

EMPEROR 1011

### Chapter 1011 I'll Give You A Chance

"I have none."

Nora Alstreim said with a stoic expression, trying hard not to blush in embarrassment. She knew that she had nothing to convince the other party.

Thinking back, she couldn't help but think what would've taken place if she handed over the Water-Attributed Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source as a tribute...

Would she perhaps be taken as a favored subordinate and heavily nurtured?

No... the chances are that she would be killed, and this mysterious power would invade them to get the Water-Attributed Peak-Level Spirit Stone Vein Source.

"Mhm..." Princess Isabella sounded hesitant, "Honesty is something I prefer, but it wouldn't earn you the seat of subordination."

Nora Alstreim panicked a bit as she understood that there was no such as free lunch in the world. She considered her connections and saw if she could somehow make the Dragon Queen satisfied. Thinking for a few seconds, she opened her mouth.

"I have nothing but my grandfather, who supports me, and he has a Mid-Level Emperor Grade Armament with him. I am sure-"

"Hahaha!" Davis suddenly laughed before he turned to look back, "Really? Relying on your grandfather to work your way through anything? As everyone says,... you are amusing..."

"Alchemist Davis!" Nora Alstreim clenched her teeth with both an irritated and aggrieved expression, "You misunderstand everything!"

"Yes, I have misunderstood." Davis nodded his head and shrugged before he turned back.

Nora Alstreim became taken aback, wondering why he became understanding all of a sudden.

"Mhm? A Mid-Level Emperor Grade Armament?" Princess Isabella chuckled as she cast a look back, "Pushing aside whether or not your grandfather would give such a treasure to you to hand it over to me, you have personally disappointed me, Nora Alstreim."

"I am looking for talents with a promising character, not for talents who bribe their way through."

She turned her head back towards the front as she kept walking without voicing out her opinion anymore.

Nora Alstreim's expression became dull. She became depressed as she instantly knew that she had ruined her own chances! She felt that she should have never brought up her grandfather in this situation and should've thought of something else!

However, no matter how she thought, she failed to think of something convincing!

Soon, they reached the hall as they walked out of the corridor.

Princess Isabella arrived at the center of the hall and gracefully turned to look at the desolate Nora Alstreim.

"Nevertheless, I would still like to give you a chance as your talent is not bad in this backward Territory. You just lack the high-grade resources I obtain in mine."

Nora Alstreim's blank expression changed. It looked as if she saw a bright light of hope in the dark tunnel she was walking in without any kind of help to rely on, making it so that an unsuspecting smile hung on her lips.

"What do I have to do!?" She quickly asked with a bit of excitement, flourishing in her voice.

It was unthinkable for her that she still had a chance as she felt that she had just lost it a while ago,

"It's simple, really..." Princess Isabella smiled, "All you have to do is prove yourself to me that you are a promising character, a talent who is worthy of becoming my subordinate before I leave the Alstreim Family."

'That's all?' Nora Alstreim became flabbergasted.

She had the confidence to prove that her talent wasn't just what she displayed in the beginning when she battled Logan. She had put off her Body Tempering Cultivation to a slight degree and slacked off in her Soul Forging Cultivation due to her duties as the Young Mistress, so she mused that she could display that she is also a talent who could achieve tri-cultivation in a mere few years with hard work!

Nevertheless, she noticed a time limit and asked, "Dragon Queen, when are you going to leave?"

"Who knows? Perhaps, two, three months or a year. I'll leave when I get bored." Princess Isabella nonchalantly answered.

'So the minimum time limit is two months... That's extremely challenging...' Nora Alstreim mused, but she also became a bit envious of the leisure and the indifferent attitude the Dragon Queen had towards her.

Who was she!? She is the Young Mistress of the Grand Alstreim Family! A hegemon of a Territory!

She had this kind of unapproachable attitude with her most of the time in the past towards most people, and that might explain why people didn't like her and actively spread rumors as soon as her standing and influence decreased because of the Aqua Flood Dragon's calamity.

Regardless, she nodded her head and clasped her hands as she bowed ninety degrees with immense respect.

"I thank the Dragon Queen for giving me this opportunity. I'll do my best to prove myself within this time!"

"Not so fast..."

Nora Alstreim's expression changed as she raised her head in confusion, 'There's still more?'

"Since you'll obviously be staying here to prove myself, I don't want anyone disturbing me using you as a reason. Inform your family members that you are in the Purple Guest Palace to prove yourself to me and can't come out until the Dragon Queen leaves the Alstreim Family."

Nora Alstreim inwardly heaved a sigh, 'So that was it...'

She nodded with a smile, thinking that the Dragon Queen was truly thoughtful and gentle when she was not hostile.

Usually, masters wouldn't even allow subordinates to inform in the beginning but make them suffer initially to make them learn of their rightful place!

The Dragon Queen didn't do such a thing to her but allowed her to inform her family so that they would not be worried about her.

Perhaps, this decision to join the Dragon Queen's power was going to be fruitful after all?

Nora Alstreim couldn't help but think in an excited manner. She was actually looking forward to what would happen in these upcoming months.

Perhaps, she would even get to see Logan...?

Nora Alstreim instantly shook her head as she came out of her reverie, but she instantly froze, looking at the Dragon Queen possess an unamused expression on her face.

"Do it now!"

"Yes!"

Nora Alstreim walked to a corner and took out a messaging talisman before she activated it.

"Grandpa?"

"Nora! I heard! How are you doing!? Are you fine!?"

Hearing the number of questions blasted at her, Nora Alstreim felt warm at heart. Her rosy lips couldn't help but widen into a smile as she could tell that her grandpa was going to console her from the failure in the Alchemy Exchange.

"I'm fine..."

"I see, but even if you're depressed, don't be. There is no way to win against a prodigy like Alchemist Davis. Elise said that she is fine without that breakthrough pill, so make sure that you don't offend them."

"Even if she badly needs it, you shouldn't offend them. They are our benefactors."

"I know..." Nora Alstreim blushed in embarrassment.

Although she moved to a corner, she knew that they still could hear what they were talking about.

"Grandpa, just listen..." Nora Alstreim then explained.

"What!? You're in the Purple Guest Palace, trying to become one of the Dragon Queen's subordinate!?"  
A shocked voice came from the other end of the messaging talisman!

### **Chapter 1012 I Have A Request**

"Good! Good! Very Good!" The voice continued excitedly.

Nora Alstreim became heartened that her Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim wasn't against her decision but applauded her.

"Yes, I will not be able to come outside, nor will you all be able to see me during this time, so I'll leave the other end to you, grandpa."

"Hah! Your grandpa will take care of it like he always does! Don't let anything bother you and concentrate on becoming a grand character. Even if you miss the Nine Eastern Territories Young Expert Competition, it is worth it!"

"Grandpa..." Nora Alstreim became moved but also felt a pang of hurt in her heart.

Her participating in the Nine Eastern Territories Young Expert Competition directly correlates to gaining a Law Tree Fruit as a reward and that single Law Tree Fruit would enhance the chances of Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim becoming a Ninth Stage Powerhouse, but he easily forgo that like it was nothing.

She couldn't help but shed a tear as she muttered in a shaky voice.

"Mhm... I will become a grand character... Take care..."

The messaging talisman lost its glow, but what replaced her expression was a type of blinding confidence that came from caring and the determination to not disappoint each other!

Inwardly swearing that she would repay this debt this one day, she looked at the two who were waiting for her and walked towards them in a confident stride before she stood in front of them.

"I have informed!"

Davis possessed an indifferent expression as he watched her make warm expressions like that, but he coldly looked at her.

"I assume you are ready then?" Princess Isabella asked.

"I am!"

"I see..." A curve appeared on her lips, "Kowtow once then..."

Nora Alstreim suddenly became silent as she went blank for a second.

It took a second for her to process that statement that she couldn't help but blurt out, "What!?"

Princess Isabella didn't have a change of expression, "I said kowtow once."

Nora Alstreim possessed a contorted expression on her face. To whom had she ever kowtowed? It was only towards her dead parents and grandfather!

She did not even kowtow to Ancestor Dian Alstreim as she was stubborn, but she was now required to kowtow to the Dragon Queen!?

She inwardly understood that it was a necessary matter since the master-subordinate relationship was like that, but her pride didn't allow her to kowtow to another person no matter how she tried to convince herself contrarily!

"Is this because I disrespected you, the Dragon Queen at that time in the Grand Welcoming Hall?"

She couldn't help but ask with reluctance etched on her face.

Princess Isabella's lips curved into a sneer, "You are arrogant if you think this is for disrespecting me at that time when we first met."

"It's not like I'm asking you to kowtow three times but only once. Every subordinate of mine had kowtowed to me once before they all pledged their loyalty to me. You are no different, or perhaps, should I ask you to kowtow three times since your talent is deemed less by me?"

Nora Alstreim's lips quivered. She didn't like being looked down upon, but her inferiority in front of the Dragon Queen had already started to display itself outside through her body.

Although her bold expression said otherwise, her body was trying to kowtow as her knees slightly caved, imperceptibly shaking in both necessity and reluctance as she knew that she couldn't lose this chance but also couldn't lose the pride she had cultivated.

"If you can't, then you are free to leave. The exit is right there..." Princess Isabella gestured with a smile on her face.

It was clear to Nora Alstreim that the Dragon Queen was absolutely unconcerned about her. It didn't matter if she became a subordinate or not, and it was she who was pleading to be let into the group.

'This is also a trial...'

Even convincing herself with this point didn't do anything, but when she finally recalled that her grandpa and her grandma were suffering even though they acted like they were fine, she finally let go of her hesitation.

Nora Alstreim finally convinced herself somehow and landed her knees on the ground. She had her head lowered as if she was defeated. However, she didn't bend her waist and touched the floor with her head to kowtow.

Instead, she suddenly spoke.

"Dragon Queen, I have a request to Alchemist Davis."

Davis became taken aback as he heard her voice. He produced a smile as he curiously opened his mouth, "A request from the prideful Nora Alstreim? I wonder what it is..."

"If you give me the Enlightened Martial Surge Pill, on top of paying twice the price, I will call you senior..."

"Hahaha!" Davis felt like he heard the funniest thing today that he instantly decided to go along with it.

"Alright, you have given me your word. Since you can't leave, I'll deliver the pill to your so-called grandma..."

"That is... thoughtful of you..." Nora Alstreim became slightly taken aback by his quick answer.

He was so against her that he kept slandering her but suddenly looked the other way for this matter. She didn't know what to make out of it, so she slightly bowed towards him as she thanked before keeping her head straight towards the Dragon Queen.

Even now, she felt incredibly reluctant, but for her future, she knew that she had to sacrifice this pride and cultivate a new one later, the pride as a subordinate. Perhaps, it would naturally take place, but she didn't think much of it as she finally bent her waist and kowtowed on the ground, her forehead touching the cold surface of the floor.

"!!!"

She felt extremely humiliated that she started shivering, but she also knew that this kowtow ritual was taking place in a private area.

Perhaps, this was the reason the Dragon Queen invited her inside, no? To not humiliate her in front of the masses who would be monitoring the Purple Guest Palace?

After a whole full second of experiencing complex emotions, she raised her head and looked at the Dragon Queen but froze halfway as she noticed... noticed that it wasn't the Dragon Queen in front of her but a masked black-haired woman.

"You... You are...?" Nora Alstreim instantly recalled that this woman was also a subordinate of the Dragon Queen but didn't know her name as she had refused to reveal.

Then instinctively, her face scrunched up into anger as she knew that she kowtowed to this woman, a subordinate instead of the Dragon Queen! It was incredibly humiliating that her face started to burn up in shame!

"It's been a long time, Nora..." A cold but melodious voice echoed from the masked woman.

"Eh!?" Nora Alstreim's expression became blank as she recognized the familiar voice.

However, she felt her body suddenly became heavy, her soul becoming so much pressure that she felt like she was going to explode. Her gaze instantly became dizzy, and she lost all forms of physical control that she became stiff like a zombie for a moment.

The next moment, she felt a pat on her back that made her kowtow again as her head hit the ground, but this time, she gained control of her body.

Nevertheless, the instant suppression of two overwhelming powers caused her to become disoriented for a short few seconds that she looked above and incredulously thought that there was Claire in front of her!

How could there be a dead person in front of her!?

She went a bit crazy from experiencing shame as she moved her head to the side with difficulty and looked at the two people, especially the Dragon Queen, whom she thought she was kowtowing to!

"What is the meaning of this!?"

### **Chapter 1013 Trapped**

"The meaning is as it is..." Davis shrugged, "Did you think that we'll just let you go after you walk into this place, even going as far as to giving us a sweet deal to capture you on your own accord?"

"Capture me?" Nora Alstreim fumed with exasperation written all over her face, "For what!? Interrogation!?"

Nora Alstreim had no idea why they had this masked woman impersonate Claire and mused that it could be none other than an illusion, but she also thought that it could be because Alchemist Davis was truly yet stupidly trying to get a confession out of her for a matter she hadn't done! Perhaps, even the Dragon Queen had been convinced! Otherwise, she found it hard that such a person would try to make a move against her for no reason.

Her anger against Alchemist Davis soared like a kite!

"You are beyond redemption if you can't understand when I said that I hadn't done anything wrong! It's all baseless slander!"

Nora Alstreim slowly stood up as she gradually regained control of her bodily functions.

However, her expression froze when she finally noticed that her cultivation base had been sealed.

"You!? What have you done!?" Nora Alstreim screamed at Alchemist Davis as she tore a scroll from her back, her face instantly producing a scowl before she tore another one from her back!

Davis sneered at her, 'Did you really think that Isabella was just touring around the city without doing anything?'

They bought a lot of items that they deemed to be useful in their revenge. As if she was a tycoon, Isabella bought many cultivation resources, so no one suspected her intent when she bought these Sealing-Type Inscriptions!

Nora Alstreim also realized that they used a Peak-Level Sky Grade sealing-type inscriptions on her that shackled both her lower dantian and mid-dantian in her body, making her unable to use her Essence Gathering Cultivation and Body Tempering Cultivation!

She clenched her fists and mustered her energy from all her meridian points, her essence energy, and battle aura that was stored in all parts of her body to break the seal! It speedily flowed to her lower dantian, wanting to free her Essence Gathering Cultivation, but it ultimately failed upon clashing with the seal.

Nora Alstreim's expression became pale as she realized that it was useless to try and break the inscription seal now. Her thoughts instantly moved to call for aid, trying to alert her grandpa when her face suddenly swiveled towards the right in force as a sharp sound echoed!

\*Paah!~\*

A stinging pain lingered on her left cheek that made her become blank for a second. The next moment, she became dumbfounded as she turned to look at the masked woman raise a hand at her again!

She tried to block by raising her hands instinctively, but it was of no use as it seemed that the masked woman targeted her hand, no, her finger as she removed the two spatial rings that she wore in a skillful manner.

Nora Alstreim clenched her teeth as she knew that she was powerless to even deflect something of this level. She tried to retreat, but her wrist was abruptly held by another hand!

\*Paah!~\*

Just when she was about launch a counterattack, another sharp slap echoed to her left as her head swiveled again, making both her cheeks sting in pain!

Nora Alstreim became dizzy as blood dripped from her lips. The humiliation she felt at this particular moment couldn't be described in words as she reluctantly felt that she was easily slapped!

However, she didn't lose all hope but spun once before she regained balance and looked at the masked woman seemed to have a hold of her tiny spatial belt that she secretly wore over her waist, and not only that! Even the few emergency artifacts she possessed seemed to be missing from her body!

When she realized this, her gaze turned towards the side, and she finally noticed the Dragon Queen holding those artifacts in her hands, sealing it with her martial energy, temporarily cutting off her connection that she possessed with them through blood binding.

"Wha..." Nora Alstreim couldn't help but blurt out in incredulity, but she couldn't even form a word as she realized all three of them present here worked together to strip her clean of all cultivation treasures after sealing her cultivation base!

She couldn't understand why all this would happen, making her even more needlessly dizzy from the sheer humiliation she received in these short few moments. The only thing left on her was the white robes she wore, and if it were not for the two women present, she would've thought something else was going to happen instead.

However, realizing the heat of the situation, Nora Alstreim became pale as she knew that she had become utterly defenseless to any kind of danger she might face! She only had her Soul Forging Cultivation, but a thought emerged in her head, knowing that in front Alchemist Davis, such a thing would be easily suppressed!

Not to mention that the Dragon Queen seemed to be in on this! With the Dragon Queen moving against her, which she found to be incredulous, she trembled as she could realize that all escape routes have been sealed even if she had a chance.

Nora Alstreim couldn't help but fumblingly look at Alchemist Davis, "W-Why?"

She still couldn't understand... She felt as if this could be a trial of unknown nature to become a subordinate in her mind and hoped that it should be, but the presence of an illusion-attribute cultivator made her think otherwise.



"Are you pretending to not know, or you really don't know?" Davis narrowed his eyes in annoyance before he pointed.

Nora Alstreim subconsciously moved her sight to the direction he pointed and saw the masked woman again.

"How does it feel to have your cultivation base sealed in front of danger?"

"Do you feel hopeless? Despairing? Anguished? Perhaps, deep pain from the depth of your soul?"

Nora Alstreim's expression became solemn before she possessed an angered expression on her face as she gritted her teeth, "Don't you dare speak in Claire's voice again! Stop using that inferior illusion on me!"

"Mhm... You seem to be misunderstanding something... I'm not an illusion." The masked woman raised her hand and removed her mask, revealing her facial features.

Black eyebrows, rosy lips, but those purple eyes and the familiar face invoked tumultuous waves in Nora Alstreim's heart.

"You are... No..." She shook her head, disbelievingly staring at the other party.

"Are you blind?" Claire narrowed her eyes before she flicked her long black hair, "Obviously, I dyed my hair, but surely you can't fail to recognize me, no?"

"Don't lie! Claire is dead! Her life tablet had shattered!" Nora Alstreim waved her hand before she screamed in panic, "Now release me!"

"Haha, it sounds hilarious to hear that from your mouth when it's probably you who deliberately shattered it." Claire ruefully giggled.

"What... are you saying!?"

Nora Alstreim's expression shook in both confusion and wariness.

Claire furrowed her brows before she relaxed and smiled, "No matter, you will eventually cough out the truth."

Nora Alstreim's pupils abruptly dilated!

### **Chapter 1014 Illusion Law Genius?**

\*Aa-!~\*

Nora Alstreim's gasped before she pursed her quivering lips, embraced her abdomen, and sat down in agony as her knees touched the ground once again. Blood leaked from her mouth as it trickled down below her neck, dripping on her white robes, but she refused to let out a scream of pain as she looked at the clenched fists of Claire.

It was a sudden blow to the gut! She saw it but was still unable to stop it as the difference in their attacking speed seemed to have a wide gap. It was evident that their Body Tempering Cultivation wasn't at the same stage.

Nevertheless, she still recognized Claire, the Dragon Queen's subordinate, in front of her be an impostor.

Claire lightly snorted as she savored the impact that she felt through her fist. Feeling accomplished that she would finally have a chance to get her personal revenge, she reached out her hand and clasped Nora Alstreim's blonde hair as she pulled on it, making themselves see face to face.

"Do you feel hopeless? Despairing? Anguished? Perhaps, deep pain from the depth of your soul?"

She repeated those same words she said earlier.

Nora Alstreim was still unable to answer as she felt as if her internal organs were displaced, but in reality, it was not. That one fist to her gut had internally damaged her because of her inability to defend, but she could also feel that it wasn't anything threatening to her life.

"Don't you remember these familiar words you once delivered to me?"

Nora Alstreim raised her head, looking at that familiar face be so hostile towards her.

"I... What are you... talking about?" She spat out blood in intervals as she spoke.

\*Swoosh!~\*

Abruptly, her soul force instantly shot out of her forehead, trying to catch the self-proclaimed Claire in front of her off-guard! However, the moment her soul force extended out, it was quickly suppressed by a powerful soul force that unexpectedly came from the person in front of her!

'What!?'

Nora Alstreim's lips became agape, and her eyes slightly became wide as she felt the contending soul force push forward against her attack so easily before entering her soul sea and enveloping the space without being impeded, maintaining dominance in an authoritarian manner!

Compared to her Mid-Level Young Soul Stage soul force, the other party's Low-Level Adult Soul Stage soul force quickly subdued her soul sea, rendering it incapable of a counterattack unless she could break open the restriction placed upon her!

'It's over!'

Nora Alstreim's expression became deathly pale! The tiny gap she had opened while attacking turned out to be an opportunity for the enemy to invade her soul sea! This way, it would become comparatively easier for the enemy to place a slave seal on her!

"You have tremendously slacked off on cultivating your Soul Forging Cultivation, Nora. Not that it matters, but still... Is that why you feared me and had my cultivation base sealed in the secret entrance?"

Nora Alstreim had her mouth already opened in shock of her fate, but it became even more agape as she spontaneously realized something. The soul force of the other party... the familiarity of it... It was the same.

It was exactly as she remembered, other than the difference of the stage.

Could the person in front of her truly be Claire Alstreim and not some illusion!? She found it difficult for an illusion to be this well made, but if it was displayed from her subconscious, then she could understand how this person in front of her could exist.

But undoubtedly, the person in front of her was present physically! If it was from her taken from her subconscious mind, then it would be comparatively difficult to fool her with both reality and illusion mixed in the illusion that was cast against her!

Unless the other party was an extreme genius in using illusory techniques, she refused to believe that this woman was Claire!

Claire instead smirked as she took Nora Alstreim's hysteria as a yes. She widely turned around and pulled on Nora Alstreim's blonde hair, dragging her over the surface like she was a floor mop.

"You! Let me go! I don't know what you are- Arggh!" Nora Alstreim tried to struggle as she felt intense disgrace, but she experienced a sudden bout of head-splitting pain in her soul. She couldn't help but tear up as her eyes became moist. She was unable to endure that sudden pain that stemmed from the soul and screamed, but she quickly clenched her bloodied teeth and suppressed her voice.

"Silence!" Claire kept walking as she suppressed Nora Alstreim through using her soul force.

She arrived in front of an untouched room and stood before it as she pushed the door open, but before she took a step forward, she turned her head and spoke.

"Davis, don't come inside, okay? I don't want you to see this side of me." Claire smiled with a frighteningly calm demeanor that it made Davis blink in hesitation.

She didn't wait for an answer and headed inside the room, dragging the miserable yet silently suffering Nora Alstreim with her before closing the door with a bang.

Davis frowned as he became worried about his mother. He would not like her to become crazy because of this revenge as he felt some abnormality in his mother's psyche. He walked forwards but was suddenly stopped by a person.

It was none other than Princess Isabella, who possessed a solemn expression on her face.

"Respect your mother's wishes, Davis."

"I know what you're trying to say, but I can differentiate truth from falsehood and learn the veracity of her words to a certain degree, which should be helpful to mother's interrogation." He explained.

"I see..." Princess Isabella nodded her head in agreement before she narrowed her eyes, "Don't tell me you believe in Nora Alstreim's words?"

"No... I..." Davis frowned as he descended into contemplation.

Is there a need to verify the truth? There is actually a need... but if he even half-believed in Nora Alstreim's words, doesn't that mean he is disbelievingly his mother's words...?

'Fuck! I always end up feeling pity for beautiful women...' Davis didn't deign to think anymore. If he did, he felt like he would be asked whose side he was on, which would end up complicating the close relationship he had with his family.

He had already slighted his mother once by making her battle to the death with his father, so he mused that he should stay out of this if he knew what's good for him.

However, there was still another matter that was on his mind.

He abruptly raised his hand and clasped Princess Isabella's wrist as he pulled on her!

Princess Isabella's heart skipped a beat. She widened her eyes as she felt herself be pulled into his embrace; her bosoms pushed against his chest in an extremely intimate manner as she instantly felt his warmth passing through.

Davis breathed in as her fragrance while her expression became more tantalizing, but he possessed an indifferent expression on his face.

"Did I ever say that you can use my Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar for strangers or a competition without asking for my approval?"

Princess Isabella's dreamy expression changed as it became a bit awkward.

She lowered her head and said, "It's..."

### **Chapter 1015 Twenty Drops**

"It's... my fault..."

Davis's expression softened as she quickly yielded, "I don't mean to blame you as it's just a bit of nectar. You can use it for yourself or your close ones, and I won't bat an eye, but if it's those people whom you or we have no connection with, I am really against it. After all, the nectar is still useful to us."

Princess Isabella raised her head before she shook her head, "You misunderstood... Using it was just a means of raising the crowd's morale so as to make sure that you receive all the applause and glory in the end. After all, I didn't believe that those participants could win the Alchemy Exchange when you are in it."

"Isabella..."

Davis suddenly felt satisfied that she thought that way but also felt bad.

He wanted to begin in a teasing manner and address this issue before Nora Alstreim intruded, but since she came off as controlling to him even now, he felt that he should make it clear that he does not like being swung here and there like a doll, but nevertheless, he had confidence in Princess Isabella that she was not a scheming person like him.

Although she seemed to be enjoying acting with him as the 'Young Mistress', it seemed to be half-hearted.

Princess Isabella preferred to act openly and righteous, but he was the one who showed the path of hoodwinking and corrupted her. He was afraid that she changed as a result, but as expected, he was overthinking when he thought that she was trying to sit on his head.

How could he have even suspected her?

"However, you are right. Accidents could've happened if you have chosen not to fake a breakthrough at that time but instead chosen to use your Elder Soul Stage soul force to concoct that pill, making it so that Dalila Leehan walks away with the nectar as an end result. I was careless and underestimated her prowess." Princess Isabella nodded her head before she turned a bit hesitant.

"Don't get angry, okay?"

Davis became taken aback, "What?"

"There was a reason that I wanted you to become the center of attraction, and that is because I wanted your current standing to become equal or greater to mine in some path, and in this case, I chose Alchemy in your stead since it is the best course of making you stand shoulder by shoulder with mine."

Davis blinked before he laughed, "Why would I get angry for something like this? It's not like you were trying to backstab me! Hahaha!"

"I wouldn't do anything like that!" Princess Isabella's expression turned a bit aggrieved but knowing that he was just joking around, she couldn't help but join him in laughing as well.

Unfortunately, she became unable to tell him that she had also hoped that he would form platonic ties with Dalila Leehan so that he could have a valid connection with the pill powerhouse, the Thousand Pill Palace.

After all, she mused that he had failed to succeed in that endeavor. She didn't want to make him become burdened by her selfish expectations.

She was the only one expecting of him, while the other two, Evelyn and Natalya, were wholeheartedly following his ideals and way of doing things. Deep down, she didn't want to be treated differently than them or be ostracized as a result.

Right now, the matter she feared the most isn't about her death but falling out with him for some selfish reasons! Parting was something she couldn't deal with at this stage as she realized that she had wholeheartedly started to love him even after knowing that Davis had his previous life memories.

"I want to know... What would have happened if I actually lost? Losing the nectar because of someone's selfish actions...?" Davis's eyes flashed while his lips curved into a teasing smile.

Princess Isabella's eyes brightened, "Oh! I nearly forgot! Here!"

Saying so, she brought her hand from his shoulder to his face before a blood vial appeared on her hand.

"Take it!"

'What the fuck!?' Davis almost exclaimed.

He wanted to tease her and ask her body as a form of repayment, making her cheeks redden in embarrassment while he would have his fun, but she presented him with a vial of blood, asking him to take it.

The first thought that encroached in his mind was to say that he was not a vampire, but it instantly dawned on him.

"This is Earth Drago- Diluted Blood Essence!?" Davis exclaimed in surprise!

He almost blurted out, but he suppressed the word 'Immortal' from echoing.

Princess Isabella nodded her head with a sweet smile on her face, "Originally, I had already decided to give my two sisters this humble gift, but later, I became confused about whether to give it through you or give it myself as the latter seemed to be dangerous."

"After all, Evelynn said that she absorbed three drops of diluted blood essences and single complete blood essence, making me decide that I should give more to Natalya. However, if I gave more to Natalya and gave less to Evelynn, Evelynn would subconsciously think that I'm looking down on her even if it wasn't intentional on my part."

Princess Isabella's worried expression produced a smile.

"But if you give them, it'll be seen as being fair."

Davis thought for a moment before he nodded his head, "You have a point."

Indeed, even he felt that Evelynn would think of unequal distribution as unfair as those earlier diluted blood essences were something she earned through her hard work by clearing the Sky Grade Trial while laying her life on the line.

Although he felt that she would accept that Natalya should get more, she would still feel inwardly reluctant to be receiving less all the same.

"This vial contains twenty drops of diluted blood essence, so use it sensibly." Princess Isabella shoved the vial into his palm and nodded as if she were leaving things to him in a solemn manner.

"Haha..." Davis laughed, "Although I agree with your thoughts, I think you are over exaggerating a few things."

"Evelynn wouldn't hate you-"

"But she'll secretly hold a grievance against me."

"Davis, you can't sometimes fathom what happens in a harem. My mother... she..." Princess Isabella seriously uttered as she interrupted him, but her lips started to quiver.

Davis instantly recalled.

Princess Isabella's mother was killed by an internal squabble within the Imperial Ruth Family. He didn't know the specifics, but it seems like it was because of the Emperor's Harem. In other words, her father's harem was the reason for her mother's death.

He wrapped his hand around her neck and brought her face to his chest, consoling her with his warmth.

He couldn't refute her words because she was speaking from experience. Actually, it was even mind-boggling to him that she accepted to become a part of a harem after something like that happened to her mother.

Perhaps, there was a more profound or a simple reason that could be avoided?

He didn't think much and just consoled Princess Isabella for some time.

Princess Isabella wasn't that disheartened as her mother's death was a thing of the past, but she liked cuddling like this, like lovers, and stayed like that as long as she could, feeling his heartbeat match with hers.

Cherished thoughts were swirling in her head about these precious moments, but considering the place she was in and the actions that they did just a while ago, her thoughts moved in another direction.

What if one day, she could no longer feel this heartbeat? Just like her mother's?

Princess Isabella shivered in his embrace before she raised her head and brought her hand up again, displaying her palm as a golden dragon-scale patterned ring appeared.

"I want you to have it!"

Davis became shocked, thinking that it was an engagement ring as he mused if it had anything to do with Ruth Family's traditions, but he quickly noticed the abnormality of the ring.

His eyes widened into two saucers as he noticed the abnormal fluctuations, "T-This... Don't tell me this is a Peak-Level Emperor Grade Treasure!?"

### **Chapter 1016 Mid-Level Emperor Grade Breakthrough Pill**

Looking at Davis's shocked expression, Princess Isabella solemnly nodded, "I want you to have this Peak-Level Emperor Grade Protective Artifact! It can protect you and even withstand against the impact of a Peak-Level Martial Overlord Stage Powerhouse's strongest attack!..."

"Isabella, are you out of your mind!? Keep something remarkable such as this life-saving treasure with yourself!"

"No! I don't want you to die in a place like this!"

Davis became flabbergasted as well stumped.

"Idiot!" He couldn't help but curse at her as he held her cheeks and took her rosy and sweet lips.

Her actions utterly moved him, but he could sense that she was momentarily acting on emotions because he had his Heart Intent active. Cut that out, and even without the Heart Intent, it was obvious to him that her expression and even her intent to give him the treasure couldn't be any more true.

Giving away such a protective treasure like that... It was as if she was declaring that he was greater than her own life.

Princess Isabella closed her eyes and wrapped her arms over his neck. She pushed her chest and lips against his, wanting to never leave him.

After a few moments of intense kissing, Davis moved his head back and looked at her limpid eyes in an entrancing manner. No matter how much he looked at her, he was convinced that her beauty would never fade away in his heart, even if they become old one day.

"Listen, it's not like I can't die, but I have the confidence to break through such a situation if push comes to shove..."

"But!-"

"No buts! The way you feel for me, I feel the same. I don't want you dying on me either, so hold on to that treasure, okay?" Davis caressed her cheeks.

The next moment, he could feel that she had become placated and convinced, although it felt like she was also reluctant before her emotions became bright like a star.

"Then I'll protect you..." Princess Isabella tightly wrapped her arms around his neck, her big bosoms pushing against his chest even more as if she wanted to suffocate him.

Davis chuckled with a wry smile, "That's my line..."

They leaned again and kissed, their gaze becoming passionate and their lips desiring of each other.

After a few moments, Davis moved his head back and asked with a confused expression on his face.

"Still, when I entered the Emperor Grade Treasury, I didn't see this treasure being kept protected in a formation? Besides, the highest grade treasure I could see was till Mid-Level Emperor Grade."

Princess Isabella blinked in annoyance before she could instantly tell that the Earth Dragon Immortal intentionally did this as it was biased against him.

"Don't tell me that they were at the same place...?" Davis's lips twitched.

He thought it was normal, and higher grade treasures after Mid-Level Emperor Grade were only awarded to the true inheritor, but it seems like...

Princess Isabella awkwardly nodded her head, "The Earth Dragon Immortal had probably limited the grade of treasures you can take away because of your soul's abnormality."

"Isn't this too much? Not only did it deny me the rightful inheritance, but it also took away the High-Level and Peak-Level Emperor Grade Treasures from me!" Davis calmly uttered, but his eyes were seething with rage.

"It's fine as it will all belong to you in the future anyway..." Princess Isabella teasingly smiled.

Davis instantly burst out in laughter as he moved his hand and grabbed her plump butt as his fingers sunk.

"You!!!" Princess Isabella instantly went beet red, "Enough..."

However, her words lacked the domineering effect that she always had.



Davis became instantly turned on, but he knew that it was not good at this time. He could take her right now, and she probably wouldn't reject, but that would be dashing her wish.

He used his willpower to control himself and hurriedly approached another topic in his mind before he coughed, "By the way, you seemed to be not surprised about the King Grade Pill's efficacy I made? Is it because of the Golden Strengthening Pill you possess?"

Princess Isabella's big bosoms heaved before she calmed herself down.

"I-It seemed vaguely similar to the Golden Strengthening Pill I used in the past, but because of its gentle type energy, it gives me a ninety-five percent chance in breaking through to the Martial Master Stage."

"Ninety-five?" Davis became flabbergasted before he shook his head, ruefully stating, "Even people with trash talent can step into the Martial Master Stage with that kind of pill efficacy."

He had to admit that Old Man Garvin's Pill Recipe collection can in no way compare to an Immortal's! Although the Earth Dragon Immortal seemed to be a Magical Beast Immortal, he didn't know how Immortals of all races lived.

Perhaps after reaching the fabled Immortal Stage, the cultural or diverse living standards become less or intersecting?

He didn't know but was curious all the same.

"Mhm... That much is guaranteed, but this pill wasn't easy to obtain as I had to clear the King Grade Trial in the beginning, but you, on the other hand, ended up clearing the Emperor Grade Trial like it was nothing six years ago." Princess Isabella pouted, "At that time, you almost made me end up regretting bringing you to the trial!"

"Fortunately, the Earth Dragon Immortal kicked you out!" Princess Isabella giggled as she teased. Her melodious voice and her tantalizing expressions unknowingly kindled Davis's fires again at such a close range as their faces were just a few centimeters apart.

Princess Isabella noticed his lustful gaze and instantly changed her tune, "Ahem... In any case, I'm going to seclude myself and use the Sage Golden Strengthening Pill right now."

"What is that? Is that an improved version?" Davis became amused.

Princess Isabella nodded, "It's a pill that is potentially capable of increasing one level in the Martial Sage Stage, whether it be from Low-Level to Mid-Level or High-Level to the Peak-Level. It could also help a Peak-Level Martial Master Stage Cultivator to enter the Martial Sage Stage with a ninety percent success rate."

"It's a Mid-Level Emperor Grade Breakthrough Pill!?" Davis narrowed his eyes, "Even though it could be considered a Mid-Level Emperor Grade Treasure, why didn't I see it in the Emperor Grade Treasury?"

There was no way he would forget.

He had browsed and memorized all the treasures in the Emperor Grade Treasury, expanding his horizons, but just a few minutes ago, he found out that the Earth Dragon Immortal hid many treasures,

consisting of High-Level and Peak-Level Emperor Grade. But now, it even seemed like it even hid treasures that were at Mid-Level Emperor Grade!

"Hehe..." Princess Isabella awkwardly chuckled, "Earth Dragon Immortal probably didn't want you to best me in cultivation, so it hid the breakthrough pills and perhaps, other similar treasures from you..."

Davis clenched his fists in frustration. It did promise him three times the rewards... is that why it limited so many important treasures? But that doesn't make it justified as he had cleared the Immortal Grade Trial!

"Davis, the Earth Dragon Immortal, slighted you for me, so I'll apologize in its stead, okay?" She pleaded with a consoling expression.

Davis loosened his fists and blinked.

He could see that she was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

### **Chapter 1017 You Are Still Of Some Use**

On one side, it was him, and on the other, it was the Earth Dragon Immortal.

The Earth Dragon Immortal could be considered Princess Isabella's benefactor, teacher, or even her master, not to mention that it is her Ruth Empire's foundational existence, becoming an equal or greater existence similar to the Ruth Empire's First Ancestor.

Considering the multitude of ties the Earth Dragon Immortal had with the Ruth Empire, there was no way she could easily curse the Earth Dragon Immortal. It wouldn't be even strange if they worshipped the Earth Dragon Immortal, but it seemed like it wasn't anything like that but still held in high respect.

Princess Isabella had probably shown deep and immense respect towards it when it indirectly told her that the Inheritance would be hers. He could understand the reason why the upright yet hypocritical Earth Dragon Immortal took such measures against him was to protect Princess Isabella from his claws.

Now that he thought like this, he found it quite funny that the Earth Dragon Immortal that bent its own rules to protect Princess Isabella from him was going to end up as his third wife in the near future.

He couldn't wait to see the expression on its face when it eventually learned of this fact!

"Davis, why is your expression strange?"

"Ahem!" Davis came out of his reverie, "What were you saying?"

Princess Isabella curled her lips, "Originally, I was against using the Sage Golden Strengthening Pill since my breakthrough to the Martial Master Stage was achieved through the usage of Golden Strengthening Pill. The Earth Dragon Immortal also advised me not to use it for my next major breakthrough because it would affect my foundation, not to mention my comprehension can be a bit lacking if forced, so I wanted to enter the Martial Sage Stage naturally which would take time."

"However, because you ended up gifting me the Million Emerald Vines Calamity's nectar, I was able to easily break through to the Martial Sage Stage without any side effects, and now I can use the Sage Golden Strengthening Pill to increase my strength again!"

Princess Isabella's lips were wide in a smile.

"This way, even if Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim or Grand Elder Elise Alstreim or both comes for revenge, I would have the confidence to take down both of them at the same time!"

Davis smiled and stroked her head, "Then go seclude yourself soon. If they come, I might need your help."

Princess Isabella nodded her head as she felt his palm caress her. She stepped away from his embrace but strode forwards as she gave one last, everlasting kiss before she instantly disappeared from his gaze. She didn't literally disappear but used her abnormal speed to fly away.

Davis smiled in glee before his expression faded, replacing it with cold look.

The Earth Dragon Immortal slighted him time and time again. Of course, it denied him once at that time, but when he learned of these facts one by one, his grievance against it also grew bit by bit. However, Princess Isabella's flowery words did help him forgive the Earth Dragon Immortal, and besides, he didn't want to make it difficult for Princess Isabella.

'Whatever... Isabella belongs to me anyway...' He brushed it away.

Nevertheless, that wasn't reason for the change in his expression! It was because the so-called father of Immeth Alstreim had finally arrived!

=====

Davis, in his Solitary Soul Avatar form, hovered in a room in a concealed state at the top floor of that inn before, waiting for the guest to arrive after the Alchemy Exchange had ended. Of course, Immeth Alstreim was also there in the same room, patiently waiting just like him as she sat in a lotus position.

She did not even cultivate but just waited without doing anything and had her eyes closed.

Davis did not pay any attention to her but was concentrating on his main body's conversation with Isabella. Their conversation was about to end when suddenly Immeth Alstreim's messaging talisman that she was holding in her palm suddenly lit up.

"I'm outside..."

Immeth Alstreim didn't say anything but reacted with a wave of her hand. The thick door towards the far front seemed to open in a grand manner, and the barrier that denied further entry disappeared.

Davis had to admit that this particular room's defensive formations were too powerful for even him to intrude. He was able to enter because he followed Immeth Alstreim the moment she entered the room. Otherwise, even if he could get inside, he would find it difficult to enter without alerting the other party.

Nevertheless, looking at the corridor, no one seemed to be present, but Davis sensed a vague fluctuation entering the room. It was utterly tiny, and even with his High-Level Supreme Soul Stage soul sense, he found it difficult to perceive it as if it was a candle flame that flickered in and out of existence.

Yes, he had broken through at the last seclusion, but he just hadn't had the time to reveal it. Hence, along with his breakthrough, the Solitary Soul Avatar had also risen by a level, entering the High-Level Supreme Soul Stage.

Immeth Alstreim didn't say anything but quickly closed the path to the room and reactivated the formation. She promptly stood up as her eyes glazed. It took a moment for her to step back and bow.

"Greetings, father!"

Even though there seemed to be nothing in front of her, Immeth Alstreim seemed to be convinced that her father was in front of her, and as if responding to her words, the space towards the front illusorily shook before a white-robed man suddenly manifested, his gaze coldly stretching towards Immeth Alstreim.

Davis became instantly flabbergasted as he recognized this person!

This person was none other than Elder Zeno Alstreim!

'Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim's subordinate...' Davis recalled seeing this person both in the Grand Welcoming Hall and the Alchemy Exchange.

However, Elder Zeno Alstreim seemed to represent himself for the Alchemy Exchange and didn't say a word about his superior, Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim.

'Was it due to the Aqua Flood Dragon's incident that Elder Zeno Alstreim remained low-key, or is this distancing himself so that he doesn't face the brunt of it?'

But he was still surprised.

Elder Zeno Alstreim was Immeth Alstreim's father? He didn't know about that!

Although both Elder Zeno Alstreim and Immeth Alstreim was on their list to kill, his mother hadn't told him that they were father and daughter when she explained about the relationship all of them had with each other.

Davis narrowed his eyes as he became suspicious.

'Could it be that Elder Zeno Alstreim is a... sugar daddy?'

While Davis felt a bit incredulous, Elder Zeno Alstreim nonchalantly nodded his head at Immeth Alstreim, "Explain..."

"Father, after I left the Alchemy Exchange, Weiss Alstreim assaulted me..." Immeth Alstreim took some time to explain to the best of her ability.

Elder Zeno Alstreim nonchalantly nodded before he narrowed his eyes and snorted. However, Immeth Alstreim involuntarily closed her legs and felt a chill up her spine as she shivered because she knew that she had just been scanned by her father's powerful soul sense.

"Good. You haven't lost your innocence yet. You are still of some use."

Immeth Alstreim relaxed her slightly tightened her fists as she forced a smile.

"Yes, father."

### **Chapter 1018 You Must Bear...**

Elder Zeno Alstreim appeared indifferent, "Well then, I heard that you tried seducing Alchemist Davis, but it failed?"

Immeth Alstreim possessed a bit of hesitation, thinking of lying, but since it was so obvious, she nodded her head, "Yes!"

"You had the gall to do such a thing without my permission!?" Elder Zeno Alstreim's voice became extreme that it struck Immeth Alstreim's face and lifted up her blonde hair.

Immeth Alstreim held her breath while taking the brunt of the pressure before she moved her lips, "I did so because I believed that he is a man who will soar towards the far-reaching skies in the future!"

Elder Zeno Alstreim's serious expression faded, replaced with an imperceptible smile on his face.

"Even if I didn't have a chance at receiving Alchemist Davis's love, I still had the chance to receive his seed, but because of Dalila Leehan, I failed!"

"Forget Dalila Leehan..." Elder Zeno Alstreim possessed an annoyed look on his face.

"Why did you fail? You didn't use charm arts to charm him quickly?"

Immeth Alstreim became taken aback by her father's unvoiced approval before she explained.

"I concluded that Alchemist Davis does indeed possess a lustful side, and I was even able to invoke it towards me, but his lust was less compared to the ones I see on a daily basis, so I didn't dare to use charm arts in case if he realizes... After all, men of his caliber possess rejection towards being manipulated by a woman like me."

"Hahaha!" Elder Zeno Alstreim clapped with his hand, "You have made the right decision and acted prudently! Alchemist Davis had just broken through to the Mature Soul Stage!"

"What!?" Immeth Alstreim displayed a shock that was never visible on her face before.

Even when she heard that the Aqua Flood Dragon had invaded, she didn't display such an expression!

"That's right! Alchemist Davis truly entered the Mature Soul Stage at the end of the Alchemy Exchange! Considering his young age that should be below a hundred years old, it is absolutely unbelievable that such an achievement is possible! However, his existence says otherwise, and we have no choice but to accept that such a monster exists among our human race!"

"Not only did he breakthrough into the Sixth Stage in Soul Forging Cultivation, but he had also concocted a Low-Level King Grade Breakthrough Pill, astonishing everyone of his soul prowess which is practically a stage above!!!"

Immeth Alstreim's expression had still not receded but became even more exaggerated. She looked as if a person had spirited-away in front of her.

"Therefore, even if you had attempted to use charm arts on him before a breakthrough, he would've easily noticed your charm arts with his Peak-Level Elder Soul Stage Cultivation at that time."

Immeth Alstreim couldn't help but subconsciously nod her head. She calmed down, and a smile subconsciously lit up her face.

As expected! The man she fancied was anything but a talentless man!

Now even if he was a cruel man who might leave her in the end, she was convinced that she should attach herself to him no matter the cost! She possessed greater hope for her future if she could just become even one of his women! This way, she could even get her revenge against the people who took her for a lackey, especially the person in front of her.

She could practically feel the shivers inside her body in anticipation! However, it was unknown whether she was reacting to being embraced by Alchemist Davis in her imagination or killing her own father with her own two hands!

Elder Zeno Alstreim kept nodding his head, seemingly immersed in his own thoughts. A few moments later, he starkly gazed at Immeth Alstreim!

"Nevertheless, since Alchemist Davis didn't completely reject you, it means that you still have a bit of chance! So, no matter what, even if you can't receive his love, you must receive his seed!"

"Even if you have to sacrifice your useless dignity, pride, respect, and honor by groveling on the floor in all fours, you must bear his child!"

Immeth Alstreim resplendently smiled, "Yes!"

Inwardly, she looked at this abomination who would pimp his own daughter in a mocking light. She felt that she could temporarily follow his words to make Alchemist Davis hers before having him kill this sick, power-hungry sorry person of a target.

It was a perfect chance, not to mention how ironic it would be to make Zeno Alstreim feel regret with his own plan!

"If you don't, you know what happens, right?" Elder Zeno Alstreim's purple eyes flashed with a warning.

Immeth Alstreim shivered regardless of her will as she lowered her head, "... Yes."

She felt that it was a good thing that she hid the fact that Alchemist Davis had already rejected her once. Otherwise, she knew that she would be receiving a painful punishment right now.

Elder Zeno Alstreim nodded in satisfaction before his expression turned a bit strange. He considered for a moment before he opened his mouth.

"For some reason, it seems that Alchemist Davis displayed animosity towards Nora Alstreim in the Alchemy Exchange when they sat nearby but fortunately, I had one of my servants nearby. He informed me that Alchemist Davis seemed to be offended by Nora Alstreim's hypocrisy over a certain matter."

"What matter?"

Elder Zeno Alstreim chuckled, "The matter that was orchestrated by us more than twenty-five years ago in the secret entrance of the Forsaken Phoenix Realm."

"Claire Alstreim's?" Immeth Alstreim possessed a confused expression on her face before it became amusing, "I remember now."

"The look of anger and despair on her face when I played the Imagery Stone of the fake Nora Alstreim's mocking farewell message was... extravagant!"

"So, what about her?" Her expression quickly returned to normal as if it were a thing of the past she forgot long ago.

Elder Zeno Alstreim's lips curved, "I'd like to congratulate you that was a scheme beautifully enacted. You did it without alerting the other participants, and I convinced Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim that Nora Alstreim caused Claire Alstreim to be stranded in the secret entrance of the Forsaken Phoenix Realm."

"In the present, it all connects to you obtaining a chance to have a conversation with Alchemist Davis again since he seems to believe the rumors that we spread about Nora Alstreim with passion."

"Use this opportunity to initiate a conversation, and tell him that you are afraid of Nora Alstreim and want to repent. Bring him to an isolated place and show him the 'proof', that Imagery Stone, which you should've kept with you, and 'confess' that you would like to work with him to reveal Nora Alstreim's wrongdoing!"

"And at the moment he does agree, fall into his embrace and naturally... no man would resist saving the damsel in distress and making her his, especially when you have already tried to give your innocence to him once."

Elder Zeno Alstreim's lips were wide as he wisely nodded his head.

Immeth Alstreim looked shocked. Even she felt that this plan her a ninety percent chance to succeed!

She had to admit that this old fart was a better schemer than her, but that was not the whole reason why she had decided not to antagonize this person when there were so many ways to come out clean and repent for her crimes in the past.

### **Chapter 1019 Faked**

Elder Zeno Alstreim's expression suddenly became odd, "I assume you still have the Imagery Stone with you, or have you ended up disposing of it long ago?"

"I still have it with me..." Immeth Alstreim tapped her waist and spread open her palm wide.

An Imagery Stone appeared on her palm from the spatial belt she had hidden under her robe over her waist. She had kept this Imagery Stone so that she could use this to later frame Nora Alstreim, but so far, she hadn't seen such an opportunity arrive in front of her sight.

Looking at Elder Zeno Alstreim stare at her dubiously, she promptly activated the Imagery Stone to show that she still had it with her.

A projection appeared and formed the image of a room, along with a majestic chair that looked like a throne of a ruler, and seated over it was a beauty that could cause the fall of a kingdom, her expression proud while her lips were widened into a curve, a smirk hanging on it.

It was none other than Nora Alstreim!

She gracefully put her leg over the other and spoke.

"Claire... The fact that you are watching this recording means that you received my parting gift."

"Do you feel hopeless? Despairing? Anguished? Perhaps, deep pain in your soul?"

There was a slight pause, along with a clear sneer from Nora Alstreim's lips.

"Don't resent me, okay? Time and time again, I treated you with respect, but since you don't seem to know your place, I had no choice but to do this to you."

"If you feel reluctant, why don't you try to get back to the Alstreim Family again and take this matter to the Disciplinary Hall? However, without even a single piece of evidence, what can you do to me? What can you do against my family? As for revenge?"

Nora Alstreim's lips curved into a mocking smile, "Are you even worthy?"

"Let's not talk about that because first, you have to survive from those barbarians. Truth be told, I'm rather excited to see if you're going to be killed or violated by one of them-"

"Very good! I knew there would be uses in keeping this with us!" Elder Zeno Alstreim exclaimed in excitement.

'I have to admit that I'm rather skilled in imitating women when using illusions!'

He was convinced by his own illusory performance. He mused that if he had no memory of this, even he would start to suspect Nora Alstreim's integrity!

Nora Alstreim nodded her head and kept the half-finished Imagery Stone back inside her spatial belt.

"Nevertheless, I just heard this news from Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim. That idiot was extremely happy that Nora Alstreim managed to obtain the favor of the Dragon Queen, earning the qualifications to become her subordinate."

"What!?" Immeth Alstreim practically screamed in reluctance and as well as rage as her brows narrowed. If this truly occurred, then wouldn't her plan to seduce Alchemist Davis and have him take revenge against Nora Alstreim as well as others who used her fail!?

Elder Zeno Alstreim chuckled, "She had just earned the qualifications, not the instant right to become a subordinate. Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim said that it would take some months for her to return, so that would mean that she is being tested right now."

"Before Nora Alstreim could become a true subordinate, your job is to make contact with Alchemist Davis and 'expose' Nora Alstreim's wrongdoings. This way, even the Dragon Queen would feel disgusted that she might instantly vilify her, or perhaps even slay her!"



'Then we'll watch as both Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim, and the Dragon Queen tear apart each other!' Both Immeth Alstreim and Elder Zeno Alstreim thought in glee, but both had different intent behind their actions.

"Remember, the other Elders and Grand Elders are already starting to get fidgety, trying to get their talented daughters or granddaughters to acquire the favor of Alchemist Davis. So if you let this chance slip by..." Elder Zeno Alstreim's flashed with a cold warning again, but Immeth Alstreim didn't seem to be shaken at all but was smiling with a burst of confidence.

Looking at Immeth Alstreim's expression, Elder Zeno Alstreim snorted in relief, "I assume you know what to do hereafter, so only contact me if you have anything important to say. Us being in contact is dangerous as it would raise many questions, but..."

"People would obviously think we have an affair rather than a father-daughter relationship! Hahaha!" Elder Zeno Alstreim laughed as he turned back and left the room.

Immeth Alstreim also seemed to be laughing, but the moment Elder Zeno Alstreim left, her laughter died down as came to possess a cold impression.

'Laugh, laugh all you can while using me, father, because I'll be leaking that it was all your fault to Grand Elder Valdrey Alstreim after I have obtained Alchemist Davis's favor. I'll be heading towards a bright future with him while two Grand Elders would target you, and you absolutely wouldn't expect this move of mine because you think that you still have control over me...'

"Hehe... Hehehe... Hahahaha!!!"

Immeth Alstreim started to giggle slowly before her laughter turned into a full-blown crazy one!

=====

In the Purple Guest Palace, the eighteenth floor.

Davis heaved a heavy sigh as he clenched his fists in reluctance as soon as he heard, 'The matter that was orchestrated by us!'

The conversation further that didn't even have a regard for his mother basically proved his vague initial doubts over the matter!

He was fooled... They were all fooled!

It became apparent that it was not Nora Alstreim and her family who backstabbed Claire Alstreim, but it was Immeth Alstreim and her father, Elder Zeno Alstreim!

Just a while ago, he did think if half-believing in Nora Alstreim's words meant distrusting his mother, but he failed to think what if his mother's own story might be flawed in the sense that his mother might've been be fooled into believing Nora Alstreim was the one who schemed against her in the past!

An event seen from one point of view gives one impression. When seen from another point of view, it gives quite a different impression. But it's only when you see the whole picture; you can fully understand what's going on!

He was able to consider a scenario like this at the time of saving Natalya and Agis Stirlander because he had seen it from an outside perspective! But he was unable to do so when it came to his mother's revenge because he had overly believed his mother and deeply trusted her that she wouldn't lie to him.

It was true that she didn't lie to him, but what could he do if she herself was fooled in the beginning?

There was no use thinking about this now...

Even if Princess Isabella hasn't stopped him from entering that room, he would have no valid reason to stop his mother from torturing Nora Alstreim until he knew it was all Immeth Alstreim's and Zeno Alstreim's doing!

It was all too late!

Although Ancestor Dian Alstreim advised that Nora Alstreim should be in good health, would Claire have the leisure or the mind to care about Ancestor Dian Alstreim's words? Right now, he could imagine that a river of blood should be flowing in that makeshift torture room!

Even then, Davis held on to that faint glimmer of hope that mother shouldn't have started by now but just kept interrogating Nora Alstreim for answers.

He quickly moved from the hall and opened up the door to the room!

### **Chapter 1020 You Broke That...**

"Aaaaaa..."

\*Crack!~\*

The sound of bones breaking could be heard along with the suppressed cry of the pained voice of a woman!

Davis looked at the sight in front of him with wide eyes.

Nora Alstreim knelt on the floor as her head hung powerlessly while arms and legs were chained to the wall behind. The originally white robe she wore was soaked with her crimson blood, and her blonde hair strands were scattered on the floor by her side.

She had her lips slightly torn, a few of her teeth lost, her sharp nose shattered, and her eyes were crimson red. Her left cheek had sunk inwards, and her whole face seemed to be badly disfigured that it was bleeding, but the blood on her face already seemed to be somewhat dried, obviously from the abuse that she had been subjected to from the person in front of her.

Claire held on to Nora Alstreim's blonde hair with one of her hand, with the other clenched into fists, ready to plunge again as it was already colored in crimson blood. However, the moment the door behind them opened, she swiveled her head and saw that her son stepped into the room, his expression appearing stumped as if he possessed no words to her current actions.

Her expression turned into a grimace before she wryly smiled, "I told you not to enter."

Davis looked dumbfounded at the scene. Nora Alstreim's face was absolutely wrecked that she had difficulty opening one of her eyes while her other eye was completely closed as it seemed to be heavily bruised and swollen.

She seemed to be gasping in pain.

However, that wasn't what made him dumbfounded as he has expected such a scene to take place, but...

'Why is she crying?'

Looking at his mother's moist and red eyes as well as her tearful face, he felt dumbfounded.

Judging by what he saw, Nora Alstreim couldn't have injured his mother in any way other than with words.

"Go outside, Davis."

Davis just shook his head. How could he leave after knowing the truth?

Nevertheless, if he told the truth at this point...

Davis raised his hand and placed it over his forehead, feeling stupid.

"It-it's... It's... n-not me..."

Nora Alstreim muttered tiredly.

"You're still not going to accept your wrongs!?" Claire's turned around as her face flushed with an enraged expression, but it appeared to be that she was also hurt by her repetitive answers.

"I... have d-done... nothing w-wrong...."

"Liar! You are nothing more than a two-faced liar! If I had that parting gift you delivered me in the secret entrance through Immeth Alstreim, it would be so much easier to prove that you are a two-faced liar!"

Nora Alstreim possessed an indifferent expression on her bloodied and battered face. Originally, she had raged as she was dragged away by her hair, but she was quickly put into place as the chains limited her movements on top of the two inscription seals that were placed on her.

Then came the interrogation, which she answered that it wasn't her all the time. It was when she discovered and came to accept that the other party was really Claire in their conversation to her shock that she said that it should be a misunderstanding, trying to make her understand when Claire suddenly started to rain down fists upon her in an enraged manner.

However, she wasn't even angered but glimpsed at Claire, who shed tears as she beat her down for some inexplicable reason. It wasn't as if she was the one who was being tortured but Claire.

But now, she heavily frowned at hearing those words again.

"It was true that I had Immeth make things difficult for you, but it was so that you could have a push and grow alongside with me so that I can also benefit from your growth by being motivated."

"Our relationship was one of rivalry, but wasn't it also one of mutual trust...?"

"It was one of mutual trust indeed, but you broke that..." Claire's body shook.

"You!" Nora Alstreim's expression trembled while she looked pained, "Make no m-mistake, I sent no parting gift to you! How m-many times do I have to say this!?"

"Let me go... If you want to know the truth as you say, then I must interrogate I-Immeth as to what had happened..."

"Hehe..." Claire mockingly laughed, "So that you can escape?"

"But don't worry, she will also soon be here with you, facing the same fate along with you..."

Nora Alstreim finally couldn't help be angered, "You! What is with you!? You come out of nowhere, and just when I thought you could be real, you b-blame that I was the one who tried to backstab and k-kill you!?"

"You are crazy!!!" Nora Alstreim screamed and flailed as she tried to stand up, but her sealed cultivation and the restrictive chains wouldn't let her.

Claire took a deep breath as she stared at Nora Alstreim. Her entire body was shaking, but it seemed to be not from anger but hesitation.

Davis looked at them argue and couldn't help but look at each other in the eyes.

After coming this far, considering Nora Alstreim's pride and his mother's actions, he felt that there was no way that both could live under the same sky. However, was it truly the case?

He only hesitated for a single moment before he moved towards them and reached out his hand.

Nora Alstreim instantly noticed that Alchemist Davis was heading towards her, his stretched out palm beginning to surge with essence energy.

\*Crackle!~\*

Black arcs of lightning erupted, and rather than the sound of thousands of birds chirping at the same time, it was grizzly and struck fear into the heart as its aura alone remained terrifying.

"You... Don't come n-near me!" Nora Alstreim panicked as she shrunk back to the wall, her back experiencing a cold sensation that made her shiver from the fear of death.

Davis didn't stop and kept walking. Within a few steps, he arrived before her as his power multiplied manifold, crackling as if it were going to cause extinction at the slightest touch!

Nora Alstreim's eyes were wide as it could possibly be in her injury. Her skin experienced a crawling feeling, and her eyes were terrified as it kept trembling from fear. Her purple pupils reflected the arcs of black lightning that rapidly encircled above her face, making her aware that her head was going to be fried, resulting in her death.

'Am I going to... die?' Nora Alstreim became still at sight.

Since her soul sea was already restricted, death was the only outcome she could imagine.

She wanted to live her life! She still wanted to love and experience the world with her fated one, but she was wrongfully blamed and tortured as if she was an evildoer; she truly felt that the heavens had abandoned her.

Numerous images flashed past her eyes, her family, and even another figure who saved her from her own suicidal attack. She closed her eyes and felt reluctant, as well as regret.

However, no matter how she waited, she didn't feel anything painful or strange.

'I am... dead?' Nora Alstreim imagined that it was a painless death, but when she opened her eyes, her pupils registered a person blocking the doom that was upon her!