

Nine Therians and Their Only One Queen

chapter 11-20

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 11

[2,041 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 11 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma prepares a meal for Drake, who struggles with chopsticks, highlighting his unfamiliarity with her cooking culture. Emma, amused by his struggle, offers him a fork and continues to prepare her delicious beast cutlet noodles, which attract the attention of the Grand Elder. His request for her to cook for him in exchange for star coins ignites a spark of excitement in Emma, as she considers the financial benefits of her culinary skills.

As the aroma of the noodles fills the air, Emma feels a swell of pride in her cooking, which surprises Drake and exceeds his expectations from the finest chefs he has known. This moment of culinary triumph leads to a negotiation about cooking for him regularly, but Emma hesitates, fearing the emotional and physical toll it may take on her. Despite her reservations, Drake escalates the offer to astronomical sums, prompting Emma to reevaluate her worth and the potential for wealth.

Emma’s initial reluctance transforms into determination as she realizes the opportunity before her. Their conversation shifts from a simple meal to a business arrangement, with Drake’s playful yet serious tone revealing a softer side. The negotiation culminates in a deal worth three hundred billion a month, a life-changing sum that ignites Emma’s ambition and dreams of wealth.

As breakfast concludes, Drake dismisses his retainers, leaving just the two of them alone in the villa. The atmosphere shifts as he asks for “mental comfort,” a request that fills Emma with a mix of curiosity and anxiety. This moment marks a turning point for Emma, who must now confront the implications of their arrangement and the emotions it stirs within her. The chapter closes with a sense of anticipation, as Emma prepares to navigate the complexities of her newfound life and the connection developing with Drake.

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**When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live **

Drake's eyes were fixed on the pair of chopsticks resting awkwardly between his fingers, his brow knitted in uncertainty. The delicate wooden sticks felt foreign in his grasp, a stark reminder of his lack of familiarity with this simple yet intricate tool.

Emma, observing his struggle, couldn't help but suppress a smile. It was obvious he had never navigated the world of chopsticks before. Without uttering a single word, she swiftly reached for a fork, handing it to him with a knowing look. She then returned to her task of preparing another steaming bowl of noodles for herself, the rhythmic clatter of pots and pans filling the air.

The rich, tantalizing scent of fried beast cutlet noodles wafted through the room, curling its way into the nostrils of the Grand Elder. His stomach growled audibly, a sound so loud it bordered on embarrassing, and he could feel the drool pooling at the corners of his mouth.

"Ms. Emma Tibarn..." The elder cleared his throat, his cheeks flushing with a mix of embarrassment and desire. "W-Would it be possible for you to prepare a bowl for us as well? We're willing to pay in star coins."

The aroma was simply irresistible. Missing out on such a meal would indeed be a crime, especially considering the Drakonids had an abundance of gems and star coins to spare.

The mention of "star coins" was like a spark igniting a flame within Emma. Her spirits lifted instantly as she set two more bowls of noodles to boil, her heart racing at the thought of potential earnings. She had noodles aplenty, and if there was a chance to make some money, she was more than ready to keep the bowls coming all day long.

As the noodles cooked, they emerged springy and smooth, enveloped in a thick, mouthwatering broth. The beast meat was surprisingly tender, devoid of any sour or gamey aftertaste. Instead, it left a delightful tingle on the tongue, a hint of spice that made one crave more. It was the kind of dish that could awaken the beast within, and Emma felt a sense of pride swelling in her chest.

Drake consumed his bowl in silence, savoring each bite, before his gaze drifted back to Emma.

This petite woman might appear fragile, but she was far from useless. Her cooking was a revelation, a delightful surprise that exceeded anything he had ever tasted at the Thalassian Palace—or even from the finest chefs of the Central Planet.

Leaning back, his voice low and languid, he asked, "How many star coins would it take for you to prepare meals like this for me every day?"

Emma froze in place. On one hand, the prospect of more star coins was undeniably enticing. Yet, on the other, the thought of providing him with mental comfort each and

every day filled her with trepidation. If those sessions drained her as much as yesterday's had, she would be left with hardly any energy to stand, let alone cook three meals daily.

And what if her own responsibilities beckoned? Being tied to the kitchen was not part of her grand plan for the future.

With a polite smile, she replied, "I don't think that's a good idea. I'm not familiar with your tastes—what if you don't enjoy my cooking?"

After all, he was her wealthy uncle. Even a gentle rejection needed to be wrapped in silk and presented with care.

Drake's expression darkened, his gaze intensifying as it bore down on her with quiet authority. "Fifty billion a month."

Emma nearly choked on her own breath. Was this how the true interstellar elite operated—flinging star coins about as if they were mere trinkets?

She opened her mouth to respond, but before she could articulate a single word, Drake continued with an air of calm confidence, "One hundred billion."

One hundred billion? He tossed the figure out like it was nothing, akin to flicking a coin into a fountain. Emma's mind raced as she contemplated whether she had been undervaluing her worth with her earlier proposition of fifty million for mental comfort.

Her thoughts must have reflected on her face because Drake raised the stakes once more. "Three hundred billion."

Okay, forget what she had said earlier. She snapped her head up, meeting his intense gaze with newfound determination.

"This isn't merely about money," she explained carefully, choosing her words with caution. "It's just... there are elements I cannot control. I can't promise I'll have the time to cook for you every day."

"Then cook whenever you do have the time," Drake replied, his black eyes lingering on hers. For the first time, the depths of his gaze softened, revealing a hint of amusement that was almost disarming.

Emma felt a laugh bubbling up within her. A man this wealthy, this generous, and this surprisingly easy to negotiate with—what kind of cosmic lottery had she stumbled upon?

Thank you, Beast God, for dropping such an affluent benefactor into her life. So what if he didn't harbor any affection for her? Who cared? He paid in star coins, and that was more than enough.

“Deal.”

Three hundred billion a month. And with him planning to stay for three months, that amounted to an astonishing nine hundred billion.

Nine hundred. Billion.

If that wasn't a ticket to overnight wealth, then what was?

To seal the deal, Emma immediately set to work, whipping up another bowl of noodles for him—this time adorned with two perfectly fried beast eggs on top.

Drake ate in silence, a look of contentment gracing his features. The satisfaction that played across his face did not escape her notice.

Once breakfast was over, Drake instructed the elder and the other retainers to leave, retaining only two men by his side. But even they didn't linger in the villa—Drakonids were fiercely territorial, and no male had the right to enter a female's home unless he was her mate.

Though Drake might not have any intentions of bonding with Emma, his presence here was acceptable until their match was officially dissolved. The rest was none of her concern.

As the villa fell into a tranquil silence, leaving just the two of them, Drake turned his penetrating gaze on her.

“Now,” he drawled, observing her as she scrolled lazily through her lightcore, “can you provide me with that mental comfort?”

Breakfast was finished. The hangers-on were gone. She didn't seem busy at all.

Emma had just completed posting a buy-request for tier-five beast cores and insect cores. With a resigned sigh, she closed her lightcore and stood up, her heart racing as she glanced at the man lounging like a king on her couch.

“Do you want me to do it here... or should we go up to your room?” she asked softly, her voice barely above a whisper, yet filled with a mix of curiosity and trepidation.

Conclusion

In the quiet aftermath of their breakfast, Emma stood at the threshold of an unexpected transformation. The weight of her earlier fears began to lift, replaced by a burgeoning sense of possibility. She had opened the door to a life she had long hesitated to embrace, one filled with the tantalizing allure of wealth and the thrill of newfound agency. The prospect of cooking for Drake, once a source of anxiety, now shimmered

with the potential for empowerment. The star coins he offered were not merely currency; they represented a validation of her worth and a chance to carve out a future that had previously seemed unattainable. With each bowl of noodles she prepared, she was not just feeding a man; she was nurturing her own ambitions and desires.

Drake's presence, once intimidating, had transformed into a catalyst for Emma's growth. As she stood before him, the uncertainty that had clouded her mind began to clear, and a spark of determination ignited within her. The playful banter and the negotiation for her worth were more than mere transactions; they were the beginnings of a partnership that could redefine her path. In that moment, Emma realized that she was no longer just a fragile woman in a vast universe; she was a force to be reckoned with, ready to embrace the life she had once feared. With a heart full of courage, she took a step forward, ready to explore the depths of her potential and the complexities of her relationship with Drake, knowing that she was finally on the brink of the life she was meant to live.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension between Emma and Drake to escalate as they navigate the complexities of their newfound arrangement. With the hefty sum of three hundred billion star coins hanging over their heads, Emma will be forced to confront her own motivations and fears. Will she be able to maintain her independence while catering to Drake's demands for mental comfort? As they delve deeper into their unconventional relationship, Emma's resolve will be tested, leading to moments of vulnerability and unexpected revelations.

Moreover, the dynamics of their interactions will shift dramatically once they decide on the setting for their sessions. The choice between her cozy villa and the more intimate atmosphere of Drake's room will raise questions about boundaries and emotional entanglements. Will Emma's heart begin to soften towards her wealthy benefactor, or will she remain steadfast in her reluctance to form any deeper connections? As the stakes grow higher, so too will the risks, and readers will be left on the edge of their seats, eager to discover how Emma's journey unfolds amidst the allure of wealth and the fear of emotional vulnerability.

Intrigue will also build around the enigmatic nature of Drake himself. What lies beneath his calm exterior? As Emma peels back the layers of his character, she may uncover secrets that challenge her perceptions and force her to reconsider her own ambitions. The chapter promises to be a rollercoaster of emotions, filled with both lighthearted banter and poignant moments that will leave readers questioning what it truly means to open the door to a life one has been afraid to live.

Sara Lili

Sara Lili is a daring romance writer who turns icy landscapes into scenes of fiery passion. She loves crafting hot love stories while embracing the chill of Iceland's breathtaking cold.

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 12

[2,020 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 12 Summary

In Chapter 12 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Emma is drawn into a new and extravagant world when Drake invites her into his opulent room. As she steps inside, she is overwhelmed by the transformation of the space, which is adorned with lavish materials and a bed made from incredibly valuable Level 8 beast cores. This sight leaves her astonished, as she grapples with the reality of such wealth, feeling both intrigued and intimidated by the possibilities it presents for enhancing her Etherian abilities.

Drake, relaxed and amused by Emma's reaction, encourages her to join him on the bed. Their physical proximity ignites a magnetic tension between them, as Emma's touch sends a wave of comfort through Drake. He finds himself captivated by her essence, which calms his turbulent thoughts. As they share this intimate moment, Emma feels drained yet exhilarated, realizing that she has the potential to recover quickly from her exertions, prompting her to reconsider how she manages her energy in the future.

After a restorative sleep, Emma feels refreshed and emboldened, contemplating her newfound ability to balance her responsibilities. Her thoughts are interrupted by hunger, leading her to check on Drake before preparing dinner. Their interaction reveals a shift in Emma's confidence as she offers to cook for him, and Drake's curiosity about her recovery hints at a growing bond between them. Emma remains determined to maintain control over her kitchen, asserting her independence while navigating the complexities of their relationship.

The chapter highlights the emotional interplay between Emma and Drake, showcasing her vulnerability and resilience as she steps into a life filled with new possibilities. Emma's journey reflects her struggle with self-doubt in the face of Drake's wealth and charisma, yet she begins to embrace her own strength and agency. The luxurious

setting serves as a backdrop for their evolving connection, setting the stage for further exploration of their dynamic and the challenges they may face together.

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****Chapter 12: A Bed Worth Billions****

As the lightcore hummed softly in the background, a chorus of male voices echoed a singular sentiment—they all preferred the comfort of their own rooms or, if they were feeling particularly daring, the company of a female.

Drake, however, was not bonded to Emma, which meant there was no chance she would ever extend an invitation for him to enter her space.

The man lounging on the couch paused momentarily, his expression shifting as a thought crossed his mind. Rising from his seat, he offered a simple yet bold suggestion. “Come to my room, then.”

He believed that lying on a bed would undoubtedly be a more pleasurable experience than sitting stiffly on the couch, where every muscle felt taut and uncomfortable.

Emma didn’t protest; instead, she found herself following him, curiosity and trepidation mingling in her chest.

But the instant she crossed the threshold into his room, her jaw nearly dropped in disbelief.

Was this truly the same villa room she owned?

The once-familiar starstone tiles had vanished, replaced by an array of glittering gemstones that danced with light, casting a kaleidoscope of colors across the walls. The peculiar plant-based furniture she remembered? It had been exchanged for lavish materials that she couldn’t even begin to name, but their opulence was undeniable.

There was no conceivable way someone like her could ever afford such extravagance.

And then her gaze fell upon the bed. It was a colossal masterpiece constructed from Level 8 beast cores and insect cores, a sight so grand it almost took her breath away.

Level 8 beast cores.

Each core was valued at ten billion star coins, a price that only the fortunate could hope to pay, if they could find one at all. These were treasures that incited fierce battles among the desperate and the greedy. Yet here was this man, nonchalantly using them to craft a bed.

Emma's mind raced with possibilities. Just one night on that bed could exponentially enhance her Etherian abilities.

Obscenely rich. Beyond human comprehension.

That thought looped endlessly in her mind, a mantra of disbelief.

Drake reclined casually on that extravagant bed, his posture relaxed yet commanding. One hand rested against his temple, his sharp knuckles pressing lightly as a smirk played at the corners of his lips. He observed Emma's astonished expression with a quiet amusement, finding her transparency both entertaining and endearing.

Every thought she had was laid bare across her face, and he didn't need to read her mind to know what she was feeling; her expressions told him everything.

"You can start now," he said, his deep voice breaking through her reverie.

Emma took a step toward the bed, hesitating for just a moment at the inviting space that seemed to beckon her. After a brief internal debate, she settled onto the edge, realizing that standing there to soothe him would only wear her out further. She was never one to inflict needless suffering upon herself.

Her cool fingertips brushed against his forehead, and Drake's eyes fluttered half-closed, savoring the closeness between them. She was closer than she had been the day before, and he could feel the magnetic pull between them. If he shifted even slightly, he could draw her right into his embrace.

And that intoxicating scent of hers... it enveloped him, richer than before. It was impossible to describe, yet utterly addictive, teasing the edges of his self-control. Just inhaling her essence seemed to calm the tempest within his mind.

Her spiritual energy flowed into him once more, smoother and more intoxicating than he remembered.

Drake surrendered to the comfort, his eyes drifting shut as he allowed himself to indulge in the moment. His hand instinctively moved closer to her, nearly brushing against her hip, as if he were preparing to claim her as part of his territory.

When Emma finally withdrew her hand, her legs felt like jelly, a familiar sensation of exhaustion washing over her. Just like the previous day, she felt completely drained.

Steeling herself, she stood on shaky legs, her voice barely above a whisper. "I'm going to rest. I probably won't be able to cook for you this afternoon or tonight."

Without waiting for a response, she turned and made her way back to her own room.

Emma expected to collapse into a deep sleep, much like the previous day, and lose herself for an entire day and night. However, to her astonishment, she awoke after only ten hours.

It was eight in the evening.

She sat up, feeling remarkably refreshed and surprisingly energetic.

Ten hours. That was all it took for her to recover.

A thought flitted through her mind—if she only needed this much sleep after soothing him, perhaps she could manage to do it at night from now on. That way, her days would remain free for other pursuits. She would have to discuss this with Drake later.

Her stomach growled, interrupting her thoughts. She padded downstairs to prepare dinner but paused halfway down the second floor. After a moment of hesitation, she decided to check in on Drake first.

Knock, knock, knock.

The door slid open with a soft whoosh.

Emma stood in the doorway, taking in the sight of him sprawled comfortably on that extravagant bed in his nightclothes. She mustered her politeness and asked, “Mr. Drake, I’m going to make dinner. Would you like some?”

For a fleeting moment, she thought she had imagined it, but at the mere mention of dinner, the man shot up, his piercing gaze sweeping over her from head to toe. “Your energy has already recovered?”

It was a noticeable improvement from the day before.

Emma nodded, a hint of pride in her voice. “Somewhat. I’m not as weak as I was this morning. Cooking won’t be a problem.”

She looked perfectly fine—too fine, in fact. Yet she claimed she had “only recovered a little.” This woman... there was an air of untruth about her words.

Drake decided to let it slide. He was in a good mood, comfortably soothed, and he didn’t need her energy again just yet.

“What’s on the menu for dinner?” he inquired, genuinely curious.

Emma paused for a moment, considering her options. “Stir-fried beast meat, steamed crystal sea beast, a chilled herb salad, and a fruit salad. How does that sound?”

The crystal sea beast was essentially a translucent fish, best enjoyed steamed.

Drake recognized the names but had never had the pleasure of tasting them. He nodded, intrigued. “Do you need any help?”

Emma quickly shook her head, her resolve firm. “Nope. Just come down when it’s ready.”

She had no intention of letting his men into her kitchen; they would only make a mess of everything.

Conclusion

As Emma stood in the doorway, the weight of her journey began to settle within her. The extravagant bed, with its luxurious allure, had not only showcased the vast divide between her world and Drake’s but had also illuminated a path she had been too afraid to tread. The brief moment of connection they shared in his room had ignited something within her—a burgeoning sense of self-worth and capability. No longer merely a bystander to her own life, she felt emboldened by the realization that she could claim her space, both physically and emotionally. The prospect of cooking for Drake was no longer a task to dread but a chance to nurture a bond that had begun to flourish in the most unexpected of circumstances.

As she descended the stairs, a renewed energy coursed through her veins, a stark contrast to the exhaustion that had once defined her existence. Emma’s heart raced with the thrill of possibility; she was no longer shackled by her insecurities. Instead, she embraced the chance to forge her own identity, one that included moments of vulnerability and strength. The laughter and camaraderie that awaited her in the kitchen felt like an invitation to a life she had long shied away from—a life where she could be both independent and connected. With each step, she moved closer to the realization that she was deserving of joy, of companionship, and of a future filled with the richness of experiences yet to come.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

****What to Expect in Next Chapter?****

As Emma steps back into her own space, a whirlwind of emotions swirls within her. The fleeting moment shared with Drake lingers in her mind, igniting a spark of curiosity about the depths of her own abilities and the potential of their connection. In the next chapter, readers can anticipate a deepening exploration of Emma’s newfound strength and the implications it has for her future. With her energy restored and a sense of confidence bubbling beneath the surface, she must confront the reality of her burgeoning relationship with Drake and the complexities that come with it. Will she allow herself to embrace the magnetic pull between them, or will fear hold her back from the life she yearns to live?

Meanwhile, as dinner preparations unfold, the tension in the air promises more than just a culinary experience. Drake's intrigue about Emma's cooking choices hints at a growing fascination that may transcend mere physical attraction. Their interactions are set to become more layered, revealing the vulnerabilities and desires lurking beneath their banter. Will Emma's culinary skills impress him, or will the evening take an unexpected turn that challenges their growing bond? The stakes are rising, and with them, the potential for both heartwarming moments and unforeseen challenges that could alter the course of their lives forever.

As the chapter unfolds, readers should brace themselves for a blend of delightful surprises and emotional revelations. The lavish backdrop of Drake's opulent villa serves as a perfect stage for the unfolding drama, where every shared glance and subtle gesture may carry the weight of unspoken promises. Will Emma step boldly into this new world, or will she retreat into the safety of her old life? The anticipation builds as we prepare to witness the next chapter of Emma and Drake's journey—a journey that promises to be as thrilling as it is transformative.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 13

[1,900 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 13 Summary

In "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Emma experiences a transformative evening in her kitchen, filled with purpose and creativity. As she prepares dinner using the preservation chamber gifted by the Empire, she takes pride in her culinary skills and the vibrant ingredients she has chosen. The atmosphere is warm and inviting, with the comforting sounds of cooking surrounding her. When Drake arrives, Emma's heart swells with joy as she serves him a meal that exceeds her expectations, especially the steamed fish, leaving him momentarily speechless.

During dinner, Emma finds herself in a comfortable silence, occasionally distracted by her lightcore, where she is engaged in a lively conversation with her match, Damian. Their exchange fills her with excitement for the next day, as she anticipates uncovering Damian's secrets. This moment highlights Emma's dual life, balancing her culinary passion with her romantic pursuits, creating an emotional depth to her character.

After dinner, Emma shifts the conversation to her role in providing emotional comfort to Drake at night, which he accepts without hesitation. Their dialogue reveals Emma's assertiveness and confidence in managing her relationships with multiple matches, showcasing her determination to maintain control over her life. However, her frustration surfaces when discussing the absence of her other matches, indicating her desire for genuine connections rather than superficial interactions.

Later, as Emma unwinds in her room, she faces the reality of her matches' lack of engagement, leading to feelings of disbelief and disappointment. When one match, Corvin, finally responds, it is only with money rather than meaningful conversation, deepening her sense of isolation. This moment becomes a turning point for Emma, as she resolves to sever ties with Corvin and embrace a life where she seeks genuine connections, marking a significant step towards living the life she had previously feared.

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****When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live ****

As Emma crossed the threshold into the kitchen, she felt a familiar sense of purpose wash over her. The preservation chamber, an unexpected treasure bestowed upon her by the Empire's government when they had acquired the villa, stood ready to assist her culinary endeavors. Its sleek, metallic doors held the promise of freshness, ensuring that whatever she stored inside remained as vibrant and delightful as the day it had been placed there—up to a year. It was a remarkable feature, one that allowed her to stock up on essentials without the worry of spoilage.

With practiced hands, Emma began to gather the ingredients she would need for dinner. She meticulously pulled out a fish she had prepared earlier, its scales glistening under the kitchen lights, and set it to steam. The rhythmic bubbling of the water filled the air, a comforting sound that signaled the start of her evening ritual. Next, she reached for some beast meat, its rich, hearty aroma wafting up as she unwrapped it, and grabbed a handful of vibrant peppers, their colors bright against the backdrop of the kitchen.

As the steam began to rise, swirling around her like a warm embrace, the kitchen transformed into a haven of savory scents. Each aroma melded together, creating a symphony of flavors that would soon tantalize their taste buds. By the time Drake made his entrance, freshly dressed and looking revitalized, the table was set, and dinner awaited him. Emma handed him a fork with a smile, her heart swelling with pride at the meal she had prepared.

“Dinner is served!” she announced, her voice light with anticipation, as she took her own seat across from him.

The meal surpassed even her own expectations, especially the steamed fish, which left Drake momentarily speechless. Emma watched with delight as his eyes widened in surprise, the flavors clearly captivating him.

As they dined, Emma fell into a comfortable silence, her thoughts drifting occasionally to her lightcore, which flickered softly beside her. She was likely engaged in a conversation with someone, perhaps even sharing a laugh, as the playful sparkle in her eyes suggested. Drake couldn't help but find her demeanor amusing; it was a strange mix of focus and mischief that intrigued him.

Emma was indeed engrossed in a lively exchange with Damian, her match.

Damian: ‘Ms. Tibarn, I made a new friend today. He’s headed to F-268, so I asked to go with him. Ms. Tibarn, I’ll see you tomorrow. I’m so excited!’

Damian: ‘Why aren’t you answering me?’

Emma: ‘I was busy just now. I’m excited to see you too.’

The thought of tomorrow filled her with a flutter of anticipation. She would finally uncover what secrets Damian was keeping.

Once dinner was finished, Emma turned her attention to Drake, her expression shifting to one of earnestness. “I want to discuss the mental comfort I’ll be providing you at night,” she explained, her tone steady and reassuring. He nodded, his acceptance of her proposition coming without a hint of hesitation.

Drake studied her closely, recalling how animated she had been just moments before while chatting on her lightcore. It was clear that one of her other matches had to be on the other end of that conversation.

“If you’re going to comfort me at night, won’t your other matches mind?” he inquired, a hint of curiosity lacing his voice.

Emma’s response was immediate and confident. “Nope. With me, they all listen to what I say.” There was a finality in her tone, a promise that if they didn’t comply, she wouldn’t hesitate to cut them loose.

Drake chuckled softly, her assertiveness both amusing and endearing. He glanced around the villa, taking in the serene surroundings. “So, where are your other matches hiding?” he asked, genuinely intrigued.

Emma sighed, her expression shifting slightly. "They're all busy right now. One of them will be here tomorrow," she replied, her voice laced with a hint of frustration.

After their conversation, she instructed the smart robot to clear the table and headed upstairs. Three days had slipped by without a single reliable match showing up, and with some free time stretching before her that evening, she decided to take a look at what the others had to say.

If any of them were planning to end things, she wished they would just be upfront about it. There was no point in dragging things out unnecessarily.

Once back in her room, Emma took a moment to unwind. After a refreshing shower, she flopped onto her bed, the soft sheets cradling her as she opened her lightcore. Messaging each of her matches individually felt like a chore, so she opted for a group message instead. "This is your match, Emma. Reply if you see this," she typed, her fingers flying over the screen.

A second ticked by. Then another. Three seconds passed. A full minute. Five.

The silence was deafening, almost comically absurd. Emma found herself staring at her screen, a growing sense of disbelief creeping in. She began to wonder if the Beast God had orchestrated this, purposefully matching her with nine duds. Some seemed intent on breaking things off, while others were merely after her for her resources. The rest? They were like ghosts, silent names lingering in her contact list, devoid of any life.

Taking a deep breath to steady herself, she was about to dismiss them all when her lightcore chimed, breaking the stillness.

Finally, one of the ghosts on her list had stirred back to life.

Corvin: I've transferred 10 million star coins.

No words, just money? What was he trying to convey?

Emma blinked in surprise, her mind racing.

A moment later, her screen lit up with a flurry of notifications.

Corvin: Transferred 50 million star coins.

Corvin: Transferred 100 million star coins.

Still, her match remained silent, merely sending money her way.

"Can you say something, dude?" she thought, exasperated. Was he attempting to buy her off just like Kaul and Drastic had?

Corvin: "I'm too busy!"

Emma's heart sank at those words. It was clear—he was too preoccupied to engage with her, opting instead to throw money her way as if that could substitute for genuine connection.

"Fine," she thought, her resolve hardening.

Emma: 'Got it.'

Without hesitating, she sent a response and promptly applied to the Beastmate System to sever her match with Corvin. Being considerate, she deleted him from her contacts, ready to move on and embrace the life she had been too afraid to live.

Conclusion

In the quiet aftermath of her decisions, Emma felt an exhilarating rush of clarity and conviction. The evening had unfolded in a way that reminded her of her own strength and desires, as she poured her heart into the meal for Drake, a testament to her growing confidence in nurturing relationships. The laughter and camaraderie shared over dinner illuminated her path forward, reinforcing the notion that she could create a fulfilling life on her own terms. With each interaction, whether in the kitchen or through her lightcore, she was reclaiming her narrative, refusing to settle for anything less than genuine connection. The realization that she deserved more than superficial exchanges filled her with a renewed sense of purpose.

As she severed ties with Corvin, Emma embraced the uncertainty of the future with open arms. No longer shackled by fear or the expectations of others, she was ready to pursue the connections that truly mattered. The prospect of meeting Damian the next day ignited a spark of hope within her, a reminder that the life she had longed for was not only possible but within her grasp. With her heart unburdened and her spirit alight, Emma stepped boldly into the unknown, ready to explore the depths of her own potential and the richness of the relationships that awaited her. In that moment, she understood that opening the door to the life she had been afraid to live was not just an act of courage; it was an invitation to embrace her authentic self.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect Emma to confront the reality of her choices as she begins to take charge of her life in ways she never thought possible. With the weight of her recent experiences still fresh, the stakes are higher than ever. Emma's decision to sever ties with Corvin will ignite a fire within her, prompting her to reevaluate not only her matches but also her own desires and aspirations. As she embarks on this journey of self-discovery, the tension will rise, leading to unexpected encounters and revelations that challenge her perception of love, companionship, and her own worth.

Furthermore, the arrival of Damian, her most promising match, will bring an air of excitement and uncertainty. Emma's anticipation for their meeting will be palpable, setting the stage for a dynamic that could either blossom into something beautiful or unravel her newfound confidence. As she navigates the complexities of her relationships and the pressures of the Beastmate System, readers will be left on the edge of their seats, eager to see how Emma balances her emotional needs with the demands of her matches. Will she find the connection she's been yearning for, or will she continue to face the ghosts of her past choices? The next chapter promises to deliver a whirlwind of emotions and pivotal moments that will shape Emma's journey in ways she never imagined.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 14

[1,771 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 14 Summary

In Chapter 14 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," titled "Unwelcome Affections," Corvin's day in the lab ends in confusion when he discovers that Emma has deleted him from her contact list after he sent her star coins. He feels a mix of frustration and disbelief, questioning why she would sever their connection. Meanwhile, Emma feels liberated by her decision, ready to move on and embrace new possibilities, reflecting her carefree attitude toward relationships.

The next morning, Emma receives a message from Damian, who expresses his eagerness to see her. His apprehension is evident, but he is determined to win her over, even as he plans to manipulate her and others for his gain. Emma responds with a lighthearted tone, and as she prepares breakfast, she enjoys a moment of contentment. Drake admires her cooking skills, suggesting she should pursue a career as a chef, but Emma dismisses the idea, reminiscing about the challenges she faced when considering that path.

After breakfast, Emma eagerly awaits the arrival of the Level 5 beast cores she ordered, showcasing her excitement for her new venture. However, her anticipation is interrupted when Damian arrives at her villa, his presence striking and unexpected. As she opens the door, she is enveloped in his embrace, which evokes a complex mix of emotions within her. His affection is intoxicating, yet it leaves her feeling vulnerable and uncertain.

Damian's warm embrace and vulnerable demeanor tug at Emma's heartstrings, prompting her to question her feelings. She is taken aback by his intensity and the way he seeks her approval, feeling a mix of sympathy and confusion. The chapter concludes with Emma grappling with her emotions as she navigates the unexpected affection from Damian, leaving her unsure of how to respond to his heartfelt inquiry.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

****When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live ****

****Chapter 14: Unwelcome Affections****

An hour later, within the bustling confines of Central Planet's First Mech Building, Corvin finally concluded his long day in the lab. He reached for his lightcore, intent on sending a quick message to Emma, only to find his contact vanished from his list—deleted without a trace.

Staring at the glaring red exclamation mark, he felt a wave of disbelief wash over him.

"Isn't it a given that females adore star coins?" he thought, frustration bubbling beneath the surface. "So why would she sever our connection right after I transferred some? Did she think I was being stingy?"

Meanwhile, Emma was unfazed by her recent decision to cut ties. "Out with the old, in with the new," she mused, her thoughts drifting to the countless males that populated her world. If one didn't meet her expectations, she could easily replace him with another. With this mindset, she drifted into a deep, uninterrupted sleep, feeling liberated.

The following morning, a sense of optimism filled the air as she descended the stairs to prepare breakfast.

As she entered the kitchen, her lightcore chimed with an incoming message from Damian.

"Ms. Tibarn, I'll be arriving at F-268 soon," he typed eagerly.

"Just the thought of seeing you makes me so excited," he continued, his words laced with an eagerness that felt almost palpable.

“I’m not very smart, and I don’t have much. You won’t dislike me, will you?” he added, his apprehension evident even through the screen.

Sitting comfortably in his private starrail, Damian crafted these messages with a sly, almost sinister smile playing on his lips. He had anticipated that a few kind words would coax Emma into unmatching him herself, but she hadn’t taken the bait. Now, he found himself begrudgingly forced to travel to F-268, wasting precious time.

“Fine. If that’s how it is, I won’t hold back,” he thought, determination hardening in his chest.

Since he was already en route, he had no intention of leaving empty-handed. His plan was to manipulate her—and every other match she had—until they were stripped of every last credit.

Emma casually glanced through his messages before responding with a lighthearted ease. “All right, I’ll be waiting at home,” she typed back, shutting her lightcore with a sense of satisfaction as she made her way into the kitchen.

Breakfast was a simple yet inviting affair: oatmeal paired with homemade pickles, alongside a small basket of steaming dumplings. It was humble, yet it radiated warmth.

Drake didn’t need to be called; the moment the aroma of breakfast wafted through the air, he appeared as if summoned by the scent itself. His lazy gaze brightened at the sight of the spread before him.

“You’re really good at cooking,” he remarked, admiration evident in his tone.

“With talent like that, she’ll be welcomed anywhere—and paid well, too,” he thought, picturing the opportunities that lay ahead for her.

“Why not become a chef?” he asked, genuinely curious.

Emma handed him a fork and a spoon, shrugging lightly. “I’ve thought about it, but chefs have too many rules. It’s just not for me,” she replied, a hint of nostalgia creeping into her voice.

She had indeed considered the culinary path when she first arrived in the interstellar realm. However, the brutal reality of the workload had quickly dissuaded her from that dream.

In this vast expanse, food enthusiasts were abundant, yet skilled chefs were a rare breed. They toiled from dawn until midnight, often enduring grueling hours that left little room for anything else.

Opening a restaurant typically required robust family support, and as an outsider, Emma knew she stood no chance against the local competition.

After breakfast, her lightcore pinged, announcing the arrival of the Level 5 beast cores she had ordered the day before. Excitement bubbled within her as she sent her smart robot to collect them from the delivery locker.

The interstellar courier system was a marvel, capable of delivering parcels to their designated lockers within a mere three hours.

Ten Level 5 beast cores, all top quality, were now in her possession. She carefully stored them in her storage band and promptly posted another request online for additional cores.

Just as she hit send, the doorbell of the villa rang out with an urgent tone, almost frantic, as if someone were desperately trying to save their life.

Emma's heart raced as she pulled up the holo-monitor. At the gate stood a striking figure clad in a pink suit, his long white hair streaked with red, and his androgynous features almost ethereal. His pale fingers pressed insistently against the doorbell.

"Damian! He really came!" she thought, a mix of surprise and anticipation flooding her senses.

Without a moment's hesitation, she unlocked the door.

A burst of pink energy rushed inside, and before she could react, Emma found herself enveloped in a warm embrace, the faint scent of his cologne filling her senses.

"Ms. Tibarn! I finally get to see you!" Damian exclaimed, holding her tightly, his face buried against her neck.

In that moment, she felt a strange mix of emotions—his affection was intoxicating, unlike anything she had experienced before. It was impossible to resist.

He inhaled deeply, and his previously restless energy seemed to settle, replaced by a sense of calm.

Emma could hardly breathe as he nuzzled against her neck repeatedly, eliciting a ticklish sensation that made her squirm. It took several gentle pushes before she finally managed to break free from his embrace.

"Ms. Tibarn," he began, his voice laced with a vulnerability that tugged at her heartstrings.

As she looked into his shimmering red eyes, she couldn't help but feel a pang of sympathy. He appeared almost like a lost puppy left out in the rain, his expression a mixture of hope and uncertainty.

"Don't you like me?" he asked, biting his lip in a way that was both endearing and pitiful.

Emma felt a rush of conflicting emotions as she processed his words, unsure of how to respond.

Conclusion

In the end, Emma's decision to sever ties with Corvin marked a pivotal moment in her journey toward self-discovery. As she embraced the chaos of new possibilities, she found herself unexpectedly drawn to Damian's earnestness. His arrival, laden with both urgency and vulnerability, shattered the walls she had carefully constructed around her heart. The warmth of his embrace stirred within her a longing she thought she had buried, awakening a desire for connection that she had been too afraid to acknowledge. Emma stood at the threshold of a life she had once deemed unattainable, caught between the allure of the familiar and the thrill of the unknown.

As she gazed into Damian's shimmering eyes, the weight of her choices settled heavily upon her shoulders. Emma realized that true liberation came not just from casting aside the past but from embracing the complexities of her emotions. The intoxicating affection she felt for Damian was both exhilarating and terrifying, forcing her to confront her own fears of vulnerability. In this moment, she understood that to live fully meant to take risks, to open doors to experiences that could either uplift or shatter her. With a heart racing with uncertainty and hope, Emma stood ready to navigate the uncharted territory of her feelings, ready to step into the life she had once been afraid to live.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

****What to Expect in Next Chapter?*****

As the tension between Emma and Damian escalates, readers can expect the unexpected in the next chapter. With the arrival of Damian, who has already made a striking first impression, the dynamics of Emma's life are about to shift dramatically. Will she succumb to the allure of his affections, or will her instincts warn her of the manipulative undertones lurking beneath his charming facade? The emotional tug-of-war promises to unravel as Emma grapples with her feelings, caught between the thrill of new connections and the shadows of past choices.

Moreover, the implications of Corvin's abrupt disconnection from Emma will ripple through the narrative, potentially igniting a confrontation that could alter the course of their relationship forever. As he pieces together the mystery of her sudden withdrawal, readers will be left on the edge of their seats, wondering how his frustration will manifest. Will he confront Emma about her choices, or will he find a way to win her

back? The stakes are rising, and with each character navigating their own hidden agendas, the upcoming chapter is sure to deliver a whirlwind of emotions, revelations, and perhaps even betrayal. Prepare for a rollercoaster of feelings as the lives of these characters intertwine in ways they never anticipated.

Sara Lili

Sara Lili is a daring romance writer who turns icy landscapes into scenes of fiery passion. She loves crafting hot love stories while embracing the chill of Iceland's breathtaking cold.

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 15

[1,973 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 15 Summary

In "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Emma finds herself captivated yet cautious around Damian, a charming man whose allure brings both excitement and anxiety. Despite his magnetic presence, Emma's past experiences in the treacherous interstellar world have taught her to be wary of appearances. She grapples with her feelings, torn between the thrill of potential partnership and her instinct to maintain a safe distance until she can discern his true intentions. Emma's internal conflict is palpable as she navigates the tension between attraction and distrust.

As their conversation unfolds, Damian expresses his insecurities about his abilities and worthiness, revealing his Rank 5 status while concealing his true Rank 8 potential. This act of self-sabotage intrigues Emma but also raises her suspicions. She recognizes the irony in his self-deprecating remarks, understanding that beneath his charming facade lies a complex individual who may be more of a burden than a partner. Emma's resolve to maintain a mutually beneficial relationship is evident as she reassures him that she will take care of him once they are together, subtly emphasizing the necessity of reciprocity in their potential union.

Emma's empathetic response to Damian's injuries showcases her caring nature, yet she remains guarded, aware of the games they both seem to be playing. Their dynamic is charged with unspoken challenges, as both characters attempt to navigate their

vulnerabilities while projecting strength. When Emma offers him a choice of rooms in her modest villa, Damian's keen observations reveal her financial struggles, further complicating their budding relationship. He playfully seeks to establish a closer connection, while Emma maintains her boundaries, emphasizing the importance of independence.

The chapter culminates in a moment of tension as Emma prepares to leave for a visit with another female, prompting Damian's frustration at being left behind. His desire to accompany her reflects his growing attachment, but Emma's firm yet gentle refusal highlights her commitment to maintaining her autonomy. The emotional stakes rise as both characters grapple with their fears and desires, setting the stage for a complex interplay of trust, attraction, and the challenges of forging a genuine partnership in a world fraught with uncertainty.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

****When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live ****

A pair of cunning eyes glimmered with an unsettling blend of trepidation and intrigue. He was undeniably charming, exuding a magnetism that was both alluring and understated. There was a seductive quality about him, yet he didn't flaunt it—he was captivating in a way that made Emma's heart race with a mix of excitement and apprehension.

Emma felt the rapid thump of her heartbeat echoing in her ears, a steady reminder of her rising anxiety.

"Ahem!" She cleared her throat, her cheeks flushing as she quickly diverted her gaze, desperate to conceal her embarrassment.

"It's not that I don't like you," she stammered, her voice steadying as she straightened her posture, "I just feel bad for how hard you've worked. You deserve to rest first."

From the very beginning, doubts had clouded her mind about whether this man had truly come to be her partner. Yes, he was undeniably handsome, but in a world where survival was paramount, she knew that beauty was merely skin deep.

Five long years spent navigating the treacherous expanse of the interstellar had instilled in her a deep-seated caution. She had been deceived far too many times to let her guard down easily. Until she could uncover Damian's true intentions, maintaining a safe distance was her only option.

"Really?" he asked, his eyes brightening as if her words had cast away a shadow of doubt. He looked positively jubilant, like a child who had just received a long-awaited gift.

“You really don’t hate me? But I’m only Rank 5. My abilities are weak, my family doesn’t care about me, and I have no assets. I won’t be able to help you in the future.”

Emma couldn’t help but notice the irony in his words; he was actually a Rank 8, having deliberately suppressed his abilities to appear less competent—an act of self-sabotage that left her both intrigued and wary.

She scrutinized his anxious, almost pitiful expression. His performance was impressive, nearly flawless. Yet, beneath the surface, he was subtly suggesting that he was a burden, someone who would rely on her rather than contribute.

Mooching off her could be tolerable, especially since he was so strikingly handsome. Just looking at him could make her heart flutter, and she might even indulge in an extra sandwich or two just for the pleasure of his company. Still, she hoped there were no ulterior motives lurking beneath his charming facade.

With a faint smile, she maintained her composure, her voice steady as she replied, “I don’t mind at all. Once we’re together, I’ll earn star coins and take care of you.” She emphasized the word ‘together,’ making it clear that there was no partnership unless it was mutually beneficial.

Damian stood momentarily speechless, grappling with the implications of her words.

She’s really selling me a dream. The idea of her taking care of me once we’re together? That suggests if that doesn’t happen, I won’t see a single star coin. Ha! I’m more accustomed to dishing out dreams than receiving them.

As he stepped closer, a sense of warmth flooded through him. He took Emma’s hand gently, and the intoxicating scent of her perfume enveloped him. Her soft touch sent a shiver down his spine.

“You’re amazing,” he breathed, his voice filled with sincerity. “I can’t express how grateful I am that the Beast God matched me with you. I’m absolutely thrilled and wish we could be together right now. It’s such a pity I’m still injured. I can’t be with you just yet. You won’t be upset, will you?” He let out a soft sigh, his expression one of genuine concern.

“Of course not. I feel terrible about your injuries,” Emma replied, her tone laced with empathy. “Just take it easy for now—there’s no rush for us to be together.”

Ah, acting, is it? I can play that game just as well. Let’s see who can outsmart whom.

Just as Emma finished her sentence, her lightcore buzzed with a message from Laura, requesting her presence.

Emma glanced back at Damian, her expression softening. “Damian, you traveled all the way from Central Planet while injured. You must be exhausted. In the villa, aside from the largest rooms on the second and third floors, you can choose any other room as your bedroom.”

Damian’s sharp eyes roamed the villa, taking in the modest furnishings and sparse decor.

Given the simplicity of the setup, it was clear she didn’t possess much. Definitely broke. With so many empty rooms, it seemed the other matches hadn’t arrived yet.

He playfully hooked his finger around Emma’s, feigning shyness as he asked, “If I choose a room, I won’t be taking someone else’s, right? Even though we’ll all be like brothers, it doesn’t feel right to intrude.”

Emma smoothly withdrew her hand, maintaining her composure. “Most of them haven’t arrived yet. Just pick whichever room you like.”

Damian chuckled softly to himself, pleased with his assessment. Just as he suspected, the others hadn’t shown up. Perhaps they, too, were reluctant to partner with someone as seemingly broken as he was.

That won’t do.

He still intended to extract star coins from them. They had to make an appearance.

“Can I take a room on the second floor? I’d like to be closer to you,” he said, his eyes wide and hopeful as he grasped her hand again.

“Sure,” Emma replied, her voice steady. “All the rooms are clean. Choose one and rest. I have something to attend to and need to head out.”

As Damian was about to select a room, he froze at the realization that she was leaving.

“Where are you going? I’ll come with you,” he insisted, his tone almost pleading.

Emma didn’t hesitate, her voice firm yet gentle. “I’m visiting another female. It wouldn’t be appropriate for you to come along. Stay here and rest.”

Males were territorial; they despised having other males in their space. Since Emma was female and Laura was fine, it would be acceptable. But if Damian accompanied her, he would have to wait outside, exposed to the heat.

Hearing this, Damian felt a surge of frustration. No way was he going to stand outside in the sweltering sun.

“Alright, be safe. I’ll wait for you to come back,” he replied, trying to mask his disappointment.

Conclusion

As Emma closed the door behind her, the weight of her decision settled heavily on her shoulders. She had opened the door not just to a room, but to the possibility of a life she had long feared—one filled with uncertainty, vulnerability, and the faint glimmer of connection. Her heart raced with the thrill of potential, yet it was tempered by the caution that had served her well in the past. The encounter with Damian had stirred something deep within her, a longing for companionship that she had buried beneath layers of self-preservation. She felt a flicker of hope igniting, but it was accompanied by the familiar shadows of doubt. Would she be able to trust him? Could she allow herself to embrace this burgeoning partnership, or would her past betrayals loom too large, suffocating the chance for happiness?

Meanwhile, Damian remained inside, grappling with his own emotions. The warmth of Emma’s touch lingered on his skin, a stark contrast to the coldness he had grown accustomed to in his solitary existence. Her words had sparked a mix of gratitude and confusion; he was both captivated and wary of the unspoken expectations that hung between them. As he contemplated her offer, he recognized that this was a pivotal moment for both of them—a chance to redefine their narratives and step away from the roles they had played for so long. In this fragile space of uncertainty, they stood on the precipice of something transformative. With Emma’s absence, he felt the weight of his own insecurities rise to the surface, yet he also sensed a flicker of resolve. Perhaps together, they could navigate the treacherous waters of trust and vulnerability, forging a bond that could withstand the challenges ahead.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension between Emma and Damian to escalate as they navigate the complexities of their newfound partnership. Emma’s cautious nature will be put to the test as she grapples with her growing feelings for the enigmatic Damian, who seems to be hiding more than just his true abilities. The arrival of other matches is imminent, and with it, the dynamics of their relationships will shift. Emma must decide whether to maintain her guard or risk opening her heart to someone who may very well be a double-edged sword. The stakes will rise as secrets unravel, and the true nature of Damian’s charm is revealed.

Moreover, the chapter promises to delve deeper into the world they inhabit, introducing new characters who may either aid or hinder Emma and Damian’s journey. As they face external challenges, including the looming threat of competition and the harsh realities of their environment, Emma will be forced to confront her fears and insecurities head-on. Will she find the strength to trust in her instincts, or will her past experiences continue to haunt her? With each turn of the page, readers will be left wondering if Emma can truly embrace the life she has been afraid to live, or if she will retreat into the

safety of her caution once again. Excitement and uncertainty hang in the air, setting the stage for a gripping continuation of their story.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 16

[1,913 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 16 Summary

In Chapter 16 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," titled "Unexpected Match," Emma grapples with her emotions as she prepares to leave for the kitchen, intentionally avoiding Damian. Her actions reflect a mix of determination and apprehension as she seeks to gather essentials before meeting Laura. Meanwhile, Damian, feeling irritated by Emma's dismissal, heads upstairs to select a room in the villa. He settles for a stark, minimalistic space, resigned to maintain the facade of being broke, which adds to his frustration as he contemplates his plans.

As Damian explores the villa, his thoughts are consumed by the urgency of bringing Emma's other male matches to the villa. He views his time on this planet as a torturous delay, eager to escape back to Central Planet. This desire drives him to seek out Drake, Emma's first match, with the intention of extracting a favor. The tension escalates as Damian knocks on Drake's door, only to be met by the imposing figure of Drake, who is known for his strength and unpredictable nature. Damian's heart races as he realizes the precariousness of their situation, feeling that Emma's luck in her matches could easily turn against her.

The encounter between Damian and Drake is fraught with tension. Drake, a powerful Drakonid, is both imposing and casual, and his awareness of Damian's true identity adds layers of complexity to their interaction. Damian tries to maintain a polite facade, but his unease is palpable. He recognizes that dealing with Drake is a gamble, as the

Drakonid's notorious temper and possessiveness could pose a significant threat to Emma's future.

Damian's attempt to negotiate with Drake reveals the high stakes involved in their situation. He acknowledges the fierce possessiveness of Drakonids and attempts to leverage this trait to strike a deal, highlighting the urgency of their circumstances. The chapter concludes with a sense of impending conflict, as the tension between the two characters suggests that the dynamics of Emma's matches are far more complicated than they initially appeared. The emotional weight of the chapter underscores the precariousness of relationships in this interstellar setting, leaving readers eager to see how the situation will unfold.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

****TITLE: When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live ****

****Chapter 16: Unexpected Match****

Emma took a deep breath, her mind swirling with thoughts as she nodded in response to Damian. She chose to ignore him entirely, her focus shifting to the kitchen where she needed to gather a few essentials before seeking out Laura. The sound of her footsteps echoed in the hallway, a stark contrast to the tension that lingered in the air.

Once she disappeared around the corner, Damian felt a wave of irritation wash over him. With a resigned sigh, he ascended the staircase to select a room on the second floor. The villa was a sprawling space, but the choices were limited. Drake had already laid claim to the largest room, leaving Damian to settle for one that was conveniently situated near the staircase leading up to the third floor.

As he pushed the door open, he couldn't help but grimace at the starkness of the room. The walls were bare, the furniture minimalistic, devoid of any personal touches or warmth. He had to maintain the facade of being broke and useless, which meant no redecorating for him. The only silver lining was that the room was clean—an unremarkable detail, but one he would take for now. It would have to do.

His mind raced with more pressing matters. The priority was clear: he needed to bring all of Emma's other male matches here as swiftly as possible. Each moment spent on this dismal planet felt like an eternity of suffering. The sooner he could scam them out of their star coins, the sooner he could escape back to Central Planet, where life was far more palatable.

After giving the room a cursory glance, he made his way to Drake's bedroom. This was where Emma's first match resided, and he was determined to extract a favor from him.

He knocked on the door, the sound echoing slightly in the quiet hallway.

Inside, Drake reclined lazily on his bed, soaking in the energy emanating from the Rank 8 beast core that lay beside him. The moment Damian set foot in the villa, Drake's mental prowess had latched onto him, tracking his every movement with an almost predatory awareness. It was a testament to Drake's strength and a reminder of the precarious situation Damian found himself in.

Few were privy to Damian's true identity. He rarely made public appearances, cloaked in mystery as a lord of one of the three territories aligned with Nexus Prime Tech. Yet, Drake was not one of the uninformed; he had encountered Damian before.

Damian was the newly appointed star lord of the Ashenflame Fox from Central Planet—the financial powerhouse of the Interstellar Empire. And now, unexpectedly, he found himself tangled in the web of Emma's romantic matches.

Creak!

The door swung open of its own accord, and Damian's mouth opened to speak, but he froze mid-sentence. There lay Drake, sprawled across the massive beast core bed, his presence both imposing and casual. Damian's heart raced as he processed the situation; here was another match for Emma. The realization sent a chill down his spine, and his voice faltered.

Drake's gaze shifted to him, his expression unreadable. "Mr. Voss, do you require something?" he asked, his tone casual yet laced with an underlying tension.

Damian couldn't shake the feeling that Emma's luck was a double-edged sword. Ending up matched with Drake felt like a high-stakes gamble, one that could easily backfire.

Sweat trickled down his brow as he forced a polite smile, masking his unease. "I merely wanted to greet the other matches. I didn't anticipate finding you here. My apologies for interrupting your training."

Damn it, he thought, cursing his luck. Of all the people he could have encountered, it had to be someone like Drake—impossible to manipulate and utterly unpredictable.

Drake, a Drakonid, was not your average creature. Most of his kind were known for their laziness, preferring to hoard treasures and sleep atop them. They were powerful, certainly—on par with the Aurelias—but most remained holed up in the Thalassian Palace, content to bask in their wealth. But Drake was different. He eschewed slumber in favor of training and conquest, tirelessly expanding the Drakonids' territory. At Rank 11, he was a force to be reckoned with. Of the original four major territories, three were under his control, while the last, Frostveil, remained untouched, largely due to the presence of a peak Rank 10 Wolf King. With the blessing of the Beast God, Drake had refrained from claiming it—at least for now.

He was notorious for his short temper, prone to fits of rage at the slightest provocation, and utterly dismissive of reason. A complete lunatic, in Damian's eyes.

Drake's forces had previously intercepted Damian's shipments to the territories, causing significant disruptions. If it hadn't been for the intervention of the two elders from Central Planet and the perks Damian had promised, Nexus Prime Tech would have never gained a foothold in these territories. At least the profits had been decent; even after conceding so much to Drake, Damian hadn't emerged empty-handed.

"Didn't expect you to be a match for Emma as well. What an interesting coincidence," Damian remarked, leaning against the doorframe, his posture cautious. The atmosphere had just grown more complicated. Drake was aware of who he was—if he were to reveal that information to Emma, she would never agree to sever their match.

Drake scrutinized Damian, his annoyance palpable as he noted the forced smile. He had little patience for deceitful schemers; he valued strength above all else.

"Cut the flattery. Just tell me what you want," he said, his voice dripping with cold impatience.

Damian had dealt with Drake before and knew he needed to tread carefully. He inhaled deeply, steeling himself before speaking earnestly. "Mr. Smith, let's strike a deal. Besides you and me, there are seven other matches for Emma who haven't arrived yet."

"I understand Drakonids are fiercely possessive, especially you. With your strength, you could dominate the entire interstellar realm. I can only assume you wouldn't want to share your mate with other males."

Drakonids were not merely possessive; they were insatiable in their desires. There had even been instances where a Drakonid had eliminated other matches to keep their mate exclusively for themselves. The stakes were high, and the tension in the room was palpable.

Conclusion

As the chapter unfolds, the emotional arc crescendos with the weight of uncertainty and tension that envelops both Damian and Drake. Emma's decision to open the door to her new life, albeit fraught with risks, serves as a catalyst for the impending conflict. Damian's internal struggle is palpable; he is caught between the desire to protect Emma and the looming threat posed by Drake, whose formidable presence complicates everything. The stakes have never been higher, and the fear of losing control over the situation gnaws at Damian, leaving him acutely aware of how fragile their interconnected fates have become. Each character's motivations intertwine, creating a web of tension that promises to unravel in unexpected ways.

In this moment of confrontation, the dynamics of power and desire come to a head, illustrating the complexity of relationships in a world where loyalty and ambition are constantly at odds. Drake's unpredictability adds a layer of danger to the already precarious situation, forcing both men to navigate their emotions with caution. As they stand on the precipice of a potential alliance or rivalry, the chapter closes with a sense of foreboding. Emma's journey towards self-discovery and acceptance of her own strength is juxtaposed against the looming threats surrounding her, encapsulating the essence of the life she is afraid to live. With every choice she makes, the door to her future swings wider, revealing both the beauty and chaos that come with embracing the unknown.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension between Damian and Drake to escalate as they navigate the complex dynamics of their respective roles in Emma's life. With Damian's ulterior motives hanging in the air, the stakes are higher than ever. Will he be able to convince Drake to cooperate, or will the Drakonid's fierce possessiveness lead to a confrontation that could jeopardize everything? As the other matches begin to arrive, the villa will become a battleground of emotions and power plays, leaving Emma caught in the middle of a brewing storm.

Moreover, the arrival of the remaining matches promises to add layers of intrigue and competition. Each character will bring their own motivations and desires, complicating Emma's journey of self-discovery and choice. Will she embrace the life she has been afraid to live, or will she find herself overwhelmed by the expectations placed upon her? As alliances form and rivalries ignite, readers will be left on the edge of their seats, eagerly anticipating how Emma will navigate this tangled web of relationships and whether she will ultimately find the strength to choose her own path. The next chapter is set to be a thrilling ride, filled with unexpected twists and emotional revelations that will leave readers craving more.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 17

[1,946 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 17 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” the story unfolds in a world where Drakonids navigate a perilous hierarchy driven by competition and instinct. Damian, a cunning character, is aware of the dangers of challenging the established order, particularly when it comes to claiming a mate like Emma. The narrative highlights the intense emotions surrounding possession and rivalry, especially as Damian grapples with his feelings for Emma while recognizing that a powerful male like Drake would never willingly share her. The tension escalates as Damian attempts to negotiate with Drake, offering to help eliminate other suitors in exchange for secrecy.

As the plot progresses, Damian’s strategic mind comes into play when he leverages Drake’s interest in a rare ore to secure his own goals. The deal struck between them gives Damian a sense of relief and control, suggesting that he is willing to manipulate the situation to protect his interests regarding Emma. Meanwhile, Emma’s storyline reveals her solitude and the weight of her isolation in the interstellar realm, where she has faced five years without matches or family support. Her bond with Laura serves as her only lifeline, highlighting her vulnerability and desire for connection.

The narrative takes a darker turn as Emma learns about the looming threat of Chitinids, intelligent creatures known for their devastating raids. The discussion of the outer battlefield and the catastrophic consequences of the ongoing war instills a sense of urgency and fear in Emma. Despite her sheltered life, the harsh realities of conflict begin to encroach upon her world, forcing her to confront the dangers that exist beyond her immediate experience.

Laura’s invitation for Emma to join the hunt for beast cores marks a pivotal moment of empowerment for Emma. Her determination to participate, despite the risks, signifies a willingness to embrace a life filled with challenges and potential growth. This decision reflects a turning point in her character, as she begins to step out of her comfort zone and face the life she had previously been afraid to live. The story encapsulates themes of rivalry, empowerment, and the struggle for identity within a treacherous and competitive landscape.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

**When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live **

Killing a match was no trivial matter; it brought forth the wrath of the Beast God, a fate that no Drakonid wished to tempt. Damian recalled the grim tale of a Drakonid who had once slain a rival match, only to find his mind unraveling, leading to a catastrophic self-destruction. Yet, despite the risks, the Drakonids remained relentless in their pursuit of females, their instincts driving them to eliminate any competition that stood in their way. It was a chaotic dance of power and desperation, with no one truly able to halt the inevitable clash.

Damian understood all too well that a male of Drake's caliber would never willingly share Emma with anyone. The thought of another claiming her was intolerable.

Drake, sharp and perceptive, had already caught on to Damian's underlying motives. With a slight arch of his brow, he urged, "Go on." His tone was a mix of curiosity and challenge, as if daring Damian to lay his cards on the table.

Poor little Emma—every potential mate she encountered seemed to shy away from forming a bond with her. It was a heartbreaking pattern that played out time and again.

A sly grin crept across Damian's face, a flicker of hope igniting within him. It seemed Drake was open to negotiation after all.

"Mr. Smith," Damian began, his voice smooth and calculated, "I can assist you in driving away the other matches, ensuring that you can claim Emma for yourself. However, I have but one simple request: please keep my identity a secret from her."

Drake let out a derisive snort, his confidence unwavering. "A few low-level matches? I can handle them myself. Why would I involve you in this?"

Damian knew that Drake didn't need to resort to violence; a mere show of strength would suffice to send the others running. After all, no one could take Emma from him unless they could best him in combat. In truth, he had no intention of pairing with her himself; this was merely a game to toy with Damian, a way to assert dominance. The wealth of the Empire would ultimately be his, and he was willing to play the long game.

Anticipating Drake's resistance, Damian clenched his jaw, frustration bubbling beneath the surface. "I know you're on the hunt for a rare ore, and I can provide you with its exact location. Accept my terms, and I'll share this valuable information."

The spark of interest ignited in Drake's eyes. "Deal," he replied, a hint of eagerness creeping into his voice.

With the deal struck, Damian felt a wave of relief wash over him. He quickly sent the coordinates to Drake's lightcore, knowing that the responsibility of extracting the ore now lay squarely on Drake's shoulders.

With Drake now under his influence, Damian felt a sense of security. Emma was already blessed to be matched with two powerful males, and the remaining unmatched competitors were likely to be nothing more than average Rank 6 or 7 fighters. With a little cunning, he could easily outmaneuver them, swindling their star coins and sending them back to where they belonged.

Meanwhile, at Laura's villa, Emma sat curled up on the couch, her eyes scanning the information Laura had sent her. The weight of her solitude pressed down on her; five long years in the interstellar realm had passed without any matches or family support. Laura was her only ally, the sole individual willing to partner with her for the perilous beast hunts that lay ahead.

"A whole group of Rank 5 beasts, and some Rank 7 ones, too? Even Chitinids?" Emma's brow furrowed in confusion and concern. "F-268? Why are there Chitinids in that area?"

Unlike the mindless wild beasts that roamed aimlessly, the Chitinids represented a high-level civilization. Their intelligence rivaled that of the therian, yet their grotesque appearance was enough to send shivers down anyone's spine. They constructed nests in the void of space, preying on the therian, and their raids across the Interstellar Empire were legendary.

To protect the females of Etheria, all Etherian women had been relocated to upgraded planets, fortified with shields strong enough to withstand the Chitinids' relentless assaults.

As the conversation continued, one of Laura's male matches elaborated, "These Chitinids originated from the outer battlefield. They've developed silent bombs capable of breaching shields without alerting anyone."

He paused, his expression grave. "My brother serves in the Empire Army. Three months ago, massive swarms descended from the outer battlefield. The second prince of Aurelia led the charge himself. The casualties were catastrophic for both sides, and even the top commander was drawn into the fray."

Emma had heard whispers about the outer battlefield but had never witnessed its horrors firsthand. She had lived a sheltered existence in the interstellar for five years, always believing that war was a distant nightmare, far removed from her reality.

"So, what's the status of the battle now?" she inquired, her voice tinged with a mix of curiosity and apprehension.

The man shook his head, his face etched with concern. "No one knows yet. But I have faith in the second prince and the top commander; they have never been defeated."

It wasn't just their titles that inspired confidence; they were formidable warriors, unmatched in their prowess.

Laura interjected, her voice steady. "We've confirmed that the Rank 5 beast group on F-268, along with the Rank 6 and Rank 7 ones, all originated from the outer battlefield."

How they had ended up on F-268 was a mystery that remained unsolved. No one had the answers.

"Emma, you're already at Rank 4, right? To level up, you'll need Level 5 beast cores. When I heard about this, I immediately thought of you—would you like to join us?"

Leveling up was no small feat; it required a staggering number of beast cores. Laura, knowing Emma's financial constraints, had thought of her without hesitation.

"I'm in. No question about it," Emma replied, her determination unwavering as she nodded resolutely.

Conclusion

In the final moments of her journey, Emma stood at the precipice of a life she had long feared to embrace. The weight of her solitude had been a heavy shroud, but now, with Laura's unwavering support and the promise of adventure ahead, she felt a flicker of hope igniting within her. The shadows of the past, filled with loneliness and uncertainty, began to dissipate as she prepared to confront the challenges that awaited her. No longer was she merely a bystander in her own life; she was ready to step into the fray, to fight for her place among the Drakonids and to carve her own path in a world fraught with danger and opportunity. The decision to join Laura and face the beasts was not just a leap into the unknown; it was a declaration of her strength, a testament to her resolve to live fully and fearlessly.

Meanwhile, Damian's cunning maneuvering had set the stage for a complex game of power and ambition. By securing Drake's allegiance, he had ensured Emma's safety, yet he remained acutely aware of the precarious balance between rivalry and camaraderie. As the stakes grew higher, the emotional currents between the characters deepened, intertwining their fates in ways they could scarcely foresee. The impending battles against the Chitinids loomed large, but for Emma, the real fight was against her own fears and insecurities. With newfound courage, she was ready to embrace the life she had once shied away from, igniting a spark of hope not just within herself, but also in those who dared to stand with her. As the door to her future swung wide open, she stepped through, ready to face whatever awaited her on the other side.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the stakes to rise dramatically as Emma prepares to face the daunting challenges of the beast hunts. With her newfound resolve,

she will step beyond the confines of her sheltered existence and confront the terrifying reality of the Chitinids and other formidable beasts lurking in the shadows. The tension will be palpable as she navigates the treacherous landscape, not only battling for her own survival but also striving to prove her worth among her peers. Will she rise to the occasion, or will the weight of her fears drag her down?

Meanwhile, the intricate web of alliances and rivalries among the Drakonids will deepen as Damian and Drake engage in a dangerous game of manipulation and power. As their plans unfold, readers will witness the complexities of their motivations and the lengths they are willing to go to secure Emma's future—or to use her as a pawn in their own ambitions. The dynamics between these characters promise to shift, leaving readers on the edge of their seats, wondering who will emerge victorious in this high-stakes contest for dominance.

As Emma embarks on her perilous journey, the looming threat of the outer battlefield will serve as a constant reminder of the chaos that surrounds her. With the fate of her world hanging in the balance, will she find the strength to forge her own path, or will the shadows of her past continue to haunt her? Prepare for a whirlwind of action, emotion, and unexpected twists that will leave readers breathless and eager for more.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 18

[1,790 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 18 Summary

In Chapter 18 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," titled "Emma's Generosity," Laura and Emma experience a mix of excitement and disappointment as they navigate Emma's upcoming journey. Laura expresses her unwavering support for Emma, who is preparing to leave despite the challenges she faces with her matches. Emma reveals that out of her potential matches, only two

showed interest, and the rest have gone silent, leaving her feeling a sense of loss and self-doubt. Laura's protective instincts flare as she reacts to Emma's situation, urging her to take control of her destiny.

Emma's confidence begins to resurface as she reassures Laura that if her current matches fail, it is ultimately their loss. She is determined to wait until she reaches Rank 5 to seek better matches, demonstrating her growth and resilience. As she prepares to leave, Emma gives Laura a token of appreciation, symbolizing their friendship and support for one another in this challenging world.

Upon returning home, Emma encounters Damian, who is waiting eagerly for her. His excitement contrasts with her annoyance, as she had instructed him to rest in his room. Damian's plea for nutrient fluid highlights his vulnerability and dependence on her, evoking a mix of sympathy and frustration from Emma. Despite her own struggles, Emma shows generosity by providing him with nutrient fluid, a staple she once relied on during her own difficult times.

The exchange between Emma and Damian reveals the complexities of their relationship, as he grapples with the reality of her past while she navigates her present challenges. Emma's willingness to help, despite her own hardships, underscores her character's growth and the theme of generosity in the face of adversity. The chapter concludes with a poignant moment that reflects Emma's resilience and her commitment to forging her own path, regardless of the obstacles she faces.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

****When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live ****

****Chapter 18: Emma's Generosity****

This was an opportunity too precious to let slip through her fingers. Emma knew it, and Laura felt a surge of excitement at the thought of what lay ahead.

Laura couldn't say she was taken aback by Emma's response. "I knew you'd go," she declared, a knowing smile playing on her lips, reflecting the unwavering confidence she had in her friend.

Back in the past, had Laura been aware of the Chitinids lurking nearby, she would have kept that information to herself, a protective instinct urging her to shield Emma from potential danger. But now, everything had changed. Emma had a partner by her side, a steadfast guardian who would stand against any threat, including the fearsome Chitinids. The weight of solitude had lifted from Emma's shoulders, and Laura felt a warmth bloom in her chest at the thought.

With a twinkle of mischief in her eye, Laura leaned closer, her voice laced with curiosity. "So, your matches should all be arriving any minute now. How's it going with them?"

Emma let out a heavy sigh, the sound carrying a hint of disappointment. “Well, I guess luck isn’t on my side this time. Only two showed up, two decided to break it off, and the rest? Not a single word from them. I can only bring one Rank 5 match with me on this trip.”

The reality of the situation sank in. Drake was definitely out of the picture, leaving only Damian, who was blissfully unaware of the unfolding drama. Emma realized she might have to depend on her own strength after all.

“What?” Laura’s eyes widened in disbelief, her voice rising in incredulity. “They actually broke it off with you and didn’t even bother to reach out? Are those guys completely out of their minds?”

Emma nodded, her expression a mixture of disappointment and resignation.

“Maybe they think I’m too weak—a Rank 4 Etherian,” she mused, the words tinged with self-doubt.

Laura felt a surge of anger bubble within her, her protective instincts flaring up. “Seriously, the Beast God must’ve spoiled them rotten! How dare they treat you like this!”

“Don’t worry, Emma,” she urged, her voice firm. “If they don’t contact you, just end it yourself. In three months, the Beast God will match you with nine better options.”

The rules of the Beastmate System were well-known: if a female successfully matched with more than five males during her first attempt, she would have to wait three long years before she could try again. However, if her initial match failed and she broke off five or more out of nine, she could have another shot in just a month.

Emma, however, was in no rush. If this attempt turned out to be a bust, she would simply wait until she reached Rank 5 before trying again. Higher ranks promised stronger, more appealing matches, and she was determined to make the most of it.

“Don’t worry about me, Laura. I’m fine. If they’re foolish enough to overlook a great female like me, that’s their loss,” Emma reassured, her confidence returning.

After finalizing the details of her departure and organizing her gear, Emma knew it was time to leave. She handed Laura a bottle of her homemade fruit wine, a small token of appreciation, before hurrying off to gather her supplies.

Rather than heading straight home, she decided to stop downtown to pick up some much-needed gear. By the time she returned, the clock read 4 p.m.

Inside their shared space, Drake had remained holed up in his room all day, while Damian lounged on the couch, boredom etched across his features as he aimlessly scrolled through his device, waiting for something—anything—to happen.

Suddenly, the doorbell rang.

“Ding dong!”

“12:18, Tuesday, November 4th,” flashed the notification on the screen.

As the front door swung open, Damian sprang to his feet, excitement radiating from him as he rushed to greet her. His face broke into a wide grin, reminiscent of a devoted husband eagerly awaiting his wife’s return.

“Ms. Tibarn, you’re finally back! I’ve been waiting forever!” he exclaimed, his enthusiasm palpable.

“Do you need something?” Emma asked, a hint of annoyance creeping into her voice. Hadn’t she told him to rest in his room?

Damian scratched his stomach, a sheepish look on his face. “Ms. Tibarn, I’m starving. I gave all my star coins to a friend to get here. Now I have none left to buy nutrient fluid.”

Emma felt a pang of sympathy. Now that he was here, she couldn’t just ignore him. If he continued to ask her for nutrient fluid every day, she would eventually grow frustrated and might even consider breaking off their match.

Ah, nutrient fluid—the bane of her existence.

With a generous heart, Emma rummaged through her storage band, pulling out five packs of the dreaded fluid and handing them to him.

“Here,” she said, her tone light.

These were the cheapest packs available in the Interstellar Empire, costing only twenty each. She had no qualms about giving them away; Damian could take as many as he wanted.

“Ms. Tibarn, you actually drink these?” Damian’s eyes widened in disbelief as he stared at the packs. Even the beasts wouldn’t touch this stuff. And here she was, offering it to him?

Emma nodded, a hint of nostalgia in her voice. “Yep. When I first arrived in the Interstellar Empire, I had no money. All my star coins went to buying beast cores, so this was all I could afford.”

Damian's expression shifted from disbelief to sympathy, his mouth twitching at the thought of her past struggles.

Those packs were notorious, crafted by Nexus Prime Tech from the most undesirable beast organs—ingredients that nobody wanted. Cheap and abundant, they were the staple of low-income Subtherians. He couldn't fathom that Emma had been so broke that she had to resort to drinking this.

Seeing the conflict in his eyes, she urged him gently, "Aren't you hungry? Drink up! I know it tastes terrible, but I'm in a tight spot. You'll just have to make do for now."

Conclusion

In this chapter, Emma's journey takes a significant turn as she confronts the harsh realities of her current situation while also embracing her own strength. The disappointment of her matches falling through weighs heavily on her, yet it becomes a catalyst for growth. Laura's unwavering support serves as a reminder that true friendship can lift us from the depths of self-doubt. As Emma reflects on her past struggles and the sacrifices she has made, she begins to understand that her worth is not dictated by the opinions of others. This realization ignites a spark of confidence within her, allowing her to face the challenges ahead with a renewed sense of purpose.

As the chapter closes, Emma's act of generosity toward Damian symbolizes her resilience and willingness to help others despite her own difficulties. By sharing the nutrient fluid, she not only provides for someone in need but also reaffirms her own strength and capability. The bond between Emma and Damian begins to deepen, hinting at a potential partnership that could enrich her life in ways she had not anticipated. This moment encapsulates the emotional arc of the chapter, as Emma transitions from a place of uncertainty to one of empowerment and connection. As she prepares to step into the unknown, she does so with the knowledge that she is not alone, ready to embrace the life she once feared to live.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect a deep dive into the evolving dynamics between Emma and Damian as they navigate the complexities of their match. With Emma's generosity shining through, the tension between her self-doubt and newfound confidence will come to a head. Will Damian's appreciation for her kindness spark a deeper connection, or will it only complicate matters further? As they face the challenges of their respective ranks and the looming presence of the Chitinids, the stakes will rise, forcing both characters to confront their vulnerabilities.

Moreover, the arrival of unexpected twists awaits as Emma prepares for her journey. With only one Rank 5 match to rely on, the question of whether she can truly depend on Damian or if she must forge her own path looms large. As she grapples with her feelings and the implications of her choices, readers will be left on the edge of their

seats, eager to discover how Emma's past and present collide. Will she find the strength to embrace the life she once feared, or will old insecurities hold her back? The next chapter promises to unravel these threads, leaving readers hungry for more.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 19

[1,817 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 19 Summary

In "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Emma offers Damian reassurance and support, promising to replace his low-quality nutrient fluid once she gathers enough star coins. Despite her warm demeanor, Damian is conflicted, feeling trapped by his financial situation and the need to stay with Emma for survival. He struggles internally, realizing that leaving would mean losing everything he has worked for, even as he forces himself to smile and pretend that he is okay with the situation.

Emma's genuine concern for Damian is evident, yet she also expresses her willingness to let him go if he feels wronged. This sincerity makes it difficult for Damian to voice his true feelings about their arrangement. Instead, he chooses to endure the discomfort, drinking the dreadful nutrient fluid to maintain the facade of their partnership. His urgency to escape to the washroom reveals his desperation, highlighting the emotional turmoil he experiences as he grapples with his pride and his reality.

While Emma prepares a delicious dinner, Damian finds himself drawn to the enticing aromas wafting through the house. The contrast between the delightful meal she has prepared for herself and her other guest, Drake, and the bland nutrient fluid he has been consuming amplifies his feelings of exclusion and resentment. When he finally confronts them, he feels slighted and accuses Emma of favoritism, revealing his frustration over the unfairness of their arrangement.

Emma calmly explains the rules of their partnership, emphasizing that Damian must pay in star coins for any food or comforts he desires until they form an official bond. This revelation infuriates Damian, as he realizes the stark difference in their situations and feels manipulated by Emma's actions. The chapter culminates in Damian's realization that he is at a disadvantage, igniting his anger and deepening his sense of betrayal, as he grapples with the implications of their unequal relationship.

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****When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live ****

"Don't worry," Emma said, her smile warm and reassuring, like sunlight breaking through a cloudy sky. "Once I gather enough star coins, I promise to replace this cheap nutrient for you. I won't let you suffer for long."

Damian fell silent, his mind swirling with thoughts. This woman possesses a remarkable ability to weave her words with both sweetness and sharpness, expertly navigating the delicate balance between comfort and discomfort.

Noticing that he remained quiet, still clutching the bottle as if it were a lifeline, Emma continued in a gentle tone, "If you ever feel wronged by staying with me like this, you don't have to endure it. You can simply request a dissolution through the system. I'll be sad, of course, but if it means you'll find a better life, I'll let you go without hesitation."

Her sincerity shone through, each word laced with genuine concern, making it hard for Damian to dismiss her intentions.

Taking a deep breath, Damian reminded himself to hold on just a little longer. The ore is gone, and I still don't have the star coins I need. Leaving now would mean losing everything.

"Don't say things like that," he managed to say, forcing a smile onto his face. "Why would I leave you over a vial of nutrient fluid?"

To emphasize his point, he twisted the cap off the bottle and downed the liquid in front of her, grimacing internally. Ugh! This tastes absolutely dreadful. I feel like I might throw up!

Suppressing the urge to gag, he maintained his smile. "Ms. Tibarn, I just need to step into the washroom for a moment. I'll be right back."

Emma, ever understanding, nodded. "If you're not feeling well, you should rest. You don't have to stay with me all the time."

Impossible. I haven't yet achieved my goals.

“I’m fine. Just wait for me,” Damian replied quickly, his urgency propelling him toward the washroom.

Werk!

As he hurried away, Emma stifled a laugh, her spirits buoyed by his flustered retreat. She made her way to the kitchen, her thoughts swirling. What on earth is he plotting by forcing himself through something so revolting? I hope he doesn’t end up ruining himself in the process.

If only Damian would be honest—if he could simply admit he’s broke and wants to dissolve their match—I wouldn’t make things difficult for him. I’d agree without a second thought. Instead, he complicates everything with his schemes, making a simple situation far more tangled than it needs to be.

By the time dinner was ready, Emma had prepared a steaming pot of dumplings, their enticing aroma wafting through the house, mingling with the scents of two delectable side dishes. The rich fragrance filled every corner, making her stomach growl in anticipation.

Drawn by the mouthwatering scent, Drake arrived almost immediately, his eyes lighting up. “Delicious! You really have a talent for cooking,” he remarked, his enthusiasm palpable.

Meanwhile, in the bathroom, Damian managed to expel the low-grade nutrient fluid from his system. After rinsing his mouth, he retrieved a vial of high-tier herb nutrient fluid from his band and drank it down, savoring the refreshing tart-sweet taste. Now this is what an Etherian should be drinking.

Suddenly, a new aroma wafted through the air—warm, savory, and utterly unfamiliar. He sniffed at the empty vial in his hand. Not that.

Curiosity piqued, he opened the bathroom door and followed the tantalizing scent, which led him straight to the dining room.

There sat Emma and Drake, already enjoying their meal.

Plump dumplings floated in a fragrant broth, adorned with verdant herbs. Damian had never encountered such a dish before, but the aroma was utterly irresistible.

And then there were two plates of beast meat in front of Emma—the bold, overpowering scent spoke volumes about her culinary prowess.

“Ms. Tibarn,” Damian exclaimed, narrowing his eyes in playful accusation as he stepped forward. “What are you two doing?” It felt like they were feasting in secret, deliberately excluding him. So, Drake gets to indulge, but not me? Biased. Completely biased.

“Eating, of course,” Emma replied, her tone calm and almost innocently oblivious, as if she had nothing to hide.

“Then why didn’t you call me?” he asked, his voice tinged with wounded grievance. How could they enjoy something that smells so divine and not share it with me?

“I thought you preferred nutrient fluids,” Emma replied, tilting her head in feigned puzzlement.

Only a fool would enjoy those disgusting concoctions.

Dragging a chair out with a determined motion, Damian plopped down at the table. “I don’t like them. I want real food too.”

His gaze, filled with indignation, seemed to accuse her of blatant favoritism.

Emma continued to ignore him until she finished her last dumpling. Then, with a calm demeanor, she said, “But I didn’t make your share tonight.”

His eyes darted to the untouched bowl beside Drake, and he felt his mouth water. “Then I’ll have that one.”

“No.” Emma swiftly caught his hand before he could reach for it. “That’s Drake’s.”

“Why is it only him who can eat? Ms. Tibarn, you’re playing favorites. Is it because I came later? Do you favor him over me?”

We’re all matches—who’s supposed to be nobler than the other?

Emma met his glare with unwavering composure, explaining, “The reason Drake gets to eat is simple—he pays me in star coins. 30 billion a month for my cooking.”

Leaning forward, her expression turned serious. “Since you’ve seen it, I’ll clarify the rules here. Until there’s an official bond between us, everything must be fair between matched partners. If you want something, you pay for it in star coins. Once we’re bound, then we’ll share everything as a family.”

Family? Who on earth wants to be family with her?

Damian almost choked on his own fury. So Drake hands over 30 billion, and she gives me nutrient fluid worth a measly 20 star coins a vial? She’s toying with me on purpose.

Conclusion

In this moment of confrontation, Damian’s frustration reached a boiling point, illuminating the stark disparity between his situation and Drake’s. Emma’s steadfast

adherence to the rules of their arrangement felt like a harsh reminder of his inadequacies, yet it also sparked a flicker of realization within him. The warmth of her earlier words resonated in his mind, urging him to consider the possibility of vulnerability, of honesty. Perhaps it was time to confront not only his pride but the fear that had long held him captive—the fear of admitting his struggles and the longing for connection. As he looked at Emma, her unwavering composure both infuriated and intrigued him, igniting a desire to break free from the chains of his own making.

In the end, Damian understood that the path to a life he was afraid to live didn't lie solely in the pursuit of wealth or status; it lay in the courage to embrace vulnerability and forge genuine bonds. The evening's meal, once a symbol of exclusion, transformed into a catalyst for change. As he sat at the table, the tantalizing aroma of the dumplings mingling with the tension in the air, he felt a shift within himself. No longer could he afford to cling to the notion that he was unworthy of the life Emma offered. Instead, he would take a step forward, ready to confront his fears and redefine what it meant to truly live.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension between Damian and Emma to escalate as the stakes of their unconventional relationship rise. With Damian's frustration simmering, he must confront the harsh realities of his situation—his lack of star coins and the precarious balance of power in their partnership. As he grapples with his feelings of inadequacy and resentment towards Drake, the affluent rival, Damian may find himself at a crossroads where he must decide whether to fight for his place at the table or to abandon the match altogether. The allure of Emma's cooking and the warmth of her presence could either pull him closer or push him further away, setting the stage for an emotionally charged confrontation.

Meanwhile, Emma's perspective will deepen as she reflects on her own motivations and the complexities of her relationship with both men. Will she continue to play the role of the benevolent matchmaker, or will her frustration with Damian's stubbornness lead her to reevaluate her own feelings? The chapter promises to explore the intricate dynamics of their interactions, revealing hidden vulnerabilities and desires that could change everything. As the aroma of dinner lingers in the air, the question remains—will Damian seize the opportunity to claim his rightful place, or will he let fear dictate his choices? The answers await just beyond the next door he dares to open.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 20

[1,809 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 20 Summary

In Chapter 20 of “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live” , Damian is consumed by jealousy and frustration as he witnesses Drake, the powerful Domain Lord, showering attention and star coins on Emma. Drake’s casual demeanor and his request for Emma to soothe him again stir a tempest of anger within Damian, who feels inadequate and threatened by Drake’s dominance. The chapter highlights Damian’s emotional turmoil as he grapples with feelings of jealousy and helplessness, particularly when he learns that Emma receives a staggering amount of star coins for her services to Drake.

Emma, on the other hand, tries to reassure Damian, emphasizing her care for him over Drake. She acknowledges his feelings of inadequacy and proposes that they work together to earn star coins, suggesting a team effort in hunting beasts. Despite her calm demeanor, Emma is frustrated by Damian’s apparent reluctance to step up and contribute. The tension between them is palpable, as Damian feels the weight of his inability to provide and Emma struggles with her own expectations of him.

As the chapter progresses, Emma prepares to meet Drake, while Damian, feeling desperate and determined, attempts to assert himself by expressing his concern for her safety during the upcoming hunt. However, Emma’s pragmatic response reveals her awareness of the challenges they face, especially with their team dynamics. The chapter concludes with a sense of uncertainty, as Damian realizes that the situation is more complicated than he initially thought, and he must confront his own limitations and the reality of their circumstances.

Ultimately, this chapter explores themes of jealousy, inadequacy, and the complexities of relationships in a high-stakes environment. Both Damian and Emma are forced to navigate their emotions and expectations, setting the stage for further developments in their relationship and the challenges they will face together.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

**When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live **

Chapter 20: Jealousy and Star Coin Schemes

Damian felt a tempest brewing within him, an anger so fierce it threatened to consume him whole.

And then there's Drake... what's his game?

He was finished, utterly done.

Drake, the notorious Domain Lord of the Three Domains, was a figure steeped in power and authority. Everyone knew him for his ruthless dominance, seizing whatever he desired without a hint of hesitation. So why, then, was he here, showering star coins upon a woman like it was nothing?

Where had his arrogance gone? Where was that primal instinct to claim, to take without a second thought? Huh?

Drake, blissfully oblivious to the storm raging inside Damian, leisurely polished off the last dumpling in his bowl. With an air of calm precision, he wiped his mouth and stood, turning his attention to Emma with an unsettling nonchalance.

"Will you be able to soothe me again tonight?" he asked, his tone smooth and inviting.

Emma nodded, her voice steady. "Of course." Of course I can. Of course I will.

With a satisfied smirk, Drake departed without casting even a fleeting glance in Damian's direction.

"You're really going to soothe him again?" Damian's voice cracked, a raw edge of jealousy slicing through his words as he watched Drake walk away, his composure crumbling like a house of cards.

He grasped Emma's hand tightly, desperation flooding his voice. "Don't tell me he paid you for that, too?"

This is unacceptable!

Emma nodded, her expression serious. "Yes. 50 million star coins each time."

Fifty million?!

Damian felt as if he might erupt. What in the world is wrong with Drake? Has he lost his mind?

Emma stifled a smile, her voice a soothing balm as she tried to comfort him. "I know you don't have star coins. It must feel unfair."

His ears drooped, and he nodded, the weight of his inadequacy pressing down on him. “It’s my fault for being useless, for not being able to pay. But I... I would really love to try your cooking. I really want you to soothe me, too.”

Wishful thinking. Best not to dwell on that.

Emma rolled her eyes inwardly, frustration bubbling beneath the surface.

She suspected he was trying to take advantage, hoping to gain without offering anything in return, but without any solid evidence, all she could do was wait and see how things unfolded.

“I understand. Don’t be sad. Between you and Drake, of course, I care about you more.”

That was her signature three-hit combo of comfort.

“It doesn’t matter if you don’t have star coins now. We can work hard to earn it together. With your Rank 5 strength, earning tens of millions won’t be a problem.” No one is getting anything for free from me.

She patted his shoulder gently, a warm smile gracing her lips. “Actually, someone invited me to form a team to hunt beasts in the northern forest. With your strength, you’ll be incredibly useful. You should come with me.”

Damian hesitated, caught off guard. So, she won’t feed me, but she expects me to work? Absolutely not.

He looked at her, his expression one of pure defeat. “But I—”

Emma was determined not to let him refuse. “I know you don’t have the money for equipment. Don’t worry, I’ve already bought everything. It’s getting late, and I’m tired. I’ll rest now—I still have to soothe Drake later.”

With that, she spun on her heel and left, moving with such swiftness that it felt as though she had taken flight.

Damian stood frozen in the kitchen, seething as he glared at the busy smart robot. He was on the verge of smashing it in his rage. Damn it—I’ve been so focused on food that I completely forgot my real purpose.

Meanwhile, up on the third floor, Emma indulged in a hot bath, letting the warmth envelop her. Afterward, she slipped into fresh clothes, a robot gently drying her hair with soothing warm air.

She reveled in the conveniences of interstellar life—aside from cooking, these machines performed every task with an efficiency that left humans in the dust. A perfect blessing for someone who enjoyed laziness.

At exactly 9:45 p.m., Emma made her way downstairs to soothe Drake.

But before she could even reach him, a pink blur barreled into her.

“Ms. Tibarn, you’re finally out! I’ve been waiting forever!”

Damian’s arms wrapped around her, pulling her close as he buried his face against her, inhaling her scent. It was intoxicating. So good. So comforting!

If it weren’t for the pressing matters on his mind, he might have lingered there all night, lost in the moment.

However, Emma could barely breathe, her face squished against his chest. She pushed him away, her heart racing in irritation, a flash of anger igniting in her eyes.

“Don’t touch me without permission again.”

She wasn’t being dramatic; she had simply learned to be cautious over time. She loathed it when people with ulterior motives tried to get too close.

Chastened, Damian softened immediately, tugging at her sleeve with a sheepish smile. “I was wrong, Ms. Tibarn. Please don’t be angry.”

Emma pulled her hand free, her expression resolute. “Then why are you here?”

Remembering his true purpose, he straightened up, his demeanor shifting. “Earlier in the kitchen, you mentioned going to hunt beasts. I was worried my level was too low to protect you properly. I wanted to ask—when will the other matched partners arrive? Can we go together?”

Getting me to actually pull my weight? Impossible.

“I don’t know,” Emma replied, her tone matter-of-fact. “Besides you and Drake, two dissolved the match. I haven’t heard from the rest.” Better he understands my situation sooner rather than later—maybe then he’ll finally show his true colors.

“What? They still haven’t contacted you?”

Damian’s eyes widened in disbelief. He had assumed they were simply delayed, not that they hadn’t reached out at all.

Emma nodded, her expression unyielding. “That’s right. They haven’t contacted me.”

“What about the two who dissolved the match?”

Conclusion

In the aftermath of their heated exchange, both Damian and Emma stood at a crossroads, their emotions intertwining in a complex dance of jealousy, ambition, and unspoken affection. Damian's simmering anger had exposed his vulnerabilities, revealing the depth of his feelings for Emma, while Emma's steadfast resolve showcased her determination to forge her own path, even amidst the chaos of their entangled lives. The weight of star coins and power dynamics threatened to overshadow their connection, yet beneath the surface, a flicker of hope remained. By offering Damian a chance to join her in the hunt, Emma extended a lifeline, inviting him to step into a life he had long feared to embrace.

As they navigated the stormy waters of their relationship, both characters were forced to confront their insecurities and desires. Emma's insistence on independence clashed with Damian's longing for validation, yet in this moment of tension, a fragile understanding began to blossom. The journey ahead would not be without its challenges, but as they prepared to face the unknown together, they discovered that the true treasure lay not in star coins or dominance, but in the strength they could draw from one another. In opening the door to a life she was afraid to live, Emma not only invited Damian into her world but also took a step toward her own liberation, setting the stage for a transformative adventure that would redefine their destinies.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension between Damian and Drake to escalate further, as jealousy and ambition collide in a dramatic showdown. With Emma caught in the middle, her loyalties will be tested as she navigates the complex dynamics of both men vying for her attention. Will she remain steadfast in her commitment to soothe Drake, or will Damian's desperation and newfound determination to prove himself shift the balance? As the stakes rise, the reader will be left wondering whether Emma can maintain her independence or if she'll be forced to choose sides in a battle that could change everything.

Moreover, the impending beast hunt looms large on the horizon, promising action and adventure as Emma, Damian, and their potential partners prepare to face the unknown dangers of the northern forest. Will Damian rise to the occasion and demonstrate his worth, or will his insecurities hold him back? The chapter hints at the arrival of new characters, each with their own motives and strengths, which will only complicate the already fraught relationships. As secrets unravel and alliances form, the reader will be left on the edge of their seat, eager to discover how these developments will affect Emma's journey and the choices she must make in a world where trust is a rare commodity.

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Sara Lili is a daring romance writer who turns icy landscapes into scenes of fiery passion. She loves crafting hot love stories while embracing the chill of Iceland's breathtaking cold.

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