

## Esper 611

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#### Chapter 611: Finding Rias

"Where did Rias go?" Rudy wondered.

He used the new tracking ability that could show him the location of the objects and the people he had marked. It was a similar concept as GPS, but better as it not only had precise location tracking but also worked simultaneously for multiple markings at once.

"Found her..."

Rudy landed in front of a familiar convenience store and waited for Rias to come out of it.

"What is she doing here?" Rudy wondered. "Or... I think I know why she is here."

Rias was in the convenience store where Rebecca worked, although she was at home now as she only did night shifts.

About a minute later, Rias walked out of the store empty-handed. She was wearing a hoodie and a mask on her face as though she was trying to avoid being seen. Her hands were in her pockets, and she was walking with a lowered gaze to avoid eye contact with anyone.

"..."

Even if Rias walked with her eyes closed, she wouldn't bump into anyone or anything as her senses were sharp. Even though she was almost a human, she had the basic vampire abilities that one needed to survive.

Rudy approached Rias and said, "Hey there, miss. Are you going somewhere? If yes, then I will have to report you to the police since you are running away after stealing my heart."

"..." Rias looked at Rudy and stared at him for a few seconds before saying, "Lame."

"Of course, it was lame. I read it somewhere. If it was my original, it would have been the best pickup line in the world," Rudy said proudly.

"How did you know I was here?" Rias asked with a glint of curiosity in her eyes.

Rudy puffed his chest and confidently said, "I am the world's best stalker."

Rias took off her mask but kept the hoodie on.

"More importantly, why were you here?" Rudy asked with a knowing look on his face.

"Uhhh... I was just looking for something, but it was out of stock."

"I see."

Of course, Rudy knew she was lying as he was aware of the reason why Rias was there.

"Perhaps, the thing you were looking for was a human named Rebecca?" he asked with a judging look on his face.

"What do you..."

Rudy smiled at Rias and said, "You were also wearing a hoodie when we met for the first time."

"No, I was in my normal... oh..." Rias' eyes widened as she realized what Rudy was referring to.

She looked at him with a surprised look on her face and asked, "You... remember now?"

"Well, more like I experienced it firsthand," he chuckled.

Rias' eyes suddenly got teary as though she couldn't hold her emotions anymore. Her tips trembled as she tried to speak, but words weren't coming out of her mouth.

"I... I am so happy!" She hugged him tightly and embraced his warmth. "Finally..."

"Sorry... you had to go through all that for me."

"There is no need to. It was just a test of my love, and I hoped I passed."

"Yeah... you did. You passed with full scores."

They stayed like that for a few seconds and kissed a couple of times while looking into each other's eyes.

"You were here to meet mom, right?" Rudy asked calmly.

"Yes. Although it hasn't been long since I came here, I spent my free time looking for your mom's whereabouts. When I was here the last time, and you took me to your house, my memories— about everything else besides you— were still sealed.

I think Rebecca had recognized me, but she was pretending to not know me. But even if she hadn't, I wouldn't have understood anything. No wonder she wasn't surprised at all when I revealed that I was a vampire. I tried to scare her off and steal you from her, but that... oops."

Rias gulped down in fear and prepared herself to receive Rudy's wrath.

Rudy raised his brow and asked, "What did you just say?"

"Nothing." She averted her gaze and avoided eye contact with Rudy.

"You tried to scare mom by revealing your vampire self?"

"No... I mean, that wasn't my intention. I was just letting her know about me..." she muttered.

"You did all that when I wasn't around?"

Rias nodded meekly in response.

Rudy shook his head in disbelief and said, "Well, let's forget about that. Mom is the only person who knows everything about everything. That also makes sense why you didn't look all so surprised when I mentioned Nyxia's name as one of my love interests."

"Hmm? Oh.. yeah... yeah. Exactly!"

"You need to learn to lie, you know? Take lessons from Angelica, she is quite good at this stuff."

"Umm... correct me if I am wrong, but... Angelica is Jessica, am I right?"

"Yes."

"So that's why I kept forgetting her name again and again."

"What do you mean? How does that relate to my time travel event?" Rudy asked with a confused and curious look on his face.

"I am not exactly sure, but your seal still has its effect. It's keeping me away from learning a few things. For example, you introduced Jessica as Angelica many times, but I forgot her name even after learning it a couple of times.

It's like... Your seal is alive, and it's preventing me from learning things I shouldn't. But I no longer feel that as I now remember Angelica's name. Perhaps your seal lost its effect after you remembered everything?"

"That's the only possibility," Rudy nodded. "By the way, is that why you were stalling to reveal everything to Jane?"

"Yes. I didn't want to take any risk by messing things up. It's just like... err... when you study hard for an exam and get all the answers written, but you forgot to write your name on the answer sheet, so you failed."

Rias chuckled nervously while saying that.

"Yeah, that was a good example."

"That's also why... I was... you know..." Rias squirmed a little with a flushed face and muttered, "I was avoiding to... have sex with you."

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#### **Chapter 612: May The Lord Be With You**

"That's why I also avoided having sex with you."

"Uhh... excuse me, but what?" Rudy asked with a puzzled look on his face. "You were avoiding having sex with me? I never noticed. But yes, you did say that we won't have sex until you tell everything to Jane, so I guess you were kind of stalling it."

"I am glad you didn't notice." Rias squinted her eyes and remarked, "But that's probably because you have other girls to give you pleasure."

"You are not completely off the mark," Rudy shrugged. "But hey... I remember you asking me 'when will we do it?' after you woke up from your slumber when we were in the vampire world."

"You won't believe me, but I asked that as a joke. I never thought you would actually do it. And when you started touching me, I was nervous. But had I pushed you back or stopped you, I would have hurt your feelings.

So..." Rias averted her gaze to the side and said, "I summoned Vriti to save me, who has been watching us from a distance."

"Wait, that was you? I thought she interrupted us on purpose. I am still salty about that and hate her for doing that."

"You hate her? Why? I know she is a little too childish sometimes, but whatever she does, she does it for my sake. She doesn't mean anything bad by her actions."

"I know that. But she is a little too cheeky sometimes."

"I thought you liked cheeky girls," Rias teased with a grin on her face.

"I like treating cheeky girls."

They both stared at each other for a while, seemingly thinking of a topic to discuss, but they did something better and more important.

They kissed, and they kissed like crazy.

Rias wrapped her arms around Rudy's neck while Rudy pulled her close by her waist. But their hands didn't stick there and pulled each other's faces and pressed their lips together.

They were in the middle of the street in the middle of the day, but no one was watching, or so they thought, but a blonde-haired girl was standing behind Rias, who was watching them with a confused and composed look on her face.

That girl was none other than Janet, who had come to the convenience store to buy the latest nail polish.

Janet didn't know who Rudy was kissing, and thus she was confused, but she couldn't believe her eyes as she had never expected Rudy to be so shameless to kiss a girl on the street in the bright daylight.

"Hey... Janet..." Rudy smiled awkwardly. "I didn't see you."

"I can see that," she said with a judging look on her face.

Janet walked forward to check if the girl was Alice or someone else. She pulled Rias' hoodie and stepped back a little in surprise.

"Janet, do you remember her? She is Rias."

"Ria...s..." Janet grabbed her head and muttered, "I have heard this name before."

"She is our classmate and my girlfriend."

"Right..."

"She had to take a long leave because of a family issue, but now she is back. I ran into her and couldn't control myself from..."

"I..." Janet turned to Rudy and said, "I think I will go home. I don't feel so good."

After saying that, Janet walked away.

Rias glanced at Rudy and asked, "New harem member?"

"No. She is just a friend."

"All relationships start from friendship."

"Why does that sound true..." he sighed.

"I don't think Janet quite remembered me. Jane's spell had sealed everyone's memory about me."

"Yeah, but for some reason, she remembered you even after that. In fact, I was able to know more about you because of her. Mom was the one who first mentioned your name, but Janet is the reason why she found the leads.

Oh... that reminds me..." Rudy facepalmed himself and said, "That makes sense."

"What are you talking about?"

"Janet's spell. She sealed the memories of everyone who knew about it, including mom. But mom didn't only forget meeting you in 2008, she also forgot about you from 1989."

"Oh! Right!" Rias exclaimed. "So even if I had found her, she wouldn't have remembered me?"

"Yes. I will have to ask Jane to remove her spell from mom... actually, everyone. There is no reason to keep the seal active."

"Hmm~ Does that mean I can return to your school?"

"You can, but why would you? School is boring."

"Feels unrealistic and out of character when it comes from your mouth."

Rudy kissed Rias on the lips and bumped his forehead with hers.

"So you are now ready to tell Jane, right?" he asked calmly.

"Yeah. But I want you to be present there when I do."

"What are you planning, though?"

Rias brought her face close to his ears and whispered her plan to him.

"That sounds so... sadistic. Are you sure she won't snap and try to kill us?"

"I am sure you will protect me if that happens," she chuckled.

"I need some time. I haven't met mom yet and told her everything. To be honest... I am very nervous right now. I don't know how she will react. I don't even know how I should tell her.

And... what makes everything worse is she knew everything about my powers and me all along, and I was trying to hide it from her like a stupid. That's so lame of me."

"Good luck, my dear husband. May the Lord be with you."

"You can't pray me for my well-being."

"Stop thinking too much and just go and tell her. What worse can happen?"

"It's not just about that..." Rudy paused for a second and awkwardly said, "I... I have a thing for her."

"Hmm? You have a surprise for her?"

"No."

"You are buying her something?"

"No, no. Not that kind of thing. I mean, I have... I see her as ... argh! I want to add her to my harem!"

"..." Rias stared at Rudy with a dumbfounded expression on her face for a few seconds and then said, "May the Lord be with you."

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#### **Chapter 613: Meeting Rebecca After Eighteen Years || Present Time**

After meeting Rias, Rudy flew to his house instead of teleporting as he gathered courage.

SIGH!

'Rias made me more nervous than before. The look on her face was priceless... I don't know what type of reaction I was expecting from her. Rias and... Elena is the only one who knows about this.

As for Angelica... I don't know. Should I tell her that mom is her sister? Would that bring her memories back... no, I highly doubt it. It's best if I ask mom about the details first. I need to learn everything related to Angelica.

Come to think of it, Rias didn't react when she learned that Jessica was also in my harem, but she looked kind of displeased after I told her that I wanted mom in my harem. Wait... could it be that they have some sort of rivalry between them?

I just learned from Rias that she tried to scare mom, but it didn't work. What else did she try? Maybe she challenged mom and lost?'

Rudy couldn't be more right, which was precisely why Rias was displeased after learning that Rudy wanted to add her to his harem.

All this time, Even Rias thought that she was his favorite girl, but she learned of Elise and admitted that Elise was his favorite. But Rudy recently told her that Angelica was his favorite and after knowing that Rebecca was also going to join his harem, she felt defeated by the two sisters.

However, she wasn't opposed to the idea or hated them. She simply wanted to be Rudy's first choice.

Rudy landed in front of the house and made his way to the front door.

"Here we go." He took a deep breath and opened the door.

'I am technically entering the house after eighteen years. I have so many questions to ask.'

Rudy entered the house, fully prepared, but all his courage vanished when he realized Rebecca was sleeping.

Rudy glanced around and muttered, "Lucy isn't home yet. Should I... wake mom up? No, let's let her sleep. I would be pissed if someone woke me up when I was tired."

Rudy decided to inspect the house and check how many things were still present there after 1989.

'The water tank, washing machine, my bed. The water line isn't working as I had connected it with the motor and the well, but the well dried up, so it makes sense why there was no water.

But What happened to the solar panel? They should easily last for twenty years, so why were they removed? I do remember there was a crazy storm in the town when I was a kid, but... that wouldn't have damaged all the panels... right?

I know storms can be crazy and can even send a house flying. But I read about the storm in the article, and it was stated that no lives were lost, nor was anything majorly damaged.

There are no batteries, either. And what about the money? I had left a lot of money for Rebecca and Jessica, and they would have lived their life without worry using that money.

But for as long as I can remember, we have had money problems ever since I was a kid. And why are we paying rent for this house if it belongs to mom? Something must have happened.'

After a brief silence, Rudy lowered his gaze and muttered, "I trusted Elena to take care of Jessica and Rebecca, so why didn't she?"

Rudy thought it was the best time to take a bath and calm down, so he went to his room and grabbed his clothes. After that, he went to the bathroom and came out after half an hour.

While taking a bath, he heard some noise from the kitchen, so he assumed Lucy must have returned as she was already past her regular time. But when he checked the kitchen, he saw Rebecca drinking water.

"..."

Rudy walked to the kitchen and greeted Rebecca with an awkward smile on his face.

"Hey... mom."

"Are you back from school?" she asked. "Where is Lucy?"

"She is not here yet. It seems she is with her friends."

Rudy was worried about Lucy, so when he tracked her location, he found her hanging out with her friends in a cafe.

Rebecca placed the water bottle back in the refrigerator and walked close to Rudy.

"..."

She stopped in front of him and slowly moved her hand toward him.

'What is she...'

Rebecca touched Rudy's hair and said, "Your hair is so wet! You should dry them, or you will catch a cold."

"Ah... yeah."

'Why am I so nervous? I just have to act normal! Nothing is wrong yet!

Rudy needed to figure out where to start the conversation, but he knew he had to start somewhere.

"Umm... mom."

"Hmm?"

"Well.... I... I wanted to know more about dad. How did he die? I am an adult now, so isn't it better if I know everything?" he asked calmly.

Rudy indirectly tried to ask Rebecca as he assumed there must be a reason why Rebecca never told him that she already knew everything.

"Why do you want to know what happened all of a sudden?"

"No reason. It was just in my mind. Like, you know... there is a sports festival in school, and parents usually come and watch how their kids are doing. So... I just... missed dad and wondered what my life would be like if he was alive."

Rudy wasn't lying. He had truly felt like that in his past life and even asked Rebecca about Albert many times, but she never answered him correctly. He expected the same thing to happen this time, and he was ready for it.

"I don't really know much about him... actually. He was rarely home, and I never had a chance to spend time with him," Rebecca answered with a distant smile on her face.

'Albert had never been there for Jessica and Rebecca and only visited them twice a week. No wonder they don't have any good memories of him.'

"Do you remember what I promised you on your birthday?" Rudy asked in a calm voice.

Rudy decided to be direct with her instead of beating around the bush.

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**Chapter 614: How To (Not) Adopt Rudy**

"Uhm... you have promised me many things. I am not sure which promise you are talking about."

"The promise I made when we celebrated your birthday together for the first time."

"Huh? What are you trying to say?" she asked with a confused look on her face.

Rudy conjured two ice cream cones in her hands, one was chocolate, and another was strawberry.

"Which one would you like, Rebecca?"

"If I have to choose, then it would be Straw... wait, did you just call me by my name?"

"Yes."

"That's bad manners."

"Oh, come on. That's what you are surprised about? You didn't even react when I used my powers in front of you. "

"Huh... oh!" Rebecca covered her mouth with her hand and stepped back in surprise. Her eyes widened as the shock was evident on her face.

"Took you a while to realize," he chuckled.

"Oh, no! What have you done!"

"Huh?"

"You weren't supposed to reveal your powers to me or tell me anything!" she said furiously. "You ruined everything."

"What do you mean? I thought you would be happy if I—"

"No! I already knew about your powers! I was waiting for you to remember everything before telling you—"

Rudy placed his hands on Rebecca's shoulder and said, "I know. And I remember everything now!"

Rebecca panicked after Rudy revealed his powers in front of her, but she calmed down after hearing that he remembered everything.

"So... you remember everything?" Rebecca asked curiously.

"Yes. Well, more like I experienced it... first hand," he sighed. "I said the same thing to Rias. I need to think of a new line now."

"What do you remember?" Rebecca asked impatiently.

"Everything."

"Why should I believe you? What if you are lying?" she asked with a judging look on her face.

"Wow. Are you seriously suspecting your son?"

"No, I am suspecting Rudy."

"..."

"Answer me, please. It's very important for me."

"I am not lying. I just returned from 1990 and came straight to you... after taking some stops in between to meet the girls."

"The girls?" Rebecca raised her brow.

"Uhm... you know about my harem, right?"

Rebecca squinted her eyes and asked, "Your what?"

'Oh great, she doesn't know about that. Well done, Rudy. Well done.'

"Let's talk about that later. Tell me more about you. Why were you freaking out when I revealed my powers?"

"That's..."

"And tell me everything. What happened after I... disappeared? I have so many questions, but I am sure you already know what I am going to ask."

Rebecca nodded and said, "Yes. Go sit on the couch, I will be right back."

Rudy sat on the living room couch while Rebecca went to her room and returned with the diary in her hand.

She showed it to Rudy and asked, "I have shown you this before, and I asked if you remembered this, but you said no. I will ask again, do you know this diary?"

Rudy shook his head and said, "No. It's my second time seeing it. What's it about?"

Rebecca placed the diary on the table and sat beside Rudy as if it was going to be a long talk.

"Ask anything you want, and I promise I will answer them honestly," she said calmly.

"Well, let's start in chronological order. Who are my real parents?"

"I don't know. I never saw them."

"How did you adopt me?"

"After we celebrated my birthday that night, and Jessica, Lilim, and I fell asleep, Elena suddenly barged into the room and hugged us all.

Jessica and Lilim were asleep, but I woke up because of how rough Elena was. I asked her what had happened, but she didn't say anything. She was crying and panicking. Her body was trembling, and she seemed so scared that I thought she would break if I asked her more questions.

A few minutes passed, and Elena... she fell asleep while hugging us, but I later learned she had a breakdown and had passed out. I was still confused, so I thought I would ask you what was happening.

I left my room and went upstairs, thinking you were sleeping there, but you weren't. So I searched the entire house, but you were nowhere to be seen. I even assumed that you did something to Elena and scared her.

At that time, I looked outside the kitchen window and saw... a bright ball. It was coming closer, and it seemed as though it was the second sun. For a second, it came so close that it blinded me, just like one would feel when someone turns a flashlight on their face at night.

I only closed my eyes for a second, but when I opened them, the ball wasn't there, and everything had turned silent. I saw colors moving in the space but didn't pay any attention to it.

Still, I was curious, so I left the house and went outside so I could get a clear view of the sky. For some reason, I felt really sad while looking at the sky, and I started crying without even realizing.

I only noticed when my vision got blurry. I wiped my tears and looked up again, but I didn't feel the same again. I decided to go back inside the house, so I opened the door, but it was automatically closed by a strong force.

I got shivers. I felt something was standing behind me, but I couldn't dare to turn around and look. So I courageously moved my hand to open the door again, but a voice stopped me this time.

'Child, you have been chosen for an important task.' The voice had said.

For some reason, all my fear vanished after hearing the sweet and ethereal voice. I tried to turn around, but the voice stopped me.

'Halt and don't turn around, for you must stay ignorant and still have faith.'

My 12-year-old brain couldn't understand that, and I still turned around. And... I saw a baby... floating in front of me. It was wrapped in a silky and warm blanket. I was surprised and immediately took the baby in my arms."

"It was.... me?" Rudy asked the obvious.

"Yes."

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#### **Chapter 615: Baby || Shadow || Diary**

"What happened after that?" Rudy immediately asked.

"I was so confused. I even thought the baby had fallen from the sky. I was used to seeing unbelievable things thanks to you, so my perception of what's normal and what's abnormal was completely shattered at such a young age.

When I looked at the baby, it smiled even though it was asleep. I didn't know what to do, so I went inside and woke Elena up. When she woke up and looked at the baby, all the colors faded from her face as though she knew what was going on."

"Yeah." Rudy nodded and said, "She knew I was born that day, and I had told her that you would adopt me. So when she saw a baby in her hand, she must have realized that something had happened to me or worse, I had returned to my timeline."

Rebecca caressed her hand on the diary and continued, "She started asking me so many questions, but I couldn't answer them as I was as oblivious as she was. We spent the night talking, and she told me a few things about you.

She said you asked her to tell me everything once you have returned to your timeline. I listened to her with so many questions in my mind. It was so hard for me to accept the fact that you had gone away.

But... I was also happy that the baby was you. So, of course, I decided to raise you even though I didn't know how. I read books and learned whatever I could. It was hard, but I loved every moment of it.

A week later, when I was in the library with Jessica and Elena, looking for more books, I..." Rebecca lowered her gaze to the diary and said, "I came across this."

She once again showed it to Rudy and said, "As you can see, it's so unique looking. When I was gazing through the books, my eyes immediately locked my gaze to this diary, and I felt attracted to it.

So I took it from the shelf and dusted it before opening it. And just like a normal person would, I first flipped through the pages to see what the book was about, but much to my surprise, it was completely black.

Elena was with me, so I showed her the diary, and she said it must be some kind of journal. I decided to put it back on the shelf and went home. I gave you a bath, fed you, and went to bed with Jessica and Elena.

That night, I had a dream in which I was walking across the library. Everything was so dark, and the only light coming was the moonlight from the glass window. The dream felt so realistic, and I obviously never realized it wasn't a dream.

I tried to bang on the doors, but there was no response. And then... I heard a soft rustling sound from the other side of the shelf in the corner.

My heart skipped a beat, and I kept hoping for it to be a rat. I quietly made my way to the other corner so I could peek from behind the shelf, and I did the same.

When I peeked... I saw a shadow standing under the moonlight, facing me... as though it knew I was going to be there. I even thought that the shadow was mine as it was standing still.

But then... it moved. Slightly, but it moved. And I immediately made a run to the door even though I knew it was closed. I kept glancing at the back of my shoulder, again and again, to check if the shadow had caught up to me.

Suddenly, it stopped in the middle of the hall from where the moonlight was falling directly on top of it from the glass roof. I had a better look at the shadow.

It was completely black. It wasn't a person wearing a black robe, it was a shadow. It was also emitting a black aura— just like how the steam comes out from a hot cup of coffee.

It just stood there and stared at me. Although it had no eyes or any facial features, I somehow knew it was looking at me. And then, it slowly raised its hand and pointed it at me.

I gulped down in fear as my body trembled, but then it moved its hand to the right on the shelf. I... just knew that it was asking me to go there, so I did, and there I saw the same book shining.

'Do not ignore.' It said.

It was the same sweet and ethereal voice I had heard the night of my birthday, so I knew that shadow was there to tell me something and guide me.

I hurriedly ran to the book and pulled it out as the books around it fell to the floor. I was too scared to focus on anything, so I grabbed the book and ran to the moonlight so I could see what the shadow was trying to say.

When the moonlight fell on the book, it automatically began to write something on the cover."

"R & R?" Rudy wondered.

"Yes. And then, I flipped the first pages as an index, or you could call it 'tables of contents' appeared on the first page. They numbered from 1 to 19, and they were named after years.

On the next page, there were five instructions written in bold letters—

- 1) Read One Page Every Year.
- 2) Do Not Try To Read Ahead.
- 3) Do Not Show It To Anyone Unless Necessary.
- 4) Do Not Let 'Him' Read.
- 5) Do Not Reveal Anything to 'Him'.

And then... I woke up from the dream... but the book was in my hands, and everything was the same. The next day, when I went to the library, I realized that it wasn't a dream... but I was actually there last night."

"Let me guess, you saw the same books lying on the floor, which you had dropped while pulling out the diary?"

Rebecca nodded in response and said, "Indeed. But I have no idea how I went in and out of the library so late at night."

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#### **Chapter 616: Raising Rudy**

"Now to my next question... what happened to Jessica? How did she die?" Rudy asked calmly but with a serious look on his face.

"Before I answer that, there is still more to my first answer." After a brief pause, Rebecca placed the diary back on the table and said, "It was still hard for me to understand everything even though a month had already passed.

I didn't read the diary nor talk about it to anyone, not even Elena. But when I was curious enough to open and read the first of the diary, I... read it and the contents written inside were so ridiculous that I felt stupid for taking it seriously.

I did the very thing the shadow had told me not to; I ignored it, and I had to pay for it. There were signs, and yet I didn't pay attention to them.

One night, I had just put you to bed, and Jessica was sleeping beside you; I was taking a bath, and you suddenly started crying, so I quickly wrapped a towel around me and rushed to my room.

There... I saw the same shadow... holding you in its arms and looking at the doorway, seemingly waiting for me to arrive. I was obviously scared, but I was more worried about you, so I called it out and asked what it was doing.

I didn't get any response from the shadow, but the atmosphere around me got cold. My body was wet as I was taking a bath, and the cold atmosphere made it impossible for me to stand in the same room.

My body had frozen, quite literally. I couldn't even move my finger, and I could feel my heartbeat getting slower and quieter. My vision had turned blurry, and I could barely see anything. Only my tongue and ears were functioning.

Then, I heard the shadow say, 'You have failed!'

It didn't say anything else, but I somehow knew why the shadow was there— it was there to take you away from me, and I didn't want that.

However... what could I do?" Rebecca shook her head and said, "Nothing. I was just a twelve-year-old girl who had just adopted a newborn baby. If the shadow wanted, it could have killed Jessica and me at any time, but it didn't.

It gave me so many signs and chances to do better, but I failed the test and... I failed miserably. I had lost you once, and I didn't want to lose you again. I also knew that if the shadow took you, I wouldn't be able to raise you, and we would never meet again because the future would be changed.

If that future was changed, then maybe you would never return to the past to take care of Jessica and me. A simple thought of it was scary, and it stabbed my heart with a thousand needles.

So I looked at the shadow and said, 'Give me one more chance, and I will not fail you.'

When I said that, the air around me got even colder, and I eventually passed out. When I opened my eyes, I immediately glanced at the bed and found you sleeping beside Jessica.

Since that day, I have tried my best to raise you and sacrificed everything. You were the most important thing to me in the world, and that still hasn't changed.

Actually, I..." Rebecca chuckled softly and continued, "I never planned to raise you as my son; I wanted to raise you as a brother, but... I guess I was more attached to you as a mother and you as a son.

A few months passed by, and you started reacting to every single thing. You would cry when I moved away from you, get angry when I didn't pay attention to you, and smile when you saw me smile.

Well, I guess that's what most kids do with their mothers. But maybe you were a little different. For some reason, you seemed... mature to me. Perhaps, that's because I have seen and known your adult form?

As even more time passed, you started speaking a few words. You started pulling Jessica's hair. You even started biting our fingers when we would poke your soft chubby cheeks."

She said with a distant smile on her face.

"..." Rudy didn't know what to say or how to feel about Rebecca's view of Rudy. He didn't want to ruin the beautiful relationship they already had. Thus, he kept his mouth shut to think more about it.

"Now to your second question; What happened to Jessica, and how did she die? If you want a short answer, then the best and the most straightforward answer would be— I don't know.

And I know you want to know the long answer, so I will explain in detail."

"Please do."

"As you grew up, you became more attached to Jessica than me. You would want to play with her more than me. You would always ask where Jessica was- whenever she was at school or wasn't around.

You would want to sleep by Jessica's side instead of mine— even though you always slept in between us. You would only eat your food when Jessica fed you. I will be honest and say I was extremely jealous of her.

My envy for Jessica grew day by day, but I didn't hate her. I loved her just as before, perhaps even more— seeing how beautiful she was becoming." She chuckled wryly.

"A few years passed, and you have grown enough to do everything on your own. You could eat on your own, you could even bath on your own— even though you were only three years old.

At that time, you started to avoid both Jessica and me, and we didn't know why. You began to act grumpy and run away whenever we tried to talk to you. And it wasn't a normal type of avoiding; you were trying your best to not speak or look at us.

That was a crazy phase, not going to lie. But that phase didn't last long, and you eventually started speaking to us and acted as if everything was normal despite us sulking at you for treating us like that."

She let out a soft chuckle as she recalled the events with a distant smile on her face.

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

#### **Chapter 617: Jessica Jeopardy**

"As time passed, you began playing outside and making new friends. You met Eric, Erika, and Alice at pre-school and became close friends with them.

Then one day, you came home and asked who your father was... and I didn't know how to answer that. Obviously, I could tell you the truth— which you would later say to your friends— who would think you were a delusional person.

So I decided to lie to you and tell you about my father, who had apparently died in an accident according to the letter I had received soon after I adopted you.

I will skip most of the things and fast forward to the end, at how Jessica died. I already answered and said I don't know, and I truly don't know. But that's not what you think I am trying to say.

My memories of Jessica from before she died are missing. I don't know anything related to Jessica. One day... I just found myself in front of her newly made grave with a wallet in my hand with a family picture in it.

I asked around, but no one knew anything. Most people had forgotten everything about Jessica. Some didn't remember a single thing about her, while some didn't even know that Jessica existed."

She looked at Rudy with teary eyes and said, "You were one of them. You were eight years old at that time, and when I asked you about Jessica, you replied with, 'who is that?'

I tried to tell you everything about Jessica, but you couldn't even recall how she looked, so I decided to show you her photo. Imagine my surprise when she had disappeared from all of her pictures.

There were no records of her. That was heartbreaking, honestly. She and you were the only ones in my life, and... after her death, I hoped you would be there to comfort me when I missed her. But... how could I expect you to comfort me about a person you don't know the existence of?

That was the hardest, saddest, and darkest time of my life, and I was close to a breaking point. And you know what's ironic? She died on my birthday... on our birthday. I had turned twenty, and you had turned eight.

That was also the day when I was supposed to read the ninth of the diary. Of course, I had no motivation to do anything, but I knew I had to read, or the shadow could appear again.

I flipped the pages and stopped at the ninth, which was empty for some reason. I was confused, but then I thought maybe I did something that changed the future, and I was punished for it. Perhaps, that's why Jessica died, so I could suffer.

And... I eventually had a breakdown. I cried for hours, locked in my room while you were having a sleepover at Eric and Erika's house— and also celebrating your birthday there.

I asked many questions and tried to call out the shadow, but nothing happened. However, I knew a way to summon the shadow, and that was to do something mentioned in the diary's note— the first page—.

I decided to read the tenth with my teary eyes and blurry vision. I knew if I did that, the shadow would appear again. I wanted to ask questions even though I already knew that the shadow would never respond to my question albeit being present there.

Still, I wanted to ask the questions. But just as I was about to flip the page to go from the ninth to the tenth, words started appearing in the ninth. I couldn't read because of my vision, so I rubbed my eyes and wiped my tears immediately. And then I read.

'You will meet her again. Keep patience and continue what you are best at.' It said.

I blindly believed those words and put my faith in them. And... I am hoping to meet her again... soon."

She smiled sadly.

Rudy lowered his gaze and inwardly uttered, 'I wasn't planning to reveal Angelica's identity to mom before finding out her killer, but I can't see mom sad.'

"Mom..." Rudy held Rebecca's hand in his hands and squeezed it a little. "I... I have something to tell you."

"Go ahead."

"I have met Jessica again after she died."

"Wha...t?"

It was natural for Rebecca to be perplexed after hearing that.

"She is a ghost now."

"...!"

"And she has lost her memories. She doesn't remember anything about you or the world. She didn't even remember her own name or who killed her. But I can attest that she is Jessica," Rudy asserted in a solemn voice.

"Where is she?" Rebecca glanced around. "And why can't I see her?"

"As I said, she is a ghost."

"Yes, but you can see her, right? So why did she never appear in front of me?" She asked with a curious and confused look on her face. "Sure, she lost her memories, but she appeared before you, so why not me?"

"Well..." Rudy told her everything about the haunted tunnel incident.

Rebecca bit her lips and muttered, "Do you really think it was all a coincidence?"

"Huh?"

"Do you think she would have appeared before me had I crossed the tunnel?"

"I... don't know."

Rudy wanted to know more about Angelica's murder, and he thought his case study was moving forward in a positive direction, but after time-traveling and hearing Rebecca's story, he realized that he had been wrong all along.

'Angelica wasn't murdered by her classmates, a murderer, a serial killer, or a psycho... She was killed in a supernatural incident. Otherwise, why else did everyone forget about Jessica?

I have to get to the root of this case, and there is only one way to find out— which is to time-travel to the time when the incident occurred. However, I first need to learn to time-travel and master it perfectly.'

The absolute power... time; the power that belongs to the first reality. If I can find the first reality, I can obtain the power of time. Asura wasted billions of billions of years in finding that, and he was more experienced than me in everything.

If he couldn't do something, how can I? Still, no one can be certain, and I truly need the power of time. However, I am not going to dedicate my life in search of the first reality like Asura did. I am no fool. '

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

#### **Chapter 618: Rebecca's Loss**

"Can I... meet Jessica?" Rebecca asked hesitantly, seemingly afraid of being turned down by Rudy. "Is she here with you?"

"No..." Rudy shook his head a little and said, "She is with... err... my... umm... she is with other girls. I just dropped her there before coming here. But I will bring her here at night once you have had your sleep. But before that, I have three more questions."

Rebecca chuckled happily and muttered, "I don't think I would be able to sleep with the excitement of meeting my sister again after eight years."

"About that... as I said, she has no memories and knows nothing about you. You try to not get overly familiar with her and don't call her Jessica. Her name is Angelica now.

I will ask her to make herself visible to you, so you can always see her and talk to her... spend time with her and do the things normal siblings would. But don't mention her past."

"I am saying this because we often end up saying something in a moment without realizing it," he added shortly.

"But wouldn't it be better if she knows?" Rebecca asked calmly.

"Yes, that's the best thing. But... she would then ask many more questions to which I don't have answers. She would feel... eager and helpless. I am not saying I am not going to tell her, but let's do that after she has opened up to you, okay?

Perhaps a week or two later when she is... well, at her true personality and her cheerful self," he smiled.

"Whatever you think is right," Rebecca shrugged.

Rudy gulped down and thought, 'Should I tell mom about my harem? And most importantly... about my intimate relationship with Angelica? I am more afraid of the latter one.

I have no idea how she would react when she finds out that I have been sleeping with her sister's ghost."

Rudy pondered for a while and decided to reveal everything after he confessed his love to Rebecca.

'Even I have a memory blip of five years, and I don't remember the in-between events from even before. Honestly, I didn't want to exaggerate this and make it a big deal. I wanted to shrug off his phenomena by thinking of it as a side effect of my transmigration.'

SIGH!

"So, your third question," Rebecca asked eagerly.

Before, she was talking in a somewhat grim mood, but after Rudy revealed about Angelica, her mood became cheerful as though she had forgotten all her sorrows and worries of her life.

"I had left so much money and other things for you, Jessica, and Elena. What happened to them? Also, Where are the solar panels?"

"It happened a few days after Jessica's death. Some people came wearing black suits and knocked on the door. They claimed that Jessica was killed in the newly opened tunnel. Remember that they didn't know her name or anything; the person who had reported to the police was never identified.

And the bystanders and the cops, who had seen Jessica's dead body, had forgotten how she looked. But they had found my picture that belonged to Jessica. Of course, Jessica wasn't in the picture, even though she should have been.

They asked me a few questions... checked the house... asked me more questions. And then... they found the money. Obviously, it was too much money, and they asked me all types of questions. I told them my father had left the money, and they inquired about it.

When their report turned out negative, they took everything... well, most of the things, including the solar panels, as there were no records of permission for them to be installed. They only left out the things that were too old or common in every household. They even wanted to take you away and asked me who you were.

I told them you were my brother. Although they didn't fully trust me, they actually didn't care about it as they had already gotten what they wanted. Just when I thought things couldn't get worse, a week later, I got a notice of house eviction, so I went to court.

As I mentioned, I was twenty years old at that time when all that happened. Had it happened a few years before, I don't think I would have been able to raise you properly. I raised you with what you had given me.

I didn't have to go out and work hard or sacrifice as many things as you might be expecting. But the real challenge started after I was about to be kicked out of my own house.

I was told that there were no legal papers or records of me or any of my family members owning that house. They said I was living there illegally. I was baffled, but they were telling the truth.

I had no way of proving anything. Even I wasn't sure if my father actually owned the house, considering how great of a father he was," she scoffed jokingly.

"It was... really a hard time for me. I had lost Jessica, all the fortune you had left, and then the house. I had no one to ask for help. I was even ready to leave the house and live somewhere else.

But then... an agent came to me and said he was a lawyer. He said he would help me make papers of legal ownership of the house and win the case for me. I was... helpless at that time.

Just like a drowning person who would hold on to literally anything to save themselves, I trusted the agent. I had no idea what he was doing was illegal. How was I supposed to know?

I was naive even when I was twenty years old. I hadn't seen the real world. I hadn't met real people. The agent was a lawyer, and I thought every adult was a good and kind person— especially the ones with such an occupation.

My trust in him increased even more when we won the court case. However... that wasn't the case at all. I was being fooled by him," she ended with a regretful sigh.

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

#### **Chapter 619: Friendly Catastrophe**

"I realized the agent had bought the house from me for free. He wanted to create a mega mall at that place.

Soon I found out that the eviction letter was actually sent by him, and he was behind everything. When the cops had arrived to check the house a week before, they had found all the legal papers— which they had taken with them.

And the agent got their hands on them. He had connections, money, and the government on his side. He wanted to destroy the town and make his dream city. And if you hadn't guessed it by now... yes, all the fortune they had taken from this house was given to that agent.

The same night after winning the case, they brought bulldozers to destroy the house. I tried to stop them, but they were ready to run me over. And then... something crazy happened.

The clouds started roaring, and the lightning rumbled across the sky. Rain poured down, and the weather turned dreadful. A whirlwind destroyed everything on its way— or so one would think- but there was no damage to most of the houses.

When the storm ended, all the bulldozers, machines, and equipment they had brought were completely ripped apart. Some of them were even carried along with the whirlwind and were never found.

The people who were in the vehicles and machines ran away and never set foot in the town again. It had caused a huge uproar for everyone in the state. Media and scientists came every day to find out the truth behind the sudden storm.

They said it was impossible that not even one person was injured and nothing was damaged beyond repair by a top-tier storm. The scientist even made a documentary on it in which they said it was due to the history of the town and the civilization that had built this town in a way that it could withstand even an apocalyptic catastrophe.

However, for some reason, the documentary was later deleted, and everyone stopped talking about it. Even the scientists who had made the documentary said that everything was fake. And then they said that the storm was minor in the public announcement.

Even the agent who wanted to make his dream city stepped down from his own project. Perhaps, he was forced to do so. Each and every government-related and regulated building or post was removed from the town, and it was left untouched.

No cops ever set foot in the town. Of course, they could come and go, but off duty or for other purposes. No crime ever happened... no major crime like murder and r\*pe."

'That's probably when Cassandra was going to come here. She told me something had come up, and she never came here. Who would have thought even that would be connected with this,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"And then the haunted tunnel incident started happening, and everything stopped. This town had become cursed for some people. But fortunately, there were other ways to leave and enter this town.

As for that agent... he asked for the monthly rent as I was living in 'his' house. I didn't want to drag the matter or make it worse since he still had the higher-ups backing him up. If he wanted, he could actually kick me out of the house.

I soon started working different jobs to make money. It was hard. I didn't know the value of hard work until I got my first pay and bought food. Sure, I had worked before, but all that was just a side hustle to get more money. I never worked for a living.

Elenor helped me in my hard times, and she was always with me, like a best friend. She would hook me up with new jobs every week and make sure I didn't feel uncomfortable or too stressed.

And you would be busy playing with Eric, Erika, and Alice, so I didn't have to worry about it. Soon, I started enjoying my life again, and everything was back on track. As you grew up more, your needs and expenses increased, so that bastard agent also increased his rent price.

At that time, Anthony helped me out with your school-related expenses." She smiled and said, "I was being helped by people here and there and that was the best experience of my life. I felt like I was blessed to have such people as my friends."

"Now to my fourth question; If you knew about me and my powers... if you knew everything, why did you decide to marry Joe? I can't think of any reason why you would do that.

Sure, you said you two only married as Lucy and I could have other parents and also solve the money problems we were having, but I don't think that's the actual reason," he asked with a judging look on his face.

"Because of the family photo," Rebecca shrugged.

"..." Rudy stared at Rebecca with a dumbfounded look on his face.

"What?" Don't look at me like that. I never wanted to marry anyone, but the family picture was proof that I had to marry Joe. If I didn't, I would end up changing the future, which could mess up your plan or whatever you want to call it."

"Paradox much?"

"Wait..." Rebecca raised her brow and asked, "You don't seriously think that I married Joe because I loved him or anything, right?"

"No, of course not." Rudy shook his head and said, "As if I would let that happen."

"..."

'Did I say that out loud?' Rudy gulped down nervously and glanced at Rebecca, who was giving him a judging stare.

Rudy immediately asked, "As for my fifth and the last question— which you might already be anticipating."

After a brief pause, Rudy calmly asked, "You stopped mentioning Elena from the early part of your story. I had entrusted Elena to take care of you and Jessica, so what happened to her?"

"I think it's better if you hear her part of the story from her. She has also been waiting for you to remember everything."

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## Esper Harem in the Apocalypse

### **Chapter 620: Restricted Relationship**

"You do know who Elena is, right?" Rebecca asked with a knowing look on her face.

"Yes..." Rudy slowly nodded. "It was somewhat obvious from the start— although I tried to turn a blind eye. I had this slight hope that I was wrong, and I wanted to be wrong. But when I was certain who Elena was... I... I let my selfishness get the best of me and continued my relationship with her.

I might sound like a douchebag, but I don't regret my single moment with her, and I will never regret it in the future, either. Still, I don't know what I am going to do now. But I have to meet her and ask her my questions."

Rebecca smiled slightly and calmly asked, "Do you have anything else you want to ask me?"

"I do, but it's not that important. I can ask them anytime I want."

"I see."

Rudy glanced at the dairy at the table, and Rebecca followed his gaze. She slowly moved her hand to the diary and hid it behind herself.

"I don't know what type of powers you have, but I don't want you to use your powers to look at the contents inside," she said.

"Isn't it fine now?" Rudy wondered. "I already know everything, so it doesn't matter what I do now, right?"

"I am not sure about that. And that's why, I won't let you have a look inside until you turn eighteen and I turn thirty."

"That's fine by me. I just wanted to find out who my parents are. I hope I can find a few clues from the diary."

Rebecca squinted her eyes and asked, "Then what about me?"

"Well..." Rudy slowly moved his face close to Rebecca's face and pressed his lips on her lips.

They kissed, but only their lips touched. When Rebecca opened her mouth to speak something, Rudy inserted his tongue inside.

Rebecca was shocked, but she did the same, and they started kissing. They kissed and kissed a few times until Rebecca submitted her body to Rudy.

Rudy slowly pushed her down on the couch while kissing her and began moving his hand to touch her body. He first touched her waist and slowly moved to her chest. He felt her breasts as their kisses turned from passionate to aggressive.

He didn't squeeze Rebecca's breasts too hard and simply fondled them instead of groping them.

'I had squeezed them once before, too, when mom and I tripped in the living room while I was chasing her. I was so happy and excited at that time that I never noticed. But damn... they are quite big.'

Rudy had never looked at Rebecca's body, even when he had the see-through ability. He only had pure intentions for her, which recently changed into something else.

After feeling Rebecca's breasts for a while and continuously kissing, Rudy moved his one hand from her breast to her cave so he could make Rebecca feel even better.

However, Rebecca grabbed Rudy's hand and stopped him. She pushed him back and got up from the couch.

Rudy was baffled by that. He thought Rebecca was against it, and he forced himself on her, but that wasn't the case.

"I am sorry. Is it too soon to go to that phase?" he asked.

"I can't do that." Rebecca shook her head violently and said, "We can't do that."

'I shouldn't have tested my luck like that. Mom looks so against it... as if she hated what we just did...'

"I am sorry," Rudy apologized.

"No, no. You don't have to apologize. It's my fault."

"How is it your fault?" Rudy asked with a curious yet confused look on his face.

"Because... I am the one who is stopping you."

"Yeah, but... if you don't want to do this, then obviously, I am not going to force myself on you. I love you, and that's never going to change, but I would never hurt you in any way."

"That's not it." Rebecca grabbed the diary— that had dropped on the couch when she got up— and sat on the couch beside Rudy.

"It's..." She took a deep breath and said, "It's in the diary."

"What... do you mean?"

"Every chapter has instructions, and some of them have prophecies. In the first chapter, it was written that I am forbidden to have any type of intimate relationship with you. And so are the others who you were acquainted with during your time travel."

"Oh... wait..." After a brief pause, Rudy gathered his words and asked, "Earlier, you said, 'when I read the first chapter, it was so ridiculous that I felt stupid for taking it seriously.' or something along those lines.

Does that mean... does that mean you wanted to have an intimate relationship with me?" He asked with a surprised look on his face. "You were twelve at that time. Come on, I didn't raise you to become like that."

"No, no! You are misunderstanding!" Rebecca refuted with a flushed face. "Think about it as a 12-year-old mindset. When I read about intimate relationships, I thought about marriage and the relationship you had with Elena... I wanted to be with you like that.

I learned about sex after my teenage years. I was too focused on your growth, and the worldly things never tempted me."

"So you wanted to marry me?" he asked with a judging look on his face.

Rebecca shrugged and said, "Little girls like nice guys who are older than them, you know?"

"That sounds so wrong coming from a girl's mouth. Please don't say that again."

"Excuse you! I wanted to marry you when I grew up. And we only had a six-year age gap, okay?! Elena told me that you were also lying about your age!"

"That age gap is not valid. I was born after that, so the real age gap between us is 12 years. But that doesn't matter, and I don't care about that."

Rebecca continued glaring at Rudy with puffed cheeks.