

Nine Therians and Their Only One Queen

chapter 41-50

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 41

[1,810 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 41 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Kael is on a desperate quest to find the woman who saved him, consumed by disappointment when Evie mentions a different Etherian. Despite her description of a Rank 4 Etherian with pure blue lightning, Kael’s heart remains focused solely on the woman from his past, leaving him frustrated and filled with a sense of urgency. He feels an overwhelming sense of loss as he realizes that the woman he seeks may not even be from F–268, increasing his anxiety and determination.

Evie’s frustration surfaces after Kael abruptly leaves, revealing her own vulnerabilities and resentment towards the chaotic situation they find themselves in. She grapples with her gratitude for Kael’s intervention during a life-threatening encounter with a beast, while also feeling annoyed by the incompetence of those around her. As she prepares for another meeting, her bitterness is palpable, reflecting her inner turmoil and the dangers they face.

Meanwhile, Kael’s subordinate brings news that the woman he seeks was indeed hunting alongside Etherians, sparking a new hope within him. The realization that she may have advanced to Rank 4, with enhanced abilities, ignites Kael’s determination to find her. His excitement builds as he formulates a plan to follow her trail, feeling a renewed sense of purpose and clarity about his mission.

In the North, Emma, in contrast to Kael’s turmoil, is enjoying a moment of camaraderie and joy as she prepares a meal with her companions. The lighthearted atmosphere and the delicious aroma of grilling meat stand in stark contrast to the tension in Kael’s world. Emma’s interactions with Edric and Damian highlight her nurturing spirit and the bonds forming among them, showcasing a different kind of strength and resilience amidst the chaos surrounding them.

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

“I do know someone,” Evie said thoughtfully, tapping her chin as she pieced together her memories. “But her lightning is a striking pure blue—not the blue-white you might expect. She’s a Rank 4 Etherian. She joined us for the beast hunt this time, but when the beast tide surged, she headed north. If you’re interested, I can guide you to her right now.”

Pure blue lightning? A Rank 4 Etherian? The words echoed in Kael’s mind, but they failed to ignite the spark of hope he had been searching for.

His expression darkened, disappointment washing over him like a cold wave. “She’s not the one I’m looking for,” he replied, his voice barely above a whisper, yet laced with finality.

Kael’s heart ached with a singular focus: the woman who had saved him. In that moment, nothing else mattered. The thought of anyone else, any other Etherian, was a distraction he could not afford.

Without sparing another glance at Evie, he turned sharply and strode away, his men trailing behind him like shadows. Where could she possibly be? The question gnawed at him, relentless and unyielding.

He had scoured F–268 for days, combing through every photograph of Rank 3 females, yet none of them bore the face he remembered so vividly. The female who saved me... Where is she now? Could it be that she isn’t even from F–268 at all? The realization sent a chill down his spine.

Watching Kael depart, Evie’s mate approached her with a furrowed brow, concern etched across his features. “Ms. Graham, may I ask why Mr. Auris left so abruptly?”

Evie, still simmering from his sudden exit, snapped back, “How should I know why he left? Do you think I wanted him to go?” Her frustration flared, a flame stoked by the chaos that had unfolded.

He ducked his head, clearly taken aback. “I’m sorry, Ms. Graham. I didn’t mean to pry.”

Evie dismissed him with a wave of her hand, allowing her anger to bubble just beneath the surface. Useless men. They had nearly gotten me killed by that Rank 8 beast. If Kael hadn’t intervened in time, I’d be dead. The thought sent a shiver of gratitude mixed with irritation through her.

“Clean up,” she commanded, her tone sharp. “We’re meeting Laura next.”

What luck, she thought bitterly. I ventured south to evade the beasts, only to encounter a carnivorous vine instead. We barely managed to incinerate that thing before crossing paths with a Level 8 beast. All that chaos—Emma could have warned us about the vine before fleeing north.

Meanwhile, not far from Evie's group, one of Kael's subordinates approached, his expression serious as he waited until Evie's party was out of sight.

"Mr. Auris," the man began, his voice steady, "we've confirmed it. That female was indeed hunting beasts alongside a group of Etherians. She wasn't lying."

Kael's brow furrowed as he absorbed the information. "I see," he replied quietly, a single nod acknowledging the report.

The subordinate hesitated for a moment, then ventured cautiously, "Mr. Auris, I might have an idea, though I'm not sure if I should say it."

"Speak freely," Kael urged, his attention sharpening.

Sitting atop a thick tree trunk, Kael's gaze remained fixed on the twisted, writhing vines below, his mind racing with possibilities.

After a moment's contemplation, the subordinate suggested, "What if the female you're searching for has already advanced to Rank 4? Her abilities might have evolved along with her rank. That could explain why we couldn't find her among the Rank 3 females."

Advanced? The idea struck Kael like a bolt of lightning, and he shot up from his seat, realization igniting in his eyes.

"Of course! Why didn't I think of that?" His excitement was palpable. "She mentioned that Rank 4 possesses lightning powers, didn't she?"

"Yes, Mr. Auris," the subordinate confirmed, nodding vigorously. "That's precisely what she said."

Kael's hands trembled with anticipation. Could it truly be her?

"Let's move. We'll follow her trail and see for ourselves."

He was about to unfurl his golden wings when he halted, turning sharply to his men. "Send word to Adam—tell him to recheck every female on F-268, one more time."

I've searched so diligently, yet never considered that possibility.

Meanwhile, in the North, after all the beast corpses had been dealt with, Emma sat before the makeshift rest pod that Edric had set up for her. She was in high spirits, cheerfully directing him and Damian as they grilled the freshly prepared meat.

Emma had already cleaned and marinated the beast meat, her hands deftly working as she pulled the grill from her storage band. Damian, with his fire-based ability, was the perfect partner for this culinary endeavor.

Laura had her own grill, having learned the art of barbecuing from Emma in the past, even if she still relied on Emma to handle the marination.

Soon, the rich, mouthwatering aroma of roasting meat wafted through the air, so tantalizing that even Edric and Damian, who typically couldn't stand each other, found themselves side by side, captivated by the grill.

"Emma, you're incredible," Edric exclaimed, practically salivating. "I've never caught a whiff of anything so delicious."

The meat wasn't even finished cooking yet, but the scent alone was enough to make anyone's stomach rumble in anticipation. He could only imagine how delectable it would be once it was fully cooked.

Before Emma could respond, Damian puffed up with pride. "That's nothing. Ms. Tibarn can whip up all sorts of delightful dishes! Have you ever tasted her pancakes or dumplings? They're so smooth and tender, soft and fragrant!"

"And her fruit oatmeal—sweet yet light. Pair that with her fluffy white rolls, and it's pure heaven!"

Watching Damian boast so smugly, Edric clenched his fists, fighting the urge to strangle him. Then, turning his gaze back to Emma, his voice softened. "Emma... will I get to taste those too someday?"

Emma nodded eagerly, her smile brightening the moment.

Conclusion

In the conclusion of this chapter, the emotional arcs of Kael and Emma converge on a precipice of hope and longing. Kael's relentless pursuit of the woman who saved him underscores his desperation and determination, as he grapples with the realization that she might have advanced beyond his expectations. The moment of clarity ignites a flicker of hope within him, propelling him forward on a quest that feels both urgent and necessary. His journey is not just a search for the woman herself but a quest for closure and understanding, a path that may ultimately lead him to confront his own fears and vulnerabilities. The weight of disappointment from Evie's suggestion is lifted, replaced by a renewed sense of purpose as he resolves to follow the trail of the mysterious Rank 4 Etherian.

Meanwhile, Emma's lighthearted moment with her companions serves as a stark contrast to Kael's turmoil, illustrating the different paths their lives have taken since their fateful encounter. As she basks in the camaraderie and warmth of cooking for friends, Emma embodies the joy and resilience that can flourish even in the face of danger. The playful banter and shared experiences highlight her growth and newfound confidence, which stands in stark juxtaposition to Kael's internal struggle. Their stories, intertwined

yet distinct, hint at the possibility of reconnection and healing, suggesting that both characters are on a trajectory towards not just finding each other but also discovering the strength within themselves to embrace the lives they were once afraid to live.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter of “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” readers can expect the tension to escalate as Kael embarks on a frantic quest to uncover the truth behind the mysterious female who saved him. With the realization that she may have advanced to Rank 4, Kael’s determination will push him into uncharted territories, both physically and emotionally. As he races against time, the stakes will rise, forcing him to confront not only the dangers lurking in the shadows of F-268 but also the vulnerability of his own heart. Will he find her before it’s too late, or will the cruel twists of fate separate them forever?

Simultaneously, Emma’s storyline promises to intertwine with Kael’s as she navigates her newfound sense of belonging among her companions. The camaraderie built over the grill will serve as a backdrop for deeper revelations and connections, hinting at the complexities of her past and her potential future. As her skills and confidence grow, Emma may find herself at a crossroads, torn between the life she has forged with her friends and the haunting memories of the one she left behind. The chapter will leave readers on the edge of their seats, eager to see how these two paths will converge, and whether Kael and Emma’s destinies are truly intertwined or forever at odds.

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 42

[1,894 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 42 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma experiences a heartwarming moment as she shares a meal with Edric and Damian. Emma’s warmth and hospitality shine through as she promises to cook for Edric, igniting a friendly rivalry between the two men. Edric and Damian both present their culinary creations to her, eager for her approval. Emma, feeling the pressure of their expectations, decides to taste both dishes, ultimately praising them both, which brings joy to Edric and a competitive spirit in Damian.

As they enjoy the meal, Edric expresses genuine concern for Emma’s small portions, while Damian reflects on her eating habits, pondering whether they stem from past struggles. Both men, determined to ensure Emma is well-fed, offer her additional food and nutrient fluids, showcasing their care and camaraderie. Emma reassures them that she enjoys the barbecue and simply prefers smaller portions, appreciating their concern but wanting them to enjoy their meal as well.

After the meal, Emma feels a sense of contentment and gratitude, realizing how much richer her life has become with friends by her side. She takes a moment to appreciate the cozy rest pod Edric prepared for her, a stark contrast to her previous life of scarcity. This newfound sense of safety and companionship fills her heart with warmth, reinforcing her belief that she is no longer alone.

However, as Emma approaches the door of her rest pod, an unsettling chill runs down her spine, causing her to pause. Despite the laughter and camaraderie around her, she feels an inexplicable sense of unease, as if something sinister lurks in the shadows. This moment of tension contrasts sharply with the warmth of the previous scenes, leaving readers intrigued about what lies ahead for Emma in this new chapter of her life.

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

Emma’s voice was warm and inviting as she said, “When we go home, I’ll make it for you.” A radiant smile graced her lips, one that seemed to light up the dimming evening.

If others can indulge in my cooking, why shouldn’t he?

Edric, feeling a surge of pride, cast a triumphant glance at Damian, his eyes gleaming with satisfaction. “With Emma around, I’ll finally get to savor all those exquisite dishes you’ve been raving about,” he said, his tone laced with playful arrogance.

Damian’s expression shifted to one of confusion and curiosity. What makes him so special? Why does Emma seem to care so much for him?

The aroma of the meat wafted through the air, signaling that it was finally ready. Edric wasted no time, eagerly presenting his creation to Emma.

“Emma, please try this—let me know if my roast lives up to its reputation!” he urged, his enthusiasm palpable.

Not one to be overshadowed, Damian quickly placed his own freshly grilled meat in front of her, a competitive glint in his eye.

“Ms. Tibarn, don’t forget about mine! You should give it a taste too!” he insisted, his voice full of charm.

Emma glanced back and forth between the two generous plates of barbecue, both men looking at her with eager anticipation. She couldn’t help but feel a twinge of pressure; whichever dish she praised would surely leave the other one sulking in disappointment.

After a brief moment of contemplation, she decided to take a piece from each man’s offering, carefully sampling both. She took a bite from Edric’s roast, then from Damian’s grilled meat, and nodded in genuine delight.

“Delicious! You both did such an incredible job—honestly, it’s even better than mine,” she exclaimed, her eyes sparkling with sincerity.

Edric’s face lit up at her compliment, and he immediately thrust all the meat he had in his hands toward her. “Emma, please, take it all! I’ll just roast more,” he declared, his eagerness evident.

Damian, who had been about to enjoy his own meal, hesitated. He couldn’t let Edric outshine him. With a swift motion, he pushed his own meat toward Emma as well.

“Ms. Tibarn, mine is for you too. You can have it all!” he insisted, a determined look on his face.

There’s plenty for everyone. If Emma enjoys my dish, I’ll simply make more. Edric won’t win this round.

Between the two of them, they were offering more than ten catties of perfectly roasted meat, a feast fit for a king.

Emma, sensing the abundance, took a modest amount from each plate, placing it on her own before gently pushing the rest back toward them.

“This is more than enough for me. You two should enjoy the rest,” she said, her voice cheerful and inviting.

Edric frowned slightly, his brow furrowing at how little she had taken. “Emma, why are you eating so little?” he asked, concern creeping into his tone.

No wonder she was so slim—she hardly ate!

“Are you not in the mood for barbecue? Just tell me what you’d like, and I’ll find it for you,” he offered, his genuine care evident.

Whatever Emma desires, I’ll make sure she gets it.

Damian, having spent days with Emma, understood her tendency to eat small portions. Yet, now he found himself pondering the reason behind it.

Maybe she’s just accustomed to eating little. Or perhaps she’s struggled financially in the past?

Lost in thought, Damian quickly retrieved several vials of high-grade nutrient fluid from his band, placing them before her with a flourish.

“Ms. Tibarn, these are quite tasty! If you’re not feeling the barbecue, please try these. And if there’s something else you’d prefer, just let us know. Edric and I are more than happy to fetch it for you,” he said, his tone earnest.

After all, they were men—they would never let a woman go hungry.

Seeing their serious expressions, Emma realized they had misunderstood her intentions. She quickly waved her hands, attempting to reassure them.

“No, no! I absolutely love barbecue. I just don’t eat much at a time. This is sufficient for me. If I get hungry, I promise I’ll let you know,” she said, her voice light and reassuring.

As a pure human, her stomach simply wasn’t that large.

Two catties of beast meat, along with a few apple-sized mutant fruits, already constituted a feast in her eyes.

Since arriving here, she had actually enjoyed more food than she had in quite some time.

“Please, go ahead and eat, both of you. Don’t mind me,” she encouraged, cheerfully picking up a piece of meat and savoring its flavor.

The lightly spiced roast was tender and juicy, each bite yielding a satisfying chew that sent warmth through her.

Seventh-tier beast meat—she had rarely had the opportunity to indulge in something this exquisite before.

Truly, having companions made life infinitely richer. Her days were finally beginning to feel brighter.

Finishing her meal quickly, Emma rose while Edric and Damian continued to enjoy their food. She made her way to wash her hands, conjuring water with her ability, the cool liquid refreshing against her skin.

After drying her hands, she turned towards the rest pod that Edric had prepared for her, a small sanctuary in the wilderness.

The pod resembled a cozy little home, complete with a bathroom, a snug living area, and a warmly decorated bedroom that felt inviting and safe.

Edric had told her he set it up in a hurry upon their arrival, promising to create an even better one for her once they returned home.

Emma had seen these rest pods listed in the virtual mall before—each one priced at over a hundred million star coins, a sum she could only dream of in her previous life of scarcity.

Now, glancing at Edric, who was not far away, a soft smile graced her lips. How wonderful it felt to know she wasn't alone anymore. Finally, she had someone by her side.

As Emma reached the door of the rest pod, ready to push it open, an unexpected chill danced along her spine—a sharp, unsettling feeling as if something sinister was watching her from the shadows.

She spun around abruptly, her heart racing, but found nothing amiss.

Nearby, Edric and Damian were still calmly grilling their meat, their laughter mingling with the crackling of the fire.

Even Laura and her partner, who were situated nearby, showed no signs of anything unusual, their conversations light and carefree.

Conclusion

In this chapter, Emma's journey toward embracing a life she once feared is poignantly illustrated through her interactions with Edric and Damian. The warmth of companionship and the joy of shared meals symbolize a turning point for Emma, who has long been accustomed to solitude and scarcity. As she savors the flavors of their cooking, the richness of the moment contrasts sharply with her previous experiences,

highlighting her emotional growth. The genuine concern from both men for her well-being reflects a newfound sense of belonging, suggesting that she is finally stepping into a world where she is valued and cared for. This realization ignites a spark of hope within her, transforming her apprehension into a budding sense of possibility.

Yet, as Emma stands at the threshold of the rest pod, ready to embrace her new sanctuary, the sudden chill that grips her serves as a reminder that shadows still linger in her life. The unease she feels hints at the challenges that may lie ahead, even as she revels in the warmth of her current situation. However, the laughter and camaraderie surrounding her indicate that she is no longer alone in facing whatever may come. Emma's emotional arc concludes with a delicate balance between hope and caution, suggesting that while she has opened the door to a life filled with potential, she must remain vigilant against the remnants of her past. Ultimately, this chapter encapsulates the essence of her journey—a courageous step toward a brighter future, tempered by the awareness of the complexities that life continues to present.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Emma confronts the unsettling feeling that something is lurking just beyond her view. The warmth of companionship she has begun to cherish may be tested as shadows from her past threaten to intrude upon her newfound peace. Will she finally confront the fears that have haunted her, or will she retreat into the safety of her carefully constructed walls? As she grapples with her emotions, both Edric and Damian will undoubtedly step up, each vying to protect her in their own unique ways, igniting a rivalry that could change the dynamics of their relationships forever.

Moreover, as Emma navigates the complexities of her feelings for both men, the stakes will rise. Each gesture of care from Edric and Damian will be weighed not just for its intent, but for the deeper implications it holds for her heart. Will she be able to embrace the life she has been too afraid to live, or will the shadows of doubt continue to cloud her judgment? With the promise of unexpected revelations and emotional confrontations, readers will be left on the edge of their seats, eagerly anticipating how Emma will respond to the challenges ahead and what choices she will ultimately make in the face of her fears.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 43

[1,855 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 43 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma finds herself paralyzed by fear after encountering a terrifying Rank 11 Chitinid. The icy sensation enveloping her is compounded by her inability to call for help, leaving her in a state of panic. As she struggles to maintain her composure, she realizes that the danger she faces is far beyond what even her powerful companion, Edric, can sense. Memories of warnings about the Chitinids flood her mind, heightening her dread as the grotesque creature approaches her, its monstrous features and menacing intentions making her stomach churn.

Edric, sensing Emma’s peril, rushes to her aid, but is thwarted by an invisible barrier that protects the Chitinid. As he grapples with feelings of guilt and helplessness, he recognizes the gravity of the situation—he is outmatched against a Rank 11 creature. Desperation leads him to consider a forbidden technique that could temporarily elevate his power at the cost of his life. His determination to save Emma ignites a fierce internal battle, revealing the depth of his feelings for her and the lengths he is willing to go to protect her.

Damian, another ally, intervenes just in time to prevent Edric from sacrificing himself. Despite his usual self-serving nature, he understands that Emma would be devastated by Edric’s death. This moment reveals a surprising layer of complexity in Damian’s character, as he grapples with his own feelings for Emma and the implications of losing Edric. The tension escalates as both men are driven by their desire to save Emma, leading to a precarious alliance where they must combine their strengths to confront the Chitinid.

As the Chitinid looms closer, its grotesque hunger for Emma intensifies, presenting a dire threat not only to her life but also to the emotional bonds between the three characters. The stakes are raised as they must navigate their feelings of rivalry, sacrifice, and the desperate need to survive against an overwhelming force. The chapter captures a moment of high tension, fear, and the vulnerability of love, as each character confronts their own fears and desires in the face of imminent danger.

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

Am I still reeling from the encounter with the Rank 8 beast? Is that the reason this icy sensation wraps around me like a suffocating blanket?

Emma's brow furrowed deeply as she pivoted towards the rest pod, her body suddenly freezing in place, as if caught in a trap.

She desperately attempted to call out to Edric, but her lips refused to cooperate; no sound escaped her throat, just a breathless silence.

What is this overwhelming power?

A wave of panic surged through her, but she fought to maintain her composure. Stay calm. The greater the peril, the more I must center myself.

Even Edric, who was a formidable Rank 9, sensed nothing amiss. This meant that whatever this force was, it was far beyond his capabilities. What in the world is it?

Her gaze flicked around, darting to and fro as she scanned the shadows that danced ominously around her. Then, a memory sparked in her mind—something Laura had once shared about the Chitinid. Could it possibly be one of them?

Suddenly, a rush of icy wind whooshed past her ear, sending a shiver cascading down her spine.

“Such a fragrant female,” a voice croaked, thick and slimy, dripping with repulsion.

From the periphery of her vision, Emma caught a glimpse of a grotesque face—human-like yet horrifyingly monstrous. It had hair, eyes, and ears, but the absence of a nose made it all the more unsettling.

A gaping maw stretched unnaturally wide, reaching from ear to ear, filled with sharp, glistening fangs that gleamed menacingly in the dim light. To make matters worse, its cheeks were adorned with a disturbing array of eyes, each a different hue, twitching and blinking at bizarre angles, as if they were alive in their own right.

Just the sight of it sent her stomach into a tumultuous churn.

A skeletal hand, shriveled and emaciated, reached out, its long, pale nails grazing her cheek before halting between her brows.

“I've never encountered such mental power before,” the creature rasped, its voice a sickly whisper. “You smell so sweet... Let me eat you.”

Eat your damn self! Emma seethed inwardly, a fire igniting within her.

If only I could move, I would swiftly slice the Chitinid with my blade.

How dare this abomination instill fear in others—utterly shameless.

“Emma!”

Edric’s voice sliced through the tension like a knife, laced with an unmistakable fear that sent a jolt through her.

She jerked her gaze towards him, relief flooding her as she realized he had finally sensed the imminent danger. His serpent tail lashed forward, coiling with intent to yank her away from the horror that loomed before her.

Beside him, Damian’s nine fox tails flared out, rushing to aid in her rescue.

But just as they reached her, both tails slammed against an invisible barrier, a shimmering wall erupting around Emma, forcefully hurling them back.

Their expressions darkened in an instant, the gravity of the situation settling heavily upon them.

Rank 11. It was a Rank 11 Chitinid.

Edric’s heart plummeted, a tempest of fury and fear waging war within him as he beheld Emma ensnared. Guilt clawed at his insides.

I’ve failed Emma. I allowed her to fall into this trap.

“Emma, don’t be afraid,” he managed to say hoarsely, his voice thick with emotion. “I won’t let anything happen to you.”

But deep down, a chilling realization gripped him—there was no way he could win; a Rank 9 stood no chance against a Rank 11.

Only one option remained—sacrifice.

The Violet Obsidian possessed a forbidden technique—a desperate measure where one could offer their life as the price, and in return, their power would surge three ranks higher for a fleeting moment.

Without a moment’s hesitation, Edric drew a blade across his wrist, crimson droplets cascading down his scales, a stark contrast against his skin.

Damian’s eyes widened in alarm. “You fool—stop!” He seized Edric’s arm, halting him just in the nick of time.

“Are you trying to prevent me from saving her? Let go!” Edric growled, his tail thrashing in a fit of rage. Every second wasted was another moment that Emma was in peril.

“I’m not stopping you from saving her—I’m stopping you from dying.”

Damian, despite his usual self-serving nature—greedy and calculating—knew all too well that Emma held a soft spot for Edric. If Edric were to perish here, Emma would be left shattered.

By all logic, he should have been indifferent to Edric’s fate; in fact, it would have been advantageous if Edric were to die. If he sacrificed himself to save Emma, she would live, and Damian could safely bring her back.

He would not only gain a Rank 11 Chitinid but also eliminate a rival for her affections.

All gain, no loss.

That was the way Damian operated.

Yet now, he had done something utterly foolish—he had intervened. “If you die, Emma will be heartbroken. I can’t bear the thought of her sadness.”

It wasn’t just that. Deep within, Damian felt an unsettling certainty—if he failed to save Edric today, there would be no future for him and Emma.

“But if I don’t do this, how can I save Emma?”

Edric wrenched his arm free, determination igniting in his chest.

Is that fox really going to stand idly by and watch Emma perish?

Damian shot him a fierce glare. “You reckless snake, do you honestly believe I would stop you without a plan to ensure you stay alive?”

Fine. This is the price for being insincere to Emma.

“Your kind possesses secret arts; mine does too. I’ll share my life force with you—not a thousand years, just five hundred. Five centuries with her is a fair deal, right?”

Behind Emma, the Chitinid loomed, greedily inhaling her scent, its grotesque face twisted with hunger.

“You smell so delightful. I don’t even have to eat you. I can take you with me instead—make you my pet.”

To the Chitinids, therian could be seen merely as sustenance or as pets to be kept.

Conclusion

In the throes of fear, Emma discovered a flicker of resilience igniting within her, spurred on by the unwavering determination of Edric and Damian. As the grotesque Chitinid loomed closer, its insidious intentions palpable, the bonds of friendship and sacrifice crystallized in her mind. Edric's desperate plea to protect her and Damian's unexpected willingness to stand against the odds revealed the depth of their connections. The icy grip of terror began to thaw, replaced by a fierce resolve to reclaim her agency in this harrowing moment. Emma realized that the life she had once feared to live could only be embraced through the strength of those willing to fight alongside her.

As the tension reached its zenith, the stakes became painfully clear; it was not merely a battle against a monstrous foe but a testament to the power of love, loyalty, and sacrifice. In that instant, Emma understood that her life was intertwined with Edric's and Damian's, and she would not let fear define her fate. With a newfound clarity, she steeled herself to confront the Chitinid, not as a victim but as a warrior ready to claim her destiny. The door to the life she had once shied away from swung open, revealing a path paved with courage and the promise of a future forged in the fires of adversity.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

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

As the tension escalates, readers can anticipate a thrilling confrontation between the formidable Edric and the terrifying Rank 11 Chitinid. With the stakes higher than ever, Emma finds herself caught in a web of fear and desperation, and the true extent of her powers may finally be revealed. Will she discover the strength within herself to break free from the Chitinid's grasp, or will she remain paralyzed by the icy grip of terror? The chapter promises to delve deeper into Emma's inner turmoil as she grapples with her fears, potentially awakening latent abilities that could turn the tide in their favor.

Moreover, the dynamic between Edric and Damian will take center stage as their motivations clash in this life-or-death scenario. With Edric's willingness to sacrifice himself juxtaposed against Damian's unexpected desire to protect both him and Emma, readers will be left wondering what choices will be made in the heat of the moment. Will they form an unlikely alliance to confront this monstrous threat, or will their rivalry intensify, putting Emma in even greater danger? Expect revelations, unexpected alliances, and heart-stopping action as the characters navigate this perilous encounter, setting the stage for a gripping showdown that could alter the course of their lives forever.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 44

[1,831 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 44 Summary

In Chapter 44 titled “Sacrifice,” the tension escalates as the Rank 11 Chitinid threatens Emma’s suitors, Edric and Damian, preparing to eliminate them before taking Emma back to its lair. The Chitinid’s sinister glee is palpable as it boasts of its power, but Emma, fueled by desperation and fury, breaks free from its control. She bravely confronts the creature, urging Edric and Damian to flee, knowing that her sacrifice might ensure their survival. Emma’s emotional turmoil is evident as she grapples with the potential of her own death, feeling a mix of fear and a sense of twisted victory in protecting the two men she cares for.

As the Chitinid reacts violently to Emma’s defiance, her resolve only strengthens. She understands the stakes and the likely consequences of her actions, believing that even if she perishes, Edric and Damian can recover from the loss. The Chitinid, infuriated by Emma’s audacity, threatens to consume her, and she braces for the worst, feeling the weight of dread as it looms closer. In her final moments, she finds solace in the thought that her sacrifice might save them, even as despair washes over her.

Just as the Chitinid is about to engulf Emma, a sudden explosion disrupts the scene—a fireball crashes into the creature, creating chaos and destruction. Emma is caught in the shockwave, suffering severe injuries and losing consciousness. The moment is a mixture of hope and uncertainty; while she is saved from immediate danger, her fate remains unclear as she lies battered and charred, the forest around her devastated.

Meanwhile, Lucien, a small black bird, anxiously attempts to rouse Emma from her unconscious state, revealing the emotional connection and concern felt by those who care for her. The chapter also reflects on the backstory of Lucien and Silas, who faced their own struggles against the Chitinids, emphasizing themes of loyalty and sacrifice. As they navigate the aftermath of their encounter, the stage is set for the next developments in Emma’s journey, leaving readers in suspense about her fate and the challenges that lie ahead.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

****Chapter 44: Sacrifice****

“Just look at those two suitors of yours,” the Rank 11 Chitinid remarked, its grotesque face brimming with countless eyes, as it tilted its head to survey Edric and Damian. “They appear ready to lay down their lives for you.”

“The Violet Obsidian’s forbidden arts, is it? Fascinating. It seems that little snake isn’t as feeble as I once thought,” it continued, a sinister glee evident in its voice.

“But today will not be their day to kill me,” it added with a chilling calmness. “Give me but a moment, dear therian female. Once I dispose of these two, I shall take you back to our lair.”

A rush of power surged through Emma, ignited by a mix of fury and desperation as she witnessed the Chitinid prepare to strike at Edric and Damian. In an instant, she shattered the creature’s hold over her and regained control of her own body.

With determination coursing through her veins, she lunged forward, wrapping her arms tightly around the Chitinid’s grotesque, tumor-ridden tail. “Edric! Damian! You can’t possibly take it on! Don’t waste a moment worrying about me! Just run! Quickly!” she shouted, her voice a mixture of urgency and fear.

In her heart, Emma understood that since she hadn’t yet formed an official bond with Edric, both he and Damian would likely survive her sacrifice. Even if she were to perish here, they would merely suffer a drop in their ranks—perhaps one or two.

For masters of their caliber, Rank 8 and Rank 9, such a fall was hardly catastrophic. They could easily cultivate their strength back in no time.

“Damn it! How dare you touch my tail?!” The Chitinid spun around, its multitude of eyes locking onto Emma, who clung desperately to its appendage. In its mind, a torrent of anger brewed.

No one, aside from my master, is allowed to lay a finger on my tail! Not even my own brood dares to approach it! And yet, this audacious therian female has the gall to grasp it?!

How utterly unforgivable!

“Very well, then. Since you seem so fond of those two male therian fools, I shall feast upon you right before their eyes,” it hissed, a cruel smile stretching across its grotesque mouth, which gaped wide like a black hole ready to devour.

Emma’s heart raced as she gasped inwardly. What kind of sorcery is this?!

Lying helplessly on the ground, she felt the weight of dread settle over her as the Chitinid leaned closer, intent on swallowing her whole.

“Emma!”

“No!”

The gut-wrenching cries of Edric and Damian echoed in her ears, and she longed for one last glimpse of their faces before her end. But as she tried to move, she found her body once again paralyzed.

Perhaps this is for the best. If I cannot see Edric one last time, I would rather be consumed and die here.

At least this Chitinid is swift enough to prevent Edric and Damian from sacrificing themselves for me.

I would rather face death than let them both perish.

In a twisted way, I'm still winning... Emma thought, despair washing over her as she closed her eyes. Just as the Chitinid's gaping maw was about to engulf her, a brilliant streak of fire blazed across the sky, illuminating the entire forest.

The shrill cry of a bird echoed through the night as a massive fireball hurtled through the air, crashing into the Chitinid with a resounding boom.

The explosion carved a deep crater—over three hundred feet wide—into the earth, sending shockwaves rippling through the surrounding trees and landscape.

Agony pierced through Emma's chest, and she coughed up a mouthful of blood, her vision fading to black. Just before unconsciousness took her, a powerful shockwave hurled her through the air like a rag doll.

The ground shattered beneath her, sand and gravel swirling in the tempest. Trees within miles were instantly reduced to ash.

Yay! I'm saved! Or maybe not? Emma thought, a flicker of uncertainty creeping in. I guess I'll have to wait and see.

Meanwhile, Kael rushed in with his men, but they were caught off guard by the ferocity of the shockwave, sent tumbling through the air before they could even catch sight of Emma.

After a moment, a series of persistent chirps broke the silence in a damp, dark ravine.

Emma lay beside a shallow pool, her body battered and charred.

A plump, black bird, no larger than a palm, perched precariously on her tangled hair, pecking gently at her forehead with its inky beak.

Despite its impatient chirping, the little creature was cautious, as if afraid to hurt her further.

A dark stick was lodged awkwardly in its ragged wing, giving it an almost comical appearance.

Lucien continued to chirp insistently, desperate for Emma to awaken. He hopped anxiously across her brow, leaving a few smudged claw prints in his wake, his worry palpable.

If it weren't for the faint rise and fall of her chest, along with the subtle pulse of her ability, he might have feared she was lost forever due to his and Silas' blunder.

Three months prior, Lucien and Silas had ventured to the outer battlefield to confront the Chitinids.

However, the troop they faced was vast, and it took them two grueling months to finally push the swarm back.

Just as they were preparing to return to the Empire, treachery struck from within their ranks, forcing Lucien to remain behind.

In a show of loyalty, Silas chose to stay with him on the outer battlefield.

Being stationed there meant they could only receive orders from the Empire's Commander-in-Chief, with no other signals reaching them.

Moreover, the terrain was treacherous and disorienting.

Initially, in their eagerness to return to the Central Planet, they had planned to seek the assistance of scavengers. But fate had other ideas; they not only failed to find help but also encountered a Rank 11 Chitinid.

It had obliterated their gear, lightcores, and weapons in a matter of moments.

The only silver lining? They managed to tail it back to the borders of the Empire, arriving at F-268.

Conclusion

In the aftermath of the devastating confrontation with the Chitinid, Emma's sacrifice and the unexpected intervention of Kael's forces mark a pivotal moment in her journey. As she lies battered and unconscious, the weight of her choices lingers in the air, a

testament to her unwavering resolve to protect those she loves. The fierce loyalty of Edric and Damian, juxtaposed with her willingness to face death, encapsulates the complexity of their bond—a bond forged in the fires of adversity and tempered by the trials they have endured. Emma’s actions, though driven by desperation, reflect a profound love that transcends fear, revealing a strength she never knew she possessed. The flickering pulse of her ability serves as a reminder that even in the darkest moments, hope endures.

As Lucien, the small black bird, anxiously chirps for her to awaken, the scene shifts from the brink of despair to the promise of resilience. The chaos of battle gives way to the quiet determination of those who remain, highlighting the interconnectedness of their fates. Emma’s struggle is not just her own; it is a collective fight against the darkness that looms over their world. With her heart still beating, the potential for renewal and healing emerges, suggesting that her sacrifice may not have been in vain. The journey ahead remains fraught with challenges, but the love and loyalty that bind them together will serve as their guiding light, illuminating the path toward a life Emma was once afraid to embrace.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

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

As the dust settles from the explosive confrontation, Emma’s fate hangs precariously in the balance. Will she awaken to find herself in the clutches of danger once more, or will the arrival of her allies, Kael and his men, turn the tide in her favor? The stakes have never been higher, and with the Chitinid threat looming larger than ever, the next chapter promises to delve deeper into the chaos and uncertainty that surrounds Emma and her companions. Expect heart-stopping moments as loyalties are tested and the true cost of sacrifice is revealed.

Moreover, the enigmatic Lucien, who has been left behind in a world fraught with peril, will play a crucial role in the unfolding drama. His desperate attempts to awaken Emma may lead to unexpected revelations about her powers and the bond they share. As secrets from their past resurface, readers can anticipate a whirlwind of emotions, from hope to despair, as the characters grapple with their intertwined destinies. Will they find the strength to confront the darkness that threatens to consume them, or will they succumb to the weight of their burdens? Prepare for a chapter filled with tension, twists, and the relentless pursuit of survival.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 45

[1,856 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 45 Summary

In Chapter 45 of “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” the story begins with a sudden and dire situation as a Rank 11 Chitinid attacks, capturing a vulnerable Rank 4 female. Lucien, having reached level ten, is thrust into a desperate struggle to save her, compelling Silas to enhance his strength. In a twist of fate, the formidable Chitinid is defeated, but the victory is short-lived as Silas suffers severe backlash from the force-boosting process, leaving Lucien powerless and transformed into a common bird.

As Lucien grapples with his new form and the aftermath of the explosion, he desperately tries to wake the injured female, Emma. Initially disoriented and confused, Emma slowly remembers the explosion that knocked her out. Overwhelmed by pain, she realizes she must act quickly to survive. After retrieving a healing potion from her storage band, she manages to heal her wounds and faces a monstrous chicken-like beast, dispatching it with remarkable efficiency. Lucien watches in awe, impressed by her strength and determination.

Despite her injuries, Emma is driven by the urgent need to find her companions, Edric, Damian, and Laura. She absorbs energy from two Rank 5 beast cores, showcasing her remarkable abilities and resilience. Lucien, still in his weakened state, is left in disbelief at her prowess and realizes that they cannot survive alone in the dangerous forest without assistance.

As Emma prepares to leave, Lucien pleads for her to take him and Silas with her, revealing his vulnerability. Emma, intrigued by the chubby black bird, questions its nature and intelligence, unaware of Lucien’s true identity. The chapter closes with a mix of urgency and curiosity, as both characters navigate the complexities of their situation, highlighting themes of survival, resilience, and the unexpected alliances formed in times of crisis.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

****Chapter 45: The Knockout****

The unfortunate news struck hard and fast: as soon as the Rank 11 Chitinid made its ominous entrance at F-268, it wasted no time in seizing a vulnerable Rank 4 female. The urgency of the situation left no room for calling in backup. Lucien, who had reached the peak of level ten, found himself in a desperate predicament. He had to compel Silas to force-boost his strength to match that of the formidable Rank 11.

But amidst the chaos, there was a flicker of good news—the Rank 11 Chitinid lay dead at their feet, and the Rank 4 female had been rescued from the brink of disaster.

Yet, the tide of misfortune crashed down once more.

Silas, already nursing injuries from the force-boosting process, faced a catastrophic backlash that spiraled out of control. Lucien's grip on his abilities shattered like glass, unleashing a violent explosion that hurled every therian in the vicinity into disarray. In that crucial moment, all he could muster was a protective bubble of raw energy around the nearest female, shielding her from the brunt of the blast.

Despite his efforts, she emerged from the ordeal severely wounded.

To make matters worse, Lucien found himself utterly drained of energy, the backlash rendering him incapable of reverting to his true form. Instead, he was now a mere common bird, stripped of his powers.

And the worst news of all? Silas, with his lower strength level, had sustained far more devastating injuries. He had shrunk down to a diminutive, black twig—so small that no one would bother to pick him up if they stumbled upon him on the ground.

The little bird chirped desperately, "Female, please! You have to wake up! The valley isn't safe! If a beast shows up, you're dead meat!"

...

"Who is it? Who's pecking me on the head?" Emma mumbled groggily, struggling to make sense of her surroundings.

With a monumental effort, she pried her eyes open, only to be met with the sight of a plump, pitch-black bird whose head resembled a tuft of singed cotton candy. Confusion washed over her; she must have pulled an all-nighter and awakened in a disoriented haze. This was not the way one should feel upon waking.

12:27 Fri, Nov 7 G...

Emma squeezed her eyes shut again, wishing to return to the comforting embrace of sleep.

Lucien, however, was not about to let that happen. He watched in dismay as the female he had fought so hard to rouse simply shut her eyes once more. Panic surged through his tiny avian form, and he chirped urgently, "Female, wake up! You can't go back to sleep! You'll die!"

The faint vibrations of a low-tier beast's presence crept closer, sending a shiver of dread through him.

Emma, still half-asleep, heard the frantic chirping. Suddenly, flashes of memory ignited in her mind like fireworks. In an instant, her eyes flew open, and she shot upright, heart racing.

Her disorientation was not merely the result of a sleepless night or an awkward sleeping position; she had been knocked out cold by a massive explosion. The memory of being hurled through the air by that terrifying wave of energy flooded back to her, and she felt a jolt of panic.

As she moved, pain radiated through her body, and she hissed, inhaling sharply.

Is this what it feels like to be run over by a truck?

Her entire body felt as if it had been shattered into a million pieces.

Emma scanned the valley, her gaze darting to her storage band. Relief washed over her. Thank God! It's still there.

In a swift motion, she retrieved a healing potion from her band and gulped it down. Almost immediately, the searing pain began to subside, and she sensed her wounds beginning to mend.

With great effort, Emma staggered to her feet just as a beast resembling a monstrous chicken charged at her from a distance. Without a moment's hesitation, she flung her electric blade from her hand.

A heartbeat later, the beast's head tumbled into the dirt.

That chicken-like creature was about the size of a newborn calf.

Lucien, still dragging Silas—who remained in the form of a twig—watched her in awe, his bird eyes wide with astonishment. This female is ruthless!

After dispatching the low-tier beast, Emma approached, expertly extracting its beast core and slipping it into her band. She didn't bother with the carcass; the scant meat wouldn't fetch her many star coins, and she didn't want to waste precious time.

...

How long had she been unconscious? Edric, Damian, Laura, and the others... Are they okay? I have to find them fast.

She pulled two Rank 5 beast cores from her band and quickly absorbed their energy.

Lucien was left utterly stunned, unable to react as he watched her absorb two beast cores that were a full rank higher than her own.

With the restoration of her abilities, the debilitating weakness that had plagued her began to dissipate.

Without wasting another moment, Emma turned to leave. She had to track down Edric, Damian, Laura, and her mates.

Seeing her about to depart, Lucien finally snapped out of his trance. He chirped urgently, hopping to her feet and pecking at her ankle. "Female, I just saved your life! You can't just leave me and Silas here!"

Without their abilities, he and Silas were weaker than any ordinary wildlife. They stood no chance of surviving in a forest teeming with beasts and predators on their own.

The faint sting on her ankle made her pause. She looked down at the chubby, pitch-black bird flapping its wings in a frenzy on the ground.

Bending over, she scooped up the rotund creature—blacker than a lump of coal—and examined it closely.

There was no sign of ability fluctuation. It had to be an ordinary bird.

"You want to come with me?" she asked, curiosity piqued.

The moment the words left her lips, the chubby black bird bobbed his head enthusiastically.

Emma blinked in surprise. She hadn't anticipated that a little bird would actually comprehend her. She had never encountered a common bird with such intelligence.

"Are you a therian?" she inquired suspiciously, scrutinizing the slightly ridiculous-looking bird in her palm.

Holy shit! Lucien gasped internally. In his frantic bid to get Emma to take him and Silas along, he had almost revealed his true identity.

Until he tracked down the mastermind who had set him up, he couldn't afford to expose who he really was.

Conclusion

In the aftermath of chaos and uncertainty, Emma stood at a crossroads, the weight of her experiences pressing down on her shoulders. The explosion had not only left her physically wounded but had also forced her to confront her fears head-on. As she absorbed the energy of the beast cores, a newfound strength surged through her, igniting a fire within that she had long thought extinguished. The memories of her comrades and the urgency to protect them propelled her forward, transforming her pain into resolve. She was no longer the hesitant individual who had once shied away from danger; she had emerged as a fierce warrior, ready to face whatever challenges lay ahead.

Meanwhile, Lucien, in his diminutive form, represented the unexpected bonds forged in the heat of battle. His desperate plea for survival revealed the depths of loyalty and companionship that could exist even in the most unlikely of circumstances. As Emma cradled him in her hand, a silent understanding passed between them, bridging the gap between their worlds. Together, they were no longer just a girl and a bird; they were allies united by a shared purpose. With her heart racing and determination coursing through her veins, Emma stepped into the unknown, ready to embrace the life she had once feared, knowing that she was not alone in her fight.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the upcoming chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Emma grapples with the weight of her newfound responsibilities. With Lucien and Silas in tow, she must navigate the treacherous terrain of the valley, fraught with lurking dangers and unpredictable beasts. As she searches for her friends, the stakes will rise, forcing her to confront not only external threats but also her own fears and insecurities about her abilities and leadership. Will she rise to the occasion and protect those she cares about, or will the shadows of doubt cloud her judgment?

Moreover, the dynamic between Emma and Lucien promises to deepen, as their unusual partnership unfolds. The little black bird, desperate to prove his worth, may reveal unexpected insights that could tip the balance in their favor. As Emma begins to trust Lucien, she might uncover hidden strengths within herself, leading to powerful transformations. But with the ominous presence of the valley's beasts growing ever closer, the urgency of their situation will push them to their limits. Expect thrilling encounters, unexpected alliances, and the revelation of secrets that could change everything for Emma and her companions. How will she harness her evolving powers, and can she truly trust the peculiar bird that has become her unlikely ally? The next chapter will keep you on the edge of your seat!

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 46

[1,823 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 46 Summary

In Chapter 46 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Lucien grapples with the burden of his secret identity, fearing for Emma's safety if he were to reveal himself. He feigns ignorance when Emma discovers him, a tactic to protect both her and himself. Emma, bewildered yet grateful, accepts the little bird's presence, feeling a sense of purpose as she prepares to leave the valley with him. This newfound companionship ignites her hope of reuniting with Edric and the others who might shed light on Lucien's true nature.

As Emma gently caresses Lucien's feathers, he experiences an unexpected mix of emotions, feeling vulnerable and unsettled. When she inadvertently discards a twig that holds significance for him, Lucien's alarm grows, leading him to frantically pursue it. His helplessness in his avian form emphasizes his struggle, as he cannot swim to save Silas, the twig's true form. This moment heightens the tension, as Lucien's fear of losing Silas amplifies his emotional turmoil and sense of responsibility.

Emma's concern for Lucien's frantic behavior prompts her to retrieve the twig from the water, realizing its importance. Lucien, relieved to have Silas safe, attempts to communicate his desire for Emma to hold onto it temporarily. Their interaction showcases a budding understanding between them, with Emma's willingness to protect Silas reflecting her compassion and growing bond with Lucien, despite the communication barrier.

Meanwhile, outside the valley, Edric and Damian are in a state of distress, searching for Emma after two days of her disappearance. Edric's despair turns into anger as he blames Damian for not allowing him to confront a threat that could have kept Emma safe. This confrontation highlights the weight of their decisions and the fear of loss, as both grapple with their feelings of guilt and responsibility. The emotional stakes rise as

Edric's regret surfaces, leaving him to confront the harsh reality of their situation and the potential consequences of their actions.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

****Chapter 46: A Cheap and Ridiculous Name****

The weight of Lucien's secret pressed heavily on him. If he were to unmask himself, the consequences would be dire for Emma. Her safety was paramount, and revealing his true identity would only place her in jeopardy.

He feigned ignorance, allowing his body to go limp in her delicate grasp, a tactic born of instinct.

Emma found herself utterly speechless, her mind racing with confusion. Did this little creature truly comprehend the words "come with me"?

Yet, despite the bewilderment, this rotund black bird had just roused her from a deep slumber, sparing her from becoming a mere snack for a lurking predator. He was, in essence, her feathered savior.

"Alright then, you can accompany me," she relented, a smile breaking across her face.

With a newfound sense of purpose, she resolved to leave the valley alongside the little bird, eager to reunite with Edric and the others. They possessed knowledge that could illuminate the true nature of this enigmatic black creature.

Emma gently caressed the bird's soft feathers, her touch tender and soothing.

Lucien had not anticipated such an unexpected sensation. He squirmed instinctively, attempting to wriggle away from her gentle fingers, his instincts flaring. His plumage was intended solely for his future huntress, and the notion of being handled by another was unsettling.

As the Second Prince of the Interstellar Empire, he was bound by the rigid doctrines established by the Beast God, his obligations weighing heavily on him. His loyalty to his huntress was unwavering, a bond that transcended mere duty.

Unbeknownst to Emma, Lucien wrestled with a tempest of emotions. She noticed a small twig ensnared in his plump body, having brushed against him while petting him. It must have been uncomfortable, she thought.

Without a moment's hesitation, she plucked the twig free and cast it aside.

Lucien's flame-colored eyes widened in alarm as he witnessed Silas being unceremoniously discarded.

“Cheek-!” he exclaimed, his chirp cracking under the weight of shock.

In a flurry of flapping wings, he scrambled out of Emma’s hand, desperately pursuing Silas. However, his rotund form and stubby wings betrayed him, and he crashed clumsily to the ground.

“Cheep! Cheep!” he called out, frustration evident in his voice.

Lucien hopped frantically along the bank, his heart racing as he watched Silas tumble into a small pond, drifting away on the water’s surface. In his avian form, he was utterly helpless—he couldn’t swim, and there was no way for him to dive in and rescue his friend.

“Cheep! Cheep!”

Why did you throw Silas away, female?

“Cheep!”

You must save Silas!

The thought of Silas floating away alone filled him with dread. Who knew when he might recover from such a predicament?

“Was that twig meaningful to you?” Emma asked, her brow furrowed with concern as she observed the little black bird’s frantic behavior over the discarded twig.

Realizing her mistake, she quickly retrieved it from the water, her fingers wrapping around the pitch-black stick. It appeared unremarkable at first glance, save for its unusual sturdiness.

With Silas now safe in her grasp, Lucien released a sigh of immense relief. He understood that as long as Silas remained in twig form, he was vulnerable.

Lucien looked up at Emma with newfound determination, gently placing the twig—Silas—into her palm.

“Cheep!”

Emma’s face twisted in confusion. “You want to give it to me?”

Lucien shook his head vehemently. Hand over his dear friend to a female? Absolutely not.

“Cheep!”

Please, just keep an eye on Silas for a moment.

Emma seemed to grasp his intent. "You want me to hold onto it for you?"

"Cheep!"

Lucien nodded vigorously. This female was sharper than he had initially assumed.

"Okay, I'll keep it safe. Just let me know when you want it back," she assured him, reaching to secure the twig in her storage band. But to her dismay, it wouldn't work.

What kind of wood is this? she pondered, her curiosity piqued.

With no alternative, she tucked the pitch-black twig into the breast pocket of her combat suit, hoping it would be safe there.

Once satisfied, Emma retrieved her Gravicar and placed the little black bird on the passenger seat. The valley around them was devoid of trees or any unusual energy readings, allowing her to drive out without obstruction.

Sliding behind the wheel, she cast a glance at the bird perched beside her. "Since you're so black and so round, I think I'll name you Coalball."

"Cheep... cheep..."

Lucien's feathers fluffed up in indignation.

Coalball?

He was Prince Lucien, the second prince of the royal family from the Empire's Central Planet! How dare she bestow upon him such a cheap and ludicrous name, one that would invite laughter from any beast who heard it?

Meanwhile, just outside the valley, Edric and Damian raced through the dense forest, their hearts pounding with urgency as they searched for Emma.

Two days and nights had passed without a single trace of her, and Edric felt himself teetering on the edge of despair.

He jabbed a finger at Damian, his voice laced with accusation. "This is all your fault! If you hadn't stopped me, I could have killed that Chitinid, and Emma would be safe right now!"

"Don't you dare put this blame on me!" Damian retorted, his own anxiety bubbling to the surface as he grappled with Emma's disappearance.

“In that moment, if you had died, did you even consider what Ms. Tibarn would have done?” His tone was firm, refusing to shoulder the blame. “When she suddenly pinned the Chitinid and told us to run, it was clear she valued our lives over hers.

“If you had gotten yourself killed, she would have been devastated—probably would have thrown herself in after you. My decision was the only rational one. If you want to place blame, then blame Ophidian’s cursed secret arts. That ritual took an eternity!”

“If your arts didn’t take so long, Ms. Tibarn would be safe right now!”

Edric fell silent, the weight of Damian’s words hitting him hard.

“It’s all my fault,” he murmured, a hand covering his face in shame. The gentle, mild expression that usually graced his features around Emma had vanished, replaced by a storm of regret and desperation.

Conclusion

In this poignant chapter, the emotional arc of both Lucien and Emma intertwines as they navigate the complexities of their identities and the bonds they are forming. Lucien, burdened by the weight of his royal lineage and the need to protect Emma, grapples with his feelings of helplessness when faced with the vulnerability of his friend Silas. Meanwhile, Emma, blissfully unaware of Lucien’s true nature, finds herself drawn into a world of unexpected companionship and responsibility, showcasing her innate kindness and bravery. The moment she rescues Silas from the water serves as a turning point, not just for Lucien but also for Emma, as she embraces the role of protector, even in the face of uncertainty.

As the chapter closes, the tension of their respective journeys amplifies. Lucien’s indignation at being given the name “Coalball” highlights his struggle for identity and respect, a stark contrast to the lightheartedness Emma brings to their dynamic. Simultaneously, Edric’s turmoil over Emma’s disappearance adds a layer of urgency and desperation, reflecting the depth of his feelings for her. The chapter encapsulates the delicate interplay of fear, loyalty, and emerging trust, leaving readers eager to see how these characters will confront their fears and forge their destinies amidst the chaos surrounding them. The emotional stakes are high, and the path ahead is fraught with challenges, but the glimmers of hope and connection offer a promise of growth and resilience.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the upcoming chapter, readers can expect the tension to escalate as Lucien, now indignantly dubbed “Coalball,” grapples with the absurdity of his new name while trying to maintain his cover as a simple bird. As Emma embarks on her journey to reunite with Edric and Damian, the stakes rise significantly. Lucien’s internal conflict will deepen as he struggles to balance his protective instincts for Emma with the weight of his royal

obligations, leading to moments of both humor and heartache. Will he manage to keep his true identity hidden while forging a bond with Emma, or will the truth come crashing down, endangering everything he holds dear?

Simultaneously, Edric and Damian's frantic search for Emma will reach a fever pitch. Their mounting desperation will reveal hidden depths to their characters, as guilt and blame threaten to fracture their fragile alliance. As they navigate the treacherous forest, the tension between them will simmer, potentially leading to a confrontation that could change their dynamic forever. Will they find Emma in time to avert disaster, or will their bickering and blame hinder their chances of saving her? The intertwining fates of these characters promise to deliver heart-stopping moments and unexpected revelations that will leave readers breathless and eager for more.

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 47

[2,129 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 47 Summary

In Chapter 47 of "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Edric's calm demeanor is shattered as he grapples with intense fury and frustration over Emma's safety. His emotions spiral into rage, particularly directed at Damian, who tries to reassure him that Emma is still safe due to their beast marks. Despite Damian's efforts to maintain a sense of calm, the urgency to find Emma weighs heavily on both men, highlighting the depth of Edric's concern for her well-being.

As tensions rise, Edric's anger erupts into violence when he attacks Damian, blaming him for hiding his true identity while being close to Emma. This confrontation underscores Edric's protective instincts and desperation, as he struggles with the fear of losing Emma. Damian, pinned and gasping for breath, pleads for Edric to consider the

consequences of his actions, revealing the fragile state of their friendship amidst the chaos surrounding them.

Meanwhile, Emma navigates the treacherous forest with her Gravicar, feeling the weight of uncertainty and danger. Her instincts heighten as she senses a looming threat, and she encounters Lucien, who is disoriented and vulnerable due to his lost abilities. Their dynamic reveals Emma's strength and determination, juxtaposed with Lucien's discomfort and reliance on her for safety.

The chapter takes a turn when Emma unexpectedly encounters Drake, who offers her a healing potion, revealing his concern for her safety. Despite her initial hesitation and fear, Emma's recognition of Drake brings a mix of relief and annoyance, as she realizes he has come to help her. The intimate gesture of him pouring the potion down her throat signifies a deepening connection between them, even as she grapples with her feelings about his motivations for being there.

Overall, this chapter captures the raw emotions of fear, anger, and the complexities of relationships as the characters navigate their intertwined fates in a dangerous world. The urgency to protect and find Emma drives the narrative forward, while moments of vulnerability and connection add depth to their struggles.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

****Chapter 47: The Search for Emma****

The calm and composed Edric was gone, replaced by a tempest of fury that twisted his features into a mask of dark rage. His once gentle demeanor had evaporated, leaving behind a figure consumed by a madness that threatened to engulf everything around him.

He fixed his piercing black-violet gaze on Damian, his eyes rimmed with an unsettling crimson hue. "You're absolutely right. If only my secret arts had been completed sooner, Emma would be safe right now," he spat, his voice laced with frustration.

Damian, taken aback by the intensity of Edric's emotions, hadn't intended to push him to this breaking point. He understood all too well the depths of Edric's worry for Emma, a worry that now seemed to morph into something darker.

"Edric, you need to stop blaming yourself for this. I know how much you care for Ms. Tibarn; no one wants to save her more than you do," Damian said, trying to inject a sense of calm into the storm swirling around them.

"Our beast marks are still intact, which means Ms. Tibarn is safe for now," he continued, attempting to reassure his friend. "This forest isn't vast; I've already dispatched my

people. With their help and your Interstellar Hunter Alliance team, we will locate her soon.”

Though Damian felt the gnawing anxiety in his own chest, he managed to maintain a clearer perspective than Edric. As long as their marks held, Emma was safe—at least for the moment. Yet, the urgency to find her weighed heavily on both of them.

The memory of Emma standing her ground against the formidable Rank 11 Chitinid, her voice ringing out in a fierce command for him and Edric to flee, surged within him. It was a bittersweet mix of heartache and admiration that filled his heart; he had never witnessed a woman so fearlessly risk her life for a man.

Just as Damian finished his sentence, a serpent-like tail, dark and purplish, lashed out unexpectedly, striking him with a force that sent him sprawling to the ground.

“Edric, are you out of your mind?” Damian shouted, his voice a blend of shock and anger as he stared at the frenzied male before him.

In a sudden, violent motion, Edric lunged forward, his grip seizing Damian by the throat. His crimson eyes blazed with a murderous intent that sent a chill down Damian’s spine. “I may have been wrong, but you—keeping your rank and identity hidden while getting close to Emma—you’re no better!” he hissed.

Damian found himself pinned against the rough bark of a tree, struggling to draw breath as Edric’s grip tightened mercilessly. “I’m Ms. Tibarn’s suitor. If you kill me, she will never forgive you when she returns,” he managed to gasp, desperation creeping into his voice.

Edric’s grip constricted even more, and just as Damian felt the edges of consciousness slipping away, Edric released him, disdainfully tossing him to the ground.

“You’d better pray that Emma is safe,” Edric warned, his voice low and dangerous. “If she’s hurt, I swear I won’t let you escape the consequences of this.”

Damian coughed violently, clutching his throat as he tried to regain his breath. He looked up at Edric, his expression a mix of defiance and concern. “If she truly gets hurt, you won’t have to lift a finger. I won’t forgive myself either,” he retorted, the weight of their situation settling heavily upon him.

Meanwhile, Emma maneuvered her Gravicar out of the valley and back into the dense expanse of the forest. The trees loomed thick and foreboding, and the air crackled with unstable energy fields that rendered the Gravicar nearly useless.

With a sigh, she pulled the carsick Coalball out of the vehicle, her mind racing with thoughts of what lay ahead. Just as she stowed the Gravicar in her band, a shadowy figure emerged from the underbrush, causing her heart to race.

Instantly, every instinct kicked in, and Emma tensed, her senses heightened as she scanned the area for signs of danger.

Lucien, feeling disoriented and dizzy as Emma held him tightly at her waist, was unaware of the looming threat. His abilities were stripped away, leaving him vulnerable and at the mercy of the chaotic surroundings. He had never encountered a female who drove so erratically; it was a stark contrast to the disciplined soldiers under his command, who navigated warships with precision.

The battered old Gravicar looked like a relic from another era, and he couldn't help but wonder if it was truly still in production.

Feeling uncomfortable in Emma's grasp, Lucien shifted restlessly, yearning for a more stable perch—perhaps her shoulder would provide the comfort he sought.

Before he could make a move, Emma gently tapped him on the head, her voice firm. "Stay still. There's danger nearby."

Her serious tone silenced him, though he felt a flicker of annoyance at the interruption.

Thanks to Emma's warning, Lucien finally noticed the dark figure looming ahead. Even in the dim light, recognition struck him like a bolt of lightning. It was the infamous lord of Drakonid—Drake. What on earth was he doing here on F-268 instead of lounging comfortably in the Thalassian Palace?

Lucien knew he had to remain hidden; the last thing he needed was for Drake to spot him. Instinctively, he shrank deeper into Emma's palm, hoping to avoid detection.

Emma, still unable to identify the figure, decided to quietly retreat. She took a cautious step back, hoping to slip away unnoticed.

But the moment her foot shifted, the figure spun around and appeared directly in front of her as if he had materialized from thin air.

"Why were you running from me?" Drake's voice cut through the tension as his sharp gaze locked onto Emma, his eyes sweeping over her with an intensity that made her heart race.

In a fluid motion, he produced a pink healing potion from his pocket and extended it toward her. "Good thing you're not badly hurt. Drink this," he urged, his tone surprisingly gentle.

"Drake?" Emma exclaimed, recognizing her familiar suitor and letting out a breath she hadn't realized she was holding.

She hesitated to take the potion, her mind racing with questions. “What are you doing here? You were so far away earlier that I couldn’t even tell who it was. I thought it was another terrifying Chitinid!”

The fear she had felt moments ago surged back, reminding her of the danger that lurked in the shadows.

Seeing her reluctance, Drake uncapped the potion, gently lifting her chin with his slender fingers. Without waiting for her consent, he poured the liquid down her throat.

Emma was momentarily speechless, caught off guard by the intimate gesture.

As she met his gaze, her blazing glare made him avert his eyes, his voice dropping to a soft murmur. “The potion will heal your injuries faster. I’m leaving F-268 soon, but before I go, I need you to give me another mental comfort session.”

“So you came all the way here just for that?” Emma rolled her eyes, a mix of exasperation and amusement bubbling within her. “Why didn’t you just say so?”

Had he been straightforward, she would have willingly accepted the healing potion without a second thought.

The potion Drake provided was potent, and within just a few minutes of drinking it, Emma felt her injuries fading away, as if they had never existed.

Drake didn’t elaborate further on his sudden appearance. The truth was, he had rushed here upon hearing reports from his subordinates that Emma had encountered a Rank 11 Chitinid, and he couldn’t shake the feeling that he needed to be by her side.

Conclusion

In the tumultuous journey of searching for Emma, both Edric and Damian confronted the rawness of their emotions, revealing the depths of their devotion and the shadows of their fears. Edric’s transformation from a calm protector to a tormented soul, consumed by guilt and anger, underscores the stakes of their perilous situation. As he grappled with the possibility of losing Emma, his desperation manifested in a fierce confrontation with Damian, showcasing the fragility of their alliance amidst the chaos. The tension between them, punctuated by Edric’s fierce loyalty and Damian’s pragmatic reassurance, reflects the complexities of love and friendship when faced with imminent danger. The urgency to find Emma becomes not just a mission but a testament to their shared commitment to her safety, illuminating the bonds that tether them together even in the darkest of times.

Meanwhile, Emma’s unexpected encounter with Drake brings a shift in her emotional landscape, as the fear of danger transforms into a moment of unexpected tenderness. Drake’s arrival, marked by his gentle yet assertive demeanor, offers Emma a glimpse of

solace amidst the turmoil. The healing potion he provides serves as a metaphor for the healing she seeks not only from her physical injuries but also from the emotional scars left by her harrowing experiences. As she navigates her feelings for both Edric and Drake, Emma stands at a crossroads, embodying the strength and vulnerability of a woman ready to embrace a life she once feared. Ultimately, this chapter closes on a note of hope, where the intertwining destinies of the characters hint at the possibility of healing, reconciliation, and the courage to face the unknown together.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

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

As the tension escalates in the search for Emma, readers can look forward to a gripping continuation of the emotional turmoil surrounding Edric and Damian. With Edric's fury simmering just beneath the surface, the stakes are higher than ever. Will he be able to rein in his rage and focus on the task at hand, or will his desire to protect Emma lead him down a darker path? The chapter promises to delve deeper into the complexities of their friendship as they grapple with the consequences of their choices and the looming threat to Emma's safety.

Meanwhile, Emma's unexpected encounter with Drake introduces an intriguing twist. As she navigates the dangers of the forest, her relationship with Drake becomes increasingly complicated. What are his true intentions, and how will his presence affect her already precarious situation? The dynamic between Emma and her suitors is sure to intensify, leaving readers eager to discover whether she will embrace the support of Drake or remain steadfast in her feelings for Edric. With danger lurking at every turn and unresolved tensions simmering, the next chapter promises to keep readers on the edge of their seats as they anticipate the fateful decisions that lie ahead.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 48

[1,802 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 48 Summary

In “When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live,” Emma finds herself in a tense situation, grappling with her feelings for her suitors, Edric and Damian, while also confronting the wealthy and arrogant Drake. As she holds her pet Coalball, she reflects on the chaos of her life and the importance of being a source of calm for Edric, who genuinely cares for her. Despite her fears, she is determined to face the challenges ahead rather than succumb to despair.

Drake, embodying the excesses of the elite, offers Emma a luxurious rest pod for their mental comfort session, which only amplifies her frustration. She feels conflicted about the opulence surrounding her and the stark reality of her own struggles. Despite Drake’s dismissive attitude toward Edric and Damian, Emma stands firm in her loyalty to them, defending Edric’s actions during a recent perilous encounter with a Rank 11 Chitinid. Her unwavering resolve highlights her deep emotional connection to Edric, contrasting sharply with Drake’s cold perspective.

As the conversation unfolds, tensions rise between Emma and Drake, revealing their differing values and priorities. Emma’s fierce protectiveness over her suitors frustrates Drake, who views their inability to protect her as a sign of weakness. Emma, however, is determined to assert her agency and defend her choices, insisting that her bond with Edric is meaningful and worth fighting for. This clash of ideals underscores the emotional stakes for Emma as she navigates her feelings and the expectations placed upon her.

Ultimately, Emma’s determination to begin the mental comfort session reflects her desire to regain control over her life and her relationships. Despite the challenges posed by Drake’s wealth and condescension, she remains steadfast in her loyalty to Edric, signaling her readiness to confront the life she has been hesitant to embrace. Emma’s journey is one of self-discovery and resilience, as she strives to carve out her own path amidst the complexities of love and power.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

Emma stood there, her heart racing with a mixture of dread and determination. The thought of death was not an option for her. If she were to perish, who else would be able to calm the tempest that raged within his mind?

That had to be the reason behind his sudden appearance, she mused.

It certainly wasn’t out of concern for her well-being.

Cradling Coalball in her arms, Emma surveyed her surroundings, her brow furrowing in discontent. “This place hardly seems conducive to a mental comfort session,” she remarked, her voice tinged with skepticism.

Drake, with a dismissive flick of his impeccably sculpted hand, summoned a luxurious rest pod that materialized before her in an instant. “This will suffice. I’ll arrange for my personnel to secure the perimeter. You need not worry about any interruptions,” he declared with an air of authority.

A wave of frustration washed over Emma as she felt the urge to confront the extravagant elite.

This rest pod was even more opulent than the one Edric had arranged for her. Just one of these pods was worth tens of billions of star coins. She had once thought that was an unimaginable fortune, yet it seemed to pale in comparison to what Drake must have spent on this extravagant piece of furniture.

As she followed him inside, her breath caught in her throat at the sight that greeted her. The floor and walls were adorned with shimmering gems and the cores of high-ranking beasts. She had thought Drake’s bed, crafted from Rank 8 beast cores, represented the pinnacle of luxury, but this rest pod was a realm of excess she had never fathomed.

He was unfathomably wealthy—almost obscenely so!

Drake settled himself into a chair that sparkled with gemstones, and Emma approached him, her mind swirling with thoughts.

After a brief moment of hesitation, she finally spoke, “Um, since I’ve already consumed your potion, let’s forgo the star coin payment for this mental comfort session. Instead, could you do me a favor? I seem to have lost track of Edric and Damian, and I’m certain they’re worried sick about me.”

Drake was already well-informed about Edric, having heard from his subordinates. Edric was not just any suitor; he was one of Emma’s more earnest admirers.

Unlike Damian or even Drake himself, Edric genuinely sought a connection with her.

Bond?

The very notion made Drake’s stomach churn uncomfortably.

“Why do you fret over those failures—who couldn’t even safeguard their own huntress—going mad with worry about you, instead of holding them accountable?” he retorted, his voice dripping with sarcasm and derision.

Emma’s unwavering sense of loyalty was truly perplexing.

She seemed to be easily swayed by the allure of star coins, and the moment someone extended a shred of kindness, she would fall for it all over again.

She had almost met her end at the hands of a Rank 11 Chitinid, yet instead of feeling anger or resentment, she was concerned about those two unworthy suitors.

“They’re not failures,” Emma shot back, her resolve hardening. She would not allow anyone to speak ill of her suitors, especially not Edric. “I was surrounded by a rampaging herd of beasts not long ago, and it was Edric who led us through that chaos. He kept me completely safe. No one could have anticipated the sudden appearance of a Rank 11 Chitinid. Edric wanted to save me, but the enemy was simply too powerful. That’s not his fault.”

There were very few Rank 11 beasts throughout the entire Interstellar Empire. Even among the Chitinids, they were a rarity. Monsters of that caliber almost never emerged.

Emma had merely been unfortunate enough to cross paths with one.

Then again, given her unusual circumstances of transmigration, perhaps encountering a Rank 11 Chitinid wasn’t entirely shocking.

“Not possessing enough power is the real failure,” Drake replied coldly, his tone betraying his disdain.

Emma was actually making excuses for those two who had let her down. It was utterly absurd!

Reasoning with a high-status male like Drake was an exercise in futility. His only concern lay with the competence and efficiency of his subordinates—nothing more.

“Fine, I’ll just provide you with the mental comfort now,” he said, his impatience evident.

She was eager to wrap this up quickly so she could set off in search of Edric and Damian herself.

Noticing the darkening of Emma’s expression, Drake pressed his lips together, contemplating his next words.

She seemed genuinely upset. Had he crossed a line? Yet wasn’t it Edric and Damian’s failure to protect their huntress that had led to this situation?

When Emma fell silent, he turned to her, his voice dropping to a low murmur. “Are you angry?”

In just a few days, she had visibly lost weight. Her combat suit was torn and tattered, and soot smeared her skin. The only part of her that appeared somewhat presentable

was her face, which she must have scrubbed clean in an attempt to look less disheveled.

“Yeah,” Emma replied bluntly. “I don’t appreciate you disparaging my suitors.”

She was fiercely protective of those she cared about.

Drake frowned in response. “But I’m your suitor too, and they genuinely failed to protect you. They’re utterly useless.”

Emma felt drained just trying to reason with him. “Let’s forget about Damian for a moment. Focus on Edric. He and I are meant to bond. He will be my mate, and only I have the right to criticize him.”

She continued, “As for you, yes, you hold the title of my suitor, but we’ve already agreed to dissolve that match. To me, you are nothing more than a stranger. The only connection we share is through star coins.”

Without those star coins, she couldn’t care less about him.

Drake was left speechless, grappling with her words.

Emma was determined not to waste another breath. “Let’s just begin the mental comfort session.”

Conclusion

As Emma prepared to engage in the mental comfort session, she felt a profound sense of clarity wash over her. In that moment, she realized that her loyalty to Edric and Damian was not merely a reflection of her feelings for them, but a testament to her own resilience and strength. She had faced unimaginable danger and emerged with a fierce determination to protect those she cared about, even in the face of disdain from someone like Drake. Her heart, once clouded by uncertainty and fear, now pulsed with the conviction that she would not allow anyone to diminish her worth or the bonds she had forged. Emma understood that her journey was not just about survival; it was about choosing to live a life filled with purpose, love, and unwavering loyalty.

Drake’s cold demeanor, though infuriating, only served to solidify Emma’s resolve. His dismissive attitude contrasted sharply with her fierce protectiveness, illuminating the chasm between them. As she steeled herself for the session, she felt a new sense of empowerment blooming within her. No longer would she be swayed by the opulence of Drake’s world or the judgments of those who did not understand her heart. Emma was ready to embrace the life she had once feared, knowing that true strength lay not in wealth or status, but in the connections she chose to nurture. With every breath, she reaffirmed her commitment to her own path, one that would ultimately lead her back to Edric and Damian, and the life she was destined to live.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect a deep dive into the complexities of Emma's relationships as she grapples with her feelings for Edric and the unsettling presence of Drake. As she attempts to navigate the turbulent waters of her emotions, the tension will rise, forcing her to confront her loyalties and the true nature of her connections. Will her steadfast defense of Edric withstand the relentless scrutiny from Drake, whose disdain for weakness is palpable? Emma's fierce determination to protect those she cares about will be tested, and her resolve may lead to unexpected revelations about herself and her suitors.

Moreover, the luxurious yet stifling environment of Drake's rest pod serves as a backdrop for a pivotal moment in Emma's journey. As the mental comfort session unfolds, secrets may come to light, revealing not only the true motives behind Drake's actions but also the hidden depths of Emma's own strength. Will she find the clarity she seeks, or will the opulence around her suffocate her spirit? The stakes are higher than ever, and as Emma confronts her fears and desires, readers will be left on the edge of their seats, eager to discover how her choices will shape her fate in this extravagant yet perilous world.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 49

[2,010 words]

When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 49 Summary

In "When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live," Emma grapples with her fear and desire for connection as she seeks to find her match. During a session with Drake, she experiences a profound mental connection that allows her to delve into his psyche and comfort him. This moment of intimacy is both exhilarating and daunting for Emma, as she realizes the depth of their bond. Drake, on the other hand, appears

calm and collected, but his protective instincts come to the forefront when he gifts Emma a powerful black crystal, designed to help her escape danger.

As their session concludes, Emma feels a mix of urgency and frustration, especially when Drake's tail ensnares her waist, symbolizing the complexities of their relationship. Despite her initial hesitations, she accepts the crystal, recognizing its potential value for her safety. Drake's insistence on providing her with protection reveals his deeper concern for her well-being, even as Emma struggles with doubts about his motivations. Their exchange highlights the tension between vulnerability and the desire for independence, as Emma prepares to navigate the dangers that lie ahead.

Upon leaving Drake, Emma rushes to reunite with her companions, Edric and Damian, who have been searching for her. The forest feels ominous, yet Emma's determination to find her friends drives her forward. When Edric finally embraces her, guilt and relief wash over him, showcasing the emotional stakes of their bond. Emma reassures him of her safety, attributing her healing to Drake's potion, which complicates Edric's feelings about the situation. Meanwhile, Damian watches from the sidelines, feeling a mix of envy and longing as he realizes the depth of Emma's connection with Edric.

The chapter culminates in a blend of emotions, with Drake silently observing Emma's departure, questioning whether he has been too harsh in their interactions. His protective instincts manifest as he creates a shield around her, ensuring her safety as she reunites with Edric and Damian. Emma's journey is marked by her struggle to embrace a life filled with uncertainty, as she navigates her relationships and the dangers that threaten her existence. The story captures the essence of vulnerability, connection, and the courage to step into the unknown.

Continue Regular Chapter Reading Below

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

"I need to find my match," she confessed, her voice tinged with a palpable anxiety that hung in the air like a thick fog.

After uttering those words, she raised her hand delicately, her cool fingertip making contact with the center of Drake's forehead. The touch sent a shiver through her, a reminder of the mental connection they shared.

Emma's mental clarity had sharpened significantly since their last session. This time, she found herself immersed in the act of comforting Drake for a full twenty-five minutes, each second stretching into an eternity as she delved deeper into his psyche.

As the session drew to a close, a sense of alertness and lucidity washed over her. It felt as though her mental consciousness had expanded, blossoming like a flower in the sunlight.

Drake, in stark contrast, appeared utterly at ease. He reclined in his crystal chair, exuding an aura of tranquility. His dragon tail coiled possessively around Emma's waist, while the two horns on his forehead stood proudly, a testament to his unique nature.

The moment the session ended, Emma's thoughts raced. She was eager to find Damian and Edric, longing for their familiar presence. She stood up, ready to leave, but found herself momentarily ensnared by Drake's tail, which remained firmly wrapped around her waist.

She tugged at it several times, but the black tail was unyielding, as if it had a mind of its own.

With a sigh of exasperation, she turned her gaze to Drake, who sat there with an air of nonchalance. "I've already finished. I need to go now. Can you please stop wrapping your tail around me?" she implored, her tone a mix of frustration and amusement.

Drake opened his deep, dark eyes, and with a deliberate motion, he retrieved a black crystal from his ring, extending it toward her.

It was the very same crystal he had attempted to gift her during their last encounter.

At that time, Emma had hesitated, unwilling to accept it.

But now, as she gazed at the crystal, she noticed a transformation. Inside the obsidian surface, golden light danced and swirled, a mesmerizing sight that was both beautiful and foreboding.

"Take it," Drake urged, his voice steady. "I've enhanced it. If you ever find yourself face-to-face with a Rank 11 Chitinid or any beast, just throw this at it. Even if it doesn't vanquish them, it will give you a chance to escape."

"This thing sounds pretty powerful. You're just giving it to me like that?" Emma asked, her curiosity piqued. The memory of her terrifying encounter with the Rank 11 Chitinid still haunted her, and the thought of possessing the crystal was undeniably appealing.

Yet, a nagging doubt lingered in her mind. What was his true motive?

Aside from soothing his mental turmoil, she had nothing of value to offer him in return.

"What else would I do?" Drake replied, his expression serious. "You still need to assist me with the mental comfort sessions. I can't let you perish so easily. You require something to protect yourself."

He knew he couldn't rely on those two ineffectual companions of hers. With his impending departure, he wouldn't be there to shield her. The best he could do was provide her with a means of survival.

“Thanks,” Emma said, her tone more direct this time as she swiftly accepted the black crystal from his outstretched hand. “I’ll hold onto this for now. If I find myself in danger and have to use it, so be it. But if I don’t need it, I promise to return it to you when our agreement concludes.”

“I don’t take back what I’ve given,” Drake replied, a hint of finality in his voice. “If you decide you don’t want it later, feel free to discard it.”

With that, he released his tail from her waist, straightened his attire, and rose from the chair, signaling that it was time for him to leave.

“It’s about time. I need to go,” he stated, his tone indicating that he was ready to move on.

Emma quickly followed him out of the rest pod, her heart racing with anticipation.

Outside, the forest loomed dark and foreboding. She retrieved her night-vision goggles, slipping them on as she prepared to navigate the shadows. “It’s late. I’m going to find Edric and Damian. See you later,” she called over her shoulder.

She spotted Lucien, who had been lurking by the door, and scooped him up, making her exit with haste.

Drake observed her retreating figure, his expression inscrutable. She didn’t look back, and an unsettling thought crossed his mind. That little female really seemed indifferent to me. Had he been too harsh with her?

Just then, his subordinate, who had been waiting nearby, stepped forward with urgency.

“Mr. Smith, we’ve already made contact with Edric and Damian. They’ll arrive shortly to pick up Ms. Emma Tibarn.”

Drake’s frown deepened at the news. He quickly put away the rest pod, using his mental power to create a protective shield around Emma, ensuring her safe passage toward Edric and Damian before he departed with his men.

Emma, blissfully unaware of his actions, carried Lucien for over an hour, her thoughts a whirlwind of emotions, until she finally spotted Edric and Damian rushing toward her.

As the massive purple-black snake caught sight of her, it swung its tail gracefully through the air, wrapping around her gently, pulling her close in a protective embrace.

“Emma, I finally found you,” Edric exclaimed, his gaze scanning her disheveled and weary appearance. A pang of guilt struck him, and his heart ached. “I’m so sorry. It’s my fault for not being there to protect you. Let me check if you’re hurt.”

"I'm fine now," Emma reassured him, feeling the weight of his concern. She wrapped her arms around him tightly, wanting to ease his worries. "Don't fret. On my way back, I encountered Drake. He gave me a potion, and all my injuries are healed."

Damian stood off to the side, watching the tender embrace between them with a mix of envy and longing. He wished she would hug him in the same way, but he knew deep down that she didn't harbor those feelings for him.

He pulled out a bottle of high-grade potion, ready to offer it, but upon hearing Emma mention that she had already taken the potion from Drake, he fell silent, tucking it away with a resigned sigh.

Forget it.

As long as she was safe, nothing else mattered.

Drake had actually come to her aid?

Edric's brow furrowed slightly. After Emma had gone missing, he and Damian had dispatched people to the villa, seeking Drake's assistance.

Yet, they returned with the disappointing news that Drake was nowhere to be found. Edric had already suspected something was amiss and had rushed to the forest immediately. But now, having found Emma, how could he possibly leave her alone in the woods again?

Conclusion

In this pivotal chapter, Emma's journey towards self-discovery and empowerment reaches a significant turning point. Her initial anxiety about finding her match transforms into a newfound sense of agency as she accepts Drake's gift, a powerful crystal that symbolizes both protection and the weight of her choices. This moment encapsulates her emotional arc, highlighting her growth from hesitation to acceptance. The connection she shares with Drake deepens, revealing layers of complexity in their relationship, while her eagerness to reunite with Edric and Damian underscores her desire for companionship and safety. As she steps out of the rest pod, ready to face the darkness of the forest, Emma embodies a blend of vulnerability and courage, ready to embrace the life she had once feared.

Meanwhile, Drake's silent concern for Emma adds another layer to the emotional landscape of the chapter. His protective instincts manifest through his actions, even as he grapples with feelings of indifference from her. The juxtaposition of his calm demeanor with the turmoil of his thoughts illustrates the internal struggles he faces, further complicating their dynamic. As Edric and Damian rush to Emma's side, the tension of their protective instincts reveals the depth of their bond with her. The chapter concludes with a sense of hope and uncertainty, as Emma's acceptance of Drake's gift

signifies her readiness to confront the challenges ahead, while the unresolved feelings among the trio hint at the complexities of love and loyalty that lie in wait.

What to Expect in Next Chapter?

In the next chapter, readers can expect a tumultuous exploration of Emma's evolving relationships with both Drake and her companions, Edric and Damian. As she grapples with the implications of Drake's unexpected gift, the black crystal, Emma's resolve will be tested. Will she embrace the newfound power it offers, or will her lingering doubts about Drake's intentions cloud her judgment? The tension between her desire for independence and the protective instincts of Edric and Damian will only intensify as they navigate the dangers lurking in the shadows of the forest.

Moreover, the chapter promises to delve deeper into the dynamics of the trio as they confront their feelings for one another. Edric's guilt and protective nature will clash with Damian's quiet yearning for Emma's affection, leading to potential conflict and revelations. As they embark on a perilous journey together, the stakes will rise, forcing Emma to confront not only the physical threats posed by their world but also the emotional turmoil within their group. Will she find the strength to assert her own path, or will the weight of their expectations pull her back into a life she fears to live? Readers will be left on the edge of their seats, eager to discover how Emma will navigate this tangled web of relationships and dangers.

Sara Lili

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When She Opened the Door to the Life She Was Afraid to Live 50

[811 words]

"Emma, where's Drake? Since he found you, why isn't he with you?"

As her match, *is that how Drake protects her?*

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“He had something to do, so he left first,” Emma said. She didn’t take his leaving to heart.

Everyone had their own matters to deal with, and she wasn’t that close to Drake. It wasn’t reasonable to expect him to put her first all the time.

He had already come to find her and even given her a life-saving crystal. That was more than enough.

When Emma finished speaking, Edric frowned, and Damian’s expression darkened with anger.

“Drake went too far. He knew you were in trouble, yet he still left you behind,” Damian said.

As her match, leaving her alone without thinking of her safety was unacceptable. He didn’t deserve to be anyone’s match.

When Emma heard Damian’s voice, she suddenly remembered that he was still there.

She had been too happy seeing Edric earlier. She had only cared about staying close to him and had forgotten entirely about Damian.

Her face turned red, and she quickly asked Edric to put her down.

She explained, “This isn’t Drake’s fault. Things between us are a little complicated. I’ll explain it in detail once we’re home.”

Edric still couldn’t help saying, “Emma, I’ll work hard to level up. I’ll make sure no one ever treats you like this again.”

Drake’s level was higher than his, so he couldn’t beat him now. But he would catch up one day. If anyone dared to treat Emma badly, he would fight them to the end.

“I believe you,” Emma said seriously. She really trusted him. He was an honest little snake, and she knew he wouldn’t lie.

“This isn’t a good place to talk. Let’s wait until we’re home,” Damian said.

He was right. This place wasn’t safe.

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"Even though she's back," Damian continued, "for her safety and health, we should take her to the hospital first for a checkup before going home."

Emma said she had already taken the potion Drake gave her and that her wounds had healed.

But since they hadn't done a full checkup, Edric and Damian were still worried.

Edric didn't argue. He said softly, "Emma, let's just do a quick checkup, then go home, okay? It'll be fast and won't hurt."

Emma knew they meant well, so she didn't object. But she was worried about Laura.

"Did you see Laura when you came looking for me? Are she and her mates okay?"

Damian didn't miss any chance to talk to her. When he heard her mention Laura, he quickly answered before Edric could.

"Don't worry, she's fine. Just a few minor injuries. Her mates took her home three days ago."

Emma felt relieved after hearing that Laura was safe.

"Then let's head back too," she said.

After everything that happened, she wanted to go home as soon as possible and get some rest.

"Emma, I'll carry you out of the forest first. Then we'll take a Gravicar," Edric said.

He let his snake tail out and held her in his arms. His bare upper body pressed against her soft

waist.

Her face turned red again.

Why does *Edric never wear a shirt when his snake tail appears?*

Every time Drake showed his dragon tail, his shirt was always on.

Is it just because they're different species?

Damian looked at Edric with burning jealousy.

That disgusting snake is showing off on purpose, trying to seduce Ms. Tibarn.

Just wait.

He would win her heart one day and make Edric lose his place completely.

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The three of them had just turned to leave when they heard a short cry from the ground.

"Chirp!"

Lucien flapped his pitch-black wings hard. The tiny creature jumped around, calling Emma

nonstop.

"Chirp! Chirp, chirp!"

Little female, you promised to take me with you.

How could you go back on your word?

Damian looked down and saw a fat little creature, darker than the night itself, hopping toward them with short legs.

"What the hell is that thing?" he said.

It was so ugly that he almost couldn't stand looking at it.

Before anyone could react, Damian raised his foot and kicked Lucien away.

Emma had been so caught up with Edric earlier that she completely forgot about him.

When she saw Damian kick it, she quickly shouted, “Damian, don’t—”

But it was too late.

A sharp cry echoed through the night.

Emma gasped when she saw him flying away.

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Damian pulled his foot back awkwardly. “That ugly thing is yours?” he asked.

Emma quickly stepped out of Edric’s arms. “It saved me in the valley. I promised to keep it.”

She ran toward where Lucien had fallen.

It was just an ordinary bird. She really hoped Damian hadn’t kicked it to death.

Edric and Damian followed her right away to help look for it.

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

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