

## Earths GMagus 441

### Chapter 441: Rejection

The title of Golden Knight was one of the most prestigious honors that could be attained by any knight in the land.

There were only 50 who could be selected at one time and even these titles were divided by each kingdom, hence why attaining the title was not only an achievement for oneself, but their respective kingdom as well.

Since Emery was born, the Lioness kingdom has only had three Golden Knights. This was the reason why every young nobleman of the Lioness kingdom dreamt of one day becoming one, Emery included.

At least, he used to.

But ever since he had experienced life outside of the kingdom, his dreams had changed. They were no longer confined to the rigid rules and systems that came with being a knight.

Right now, his only wish was to fulfill his maximum cultivation before his next recall. He certainly believed danger would only come to him if he did not succeed. As a result, he really had no need of any more titles and responsibilities he ultimately couldn't commit to.

"Thank you for coming, Sir Gawain, but I already have the wizard title and that will be more than enough to fulfill my role in the Order."

Emery's reasoning was indisputable. The determination in his gaze was very clear to Gawain.

Because of this, he decided to persuade Emery in other ways. After a slight pause, Sir Gawain responded to Emery's answer with a request to speak in private. He also asked that Gwen should come along and take part in the conversation.

The three of them went inside one of the huts, before the Golden Knight began to justify his previous statements.

Sir Gawain explained that the divine order was currently in a state of turmoil. They had never lost so many Golden Knights in the last hundred years. Last year, there were merely two new Golden Knights, who had replaced their fallen predecessors.

And this year, there were 12 new inductees. Fortunately, Emery had only knocked out the 4 Cantiaci Golden Knights, or there would have been 16 new replacements this year.

This was a fact he did not know about, immediately after hearing it, he fell silent, a contemplative look on his face.

Emery was completely quiet, as he thought about the fact he was at least responsible for the death of the two that attacked Gwen's convoy and also for the death of Sir Brunoir the Lioness Dread Knight.

But still, 9 Golden Knights dying within a year was a huge anomaly either way. Knowing this made Emery wonder about the extent of Meave's involvement in this. He pushed this thought aside, reserving it for later, when Gawain finally got off his back about this offer.

With 12 open slots for the position, the Divine Order was desperately looking for strong and reliable knights, who possessed advanced capabilities as well. This was why, once more, Sir Gawain asked him to reconsider. The look on his face betrayed no emotion, but Emery knew he was getting desperate.

Even so, his answer remained the same. It was simply not an option that was viable for him. With a sigh, Emery replied, "I am sorry, Sir Gawain, but I really cannot accept it."

With Emery's firm answer, the knight didn't push further. This time, his gaze shifted towards Gwen's direction instead.

With a cordial and composed air, he began to speak. "Princess Gwenneth, I didn't know you were here, if I knew, I would have an official letter to give you, but I must inform you the Logress king has been looking for you."

"Oh? What is it about?" Asked Gwen with a curious tilt of her head.

"The king is still waiting for your answer regarding the marriage proposal from the prince of Logress, Arthur Pendragon."

Hearing this surprised Gwen greatly. She didn't realize they would still be asking for her answer, especially knowing she had already lost the kingdom.

She then looked towards Emery with slight concern, wondering what his reaction about this was going to be.

When she turned, though, he seemed completely unfazed. An uncomfortable feeling brewed in her chest. She was a little upset that Emery seemed rather unsurprised and aloof about this matter, not knowing that he was already informed about it from Arthur to begin with.

Gwen then answered, "Sir Gawain, please give my utmost thanks to King Uther, but unfortunately as Lioness is no more, I would not be able to accept the proposal."

The quick and firm answer from the princess brought quite a surprise to Emery's.

Once again, Sir Gawain responded, "Very well, then. I guess I will have to bring home two rejections now..."

As he said this, he smiled before bowing slightly, giving his respects to the both of them before turning his back and leaving.

This left the two of them alone in the secluded, slightly cramped space of the hut.

Suddenly aware of how small the hut was, Gwen fidgeted slightly. She did not wish for Emery to ask or discuss about the marriage proposal at all, so she immediately began to speak about her thoughts regarding the golden knight matter, She spoke offhandedly about what a shame it was to reject such an honor

But when the words came out, she instantly regretted them. This was the same exact situation as when she asked him about becoming a Lioness knight, which already made them argue twice. The last thing she wanted was to provoke any disagreements with Emery since things were already getting much better with them now.

Understanding this, Emery thought it was time to better explain his current condition to alleviate the confusion he knew she was experiencing.

He sighed, trying to keep his voice as cool and calm as possible. He straightened his composure before beginning to speak. "Gwen, it's not that I do not want to be a golden knight, but now that you know I am a wizard, you must realize I have a different path to follow. I hope you understand that."

It's somehow true that her previous irritation was because she thought Emery would just wish to be a farmer despite his amazing talent. Now that she knew better she could accept Emery's reason better for not willing to become a knight.

Gwen does still have something bothering her mind, but then again, she really did not want to debate with him anymore.

Her silence chilled the atmosphere around them. Emery rubbed his temples. "Please, Gwen, just tell me what you think. I insist."

"Emery it's true that those titles are not important, but its the responsibility that came with the title that was important"

She stopped for a second to gather her thoughts before continuing.

"I know I was wrong when I said you don't care about others, especially when you actually did come to my rescue, but I just thought there were still too many people out there who could use your strength... I do believe it's the responsibility of the strong to protect the weak... Otherwise, what's the point of all that training if it's not for the service of the people?"

It could be said they had, again, started the argument that was still unfinished, but this time both of them spoke with less emotion and this time, Emery actually found her reasons had some merit.

It was true that since he receives this power, Emery hasn't done anything much other than finishing his personal goal.

"I guess you are right, but I don't think being a Golden Knight is the solution either."

Hearing this, Gwen's eyes suddenly lit up, as if she had just come up with the best idea ever.

"Emery, I have an amazing idea."

#### **Chapter 442: Marauders**

Atop the hill overlooking the sea, right at the center of what used to be called Lioness Kingdom, a fort could be seen.

The fort was abandoned, traces of dried blood, debris and fallen rocks littered the floor. Tattered remains of proud banners made of fine fabric served as a reminder of its former glory.

Hundreds of people filled the fort, all wearing rag-tag uniforms. They were screaming and talking with each other, creating a cacophony that could be heard even from outside.

In the middle of the fort, stood half a dozen poles marred with fresh blood. One person was tied up on each, their body full of lacerations and exposed to the heat of the sun. The tang of iron could be felt in the air, but none of them seemed bothered by it.

A large muscled man stood on a raised platform, right next to the chained and tortured victims. Meanwhile, a hundred men kept cheering his every move.

"This is what happens to those who dare to oppose us, the Big Bear Marauders!"

The muscled man slammed his feet onto the platform.

"Hurraaaaaaaa!!" The hundred men shouted in unison.

Not long after they started celebrating, a group of people approach from the eastern hill towards them. They also wore a rag-tag uniform, but theirs were of a different color.

"Open the gate!" Their leader declared.

"It's the Black Rat Gang! They have returned"

The large muscled man shouted an order and several men ran towards the gate to open it. Around two dozen more people walked in and, behind them, a group of women chained together by their ankles.

When they saw those women, the men all immediately turned wild.

"Whoa, the Black Rat chief is so lucky!" One man whistled in appreciation.

"Women! Women! So many women!"

"Black Rat chief, let us play with them too!"

The group arrived at the center of the fort and the bulky muscled man, chief of the Big Bear, welcomed him.

"How did it go, brother? I see you brought us many gifts!"

"Hahaha, yeah, those villages are ripe for the taking! Of course, brother, as a sign of my respect to you, you can take three of them."

The chief of the Big Bear walked towards the captured women and stared at them one by one from head to toe. Even with a quick glance, he did have to admit, the Black Rat gang morons really were very lucky today, as he saw several amazingly beautiful girls chained amongst them. The women seemed to be silent, every single one of them resigned to their fate.

"This golden-haired girl! I want this one."

The Black Rat chief walked towards the girl, lightly ruffled her hair and said. "Not this one, brother. This is mine."

The muscled man's eye twitched in annoyance, but he took a deep breath and calmed himself. There were a few more beautiful women among them and there was no use fighting over such a trivial matter.

He looked around like a man appraising fruits in the marketplace before stopping in front of another beautiful woman.

"This red-haired one... I like her! She is so fierce!"

"You certainly have good eyes, brother!" The Black Rat chief praised. "But, I can't give her to you, either. She is my favorite!"

Hearing this, he narrowed his eyes and said. "Hah! Then, you choose one and I'll get the other!"

In response, the Black Rat chief looked at the two girls in confusion, unable to decide who he should get. Before he could say anything, a girl with long white hair shouted.

"What about me?! Choose me!"

The Black Rat chief looked at the girl and nodded. "Yes, I was about to offer you that one, brother. She is very young and I thought you liked young girls!"

"No, no! I have decided I want the golden-haired one! Yes, her hair, her eyes... She's just like a princess!"

The bear chief walked closer to the golden-haired girl. To his surprise, she seemed calm and fierce at first, no fear was reflected in her eyes even as she came face to face with a known gang member. But, as if she remembered something, she looked toward the other chief and shouted.

"No! no, my chief! Why are you giving me away to this big monster!"

The girl's words quickly stoked the heart of the Black Rat chief and the two leaders argued once again. What started as a friendly banter slowly turned heated and they almost pulled their blades at each other.

In the end, the leader of the Big Bears conceded and let the golden haired beauty go. After all, this was a gift of friendship. "Alright, then! I'll take the red-haired one!"

He looked around, but he realized the red-haired girl was gone.

"Where did she go?!"

As if to answer his question, the chief heard a thud from behind, right as a few men who stood behind him fell.

"What the hell?!"

The situation quickly devolved into chaos. Amidst men scrambling to pull out their weapons, the golden-haired girl said.

"Now is the time!"

The young white-haired girl, along with three others, immediately stood up. The rope that bound their hands and legs broke like it was made of paper.

They immediately went into action and jumped at the closest gang member, knocked them out and stole their weapon.

The others immediately went full alert and they picked up the closest weapon they could to attack.

Only to be a player in the most unbelievable battle.

The six girls looked small and petite, their soft skin and beautiful hair seemed to indicate they weren't used to doing much work in their lives. However, the moment they decided to strike, their true ferocity came out.

With strength beyond comparison of their strongest, they fought and defeated each and everyone who approached them. They were able to lay waste to most of the camp within minutes.

The chief of the Big Bear gang was so angry, to the point he picked up his large axe and swung it towards the golden-haired beauty.

"It's a pity. You are such a beautiful woman, but you have to die here!"

The chief was confident and to most his confidence was not unfounded. Once, he fought against multiple silver knights and managed to wipe the floor with them. But none of that strength helped him today, as he saw the girl dodge all his attacks easily.

Clank!

With a swing of her sword, the heavy ax was thrown away.

"W-what kind of magic is this?!" the man shouted in fear and surprise.

The girl merely shook her head. "Hah! I wish it was magic!" She said and hit the man's neck with the hilt of her sword, causing him to fall and lose consciousness.

Six girls fighting against a horde of marauders and none of those men stood a chance.

Right as they finished the last man, someone appeared out of thin air.

"Good job, girls."

The red-haired woman played with her knife and said. "Those tasteless blind marauders! They deserve even worse than this!"

He scratched his head, wondering what made her angry yet again.

Before he could think too much about it, the golden-haired girl interrupted. "The local nobles should come and capture them all soon."

At the same time, another girl shouts as she found the marauders loots. From coins, jewelry even crops. The golden hair girl then said to the man "We can give them to the people whose village was attacked, is it alright?"

The man just nodded as he has no need for these things. This made the girl so happy.

She swung the sword to get rid of the excess blood and threw it onto one of the fallen men's bodies, before looking at the guy, smiling. "What do you think? This can serve both as practice and to help the people! Isn't this a good idea?"

The girl in white hair also excited, she jumped up and said.

"Brother Emery, where to next?"

He really had to commend her enthusiasm, but he shook his head. "No, no, that's enough for today... We'll do this again next week."

### **Chapter 443: The Fairies**

That marauder camp was the first one on their list. Every week, after consuming their [Gaia Serum], Emery would go with the girls to eradicate any bandit group they could find from Southern Briton.

Most of the targets were selected through information gathered by Gwen and Luna.

The fact that it was not hard to find a new target was a testament to how chaotic the current situation was in southern Briton.

The invasion of the Cantiaci Kingdom merely added fuel to the fire and the amount of bandits hanging around what was once Lioness territory became practically endless.

Most of the time, Emery did not join the fight, as the girls were more than capable of taking care of themselves. However, there were some outlying cases wherein the girls would be overwhelmed.

Some cases where this was true included infiltrating the pirates' coves, raiding barbarians from the sea, and even going against cruel nobles, who happened to be rich enough to employ a Golden Knight.

Each time they succeeded, they would always take the loot back to Luna and the Quintin's would always find a way to distribute it back to those in need.

One time, during a raid on the base of a massive slave smuggling ring, they battled in a ruined fort until the place went up in flames. They did manage to escape and Emery took the time to help a young boy and his wounded father escape as well, earning their gratitude.

Seeing the father and son survive the incident somehow served as a reflection of Emery's life.

Time went on and the fruits of their labor eventually started to show.

From the happy smiles of the victims to the enraged or even pitiful faces of the criminals

As the weeks went by, Emery started to understand what Gwen meant by 'using his power for the good of the people.

As their reputation became more renowned, along came the variety of rumors and half-truths that were being spread about them. Throughout the land, the girls soon became known as 'The Fairies'. For their beauties and their magical appearance and disappearance.

Gradually, they also began to get closer to one another, including Emery too.

Before they knew it, another 12 weeks had passed.

At this particular moment, Emery, like always, was sitting in the Khaos Space, absorbing its energy in his dark core nonstop.

[Spirit force increase]

[Spirit force increase]

He was almost sure the increasing spirit force points would become harder the higher his spirit force actually was. Surprisingly, once he had gained over 400 spirit force points, his rate of absorption remained the same. He could even say it was even faster than before.

Emery's spirit force was gradually increasing at a fast and steady pace.

[Emery Ambrose]

[Battle Power: 69 (52)]

[Spirit Force: 486 (355)]

[Spirit Core of Darkness – Stage 5]

[Fey Bloodline – Rank 3]

[Acolyte Rank: 8]

It was 70 plus spirit force increase in the span of three months. At this rate, he could finally maximize his current ranking in the span of two or three weeks.

Emery felt such a powerful force flowing through his body.

"Just a little bit more, kid!!" Said the dragon in front of him.

As the dragon urged him on, Emery inquired him regarding what the reason was behind his fast absorption.

"You moron! Like I have said a thousand times! Focus on the darkness within you and you will grow faster!"

Emery had gotten used to the dragon enough to know that when he said something very vague, it normally meant the dragon didn't really know the reason why.

"Please, supreme being, anything you can tell me about this will be very beneficial to me and I will be forever grateful."

The dragon decided to spill the little information he knew, stating that because the dark core was separated undisturbed from the other elements, it had started to take a more solid form.

The other thing the dragon noticed was that Emery's ability to concentrate on his cultivation seemed to increase. Something about his mind was more relaxed, yet focused at the same time.

This last factor caused him to think even further. He somehow thought the last few weeks had been such a relaxing time for him... For the first time in a while, he was actually happy. Spending time working on his cultivation and his weekly routine somehow fulfilled him. Could this actually help his cultivation?

While he was thinking of this, surprisingly he saw a figure approaching the stone formation. It was Gwen.

It had not even been a week yet, so he wondered silently to himself as to why she came to see him. Knowing his next target was just around the corner, Emery decided to go outside and meet her.

Gwen was startled when he suddenly showed up out of thin air.

"Do you need anything, Gwen? Did anything bad happen?"

Gwen was a little jumpy, as she responded to him she stammered slightly. "No... Yes... I mean, there's no problem, but yes, I do need your help."

"What is it?"

Gwen hesitated a little. "Actually, Emery... Luna told me that the Canciati's plan was to destroy the Lioness castle, tearing most of it down, so that they could do major changes on it becoming the kingdom's strongest fortress or something. I wondered... if you could help me see the castle one last time before it happened"

Emery's unsure expression made the girl quickly added, "There is a possibility they haven't found the Lioness' hidden wealth... I mean, we could redistribute it and it could help the people."

Despite what she had just said, Emery could tell it was never about hidden wealth or aiding the people at all. The girl must be missing her home immensely after being away for 6 months. But he wasn't sure it was a good idea, as the place was most likely swarming with Cantiaci knights.

Gwen continued. "They say the palace was left with a minimum number of men standing guard because of the renovation... So... Maybe..."

Emery could tell the girl was hiding something but Ultimately, he thought it was just a simple spell cast into the palace. Besides, he could sense if anyone was approaching and, even if they were found out, no one could stop them. In the end, Emery decided to fulfill her wish.

As they spoke, the night was beginning to fall. Now was probably as good a time as any.

"Okay, let's just go now then"

#### **Chapter 444: Memory**

The two of them arrived at the stone formation set up in the forest, right on the outskirts of Lionarch City. The red sunset can be seen from the horizon.

The last time they were here was during the invasion. Not knowing what will be waiting for them up ahead, he needs to be sure. Fortunately, now that his spirit force had increased further, Emery could use his spirit reading even more accurately than before.

"You are right. I can sense only two dozen guards patrolling outside, a dozen guards inside, along with a maid."

He concentrated at one specific point inside and opened his [Spatial Gate]. Together, they walked into the void in space and, just like that, they were already inside the palace.

"No one is on the second floor at the moment," Emery whispered. "Just get whatever you need. I'll stand guard here."

Gwen stared at him with a gentle, loving gaze for a moment before breaking into a sweet, grateful smile.

"Your magic never cease to amaze me, Emery... Thank you."

"Don't worry about it. Just be quick, alright?"

Because of Emery's training in Khaos Space, they could only see each other once a week, but after 6 months, Emery was able to get used to talking to Gwen casually.

First, Gwen decided to enter her father's room right at the end of the hall Emery was guarding. 6 months had passed and, of course, many things had changed. The massive bed was mostly destroyed, its valuable decorations looted and taken away by marauders and the sheets had been torn, just like the banners resting above the headrest.

The window leading to the ocean view outside was blocked by large debris and fallen wooden beams, as if to say the ruined kingdom could no longer have a future.

She walked around the room, careful to avoid stepping on anything and touched the familiar things she spotted. The walls were now stained with soot and dust, but it felt familiar beneath her fingers and so were the torn banners and sheets. Deep in her heart, she knew this would be the last time she could come here.

After a few minutes, Gwen returned back to Emery's place and said.

"I am weird for asking you to do this, am I? Well, I suppose you won't blame me for being a bit... sentimental?" Gwen gave Emery a teasing smile.

He could sense the intent behind the question and decided not to indulge her in that regard. "Is that it?"

If she knew Emery was avoiding her question, she gave no indication of it. "Of course not, Emery... Come, next, we will go to my room."

Now that she had seen her father's room, she decided not to be too cautious. There was a light spring in her steps and her body was no longer as tense, which Emery took as a sign she had obtained some closure.

They arrived in another hall, this one less spacious than the first; they walked towards one of the doors on the right side.

When she saw the room was mostly untouched, her expression turned into one of pure, unbridled glee.

"You know, Emery..." Gwen started, as the two of them walked inside the room. "If this was before... You coming inside this room could mean a lifetime imprisonment or even death." She said with a teasing smile.

"Well," Emery raised her eyebrows at her. "Actually, I did come to this room before."

"Really?" Gwen turned back and looked at him in surprise, before her eyes lit up in recognition. "Ah, yes! You're right, I did drag you here before for... What was it..."

"You once forced me to carry the books from the palace library to here."

"Yeah... I can barely remember that... Why did I even force you to do that, again?"

"How would I know?" Emery shrugged.

The girl chuckled to herself when she thought about it.

She looked around with a cheerful smile, before stopping in front of a massive painting and taking it down from the wall.

"Oh, it's still here!"

Emery looked in Gwen's direction and saw storage hidden beneath where the painting once hung. She opened it easily and threw a few handfuls of jewelry onto her bed before she found the thing she was looking for.

He tried to look at the thing, but Gwen gave him an even more cheeky smile than before and tried to hide the thing behind her robes.

"Hey, Emery, close your eyes!"

"What are you even-"

"Come on, just a minute will do!"

Emery heeded her request and closed his eyes, after all with his spirit reading ability, he could sense his surroundings even with his eyes closed.

However, he did not expect her to grab his hand and drag him outside. She always did this many times before, but somehow it always felt something for him.

Now that he was outside, with eyes closed, he could smell the salty scent of the sea carried by the night winds.

"Now, open your eyes!"

When he opened his eyes, Gwen placed something on his hand.

Seeing the object in his hand, his heart skips a beat. Under his touch, he could feel the grains of wood on the surface of the box. The feel in each corner of the box brought out a special memory he had buried deep inside his heart. He touched a part of the box and it opened, showing the carving of a girl.

The very same girl who was now standing in front of him.

He was at a loss for words and his thoughts were jumbled into a chaotic mess.

"Why... is it here?"

This was the box he made for her as a gift for her 16th coming of age ceremony. But, the last thing Emery knew the box was most likely thrown out as garbage by the end of that day. So, why did Gwen still have the box?

Gwen chuckled at his reaction, but she turned serious right after when she said.

"Honestly, I didn't know whether the box was still here or it was gone after the attack. All I had were my hopes, but if it wasn't here... At least I could get a moment with you alone without all those other girls."

Emery stared at her in confusion, while Gwen continued speaking.

"Emery, I have known you since we were little. You are so dense, you can't tell that women have been trying to get your attention for months now."

She reached out, her hands holding the box and Emery's own. Her touch was soft and it stirred a feeling long dormant within his heart.

"I hope this box can be proof that... I..."

Gwen gulped, trying to gather her courage.

"I have been thinking about you all this time, Emery. These past few months... I realized I have been seeking your attention, just like when we were little..."

Gwen stared at him, her eyes trying to show the very essence of her feelings.

"Emery... Do you feel... the same?"

The box had triggered a flood of past feelings long buried. All the things they experienced together came out like a broken dam, leaving him unable to even deny. This girl... She has plagued his mind for quite a long time.

Emery could feel his heart thumping really hard, he walked a step closer towards the girl of his dreams. He braced himself and gently stroked her golden hair. Both eyes met when he said

"Yes, I feel the same."

Emery could see her eyes suddenly glittering, followed by a smile as she jumped out her arms around him as the night winds gently caress the two of them.

#### **Chapter 445: Praise**

Another day passes by, and before he knew it, it was time for him to meet the girls.

He woke up before the sun's rays started trailing inside through the window and went into his hut. There, he took a small bit of the pure Gaia Essence and mixed it with some herbs and water to create the [Gaia Serum].

As he finished mixing the serum, he sensed a presence moving outside thanks to his spirit reading.

To his surprise, it was Gwen.

Now that he was sure of the figure's intentions, he placed the bottle on the table and opened the door.

Their eyes met and the beautiful girl gave him a tender, loving smile that warmed his heart. After what happened last night, her smile felt like a soothing balm.

For so many years, he had pined for her and last night they finally managed to show each other their feelings.

"Why so early, Gwen?" Emery returned her smile and asked.

"I am sure you haven't eaten breakfast yet. Here, I prepared one for you."

Emery looked down and smelled a savory scent. She brought him a bowl of mushroom soup made with milk, some meat and vegetables, along with a piece of soft bread inside a pair of wooden bowls.

"Did you bring this and walk all the way here from the village?"

Gwen nodded and smiled, Emery moved aside to let her in.

"Thank you, Gwen, but you don't really have to..." Emery rubbed the back of his head.

"Do you... Not like it?" Gwen asked, with a slight waver in her voice.

"No... What I meant is yes, I like it, but did you realize you rarely see me eating?"

"Yeah, I noticed that, what's up with it?"

Emery asked Gwen to come in and they sat on a medium-sized rectangular table enough to hold 10 people. Gwen served the meal in front of Emery, before sitting across from him.

While eating, Emery explained that, when someone manages to cultivate to a certain level, they will barely need to eat, their bodies will grow stronger and their lifespan will increase.

At this chance Emery felt like he needed to catch up a lot of information with her. Not about the magus academy, but generally about becoming a magus.

She needed to know this, if they ever wanted a chance to be together. After all, a relationship built on lies would not last.

As expected, the information came as quite a shock to her.

"Live longer... like past 100 years old?"

Emery nodded and tried to keep his expression even, but it was hard to hide his thoughts from her. From his tone alone, Gwen knew it's way more than that.

"200 years old? That would be amazing..."

Emery knew even people like Meave and Lady of the lake were more than 200 years old and they had not yet reached the magus stage.

"Can you even reach 300!? That's crazy!" Gwen's eyes widened.

Emery merely stared at her. He was hesitant to mention the fact that like Lord Izta, a magus could live past 2000 years.

It was at this moment that noises could be heard from outside. The fey sisters have arrived.

As usual, Glita walked with a spring to her steps and shouted with joy almost all the way, while the others were quieter in comparison. They barged into the door without knocking, only to see Emery was eating while talking with Gwen.

"Whoa, what soup is this? Where's our share? Is that only for brother Emery? That's not fair!" Glita walked closer to Emery and pouted at Gwen.

The group chatted for a while, before Emery started to test their blood again.

As always, everyone offered their hand to Emery in excitement, except for Morgana. Now that he paid attention to her, he realized that since the red-haired girl entered the hut, she was more quiet than usual.

After checking their test, finally, the result could be seen.

Glita

[Battle Power - 26]

[Spirit Force - 60]

Tyra

[Battle power - 25]

[Spirit force - 60]

Lilith

[Battle power - 25]

[Spirit force - 60]

Lelith

[Battle power - 25]

[Spirit force - 60]

Gwen

[Battle power - 23]

[Spirit force - 60]

Morgana

[Battle power - 29]

[Spirit force - 65]

After a total of 6 months of training, except Morgana, who managed to break through to rank 5, all the girls reached the peak spirit force of rank 4.

For one month, there was no increase in the girls' spirit force except for Gwen. At one point, Gwen had the lowest aptitude amongst them, but she finally caught up.

This further proof that [Gaia serum] had finally reached its limit.

"Alright, let me see how your skills are progressing," said Emery

When Emery invited all the girls outside to the clearing, he noticed Morgana stay back. The girl stared at him, as if trying to convey something, but then she changed her mind and left the hut.

When all has gathered, then their weekly training has started

For sword-fighting techniques, all 6 had already mastered level 3 and, since then, Emery has been teaching them how to use spells instead.

Right now, all the fey girls showed off their progress with the [Entangle] spell.

Plant roots started to spur from the ground and moved with each of their commands, swinging, twirling in the air.

Tyra, Lilith, and Lelith managed to cast and control two roots at the same time, Glita could cast three and the A-rank aptitude Morgana, the most talented among them all, managed to cast 4 roots at the same time.

Meanwhile, for Gwen, as she had no plant affinity, Emery taught her one of his water element spells.

After months of training, Gwen was barely able to lift up one splash of water and form a ball. She successfully cast [Whip Splash] that could knock down some fruits on the trees, but it could barely hurt any people.

It was to be expected, for the former princess only has a measly D aptitude. But, she looked so happy as she was finally able to cast magic. Looking at her reminded Emery of his first few days in the Magus Academy, when he struggled to even reach the minimum amount of spirit force required to stay there.

This made Emery quickly praise Gwen's successful attempt. "Congratulations, you did really well."

The fact that such a simple spell made Emery praise the former princess quickly ignited the other girls' jealousy.

Not willing to accept such unfair treatment, Glita said. "Hey, brother Emery, did you know sister Morgana has been hiding something from you?"

Emery was startled, but Morgana was even more surprised. From where she stood, the girl glared at Glita, as if her eyes were enough to send a message.

"Come on, sister, be brave!"

Emery gave her a kind smile, but Morgana froze in her tracks.

"I... I..."

"Hey sis, don't embarrass us!" Glita added.

Morgana stared at her little sister, now even more confused.

"Sis, you showed us a new skill yesterday, right? Show it to brother Emery! What are you waiting for?"

Morgana let out a sigh in relief, it appeared she mistook Glita's intent, she turned back to approach Emery and showed the skill to him.

With the aid of his spirit reading, Emery could sense an energy buildup in her body. "Are you going to transform?"

Morgana's right hand was instantly covered in black fur and her fingers turned into claws. It's a partial fey transformation.

She howled and both of her feet also transformed, giving her an extra boost in strength and speed.

"Amazing!" Emery exclaimed, excited to see Morgana show off how her speed had increased tremendously.

A fey transformation would give her at least a 10 point increase in battle power, and with this, Emery believed no one in Briton, even multiple gold knights, would be able to defeat her except probably Maeve.

"Congratulations, Morgana!" Emery gave her a proud, sincere smile and, in that instant, Morgana's day was made brighter.

But, his next words quickly ruined the mood.

"I'm happy for you girls, but... I have to announce that for now, there's not much I can do to help your training. Until I can find a better recipe and better potion, at the moment I will have to focus on my own training. I expect you all also would always try to increase your cultivation as thought."

This quickly made the girls feel disappointed, especially Morgana. Finally, their 6 months of training together reached an end.

But it appeared Gwen would not let him go easily, as usual, she wanted to do something for the group.

"Emery... Can we at least... Can we complete one more target?"

She was forceful and headstrong, that much Emery knew since they were childhood friends. He sighed in exasperation, before nodding with a smile.

The fey sisters all felt. There were a few second moments between the two that somehow felt different than before.

From a bit further, Morgana watched them. It was obvious there was something going on between the two.

Her fey sense only confirmed it, and this time instead of feeling a rage bubble from her heart, she felt a sharp pain,... something on her chest felt hurt.

#### **Chapter 446: Last Mission**

Emery was exhilarated to discover his [Spatial Gate] had improved a notch further. Now, with only a mere three casts of the spell, he would be able to go to places with a distance equivalent to one day full speed gallop on horse.

This time, Luna had given him the information about a certain bandit group that hid in a cave somewhere on the mountains. This group of bandits had been terrorizing townsfolk and villagers alike; knights naturally had been dispatched to deal with this atrocity.

Unfortunately, they hadn't been able to track, much less find, the location of the bandits' whereabouts. After all, the mountain range was too vast and their cave could be anywhere on that landscape.

However, this seemingly unsolvable dilemma had been easily resolved by Emery, as he only needed to cast his [Spirit Reading] ability until he found his targets. As expected, he already located the bandits' hideout even though only a minute passed since he departed.

With another cast of [Spatial Gate], the figures of Emery as well as the girls appeared in front of a cave that was supposed to be where the bandits were hiding.

Emery noticed Morgana seemed to be in a very bad mood. Through the mental connection of their bloodline, he could perceive the girls' feelings. It was normal for Morgana to be emotional. However, this time, Emery could somehow tell it was different.

The young girl didn't even want to look at him when he briefed the group about this operation.

"Alright, listen up! Here's our target: the bandits' hideout, there are roughly 50 of them inside. Watch your steps and keep your awareness while inside, as the cave is dark and vision is limited. Furthermore..."

Before Emery even managed to finish his words, Morgana had started running towards the cave.

Morgana's abrupt action startled Emery as well as the girls.

"Morgana!"

The other girls tried to catch up to her, but her foot suddenly transformed into that of a Fey. As a result, they were left in the dust by Morgana, as her figure shot to the cave entrance.

"Be careful!" shouted Emery from the back.

Somehow, he felt a very bad omen about this.

Morgana's figure rapidly dashed through the cave tunnel and, as soon as she arrived at a large space where she could see a wide variety of objects, she immediately casted her [Fireball] spell and threw the materialized fire spheres in multiple areas. In an instant, the enclosed space was lit to the apex and alarmed the 50 plus bandits inside.

"What happened? What are those??!"

"That girl!! Could it be the Fairies?! Did they find us?!"

"It's just one girl!! What are you doing there running away?! Come back here before I put you down myself!!!"

"Fire!! That girl is throwing fireballs!! She's a witch!!!"

Ignoring the shouts resounded in the air, Morgana jumped into the fray and started using her dagger in one hand and her sharp claws in the other to attack the bandits. While the bandits were still trying to comprehend what was going on around them, she had harvested a few lives already.

"Monster!!"

"Witch!!"

"Mercy!!"

By the time Emery and the others arrived, the place had become a cluster of complete chaos. Flames were seen everywhere in this enclosed space, while the bandits were slowly taken out by a blur of shadow. Some of them tried to fight back, while others tried to find a path of escape.

At the moment, the bandits were so terrified by Morgana's actions they fell into a state of frenzy. The thing that always happened when people were panicking was that their actions became extremely erratic and irregular, especially when they were trapped in an enclosed space.

The chaotic situation made the other girls have difficulty fighting the bandits, especially when the latter were frantically rushing their way toward their direction. Dozens of bandits rushed towards the cave entrance to get out from all this madness.

With the coming masses, Gwen and Glita quickly confronted the bandits that were to come with their sword, while the remaining girls quickly used [Entangle]. In the blink of an eye, dozens of plant roots emerged from the ground and bound the foot of the fleeing bandits, immobilizing them completely. Those who were careless even tripped over their feet and banged their face first on the ground, raising clouds of dust in the air.

"Witch!! Witch!! More witches!!"

In the meantime, Morgana, who was meters away from the group, was casting more [Fireball] crazily, as if she intended to bring the whole place down to smithereens.

Dark smoke had begun enveloping the entirety of space where they were and the chain reaction was more bandits became panicked and charged toward Morgana, intending to pluck off the root of the problem. Seeing that, Glita swiftly charged forward, trying to help her sister.

It was at this time that Gwen realized some of the wooden beams that supported the cave were burning. Unfortunately, the place was completely covered by smoke and, as if that wasn't bad enough, it seemed Morgana and Glita didn't realize this.

"Morgana, stop!!" shouted Gwen in her attempt to stop the rampaging Fey.

Alas, she couldn't hear Morgana's shout due to the chaos. Left with no choice, Gwen was shouting for Emery, but when he was about to take action, he noticed a large wooden pillar was falling towards Glita.

Tyra who saw that shouted, but couldn't do anything as she was too far. "Watch out, sister!!"

[Entangled]

As Tyra, the oldest sister, finished the spell cast, plant roots rapidly rose from the ground and crashed onto the falling pillar, stalling it in the air.

However, Gwen knew the roots weren't enough to hold that massive pillar. Therefore, she quickly dashed to Glita and pulled her back by grabbing her clothes.

The disaster still didn't end there. When the wooden pillar was falling, the structure of the cave also collapsed, and thus, piles of rocks began raining from above.

Morgana finally awoke from her rampage and realized what she did. Seeing how his sister almost met her death due to his actions, she quickly stopped her actions and ran towards Gwen, who didn't realize that a boulder was heading towards her.

Morgana was not fast enough and could only watch as a piece of rock hit the back of Gwen's head and she immediately fell to the ground unconscious.

Another large chunk of rock broke off from the ceiling of the cave and if no one stopped it, it would surely land where Gwen was. At the next split of second, Emery had appeared right next to Gwen and grabbed her before disappearing out of existence again.

The figure of Emery and Gwen appeared on the other side of the cave, near the cave entrance.

"All of you, quickly get out!!" shouted Emery before he once again teleported and reappeared right outside of the cave.

When the girls had already escaped from the collapsing cave, the first thing that Morgana saw was Emery holding Gwen in his arm, while blood was dripping off her head.

Her heart was extremely conflicted as she saw that, especially when Emery looked her straight in the eye.

"I know!! It's my fault!!" screamed Morgana, as she then transformed into her Fey wolf and dashed to the woods.

"Morgana!!" Glita shouted, but Morgana's figure had disappeared in the sea of ??trees.

The girls were worried about Morgana and quickly transformed into their transformation as well and gave chase, except for Glita who stayed back, wanting to look over the wounded and unconscious Gwen.

She turned her gaze to Emery and asked, "Is she going to be alright, brother?"

"Don't worry, Glita. Gwen will be fine."

Currently, Emery was applying his [Healing Paste] onto the wound on the back of her head.

"Instead of being here, can go after Morgana and bring her back?. I'm worried about her." said Emery, while his hands kept applying the paste.

"Alright, brother. I'll be on my way, then." said Glita, as she transformed and disappeared between the trees.

After making sure the [Healing Paste] was completely applied on the wound, Emery casted [Spatial Gate] directly to the stone formation in the Forbidden Forest and quickly brought Gwen to his estate in Venta Town.

He put her in the bedroom and went to his apothecary room to concoct a potion, an energy potion for her health.

Emery felt the whole process of making the potion went so fast and, without him realizing, the potion was ready.

When he felt that Gwen's breath and heartbeat had stabilized after drinking the potion, Emery took a deep breath to calm his restless heart.

Everything would be fine, he thought to himself.

Emery gently lay the girl on the bed, brought a chair and sat down next to her.

Time silently passed, as he waited for her to wake up.

#### **Chapter 447: Sparks**

The truth was, Emery couldn't stop being concerned about Morgana. It appeared her erratic behavior only got worse and now she and all the fey sisters were still miles away from the Forbidden Forest. It might take them a whole day just to return.

He wished he could just cast [Spatial Gate] and take them all back first, but he didn't have the heart to just leave the unconscious girl lying in bed next to him.

To a certain extent, the [Healing Paste] should do wonders to her wound, but he couldn't help but be concerned about the head wound.

If only he could still cast his [Nature Blessing] spell. Everything would have been much easier.

In the end, Emery looked after her and stayed up the whole night, waiting until her eyes finally started to flutter open.

"Urghhhh..." Gwen rubbed the back of her head and instantly felt sore. "I think I just had the best sleep..."

Emery let out a long, exasperated sigh and asked.

"How are you feeling now?"

The golden-haired girl looked at him and gave him a teasing smile.

"Knowing that you stayed up all night to take care of me... Definitely much better."

Emery gave her a wry smile, shook his head and said. "I see, if you can still tease me, I guess you are fine."

He paused for a second, looked at her happy face and said. "If you are feeling better, let me call someone to look after you, alright? I need to go out for a while"

For an instant, Gwen's expression turned dismayed, but it lasted no more than a fraction of a second, as she rubbed her head and carefully laid back down on her pillow. "Aaa... My head..."

Right as she did, Emery's expression turned into one of worry. He quickly walked towards her and said. "Let me check your wound first."

Then, he gently placed his hand on the back of her neck, pulled her up and reached onto her hair to see the wound.

"Hmm... It seems the wound has fully closed... Can you tell me which part was hurting?" Emery raised his eyebrows and looked at her head carefully, trying to pinpoint the source of the pain.

Gwen didn't answer, she merely smiled. She was just playing with him.

At this moment, Emery realized both their faces were so close to each other.

His heart started to race, his face was heating up. Before he could collect himself, Gwen grabbed his other hand, gently put it on her chest and said.

"Can you feel it, Emery?..."

Emery could feel it, it seemed her heartbeat was as fast as his.

She stared at him, her eyes full of sincerity and adoration, and said.

"Will... you..."

She was close, so close. His dream girl, the same girl he once thought as unattainable, was now standing so close to his face. He could feel her erratic breath and within moments, his self-restraints crumbled. With consideration to her current state, he slowly pulled her closer and their lips met.

The moment their lips touched each other, it felt like sparks of lightning connected them. The warmth of the touch gave way to spark a fire in their hearts. Time seemed to stop as the ecstasy connected them.

Only for the moment to be interrupted with a knock on the door.

Emery was dismayed, but he was forced to let her go.

"I... I'll see who it is."

Gwen was unable to even mouth an answer. She merely nodded, the kiss still flooding her mind.

To his relief and annoyance, the knock came from the estate assistant, who reported that a guest came to see him.

"Who is it?" Emery's expression turned serious.

She reported it was a group of knights from Logress.

Emery concentrated his spirit reading sense on the living room downstairs and he was able to sense the presence of a group of knights outside the estate and a few in his living room. He recognizes one of the men. It was the golden prince of Logress.

"It's Arthur, he is here." Emery said.

He saw Gwen frown. "Well, I guess we can't let the future king of the kingdom wait, can we?"

"It's okay, you stay here and rest." Emery firmly said, before walking out and closing the door. He went towards the living room hall to see his guests.

As he expected, it really was Arthur, accompanied by Sir Gawain and a few other knights. Right as he saw Emery, he whispered to Gawain and every knight left the place, leaving the two of them.

"What a great honor, for the golden prince to come to my humble abode." Emery said.

The prince explained he also had some business with Luna and some of the places around the kingdom, which were once part of Lioness territory.

"It's great for you to be here, Emery. I actually wish to talk to princess Gweeneth as well. I heard she is currently in the Fey Village?" Arthur asked.

"Actually-"

Before Emery was able to explain, they heard the click of a door, along with footsteps. Gwen walked into the hall, not caring about the presence of a guest. She wore a casual gown and her hair was messily tied up, showing that she just woke up.

"Greetings, Prince Arthur." Gwen said, before sitting next to Emery.

Emery turned worried and said she was not supposed to be up and about just yet, but the girl rebuked it, saying she felt well enough to stop being confined to bed. They had a small argument, all in full view of Arthur.

The golden prince could only watch them talk with mixed feelings.

"Ah, I see..." He nodded and smiled. "I had my guesses, but seeing it first-hand, unfolding in front of me... I have to say I can't help but feel jealous."

He looked at Gwen and gave her a dry smile. "So, this is the reason you haven't been replying to my letter then?"

Gwen looked at him and nodded.

#### **Chapter 448: Suitor**

Arthur always had a good impression towards the princess of Lioness and, even if she lost her title during the struggle in the former Lioness territory, that did not change.

Same for Gwen, Arthur was the ideal partner. He had a charming personality, good-looking and a great fighter to boot.

Above all, Arthur had enough power to make Lioness safe. There was no doubt that for her, he would be the best choice.

But now that she lost her kingdom, it was like the chains were lifted off from her.

Nevertheless, the charming golden prince was missing one most important factor. That was: the ability to make the princess' heart beat as fast as when she was with Emery.

At the moment, Emery did not even need his spirit reading to realize the prince was quite upset to see what happened in front of him.

But, the prince took this fact admirably.

He looked at Emery and said.

"I guess once again I must accept my defeat, Merlin. Damn! This hurts! You beat me in a fight and now you beat me in love, too!" Arthur laughed.

Before Emery was able to answer, Gwen opened her mouth and said.

"Your highness, I am sure there will be much better suitors for you and the kingdom."

The remark made Arthur look at her and fell silent for a few seconds. Then, he said,

"The truth is, even now and to this day, my father the king still believes you are still the best choice."

Curious, Gwen stared at him and asked.

"Why is that?"

Again, the prince went silent. He rubbed his forehead and leaned back on his chair, sighing as he did. It seemed that whatever he wanted to say, he found it difficult to find the proper words.

"I guess... currently my father is trapped in a very difficult situation. Things between the seven kingdoms have never been this bad before."

Arthur proceeded to explain how the situation between Logress and Norgales in the north has never escalated even further. In the last few months, there have been many minor skirmishes going on between the two. It was clear that day by day, it was getting worse.

While they were embroiled in this escalating conflict, things turned even worse with the increased threat of the northern barbarians.

With the increased threat, Norgales has been gaining more sympathy and support from other kingdoms. Hence, there were rumors that Logress was not supporting the cause and only making trouble to Norgales

Arthur looked towards Gwen and said.

"Unfortunately we were unable to come to your aid to your kingdom that time. Now, we must deal with the consequences."

When Lioness Kingdom fell, Logress lost their closest ally and one of their most devoted supporters.

Now that Cantiaci had taken over the whole southern Briton, Logress Kingdom was being pressured from both the north and the south.

"With the way it is, There is a high probability that a war between the kingdoms will break out soon."

This reveals startled Emery a bit, while Gwen took it much harder.

"How is that possible?! How about the Divine Order? Can't they prevent it from ever happening?"

Arthur shook his head and explained how currently the Divine Order was also in a precarious situation. The cause was the appearance of the new golden knight, Sir Maleagant of the Norgales. He had been gaining more supporters, this caused rifts to appear within the people and the Divine Order.

Emery recalled that name. The golden knight was the son of the late Sir Bagdemagus and the only one other than Arthur who managed to receive a second level blessing from the legendary sword.

"Merlin, did you know that in the last yearly gathering, out of the 12 golden knight replacements, half of them came from Norgales?"

With this, it was clear that the balance of power had shifted. Logress was in even deeper trouble than it appeared at first glance.

Arthur sighed again and said.

"If only I had managed to pull out the sword. It would be much easier to bring peace to the seven kingdoms."

For a few months, Arthur has been consuming the serum as well. Same like the fey girls, Arthur already reached his maximum limit. Right now, he was at rank 4 and his spirit force had stopped at 60.

Currently there was no other way except for the prince to find it within himself to break through the limit, or wait until Emery could find a better solution.

"I am sorry, Merlin, I knew it wouldn't be that easy and I really appreciated your help and what you did the last few months."

With the increase in spirit force, currently, Arthur could be said to be the strongest golden knight there was. Unfortunately, Emery didn't know any light element magic to teach him.

Silence reigned between them for a moment, until the prince regained his bearings and spoke again.

"Ah, by the way, I came here today, not by coincidence. For weeks now, I have been meeting with the Cantiaci nobles... no, I mean, they are the former Lioness nobles."

What the prince said came as quite a shock to Gwen. She hurriedly asked.

"What do you mean? Why are they meeting with you? What do they want?"

"I will explain princess." Arthur calmed her down. "to put it simply, these nobles do not wish to be ruled by the Cantiaci and they have expressed willingness to submit under Logress' rule."

The prince paused for a second, glanced towards Emery and continued.

"There is a catch, though. For them to defect to our side, they wanted you to be on board."

"Wait, what? How?" Gwen asked, confused.

Arthur hesitated for a second before saying

"Didn't you ask before, why are you the best choice? It's basically because of this. Marrying you will probably be the quickest way to solve most of our current problems."

Hearing this, the situation became extremely awkward.

#### **Chapter 449: Request**

Upon hearing about the kingdom's current condition from Arthur, Emery could already guess why King Uther Pendragon was still so fixated on the prospect of making Gwen a suitor.

Gwen might have lost her kingdom, but for the most part, she still had support from both her people and the nobles.

If Arthur married her, this time, Logress and Lioness wouldn't be separated kingdoms anymore and the name "Lioness" itself would become obsolete. The kingdom that remained would simply be an upgraded version of Logress, now with expanded territories and more citizens to use as manpower.

With the situation they were currently facing, it did seem like a quick and convenient solution.

A few seconds of silence hung in the air after Arthur finished his summary of the kingdom's circumstances. He then quickly added,

"Well, I guess marriage is no longer an option."

"Obviously," Gwen snapped.

"Nevertheless, I hope you two would still be willing to help."

Afterwards, Arthur began to explain how the nobles were holding up in such precarious conditions.

The Cantiaci might have defeated the Lioness kingdom, but their attempts to control the Lioness land were met with a lot of difficulties. The main reason behind this was simple: the person who held the rights to most of that land and had the ability to connect them, Lord Fantumar, had been killed in the battle.

Hence the reason why the new nobles had no real leader who they could really trust within the Cantiaci royalty.

These issues were further exacerbated with the newfound discrimination from the victorious Cantiaci citizens and the previous Lioness citizens. This prejudice was most apparent in the fields of trade and security.

At first, it was only the lower ranking nobles who rejected the invaders, but now, after a few more months, the high rank nobles joined the fray as well.

"Actually, much of this issue was further inflamed by one family," Arthur stated.

Gwen furrowed her brows. "Which one?"

"The Fantumars. The young noble Abe Fantumar took his father's mantle and gathered the high rank nobles that worked with his father in the past, but this time to convince them to oppose the Cantiaci government."

Hearing Abe's name was certainly a surprise for Emery. Although he never liked him, he did warn Emery about the princess' life being in danger. He felt grateful for that, at the very least.

Arthur's gaze then shifted in Gwen's direction. "Ultimately, the young Fantumar was one of the most vocal about you coming on board with this plan, of course, there are some other nobles who still remain very loyal to your family."

List off their noble's names start being poured by Arthur, and Emery could see how much this moved Gwen. The more names Arthur mentioned, the more Gwen's eyes shone.

"So here is what I thought," Arthur then said, beginning to carve out his plan. "As marriage is not an option, I wish you would come and help me convince them to support Logress. What do you think? I really believe we could help a lot of people by doing this."

Arthur then requested Gwen's presence in a meeting with these very nobles, reminding her that setting this up could take a few weeks.

"I really believe this way you could really help both Logress and your people" He looked expectantly at the two of them. "What do you think?"

Emery had been quiet, hands clasped together, as he analyzed the situation that was being explained to him. It appeared Gwen was emotionally moved and her body language indicated she was willing to help, but before she was about to say her thoughts, she stopped abruptly and turned towards Emery.

"Emery, what do you think?"

Honestly, he thought this was a bad idea.

He had thought about situations similar to this before, specifically during his lessons in the Magus Academy. A powerful magus could decide the fate of the kingdoms. With Emery's strength at the moment alone, he probably had the ability to dictate the actions of the kingdom's most influential leaders. It had been proven by now, since it appeared the Cantiaci no longer dared to bother Gwen because of him.

From that lesson and examples of magus' in the other worlds, he decided he didn't want to involve himself with the kingdom's politics.

Whether it was Cantiaci or Lioness, Logress or Norgalez, as long as the people he cared about were unhurt, he couldn't care less who the king was.

This was what Emery honestly felt. He raised his arm, about to touch her shoulder and advise her not to follow along.

But before he could reach her and state his opinion, Gwen said, "I... I really wish that nothing bad would come to them. Some of these nobles, they are like my family... If I can help prevent it... I think I should."

Emery could see from her eyes a certain kind of determination. He sighed, giving in.

"You should do what you think is right, Gwen."

The girl turned towards him and smiled brightly.

"Emery, this way we can help more people, in a way that's more impactful than just rescuing them from bandits. I shall introduce these people to you Emery, they are good people."

Upon hearing this, Emery suddenly said, "Gwen, I actually can't come."

Emery could pretend to like and supported the cause, but not at the expense of his own problems. These requests would take weeks of his time that he simply couldn't spare.

At the moment, Emery was only weeks away from reaching his maximum spirit force in darkness cultivation. There was also his concern with Morgana and the Fey girls. He couldn't just leave now to do something else.

This rejection evidently affected her. It made her hesitate to accept Arthur's request.

"Emery, if you are not comfortable with this, I probably shouldn't go."

Emery could clearly see how much she wished to go that he can't seem able to stop her.

"I'll tell you what," he started. "I will come to find you and check you out when I finish with my training. Maybe in two or three weeks"

Arthur perked up at this sentence and smiled warmly at him. "Thank you, Merlin, I will definitely make sure she is safe."

Emery shook his head silently. Actually, Gwen being trained 6 months by Emery, was probably stronger than Arthur was at the moment, so he didn't need to worry much about that.

#### **Chapter 450: Don't Go**

Later on that day, a band of horses, with their riders, were seen loitering around the outskirts area of one of Venta Town's estates. The riders were clad completely in steel armour, with various kinds of weapons in their hands.

There, a figure of a young girl with mesmerizing features and dazzling golden hair could be seen. It seemed she was about to leave with this group of knights.

Then, before the group left and headed in their way, the young girl suddenly turned around and approached a young man whose gaze hadn't left her ever since.

"I suddenly don't feel like leaving, Emery. I feel... I am going to regret this... Can you tell me not to go?"

The young girl asked the young man with clear sincerity in her eyes, It looked like she really did not want to go.

Emery was about to answer her, when his thoughts suddenly recalled something, a word.

'Do what makes you happy, Gwen.'

Those were the last words that the deceased Lioness King, Gwen's father, said to her before his last breath fled away.

When Gwen heard Emery speak these words, the same exact one, she let out a gentle smile.

"Thank you, Emery."

Before she left for her journey, Gwen said, "I know you are dying to see her. Am I right?"

Emery was so startled by her words, he didn't know how to reply. But it seemed unnecessary as she continued to speak. "She's a nice girl, Emery. I hope things will work out."

Afterwards, Gwen climbed to her horse, turned her head and gave one last look to Emery, before she galloped away alongside the group of knights escorting her. The group quickly left the estate and disappeared in the distance, leaving Emery who was confused with what the former meant by the words 'hope things will work out.'

Either way, Emery didn't ponder over the matter too long, as there were still things he had to take care of.

It had been more than 12 hours since he left the Fey sisters in the forest far away west of Venta Town and Emery couldn't afford to delay anymore.

Without further ado, Emery casted [Spatial Gate] and stepped into it as his figure disappeared from the estate.

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After going through the usual walking through the space portal three times, Emery finally arrived at a location close enough where his [Spirit Reading] could perceive where the girls were. He swiftly made his way to the place where they currently gathered.

The Fey sisters were talking with each other, when they were startled by the abrupt appearance of a familiar figure.

"Brother Emery!" exclaimed Glita when she saw it was Emery.

With a quick sweep of his eyes, Emery could see all the girls were here, except for Morgana whose figure was nowhere to be seen. However, he could tell through [Spirit Reading] the latter was in the nearby area, to be more precise, the forest on the nearby hill.

Emery was about to ask about Morgana when Glita beat him to it.

"Brother, Sister Morgana doesn't want to talk with us. She refuses to meet us and just roams around in her Fey form. We're sorry, brother. We can't do anything."

Hearing that, Emery showed a gentle smile. "Don't worry about that, Glita. What's important is that you are all here. I'm sorry that I took too much time."

Emery's words reminded the Fey sisters of the wounded Gwen.

"It's alright, brother. So? How is Sister Gwen? Is she alright? Is the injury serious?"

"No, it's not. You don't need to worry about her anymore. She's already healed." Emery replied,

He then turned to the eldest sister, Tyra, and tried to ask what was really going on with Morgana. However, even though it looked like she knew something, Tyra didn't want to explain.

Emery could see Tyra shaking her head at his questions.

"You should take time to talk with her," said Tyra in a serious tone.

Because of that, Emery subconsciously looked toward the hill and, much to his surprise, he strangely felt an indescribable apprehension. The feeling abruptly came out of nowhere and he didn't know how to explain it.

When Emery was about to go, Tyra said something that made him stop in his tracks.

"Emery, just be honest with her and tell her, whatever it is you are feeling."

Emery was silent. He didn't even turn around as he casted [Spatial Gate] and walked through it, leaving Tyra who silently exhaled a sigh containing many emotions.

In the meantime, Emery's figure had appeared near Morgana.

As soon as Emery stepped out of the gate, he was immediately greeted by a blade coming in his direction.

Swisshhh!! The faint sound of air being sliced apart was heard as the red-haired girl, Morgana, was charging with her two shortswords brandished at him

"Morgana! Wait!"

Even though Emery was able to dodge her attack and quite easily at that, he was surprised when she didn't stop her advance. Very quickly, he took some distance from her and asked, "What is going on with you?! Something wrong with the fey transformation?"

Morgana looked like she wanted to say something, but immediately dropped it when she heard Emery's last words. Instead, she became even more fierce than before.

"You!! You dumbass!!"

Morgana threw her weapons roughly to the ground and they were firmly embedded into it. Then before Emery could process what was happening, she activated the full limit of her Fey transformation, as Emery could see her four limbs being rapidly covered by black fur. Her ears and teeth were also transforming into their respective form and, coupled with her bubbling anger, her Fey transformation did manage to give Emery a little fright.

"Woah! Calm down, Morgana! Please calm down! Just tell me! What is it?" said Emery in rapid succession.? Alas, what replied to him was a wolf-like howl.

HOWL!

Morgana's howl gave Emery goosebumps. He could feel her aura and strength rapidly increasing as she dashed at him. He understood that Morgana was really giving her best to charge at him. In seconds, two pairs of sharp claws were only a meter away from Emery's body.

Swisssh! Swiiissh! Sounds of swishing were heard, as Morgana's attack hit an empty air.

Though he didn't use his own transformation, Emery's battle power was still twice hers. Hence, Emery had an easy time dodging her attack, as his stronger muscles and quicker response made each and every Morgana's attack as clear as daylight. She couldn't even get them close enough to touch him!

In the end, none of the attacks that Morgana launched hit Emery, despite her relentlessness.

"Stop! Morgana, stop! Stop and tell me what you are angry about!"

However, instead of stopping like what Emery asked, Morgana casted [Fireball] spell instead. A sphere of scorching flame swiftly materialized on her palm before it sped through the air toward Emery's direction.

The next moment, the fireball exploded and caused the area where it had exploded to be engulfed in flames. Emery had moved just enough to get out of the blast radius.

His mouth was wide open as Emery looked at the aftermath of Morgana's spell. He was dumbfounded because the spell was stronger than he assumed, much stronger.

While Emery was distracted, Morgana didn't remain still and jumped at him.

This time, Emery decided not to avoid Morgana, letting her pounce on him - all to make her stop. As a result, he was tackled and brought to the ground. His body was pinned down and her sharp claws threatened to tear him up.

"Alright, you win! Do what you want!"

The claws were raised, ready to tear through Emery's skin. But seeing how Emery was giving up, the red-haired girl stopped herself, and in rage she said,

"This... this is not right! You aren't even serious! Fight me seriously!!"

Emery looked directly at Morgana's face and said calmly, "Morgana, tell me why do I have to fight you seriously.?"

With a half confused look on her face, Morgana hesitantly said,

"You... If... i defeat you...You won't own me anymore!... then I can be free of you!"