

Nine Therians and Their Only One Queen

chapter 31-40

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 31

[1,809 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 31 Summary

In Chapter 31 of “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Damian is preoccupied with his desire to hunt powerful beasts to earn enough star coins for a Gravicar. His thoughts are interrupted by the arrival of a striking woman, Evie Graham, who exudes confidence and power, accompanied by several high-ranking males. The atmosphere becomes tense as Evie expresses disdain for Damian and Emma, questioning their abilities and belittling their presence on the upcoming hunt.

Evie’s contempt is palpable as she insults Emma, calling her useless and mocking her Rank 4 status. Laura, a friend of both Emma and Damian, defends them, emphasizing Emma’s hidden strength. However, Evie’s arrogance escalates, and she challenges Damian’s right to speak out against her, expecting Emma to discipline him for his perceived insolence. This moment ignites a surge of anger within Damian, who feels the weight of societal expectations and the fear of Emma’s potential retaliation.

Emma observes the tension and steps in front of Damian, asserting her authority as his huntress. She firmly states that she will not punish him and supports his stance against Evie. This unexpected boldness surprises Damian, who views Emma as a protective force despite her lower rank. Their dynamic shifts as Emma stands resolutely against Evie’s mockery, embodying strength in a moment where she could easily have been intimidated.

Laura intervenes to diffuse the situation, reminding the group of their purpose as teammates. Emma brushes off Evie’s insults, showing resilience that comes from being accustomed to scorn. The chapter highlights the complexities of their relationships, the societal pressures they face, and Emma’s determination to stand her ground despite the challenges, illustrating her growth and the bond she shares with Damian.

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

****Chapter 31: She Was Used to It****

“If I manage to hunt a few more level 5 beasts this time around, I should finally have enough star coins saved up to purchase a Gravicar,” Damian mused, his thoughts racing with the possibilities.

As he contemplated the hunt, a striking figure emerged from the Gravicar, capturing his attention.

A tall woman, her silver hair cascading down her back like a shimmering waterfall, stepped out with an elegance that seemed almost ethereal. She was a Rank 5 beauty, exuding an aura of power and confidence that turned heads.

Behind her trailed five males—three at Rank 6, one who had just ascended to Rank 7, and another who stood at the pinnacle of level seven. Their presence was imposing, and as they approached, the air thickened with unspoken tension.

The silver-haired woman's piercing gaze fell upon Emma and Damian, her eyes narrowing in a scrutinizing appraisal. For a fleeting moment, her expression softened as she took in Damian's androgynous features, but that warmth evaporated the instant she recognized his Rank 5 status. Disdain flickered across her face like a shadow.

Stopping directly in front of Laura, she offered a smile that lacked any real warmth, and then her gaze turned sharply towards Emma, her disdain barely concealed. “Laura, please tell me you're not bringing those two along for the beast hunt?”

Evie Graham's voice dripped with contempt, her eyes flicking dismissively toward Emma. “A Rank 4 female and a Rank 5 male? They're practically useless. What kind of help will they be out there? We'll be the ones doing all the killing while babysitting them.”

Laura, who had known Evie for many years, was well aware of her tendency to speak without a filter. Keeping her composure, she responded with a calm smile, “Evie, Emma is my closest friend. She may still be a Rank 4, but trust me, she possesses strength that rivals a Rank 5 Etherian.”

Evie scoffed, her laughter tinged with derision. “One suitor and not even a mate? How formidable could she possibly be? I'll be blunt, Laura—I have no intention of wasting my time on weaklings. If they find themselves in trouble, my mate and I won't be coming to their rescue.”

Her words struck a nerve, crossing a line that Damian found intolerable. Anger surged within him, igniting a fire that demanded release. He glared at Evie, his fury palpable.

“Rest assured, Ms. Tibarn and I do not require your assistance,” he replied coldly, his voice steady despite the storm brewing inside him. “And should you find yourself in peril, don’t expect us to intervene.”

Evie came from a prestigious lineage—on Earth, she would have been considered part of a noble family—but even that status did little to shield her from the reality of being challenged. Males typically fawned over her, circling her like loyal pets, eager to please. This was the first time anyone had dared to speak back to her.

Her expression twisted in anger, and she redirected her venom towards Emma. “You’re his huntress. He just insulted a female right in front of you. Shouldn’t you discipline him for that?”

The very notion of a suitor speaking out without his huntress’ permission was akin to courting disaster. Damian’s jaw tightened as he looked at Emma, the internal battle between rage and restraint raging within him. He had almost forgotten—

Suitors weren’t meant to act without their huntress’ approval, especially not when it came to challenging an honorable female.

Emma might have been his matched huntress, yet it was painfully evident that she felt nothing for him.

His fists clenched tightly. What would she do? Would she punish me here and now? Would she dissolve our match in front of everyone?

Or perhaps, even worse—would she strike at my mental power, forcing me to kneel before her, begging for forgiveness like my friend did once, stripped of every ounce of pride I possessed?

Despite being the hidden force behind Nexus Prime Tech and the heir to the Ashenflame Fox, he found himself feeling small and lesser in the presence of his huntress. He still had to bow his head, even when she treated him as though he were inconsequential.

To some, males were regarded as inferior to beasts.

Emma noticed the tension coiling in his shoulders, the way he fought to suppress his anger, his fear barely contained beneath the surface. She couldn’t fully grasp his thoughts, but she could sense his terror.

Stepping forward, she positioned herself protectively in front of Damian, her gaze locking onto Evie with an unwavering intensity.

“My suitor spoke for me,” Emma declared, her voice icy and resolute. “I will not punish him.”

Damian's head snapped up in surprise, his eyes wide.

Her tone was calm yet firm as she continued, "Damian is correct. If you refuse to assist us, then we shall not come to your aid if you find yourself in danger."

Though she was the smallest and the lowest-ranked among them, to Damian, Emma stood before him like an immovable mountain, shielding him from the storm.

Evie snorted derisively. "A worthless female who can't even discipline her own suitor? You'd be lucky to protect yourself."

And she claims she'd save me? What a laugh. The biggest joke of the day.

"Enough already. We're supposed to be teammates—stop the bickering," Laura interjected, her voice slicing through the tension like a knife. She urged Evie to let the matter drop and then sent Emma a gentle wave of mental comfort.

"Emma, it's alright. I'll look out for you," Laura reassured her, fully aware of the challenges Emma faced and the hardships she endured. She was more than willing to be a shield for this girl who had fought so hard.

"Thanks, Laura," Emma replied, brushing the encounter aside with a wave of her hand.

She had dealt with this kind of scorn far too many times to let it bother her now.

She was used to it.

Conclusion

In the face of Evie's contempt and the overwhelming pressure of the hunt, Emma found a newfound strength within herself, a resilience that had long been buried beneath layers of doubt and insecurity. By stepping forward to protect Damian, she not only defended him but also asserted her own worth in a world that had often dismissed her. The moment she declared her stance—refusing to punish Damian for his loyalty—marked a pivotal shift in her emotional journey. No longer would she allow the judgments of others to dictate her value or her actions. In that instant, she embraced her identity as a huntress, not just by title but in spirit, recognizing that her strength was not defined by her rank but by her courage to stand tall against adversity.

Damian, too, experienced a transformative moment, as Emma's unwavering support ignited a flicker of hope within him. The fear that had once paralyzed him began to dissipate, replaced by a burgeoning belief in their partnership. In her protective stance, he saw not just a reflection of his worth but a challenge to rise beyond the limitations imposed by their ranks. Together, they forged a bond that transcended societal expectations, united by a shared determination to prove their strength. As they prepared for the hunt, the weight of their insecurities lightened, replaced by a fierce resolve to

face whatever lay ahead—not as mere survivors of judgment, but as warriors ready to claim their place in a world that had long underestimated them.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can anticipate a gripping escalation of tensions as Emma and Damian prepare to face the looming beast hunt. With Evie's disdain still hanging in the air, the stakes have never been higher. Emma's newfound resolve to protect Damian will be put to the test, forcing her to confront not only external adversaries but also her own insecurities about their partnership. How will she navigate the complexities of being a Rank 4 huntress in a world that often underestimates her? The dynamics within the group will shift as Emma and Damian forge a bond that could either empower them or lead to their downfall.

Additionally, the chapter promises to delve deeper into the backgrounds of the characters, particularly Evie and her motivations. Readers will gain insight into the fierce rivalry that drives her contempt for Emma and how her own insecurities may be fueling her need for dominance. As the hunt begins, unexpected alliances may form, and the true nature of bravery will be revealed. Will Emma rise to the occasion and prove her worth, or will the weight of expectations crush her spirit? The hunt itself will not only test their physical abilities but also challenge their mental fortitude, setting the stage for a confrontation that could change everything. Prepare for a whirlwind of emotions, revelations, and heart-stopping action that will leave you eagerly turning the pages.

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 32

[1,861 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 32 Summary

In Chapter 32 of “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Damian stands firmly beside Emma, vowing to protect her as a Rank 8 male. His promise carries significant weight, and Emma feels a swell of trust in his words. This moment solidifies their bond, as both understand the stakes involved in their mission. Emma’s determination to ensure her team’s safety is palpable, and she is resolute in not allowing any setbacks to affect her.

As they prepare for their mission, another team of male Etherians arrives, bringing with them a sense of camaraderie and excitement, especially for Evie, who is eager to engage with them. The atmosphere is charged with anticipation as they settle into their Gravicar, although Damian is taken aback by the outdated vehicle Emma has chosen. Despite his initial disbelief, he resolves to support her by planning to upgrade her equipment after their hunt, reflecting his growing care for her safety.

The Gravicar ride proves to be a tumultuous experience for Damian, who struggles with motion sickness. Emma’s concern for him shines through as she offers him a potion to alleviate his discomfort. This moment highlights the developing emotional connection between them, as Damian grapples with his frustration over Emma’s outdated gear and his desire to provide her with better equipment. His impulsive decision to purchase high-end gear for her demonstrates his deepening feelings and commitment to her well-being.

Upon reaching their destination, a dangerous forest filled with poisonous plants, Emma takes charge, handing Damian a detox potion and night-vision glasses to prepare for the threats ahead. Her authoritative yet caring demeanor showcases her experience and knowledge of the environment, while also emphasizing her role as a capable huntress. The tension escalates as they encounter Laura’s team, and the dynamics shift, particularly with Evie’s disdainful attitude towards Emma. Nevertheless, Emma remains undeterred, focused on the task at hand and ready to lead the way into the dark, foreboding forest.

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

Chapter 32: Rougher Than a Male

Damian stood resolutely beside Emma, a glimmer of determination in his eyes as he lightly hooked her fingertip with his own. “Ms. Tibarn, I promise I’ll protect you as well,” he declared, his voice steady and reassuring.

As a Rank 8 male, he had sworn an oath to never let his huntress suffer even the slightest harm. The weight of that promise hung heavily in the air between them.

Emma, witnessing the resolve returning to his demeanor, offered a faint smile and nodded, her heart swelling with trust. “I trust you,” she replied, her voice barely above a whisper, but it resonated with conviction.

In this moment, there was no room for doubt or hesitation from any teammate. If anyone faltered, it would be Emma who would bear the consequences, and she was not willing to let that happen.

Before long, another team arrived—a trio of male Etherians, two of them resting at mid Rank 7 and the third boasting a late Rank 7 status. They were familiar faces, acquaintances of Laura’s mate, and proud members of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance.

Evie, ever the one driven by her obsession with strength, immediately recognized them. With an enthusiastic tug, she pulled her mate along, eager to engage in conversation. Her excitement was palpable, and it was infectious.

Five minutes later, everyone settled into their respective Gravicar, engines humming with anticipation as they prepared to embark on their mission.

Damian’s gaze fell on the battered Gravicar that Emma had summoned, and he couldn’t help but raise an eyebrow. “Ms. Tibarn, are you truly driving this ancient contraption?” he asked, a hint of disbelief coloring his tone.

Hadn’t this relic been retired ages ago in the interstellar zones?

Emma merely nodded, a flicker of pride in her eyes. “Relax. I’ve made some modifications. The speed is perfectly fine,” she assured him, though the vehicle’s erratic bouncing told another story.

Damian chose silence, but internally he was grappling with the absurdity of the situation. Fine, he thought. Considering she had shielded him earlier, he resolved that once they returned from this beast hunt, he would buy her a new Gravicar from Nexus Prime Tech—the kind that could rival the performance of a warship.

His huntress was a low-tier Etherian, and for her safety, he ought to secure some advanced tactical mechs as well. After the mission, he’d swing by Corvin’s place; that guy always had the crème de la crème of equipment.

Once Damian buckled in, the Gravicar shot forward with a burst of speed, leaving a thick plume of white smoke in its wake.

As expected, it was fast, but the ride felt more like a roller coaster designed for toddlers, jostling them at every turn.

“Ms. Tibarn... s-slow down...” Damian gasped, clutching his stomach as the relentless shaking threatened to make him lose his lunch.

Emma glanced over, her expression softening a little as she tossed him a vial of motion-sickness healing potion. “Drink this. You’ll feel better,” she advised, her voice laced with concern.

Damian eyed the cheap potion in his hand, his mouth twitching in distaste. He was accustomed to traveling by his private starrail, where he had never experienced carsickness, and thus had never carried any medication for it.

With no other option, he swallowed the potion, grimacing at the awful taste. To his surprise, it worked—his nausea began to subside.

Once the queasiness faded, he finally mustered the courage to ask, “Ms. Tibarn, you received all those star coins from Drake. Why are you still using these outdated models?”

Couldn’t she afford something more suitable? How was it that a female ended up living rougher than a male?

“I just haven’t had the time,” Emma replied, her tone evasive. She hadn’t used this old gear in ages; it was a relic from a time when she had been financially strapped.

Whatever, Damian thought, frustration bubbling beneath the surface.

He resolved to replace all her outdated equipment when they returned—with the best of everything. Even her combat suit was bottom-tier; that had to change.

While Emma focused intently on steering the Gravicar, Damian opened his lightcore and began browsing high-end gear for her. This one looked promising. And that one... oh, this one too.

Without a second thought, he hit “Pay” on all of them, completely disregarding his earlier vow to refrain from spending a single star coin on her.

Emma, immersed in her task, remained blissfully unaware of his impulsive shopping spree.

Their destination loomed far ahead, a promise of adventure waiting to unfold.

After traversing the expanse for an entire day, they finally reached their target zone—F-268, a northern forest lush with herbs and teeming with life.

Emma had been here before, and the memories flooded back. The forest was a dangerous place, filled with beasts, carnivorous plants, and toxic herbs that could spell disaster for the unprepared.

As they came to a halt, Emma and Damian stepped out of the Gravicar. After securely storing it away, she retrieved two detox potions from her pack, handing one to him. "I've been here before. There are a lot of poisonous herbs inside. Drink this before we venture in," she instructed, her tone firm yet caring.

Damian accepted the potion, aware that with his Rank 8 strength, normal toxins posed little threat to him. However, recognizing Emma's genuine concern, he downed it anyway, grimacing at the bitter taste.

Once he finished, Emma handed him a pair of night-vision glasses. "Some areas ahead can distort your vision. You'll need these to see clearly," she explained.

Before them lay a forest cloaked in darkness, an eerie silence enveloping the air.

Damian complied, slipping on the glasses as the world shifted into a clearer view.

A few minutes prior, Laura and her team had arrived and were already on high alert, scanning for nearby beast packs.

As Emma and Damian approached, Laura's mate had just completed calibrating their device, ready for action.

Evie shot Emma a disdainful glance, keeping her distance. For Laura's sake, she held her tongue, but there was no way she would cover for this seemingly useless female.

Emma, undeterred by Evie's contempt, led Damian toward Laura's side. "Laura, did you bring the detox potions and night-vision glasses?" she inquired, her tone businesslike.

Laura smiled warmly and nodded. "Don't worry. We've got everything you need."

Conclusion

As Emma and Damian stood at the threshold of the darkened forest, the weight of their unspoken fears and aspirations began to lift, replaced by a burgeoning sense of purpose. Emma, once hesitant to embrace the life she truly desired, felt the embers of her courage rekindle with Damian's unwavering support. His promise of protection, coupled with the small gestures of care—like the detox potion and night-vision glasses—served as a reminder that she was not alone in this daunting endeavor. The forest, with all its dangers, now represented not just a challenge but an opportunity for growth, both for herself and for the bond she was forming with Damian.

In that moment, as they prepared to face the unknown together, Emma understood that she was no longer the girl who shied away from her potential. She was stepping into a life filled with possibilities, driven by trust and shared experiences. Damian's determination to uplift her, even in the face of adversity, illuminated the path ahead. As they ventured deeper into the forest, the shadows that once loomed over her heart

began to dissipate, replaced by a newfound strength. Emma was ready to confront her fears, not just for herself, but for the life she was finally brave enough to live—one filled with adventure, partnership, and the promise of a brighter future.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the upcoming chapter, readers can expect to dive deeper into the heart of the treacherous F-268 forest as Emma and Damian navigate the dangers that lie ahead. With the weight of their mission pressing down on them, the tension between the characters will escalate, revealing hidden fears and unspoken desires. As they face the lurking threats of carnivorous plants and beast packs, Damian's protective instincts will clash with Emma's fierce independence, leading to intense confrontations that challenge their burgeoning trust. Will Damian's resolve to protect Emma hold strong when the stakes are raised, or will the forest's perils expose the cracks in their alliance?

Furthermore, the arrival of Laura and her team will introduce new dynamics that could either bolster Emma's confidence or further exacerbate Evie's disdain. As alliances shift and tensions rise, unexpected revelations about Emma's past and her true capabilities will come to light. Will she rise to the occasion and prove her worth, or will she falter under the weight of external judgment? The forest is not just a backdrop for their adventure; it will serve as a crucible that tests their bonds, pushing them to confront their fears and desires in a way that could irrevocably alter their paths. Prepare for a chapter filled with suspense, character growth, and the tantalizing promise of transformation.

Sara Lili

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- When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 33

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 33

[1,898 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 33 Summary

In "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Laura and her companions prepare for a dangerous mission in a forest filled with threats. Despite the tension among them, Laura tries to maintain a lighthearted atmosphere, even as Evie expresses her disdain for their reliance on night-vision goggles. Evie, confident in her abilities as a Rank 5 Etherian, dismisses the need for such equipment, believing it to be a sign of weakness in their guide, Emma. Emma, however, chooses to remain silent, understanding that Evie's arrogance may lead to her own downfall.

As they navigate the forest, the group receives unsettling news about the ongoing war. Evie shares gossip about Prince Louis and the First Commander, revealing that they have been missing for weeks. This revelation deeply affects Laura, who recalls the heroic actions of the prince and commander during a past attack on her home planet. Their bravery saved her life, and the thought of their potential demise fills her with dread. Meanwhile, Damian, another member of the group, remains skeptical about the legendary allure of these figures, questioning the narratives surrounding them.

The conversation shifts to the aftermath of the war, with Evie discussing scavengers who pick through the remnants of battles. The discussion highlights the harsh realities of their world, where even the aftermath of war becomes an opportunity for profit. Emma reflects on the idea of becoming a scavenger, contemplating the choices that have led her to this moment. The weight of their circumstances and the uncertainty of their mission loom large, as each character grapples with their fears, beliefs, and the precarious nature of their lives in a war-torn universe.

Ultimately, the chapter encapsulates themes of bravery, loyalty, and the complexities of identity within a world fraught with danger and uncertainty. Laura's steadfastness contrasts with Evie's arrogance, while Emma's quiet strength hints at her deeper understanding of their situation. As they confront both external threats and internal

conflicts, the characters are forced to confront the lives they are afraid to live, setting the stage for their journey ahead.

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

“I’ve got everything you asked for, just like you said,” Laura declared, her voice steady as she let the gear tumble to the ground with a soft thud.

“And we already consumed the antidote back in the car,” she added, trying to keep the mood light despite the tension that hung in the air.

Evie rolled her eyes, a scoff escaping her lips. “We’re Etherians, for crying out loud! And you really think we need to wear night-vision goggles meant for Subtherians? Other Etherians would burst out laughing at the thought.”

Laura shot her a look, firm and unyielding. “Evie, you’ve got to trust Emma. She’s navigated this forest more times than we can count. She knows it like the back of her hand. She wouldn’t lead us astray.”

Evie waved her hand dismissively, her tone dripping with disdain. “She needs those goggles because she’s weak. I’m a Rank 5 Etherian, and my mate is at least Rank 6. We’ve outgrown the need for detox potions ages ago.”

Therians had never been intimidated by the dark; their vision pierced the night effortlessly. Etherians, in fact, were even more adept in that regard, thriving in the shadows.

Evie and her mate often hunted formidable beasts, never once requiring such equipment. To her, it only reinforced her belief that Emma was simply too fragile, relying on tools to mask her inadequacies.

Emma chose silence over confrontation. If Evie wanted to dig her own grave with her arrogance, she wouldn’t interfere.

The scanner had already locked onto the direction of the beasts.

They were entering from the pond that lay on the eastern side.

Before stepping into the dense foliage, Emma sent her coordinates to Edric, her heart racing as she did so.

She replayed his words from the night before in her mind, a constant reminder of the stakes involved.

The forest's edge was an unsettling silence, the kind that made the hairs on the back of her neck stand up. The group moved swiftly, their presence barely disturbing the tranquility of the surroundings.

Evie, ever the chatterbox, leaned closer to Laura. "Hey, Laura, you won't believe what I heard while I was on the Central Planet! There's some juicy gossip about the outer battlefield."

Laura turned her head, curiosity piqued. "Is the war finally over? I heard that Prince Louis and the First Commander were deployed there."

Lowering her voice conspiratorially, Evie replied, "Yeah, I heard it's ended. But guess what? Both Prince Louis and the Commander have been missing for half a month."

The revelation hit Laura like a punch to the gut, and she instinctively clapped a hand over her mouth to stifle a gasp.

After a moment of stunned silence, she managed to speak, her voice taut with disbelief. "Is that really true?"

Evie nodded, her expression grave. "My cousin's mate is part of the Aurelia royal line. He might not be a major player, but his information is solid."

A wave of shock washed over Laura, almost overwhelming her. "But there have never been any photos of Prince Louis on the lightcore. I remember once, when I visited the Central Planet, I caught just a fleeting glimpse of him from a distance."

Her eyes softened as she reminisced. "He was like a vision, so breathtaking that it felt as if I were gazing upon the Beast God himself."

Laura added quietly, "I've heard the Commander is just as striking. If something has truly happened to them, it would be utterly devastating."

Damian, who had been listening to the conversation unfold, rolled his eyes at Evie's theatrics.

Is it really that breathtaking? he thought, skepticism gnawing at him.

He doubted Lucien could possibly look better than he did. After all, he had made adjustments to his appearance after dropping ranks; his true face was just as captivating, if not more so.

As for Silas, people often labeled him charming and kind, but Damian knew better. Beneath that polished exterior lay a heart darker than the deepest black crystal. The world of politics had a way of tainting even the purest souls, leaving scars that never healed.

"They'll be fine," Laura declared with conviction, her voice steady despite the uncertainty swirling around them.

The prince and the Commander they spoke of had once saved her life, a debt she would never forget.

Born on a fringe planet of the Empire, she had faced unimaginable peril at the tender age of fifteen when Chitinids launched a brutal attack right after her awakening.

Back then, Prince Louis and the Commander were not the legendary figures they had become; they were merely ordinary soldiers in the Empire Army. They had fought valiantly, pulling her from the jaws of danger.

Throughout the galaxy, tales of Prince Louis and the First Commander were known to all.

They rarely made public appearances or graced the screens, yet that didn't stop countless females from being captivated by their allure.

It was hard not to fall for a man who embodied nobility, power, and an impossible handsomeness.

Evie clasped her hands together, her tone shifting to one of reverence. "The Beast God will protect them, I'm sure of it."

Then, as if sensing the need for distraction, she pivoted the conversation. "Did you hear? The war has officially ended, and scavengers are already moving in."

Scavengers—those who scavenged what remained.

After the battles subsided, they meticulously combed through the wreckage, retrieving fallen Empire soldiers so their bodies could be returned to the embrace of the Beast God.

They claimed whatever else they could find—broken ships, shattered weapons, the remains of Chitinids, and insect cores.

The Empire was vast, but restoring damaged warships drained resources significantly. Most were simply deemed a loss.

Rumors circulated that finding a derelict ship on the battlefield was as easy as picking up discarded plastic bottles on Earth.

And it wasn't just Empire vessels that were up for grabs—there were Chitinid ships as well.

A single damaged battleship could fetch tens of billions, with some even valued at over a hundred billion.

Emma had heard whispers about scavengers before. At one point, the thought of becoming one had even crossed her mind.

Conclusion

In this pivotal moment, Laura's unwavering trust in Emma emerges as a beacon of hope amid the swirling doubts and insecurities that threaten to engulf them. Despite Evie's scornful dismissal of Emma's capabilities, Laura stands firm, recognizing the strength that lies in vulnerability and the importance of relying on one another. The revelation of the missing Prince Louis and the First Commander serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of life and the weight of their shared past, compelling Laura to confront her own fears while reaffirming her belief in the bonds that unite them. The emotional stakes are heightened as she reflects on the heroes who once saved her, transforming her trepidation into a powerful resolve to support her friends, even in the face of uncertainty.

As the group navigates the dense forest, the tension shifts from mere survival to a deeper understanding of their interconnectedness. Emma's silence becomes a testament to her inner strength, choosing to rise above Evie's arrogance rather than engage in a futile power struggle. The conversation about the war and the scavengers hints at the chaotic world around them, yet it also underscores the resilience of those who dare to dream of a better future. By the chapter's end, Laura's conviction that the prince and the commander will be fine becomes a metaphor for her own journey; she, too, is learning to embrace the life she once feared, stepping beyond the shadows of doubt and into the light of solidarity and trust. In the face of adversity, they find strength together, forging a path toward a life that is both uncertain and filled with possibility.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Emma, Laura, and Evie delve deeper into the heart of the forest. With the beasts lurking nearby and the weight of their mission pressing down on them, the dynamics within the group will be tested. Evie's bravado may falter as they confront real danger, forcing her to reassess her views on strength and reliance on others. Emma's quiet determination will shine through, revealing the depths of her character as she navigates both the physical threats of the forest and the emotional turmoil stirred by their conversation about Prince Louis and the Commander.

Moreover, the revelation about the war's end and the fate of the prince and commander will loom large over their journey. As they encounter scavengers picking through the remnants of battle, Emma will find herself grappling with her past and the choices she must make for her future. Will she succumb to the allure of scavenging, or will she find a way to carve out her own path in a world filled with uncertainty? The stakes are high, and as the chapter unfolds, readers will be left on the edge of their seats, eager to discover how Emma's courage and resolve will shape the fate of not only her own life but perhaps the lives of those she holds dear.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 34

[1,897 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 34 Summary

In Chapter 34 of “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma finds herself in a precarious yet adventurous situation. Despite not having reached the required Rank to venture into the outer battlefield, she remains pragmatic and focused on her small goals. While others idolize the achievements of great figures like Prince Louis, Emma chooses to hunt for beasts and gather resources to improve her life, step by step. During her exploration, she discovers a cluster of enticing red berries that are both sweet and tangy, but the thorns surrounding them pose a significant danger.

Emma’s determination shines through as she enlists Damian’s help to collect the berries, sharing gloves with him and warning him about the poisonous thorns. Damian, motivated by Emma’s enthusiasm, willingly assists her, feeling a sense of purpose in their shared task. The camaraderie between them grows as they engage in playful banter, with Emma’s concern for Damian’s safety touching him deeply. However, the arrival of Laura and her mate complicates the situation, as they quickly join in the berry-picking, leading Damian to feel a pang of irritation at what he perceives as a lack of appreciation for Emma’s discovery.

As the group gathers the berries, Emma remains unfazed by Damian’s frustration, reassuring him that there will be enough for everyone. Her kindness and willingness to share her cooking secrets, especially the jam she plans to make, alleviate Damian’s annoyance and brighten his mood. The dynamic shifts as Laura playfully teases Emma about Damian’s protective behavior, revealing a new side of him that surprises Emma. This unexpected defense makes her reflect on their evolving relationship, hinting at a deeper connection forming between them.

After completing their berry gathering, the group continues their journey, with Emma and Damian spotting edible herbs along the way. As they take a moment to rest, Emma shares energy fluid with Damian to replenish their stamina for the tasks ahead. Despite the challenges they face, the adventure strengthens their bond and highlights Emma’s resilience and ability to create joy in the little things, even amidst the dangers of their world. The chapter concludes with a sense of camaraderie and anticipation for the adventures that await them.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

****Chapter 34: Unexpected Defenders****

To venture into the outer battlefield as a scavenger, one had to possess a minimum Rank of 7—or perhaps even higher. Emma, however, had yet to reach that coveted level.

She had often gazed at the illustrious records of Prince Louis and the Empire's First Commander displayed on the Lightcore, their achievements gleaming like trophies in a museum. These figures were titans in her eyes, existing in a realm that felt impossibly distant from her own reality. As a result, Emma had never felt compelled to keep track of their exploits.

Pragmatism defined her approach. Rather than fixating on those who soared high above her, she dedicated herself to the hunt—tracking beasts, amassing star coins, and gradually improving her life, one small step at a time.

After walking for about an hour, Emma's keen eyes caught sight of a vibrant cluster of red berries. They were reminiscent of blueberries in size but boasted a taste akin to strawberries—sweet, tangy, and utterly irresistible.

Yet, there was a catch: the branches and leaves were cloaked in sharp thorns that could numb the nerves with just a single prick, making the act of harvesting a perilous endeavor.

With a determined glint in her eye, Emma pulled out two pairs of gloves from her storage band and handed one pair to Damian. "Here, help me gather some of these," she instructed, her tone practical yet inviting.

Damian, noticing the delight that danced in her eyes, accepted the gloves without a hint of hesitation. He slipped them on and began picking berries for her, his heart swelling with a sense of purpose.

"The thorns are poisonous," Emma warned, her voice laced with concern. "One prick and your fingers will go numb. So, be careful."

Damian's grin widened, his eyes sparkling with mischief. "Ms. Tibarn, if it's for fruit you love, a few pricks are nothing to worry about."

A warmth spread within him at the realization that Emma genuinely cared about his well-being.

Evie, observing from a distance, grimaced as Emma popped one of the tiny berries into her mouth. “Are you seriously eating those?” she asked, disbelief etched across her features. Normally, she wouldn’t even spare a glance at such minuscule fruit.

Laura, intrigued by the spectacle, edged closer. “Emma, these berries are tiny. How do you even eat them?” she inquired, her curiosity piqued.

Emma glanced at the bright red fruit nestled in her container, a smile gracing her lips. “You can eat them as they are or turn them into jam. Mix them with water, spread them on bread—it’s delicious no matter how you prepare it.”

The mention of jam ignited a spark in Laura’s eyes. “You mean the one you shared with me last time?” she asked, her enthusiasm palpable.

Earlier that year, Emma had gifted Laura a jar of her homemade red jam, and it had left a lasting impression on her taste buds.

“Exactly, that’s the one,” Emma confirmed with a nod, her smile widening.

Laura’s face lit up with excitement. “Then I’m definitely grabbing some too! Can you show me how to make it when we get back?”

“Absolutely,” Emma replied without a moment’s hesitation, her eagerness evident.

As she watched Laura and her mate dive into the task, slipping on gloves and eagerly plucking berries, Damian felt a twinge of irritation. It annoyed him that Ms. Tibarn had discovered the berries first, and now they were barging in, taking what should have been a shared bounty.

Is she really that oblivious? he thought, a frown creasing his brow. *They’re taking her berries, and she doesn’t even seem to care. And worse—she’s sharing her cooking secrets like they’re nothing.*

There hadn’t been many berries to begin with, and with so many hands, it didn’t take long for the precious fruit to vanish.

Emma glanced at the small basket Damian had filled, her eyes widening in surprise. “Whoa, Damian, you’re impressively efficient. You picked quite a lot,” she remarked, genuine admiration in her voice.

He might have been stingy, but there was no denying he worked hard.

Damian curled his lip in response. “You call this a lot? Ms. Tibarn, you found them, and everyone else just swooped in like vultures.”

Emma, ever the easygoing soul, brushed off his irritation. But Damian certainly wasn't one to let it slide.

Laura and her mate exchanged uneasy glances. He had a point; they had indeed taken more than their fair share.

Emma tucked the berries into her Stasis Band, giving Damian's shoulder a reassuring pat. "It's fine. This will be plenty for jam. When we get back, I'll make some for you," she promised, her voice soothing.

The thought of freshly made jam brightened his mood instantly. "Then I'm learning to make it with you too, Ms. Tibarn," he declared, a hint of enthusiasm creeping into his tone.

"Of course," Emma replied with a warm smile. "I'll show you how."

Teaching one or two people was a small price to pay for the joy of sharing something she loved.

Once everyone had finished gathering the berries, they resumed their journey eastward, the thrill of their small adventure still lingering in the air.

Laura chuckled and leaned toward Emma, her voice teasing. "Your suitor isn't too shabby—he actually knows how to stand up for you." She had overheard everything earlier, Damian's tone clearly challenging her mate for snatching Emma's berries.

Emma wouldn't fret over something so trivial, and Laura knew she'd always be generous with good food anyway.

Yet, as Emma reflected on Damian's unexpected defense of her, she felt a flicker of surprise. Ever since they had set out from home, he seemed to carry an air of protectiveness that was new and intriguing.

They continued eastward for several more hours, pausing intermittently to collect edible herbs that Emma and Damian spotted along the way.

By the time the clock struck two or three in the morning, they found a wide clearing and decided to rest briefly, fatigue settling in.

Emma retrieved two vials of red energy fluid from her supplies, handing one to Damian.

They couldn't afford to linger for long; their mission was to locate a herd of beasts soon.

The energy fluid, while not the most pleasant tasting, would swiftly restore their stamina. Damian eyed the vials with a mix of resignation and determination, fully aware that they needed to keep moving forward.

Conclusion

In the quiet aftermath of their berry-picking adventure, Emma felt a newfound sense of camaraderie blossoming among her companions. The small act of gathering fruit had transformed into a moment of connection, revealing the threads of support and protectiveness that tied them together. Damian's unexpected defense, though tinged with irritation, hinted at a deeper bond forming between them. Emma's heart swelled with warmth as she recognized the significance of sharing not just food, but experiences and laughter. The sweetness of the berries was no match for the sweetness of these moments, which reminded her that life was not merely about survival, but about the connections forged along the way.

As they continued their journey under the starlit sky, Emma embraced the thrill of the unknown that lay ahead. Each step she took felt lighter, buoyed by the realization that she was not alone in her quest. The thorns that once seemed so daunting now served as a reminder of the beauty that could be found amidst adversity. With each passing hour, Emma's resolve strengthened, and she began to envision a future where she could live boldly, unafraid to embrace the life that had once seemed out of reach. The laughter of her friends echoed in her ears, and for the first time, she felt ready to open the door to the life she had been afraid to live.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

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

In the upcoming chapter, readers can anticipate a deepening of the bonds between Emma and her companions as they face the challenges of the outer battlefield. With the stakes rising and the threat of the beasts looming on the horizon, Emma's resourcefulness will be put to the test. The group will need to rely on one another more than ever, and as they navigate the treacherous landscape, unexpected alliances may form. Will Emma's nurturing spirit inspire her companions to step beyond their comfort zones, or will the pressures of their mission reveal hidden tensions among them?

Moreover, the dynamic between Emma and Damian is set to evolve significantly. As he grapples with his feelings of protectiveness toward her, readers will witness the complexities of their relationship unfold. Will Damian's initial irritation transform into a deeper understanding of Emma's generous nature? And as they gather strength for the challenges ahead, how will the playful banter between Laura and Emma affect the group's morale? The chapter promises thrilling encounters and poignant moments that will leave readers eager to discover how these characters will confront their fears and forge their destinies in a world fraught with danger and uncertainty.

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 35

[1,944 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 35 Summary

In Chapter 35 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Emma finds herself in a precarious situation when Damian generously offers her high-quality energy fluid instead of the vial she had initially retrieved. This act of kindness surprises Emma, filling her with disbelief and gratitude. She reflects on the value of the energy fluid, realizing its miraculous properties and the wealth Damian possesses, which he cleverly acquired through star coins. This moment marks a shift in Emma's perception of Damian, highlighting his unexpected generosity.

As the group prepares to continue their journey, panic ensues when they receive alarming news about a massive beast tide approaching, including a formidable level 8 beast. The urgency of their situation escalates as they must quickly decide on a direction to escape. Emma instinctively leads them north, recalling the dangers that lie to the south. However, tension arises when Evie insists that the south is the safer option based on the readings from their instrument. This disagreement reveals the growing stakes and the differing opinions within the group, adding pressure to their already tense situation.

Despite the chaos, Emma's determination shines through as she encourages her companions to keep moving. The group runs tirelessly, aware of the imminent threat closing in behind them. Emma's leadership is evident as she confidently guides them toward a hidden cave where they can potentially evade the beasts. However, the looming presence of the level 8 beast creates a sense of dread, especially as they realize their potions only protect against level 7 beasts. This realization underscores the gravity of their predicament and the need for strategic thinking.

In a moment of solidarity, a member of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance offers Emma potions that can mask her scent from a level 8 beast, demonstrating respect for her role

and a commitment to her safety. This gesture further reinforces the theme of camaraderie and trust among the group, as they rely on each other to navigate the dangers they face. The chapter concludes with a sense of urgency and anticipation, as Emma and her companions brace themselves for the challenges ahead, embodying resilience in the face of fear and uncertainty.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

****Chapter 35: Survival on the Line****

Damian didn't accept the vial from Emma. Instead, with a swift motion, he reached into his storage band and pulled out several vials filled with a pale green energy fluid, handing them all to her with a confident smile.

"Try this instead. The flavor's better," he said, snatching the opened vial from her grasp as if it were a mere trinket.

Emma's heart raced, a mix of disbelief and gratitude flooding her senses. Why was he being so generous? She couldn't shake off the nagging curiosity about where he had procured such high-quality energy fluid. But Damian seemed unfazed by her potential questions. If pressed, he would simply confess that he had used the star coins he'd cleverly swindled from Edric to make this purchase.

Staring at the cluster of pale green vials now cradled in her hands, Emma thought, Pinch me, I must be dreaming. Damian is actually giving me supplies—and not just any supplies, but the premium-grade kind.

Her mind raced back to the Lightcore Mall, where she had seen this very energy fluid. Produced by Nexus Prime Tech, a single vial was worth a staggering 100,000 star coins. The price tag wasn't merely for its exquisite taste; its effects were nothing short of miraculous. A single sip could rejuvenate one's stamina almost instantaneously.

In contrast, the red energy fluid she had just retrieved required a torturous half hour to kick in, and even then, it took a full hour for complete recovery.

Drake had been right all along. The Ashenflame Fox truly was wealthy beyond measure.

She looked up at Damian, her brow furrowed with skepticism. "Hold on a second, you're giving me all of this? Are you sure you have enough left for yourself?"

Damian nodded, his grin widening. "Oh, I've got plenty to spare."

He produced another vial, effortlessly popped it open, and took a swig himself, his eyes sparkling with mischief. Ms. Tibarn actually worries I'll run out of energy fluid. If only she could stay this carefree forever.

Seeing that he still had an ample supply, Emma felt a wave of relief wash over her. She opened one of the nutrient fluid vials he had given her and drank deeply, savoring the taste. The worry of him charging her later evaporated like mist, for she now possessed more than enough star coins to cover any debts.

After resting for a brief ten minutes, the group set off again, their determination renewed as they resumed their hunt for beast packs. Just before dawn broke, the quiet instrument they carried suddenly erupted into a frantic beeping.

Laura's mate's expression darkened, panic etched across his features. "This is bad news. Over a thousand beasts are charging our way, and among them, there's a level 8 beast. The readings indicate wild energy turbulence. These beasts may have gone berserk. We need to hide, and we need to do it fast."

The transition from Level 7 to Level 8 was a perilous threshold. A level 8 beast was capable of obliterating a field of Rank 7 Etherians without breaking a sweat.

"We can't rely on a Gravicar in this forest," he added grimly. "We'll have to run on our own two legs."

"Head north!" Emma shouted, grabbing Damian's hand and sprinting in that direction.

She had traversed this path before. To the south lay a vast expanse of man-eating creepers—more dangerous than any beast they could encounter.

Laura, trusting Emma's instincts, urged her mate to follow suit and head north as well.

Evie, however, frowned deeply at the northern path. "We're not going north. We should go south," she insisted, her voice firm.

She had just seen the instrument's readings, which clearly indicated that the beasts were trending northward. The south was undoubtedly the safer option.

"Once it's safe, we'll regroup with Laura," she added, turning to the three members of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance. "You three should come with me. The south is safer."

The level seven peak male shook his head resolutely. "We're going north," he replied, his voice steady.

He had just received explicit orders to protect the female named Emma, and it dawned on him that this Rank 4 female was not just any huntress; she was their boss's huntress. Their boss was almost here.

A level nine peak powerhouse was on the way, and he would consider this beast tide a mere inconvenience.

Watching the three Interstellar Hunter Alliance males sprint toward Emma, Evie stomped her foot in frustration, her temper flaring.

As everyone veered north, Evie's mate, sensing her distress, asked softly, "Ms. Graham, are we going south, or...?"

He speculated that if the majority were heading north, perhaps there was a reason for it. Along their journey, he had noticed Emma's familiarity with the forest. She might be choosing this path because something even more perilous than the beasts lurked to the south.

Before he could voice his concerns, Evie had already grabbed one of her mates and bolted south, compelling him to follow suit.

Emma's group ran tirelessly for over two hours, their feet pounding against the earth without a moment's pause. The beast tide was closing in, and the ground beneath them trembled ominously with every step.

The three Interstellar Hunter Alliance members kept a close watch on her, ensuring they maintained a safe distance while remaining vigilant.

"Just half an hour more," Emma called out, her voice steady despite the chaos. "There's a mountain ahead with a super-hidden cave. If we can mask our scent, the beast tide won't find us."

Laura panted heavily, concern etched across her features. "But the potions we have only block level 7 beasts. There's a level 8 among that tide."

Without that level 8 beast in the equation, they wouldn't even consider running.

The level seven peak male from the Hunter Alliance reached into his band and withdrew two vials, his expression serious. "I have potions that can block a level 8 beast's perception, but I only have two."

He handed both vials directly to Emma, his tone respectful. "Honorable Ms. Tibarn, we were instructed to ensure your safety."

Conclusion

In the heart of chaos, Emma felt a surge of determination coursing through her veins as she clutched the precious vials in her hands. The unexpected generosity from Damian ignited a flicker of hope within her, illuminating the darkness that had long clouded her path. She had entered this treacherous forest burdened by fear and uncertainty, but

now, as they sprinted toward the mountain, she realized that she was not alone in this fight. The camaraderie among her companions, the unwavering resolve of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance, and the newfound trust in her instincts had transformed her from a hesitant survivor into a leader ready to confront the challenges ahead. With each step, she embraced the life she had once been afraid to live, a life filled with purpose, strength, and the promise of resilience.

As they approached the hidden cave, Emma's heart swelled with gratitude for the sacrifices made by those around her. The vials exchanged, the trust forged in the heat of adrenaline, and the bonds created in the face of danger were testament to the power of unity in adversity. She had learned that survival was not merely about escaping peril but about embracing the connections that made them stronger together. With the weight of responsibility resting on her shoulders, she felt a newfound clarity; she was ready to face whatever lay ahead, not just for herself, but for her friends and allies who believed in her. In that moment, she understood that the life she had once feared was the very life she was destined to lead, and as dawn broke on the horizon, she stepped forward into the light, unafraid and resolute.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the upcoming chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Emma and her group find themselves at a critical juncture. With the beast tide closing in and a level 8 beast among them, the stakes have never been higher. Emma's leadership will be put to the test as she navigates the treacherous terrain of both the forest and her relationships with the members of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance. Will she be able to use her instincts to guide them to safety, or will the looming threat prove too great to overcome? The dynamics between Emma, Damian, and the others will deepen, revealing hidden alliances and potential betrayals that could change the course of their mission.

Moreover, the chapter promises to explore the mystery of the level 8 beast and the energy fluid that Damian provided. As Emma grapples with the implications of her newfound resources, she must also confront her growing feelings for Damian. What lies beneath his charming demeanor? Is there more to his wealth and generosity than meets the eye? The revelation of a potential hidden agenda could add a thrilling layer to their already fraught circumstances. As the group races against time, readers will be left wondering if Emma can trust her instincts and the people around her, or if they will lead her to face the very dangers she fears. Prepare for a heart-pounding continuation that will keep you on the edge of your seat!

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 36

[2,083 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 36 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma finds herself in a perilous situation, holding a vial in a dimly lit cave while facing a tall Rank 7 male Etherian who has been sent to protect her. Confused and overwhelmed, she learns that the leader of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance, Edric Lachman, is her suitor, a revelation that shocks both her and her companion, Laura. The atmosphere is thick with tension and uncertainty as they grapple with the implications of this unexpected alliance in the face of danger.

As the ground trembles ominously outside, signaling the approach of a horde of beasts, Emma takes charge, urging her group to seek refuge in the cave. Her determination shines through as she distributes scent-masking potions to ensure their safety, emphasizing the importance of teamwork and solidarity. Emma’s leadership emerges as a vital force, as she reassures her companions that they will either survive together or not at all, reflecting her innate sense of responsibility and care for others.

The narrative intensifies as the threat of the beasts looms larger. Emma’s internal conflict surfaces as she grapples with her past of isolation and the fear of relying on others. Despite her doubts, she finds strength in the bonds forming around her, especially with Damian, who vows to protect her. Their shared moments of vulnerability and resolve highlight the emotional stakes, as each character confronts their fears and the reality of their situation.

As chaos erupts outside with the arrival of Level 6 beasts and the overwhelming presence of a Level 8 beast, Emma’s resilience is tested. The sheer force of the beast’s roar sends shockwaves through the group, paralyzing them with fear. In this moment of impending doom, Emma collapses from the weight of her anxiety, yet her spirit remains unbroken. The camaraderie among the group deepens as they prepare to face the unknown, showcasing the themes of trust, bravery, and the power of unity in the face of adversity.

Ultimately, the chapter encapsulates Emma's journey from fear to empowerment. She learns that even in the darkest moments, she can rely on her companions, and together they can confront the dangers that threaten their lives. The emotional turmoil and the fight for survival serve as a backdrop for Emma's transformation, as she steps closer to embracing the life she once feared, finding strength in vulnerability and connection.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

Emma found herself transfixed, her gaze locked onto the small vial in her palm. The liquid shimmered faintly, reflecting the dim light of the cave, but her attention quickly shifted to the imposing figure of the tall Rank 7 male Etherian standing before her. For a fleeting moment, her thoughts tangled into a chaotic mess, unable to process the reality of the situation.

"Why on earth did your leader send you to protect me?" she questioned, her brow furrowing in confusion and disbelief.

She was utterly unfamiliar with anyone from the Interstellar Hunter Alliance, so the notion of being guarded by one of their members felt surreal.

The male spoke with a calmness that contrasted sharply with her rising anxiety. "Our leader is Edric Lachman. He's your suitor."

Emma's eyes widened in shock, her mind racing. Edric? The leader of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance? This was beyond her wildest imaginings.

Laura's expression mirrored Emma's disbelief, her mouth agape as if she had just encountered a specter. Meanwhile, a heavy dread coiled in Damian's stomach, a sense of foreboding washing over him.

Oh, fantastic. Just fantastic.

If he recalled correctly, Edric hailed from the Violet Obsidian clan—an elite lineage of Ophidians. The very source of Nexus Prime Tech's beast meat, energy cores, and rare herbs came from them.

Seriously, Edric? You couldn't have mentioned the tiny detail that you're an Ophidian? Just bury the headline, why don't you?

Realizing that the Interstellar Hunter Alliance wasn't their enemy, Emma's facade of politeness crumbled. "It's far too dangerous out here," she stammered, urgency lacing her voice. "We need to get inside that cave and strategize."

There was no time for idle chatter in the open where danger lurked.

With determination, she grasped Damian's arm, her grip firm, and began to sprint towards the cave, the others trailing closely behind them.

Thirty grueling minutes later, they found themselves crammed together in the damp, echoing confines of the cave.

Outside, the ground trembled violently, the ominous rumbling escalating with each passing moment. The horde of beasts was closing in swiftly, their presence palpable and terrifying.

Emma retrieved two vials from the Interstellar Hunter Alliance team, along with her own Rank 8 scent-masking potion. With deft precision, she applied a few drops to each member of their group, then sprinkled more near the cave entrance, ensuring their concealment.

It wasn't in her nature to merely look out for herself and Laura; that was not how she operated.

With unwavering confidence, she declared, "We arrived here as a team. We either survive together or not at all. No one gets left behind."

Laura's mate and the three members of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance had already steeled themselves for self-sacrifice if it came to that. Protecting the female was woven into their very code of conduct.

They hadn't anticipated Emma would extend her potion to them, nor had Damian.

He stole a glance at her, watching as she held his hand tightly throughout their frantic ascent up the mountain—her grip unyielding, her determination evident. She never once faltered or considered letting go.

Laura's eyes shimmered with unshed tears. She grasped her partner's hand firmly and uttered, "Emma's right. We stick together."

Her mate's throat constricted at the sentiment. Laura had always treated her partners like family, and now Emma had seamlessly woven herself into that fabric.

The Rank 7 male Etherian spoke again, his voice steady and reassuring. "We'll make it. Mr. Lachman sent word—he's already en route. He's a peak Rank 9 powerhouse. He'll arrive shortly."

Damian thought to himself, That guy, Edric, sure knows how to move quickly. He doesn't seem like the type to waste any time.

He tightened his grip on Emma's hand, murmuring softly, "Ms. Tibarn, I've got you. I'll keep you safe."

If Edric doesn't arrive in time, to hell with it. I'll drop the act and show them who I truly am.

Ms. Tibarn has been my anchor this entire time—there's no way I'm letting her take the fall for me.

Emma nodded, her expression resolute. "I trust Edric, and I trust you."

Yet, even as she spoke those words, her mind raced through the possibilities. If a Level 8 beast were to attack, we wouldn't be entirely doomed. With our combined strengths and the gear I possess, perhaps we could manage to survive.

Five years spent alone had taught her one crucial lesson: never rely on anyone.

Edric might not make it in time, and Damian... he's strong, but Rank 5 isn't nearly enough against such a formidable beast. It seems the burden of responsibility falls on me, as always.

A deep rumble reverberated outside, dislodging dust from the cave's ceiling.

Rocks began to tumble down the mountainside, a harbinger of the chaos to come.

This was it—the closest she had ever come to death since her arrival on this wretched planet.

One minute dragged on, feeling like an eternity.

Then, two... five... ten.

Suddenly, a roar erupted so powerful it rattled her very bones. In an instant, Damian lunged forward, positioning himself as a shield between her and the impending danger.

Outside, a dozen Level 6 beasts thundered past the cave entrance, their ferocity palpable.

Then, the air itself seemed to shatter.

A crushing wave of energy surged through the ground, slamming into them with the force of a freight train.

Everyone froze in their positions, paralyzed by fear, not daring to breathe.

So, this is the power of a Level 8 beast? Holy hell.

The roar outside left Emma's ears ringing, the monstrous energy sweeping over the mountain like a predator on the hunt, searching for them.

Time felt infinite, stretching into a void of anxiety.

After what felt like an eternity, the pressure began to lift.

The Level 8 beast hadn't discovered their hiding place.

Relief washed over Emma with such intensity that her knees buckled, and she collapsed onto the cold, damp cave floor.

"Ms. Tibarn!" Damian crouched beside her, concern flashing in his eyes.

"I'm fine," she reassured him, her breath shaky. "My legs just... gave out."

She remained still for a moment, forcing her heartbeat to steady, willing herself to regain control.

Laura looked equally shaken. "Since my awakening, I've never been this close to dying," she whispered, her fingers trembling as she clutched Emma's hand.

Emma managed a weary smile, her body exhausted yet her mind sharp.

Damian handed her a potion, and she drank it gratefully, then nodded for him to release her hand.

Laura's Rank 7 mate stood tall, his voice steady and authoritative. "I'll take point. Once I give the all-clear, you move."

He turned to Damian, his tone firm but not unkind. "You're Rank 5. It's too risky for you out there. I'll handle it."

There was no intention to insult; it was simply a matter of survival. A Rank 5 male Etherian venturing into that chaos was essentially signing his own death warrant.

Conclusion

As Emma sat on the cold, damp cave floor, the weight of her choices pressed down on her like the oppressive silence that followed the beast's roar. She had always been the one to shoulder the burden, to navigate the treacherous waters of uncertainty alone. Yet here, surrounded by allies who had chosen to stand by her side, she felt a flicker of something she had long thought extinguished: hope. The chaos outside was a reminder of the dangers they faced, but it also illuminated the strength that came from unity. Emma realized that she was not just a survivor; she was a leader, one who could inspire others to fight for their lives together. As she looked into the eyes of her friends, she understood that the life she had been afraid to live—one filled with trust and connection—was now within her grasp.

With renewed determination, Emma rose to her feet, bolstered by the support of those around her. She was no longer just a solitary figure in a vast universe; she was part of a team, a family forged in the fires of adversity. The fear that had once paralyzed her transformed into a fierce resolve to protect those she cared for. As the echoes of the outside world faded into the background, Emma felt a sense of belonging she had never known before. She was ready to face whatever challenges lay ahead, not just for herself, but for the people who had chosen to stand by her side. In that moment, she understood that the life she had been afraid to embrace was not just about survival; it was about thriving together, and she was ready to open the door to that future.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Emma and her companions face the dire consequences of their current predicament. With the looming threat of the Level 8 beast outside the cave, the group must not only rely on their individual strengths but also learn to trust one another in ways they never anticipated. Emma's leadership will be put to the test as she grapples with her own fears while trying to devise a plan that ensures everyone's survival. The stakes are higher than ever, and the dynamics within the group will shift dramatically as they confront their vulnerabilities and forge deeper bonds.

Moreover, the arrival of Edric Lachman, the enigmatic leader of the Interstellar Hunter Alliance, promises to bring both hope and complications. His presence could change the tide of their battle against the beasts, but it may also reveal secrets that could threaten the fragile alliances Emma has built. As the chapter unfolds, readers will be drawn into a whirlwind of action and emotion, witnessing the characters' growth as they confront not only external dangers but also the internal struggles that come with facing their fears. With each heartbeat echoing in the cave, the question lingers: will they emerge united, or will the chaos tear them apart? Prepare for an exhilarating ride filled with unexpected twists and revelations that will leave you breathless.

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 37

[1,948 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 37 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma finds herself in a perilous situation alongside Damian, who is determined to confront a formidable beast outside their cave. Despite Emma’s fear for his safety, Damian’s confidence and resolve shine through as he slips away to face the danger head-on. Her heart races at the thought of his bravery, but she is soon jolted back to reality by a message from Edric, who has arrived to provide backup. The relief she feels at his presence ignites a sense of urgency, prompting their group to charge out of the cave.

As they emerge, they are met with a terrifying sight: a colossal dark-purple serpent wreaks havoc in the valley. The chaos intensifies when Emma recognizes Mr. Lachman, a powerful figure from the Etherian-Violet Obsidian lineage, amidst the turmoil. Just as the situation escalates, an Ashenflame Fox appears, captivating Emma with its elegance and lethal grace. The two creatures engage in a deadly contest, heightening the tension as Emma’s thoughts drift to Damian, who is battling fiercely against the level 7 beasts.

In a sudden turn of events, Emma finds herself ensnared by the serpent’s tail and lifted off the ground. She is saved by Edric, who catches her in a strong embrace, their chemistry palpable in the heat of the moment. The thrill of finally meeting him face-to-face overwhelms her, and she shares a tender kiss with him, marking a significant emotional connection. Edric’s joy surges as he realizes that Emma reciprocates his feelings, igniting a deeper bond between them amidst the chaos surrounding them.

As Edric holds Emma close, the weight of her name carries a promise of trust and intimacy, suggesting a shift in their relationship. Meanwhile, Damian watches from a distance, feeling a mix of disbelief and jealousy at the sudden closeness between Emma and Edric. The tension in the air is thick with unspoken emotions, as both men grapple with their feelings for Emma while facing the very real danger of the battle unfolding around them. The chapter concludes with Edric’s triumphant joy, showcasing the complexities of their intertwined destinies in a world filled with peril.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

Emma’s fingers clamped around Damian’s wrist with a fierce determination. “Let others handle it.”

He shook his head slowly, his voice a low, steady murmur that seemed to cut through the tension in the air. “Trust me, Ms. Tibarn. I’m not dying that easily.”

The fear that flickered in her eyes struck him like a blow. It was a visceral reminder of the stakes they faced. He was itching to break free from the confines of the cave, ready to confront the level 8 beast outside as if it was a personal debt he had come to collect. With a deft motion, he slipped from her grasp, pivoted on his heel, and in an instant, he was gone—a mere flash at the cave’s mouth.

Emma barely registered the movement before he vanished, leaving her heart racing in his wake.

Suddenly, a sharp ding sliced through the heavy silence, jolting her back to the present. Her lightcore flared to life, illuminating the message that had just arrived. ‘Ms. Tibarn, I’m here, but I can’t spot the cave entrance.’

A wave of relief surged through her, sharp and bright, like a sudden burst of sunlight after a storm. Edric had arrived! Finally, they had backup!

“Edric’s here!” she called out, her voice filled with urgency. “Move out!”

The group surged forward, spilling from the cave, only to come to an abrupt halt on the ledge.

Before them, a colossal dark-purple serpent loomed over the valley, towering as high as a downtown skyscraper. It moved through the herd of beasts like a tidal wave, its massive form cutting through chaos with terrifying ease. With a single sweep of its tail, it sent bodies flying, crumpling to the ground in a grotesque display. Cores burst free from the fallen creatures, and with an unsettling grace, the serpent’s tail coiled around them, scooping them up as if they were mere coins scattered on the ground.

The three males from the Interstellar Hunter Alliance broke ranks, their voices raised in disbelief. “Mr. Lachman! That’s Mr. Lachman!”

Emma’s heart raced as recognition washed over her.

Laura and her mate stood frozen, mouths agape. A genuine Rank 9 male of the Etherian-Violet Obsidian lineage from the Central Planet was a sight so rare it felt surreal.

Then, cutting through the chaos like a streak of white heat, a new creature emerged.

Laura pointed, her breath hitching in her throat. “No way... is that an Ashenflame Fox?”

An Ashenflame Fox? Emma's heart leaped in her chest. Those beings were known for their wealth and power. What on earth would one of them be doing here on F-268 to hunt?

Her gaze locked onto the magnificent creature.

The nine-tailed fox, massive and lethal, wove through the battlefield with an elegance that belied its ferocity. Its snow-white fur shimmered amidst the carnage, each of its nine tails tipped with a sharp, crimson glow. With ruthless precision, those tails wrapped around their prey, squeezing and snapping bones in a deadly rhythm. Each movement was like a dance, choreographed to perfection.

The serpent and the fox hunted each other like rivals competing for the highest score, racking up kills in a deadly race.

Damian. Her pulse quickened at the thought. It had to be him.

The speed at which he moved was astonishing. He nearly kept pace with Edric, taking down several level 7 beasts in mere seconds, his attacks swift and merciless.

The thought barely settled in her mind when the serpent's tail sliced through the air, sweeping toward her with alarming speed. The coils narrowed as they approached, transforming into a gentle loop that cinched around her waist. With a startled gasp, she felt herself lifted off the ground.

"Ah—"

The battlefield dropped away beneath her as the wind roared past her ears. In one fluid motion, she found herself landing in a cool, iron-hard embrace—Edric, his bare chest solid against her. With a flick of his tail, he swatted a swarm of beasts aside as if they were mere insects.

"Ms. Tibarn," he murmured, his voice low and rough, tinged with something deeper. "Finally, face to face."

His hair fell over his forehead, framing eyes that glowed with a dark purple light. She had seen those eyes countless times on screens, but this was something entirely different—alive, warm, and unfiltered. Joy radiated from him, mingled with a flicker of nervous tension, as if he feared she would vanish if he dared to blink.

As she pressed against his chest, she could feel the steady rhythm of his heartbeat through her thin suit. The calm firmness beneath her palms felt almost unreal, every breath she took tracing the hard contours of his body.

"Edric." She reached up, cupping his brow, her fingers tracing down between his eyes before she pressed a gentle kiss there. "It's so good to finally meet you."

Oh hell yes! His heartbeat thundered against her forearm. She kissed me! Ms. Tibarn actually kissed me! She doesn't hate me—she likes me. She really likes me.

"I'm thrilled to meet you, too," he managed, struggling to suppress a grin that threatened to break free.

Emma smiled playfully, pinching his cheek with a lighthearted touch. "Hey... remember what we talked about? Say my name."

Her playful gesture ignited a fire within him, his nerves tingling with every heartbeat. He looked at her, throat tight with emotion. His Adam's apple bobbed, the sound echoing loudly in the silence that enveloped them. His lips parted, voice steady yet thick with meaning.

"Emma."

That name carried weight. It signified trust, a promise that she was letting him in.

His arms instinctively tightened around her. If the world around them weren't crumbling, he would have claimed that bond right then and there.

Across the tumultuous ground, the nine-tailed fox paused for a brief moment. Damian's eyes widened in disbelief.

You've got to be kidding me.

Days. I've been right beside her for days, and that slick snake slithers in, and suddenly there's not a single kiss for me? Unbelievable. Totally unfair.

Edric, unfazed by the heat of Damian's glare, effortlessly hoisted Emma onto his shoulder, joy crackling through every scale and nerve of his being.

Conclusion

As the chaos of the battlefield raged around them, Emma found herself enveloped in a moment that transcended the danger lurking just beyond their embrace. In the heat of battle, she had opened the door to a life she had long feared to live, revealing not just her courage but also the burgeoning connection with Edric that ignited a warmth deep within her. Their shared laughter amidst the turmoil, the playful banter and the softness of their first kiss, marked a significant shift in her journey. No longer was she merely a spectator in her own life; she was an active participant, embracing the uncertainty and thrill of new beginnings. The fear that once held her captive began to dissipate, replaced by a fierce determination to face whatever challenges lay ahead.

Meanwhile, Damian watched from the sidelines, his heart heavy with a mix of disbelief and longing. The bond that Emma and Edric shared stirred a complex array of emotions

within him—jealousy, admiration, and a profound yearning for connection. Yet, as he observed the joy radiating from Emma, he realized that their paths had diverged in a way he had not anticipated. The battlefield had become a crucible, forging new alliances and testing the depths of their hearts. In this moment of clarity, Damian understood that true strength lay not just in the battles they fought outside, but in the relationships they nurtured within. As the serpent and the fox continued their deadly dance, Emma had chosen to embrace her fears, and in doing so, had opened the door to a life filled with possibility, companionship, and love.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Emma, Edric, and Damian find themselves at the heart of an epic showdown between the serpent and the Ashenflame Fox. With the stakes higher than ever, Emma must navigate not only the chaos of the battlefield but also the burgeoning feelings that are complicating her relationships with both men. The dynamics of trust and rivalry will take center stage, forcing Emma to make choices that could alter the course of their mission—and their lives—forever. As the creatures clash, the very ground beneath them will shake with the power of their conflict, and Emma will be faced with the terrifying question: who can she truly rely on?

Moreover, as the dust settles from the battle, revelations about the true nature of the beasts will come to light, leading to unexpected alliances and betrayals. Emma's connection with Edric will deepen, revealing secrets that bind their fates together, while Damian's jealousy may push him to take drastic measures. The chapter promises to delve into the complexities of their relationships, exploring themes of loyalty, desire, and the fear of vulnerability. Each character will be forced to confront their own demons, and the choices they make will set the stage for a thrilling climax that could change everything. Will Emma embrace the life she has been afraid to live, or will the weight of her decisions pull her back into the shadows? Prepare for a whirlwind of emotions and heart-stopping action that will leave readers breathless.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 38

[1,801 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 38 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma is confronted with a pivotal moment as she prepares to face level 5 beasts, demonstrating her desire to prove herself and break free from her fears. With Edric by her side, she feels a surge of confidence, ready to embrace her potential. Their bond is evident as Edric reassures her of her safety, allowing Emma to step into her power with a sense of exhilaration.

As the battle unfolds, Emma showcases her remarkable abilities, revealing her dual powers of lightning and water. This rare talent draws the attention of her peers, particularly Damian, who is initially concerned for her safety. The tension escalates between Edric and Damian as they clash over Emma’s decision to confront the beasts alone. Edric’s unwavering support for Emma highlights the depth of their connection, while Damian’s frustration reveals his protective instincts and unspoken feelings for her.

Amidst the chaos of battle, Emma remains focused, effortlessly dispatching the beasts with her newfound strength. The scene captures the beauty of her movements, showcasing her skill and dominance in combat. Edric’s admiration for her prowess is palpable, contrasting with Damian’s growing frustration as he watches her thrive under Edric’s support. Emma’s success leads to a moment of intimacy between her and Edric, further complicating the dynamics between the three characters.

As the chapter concludes, Emma’s realization of Damian’s presence brings a wave of self-consciousness, prompting her to request Edric to set her down. The playful banter between Edric and Damian adds a layer of tension, hinting at the underlying feelings each character harbors for Emma. This moment encapsulates Emma’s journey of self-discovery, as she navigates her abilities, relationships, and the challenges that lie ahead.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

“Emma, let’s go hunt some beasts.” Edric’s voice resonated with a quiet assurance, slicing through the chaos around them as effortlessly as a knife through butter. The creatures that surrounded them, once formidable in their presence, now seemed to shrink away, their threats reduced to mere whispers.

“Look over there.” Emma pointed with determination toward a group of level 5 beasts lurking in the distance. “I want to take those down myself.”

With Edric standing guard at her side, she felt an exhilarating rush of freedom. This was her moment to unleash her full potential, to test her limits, and to emerge stronger than ever before.

“Understood.” He nodded, a blend of obedience and fierce focus written across his features. His massive tail coiled protectively around her, guiding her through the tumultuous battlefield before gently depositing her onto solid ground.

“Have fun,” he murmured, his voice low and reassuring. “You’re safe with me.”

“I know. I trust you,” she replied, locking eyes with him, a silent affirmation of their bond.

As Edric’s presence began to recede, the oppressive weight that had blanketed the battlefield lifted like a fog, revealing the level 5 beasts that had been cowering just moments ago. They rose shakily to their feet, blissfully unaware that they had just sealed their own fates.

Beneath Emma’s boots, water shimmered like liquid glass, rippling outward in graceful waves. Sparks of blue lightning danced across the surface, pulsing with a vibrant, lethal energy that crackled in the air.

Edric’s eyes widened in surprise. Ms. Tibarn possesses dual abilities?

Such a phenomenon was exceedingly rare; a female with dual abilities was the stuff of legends, tales told in hushed tones around campfires.

Across the clearing, Damian hurled the last of the level 7 beasts toward Laura’s squad, his movements fluid and precise. He turned just in time to witness Emma navigating through the fray, lightning and water swirling around her like a tempest unleashed.

He sprinted toward her, urgency propelling him forward, but before he could reach her, Edric’s tail lashed out, striking him with the force of a battering ram.

Damian hit the ground hard, rolling to absorb the impact before rising, a snarl escaping his lips.

Edric remained unfazed, his expression stoic. “Emma said she wants to handle these herself.”

If she hadn’t been watching, that fox would already be buried.

Emma? A knot twisted in Damian’s gut. This blasted snake actually dared to call Ms. Tibarn by her name.

“She’s Rank 4,” Damian snapped, stepping forward, his tone sharp and edged with concern. “You’re really letting her take on level 5 beasts solo? What if she gets hurt?”

Edric’s voice was cold and unyielding. “If Ms. Tibarn gets injured, can you handle that? Move aside. I’ll back her up.”

Edric stood firm, unyielding as a mountain. “With me here, she won’t.”

He understood perfectly well what Damian was attempting—trying to flaunt his prowess in front of her.

Their gazes clashed, and the air between them crackled with raw energy, tension palpable.

12:21 Tue, Nov 4 M GW.

Chapter 38: The Hunt

“Move,” Damian growled, his voice low and dangerous.

“No,” Edric countered, unwavering.

Power surged from both of them, wild and chaotic. Nearby beasts trembled, collapsing to the ground, overwhelmed by the intensity of the energy radiating from the two combatants. Only the small circle within Edric’s coiled tail remained untouched, a sanctuary amidst the storm.

Emma remained blissfully unaware of the brewing conflict. She was locked into her rhythm, lightning flashing around her like a heartbeat, a powerful conductor of her will.

Three beasts already lay defeated. Two more staggered, bloodied and slow, their end imminent.

She stepped lightly over the undulating water, blue sparks flickering beneath her as she gathered her strength, feeling the familiar surge of power coursing through her.

A jolt of electricity raced up her leg as she leaped into the air. Lightning illuminated her path, solid and unwavering beneath her boots. A blade forged of pure energy materialized in her hand, vibrant and alive.

With a swift, decisive swing, she struck.

Crack.

One beast’s head hit the ground, smoke curling from the fresh wound, while the second fell mere moments later, a testament to her skill.

As the last of them succumbed, Emma quickly crouched to extract the beast cores, her movements fluid and efficient.

Both males observed from a distance, captivated. The way she moved—precise, calm, and lethal—was a strange kind of beauty.

Impressive! Ms. Tibarn doesn't just fight well; she dominates. She's terrifyingly good at it.

Edric's tail coiled around her waist just as she pocketed the seventh beast core. She gasped softly as he lifted her effortlessly into his arms once more.

Across the clearing, Damian's jaw tightened, frustration bubbling beneath the surface. Seriously? Again? The d*mn snake always beats me to it.

Lost in the warmth of Edric's embrace, Emma remained blissfully unaware of Damian's presence. She tucked the beast cores into her belt, her face lighting up with a grin directed at Edric. "All done. I think I can handle a few more level 5 beasts."

He smiled back, warmth flickering in his dark purple eyes. "Whatever you want, Emma."

"Ms. Tibarn, I'll come with you too," Damian called out quickly, stepping forward, his tone eager.

Emma froze, the realization dawning on her that he had witnessed everything. Heat flooded her cheeks, a deep crimson as she remained half-cradled in Edric's arms.

"Heh... Damian, you're here too." She forced a laugh, her voice lowering to a whisper. "Edric, put me down. Please."

Being held like this in front of everyone felt overwhelmingly exposing.

Had they been alone, she might have kept quiet, but the crowd made her self-conscious.

Edric didn't budge, his tone teasing. "Didn't you mention wanting more level 5 beasts? Carrying you would be quicker."

He then turned his gaze toward Damian, his dark purple eyes glinting with a challenge, a slow grin tugging at the corners of his mouth.

12:21 Tue, Nov 4 M

Chapter 38: The Hunt

Conclusion

In the aftermath of the battle, Emma stood transformed, not just by her victory over the level 5 beasts but by the profound realization of her own strength and potential. The exhilarating rush of power coursing through her veins had ignited a spark of confidence that she had long buried beneath self-doubt. With Edric's unwavering support and the thrill of the fight still fresh in her mind, she felt a sense of liberation that she had never experienced before. The chaotic battlefield had become a canvas for her to paint her own destiny, and with each defeated foe, she reclaimed a piece of herself that she had been afraid to embrace. The bond she shared with Edric, forged in the heat of battle, only deepened her resolve to pursue the life she had once shied away from.

As she laughed and playfully insisted on being set down, Emma understood that the journey ahead would not be without challenges, but she was no longer afraid to face them. The tension between Edric and Damian, though palpable, served as a reminder of the complexities of her relationships and the choices she would have to make. Standing at the precipice of her newfound identity, she felt a surge of determination. Emma was ready to navigate the intricacies of her world, to embrace her dual abilities, and to carve her own path, surrounded by those who believed in her. With her heart full of hope and her spirit ignited, she opened the door to a life she was no longer afraid to live, ready to face whatever awaited her on the other side.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

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

As the dust settles from Emma's explosive display of power, readers will be on the edge of their seats, eager to discover how her newfound abilities will shape her destiny. Will she embrace her dual powers and become the legendary figure whispered about in the shadows, or will the weight of expectation and responsibility become too much to bear? The tension between Edric and Damian is palpable, and their rivalry promises to escalate as they vie for Emma's attention and trust. The stakes are higher than ever, and the battlefield is not just a physical space but a complex arena of emotions and alliances.

In the upcoming chapter, expect a deeper exploration of Emma's character as she navigates her feelings for both Edric and Damian. With the threat of level 5 beasts still looming, will she step up to lead her team, or will she falter under pressure? The dynamics between the trio will shift, revealing hidden motivations and desires that could change the course of their journey. As new challenges arise and the beasts become more formidable, Emma must confront not only external dangers but also the internal battles that threaten to unravel her. Prepare for a whirlwind of action, emotion, and unexpected twists that will leave you breathless and craving more.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 39

[2,067 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 39 Summary

In "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Emma finds herself caught in a tense dynamic between two suitors, Edric and Damian. Edric's arrogance and charm provoke Damian, who struggles with his feelings of jealousy and frustration. The story opens with Edric insisting that Damian help clean up after a hunt, a request that stings Damian, especially as he watches Edric flaunt his closeness to Emma. Despite his irritation, Damian maintains a facade of politeness while grappling with his emotions.

As the narrative unfolds, Emma demonstrates her strength and prowess in battle, taking down level 5 beasts with remarkable skill. Edric, keenly aware of Emma's abilities, encourages her to push her limits, while Damian, stuck processing carcasses, feels the sting of being sidelined. The contrast between Emma's fierce independence and the competitive tension between the two males creates a charged atmosphere, highlighting themes of rivalry and unacknowledged admiration.

Emma's fighting abilities soon reveal a deeper secret—she possesses dual abilities that allow her to absorb energy from beast cores beyond her rank, a rarity among Etherians. This revelation surprises Edric, who had previously underestimated her potential. Their bond deepens as Edric expresses concern for her well-being, and Emma, feeling a sense of trust, shares her secret with him. The emotional stakes rise as Edric insists that Emma's unique abilities must remain a secret, underscoring the precarious nature of their world and the alliances they must navigate.

By the end of the chapter, Emma's exhaustion after the battle is palpable, yet her determination remains unbroken. Edric's protective instincts come to the forefront as he supports her, reinforcing the complexity of their relationship. The chapter closes with

Emma taking a moment to gather her strength, poised for the challenges that lie ahead, signaling her readiness to embrace the life she has been hesitant to fully claim.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

“Emma was the one who took down every single one of these beasts. There’s absolutely no reason for us to let them go to waste,” Edric declared, his voice dripping with that characteristic smooth arrogance that always made Damian’s eye twitch in irritation. “Damian, why don’t you lend a hand and help clean up? After all, you’re also one of Emma’s suitors. I’m sure you wouldn’t dare turn down such a request, would you?”

Damian clenched his jaw so tightly that he could feel his teeth click together.

Emma caught the glint of smug satisfaction dancing in Edric’s eyes. He was doing this on purpose again, wasn’t he?

Part of her wanted to scold him for his provocations, but the truth was, compared to the constant scheming and plotting that Damian engaged in, Edric’s arrogant charm was surprisingly hard to resist.

Peeking from Edric’s arms, she called out, “Damian, I’ll leave the carcasses to you. Once we sell them, I’ll split the profit with you fifty-fifty.”

Damian’s tail twitched once, an involuntary reaction to her words. Fantastic. She’s siding with the snake again.

As if it weren’t enough that Edric got to hold her, now he had her assigning him the dirty work.

Fine, you smug reptile, he thought bitterly. Enjoy this moment while it lasts.

It was one thing to pick a fight with another male in front of the huntress; it was another to blatantly ignore her command. That wasn’t just foolish—it was practically asking for a death wish.

Despite the burning frustration in his chest, Damian forced a tight smile onto his face. “Serving Ms. Tibarn is my honor. But tell me, who will protect her if I’m stuck here processing these beasts?”

Emma offered him a soft, reassuring smile. “It’s alright. Edric is with me.”

That statement stung more than he cared to admit. Damian's tail lashed out behind him, but he quickly tempered his voice. "You're right. Edric does have the advantage. He's better equipped to keep you safe."

Damn, this fool could act. Almost too convincing, Edric mused to himself, a smirk threatening to break through his otherwise composed demeanor.

He shifted his stance just enough to block Emma's view of Damian, his tone remaining courteous yet laced with a hint of triumph. "Since you've acknowledged that I'm the better protector, it's time for you to get to work." The subtle grin beneath his polite facade made Damian's fists clench tighter.

Turning back to Emma, Edric's voice softened. "Emma, let's go track down a few more level 5 beasts to keep our skills sharp."

With that, he gathered her close, his tail flicking once, and in an instant, they vanished in a streak of dark purple light.

A sly attempt to outmaneuver me? Not on my watch, he thought, determination flaring within him.

Edric led her straight into another pack of level 5 beasts, carefully controlling the energy he released to match her level. Watching her fight ignited something fierce within him—a potent mix of pride and awe that left him breathless.

Meanwhile, as Damian finished processing the last batch of carcasses, Edric tossed him another pile with a casual flick of his wrist. "Emma just took these down. Process them quickly."

Damian's lip twitched in disbelief. This snake is truly unbelievable.

—

Edric's tail carved a glowing boundary in the dirt, creating a protective barrier around the space where Emma was engaged in battle. His aura pressed against the air like a crackling static charge. Even a Rank 8 Etherian like Damian couldn't push through that barrier.

Trapped outside, the fox glared at the scene unfolding before him, but soon returned to the task of skinning the carcasses, the distant sounds of Emma's fierce combat echoing in his ears.

Every time she brought down another beast, Edric flicked the body toward Damian without even sparing a glance, his focus solely on Emma.

The horde of defeated beasts stretched out for miles, but most of the spoils were destined for Laura's squad and the Interstellar Hunter Alliance. The level 5 beasts, however, belonged entirely to Emma.

She fought with the ferocity of a storm—water rippling beneath her boots, lightning splitting the air, and the heavy scent of ozone enveloping her.

By the end of the skirmish, fifty beasts lay scattered around her, a testament to her prowess. Exhaustion washed over her, and she dropped to her knees, her pale form shaking from the effort.

Edric was there in an instant, his tail winding gently around her waist as he lowered her onto him, the chaos of battle fading into a dull hum around them. He produced two Level 4 beast cores from his hip, offering them to her with silent intent.

Typically, a Rank 4 Etherian could only draw energy from cores of the same rank. But Emma was different; she wasn't built like the others.

She waved him off, reaching into her storage band to reveal a glowing Level 5 beast core. "A Level 4 beast core isn't enough for me anymore."

His brows knitted together in confusion. "Wait—Emma, you're still Rank 4, right?"

He had questioned their pairing from the very beginning—how could a Rank 9 like him be matched with someone so much lower? The realization struck him hard. There was no way she was merely Rank 4. Perhaps she was closer to Rank 5... or even higher.

"I'm Rank 4," she insisted, her voice firm.

The glow from the Level 5 beast core shimmered across her fingers as she absorbed its energy, the light pulsing in rhythm with her heartbeat. Once she stabilized the energy within her, she straightened from Edric's embrace, extracting another beast core, and continued without missing a beat.

"It's probably because I have dual abilities. I've always needed stronger beast cores to recharge. That's why I can handle fights above my rank."

Edric's pupils narrowed to slits, his mind racing. "You can absorb the energy of two Level 5 beast cores at once?"

Emma nodded lightly, her expression resolute. "Yeah. Two are just enough to refill me."

His silence stretched, thick with disbelief. That shouldn't even be possible.

His voice lowered, tinged with concern. "Emma, after absorbing that much energy, you don't feel strange? Dizzy? Off-balance?"

Female Etherians with dual abilities were nearly extinct—Edric had only ever encountered two in his lifetime. Yet none of them had accomplished what Emma had just done.

He had never heard of any Etherian, male or female, capable of absorbing beast cores above their own rank—and taking in two at once? That was supposed to be impossible.

For the majority of Etherians, even those blessed with dual abilities, half a same-level beast core was already pushing their limits.

“I’m fine. I’ve always been like this,” she assured him, her voice unwavering.

Edric placed a hand over hers, allowing his energy to sweep through her system, checking for any signs of imbalance. Only when he found everything stable did his shoulders finally relax.

“Emma, this has to stay between us and our mates. No one else can know,” he instructed firmly.

“I know,” she replied, her sincerity evident. She had never shared this secret with anyone before. Edric was the only one she trusted enough to confide in, certain he would never use it against her.

Her strength returned quickly, but her limbs still felt heavy. Deciding to take a break from the hunt, she paused, gathering her thoughts and preparing for whatever challenges lay ahead.

Conclusion

As the dust settled from the fierce battle, Emma found herself at a crossroads, both exhilarated and burdened by the weight of her hidden strength. The thrill of victory coursed through her, yet it was intertwined with the anxiety of keeping her dual abilities a secret. In Edric’s presence, she felt a flicker of hope, a connection that transcended the rivalry and competition surrounding them. His unwavering support and genuine concern for her well-being ignited a spark of courage within her, compelling her to embrace the life she had long feared. For the first time, she recognized that her true power lay not only in her abilities but in her willingness to trust and be vulnerable with someone who saw her for who she truly was.

Meanwhile, Damian wrestled with his own tumultuous emotions, torn between the frustration of being sidelined and the undeniable admiration he felt for Emma’s prowess. The protective instincts that surged within him were at odds with the realization that he could no longer view her merely as a prize to be won. As he processed the remnants of their hunt, he grappled with the understanding that Emma was carving her own path, one that might not include him. Yet, deep down, he felt a shift—a growing respect for her independence and strength. In the end, both men stood on the precipice of change,

their feelings for Emma igniting a fierce determination to redefine their roles in her life, as she prepared to step boldly into the future she had once feared to embrace.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, the tension between Damian and Edric is bound to escalate as both suitors grapple with their feelings for Emma and the implications of her hidden powers. With Edric now aware of Emma's potential to absorb energy beyond her rank, he may find himself torn between protecting her and the jealousy that simmers beneath the surface. As they continue their hunt, the stakes will rise not only in the battles they face but also in the emotional conflicts that brew among them. Will Edric reveal Emma's secret to gain a strategic advantage, or will his growing affection for her lead him to protect her at all costs?

Meanwhile, Damian's frustration is sure to boil over as he witnesses Edric's growing influence over Emma. As he processes the carcasses, the sounds of battle will serve as a painful reminder of his own helplessness. Will he find a way to confront Edric and reclaim his place by Emma's side, or will he be forced to confront the reality that he may not be the only one vying for her heart? The chapter promises to delve deeper into the dynamics of their relationships, revealing secrets, betrayals, and the fierce determination of each character to protect what they hold dear. Expect unexpected alliances, fierce confrontations, and a deeper exploration of Emma's dual abilities that could change everything.

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 40

[2,087 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 40 Summary

In Chapter 40 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Edric showcases his impressive combat skills by effortlessly defeating a pack of level 5 beasts, allowing Emma to collect the remains with a sense of calm amidst the adrenaline rush. Their connection deepens as they share whispers in the aftermath of the battle, highlighting the bond forged through shared experiences. Meanwhile, Laura and her squad finish off the remaining threats, and she expresses her gratitude towards Emma for her crucial role in their survival, despite a lingering concern about the level 8 beast that could have posed a significant threat.

As Laura celebrates their success, she acknowledges the pivotal moment when Emma's Rank 9 mate intervened, emphasizing that their victory was not solely due to their own strength. Emma, displaying humility, credits Laura and her mate for their strategic fighting, but Laura insists that they owe their lives to Edric's timely arrival. This exchange reflects the camaraderie and mutual respect among the group, as well as the weight of their recent encounter with danger.

Meanwhile, Evie experiences a moment of disbelief when she unexpectedly encounters Kael Auris, a noble from the Central Planet. Her excitement is palpable as she recalls how he saved her from a level 8 beast. The encounter stirs within her a mix of admiration and disbelief at the chance to be so close to someone of his stature. Kael, focused on his own mission, shows a flicker of interest in Evie but remains preoccupied with searching for a specific female capable of defeating level 4 beasts.

As their conversation unfolds, Evie learns about Kael's quest and the mysterious female he seeks, described by her unique lightning-based abilities. This revelation sparks curiosity in Evie, who recalls witnessing a similar lightning flash during her brief encounter with Emma. The chapter closes with Evie's intrigue about the fierce female Kael is searching for, hinting at the interconnectedness of their fates and the unfolding narrative of strength and survival in a world filled with danger.

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

Chapter 40: Storms in the South

Edric executed a flawless swing of his tail, dispatching the last pack of level 5 beasts with a single, decisive motion. With remarkable ease, he gathered them up and laid them down before Emma, who was already in the zone, her heart racing with adrenaline. Each beast was tucked away with meticulous care, her calm demeanor contrasting sharply with the electric energy coursing through her veins.

As the echoes of battle faded into an eerie silence, they lingered together, sharing whispers that danced between them like the remnants of the fight they had just survived.

Two hours later, Laura's squad finally finished off the last of the stragglers. She had long since exhausted her energy reserves and was sprawled across a large rock, trying to catch her breath while her mate stood guard, his watchful eyes never leaving her side.

When she finally mustered the strength to look up, her jaw dropped in astonishment. The clearing was a gruesome sight, littered with carcasses piled like small hills, their beast cores glinting on the ground like scattered jewels. A sharp whistle escaped her lips as she grabbed her mate by the collar, pulling him close for a fervent kiss.

"We hit the jackpot this time," she exclaimed, laughter bubbling up from her chest, breathless with relief. "All thanks to Emma."

Yet, beneath her joy, a nagging thought lingered in her mind. If Emma's Rank 9 mate hadn't arrived when he did, that level 8 beast would have had them frozen in fear. They would have been paralyzed, unable to act, no matter how many beasts surrounded them, waiting to be claimed.

Shaking off the thoughts, Laura snapped back to the task at hand, briskly ordering her squad to process the bodies before jogging over to Emma. "Emma, I mean it—you saved us out there. Without you and your mate, we would have gone home empty-handed."

Emma stood up, brushing off her sleeves with a modest smile. "Edric may have done the heavy lifting, but you and your mate fought with incredible strategy. That's how we made it through this alive."

Laura grinned widely, waving her hands dismissively. "Oh, come on! Even if we doubled our strength, that level 8 beast would've chewed us up. Your mate saved our skins, and we both know it."

The mere mention of the level 8 beast made Emma pause, her eyes widening slightly as she turned to Edric. "Wait—what about that level 8 beast? You didn't kill it? What did it look like?"

Beasts of that caliber were notorious for their rarity and value. A complete corpse along with its core could fetch a staggering fortune on the open market. Emma had never laid eyes on one, and if Edric still had the body, her curiosity was piqued.

Edric finished scaling the night pod and stepped closer, his voice steady as he explained, "I didn't take it down. It was heading south when I arrived, and I didn't pursue it. I just wanted to find you."

He straightened up, offering her a confident nod. “Once we settle in, I’ll head south and finish the job.” Typical Edric—calm and collected, as if swatting down a level 8 beast was just another day at the office.

Meanwhile, in the southern part of the forest, Evie couldn’t believe her fortune—of all the people to encounter here, it had to be him.

A tall figure stood framed by the dappled sunlight, his hair shimmering like molten gold. The faint glimmer of golden feathers at his shoulders caught the light with every subtle movement, creating an almost ethereal aura around him.

“Mr. Auris—I never imagined running into you here,” she blurted out, unable to contain her excitement. “If it weren’t for you, that level 8 beast would’ve swallowed me and my mate whole.”

The man before her was no ordinary hunter. This was Kael Auris—the heir to the illustrious Suncrest Lineage of the Central Planet, a name that resonated with power and prestige across every system in the Empire.

She had glimpsed him once before, from a distance at a planetary summit, where he had radiated brilliance like the sun among lesser stars.

Now, standing mere feet away from him, she found it nearly impossible to maintain her composure.

For someone like her—a female without a divine mate from the Beast God—getting close to the nobility of Central Planet felt like an unattainable dream. Encountering them was akin to trying to catch sunlight; no matter how hard she reached, it always slipped through her fingers.

Kael hadn’t intended to engage with her. He had come to this sector with a purpose—hunting for someone. Yet, the moment she uttered his name, his gaze shifted in her direction.

“You know me?” His voice was deep, smooth, and controlled—a tone that could silence a crowd with ease.

He hadn’t been there to hunt. His mission was to find someone when he stumbled upon a level 8 beast—a small, elusive creature capable of darting away in the blink of an eye. If he hadn’t regained his strength to the peak of level eight, he might have missed it entirely.

Evie felt her cheeks flush as she realized he was genuinely interested in her words. “I saw you once on the Central Planet. I didn’t get the chance to speak, though.”

So that was it, Kael thought, his jaw tightening slightly. For a moment, I wondered if she might know the female I'm searching for.

Still, he wasn't ready to turn away just yet. "I take it you live around here?"

Evie nodded vigorously. "Yeah, on F-268 for now. I'll be moving to the Central Planet soon."

A smile of quiet pride blossomed on her face as she envisioned her future—the Beast God had finally chosen her a suitor, one who resided on the Central Planet. It was her chance to escape, her opportunity to rise above the dust of F-268.

Kael remained impassive. The personal details held no significance for him. "Do you hunt in these forests often?"

"Of course," she replied, her smile unwavering. "A female still has to get stronger. Can't have my mates doing all the work." Her flirtatious tone barely registered with him; his thoughts were elsewhere.

"I'm searching for someone," he stated flatly. "A Rank 3 female who can easily defeat level 4 beasts."

A fleeting memory crossed his mind—Emma, fierce and vibrant, with streaks of lightning illuminating her arm as she battled against beasts. His voice softened unconsciously as he spoke. "It's the type of blue-white lightning. It forges itself into a blade—bright, clean, and merciless when she cuts their heads clean off."

Evie blinked, her mouth twitching in disbelief. A female who beheaded her opponents? Who even does that?

Most of the women she knew fought with grace, keeping their kills tidy and controlled. The way he described her was nothing short of terrifying.

"Sorry, Mr. Auris. I don't think I've met anyone like that," Evie said, forcing a polite smile as she shook her head in apology.

She genuinely had no idea who he was referring to—she had never encountered a female that wild, let alone one stuck at Rank 3.

Yet, something about the lightning struck a chord within her. She recalled witnessing that same blue-white flash once before during her brief encounter with Emma.

Tilting her head curiously, she asked, "Mr. Auris, this female you're looking for—she's lightning-based, right?"

Conclusion

As the dust settled from the battle, the emotional weight of the day's events began to crystallize within Emma and her friends. The adrenaline that had surged through their veins during the fight now transformed into a sense of camaraderie and gratitude. Emma's modesty in deflecting praise only deepened the bond between her and Laura, underscoring the importance of teamwork in their survival. The thrill of victory was bittersweet, though, as the looming shadow of the level 8 beast reminded them that danger was never far behind. Yet, in the aftermath of chaos, they found solace in shared laughter and the promise of future adventures, knowing that together, they could face whatever challenges lay ahead.

Meanwhile, Evie's unexpected encounter with Kael Auris opened a new door to possibilities she had never dared to imagine. His presence stirred a blend of excitement and anxiety within her, igniting dreams of a life beyond the confines of F-268. As she spoke with him, she felt a flicker of hope that perhaps she could forge her own path, not just as a hunter but as someone worthy of recognition in a world dominated by power and prestige. The connection she felt to Emma through Kael's descriptions hinted at a deeper intertwining of their fates, suggesting that the life she had been afraid to live was inching closer to reality. With each heartbeat, the storms in the south seemed to clear, revealing a horizon filled with potential, courage, and the promise of transformation.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the upcoming chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Edric prepares to confront the elusive level 8 beast that slipped through his grasp. With Emma at his side, the stakes are higher than ever. What seemed like a routine hunt has now transformed into a race against time, with danger lurking just beyond the horizon. As Edric gears up to venture south, Emma's growing resolve will be tested, forcing her to confront not only her fears but also the potential consequences of their actions. Will they be able to track down the beast before it can wreak havoc again, or will their journey lead them into uncharted territory filled with unforeseen challenges?

Meanwhile, Evie's unexpected encounter with Kael Auris will unravel layers of complexity in her character. As she grapples with her feelings of admiration and trepidation toward the noble heir, the dynamics of their interaction will shift dramatically. With Kael's search for the lightning-wielding female intensifying, Evie finds herself at a crossroads—will she step into a role that could change her destiny, or will she shy away from the opportunity to prove herself? The chapter promises to delve deeper into the intricate web of alliances and rivalries that bind the characters together, leaving readers on the edge of their seats, eager to discover how their paths will intertwine in the face of looming threats.

Sara Lili

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