." Rudy glanced around the hall and yelled, "Where are you, coward?! Come out!"

All the guards stepped forward and said, "How dare you disrespect our lord!"

Rudy frowned his face even more and uttered in an emotionless voice, "Did I not ask you to shut up?"

"...!"

The guards couldn't help but tremble after looking into Rudy's eyes.

"If you speak one more word, I will pluck out your tongues and feed it to you!"

Rudy had no emotions behind his words, but when the elite guards looked into his eyes, they saw nothing but death.

His hypnosis and commandant power might not work on them as they weren't humans, and they had strong mental resistance to such things. They realized that messing with Rudy was a suicide.

However, they couldn't just stand back and allow the intruder to do as he wished. They were elite guards, and it was their duty to protect the vampires, at least the high vampires.

The leader of the elite guards slowly stepped forward and tried to look into Rudy's eyes.

"I won't ask again. Where is the freaking vampire monarch?!"

"What business do you have with me?" A voice sounded from the creaked open door of the hall.

Everyone turned to the sides and made a path for the Vampire Monarch to walk.

He had red hair, red eyes, and a fine build suitable for a king. He was wearing red attire with a red cape, and even his nails were red. He was also carrying a glass filled with blood like every other vampire present in the hall.

"Are you the vampire monarch?"

"The crown on my head says so," the Vampire Monarch shrugged.

Unlike everyone in the hall, the Vampire Monarch looked nonchalant about everything. He looked at the broken ceiling and then the shattered chandelier on the floor.

"Did you do this?" he asked in a calm voice.

"I did, so what?"

"Hmm..." he took a sip from the glass and said, "You are a human, am I right?"

"My appearance says so," Rudy shrugged, seemingly imitating the Vampire Monarch.

"Heh!" the Vampire Monarch chuckled softly and said, "You are a daring one, I must say."

Rudy glared into the Vampire Monarch's eyes and uttered, "I am here to punish you for what you did to Rias."

"Oh..." The Vampire Monarch's eyes widened in surprise, and he inspected Rudy from head to toe.

"So you are the human she fell in love with?" he said.

"..."

"Did she make you a vampire too? That could explain your superhuman strength. But you don't smell like a vampire." The Vampire Monarch pondered for a while and uttered, "How did you get into the vampire world?"

"..." Rudy didn't answer because he didn't want to rat out Jane

"Let me guess... It was Jane, am I right?"

"..."

The Vampire Monarch scoffed softly and shook his head with a smile on his face. But then, he sighed and turned to his guards and said, "Bring her here."

The guard bowed down and flew away to bring Jane.

"Did you not hear me when I said I am here to punish you for what you did to Rias?" Rudy cracked his fingers and said, "I heard vampires don't die so easily, so let's test it."

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Chapter 189: The Massive Arena

Rudy dashed at the Vampire Monarch at a very high speed and swung his fist back to punch him, but the Vampire Monarch didn't flinch or even move from his spot.

He simply dropped the glass he was holding and uttered, "Can we do this somewhere else? I don't want my guests to get caught in the fight."

Rudy stopped because he saw the sincerity in the Vampire Monarch's eyes.

"Fine."

"Thank you for your cooperation. I truly appreciate it."

The Vampire Monarch turned around and started walking towards the door nonchalantly. He didn't even keep his guard up, thinking Rudy could attack him from behind.

"..."

Rudy followed him even though he was getting stares from everyone, especially the guards.

After reaching the open balcony of the palace, the vampire monarch turned to Rudy and asked, "Can you fly?"

"I can."

"Hmm..." He looked up at the red moon and said, "Today is.... Maybe it's just a coincidence. It's too early for 'that' day."

"What are you muttering about?"

"Oh, my apologies. I was lost in my thoughts." The Vampire monarch spread his wings and said, "Follow me."

Rudy jumped after the Vampire Monarch and asked, "Where are we going?"

"Do you see those streets and houses?" he asked. "My citizens live there. I wouldn't want to destroy their houses in some stupid fight. So I am taking you to the arena where we can fight if you want to."

'Not going to lie, this guy is not as I expected,' Rudy uttered inwardly. 'I was expecting an arrogant bastard who would be ruling over all the vampires in terror. I guess I have read too many stories about the rulers being the villains.'

"Oh!" The Vampire Monarch looked at Rudy with a shocked expression on his face and asked, "How are you flying without wings?!"

"I literally have no idea."

"Hmm? Can I ask if Rias knew you had such powers?" he asked with a curious yet calm look on his face.

"No."

Rudy sensed something from behind him, so he turned around and saw thousands of vampires following him.

"What's that? Do you plan to ambush me or something? Just saying that it won't work on me," Rudy scoffed arrogantly.

"I think they are simply tagging along to watch our fight..." the Vampire Monarch sighed.

A few minutes later, Rudy and the Vampire Monarch landed in the middle of the area.

The arena was 50 times the size of a standard soccer court. There were many pedestals and stairs around it, seemingly for the people to watch the fights and enjoy themselves. On the highest point, there was a balcony made for the royals to have a clear view of the entire arena.

'Wow...' Rudy was awed. 'I saw this from afar, but it looked like a dessert to me. I have never seen an arena this big. Heck, it's nearly five times the size of my town.'

"This arena is big enough to gather the vampires of this entire world. It's called the royal arena," the Vampire Monarch stated.

The vampires who were following them also reached the arena and stood in the wait for their king's order.

The Vampire Monarch smiled at Rudy and said, "May I know your name?"

"It's Rudy."

"Rudy...? Family name?"

"Don't have one."

"I see." The Vampire Monarch cleared his throat and said, "My name is Vlad the thirteenth, but my citizens call me Virgil, and I prefer the latter one. Vlad is the name passed over the generations."

"Are we done with introductions?" Rudy asked in an annoyed tone. "I can't hold my anger."

"I would appreciate it if you could hold it for a while longer. I first want to talk with you." Virgil shrugged his shoulders and said, "Why should we fight if we can solve the matter by talking? That's a mature way to resolve disputes, after all. Or perhaps humans are still barbarians who don't know who to talk to?"

"..."

"So Rudy, can I ask why you want to fight me?"

"I am just here to pay you back for what you did to Rias!"

"Hmmm..." Virgil pondered for a few seconds while staring at Rudy and said, "Say, you are a human, right?"

"Stop asking me that! I myself have no idea what I am!"

"But you live in a human world, so I will proceed with my example." Virgil furrowed his brows and asked, "Tell me, Rudy. The human world has rules, right? What happens when someone breaks the rules?"

"They... get punished."

"Indeed. What is considered the biggest crime in the human world?"

"Murder..."

"Hmm... that makes sense," Virgil nodded.

"What are you getting at?"

"Here in the vampire world, we have a rule that vampires can't fall in love with humans, which is the biggest crime. Rias fell in love with you— a human— and she was punished for it. Now, you tell me, what I did was right, or wrong?"

"..."

"For you to take revenge on me for punishing Rias is the same as a human trying to punish the judge for punishing the murderer. That's nothing but pure madness."

Rudy frowned his face and said, "Did you seriously compare murder with love? When you kill someone, you take their life. And love doesn't take one's life!"

"...!"

"Either you are a maniac who thinks that people will blindly follow any rule you make. And what's wrong with a vampire loving a human?!"

"It is... sad. YOU say love doesn't take one's life, but you couldn't be more wrong. You know nothing, human. You are barely mature enough to make any decision while I have lived for over 2000 years."

"That doesn't matter! It seems that old age has rusted your brain!" Rudy cracked his neck and said, "Now, can we fight?"

"What... do you want to achieve after fighting me?"

"I want you to remove the spells you have cast on Rias."

"Alright. If you win the fight, I will remove all the spells from Rias. But What if you lose?"

"That's never going to happen."

"I like your confidence." Virgil chuckled and clapped his hands before saying, "But you won't be fighting me. You will fight my strongest champion."

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Chapter 190: Three! Two! One! Fight!

A few seconds after Virgil clapped his hands, ten vampires landed in front of him.

"These are the ten best champions. You can choose any of them to fight."

"I can fight all of them if you want me to. But you better keep your promise, or this night might become a tragic night for the vampires. And instead of celebrating it every year, they will mourn," Rudy asserted with a serious look on his face.

A red-haired vampire bowed before Virgil and said, "My king! Let me fight this insolent! I will show him his place!"

"Are you sure about this, Victus? You don't know what he can do or what powers he possesses. Once you have stepped in the ring and the duel has begun, none can stop it," Virgil uttered in a solemn voice.

"I am certain, my king! I cannot allow an outsider to insult you like this!"

"Very well." Virgil glanced at the other nine vampires and said, "Thank you for the consideration. I have decided to choose Victus. Please, go back and enjoy the show."

The nine vampires bowed down to Virgil and flew away.

Vigil placed his hand on Victus' head and said, "I wish you the best of luck."

"I will not disappoint you, my king," Victus uttered with his utmost sincerity.

Virgil flapped his wings and hovered in the air but kept his distance from the arena.

"Let me go!" a female voice echoed in the arena.

Rudy and Virgil looked at the source of the voice to see Jane getting chased by the elite guards.

"..."

Jane flapped her wings faster than before and landed in front of Rudy. She knelt down in front of Virgil and stuttered, "My... king..."

"Raise your head, Jane," Virgil uttered.

Jane looked up at Virgil but lowered her head again.

"Did you bring Rudy here?"

"Yes..."

"You know that bringing a human here or even interacting with one outside is considered treason, yet you still did that. May I ask why you would willingly bring a human here?"

"I..."

"And out of all days, you had to do it today, the great day. I am disappointed, Jane."

"Please, forgive me..."

"There is no mercy to—"

"Excuse me!" Rudy quipped and said, "I would like to change the condition of the rewards."

"Hmm?" Virgil raised his brow.

Jane looked at Rudy with teary eyes and bit her lips.

"If I win the duel, you will have to remove the spells from Rias and forgive Jane," he stated.

"Why are you trying to save a girl who stole Rias from you?" Virgil asked with a curious yet confused look on his face.

Rudy glared at Virgil and said, "She did that on your orders, you asshole."

"Hmmm, okay." Virgil shrugged his shoulders and said, "I will do everything you say; that is if you win the battle."

"Don't worry about that. I don't even need to warm up to crush a puny vampire," he uttered with a furious look on his face.

"Jane, step aside," Virgil said to Jane in a calm voice.

Rudy and Victus glared into each other's eyes, and Victus didn't seem to be afraid of Rudy's glare.

"Before we start the duel, I want to make it fair for both of them." Virgil snapped his fingers, and the entire Arena started rumbling. "Don't worry. I am just reconstructing the broken parts of the arena."

"What rules are you talking about?" Rudy asked and thought, 'I bet they are going to give me some sort of disadvantage.'

"There will be three rules!" Virgil announced, "The first one is, of course, no killing. Rudy and Victus, no matter what happens, you are not allowed to kill each other. If you do that, then you shall face my mighty wrath."

"..." Rudy was left speechless as he never expected a rule like that.

"The other two rules will be created by you two. Rudy, you can make one rule of yours. And Victus, the same goes for you," Virgil instructed.

"I don't care about any rules. But if he wants one, then I am up for it," Rudy replied with a shoulder shrug as though he didn't care about it in the least.

"I want to make a rule where he can't use anything that can be considered as anti-vampire, such as the light of the sun, silver, or any magic spell," Victus asserted.

"Hmm. That's a tad too much to ask for. But that's not for me to decide." Virgil looked at Rudy and asked, "Do you agree on his terms?"

'Not that I have any of those things with me, so I couldn't care less. But I will state my condition too,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"If that's the case, then I would also like to add my condition." After a brief pause, Rudy said, "I don't want him to use any vampire powers such as charm ability or suck my blood."

"Agreed," Virgil nodded. "You may start on the count of three."

Victus and Rudy prepared themselves for the duel. Although Victus had already planned how he was going to attack Rudy, Rudy had no plans in his mind. He had already predicted that Victus would have made his plan, so unless he failed, nothing would matter.

"Three! Two!"

"..."

"..."

The entire arena was filled with silence, and all the vampires were eagerly waiting for the fight to start.

"One!"

As soon as the duel started, Victus flapped his wings and hovered above Rudy.

"..." Rudy could also fly and do the same thing, but he was curious about what Victus was planning.

'He must have seen me flying earlier, right? So why would he choose to attack me from the air? In fact, I believe that the fight in the air would be less interesting than the fight on the ground. But oh well, I will play along and finish the duel with one blow'.

"This is the end, human! You have already lost! I have the high ground!" Victus declared out aloud.

SIGH!

Rudy let out a weary sigh and slammed Victus to the ground using telekinesis.