Chapter 176 Manwhore

Captain Aida was much more energetic and slightly more susceptible to the saliva. While I had increased the aphrodisiac’s power, I had also increased her strength. She had also received some healing as she was much tighter than our first coupling. The Captain seemed to welcome the pain, lost in a delirium of passion. I think the Eladrin males had small dicks like other elves.

As promised, I tried to surprise her by shoving something up her sphincter. I only used my index finger but got the surprise squeak I was hoping for from the stalwart Captain, “Not so fun when someone shoves something up there without telling you.” I was referring to the machine that had mapped my body and sent a snake into my ass.

“It is the hole the males on the ship with each other,” was all she said, not angry at all. I was disappointed, and since I couldn’t harvest life essence while her core healed, I just brought her to two orgasms before returning to my accommodations with the others.

Walking into the room in the black power armor, I think I looked pretty awesome. Brin and Sharn had their hands all over the suit, examining every detail. Brin had a thousand questions, and I was only able to answer a few of them. She clearly had an engineer’s mind.

A terrible wicked idea crossed my mind that Bedelia had seeded, “Brin, are you close to your family?”

Brin was still under my influence, so she answered truthfully, “My sister is in a different caravan, and I talk to her weekly. My parents died a few years back.”

“Is that all the family you have?” I pressed.

“I have dozens of cousins, aunts, and uncles, but I am not really close to any of them.” She said honestly.

“Do you want to come to Earth with us? Answer truthfully.” Rincewind paused his game at the table with Bedelia.

Rincewind stated, “She is under your influence. She can not say no.”

“Only if there is more technology to play with. Otherwise, I would like to stay on this ship,” she answered after a moment’s thought. The answer was a little surprising but understandable. I had a very loose hold on her.

“Earth is on the twenty-third layer. I was hoping you could learn as much as possible from Eladrin about maintaining these suits and then come back to Earth to maintain them for me. You would get a suit as well. I have a number of vehicles as well.” I offered. Rincewind was already shaking his head in disappointment at my methodology.

Brin cheerfully accepted, “Then yes! I would like to come to Earth.” I felt a little dirty in getting her to want to come to Earth.

“You can be the next to get a suit then,” I said, and she hugged me. “Just learn everything you can on how to maintain the suits. When we leave, you can join us.”

I didn’t make eye contact with Rincewind as I entered my room to shower and rest. Bedelia joined me for a core enhancement session. After, naked and curled under my arm, she asked, “When are we leaving?”

“I have to raise the cores of eighteen more Eladrin. It is what I am bartering with for the power armor and help rescuing the Cartwrights.” I rubbed her naked back reassuringly.

“Why didn’t Eshanya raise the aether cores of her own people?” She said as her leg draped over me and her foot played with my resting penis.

“It is a bit strange. She said she could only raise her people about two-tenths in core strength, and even then, she had failures that killed her partner. Andromeda did say I was special. Maybe this is my superpower.” I let myself come to attention so she could play with it.

Bedelia’s small foot pressed my length down, and then let it spring back to slap on my abs. “Superpower? Fancy yourself a hero or a villain?” She teased.

“A little of both. Saving the day while taking the maiden’s virtue but giving her power beyond her dreams.” Bedelia was quiet and stopped playing footies. “What is it?” I asked, concerned.

“Nothing. I was just thinking maybe I should stop slowly raising my core and just get it over with and have you go all out,” she said softly.

I thought about it, but I really wanted to see if this experiment would bear fruit, “I will do whatever you want. I can ask the medicus magicae on the ship. They might have research if what we are doing works. They are recording me while I raise the cores of the Eladrin, mapping the aether flows.”

Bedelia shifted, swinging her hips over to sit on my chest, and looked me in the eyes, interested, “Can I join them in? I want to learn as much as I can. I will even see if I can get some records for Abigail to help her become a medicus magicae.” I hadn’t thought about what else I could gain from this alliance with Eshanya.

I slowly nodded, “I will ask, but I don’t know how I feel about you watching me fuck dozens of women.” She slid back, impaling herself on me. “Maybe we can hold the recordings for Iris,” she teased as she rocked. We had another round, and Bedelia made me promise to ask.

In the morning, I left the room and found Captain Aida outside. She looked me up and down. “When do we begin?” I asked.

“Now, if you want.” She replied with a slight smirk.  Maybe she planned to watch as well.

“I have a few requests. One of my companions would like to observe the research the Medicus Magicae are doing.” Captain Aida talked into her suit and nodded an affirmative to me when she got a response. “Good. The second is one of my companions would like to be trained in power armor maintenance.  And equipped with the tools to do so,” I added.

Captain Aida didn’t seem surprised, “We had a field service suite for the suits that we were planning to send with you. It is one of the transports and is equipped with all the diagnostic and repair parts you need for nineteen suits for a century. I don’t see the creatures on the lowest layer being a problem. Keeping the aether batteries charged will be your biggest problem.”

We stopped at a room, and the door slid open. Inside was a blonde elf who was in her early thirties by human standards. My first commission. She was dressed in crew uniform but had a muscular build, so I assumed she was one of the Marines. “Okay, you can go,” I told Captain Aida.

“Admiral Eshanya wants someone in the room in case something goes wrong. I volunteered,” she said, moving to a corner. I guessed Iris was not the only voyeur. I transformed into my incubus body, stripped, and activated my lust aura.

Raising the blonde elf was a lot more difficult than I thought it would be, even with my improved aphrodisiac saliva. I didn’t push her core as hard as I could. It was a modest 0.42 improvement for six hours of work, raising her core from 1.49 to 1.91. I was probably more tired than she was at the end. During the entire session, Captain Aida just stood in the corner and watched, and I was sure there were dozens of cameras.

As I dressed, I asked, “Did Bedelia watch?”

The speakers in the room answered, “Yeah, I am here. I think you need to get a few new moves, though, Caleb. It was awfully repetitive.”

“I didn’t get any complaints.” I looked at the blonde elf, who was barely functional. “Any complaints?” She shook her head no. “See, no complaints.”

Captain Aida broke up the conversation, “I can bring you to the next candidate if you are ready.”

I turned inward and went into my mind space. I had filled up my life essence to 420/420. I was suddenly confused. My cap should have been 440, not 420. I spent 400 life essence, which should have raised my cap by 40 points.

I was puzzling over this shortcoming, and Lilith met me in the central banner room. “What happened?”

Lilith looked up, puzzled as well, but she quicky figured out what I was implying. She gave it some thought, “I think it is diminishing returns. The closer you get to potential, the slower your cap will increase. I think it is because you raised your first ability to lower tier three.”

“What? That is messed up! Not only does the next tier cost twice as much, but I am only getting a half-a-half increase in my cap. That means it is four times as difficult to go from lower tier three to upper tier three,” I calculated, irritated. “If that continues, then it will be sixteen times as difficult to reach lower tier four!”

“Or more,” Lilith said pragmatically. “We are lucky, Caleb. Your core potential is 4.029, which is higher than most people.” I noted that my core strength had increased a little. “Remember, most demons live thousands of years, and reaching their potential takes them their lifetime.”

“Ugh, so be it.” Going from upper tier two to lower tier three was a large jump in power. I should be happy.

“I also wanted to warn you. You need to slow down, Caleb. Taking in and spending that much life essence every day is not safe. We can feel the instability in your mind space. Give yourself a day to recover and check back in after each session. Every time your life essence cap improves, your aether core develops slightly. You could rupture your own core if you proceed recklessly.”

“Why now?” I asked. I sent out my senses, feeling myself out, and she was right. It was like tiny cracks appearing on ice as a warning, but I needed to look for them.

“I think it is because Andromeda’s tax regulated how much aether you could harvest,” Lilith guessed. I raised my abyssal speed to lower tier three and watched. Some spidering occurred around the shell of my mind space.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Abyssal Speed | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |

“Damn. How long will it take the damage to heal before I can raise something else?” I inquired.

“You will just have to check on it before increasing another ability,” Lilith advised. “We have made progress on the research.”

“Another time, and thank you. I would never have realized it since the changes were so small.” I don’t know why I did it, but I kissed her on the forehead and invested another life essence in her. When I created a mind space construct, it only took a single life essence.

Lilith’s body shuddered in ecstasy from the doubling of her life essence. She immediately said, “You shouldn’t do that! We can subvert your control if you do that.”

“Thanks for the warning, but you deserve it. If I can trust my subconscious, then who can I trust?” I smirked. Lilith was about to reply but instead shook her head no.

As she walked away, she said, “We are here to protect you from yourself. Don’t do that again!” I had the inkling that I had also just promoted Lilith to the alpha construct in my mindspace.

I returned from my mindspace and informed Captain Aida, “I need time to recover. Give me a day, and maybe I will be recovered enough for the next one.”

When I returned to the barracks, Brin was already wearing her power armor. Sharn was not the only one jealous, but they would all get theirs in time. I ended up falling asleep for twelve hours. Bedelia woke me three times to make sure I was okay, but these sessions were taking a toll on me.

I felt fine after the twelve-hour nap, but before this, I didn’t need to sleep to feel rested, and after checking in on my mindspace it still had some damage. In the end, it took me two full days before I felt ready for the next session.

This cycle started to repeat every two days. This was going to take much longer than I had planned. I was in a slight daze from the effort I was putting out. One morning, I heard a funny story when they restrained Kristiel to have her fitted for her power armor. They didn’t tell her what they were doing and the invasive nature trigged a power in her and she escaped.

Rincewind was sent to calm her down. She still managed to damage the Shadow Fall, and Eshanya was considering throwing her in a transit to get rid of her. I had to plead on her behalf as well, but at least no one had been killed.

Everyone was having a good time except me. Well, the sex was good until my partner exhausted themselves. The recovery for me after a session was turning into a misery I preferred to avoid. I had convinced Bedelia to continue with small sessions, and Rincewind spent some time helping me with my aether control.

Raguk returned to us with a new hand and full regeneration treatment. The rest of orcs medical read like a bad novel, but I think the Eladrin were just trying to prove how unfit they were. Still, they all received the equivalent of rejuvenation treatments. I think Sharn’s daughter, Glasha, was even slowly coming around to appreciate me—or at least what I offered the Molten Fist Clan.

Brin was rarely in our barracks, spending most of her time with the Eladrin suit mechanics. She was a fast learner and impressed them. She was the only companion I had who was not followed everywhere by a Marine.

Rincewind started to get anxious, but I just had his suit manufactured next, and then he had to spend a few days learning how to use it. Thirty-four days before I completed the requirements. I had done so without killing anyone, although there had been five close calls. I even got the report from Bedelia, who monitored each session with the Medicus Magicae. She even got copies of the videos in all visual and magical wavelengths downloaded to her power armor so she could show everyone on Earth. She also had a huge database of knowledge for Abigail to help her become a Medicus Magicae.

I looked at the list:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| # | Old Core Strength | Enhancement | New Core | Profession | Age |
| 1 | 1.12 | 0.44 | 1.56 | Marine | 102 |
| 2 | 1.23 | 0.41 | 1.64 | Marine | 120 |
| 3 | 1.23 | 0.36 | 1.59 | Marine | 101 |
| 4 | 1.24 | 0.39 | 1.63 | Marine | 116 |
| 5 | 1.29 | 0.49 | 1.78 | Marine | 129 |
| 6 | 1.33 | 0.61 | 1.94 | Marine | 276 |
| 7 | 1.33 | 0.62 | 1.95 | Marine | 125 |
| 8 | 1.35 | 0.41 | 1.76 | Marine | 139 |
| 9 | 1.36 | 0.35 | 1.71 | Marine | 122 |
| 10 | 1.37 | 0.39 | 1.76 | Scientist | 206 |
| 11 | 1.38 | 0.32 | 1.7 | Administration | 459 |
| 12 | 1.41 | 0.36 | 1.77 | Educator | 320 |
| 13 | 1.49 | 0.42 | 1.91 | Marine | 344 |
| 14 | 1.51 | 0.4 | 1.91 | Medicus Medicae | 389 |
| 15 | 1.53 | 0.34 | 1.87 | Educator | 328 |
| 16 | 1.54 | 0.7 | 2.24 | Engineer | 206 |
| 17 | 1.54 | 0.27 | 1.81 | Scientist | 194 |
| 18 | 1.01 | 0.62 | 1.63 | Marine | 98 |

I had done well by the Eladrin, and I learned quite a bit about enhancing a core as well. The engineer whose core I raised by 0.7 had been my last partner. Raising her to lower tier three had caused a huge stir.

I had to meet with Eshanya soon, who had been busy subjugating the entire planet. I thought it was curious that no one had been able to stop her or that no one from a higher layer had arrived. My own gains were also huge, but forcing so many enhancements over the last month made me weary. But I was not going to forgo using the life essence. This was my best chance to enhance my power.

My life essence cap had increased to 625 over the month as not every ability I improved affected the life essence cap. Still, I figured my investment in elixirs would help my companions in the long run and, therefore, help me. Also, I recovered more quickly when I raised abilities that did not increase my life essence. I was already over halfway to the 800 cap I needed to raise abilities to upper tier three.

I looked over my banners in my mind space, thinking I might be able to challenge Kushiel now.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | Abyssal Eyes | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 2 | Abyssal Strength | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 3 | Abyssal Speed | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 4 | Abyssal Endurance | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 5 | Abyssal Smell | Upper | Tier 1 | 100 life essence |
| 6 | Abyssal Taste | Upper | Tier 1 | 100 life essence |
| 7 | Chronomancy | Upper | Tier 1 | 100 life essence |
| 8 | Incubus Form | Upper | Tier 1 | 1,000 life essence |
| 9 | Incubus Tail | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 10 | Incubus Wings | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 11 | Succubus Form | Upper | Tier 1 | 1,000 life essence |
| 12 | Succubus Wings | Lower | Tier 1 | 100 life essence |
| 13 | Flame Ball | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 14 | Melodic Voice | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 15 | Aphrodisiac Saliva | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 16 | Seductive Gaze | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 17 | Mask Aether Core | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 18 | Cleanse Death Essence | Upper | Tier 2 | na |
| 19 | Discern Truth | Upper | Tier 2 | 400 life essence |
| 20 | Male Elf Form | Upper | Tier 1 | 100 life essence |
| 21 | Ice Orc Form | Upper | Tier 1 | 100 life essence |
| 22 | Elixir Seed of Strength | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 23 | Elixir Seed of Endurance | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 24 | Elixir Seed of Recall | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 25 | Elixir Seed of Quickness | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 26 | Elixer of Taste | Lower | Tier 1 | 100 life essence |
| 27 | Elixer of Constitution | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 28 | Elixer of Dexterity | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |
| 29 | Elixir Seed of Willpower | Lower | Tier 3 | 800 life essence |

The only new ability I added was the elixir of willpower. As I had done with my own companions, I enhanced every Eladrin partner I had, asking them what they wanted. Willpower gave the recipient a strong resistance to being influenced. After she had received it, she had even been able to resist my lust aura completely.

I had strengthened myself considerably, and the flame ball could even damage the power armor. I was considering what new abilities I should take when I finally finished with all the Eladrin. Eshanya had called me to talk with her.

Eshanya was in her office on the bridge, “Apollyon, I was informed you are finished. I suppose you wish me to help you rescue the humans now?”

Cautiously, I replied, “That was the agreement. Are you going to alter it now?”

“No. I keep my word. Three days. You can see Captain Aida, and she will prepare.” She checked her screen, “and forty-two Marines will go with us. I know I promised you fifty, but there has been some pushback in the east, and I will not leave the Shadow Fall undefended with less than five hundred Marines.”

“Understandable,” I said. “Forty-two plus my companions should be enough to get the job done if you are coming.”

She smiled at me, “Good. I watched every recording, and I still don’t know how you do it. You obviously have practiced your technique, but it seems you have developed an innate ability to control your vortex power during copulation.” I thought that was probably because I was usually focused on it rather than the pleasure the act brought me.

“Three days then? Is there anything else?” I was expecting Eshanya to ask for more of her crew to be enhanced.

“No, but after we rescue the Cartwrights, we can talk again.” She focused on me, and I felt her influence trying to invade my mind. She was testing me to see how strong I had become. I pushed back, and she smiled. “Good. You are ready to help me be free, Andromeda.”

“But first, the Cartwrights,” I asserted.

“First, the Cartwrights,” she agreed.

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