

Esper 791

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Chapter 791: Just a Regular Sibling's Fight

'Walk in a few.' Rebecca pondered on Rudy's words before he suddenly vanished.

"What did he mean? Maybe he didn't want to enter the house simultaneously?" Rebecca looked at her wristwatch and muttered, "I will walk in once the second's hand reaches 12."

Rebecca patiently waited for a minute to pass, but then she remembered she was still wearing Eleanor's sunglasses and hat.

'I think I should take them off. I have no need to wear them inside the house.'

Once a minute had passed, Rebecca moved her hand to open the door.

'Wait... Jessica and Lilim stayed the night here. And Joe returned from his trip too. I was out all night, so I don't know what they did last night. Joe went to sleep as he was tired, but Rudy and the girls were awake.

Keeping Lucy aside... What if Lilim and Jessica... no, they are already indulged in an intimate relationship with Rudy, so there shouldn't be an 'if' involved. They definitely fucked last night.'

Rebecca suddenly gasped in realization and covered her mouth with her hand.

'Is that why Rudy asked me to wait for a few minutes before entering the house? He wanted to erase all the evidence! No, you won't! I will catch you red-handed!'

Once again, Rebecca had opened the door of her judging-nation and already come to a conclusion without even knowing a fragment of the story.

She hurriedly opened the door and walked in, only to see Rudy lying half-naked on the couch with Lucy on top of him.

Rudy smiled a little and closed his eyes, seemingly, he had accepted his fate.

Lucy was so focused on taking the remote back from Rudy that she hadn't noticed Rebecca.

"What's going on here?" Rebecca asked with a furious look on her face.

"Rebecca! Look! He is teasing me!"

"You are on top of him. How is he teasing you?"

"I was watching TV, and he suddenly turned it off! I am trying to get the remote from him!"

Rebecca scanned Rudy's hands with her eyes to look for the remote.

"There are other proper ways to get the remote back. You didn't have to get so close to him. Even if he is your brother, he is a boy with no blood relation to you. As a girl, you should be careful about all that," Rebecca explained calmly but with an angry face.

"And why are you half-naked?!" She then shifted her anger to Rudy.

'I just wanted to hurry and get out of the bathroom because mom could enter at any minute. But... I improvised my plan, and then there was a minor unexpected turn of events.'

Of course, Rudy could say that.

"I just came out of the bathroom."

Rebecca squinted her eyes but didn't ask more questions to Rudy.

"Mom! Please tell Rudy to give me the remote back!"

"Rudy, give her—" Rebecca suddenly stopped and turned to Lucy. "Did you just call me mom?"

"Yes..." Lucy meekly nodded. "Is it okay if I call you that? Because calling you Rebecca feels weird when Rudy is around. And I don't want to call you aunty or something. I consider that disrespectful."

'I am pretty sure calling someone by their name is more disrespectful, but that's my opinion,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"No, no. I am fine with that. You can call me 'mom' if you want to. In fact, I would rather prefer you call me that all the time, not just when Rudy is around. I think of you as my daughter, so nothing makes me happier than you calling me mom."

Rebecca repeatedly shot glances at Rudy while saying that.

"..."

"And Rudy thinks of you as his sister, so feel free to call him brother if you want," she shortly added.

'I saw that coming. I knew she wouldn't miss the chance to slip that in.'

Lucy looked at Rudy from the corner of her eyes and said, "I would call him brother if he calls me sister."

"Okay, lil sis."

"Don't add lil!"

"But you are younger than me, so technically, logically, naturally, legally, practically, and whatever -ally has left— you should be called my lil sis."

"Then I will call you little brother," she said while licking her lips.

'Oh, man. How did she turn out like this? Is she on some medication that turns on her switch?'

"Enough of this. Rudy give her the remote. Why would you turn it off in the first place?"

'Because she was watching a really questionable movie. But if I tell that to mom, Lucy will realize that I was faking my interest in the movie and already knew everything about it.'

And then she would say, 'If you have watched it, why can't I?'

I know Lucy's character very well. After all, she was the first girl to get close to Rudy in the other timeline. Well, anyway, I honestly can't let Lucy watch that movie.'

"Lucy said she is going out with her friends—without telling either of us, by the way— but now she is watching a movie. I will handle the breakfast, but she has yet to bathe.

Not to mention, the movie just started five minutes ago, and it will run for... I don't know, maybe two hours. Now, I think that's enough reason to turn off the TV."

"But I wasn't going to watch the entire movie in one go! I was going to watch until breakfast was ready."

"You could have taken a bath in the meantime," Rebecca suggested.

"But Rudy was bathing."

"And I finished. After which, I turned off the TV because you weren't behaving."

"Argh! Fine!" Lucy got up from the couch and glared at Rudy. "I will remember this! You better watch out!"

"..."

After saying that, she went to Rebecca's room to get her clothes and then entered the bathroom.

'The last time she said that in the other world line, Rudy had to sleep at Eric's house for a week. But... that's not bad in this world. I would gladly spend a week with Elena.'

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Chapter 792: Love and Lust

After Lucy had gone to the bathroom to bathe, Rebecca and Rudy were alone in the living room.

"Welcome home." Rudy casually wore his shirt and asked Rebecca while closing the buttons.

Rebecca glanced around the house with her eyes to make sure no one was around. She peeked into her room and saw Joe was still sleeping on her bed.

Rebecca released a silent sigh and sat next to Rudy on the couch.

"You good? Need water or juice?"

"Water, please."

Rudy raised his hand, and the refrigerator's door opened. Then, a bottle came rushing into Rudy's hand, followed by the glass.

He snapped and closed the door before opening the cap of the bottle. He filled the glass with water and handed it to Rebecca with a smile on his face.

"Here you go."

"Thanks."

Rebecca chugged down the glass of water in a few sips and released a satisfied sigh.

Rudy moved the bottle close to the glass in Rebecca's hand and asked, "Want more?"

"Yes."

Rudy served the water as though he was serving a customer at a bar.

"Here you go, miss."

Rebecca shot a judging glare at Rudy from the corner of her eyes as she drank water.

Rudy leaned on the couch and looked up at the ceiling, although he was looking at his room through his vision ability.

'I was wondering where Angelica went... but she is sleeping on my bed. It's weird. I thought Lucy and Angelica would get along, but they rarely talked.

I understand why Lucy didn't interact with Lilim. It was their first meeting, after all. But she should have gotten along with Angelica.

To be honest...' Rudy closed his eyes and wondered, 'Should I tell Lucy about me? I have no reason to keep her in the dark, but I don't have a reason to tell her either. I still think it's best if fewer people know about the truth.

Just knowing everything can mess with their minds. Eleana told me that, and I believe her. After all, she was the first human to know about the truth, and she has been living with it more than anyone else.'

When he opened his eyes, he saw Rebecca staring at him with a 'You know what I am going to talk about, right?' look on her face.

"What is it?" Rudy asked. "Just so you know, even your stares turn me on."

"Is there anything that doesn't turn you on?"

"Everything turns me on. I am always on," Rudy stated with a proud look on his face.

"Just when I warned you not to get too close to Lucy, you decide to sit half naked with her."

"I am testing her."

"What do you mean?" Rebecca raised her brow.

"She is trying to seduce me. Everything she does somehow ends up relating to me. I wanted to push her to the edge and make her confess her true motives."

"That does sound like a plan, but why do I feel that you also have ulterior motives for doing that?"

"I might do," Rudy shrugged.

Rebecca took a moment to think and uttered, "Look, instead of beating around the bush and going in circles, I will ask you directly. Do you eventually plan to add Lucy to your harem?"

"What do you want to hear in response? Yes or no?"

"I want to hear the truth, and truth, only."

"We will see what happens. There are a few things I need to settle with Lucy. And..." Rudy recalled his suspicions about Lucy and nodded, "And a few answers."

"What a way to dodge the question."

"I learned that from you." Rudy grinned and pulled Rebecca close.

"Stop. We are not alone."

"Everyone is sleeping. No one will catch us."

"I am not taking any risks. Especially when Joe is at home," she whispered.

"Then isn't that a good opportunity? In fact, I suggest we go to your bed and make out in front of Joe."

"Why would you want to do that?"

"So he can see how you are cheating on him with your son. And then he will divorce you. Then you will be single and available to bang— not that anyone can stop me from doing that now."

"What do you mean by 'bang'? Stop using such vulgar language in front of your mother."

Rudy pulled Rebecca even close and got her on his lap.

"Seriously, this is bad. You know we always get caught when someone's in the house, right?"

Rudy raised his finger and closed the door of Rebecca's room.

"Happy now? Lucy is in the bath, and Joe is sleeping. If they open the door, even you would hear the sound."

"What about Jessica and Lilim?"

"What about them? I don't think we should worry about them seeing us."

Rebecca raised her brow and asked, "So did you three... did it last night...?"

"The answer is obviously no."

"I will trust you."

"As you should." Rudy moved his face close to Rebecca's face and kissed her on the lips.

A short kiss.

He looked into Rebecca's eyes to get approval from her to kiss her again. In response, Rebecca closed her eyes, and Rudy took that as a sign of approval.

Rudy kissed her again, this time for a little longer. With each kiss, the duration of the kiss increased, and they started having deep and long kisses.

Rebecca moved her head slowly as Rudy pressed his lips on her lips. Rudy had placed his hand on the back of Rebecca's head as a support, so she could freely kiss him without taking breaks.

Rebecca placed her hand on Rudy's chest and tapped her finger.

Rudy took that as a sign to stop and looked into her eyes.

"What's wrong?"

Rebecca got up from Rudy's lap and stood in front of him with a flushed face. She squirmed a little and sat on his lap, facing face to face. She pressed her chest and body against him and wrapped her arms around his neck.

"We have kissed so many times, and I should get used to the feeling, but I just can't. It feels so unreal and... beautiful that I don't want to stop."

"You don't have to stop."

Without wasting a second, Rebecca pulled Rudy and started kissing him passionately, filled with love and lust.

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Chapter 793: Moment with Rebecca

Rebecca and Rudy were lost in kissing. As soon as one kiss ended, their lips would meet again and be glued for a few minutes before parting their ways.

Rebecca was taking the lead in every kiss, and Rudy followed her movements to play with her. Although she was bad with tongue work, Rudy handled that with care and love.

It seemed as though Rebecca truly meant it when she said she wanted to kiss and never stop.

They were making out in the living room, where anyone could catch them. Rebecca's room and the bathroom door were facing the living room. It would be natural to see the living room after walking out of the rooms.

While the stairs' view was obstructed, one could see the living room if they peeked from the railings from the side of the stairs.

RUSTLE~!

Rebecca's eyes widened as she heard a noise from behind her. She stopped kissing Rudy and looked back with an anxious look on her face, only to see Freya rubbing her paws on the carpet.

Out of all the people who could have gotten caught, they were seen by a cat.

"Why would you get scared? I even felt your heart skip a beat."

"I thought it was... Jess..."

"I will let you know if that happens." Rudy smiled and patted Rebecca's hand.

Rebecca moved her face close to Kiss Rudy again, but she stopped just when their lips were about to touch.

"..." She sniffed the air and said, "Breakfast is burning!"

She swiveled to the stove, only to find them off.

"I turned them off when I caught the smell."

"You can do everything while kissing, and that's why you are relaxed."

"I do everything so that you won't have to do it."

Rudy kissed her, but Rebecca pushed him back.

"Let's stop. Lucy could be coming out of the bathroom at any given second, and Freya is watching us."

He rubbed his thumb on Rebecca's cheeks and lips before saying, "A few more kisses."

"We have already kissed more than we ever have. And we can kiss for as long as you want once we are alone in the house."

She kissed Rudy on the lips and got up from his lap. She fixed her hair and formed a ponytail.

"Go and wake Lilim and Jess up. I will wake up Joe."

Rudy hugged Rebecca's legs while sitting on the couch and said, "You go wake Lilim and Angelica. I will wake up Joe."

Rebecca grinned a bit and said, "Someone's jealous."

Rudy rubbed his face between Rebecca's legs and sniffed.

"Someone's wet."

"You did not just do that!"

"I did. And I will do it again."

SNIFF~ SNIFF!

"Stop! You are acting like a pervert."

"I am a pervert. And if you tease me, don't think you are getting away unteased."

Rebecca forcefully removed Rudy's hand and said, "You will make me more wet by doing this. I don't have time to change my clothes before I make breakfast."

"Breakfast is already ready."

Rudy moved his hand to Rebecca's waist and then moved them further down. He squeezed her hips and spanked her gently.

"Go. Or my finger will find a way to enter your wet—"

Rebecca rushed upstairs before Rudy could even finish his sentence.

"Man... I can do this all day. It's so fun flirting with her."

Rudy released a quiet sigh and got up.

'How am I going to wake up Joe, though? He was the first one to go to sleep and hasn't woken up. He must be tired.'

Rudy lowered his gaze and muttered, "That's not my fault."

Rudy walked to Rebecca's room and moved his hand to open the door, but he stopped and used his see-through ability to look inside.

'I knew it.'

Joe was sitting on the bed, glancing around the room as though he was looking for something.

KNOCK~!

Rudy knocked on the door and asked, "Can I come in?"

"Uhh... the door should be open."

Rudy entered the room and glanced around with a confused look on his face.

"Where is mom?"

"I am not sure. I just woke up and... I am trying to remember what happened last night. I arrived home from a business trip, and then... Did we have guests over?" Joe asked curiously.

"Oh, yes. Mom's friend was here."

"I see."

Joe continued looking at the sheet and the blanket.

"Are you looking for something?"

"Yeah, I can't find my phone. I don't know where I put it."

"Let me ring it."

Rudy took out his phone and called Joe's number.

"Do you hear the ring?" Rudy asked.

"No... is the call going through?"

"Yeah."

"Perhaps, I put the phone on silent."

'I know where the phone is since I can sense the signals. It's not even buzzing since it wasn't placed on vibrate mode.'

"When was the last time you used your phone?" Rudy asked, acting curious.

"After I got off the plane. I had to inform my colleagues that I landed. And then I got a taxi and came here." Joe responded.

"Maybe it's in your bag?"

"Why would I put my phone in a suitcase?"

"I meant handbag."

"Oh. Let me check."

Joe got up from the bed and slowly walked to the table in the corner where Lucy had put his stuff. There was a suitcase and a handbag on top of it.

He checked all the pockets and found his phone in the last one.

"Oh, here it is. Maybe Lucy put it in."

"I am glad you found your phone."

"Thank you for the help."

"Uhm... You should wash your hands and face. The breakfast is ready."

"Sweet, I will be there in a few minutes."

Rudy exited the room and went into the kitchen to set the table for breakfast.

"Lucy is taking a while. Maybe she is doing her hair today?"

"It's not nice to think that, you know?" Rebecca muttered from behind.

"What do you mean?"

"Every girl shaves their hair, but mentioning it in front of them is inappropriate."

"..." Rudy facepalmed himself and muttered, "I was talking about the hair on her head. I thought maybe she was shampooing or applying conditioner and stuff since she was going out with her friends."

Rebecca's face flushed red in embarrassment.

"It's fine. No need to be embarrassed. Anyway, where are the girls?"

"Jess is waking up, Lilim. They should be here. What about Joe?"

"Yeah, he is up. Let's finish breakfast so we can finally be alone later. I got some important things to do later."

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Chapter 794: Man Behind the Screen

Breakfast. The first thing everyone thinks of after waking up in the morning.

Rudy, Rebecca, Lilim, Angelica, Lucy, and Joe were having breakfast. Lilim and Angel sat beside each other. Rudy sat alone with an empty chair beside him— where Lucy would usually sit.

And Joe was sitting on Rebecca's chair with an empty chair beside him.

Rebecca thought Lucy would sit in her usual place, so she went to sit beside Joe, But Rudy tapped on the table to get Rebecca's attention and asked her to sit beside him.

No one noticed Rudy's gesture except Rebecca, Lilim, and Angelica. They were perceptive of Rudy's actions as they knew they served an important purpose.

Hence, Lucy sat beside Joe, and the family breakfast began.

Everyone was having breakfast, but Rebecca was eating last night's dinner as the breakfast was sort of like a dinner for her since she would sleep after a while.

No one was talking, but they exchanged glances. Although it was good manners to not talk while eating, it felt awkward. But Rudy wanted things to stay like that since that would mean the breakfast would end faster.

"Did you bring souvenirs for me, dad?"

"I did, yeah. But I don't have them with me. The suitcase only has my clothes and some important documents," Joe responded immediately.

"When will it come then?"

"After the weekend. So on Monday, I guess. I bought souvenirs for everyone, actually. For Rudy, Rebecca, your friends, Rudy's friends, and of course, the neighbors too."

"You know my friends?" Rudy raised his brow, trying to recall if he had ever told Joe about his friends.

"Umm... Eric and.. Elise... am I right?"

"...!"

"It's Alice, dad."

"Oh, right. The names sound the same. Also rhymes with Eris." Joe nodded. "Rebecca told me about them. Lucy also often talked about Alice and how she wants to be friends with her."

"Is that so?"

"And this is..." Joe looked at Angelica and asked, "Rebecca's friend?"

"This one is Angelica, Rudy's classmate. And the other one is Lilim, Rebecca's... friend."

Lucy introduced them.

"Is there any... err... program or something?" Joe asked nervously.

"What's that?" Lucy asked while grabbing the slice of bread.

"How should I say it...? Uhh... I assumed Rebecca or Rudy might have made plans for the weekend or something since their friends are here."

"Yes, We do, actually." Lilim quipped. "I am unemployed and looking for a job. I got in contact with Rebecca over the phone, and she asked me to move to this town. In short, I will be staying here for a while until I get a job and make enough money to rent a house."

"Oh, that's sad. Can you summarize your resume for me? I might be able to help you get a job," Joe asked politely.

"Since when did 'you' start giving jobs?" Rebecca suddenly asked.

"I got promoted, I told you guys... right?" Joe asked, wondering if he had forgotten to tell them.

"Yeah, you did," Rudy responded.

"Yeah. I was promoted to section chief, and while I was on the business trip, I was promoted to the chief director."

"Wow! Two promotions back to back?!" Lucy exclaimed. "You must be doing an amazing job, dad. All your hard work finally paid off!" Lucy rejoiced with a happy smile on his face.

"I guess."

"That means you are going to be busier than ever, am I right?" Rudy asked without looking at Joe.

"Kind of, yes. I got more work and more responsibilities. I could relax and give the work to the employees under me, but that's not a good action of a chief director. It's against my ethics."

"Yes. You are a good man, Joe." Rudy leaned back in his chair and looked at Joe with a smile on his face. "I know it."

'If you weren't, I wouldn't have let you anywhere near my girls. I also thought of a possibility that Joe in the other world line might be different from this one. But the results came out negative.'

"Still, two big promotions. Looks like you are graced by blessings, dad."

"I sure hope so. Usually, something unimaginable happens, I get nervous because everything could fall down."

Rudy was smiling at Lucy and Joe, until he noticed Rebecca glaring at him from the corner of her eyes.

It wasn't a normal glare, it was a judging glare, emotionless.

'I guess I got caught.'

It was all Rudy's doing.

Rudy knew where Joe worked, and after becoming the world's richest person, he bought the entire corporation where Joe worked at. And then, he became the man behind the screen, who ran the corporation from the shadows.

He was the one who promoted Joe and sent him on a business trip so he wouldn't come home. And then he promoted him again to keep him more busy. He knew Joe was a simple man with ethics and ideals, and he would never misuse his powers.

All that, just to keep Joe away from home, away from Rebecca.

Rudy planned to send Joe on a few more meetings and trips every month, so he would rarely be present at home.

That was the simplest and most peaceful solution Rudy could come up with. After all, Joe wasn't losing anything. He earned for his hard work, for what he deserved.

In fact, Joe should be thankful to Rudy for making his life better. Joe was a corporate slave who worked under multiple seniors and directors, and they made him do their work.

He lived a life worse than a rat, but Joe rose up the ranks after Rudy's move. The people who enslaved Joe were now working under Joe. The humiliation to them was a perfect revenge for Rudy.

Rudy saved Joe and gave him a better life, and he didn't feel guilty for keeping Joe away from his family.

Lucy was happy, Joe was happy, and thus, he was happy.

However, Rebecca didn't seem happy after she realized what Rudy had done. And the glare in her eyes didn't vanish even after several minutes had passed.

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Chapter 795: Manipulator?

"Oh! Yeah, Rudy, do you have plans for today?" Joe asked calmly. "I just wanted to spend some time with Lucy and Rudy. But... Lucy has plans?"

Joe turned to Lucy and asked, "I heard you were talking about going somewhere. Is that today?"

"Yes."

"Where are you going?" Joe asked.

"I am not sure, really. My friends will be arranging that."

"Did you ask Rebecca's permission before making plans like that?" Joe asked sincerely.

"No...."

"You should have. She is your mother, and she deserves to know where you go."

"I was going to tell her before leaving. I already told Rudy."

"What would Rudy do? I am sure he himself takes Rebecca's permission before doing anything."

"Oh, I wish that was true," Rebecca remarked while shooting a glare at Rudy.

"It's fine, Joe. The kids are in their rebellious phase. If you try to discipline them at this age, they will end up being more distant from you. It's best if you leave them be."

"I guess. But... I didn't try to discipline Paul, and... he became... I don't even know where he is. His phone is unreachable, and none of his friends have seen him. I just hope he is okay."

"I am sure he is," Rudy smiled forcefully. "He is an adult. I don't think you should worry about an adult."

"That's true, too. But as a parent, I can't stop worrying about him. Well, I am glad at least Lucy is in safe hands."

"Yeah."

"So, do you have plans for today, Rudy?" Joe asked again.

'I do. I need to settle a few things. But... if I say yes, then...'

Lucy would leave with her friends soon, and Angelica and Lilim would go to the pool house. And if Rudy left too, only Rebecca and Joe would be alone at home.

Rudy wanted to avoid that at all costs.

"I don't have any important plans. What about you?" Rudy responded with a question.

"I don't either. I am free for the weekend."

"Is that so?"

RING!

Rudy's phone buzzed as it received a message.

It was from Janet.

[Pick me up at 10:30.]

[I am ready.]

[To meet your harem.]

[I have already told Alice.]

[Bring her too.]

'Why would she text a one-liner when she would have made a simple sentence?'

"Uhhh... Sorry to disappoint you, Joe. It looks like I have got plans too."

"That's not a problem. I will go golfing with my colleagues. Although I am not sure, they would be up for it since they must be as tired as me."

Rudy did something on his phone and placed it back in his pocket.

"You should try asking them, at least. Maybe they are thinking of the same thing."

"I don't think so, but I will try."

Once breakfast had finished, Lilim and Angelica invited Rudy to the corner where no one could see them. They kissed him and left for the pool house.

Lucy also left when she received a call from her friend.

Joe was bathing, not knowing his colleagues and others were ordered by Rudy to go golfing with Joe.

Rudy patiently waited for Joe to leave the house so he could be alone with Rebecca.

Once Joe left, Rudy let out a relieved sigh and went to the kitchen, where Rebecca was washing dishes.

Rudy hugged her from behind and whispered, "We are finally alone." in her ears.

"Let go of me."

Rudy rubbed his cheek on Rebecca's cheek and said, "Are you shy, Rebecca?"

"I am your mother right now, so stop."

"But I just called you Rebecca, so you are my lover as of this moment."

"If you can use that rule for your favor whenever you need me, I can do the same and use it when I don't want to be your lover."

"Why are you acting like this? Is something wrong?"

Rebecca's hands stopped washing the dishes, and she turned around.

"Did you really just ask me that after everything you have done?!" Rebecca shouted.

"What do you mean? What did I do?"

"I am talking about Joe!"

"What about him?"

"You are the one behind this, aren't you? You sent him on the trip, and even today, you did something to keep him away from home!"

"Well, yeah. What's wrong with that?"

"Seriously? You don't see why I am angry?"

"Truly, I don't."

"You are controlling Joe's life!"

"What? How is that controlling? I am doing what's best for him and what's best for us. Best for everyone. Everyone is happy as they should, as they deserve."

"Oh, lord. Are you being serious right now?!"

Rudy furrowed his brows and asked, "What are you so pissed about? Are you angry that you didn't get to spend time with your husband—Joe?"

"Great! Now you have started shaming me like that."

"What else do you want me to do? I thought you would be happy to spend some alone time with me. I thought maybe we would share some more moments and bond. But you are talking nonsense!"

"Oh? I am talking nonsense?! You used your powers to control Joe's life, manipulate him, and now you act innocent?!"

"I didn't deny your claims. But me controlling his life and manipulating him? Come on, that's ridiculous."

"Why do you not see this? Eleanor taught me to think from all perspectives before judging or jumping to conclusions, and I did that. But you are not trying to understand."

"Make me understand, then!"

"You sent Joe on the trip to keep him away from home. I am happy that you care so much about me, but keeping him away from home also means keeping him away from his daughter— Lucy!"

"That's normal. And Lucy is happy. So what's the problem?"

"Why did you promote Joe?"

"Well, to keep him busy."

"And why did you send him on the business trip?"

"To keep him away from home."

"Why did you send him golfing today?"

"So that you two wouldn't be alone in the house."

"Exactly. You control his life for your personal reasons."

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Chapter 796: Controller

"That's not controlling. You are jumping to conclusions again, mom."

"Oh, I am not. I have been thinking about it for thirty minutes. I tried to think of as many reasons as I could to justify your actions. But I couldn't come up with one!" she asserted with a glare in her eyes.

"Maybe you just don't want to think of me as innocent. Maybe you just want to blame me for everything."

Rebecca rubbed his hands on her face and muttered, "I don't know what to say. Why do we always fight? I don't want to fight you. But as a mother, I need to stop you when you are doing something wrong."

Her voice broke, seemingly, she was about to cry.

"What did I do wrong?!"

"I already told you. And you are not understanding."

"Maybe because I am not doing what you are claiming?"

"Then prove me wrong! Tell me, how are your actions not controlling Joe's life? He has to do what he is ordered to do. He has to go on a trip when you want him to!"

"And that's normal. If it was someone else in my place who was the boss, he would have made the same choices. Joe is doing a job, and the boss' role is to boss around and decide what an employee would do.

Every job in the world is like that. Everyone has to play the role they are given! Joe would still be working the same as he is now, and he would still be a slave, making 1/10th of what he deserved.

I helped him and made him happy. How is that controlling his life? Today, he said he wanted to go golfing, but he thought his colleagues wouldn't join him. So I ordered them to go golfing so Joe could have fun.

How is that controlling his life? I fulfilled his wish and made him happy. That's all I have done. Is that enough to prove me innocent? You should be praising me instead of calling me a manipulator."

"You are absolutely right. But what were your reasons for doing that? Did you genuinely do them to make Joe happy? You admitted that you promoted him to keep him busy and sent him on the trip to keep him away from home.

Today also, you sent him golfing so we wouldn't be alone in the house. You did all that for your reasons. Ask yourself that, what was the true reason? Was it Joe's happiness or your selfishness?"

"..."

"And was Joe the only one in the corporation who was living a slave's life? Was he the only one who worked more than they should and earned less than what they deserved? The answer is obviously no.

There are millions of people in the world who are like Joe. You didn't help any of them because they wouldn't give you anything in return.

Did you help them? Did you promote them? Did you send them on a trip?"

"No..."

"Thank you for understanding. Look, I am happy that you want to keep Joe away from me. I really am. But what you are doing is controlling his life. I am not saying this because it's Joe.

But I want to help you understand that you are taking the wrong path and not even realizing it. You are doing this to your family. You know Joe better than I do. You have spent more time with him than I have.

In the past world, he did so much for you. And this is how you are treating him now... as a tool! Yes, he is making more money, but I am not sure if he is truly happy because I didn't see him smile, not even once.

If you can do something like that with your family member, I am afraid of what you can do with a stranger. Look, it's your power, and you can use it however you like. But don't walk on a dark path when you don't even realize where you are heading.

Nothing good comes out of it. You probably hate me by now for ruining your mood and lecturing you. But know I love you, and I am doing this because I love you. I don't want you to get hurt.

I know you are the strongest, and nothing can harm you, but you have emotions and feelings just like any other living being. And you are not intolerant to that. If something hurts you emotionally, it will hurt. Your powers wouldn't be able to heal that pain."

"..."

Rudy had become totally silent after hearing Rebecca's words. He realized something that sent him into a spiral of thoughts and made him question his actions.

"Go take a bath, mom. I will wash the dishes."

"You don't have—"

"Just go. We both need time to cool down."

"..."

Rudy patted Rebecca on the shoulder and walked past her, saying, "Don't worry. I don't hate you, nor am I angry. I will never be angry at you, mom. I know when I am right and when I am wrong. Thanks for reminding me of that."

Rebecca reluctantly went to take a bath while Rudy washed the dishes.

"..." Rebecca's words kept ringing in his ears.

'You are using him as a tool.'

At that time, Rudy recalled something, or rather, his mind reminded Rudy using his powers.

'It's nothing personal. All people inferior to you are nothing but your tools. It doesn't matter who they are or what they do. If there is a need, they must be sacrificed. In this existence, from the very beginning, winning has always been everything. As long as you win in the end, that's all that matters.'

Rudy recalled the words of his worthy rival— Asura.

'When Asura said that, I called him arrogant and considered him an absolute piece of trash. But... I was doing the same thing as him. And that too... with a close family member.'

I didn't want to admit this, but... mom does have a point. I might not be as extreme as Asura, but had mom not pointed this out or confronted me about it... I would have never realized.'

"I am... becoming more and more like Asura..."

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Chapter 797: Ponders and Wonders

"I am becoming like Asura...?" Rudy asked himself.

Rudy wasn't worried about what Rebecca had told him. What made him ponder the thought was that she was right, and he didn't realize what he was doing.

'It isn't about right or wrong and good or evil. It's not about morals and ethics. I have long forgotten all those words. The problem is that I wasn't aware of what I was doing.'

Just to find information about Elise, I was ready to seek the first reality to obtain the power of time. I was ready to leave everything behind to chase that power. I don't even know if the first reality exists... it might have been destroyed a long time ago.

Even Asura wasn't completely sure that the absolute power of the first reality was— time. It might be something else. He was wrong about my powers and his own powers, after all.

Still, I was ready to commit myself to finding that power. I was prepared to destroy the earth and create a new one if it was truly necessary. Isn't that what Asura did?

He created countless lives and killed them when they didn't turn out how he wanted. And now... I was using my powers without being aware of the results. Am I getting blinded by my powers?

No... that's not the right question to ask. What I want to know is... am I walking on Asura's path and following his footsteps?

Will... I one day... become like him? He was pitiable... powerful, but pitiable. Everything he said during our battle didn't make sense. It seemed like a bunch of bullshit. But after giving them a thought... I can understand half of what he said was true and absolutely necessary.

Will the day come when I would think Asura was completely right and all his actions.... killing countless planets and innocent... was the right thing to do?

Till the end... Asura remained pitiable.

And ultimately, he killed himself out of guilt and regret. Will I end up the same as him?'

That's what worried Rudy the most.

After giving it a deep thought, Rudy shook his head and said, "No. Asura became like this because he was always alone and didn't have anyone with him. While it's different for me.

I have people for me when I want them. I have a harem of beautiful girls who would always be there for me and stop me if I take Asura's path... just like mom stopped me a while ago.

No matter what happens..." Rudy looked at his hands and then turned them around to look at his nails. He saw a half of them had turned pure black while the rest of them were turning brown, seemingly in the process of becoming black too.

'Not again...'

Rudy plucked his nails out and forced them to grow again, just like they naturally should.

'I did that last night. The duration is getting less and less. I don't know what's causing it, but I have to find a solution.'

Rudy burned his plucked nails and turned them into ashes.

He blew the ash in his hands and watched them travel into the sky through the open window.

He caught a glimpse of a fading moon and muttered, "Where are you, Nyxia?"

'I never thought I would miss her this much. But am I missing her because I want to be with her, or because I expect her to find me answers and solutions to all these weird things that are happening to me?'

"Where are you, Nyxia?"

Rudy closed his eyes for a few seconds and tried to track Nyxia. As expected, he couldn't track her or see anything at all. He was enveloped by darkness.

"Did you call me, boy?" a voice asked.

Rudy opened his eyes in shock and surprise as he could never mistake recognizing that voice. It belonged to Nyxia.

However, when he opened his eyes, he couldn't see anything. He was still surrounded by nothing but eternal darkness. It made him wonder if he had actually opened his eyes, but he was sure he had.

He glanced around, but all he saw was the abyss.

He stomped his foot on the ground to feel it, and sure enough, he was standing on the cold marble. And he could feel it.

He moved his hands in front of his face, hoping to see them, but he felt as though he didn't have a body— which wasn't possible as he could feel his feet on the cold marble.

He tried touching his face and body with his hands, and once he confirmed he could feel it, he raised his finger and manifested a yellow flame. It seemed like a flame of a handle, calm yet dangerous to touch.

Rudy let go of the flame and allowed it to travel around so he could see where he was. The flame traveled and illuminated the surrounding, but it could only brighten things that were less than 5 centimeters close.

The yellow flame traveled further, moving around and illuminating the surroundings. Rudy carefully watched what the flame illuminated and drew a map in his mind.

But he found the process tedious, so he created a giant fireball, hoping that would fasten the process. However, the fireball lost its flame as soon as it was created.

He created flames like the last one, but they also went out.

'Man, I hate it when this happens.'

However, Rudy noticed something. The flame got bigger and brighter as it moved forward.

Rudy could now easily guess where he was.

He stood in an enormous chamber with dozens, if not hundreds, of pillars. And the cold he felt on his feet was not marble but ice.

The yellow flame suddenly turned crimson red and scattered in the entire chamber, illuminating multiple areas at once.

However, one flame remained yellow, which kept moving forward and eventually turned blue before vanishing into thin air.

Before it vanished, Rudy saw the last thing it illuminated.

It was a face with blue eyes, blonde hair, and sharp fangs.

It was Nyxia, and she was sitting on the throne in a relaxed position, staring right at Rudy.

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Chapter 798: Inviting Nyxia to the Wedding

The red flames that had scattered in the chamber remained on their spot and didn't move or vanish. Rudy threw a flame at Nyxia, but it vanished as soon as it illuminated her face.

He tried it a few times until Nyxia finally spoke.

"Stop that!"

"What's all this?" Rudy asked while pointing his hands and gazing around. "New setup?"

"Why did you call me?" Nyxia asked without replying to Rudy's question.

"Did you... summon me here?"

"...obviously not. I am not powerful enough to summon the Lord... at least... not anymore..."

"But I am here, though? So... what's going on?"

"This is not real."

"Great. Another illusion of yours?"

"Not quite right. This is a dream."

"Now I am more confused. I was washing dishes in my house, so how did I end up in a dream... where we are conversing? Also, what is this place?"

Rudy asked again with the same expression.

"You should know better. You are the one who is dreaming."

Rudy pondered for a few seconds and asked, "Did I fall asleep when I closed my eyes after calling your name?"

"Indeed."

"So you are in my dream. Is that correct?"

"Yes."

"And... you are here because I was missing you?"

"Because you called my name. I know when you called my name. I can hear that."

"..."

"Of course, only if it's a sincere call. I am sure you have experienced something similar where you just know something when you have no idea regarding it."

"Oh, I know that feeling. I just thought it was one of my powers which I hadn't discovered yet."

"That's not wrong."

"Hmm~" Rudy hummed in amusement. "So, in a way, it is I who summoned you here in my dream?"

"True."

"So, care to explain why you are sitting on the throne while I am standing here?"

Rudy raised his brow.

"Your dream, your control."

"I tried brightening this place, but it didn't work."

"Because I don't want it to work."

"But you just said my dream, my control."

"I did. But since I am here, this is my dream also."

SNAP!

Nyxia snapped, and a throne emerged in front of Rudy.

"This is your first time in a dream, so you are confused. Don't worry, it's nothing fancy. And just like my vampire ability— Absolute illusion, this is also one of the abilities I have mastered over thousands of years."

Rudy sat on the throne and rubbed his finger on the handrest, feeling a bit wet. Seemingly, the throne was made from ice.

"Can I see your face?" Rudy asked calmly.

"I would prefer not. You are a special person to me, and I want you to see the real me instead of my version of a dream or illusion."

"Where is the real you?"

"Busy... somewhere. Looking for answers and solutions."

"For my problems?" Rudy guessed.

"..." Nyxia didn't say anything in response.

"I had no idea you were in this together. If you already knew everything, why did you tell me sooner?"

"Saying that I knew 'everything' would be an overstatement. I only knew what you had told me. You were very secretive and never answered my questions. You simply ordered me to do things, and I couldn't even deny it."

"Why is that?"

"I hate to say this, but the kid Rudy is more powerful than the current you."

"Well... I had guessed that already. He had years of experience, while I am considerably new compared to him."

"I wouldn't say that. You have achieved so much already. You can do anything. What's left for you to learn?"

"Many things, I assume."

"..." After a moment of silence, Nyxia asked, "Why did you call me?"

'Should I tell her? What if she thinks that I only miss her when I have no other options left? I already got the answer to my question. I wanted to know where she was... as long as she is fine... I am content.'

"When will you be back?"

"I am not sure. Why do you ask?"

"I... am planning to marry the girls in the vampire world. I thought I should let you know. If you are interested, you can join the marriage spree."

"Hmm~ When is it?"

"Any time. I wanted to ask Rias if she was ready. I might have to ask for Virgil's permission to host the wedding at the palace. Not that he would turn me down knowing I am the Lord," he chuckled.

"The marriage is not possible for the next two weeks."

"Why is that?"

"There is a Lunar eclipse in the vampire world."

"Moon eclipse? How does that work? On earth, it's because of the sun, but you don't have the sun in the vampire world. Oh wait, you do have three moons. Which moon is eclipsing which one?"

"The red moon, which is the true moon of the vampire world, will eclipse the white moon. And the blue moon will eclipse the red moon."

"I see."

"..."

"And... why is that not a good time to... you know..."

"Well, we vampires gain power from the moon. The red moon, to be precise. So when it's eclipsed, all the vampires are weak. Like, totally weak. They won't even get out of their houses, even when someone is dying in front of their front door.

Usually, the strong vampire is strong, and the weak are weak. But during the eclipse, everyone is on the same level. A weak one can kill the strong one on that day. So the killers and criminals go on a killing spree on that day.

Not even the guards, soldiers, knights, royal knights, or elites want to be out on that day. The royal vampires are kept in absolute security, managed by their personal knights and maids.

They can't trust anyone that day. Even the royal family members are after each other's heads to remove the thorn from their path. But the most endangered person during the eclipse is..."

"...the vampire monarch..." Rudy completed Nyxia's sentence.

"Indeed."

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Chapter 799: Double Eclipse

"How long does the eclipse stay for?" Rudy asked curiously while rubbing his hands on the handrest.

He was curious why the ice wasn't melting or wetting his clothes, except leaving the cold and wet feeling on his skin.

"It could stay for anywhere between two to four weeks. Remember, it's two eclipses."

"Yeah."

"Also, no matter what happens, don't let Jane get close to the eclipse."

"Obviously. I am not letting any of the vampires go near it."

"No. I understand your concerns, but Jane must never get there. She is the child of a blue moon. It might have an effect on us. She might become the strongest being in existence during that time."

"Oh? Stronger than me?"

"Yes. Remember, she is more experienced in fighting than you. She might be able to defeat you during that time. But of course, that's never happening. I am saying that because I don't want Jane to do anything with a blue moon.

I believe I have already removed the curse of the blue moon from her, but that doesn't mean she is no longer the child of the blue moon. Moreover, the blue moon will dominate over everything during the eclipse, so they might try to corrupt Jane with the power of the blue moon."

"Lord verses... the child of the blue moon..."

"Yeah. They are nemesis. The blue moon family must be eagerly waiting for that moment. Feel free to chain Jane with the shackles on that day if you deem it necessary."

"I am not doing that, and you know it. Also, the eclipse is happening in the vampire world, not on earth, so I have no need to worry about anything, is that right?"

"The effect can still pass through space. Just be careful."

"I will keep that in mind," Rudy nodded.

"Is there anything else you want to talk about? I am running out of time, and I do not want to leave my body defenseless in the outside world."

"Thank you for the talk. I wanted to meet you and have a chat with you. Let's meet in real life soon. I will be waiting. Feel free to tell me anything you find. We can solve the mysteries together," he said calmly with a gentle smile on his face.

"I feel the same way."

"..."

A few seconds later, the red flames vanished, and Rudy was blinded by the bright light. When he opened his eyes, he found himself looking at the sink.

He raised his brows and muttered, "The sink was filled with dirty plates. But now..."

Rudy looked to his right and saw the cleaned plates lined up to dry.

'My body was doing its work while I was unconscious, or rather in a semi-conscious state?' he wondered.

Rudy turned around and noticed Rebecca sitting on the corner of the couch in the living room. She was sitting still with a gloomy expression on her face, seemingly sad because of her fight with Rudy before she went to bathe.

Rudy thought of calling her name but decided it would be best if he approached her instead.

He sat beside her and asked, "Are you okay?"

Rebecca shook her head and muttered, "How would I be okay if you were angry at me?"

"I already told you that I am not angry," Rudy sighed. "Do you want me to be angry?"

"No...."

"Then, don't think that I am angry. I wouldn't be sitting here talking with you if I was angry."

"I thought you came to remind me that you are angry."

Rudy looked at the time and said, "Let's get you to bed."

"I don't want to sleep."

"You have to sleep. We will be going out for dinner tonight."

"But don't you have plans with Eleanor?"

"Well, I do, but don't worry about that. I can arrange two dates in one night."

"But I have a night shift..." Rebecca stopped when she remembered the shop was no longer in business.

"You really do love to make excuses to avoid our moments, don't you?"

"It's not like that." Rebecca's face flushed a little.

Rudy picked up Rebecca and carried her in his arms like a princess. He took her to her room and placed her on the bed.

"There you go."

"I am sorry for today. I promise, from now onwards, I will never talk about anything else."

"You don't have to do that."

"No, you matter more to me than anything else in the world. Right or wrong, moral or immoral, none of that matters. What would I do with those silly thoughts and ideals if you were not around?"

"...you can't live without them, mom. That's what makes you a human."

"I don't care. I promise it won't happen again. I would rather die than yell at you again for 'my' thoughts."

"Don't say that."

"No, I have decided. From now onwards, I have stopped..."

"Stopped... what...?" Rudy listened carefully.

"I will stop becoming your mother and live my life as your lover. So you don't have to call me mom anymore. No more rules or anything. Only Rudy and Rebecca."

Rudy stayed quiet and took a moment to think about Rebecca's sudden decision.

"Fine." He shortly nodded. "If you think that's better, then let's live that way. I am okay with that. But remind me if I accidentally call you... you know..."

"Hmm."

Rudy patted Rebecca on the head and kissed her on the forehead.

"Good night."

"Where are you going?"

"Probably at the pool house. Janet wants to meet my harem. And she is... kind of... you know... the type of girl who wouldn't go down without a fight."

"Yeah," Rebecca chuckled softly. "I am well aware of that. I have seen her grow up with you. You two used to fight all the time, but makeup at the end of the day."

"..." Rudy raised his brow with a confused look on his face.

"You don't remember?"

Rudy shook his head and uttered, "The only memory I have of Janet is... of school... a bully at school..."

"Well..." Rebecca pulled up the blanket and turned around. "Good night. And good luck."

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Chapter 800: Lord's Assistant

Rudy went to his room to change his clothes as he thought going to the poolhouse in shorts wouldn't be a good idea. But then he remembered that the customers at the pool wore even shorter and more exposed clothes, so why should he care?

He sat on his bed but shortly laid down and looked at the ceiling, wondering what would happen once Janet met the harem.

'Judging by the pattern and the reactions I received from my other harem members and their first meeting... I am sure they would ask me to leave and let them discuss the matter among themselves.

I, for one, am okay with that and want to give them all the freedom they need. But I am anxious about letting Janet lose. The vampire gang sleeps during the day, so there are chances that she will never get to talk with them.

In fact, it's better in many ways. The last time I talked to Rias, I asked her what she planned to do now that I had got a castle for them. And she said she just needed a room and a bed.

I think she is ready, but...'

Rias had told Rudy her plan of perfect revenge on Jane, but he wasn't sure if Jane would like that once Rias was done with her revenge. Still, he had to please Rias. He owed her that.

SIGH!

He let out a weary sigh and looked at the time.

'An hour left before the meet-up.'

Rudy raised his hand and summoned his phone in his hands.

"I will let Rize know. She said she would come. But since Janet has informed Alice, she must have also informed Rize."

Rudy called Rize and waited for her to pick up.

After a few rings, she answered the call, [Hello?]

"Umm, Rize. I will pick you up at 10:15 from the park near your apartment. Is that okay with you?"

[Sis is taking a bath. Who are you?]

'....'

"..."

Rudy was surprised to hear that.

'Their voices are so similar sounding. I couldn't tell the difference over the phone call. Anyway, she called Rize 'sis', so she can't be her older sister— Emma. So it must be her little sister.

What was her name again... Grace? Yeah, it was Grace. Rize has only mentioned her once, so I am not sure of her name.'

"Is this Grace?" Rudy chose to ask her instead.

[Yes. Who are you?]

"My name is Ruby. I am Rize's colleague who teaches at the same school as her." Rudy responded, his time in a feminine voice.

[Okay. I will let her know you called her.]

After saying that, Grace hung up the call.

Rudy let out a soft sigh and muttered, "What was Grace doing at Rize's? Doesn't she live with her parents? I had to lie to her because I didn't want anyone to discover that Rize was interacting with a boy.

I am not doubting Grace that she would tell her parents, but I am not taking any risk. I am barely holding myself from killing her parents. If I kill them, I will never find that son of a bitch.

Man, this really sucks. I have the power to do anything. No one can stop me, yet... I can kill some shits I want to kill. The frustration is real."

Rudy snapped his finger, and an orb appeared in his hand. It was the same orb the fairy— Zia, used to talk with Rudy.

Rudy blew air on the orb, and it began to shine bright yellow, but the light was calm and not blinding or extreme to the eye.

Rudy tossed the orb in the air and caught it. He continued doing that to pass the time as he truly had nothing to do. He didn't want to keep his mind empty because he knew his brain would find something to overthink.

'I can take a quick nap, but I can't guarantee I will wake up on time. Today is an important day, so I don't want to take any risks.'

Rudy looked at the orb and muttered, "I thought I would talk with her, but it looks like she is currently unavailable."

[Can you hear me?] The orb spoke.

"..." Rudy held his urge to facepalm himself.

[Looks like I need to find another orb. This one is not working properly.]

"It's working perfectly fine."

[Oh, hellow, there. Lord's assistant. How are you today?]

"Bored and frustrated," Rudy responded honestly.

[Why is that? Why would the Lord's assistant ever be bored or frustrated?] Zia asked with curiosity in her voice.

Wherever Zach had the time or the orb glowed, Rudy talked with Zia like that to learn more things about fairies.

Since Rudy continuously tossed the orb up and down, the voice also traveled up and down, making Zia sound a little funny.

[Hellow?]

"Yes."

[Tell me, why are you bored and frustrated? You are the Lord's assistant. There is nothing more honorable than that.]

Since their first talk, Rudy had introduced himself as an assistant of the Lord, and all this time, Zia thought she was talking with the Lord's assistant while she talked with the Lord himself.

"I am frustrated because of that only," Rudy answered.

[Why is that? Do you not like being the Lord's assistant?]

"I don't like hearing people ranting about everything and seeking solutions from the Lord."

[But that's the Lord's duty.]

"Don't you think that the Lord also must have his own life to take care of?"

[That could be true. But you are the Lord's assistant, and you need to forward all the requests to the Lord once his incarnation awakens.]

"That's exactly my problem. I don't get anything in return for being the Lord's assistant. This job is not fun at all."

[Hmm... I don't think you should say that.] Zia's voice turned lower as she spoke.

"Why? Because the Lord might find out and kill me?" Rudy asked sarcastically with a slight smile on his face.