

## The Noble 346

### Chapter 346: Valuable Lesson

We kept searching for hours, and it was getting late, as the flying ship was leaving at noon and we had to pack our belongings. So we had to be quick.

Luckily, while walking around, we heard a rumor about a madman who was found chained to the top of the temple of Aeloria, with the word "sacrifice" carved on his forehead. The man was taken to the temple prison.

That reminded me that he and I had made a bet... which I ended up winning, resulting in that, although I don't remember what the point of doing that was, I almost sent him to Aeloria.

In fact, I don't think he's looked in a mirror, because he still has that word on his forehead and I don't know why no one has said anything to him. Rather, I think that unlike the ones Ban had on his body, his is a permanent tattoo.

'I think I can remove it, but let's see how long it takes him to notice.'

Anyway, I had to sneak in and run away with him. Luckily, his surveillance wasn't that difficult, and I was able to do it easily.

Besides, they didn't recognize him as a student at the academy, so we didn't get into trouble.

Then we kept searching without success and without remembering much else. We went back to Lily's and discovered that Ciel never left there. I was really worried that we hadn't found him until then, and I almost lost Rosy's trust, who left him in my care.

Even after months, he's still a little antisocial, but he did drink. He just fell asleep quickly and didn't follow us.

A one-san who was passing by found him alone and sleeping, and took him to a room.

In fact, since he's young and genderless, I told the one-sans to just accompany him and not do anything... Well, it's not like he could anyway.

So every time we go, he just sleeps among voluptuous one-sans. I think that's why he stopped resisting after the first time I dragged him along and just pretended to be reluctant from the second time onwards.

As for drinking... what does it matter? In some regions, some demons do it from the age of ten. It wasn't in this region or where he came from, but if there were precedents, everything was fine.

And Aurora, in fact, was found before Ciel, on the way to Lily's place, the warning came from my other self who was just waking up, and I realized she was there.

Since we had a girls' night, everyone stayed there to sleep, and we had a relatively eventful and fun night.

Although I wanted to cheer her up more and bring out some demonic liquor, Elena stopped me. Always such a killjoy... In the end, although not as crazy and amnesiac as the boys', it was still quite intense. We went to bed late and in disarray.

That Silvia almost left this world because someone secretly gave her demonic liquor and Elena beat that someone to a pulp, especially when Silvia recovered and joined in, is another story.

The point is that apparently, very late at night, Aurora arrived very drunk, using the key to my room that she still had, and snuck in.

I woke up being hugged by her, and not just hugged, she got under my pajamas and used them as a blanket and me as a pillow, even drooling on my chest in the process, then she says I'm the one taking advantage.

When I fell asleep, I was between Alice and Cordelia, but when I woke up, I was between Cordelia and Aurora, with Alice being pushed aside.

When she woke up, Aurora had an explosion of embarrassment and pretended ignorance....

Although it took me a while to notice, the truth is that everyone was already fine and healthy. I played dumb and said I remembered that she had returned to the academy and sent them away.

After all, they had to make the arrangements. I, for my part, was doing it with Elena and the girls, so it didn't matter if I stayed behind.

I put Ciel, still asleep, into the dimensional stone and took advantage of the fact that there were still two hours left before departure to say goodbye to Lily.

As I was leaving, she promised me that she would catch up with us before the end of the week.

And considering that she is still legally the wife of the Minister of Defense, I think they have more than one method. That's why I wasn't worried.

The twins also said that she was ready, so all that was left was to wait for her.

If she doesn't... I'll go back there and bring her with me. Or rather, I'll come up with a method to be able to return regularly.

'Since we're several months early, I'll go... and assault that bastard to take his ability.'

If Lyli does not come, I will do it as soon as I can use it again, although it will not be easy to assault a crown prince of another kingdom.

Nothing is impossible if it's for love...

'...Wait, was I trying to remember something...? Hmm?'

"Guys, no matter how hard I try, I can't remember anything... and in the morning, I don't think we ever really looked for Tharen." (Ivan)

'Ah, right. Tharen.'

"Shit... isn't this really bad? I mean, if they hadn't found me, I'd be buried." (Mike)

"Well, maybe he just stayed somewhere random." (Alexander)

"Wait, guys, I think I remember something. I think the last time I saw him was when we were arguing about who would be worth more if sold to a slave company. From there... ugh, I can't remember anymore." (Esteban)

"We haven't confirmed it yet. Maybe he found his way on his own." (Ban)

It seems I'm not the only one who forgets. In fact, that was a very powerful ability.

Besides, we also had to be positive... maybe he just woke up in a ditch or something and came back on his own, and now he's on the ship resting, since he didn't get my anti-hangover spell imbued with my blessing.

As I think those liquors were as good as poison. Spending more than a day with that in your system would be...

"Guys, I already asked. And in fact, Tharen never boarded the ship; it seems they overlooked him even when they took roll call. The instructors are panicking." (William)

"..." (Everyone)

At that moment, William arrived with the news that we had indeed all forgotten about Tharen. Yes, we are all equally guilty, and not just that someone who brought demonic liquor.

'Now we have to expect the worst... come to think of it... it's a good opportunity.'

"...Well, guys, it seems he's no longer with us (´ ˘ ˘). This world is chaotic, wild, and ruthless. Today we lost a comrade. I hope this serves as a warning for the future."

It's time for them to learn how difficult this world is now that we're going out into it, and how we can easily lose someone if we're careless.

This will be a valuable lesson. I hope his sacrifice will serve as a foundation for the group to become stronger and more determined.

May he rest in peace...

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"Good, Silvia. We're stronger than we were in the alternate timeline. You're blessed by Solmerath—you're my second-best student. Don't let them intimidate you. No, I won't allow you to act like a coward. The moment he appears, stop him and cast your most powerful spell."

At that moment, I took Silvia by the shoulders and inspired her. A canonical event was coming, and she had to overcome it.

"W-wait, are you sure it will happen again? I mean, we even came earlier, things are different and..."

"Tsk, Silvia, if I've learned anything, it's that bad things will happen and you have to be prepared for something even worse. Besides, this is obviously something like a canonical event for William, with his luck, it will definitely happen, and you will be harmed."

"Don't make it sound like he's to blame. It's a family thing, he have nothing to do with it."

"Hey, you're not even married yet and you're already defending him. Haaah~, this is the predicament suffered by those whose friend gets a partner. Well, it would be nice if they were already a couple. But someone is still very shy and tsundere. By the way, what do you think? Don't you feel brave enough for a confession today?"

"No! b-but... are you really sure...?"

"Look, let's make a bet. If it happens, you go and tell William he looks handsome today. Actually, forget that—just go and confess to him already. I feel like this time he's less dense, but with your attitude, nothing's going to change."

"I already told you I have that under control! And we're not talking about that now."

"Yeah, I said I wouldn't get involved, but damn, the academy is over. You know you're out of time, and here we are, just a little short of coming into contact with those crazy, aggressive, and not at all shy girls and Tsunderes. If you wait too long, everything will get complicated and you'll become a yandere."

"I-idiot! I'm doing this for you and because you're constantly cursing me. And I'm not going to bet with you! Now I feel like it's definitely going to happen..."

After two days of traveling on the ship which was one of the best in the kingdom and an attack halfway through which, luckily, we didn't have to get involved in any way, we arrived at our destination, the rift that leads to the middle world, and stopped in a fortress city just before crossing it.

Those who saw the gigantic Rift from the ship were amazed; it really is an impressive sight that even I was left speechless, even having many memories and having seen it before when I was going after Ciel, it certainly was exhilarating.

As we were getting off the ship I spotted Silvia, who looked like she hadn't seen the same thing I remembered, and began to warn her.

What we were referring to was... some sort of hazing, something that happened on the alternate line and could possibly happen to us here.

In fact, Silvia was very beaten. by the one who only in this line I knew was her older brother who belonged to the previous generation and what I thought was a calculated move now makes me realize that it was simply family problems.

I'm almost certain it will happen again, because it's an event that basically starts it all. After Silvia becomes bedridden.

William - who does not usually rage - does so, and bad blood with the previous generation begins. This eventually escalates and eventually reaches the leaders of the factions and even affects those of the other kingdoms.

It is, so to speak, is a canonical William and Silvia event... but I won't let her be beaten alone for William to fulfill his destiny.

If it has to happen, let it happen to someone else, I'd say Ivan, who is the toughest among us, but I still feel guilty about what happened at our last party.

So it could be Mike, Ban, Esteban... or ..Ton..oh! Tharen.

'yes, if I try hard I can remember him... yes, he will be useful'.

Chapter 347: The One - Ultimate!?

Speaking of Tharen, yes, he was alive. And as one of the greatest talents of our generation and a member of a noble family, a great effort was made to find him.

In fact, he was found at a clandestine slave auction in a city near the capital. He was slightly poisoned, but a powerful priest managed to cure him.

From what I could gather—from what he said and from my source of information, my father, who was traveling on the same ship—he apparently remembered that during the party we were talking about who would be the most expensive if sold as a slave...

and somehow we ended up finding a clandestine slave trader. Alexander won the bet, as he was the most handsome among us.

He narrowly beat Ban, who had the second-best price because he was half-elf, but apparently they weren't in high demand this season, so you could say he won because of the trend.

For a moment I thought it was me, but apparently, the winner was the one who decided who would be sold. I honestly want to remember who came up with that bet and why everyone went along with it, but in the end, you could say that Alexander sold Tharen.

When the instructors and Tharen's family found out, it was a bit of a problem. But it was sorted out, since we were all friends.

Now he's on a different ship on his way here.

'Well, putting that crazy night aside, the important thing now is that Silvia doesn't suffer from that canonical event caused by William.'

It really seemed like it would be different, since we came months earlier, and instead of fifty, there were three hundred of us.

Although we won't explore the middle world as soon as we cross over as originally planned, we will instead finish the academy there during the remaining three months.

The reason is the demons. As always, they are annoying and persistent. Although they failed in their attack during the banquet, they continued, and more demon kingdoms began to attack humans.

Of course, there was a contract at the continental and kingdom level, so a full-scale war did not break out, but the sabotage behind the scenes continued.

Things went from bad to worse. Apparently, there was one really close by, in a neighboring kingdom, that killed three students.

Luckily, I didn't know any of them. In the end, after discussions between nobles, kingdoms, and their respective academies—or whatever they use to train the new generation—it was abruptly decided to continue everything in the middle world, where the bigwigs and demonic interference are more difficult.

It was also because the kingdom of Avaloria discovered magical technology to prevent and counteract the annoying and constant intrusions with spatial magic that the demons used.

Yes, the same one I gave my father-in-law that night. And well, from what I heard, the kingdom didn't have enough resources and ended up joining the other kingdoms.

Together, they installed those defensive measures in the first city after crossing the rift in the middle world, making it now totally impenetrable to demons.

And that's where we're headed, and we'll finish the rest of the academy together with the other kingdoms.

The middle world itself is difficult to enter, and concentrating everything in one place that is important to the five kingdoms... is a very smart move. I no longer had to worry.

At least, not about the demons. But damn it, I'm sure the older generation - those who are like little kings of the middle world - will interfere, I'm sure they won't let us have quiet classes; my days of peace are definitely over.

Anyway, as we descended from the port, I could see that four other giant ships were also arriving with their students. Apparently, they had synchronized their arrival to avoid problems, and we all arrived at almost the same time.

I noticed that one of the ships had some parts that were half destroyed. It seems we weren't the only ones attacked along the way. At least they arrived.

Which makes me realize that they did this abruptly to prevent the information from reaching the demons in advance and allowing them to prepare something. Even so, there were incidents. A sign of how screwed up things were getting.

It was no longer fifty per kingdom. Although it wasn't the same for everyone, they all brought at least more than 150 students.

Well, our kingdom is a little above the other four, and we brought the most, with three hundred.

Under the guidance of the instructors and some royal knights—the ship's guard—they led us to what looked like a huge castle in the center of the city.

This city is the first one after the rift, and the one that will protect this continent if the demons take over the middle world. Well, there's no military confrontation, so it's not armed to the teeth like the one I saw when I was on that continent.

Anyway, it's not that I don't understand why Silvia is calm, since everything is different now, but I feel that this specific event will definitely happen.

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"Well, I don't want to draw attention to myself because I'll be the eminence in the shadows, so I won't help you. You have to face it yourself."

Along the way, I kept talking to Silvia, discreetly, of course. Everything was under a magical veil that only allowed her and me to hear each other, since the rest of the group wasn't far away.

"Haaah~ putting aside that weird title you seem obsessed with, I understand why you don't want to draw attention to yourself, but you know, black hair with a black bandage covering your eyes draws a lot of attention."

"Oh, that's true. You know, sometimes I forget because in my previous world, black predominates, and curiously, in our group, it's the most predominant color, even though it's supposed to be rare. But it's also good that Elena won't attract attention now. Wait, but I'll also attract attention. Hmm..."

"Yes, you definitely will. Besides, why do you wear those blindfolds? Oh!, wait, that's why, right? That ability from your blessing, which you learned from Eve."

"Ugh!, don't say that name, it makes my skin crawl. Besides, remember that we don't know her, so when you interact with her, because I won't, call her by her full name."

"Oh, that's true, but why are you so hostile towards her? We weren't friends."

"Well, yes, but, you know... now that I'm a man, if she comes to ughh!...., let's not talk about it, I don't even want to think about her."

"You're already starting with your prejudices, based on that alternate future."

"Yes, but since it happened, it's possible it will happen again, like your yandere tendencies you want to hide... wait, I didn't say anything, stop hoarding mana, violence is bad."

I stopped Silvia, who wanted to start with violence and was accumulating mana in her leg, her kicks hurt a lot.

On the other hand it is better to stop this conversation, I really didn't even want to think about that woman who is now in my personal list of people I don't want to get involved with.

'Hmm, what was I saying? Oh, yes.'

"As I was saying, besides the matter of my blessing, I use it as training to sharpen my other senses. And as a bonus, I don't have to worry about that annoying princess's ability. Killing three birds with one stone."

"Ah!, that's right... that princess has that Skill, like mine, which requires looking into the eyes and not lying to her, haahh~ I really don't want to meet her. She's someone difficult to deal with."

"Hey you just criticized me for prejudice and now you're doing the same thing, but you're so right, I don't want to either, but it's inevitable. Although... now that you mention it, you can't read my intentions right now, can you?"

"No. I have to look at least at the corner of your eyes if I want to read anything."

"I wonder why. Maybe the saying 'the eyes are the window to the heart' is truer than we think. The same goes for that blonde princess's ability... who, by the way, is your biggest competition, since she's neither shy nor tsundere."

"Don't bring that up again."

"Okay, okay. Let's focus on the next one. That supposed brother of yours is a speed-oriented warrior with only six metamorphoses. If I'm not mistaken, he has maybe three in strength, or maybe less. He's at the bottom of the previous generation."

"But I'm only a five-metamorphosis mage..."

"There you go again with your pusillanimous attitude. You know he has no talent. I don't remember him well, because at some point he stopped being relevant, but I'm sure in this life he won't make it past eight metamorphoses even with powerful art."

"Even so, he's more powerful now."

"That's my point. You're very talented. You have five metamorphoses, you have a lot of skills, a blessing, and an EX skill. Honestly, you can beat up guys with up to seven metamorphoses. Of course, I'm talking about untalented guys like him. We're not on the alternate line, where we had barely reached the fourth. We're much stronger now."

There was a huge difference between our ranks when the alternate timeline happened and now.

The problem was that Silvia was still acting like a coward, despite acting violently towards me, who I'm sure is stronger than her brother right now, which is why I...

"Listen, everyone. From this moment on, you are no longer plants in a greenhouse. You must know that from this moment on, your life may be in danger at any moment. And there may or may not be an instructor to protect you. You never know what to expect, so you must never let your guard down or act arrogantly."

'Oh, we're here.'

I had been so engrossed in my conversation with Silvia, and since I was blindfolded, I hadn't paid attention to my surroundings. It seems I need to improve on that.

We were in what looked like a giant army training ground next to the castle. The speaker was Instructor Graham, who, as always, had a naturally loud voice that could easily reach all the students.

As I thought, they would give us a little lesson to bring us down a peg and supposedly show us how big the world is, showing the difference between those fresh out of the academy and those who have been in the middle world for five years, fighting for resources.

The speech was a little different from what I remembered, but maybe that's because we haven't finished the academy yet.

"Even the safest place may not be so safe."

I was 100% sure that I would pass the hazing, and just then, I felt it. First came the bad intentions, the moment Instructor Graham finished speaking.

Bang!

'Damn it! This is really personal.'

Just then, as I began to extend my senses to see where they would appear, the guy was already on his way and threw a direct punch at Silvia's face, which I reflexively stopped, even though I said I wouldn't intervene.

She didn't seem to be holding back. Now I understand why Silvia ended up bedridden for a few days even though there were healing magicians attending her.

That made me angry... but I didn't hit her back. I looked at Silvia, who still didn't seem to understand anything despite my previous warnings, and I had no choice but to give her words of encouragement.

"Damn it, Silvia! Don't just stand there like an idiot, throw something! Throw a The One - Ultimate or something. Do it, or I'll give you intensive anti-surprise attack training again."

"Huh?! Ahh! This... The One - Ultimate!?"

BOOOMM!

"..."

"..."

This... let's see, yes, I told her to cast a spell. I may have pressured her. I may have said something stupid, since I now remember that "The One" wasn't even an attack in itself...

And it's true that, with the right affinity, enough mana, imagination, and proper stimulation—even if you don't say anything coherent, or sometimes even non-existent—powerful auto-completed magic can come out, depending on the level of affinity...

Yes, Silvia attacked under my pressure, and she effectively repelled her brother with an improvised attack, mostly due to affinity. I think it was just a very concentrated fireball that exploded, but the problem was the result.

"..."

"..."

She and I remained silent, looking at each other without understanding.

Then we looked again at the result of that spell.

And then we looked at each other again. Actually, I wasn't even looking, but I felt I had to. Just to be sure, I looked back at that piece of charcoal lying motionless and came to a verdict.

"Silvia... I think you killed him."

Chapter 348: Hazing

"Silvia... I think you killed him."

"I-I didn't mean to! Y-you... this..."

"Wait, let me check well."

In fact that little sun of Silvia's set off all my alarms and danger senses and made me pull away at the last moment because I was in her way too, almost charring me too.

All that happened in a small instant.

But when I confirmed if I was alive - I was on my last legs, but alive - I gave Silvia a thumbs up. That only made her more nervous.

'Hey, that means he's alive, not that you did kill him... or is it true that he can't read my intentions?'

Anyway, I cast a little spell to keep him alive and an instructor came over and took him away.

"See what I told you, you overcame your canonical event well....but fuck you must really have a lot of family problems, how did I not notice that on the alternate line?."

"I...I'm sorry...even though you warned me I drew a blank and...I'm sorry."

"Haaah~ Well, it doesn't matter. In the end it was you who defeated him. But it's true... it looks like you deserve a little personalized training, against surprise attacks again."

"No!! Why? I did it, didn't I?"

"Oh, but I had to block the first strike. You know, I wanted to keep things as discreet as possible... and now I've been forced to act. I just hope no one noti-....!!!! eh!!!? What happened? Fuck! Who dares...? Sorry Silvia, I'll talk to you later."

Just at that moment, I felt a sudden surge of anger from my doppelganger and when I saw the reason. I ran to where she was.

There was an idiot who dared to go against Selene, just because she was dozing a bit because of the instructor's boring speech.

I couldn't let that go. I had been concentrating too much on Silvia.

"This idiot... how dare he mess with my sister." (Eira)

"Bad intentions. Eliminate." (Selene)

"...Scum like you shouldn't exist." (Elena)

"No one messes with our family!"(Alice)

"You son of a bitch, I will liquidate you for attacking my little angel." (Seraphina)

When I arrived, I found a boy lying on the floor, surrounded by some of my harem members and, of course, my dooppelganger surrounding him and giving him a brutal beating.

"hey! wait!!!"

"what!!!? who's the bastard who wants to stop me!"(Seraphina).

"it's me you idiot, and I mean leave me a little bit".

"no problem he specializes in defense" (Seraphina).

"oh!! great!, Move aside, I'm getting a hit in too!"

I'm going to ignore that I had an argument with myself, because the important thing is to teach this idiot a lesson, I pushed my way through the twins and joined in the beating.

"of all people you messed with my little angel son of a bitch!!!"

He had the bad luck to have seen me in lust, and already my doppelgänger had seen his state. And as he said, he had 7 metamorphoses.

You could say he's someone above average in the previous generation, but he was easily subdued by the angry Eira, and by Elena, who reacted strongly even though she always acts professional: she was very angry.

So was I.

And I'll cripple him, but first I'll beat him to my heart's content.

He doesn't have any decent skills, other than B affinity for shields. He seemed to be able to hold on a little longer, even when we all beat him up.

"Wait, Alice, don't pull out a dagger! It's better with a blunt object!" (Seraphina).

Yes, yes... if we hurt him too quickly, someone might intervene. I haven't crippled him yet. Although... I think Eira did cripple him... in another way. The way she was persistently attacking his crotch.

"Wait, stop! I'm your Senior-argh!!!!.... Please, I just followed the request...ugh!...from her!"

The guy, good at taking punches, was begging for mercy - something I wasn't interested in hearing - but there seemed to be something behind it.

I looked in the direction he pointed, and there I saw a very beautiful, feline-type beast woman. I don't know if it was a cat or something else. She wasn't far away and was looking at us absently, as if she didn't understand the situation.

"Elena, bring her here" (Seraphina).

"Yes, my lady" (Elena)

My doppelgänger acted faster, and Elena even faster: in the blink of an eye she was at the woman's side, and in the next instant, she was back dragging her by the neck. She handed her to my doppelgänger.

I don't know if the fact that she was also a beast woman had something to do with it, or if there was something else, but if she was also in cahoots... there would be no mercy.

"Did you ask him to do it?"(Seraphina).

"I-I had nothing to do with it..."

Pitifully for her, my doppelgänger - who had her by the neck - sensed she was lying, and immediately threw her where the guy was being beaten.

"Well, now we've got more to hit."

"Don't wait, I told you who the culprit was, let me go!"

"No one who messes with my little angel gets out alive" (X2).

'Fuck, we said it at the same time. Well, I don't think it shows in this chaos.'

We kept beating the shit out of them. This one was an archer, so she seemed more delicate. she didn't feel lust, but from her energy she was like six metamorphosis, so she could take a certain amount of beating. I hope she specializes in vitality... to beat her up more.

But just at that moment, I again felt a powerful and clear murderous intent behind me. I looked back, and indeed, a giant beastman - I'm sure it was a lion - was coming towards me with dangerous intentions.

Besides, he was powerful, I would say he was in the eighth metamorphosis.

He was already a breath away from reaching me..... I realized it too late, but I didn't panic.

Art of Lust, Fourth Stance: Erupting Embrace

I received his attack at that moment, absorbing the full impact. The guy seemed to specialize in strength.

"Eira, Selene... a little help."

At my call, the two moved quickly, one from the left and one from the right. Both came armed: Selena with a big axe and Eira too, only hers was made of ice.

Without hesitation, they attacked the sides of the guy, who, sensing the danger, separated his hands from me and crossed them to stop the edge of both axes.

But that left him vulnerable to me, who still retained the energy of his attack....

BANG!!!

I delivered a savage blow to his mantivula that sent him flying through the air. It really looked like he was wearing a protective device, because it hurt a little, but my art specializes in piercing defenses, so it was a very effective blow.

I moved quickly to follow up, but....

"hmm... he went down faster than I thought."

The guy was unconscious. Looks like his defense and vitality weren't great, well there was a reason he was here on this hazing.

Anyway, I grabbed him unconscious and carried him to where the other two were. He might be unconscious, but there would be no mercy.

Although, when I called the twins, it was for an resonance, not for them to help me directly. Rather, I should have asked them through the resonance, not by talking...it was a little miscommunication. But it still worked, so it doesn't matter.

I wanted to start again and continue with the first guy, who was the most guilty for attacking Selena, but again I was interrupted....

Fwooshh!

At that moment I heard the wind cut.

This time it was not me, but my doppelgänger who intercepted with light magic the arrow. Soon after, a fireball was coming in this direction, but Elena was already cutting it in half.

"Alice, bring those two" (Seraphina).

"yes big sister"(Alice).

Yes technically those two attacks were aimed in the direction of my harem members, anyone who tries it deserves death!

At that moment Alice drew her bow, formed two greenish mana arrows and launched them without any hesitation at the source of the arrow and magic. The arrows, bloodthirsty and very precisely, stuck into the thighs of those two even though they were in different directions.

At the same time, it seemed that the arrow was connected to a long thread of green mana that reached all the way to Alice's hand. The moment the arrow pierced through, Alice began to pull. My doppelgänger helped her by pulling the thread tightly.

The guys, dragged, tried to take off their arrows, but Alice made it so that they stayed in place.

Dragging those two, she brought them in and also made them join the beating party.

"hey, you guys, help, don't just stand around and watch... uh, why do you think so? If you don't, you'll get my training against surprise attacks again!"

I urged Cordelia, Lys and Aurora, who were watching from a corner, and the guys who weren't far away.

From the two guys lying nearby, I see that they took care of their respective attackers.

Come to think of it, there was something related to William and those attackers that happened and that was the reason he didn't help Silvia, but that's not the important .

Now, that they are unemployed, they could come and help us give those guys a lesson they won't forget.

At my call, they seemed to hesitate, but my promise of training broke that hesitation and they came, joining in the beating of these five.

But it seemed they weren't the only ones who wanted a beating, because more attacks were directed in our direction.

'well, you asked for it'.

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"Mike, hit that one harder, are your muscles just for show?"

"ugh... remember I'm a magician, my feet hurt already" (Mike).

"me too, and I'm a defensive warrior, fuck, how many does that make" (Ivan).

"about 25, but they stopped coming, we're almost done" (Ban).

"ugh! as long as I don't have to do that stupid training anymore, I'll do anything" (Aurora).

"less talk and more action, that one over there is pretending to be unconscious...they didn't hit him hard enough. Hmmm, which one was the idiot at the beginning? I've already lost sight of him, I haven't crippled him yet!"

"e-this... excuse me."

"eh!!!, who is it, do you also want to-?"

At that moment, while I was tracking the one who started it all-since the guys attacking us stopped coming-someone suddenly tapped my shoulder.

I was surprised that he came so close to me.

I had certainly been concentrating on the beating, but I was alert, and just then I felt it was a familiar presence. I thought it was one of the girls approaching me from behind.

But when I heard her soft, melodious voice, I realized it wasn't any of the girls and I became on guard.

I turned to see the new addition to the group of people to give a lesson, I wasn't going to hold back just because her voice sounded beautiful... but what I saw left me paralyzed and petrified.

It was the woman Silvia and I were referring to earlier in our conversation: the materialization of one of my worst fears, and the last person I wanted to run into.

"if it's not too much trouble, could you stop, I think that's enough for-"

"Gyaaaaa!!! Retreat! Elena, girls, fall back! Save yourselves!" (Seraphina).

"...Gyaaa!!!, the devil!"

"wait what!!!"

"Nooo!!! get away, from me, you lustful demon!!!"

At that moment, both me and my doppelgänger had the same reaction. That woman was our worst nightmare... and I got the worst of it, as she was very, very close to me.

At that instant, without caring about anything else, I ran in the direction of Silvia, who was the only one who did not approach us for some reason.

I'm sure my doppelgänger could run away on his own. Here, it was every man for himself.

"Silvia, save me!"

I actually ran so fast that in an instant I was right behind Silvia. I needed protection... from that unhinged woman.

"...hey are you really going to act like that towards her? Don't you think you're overreacting?"

"No!!!. Now back off and get as far away from her as you can..... hiii!!, why is she looking this way?"

"Because you called her 'devil', 'lust demon' and ran like she was a monster."

"Well of course! Monsters are cute things compared to her! Ugh, whatever... let's go."

Silvia didn't move, so I grabbed her and dragged her as far away as I could from the gaze - or the senses - of that woman, who, like me, was blindfolded.

...

"Phew~, we're finally safe"

"...I really don't understand, what's the problem with Eve?"

"What do you mean? That woman...you must know what she did on the alternate line."

"yeah, but you and her were getting along.... rather, I thought you were thinking of helping her, so that wouldn't happen."

"huh? Are you crazy? That woman is the most potentially dangerous thing that exists for me in this place. what if she falls in love with me or something... no, don't even think about it a yandere is a thousand times better. I really don't want to, in any way, get her attention."

"Well, it's too late now. With what you just did, not only do you have her attention... but you'll have all eyes on you! That 'no attention' thing, and your 'shadow eminence' or 'shadow leader' or whatever — I don't think that's possible anymore."

"...."

'Damn!!!'

Chapter 349: Evangeline 349

"Seriously, stop it! You're drawing more attention to yourself by acting like this."

"What does it matter? I can't be the eminence in the shadows anymore anyway, nothing makes sense."

There I was, looking at the beautiful sky, or so I assumed, since I had bandages on. Everything was as dark as my future.

Sure, I think I'm drawing attention to myself, but so what? Everything had gone wrong, and I could no longer be an eminence. Now I was like everyone else, a person who is not an eminence in the shadows.

"Stop being so dramatic. You're embarrassing me. Where are your girlfriends? Because I'm the one who has to deal with you!"

"Up ahead, a little to the left. Besides, you don't have to... just leave me here. What does it matter? Maybe this way I'll turn into an irrelevant stone and have a chance to be the eminence again."

I was in an existential void, being dragged by the foot by Silvia.

Originally, I just wanted to lie on the ground until I turned into a stone, but Silvia started dragging me because we were all moving towards the crack now that this hazing was over.

"Haaah~ well, get all the attention you want, what does it matter. Anyway, the whole academy thinks you're crazy; let the rest do it, it doesn't matter, to begin with, what you wanted was impossible."

"You heartless woman, stop crushing my dreams and hopes."

"Haaah~ What did I do wrong to get tangled up with a fool like you? Well, I'm only dragging you because I want to talk seriously about Eve-Evangeline, that she did that thing that made-."

Click!.

"Hey!, stop that! Any mention of that is taboo! Why do you keep bringing her up? Get over it! I already said I won't do it, ugh!."

I don't understand Silvia's obsession with that woman. She doesn't even really know her. More importantly, if she wants to take me with her anyway, I'd at least like her to carry me; going down stairs while being dragged hurts.

"This is serious, we have to help her, she's our friend."

"You're wrong! That's on the alternate timeline, and just as I decided to befriend a ruthless yandere who doesn't carry me, I've also decided not to get involved with that woman."

"I'm not going to carry you. Look, the problem is that you're Chris, right? So just do it as Seraphina. You know very well that any attempt as a woman won't work, so what you fear won't happen."

"Yes, that was more or less the situation with Cordelia, and look how that turned out. I'm not taking any chances."

"But we're avoiding a tragedy. How can you just stand by and do nothing? I know very well that you liked her as much as I did."

"Ugh, that's true, but it doesn't matter. She has potential, and she'll still be there. Even if we avoid it, it could happen later, even of her own free will."

"And I already told you to let go of your prejudices. Even Chris is fine, you're not even that handsome. As long as you don't use your tricks, you'll be fine, and nothing will happen."

"Tricks? What tricks?"

"Well, using your future knowledge to win her over, like you've been doing."

"Huh, me?"

"Stop playing dumb. Otherwise, how did you manage to win over and catch so many girls when, miraculously, Elena took pity on you on the other line?"

Well, she has a point, but when I think about it... Elena's case helped me a little, but only because it taught me to be more decisive and direct, shortening the time it took us to form a relationship.

With Alice, honestly, I had some things planned, but that was after starting the academy, and in my male form.

Helping her, well, that was Elena, but getting involved with her ahead of time and being able to start something even though I was a woman is something that still surprises me.

It's true that I was going to take advantage of weaknesses and things I knew, like her fear of snakes that no one else knew about, to win her over, but in the end it wasn't necessary.

In fact, I've seen her destroy colossal snakes, which made me wonder if my alternate self had been wrong.

With Selene, well, I didn't have anything planned; winning over Eira was the same as winning her over, but everything went wrong with Eira from the start.

I gave up because at the time I saw them as a two-for-one, but Selene sought me out for her account and although there were some questionable things, we began our beautiful relationship.

The same with Astrid. I had something elaborate planned, but I couldn't control myself and ruined all my plans.

When her butt tempted me, I ruined it... but I ruined it successfully, because it turned out better than any long-term plan I had.

Going back to Eira, any plan was long gone, and she was more of an annoying sister-in-law than someone I would try anything with.

But then there was the whole thing with Lily's revelations and solution, which seemed to understand us better than we understood ourselves, and it was the right thing to do.

And with Lily, I couldn't do anything even if I wanted to, since she wasn't someone my alternate self knew, and even though she's only a pseudo-member, the same goes for Aurora, who I only know from what I've heard about her.

And finally, Cordelia and Lys. In fact, with those two, I had been using tricks and future knowledge to add them to my harem, but with Lys, it hasn't worked yet; she's very dense, like a female William.

Although I feel like the time is coming... her density isn't going to stop me.

And Cordelia: no tricks worked, and she was so difficult to understand that I almost gave up.

Now I know that future knowledge was more of a disadvantage than anything else in her case.

'Yes, come to think of it, I've never been successful with my plans, or tricks, hmm, it's funny now that I think about it.'

I explained this to Silvia, who was mercilessly dragging me along, and now we were on a gravel road.

"Seriously."

"Very seriously. I'm really surprised we hadn't talked about this, but seriously, all this time you thought I used manipulation, tricks, and lies, relying on my future knowledge?"

"Yes."

"Hey, it hurts that you think that about your best friend forever."

"...you really want me to believe that you didn't use dirty tricks or anything from the future to get all those beautiful girls to do something illogical, like belong to the harem of... well, something like you."

"Hey, what kind of way is that to put it? Well, you heard me. I won't deny that there were some dirty tricks, but not with knowledge of the future."

"Really?"

Apparently, Silvia had misjudged me and had the wrong idea about me all this time. And she's not wrong: it's true that I came up with plans and other things to make my harem at the beginning of the year, but honestly, almost nothing had worked.

I never told her about the circumstances under which I began my current relationships, and she was taking Cordelia and Lys as a guide, since we often made plans together for them and in her case for Willian, using future knowledge, and that's where her thinking came from.

I didn't really use much knowledge of the future, other than simple things like knowing their tastes and such. And it's true that there were dirty tricks sometimes, but in the end I was always sincere with them.

I even told Alice that it wasn't me who saved her when we first met, but even so, my beautiful sunshine didn't mind and forgave me.

"Oh!, by the way, back to Cordelia: we started dating the day before we left, I haven't had time to tell you. I want some advice from another potential yandere, but listen, she's only potential; I think she can still be treated the way I'm trying with you."

"Stop getting me involved in this. I can't give you any advice because I'm definitely not one. If you need it, why don't you go and ask Alice?"

"Alice... why Alice? What does she have to do with it?"

"(≡\_≡) Are you playing dumb? No, I'm not getting involved in that... back to Evangeline—I really don't understand what you're thinking... but are you really not going to help her? She didn't deserve something like this. Knowing what's going to happen, I can't just stand by and do nothing."

"Damn it, Silvia. Haah~ you're really not going to give up, are you?"

"You're the one acting weird. She's a kind and gentle person, our friend."

"Haah~ my friend, eh? I guess you think that way because all you know is how far you'll go to self-destruct with William, because you were a shy yandere who never told him how she felt, right?"

"I swear I'm going to throw something at you... ah, wait! —Did anything else happen after that? Was she alive after all? Did she do anything to you?"

"Hmm, not really. I don't want to get involved for exactly the reason you think."

"But—"

"Wait, but that's not all, you're right, she didn't die. The story is a bit long... rather, you don't want any more memories? It's easier to explain that way."

"No, I already told you I don't want any memories of you; I've had more than enough. You said that after that, everything got worse and worse.... That's crazy."

"Come on, don't be a coward. Those who reject valuable information can't always see the future, you know?"

"I reject it, and it was really hard for me to process what you gave me. I don't know how your mind works... both the you from the alternate future who lived through all that, and the you from now, who acts like nothing happened even though you have so many memories that would break anyone's mind. You're an idiot, but I have to admit that not everyone can do it."

"Hmmm, are you insulting me or praising me? Make up your mind. Haah... well, at first I didn't have all the memories I have now; otherwise, I would have really gone crazy from the start. Well, now I have the girls, so everything is easier to handle."

"..."

"Anyway, let's not get melancholic. Since you don't want me to give you my memories, I'll summarize it for you: as I said, she didn't die; she became more powerful and then became world famous. Later, I met up with her again..."

"...then she—"

"Haah~she was no longer the person we once knew. She did things you can't even imagine. She was beyond salvation, and, well, on Aleoria's orders, I had to hunt her down... and I, with my own hands, was the one who killed her in the end."

Chapter 350: People Can Change

"Haah~, so that's why you're acting like this, now I understand."

"Nop, like I said, it's because of what you witnessed. That was horrible, and potentially something terrible for me now."

If that was what mattered. Later on she was like a total stranger, honestly, I have nothing against her, and neither does my alternate self.

She did a lot of bad things, but that was no longer any of my business or my alternate self's.

We only killed her on Aleoria's orders, and personally I didn't want to do it; after all, she was still an old friend who had gone astray.

The time I spent hunting her was more than the time we had as friends. That's why it's a little hard for me to think of her the way I do Silvia; all the good things about her were overshadowed by what happened later.

But as with Silvia, despite everything, my alternate self left the decision of how to get involved with her up to me, giving me warnings.

And this is what I decided: not to start anything and not to get involved with her was my decision.

Yes, she wasn't my friend and she never will be... although helping her is another matter.

"You're really confusing me. I don't understand if what happened next is worse or not."

"That's why I told you I was going to give you the memories."

"I already told you I don't want them."

"Well, it's your loss. I really have nothing against her; I just don't want to get involved. Honestly, I think that, from what I saw, even if I help her, she'll end up the same, just in different circumstances. It was obvious that that's what she likes."

"Why are you being so pessimistic? That totally contradicts what you always say about changing the future."

"You don't understand, Silvia: this issue is more a matter of personality. Like me with my harem, Elena and sweets, Willian and his density, you with your obsession with Willian, she's the same. Things change, but people hardly ever do."

"That's what I mean. Look at me, for example: I'm not obsessed with Willian; she can be just like me."

"...(¬\_¬)"

"Stop looking away. I already told you I'm not an obsessive yandere."

"(¬\_¬)... Wait! How the hell do you know if I'm blindfolded?"

"Unfortunately, I know you well, silly! Haah~ so you're totally against it, right?"

"Yes."

"...You know, if you help me, it might happen that the two of us crush you between our breasts."

"Huh?"

"Yes, remember, in the memories, the three of us spent a lot of time together, and you even managed to get us to let you put your head between our breasts once... You know, it's not impossible that we could come to an agreement again."

"Hmm, let's see, tell me more, what do you have in mi-? No! I won't fall for that! Do you think I'll fall for such a silly temptation?"

"Yes."

".....I refuse."

yes, that five-second hesitation wasn't because I was considering it, it was because I was surprised that Silvia would go to such extremes. Yes, that was definitely it.

'Anyway, I can do that—except with Eria—with the others in my harem.'

"Even though their proportions and appearances are clearly to your liking."

"...Stop it!.... I already said no, and you won't convince me otherwise."

"You're stubborn about these things. Fine! I get it! It seems you really don't want to be involved in this, so I'll do it on my own and prove that people do change."

"Well, whatever you want. If you succeed, I'll congratulate you and also praise you for preventing the decline of one of your romantic rivals. Ouch! That was on purpose."

Leaving aside the fact that she walked straight into a rock to cause me pain, it finally seems that we have closed this conversation about that woman.

But, honestly, even though I'm saying this to Silvia, I will secretly do my best to help her, even though it may really be in vain.

'That' already existed within her, but I myself said 'difficult,' not impossible. Even if I deny it, many of my girls have changed a lot; I myself changed. It was impossible not to recognize it.

Even so, it depends on the people themselves, and my alternate self could never fully understand that woman named Evangeline, so I won't get my hopes up about anything.

And I won't get involved with her. That's why I'll do it in secret, even from Silvia, whom I tell everything to. I don't want even the slightest chance of her connecting to me in any way.

"Ugh, you really make me angry!...haah~ Anyway, if you've recovered from that nonsense about being the eminence in the shadows, get up."

"Right, I can't be an eminence (ノへー),..."

Once again, I remembered my existential emptiness, because I can't be a rock? Even she has a better chance of being an eminence than I do.

"Chris! Stop that. Ah!, there are the girls. Well, let one of them take care of you... Hey, but why does the other you seem so normal, while you're here embarrassing me?"

"Oh, that's the part of me that lives in ignorance and doesn't understand that we can no longer be an eminence. Let her be happy for a while, eventually the harsh reality will hit her."

"I still don't really understand how those skills work. It's you, but at the same time it's not; they're very strange skills."

"Oh, about that, you know, Alice has them too, but apparently she can't do what I do: ignore the doppelganger and act independently."

Yes, I was almost able to do it from the beginning, ignoring what the other one does. But apparently she can't. In order for one thought to control the other doppelganger, she must be aware of what she is doing.

If she stops doing it, it stops working. So she is aware of everything her doppelganger does and can't stop doing it; unlike me, who simply ignores them or puts them out of my mind, and knows nothing more about them unless I want to.

That's why the one who is now Seraphina is so normal, despite her close encounter with that woman.

"Yes, you're an anomaly, as always. Well, let one of your girlfriends take care of you."

After that, Silvia handed me to Selene, who carried me in her arms like a princess, to gently cross the rift to the middle world.

'Yes, I can no longer be an eminent figure; at least I hope these last few months of classes will be peaceful...'

.

..

A week had passed since we arrived in the middle world, and, really, it wasn't very good for me.

Everything was annoying, from the instructors, who intensified everything, to the few hours of free time I had to do something with the girls.

I haven't even been able to meet with Astrid alone because of how hectic everything has been, but I think all this is because they want to shorten these three months, and that's why they're so agitated and sadistic.

Another thing I thought would happen was that we would have classes or things like that together with the other kingdoms, but once we disembarked and arrived in the middle world, everyone went their separate ways and there were no more interactions.

Same with the previous generation: there were no interactions with them, which I appreciate, as it would be annoying and I'm sure I'm in the crosshairs of many.

I thought that if I could keep it up until the end, it would be great... but those were my thoughts from a few minutes ago, because harsh reality hit me again.

"H-hey, when did I agree to do this, I didn't think it would be like this, this is weird, I can feel your breath."

"Mmmph...yuu 'agreed, y' can't... back out..."

There I was with Aurora on a sofa, with her giving me a lap pillow and me happily on her thighs.

Of course, I had to make the most of it, so I put orthodoxy aside and took it while lying face down.

I thought it was the least I deserved. One of Aurora's remarkable qualities, even when she's in costume, is her thighs, and I'm going to take full advantage of that.

"Stop, seriously! This is weird, because your breathing is getting heavier.?"

"I'm havin'... truhble breathin'... but if I... hold on... a lil' longer... don' worry..."

"That's not the point, idiot!"

This happened because of a fair exchange, or rather, it was an exchange in which I lost out. I don't understand why she's complaining.

"Huaa~, okay, now stroke my hair tenderly and talk to me nicely. It's good that my eyes are covered, so I can imagine you in your other form".

At that moment, satisfied and a little out of breath, I turned around looking up and made more demands. I felt that it really wasn't enough yet.

"S-stop fooling around, you're exaggerating, don't push your luck."

"You're my girlfriend, what's wrong with doing it?"

"You know very well that this isn't..."

"Haah~ well, it seems that this is your limit. Now tell me, why did you do everything you could to get me to meet Celestine? If you want me to help you, you'd better be honest."

A few minutes ago, when the exhausting school day had finally ended, Aurora suddenly grabbed me and dragged me away, where she started talking to me about meeting her sister the princess of this kingdom and a sharp and cunning woman, whom I don't want to get involved with either.

She seemed desperate and even willing to give in a lot to convince me.

So I took advantage of that, earning my desired lap pillow.

But honestly, for me, it wasn't worth the trade, but the circumstances didn't seem simple. Her desperation was what caught my attention, so I played along.

Now it was time to get serious and find out the real reason.

I don't know much about Aurora's relationships with her siblings, other than Maximilian, but based on her personality, I can't imagine Aurora getting along with that princess, to the point of letting me do this just because she asked.

"Haah~ well, she knows... she knows I'm a demon, she threatened me with that. "