

In the morning after the attack on Highgreen, Kanae and Grell reached an agreement at last regarding an alliance. It was the revelation that Talon had sided with the demons that broke the camel's back on his neutrality. Grell gifted them crates of weapons and two volunteer blacksmiths out of good faith in their newfound accord. They were a much welcome gift since, due to a lack of weaponsmiths, many lycanbolds and goblins wielded only primitive equipment.

"Will Highgreen be alright?" Kanae asked as they were preparing to return home. "The demon encampment is pretty damn close to the settlement."

"I'm told an unfortunate fire had set their preparations for a siege back for weeks. They won't catch us unawares again, but I anticipate that you will come to our aid should we need it. Until then, I am behooved to ask from you a favor: will you take Noah with you? Allow him to serve as ambassador between us," Grell said.

The son himself paused in surprise.

"B-But my place is here with you and Highgreen!" Noah protested while flustered.

"This is my selfish wish to ensure you are safe from the demon clutches. They intended to use you against me. I cannot allow that to happen." Grell frowned.

"It won't be any safer at my village, but I promise he'll be looked after," Kanae assured them.

"Thank you. It puts a father's mind at ease to hear it," he said.

For some reason, Kanae felt as though she was missing nuance in the exchange between Grell and Noah. It seemed less tense and more awkward instead.

Noah reluctantly agreed. Kanae caught him stealing glances at her. The anxious looks stirred a deep succubus hunger.

As they climbed onto the wagon, Grell placed a hand on the rim of the vehicle next to where Kanae sat.

"Your village. Does it have a name?" Grell asked.

Kanae thought for a moment and couldn't for the life of her think of one. A name did stick out.

"Ehmvier," she answered.

"Ehmvier?" the leader of Highgreen repeated curiously, eyes going wide with apparent recognition. "Very well. May the Ehmvier-Highgreen Alliance endure and be fruitful."

Their return to Ehmvier was met with cheers from the villagers. Some of the dark elves recognized Noah immediately and fetched flowers from their gardens to toss in front of the wagon.

"This is a much warmer welcome than I expected," Kanae remarked in the midst of waving to her people.

"Well... It's because they are celebrating," Noah quietly answered.

"We only just got back though. They can't possibly know that we formed an alliance yet."

"It is a tradition among us in no man's land," Parn began. "For the leader to offer their firstborn to another village or settlement, Grell has given his son's hand in marriage to you. Which means you two are officially married in our culture."

"WE'RE WHAT?!" Kanae nearly fell out of the wagon, and then recomposed herself to search Noah for answers.

Noah shut his eyes and nodded.

"That explains the weird feeling I got from you two." She sighed.

Though... this might not be so bad. On the other hand, Noah was going to be in for a surprise.

"Mama's home!"

Kanae gazed up in time to Teana crash landing in her arms. She caught the goblin girl, who took notice of her physical changes right away and grabbed at the larger horn.

"Did she say... mama?" Noah asked.

"Sorry!" Mitty exclaimed, panting heavily as he came to a stop in front of the wagon. "Teana said she smelled you right away... just flew right out of the house..."

"Noah, meet my daughter Teana and my mate Mitty. I, uh... also happen to be in a relationship with a high elf named Arenade, who is also carrying my future child. You're... technically going to be my third spouse," Kanae hesitantly explained.

"I-I see... I suppose this is expected from a succubus," he stammered.

Numerous villagers started panicking. Kanae had a feeling why. Slinking in from the front gates was the giant devil mutt, who had followed them home. Head hung low out of shyness and spooked by people's screams, the demon hound whimpered stressfully.

"A puppy!" Teana wrenched out of Kanae's arms.

"Teana, wait!" Kanae cried.

To her surprise, both demons bonded quickly. The devil mutt rolled over and wagged his tail when Teana hugged him by the nose.

"Can we keep him?" she asked.

The hound gazed at Kanae with moist, puppy-dog eyes.

*Don't look at me like you didn't fuck my brains out in Orturic,* Kanae thought.

Well, the devil mutt did help them escape the demon encampment.

"Fine." Kanae relented. "But you have to take him for walks everyday. Bring papa with you and only walk around the village walls, okay?"

"Okay! I'm going to name you... Tiny!" Teana beamed, patting the crimson mutt on the head.

On the bright side, Teana now had a guard dog.

The weapons from Highgreen were handed out in a matter of minutes. Both smiths went straight to work on smelting the ore into malleable ingots for tools, equipment, and other materials the village would need. They would finally advance to the iron age.

In the meantime...

"Lilith, gather the Sisters of Sin and scour the immediate vicinity for Talon's scout. They have to be lurking somewhere close. Find whoever it is and bring them to me by tonight," Kanae ordered.

"It shall be done, Mistress." Lilith took flight to fetch her fellow sisters from the church.

When Lilith and Parn had gone, Noah was all who was left in the wagon.

"How about I show you around the village, *husband*?" Kanae extended a hand to him.

They stopped by the stables first to park the wagon and hand the gorag back to goblin miners. Inside, Ichi was sweeping the floors and filling the feeding troughs.

"How's it going in here, Ichi?" Kanae hollered.

"Oh, hey! I'm almost done with work for the day. Milking is hard work," Ichi said, tugging on his overalls to vent some steam.

"You produce milk here?" Noah asked. "That's almost unheard of in no man's land."

"Better believe it. Tastes really good, too!" Ichi fetched Noah a small glass of milk.

Noah savored the taste by drinking slow, clearly enamored by the flavor.

"I have to know— where did you find cows to produce milk for you?" he asked.

"It's not from cows," Kanae said.

"It's from me!" Mirabelle stuck a hand out from her stall.

Noah spat the milk out into Kanae and Ichi's faces.

"Hey, what about that thing I wanted you to do?" Kanae asked.

"Er... R-Rosaline is, uh... checking for the *thing*." Ichi cleared his throat.

"Thing?" Noah raised a brow.

"Looks like you're as fertilized as pregnant can be!" Rosaline announced on her way out of a stall, then slapped Ichi on the back. "Good on you for knocking another gaur up. You're going to be father of a herd yet!"

Kanae flashed a smirk to Ichi, who turned red and expelled a sigh through his nose. It sounded like he got busy while they were away for almost a week. As long as her friends were happy, she was happy.

Next stop was their humble church. Morning service should have begun not too long ago..

They found Nelly suspiciously peeking through the door from the outside.

"Debating whether or not to attend church, Nelly?" Kanae asked the dark elven boy.

"Wha—" Nelly straightened up and leapt back from the door. "I-I'm not interested. I just... Arenade woke up nauseous today and still wanted to hold service. I'm only here to make sure she doesn't fall on her butt."

"You can be more helpful being by her side, you know?"

"Who said I was worried about her? It's... that's right! The baby. She should be more concerned about the baby. That's all... Speaking of which, I'm gonna go find Teana!" Nelly bolted away before Kanae could get another word in.

Arenade and Nelly just really couldn't be honest with each other even if it cost them their lives.

"That boy is an orphan, isn't he?" Noah asked, eyes fixed on Nelly as he left.

"How'd you know?" Kanae asked.

"I remember when my mother passed away. My father was too devastated to do anything, so I always helped around where I could to make up for her absence. He would always tell me I didn't have to. Made me feel small even though I was already fourteen. Nelly seems like the type to want to do the same," he said.

It wasn't too far off. Kanae wondered if she could give Nelly a push to open up to Arenade instead of bottling up those emotions. They clearly regarded each other like parent and child in secret.

They entered the church to find Arenade, hands glowing with holy magic which bathed an elderly dark elven woman. There was a line leading up to the front, and people in the pews, elves, goblins, and lycanbolds alike sat with their heads low in prayer. When the woman was healed, she tearfully embraced Arenade in thanks.

"So this is your church? Who do you pray to?" Noah asked.

"We're the Eminence of Sin, and Arenade and I are the high priestesses. We don't worship any one god. Just to the ideals of love, lust, and acceptance," Kanae explained.

"Lust...?" He gulped.

"I'm a succubus after all," she declared proudly.

Once service ended and parishioners began to shuffle out of the church, Arenade heaved a sigh at another job well done as high priestess.

"My back is killing me! Rosaline won't make me mana potions either. You're back from that one place. How'd it go? Tell me there's good news— and why in the three hells do you look like that?" Arenade asked, dragging her feet down the aisle.

"The long to short is we made an alliance with the dark elves, but Talon and the demons are a united front. Not sure why I look like this, but it happened when I reached level 80. Also, I hope you don't mind— I named our village Ehmvier." Kanae grinned.

"You did— WHAT?" She went slack-jawed.

"Here's another surprise: this is Noah, apparently he's my new husband," Kanae introduced them.

"What?!" The priest recoiled. "You're gone for a week and bring back another booty call? Hmph. Not that it matters to me. Maybe you'll pester me less from now on about sex."

"Arenade complains, but no one begs me more for it than her," she whispered to Noah, who blushed as red as a tomato.

"I DO NOT!" Arenade yelled, and then buckled from a wave of dizziness.

Kanae and Noah helped Arenade to a pew, where she sat slumped and rubbed the small bump on her belly.

"Nelly was peeking in earlier. Looked like he was worried about you. Still too timid to get any closer though," Kanae explained.

"Had a feeling. I've been giving Nelly some space like you told me. Not really sure when I should start trying to talk to him again though." Arenade moped.

"I've only just arrived here, but may I suggest something?" Noah asked, drawing their attention to him. "Maybe you can try learning about his family. For example, I still own my mother's cookbook. Her recipes never fail to put me at ease."

"Huh. Good thinking. I'm going to go check Nelly's house then! Your alright, new sex slave." She patted him on the shoulder before leaving.

Noah casted a nervous look to Kanae and asked, "Is that really my inevitable fate...?"

"Do you... want to start now?" Kanae asked, biting down on her lip.

Unfortunately for Kanae, they had to hold off on consummating their marriage. There was plenty of work to do around the village. Including...

"Let go... I'll never submit, so you might as well kill me now!"

Lilith and the Sisters of Sin dragged the harpy down the aisle. They tossed her to the ground at Kanae's feet, who was sitting cross-legged in the very front of the church. Kanae unfurled both pairs of wings, casting a large shadow over the terrified beastman woman. This new form was much more intimidating, and she was already starting to like it.

The harpy was of the bat variety. They were probably the closest race to a succubus, but having leathery wings was the only similarity the two shared.

"Y-You don't scare me! There are much more frightening demons than you!" she cried.

"Here's what you're going to do: go tell Talon that the Protectorates arrived earlier than expected and are in dire need of help. Unfortunately, rations are dwindling. Ehmvier village and the damn succubi cut off their supply line from Lograin. Is that understood?" Kanae asked.

"Why would—" The harpy tensed up as the charm took hold. "I understand. I'll tell Talon exactly that and be as inconspicuous as possible."

"Good. Now hurry along."

The Sisters of Sin parted from the aisles to let the harpy through, who then took flight right outside of the church.

"Will the plan really work?" Lilith asked worriedly.

"Do you doubt me?" Kanae leaned to one side of the seat and propped a fist underneath her chin.

Lilith fell to her knees. "No, Mistress! I think it is a sound plan, but we should be cautious in case they catch on!"

"If any of you have ideas, don't be afraid to tell me. We're all fellow sisters here," Kanae reminded them.

They traded whispers amongst themselves, but it was ultimately the First Sister who relayed what was said.

"Ehmvier village has several wagons in disrepair," Lilith began. "We should use them to create a believable ruined caravan, fool Talon's scouts who may come investigate first, and then ambush them on their way back to report the findings."

Doing so would send their army into disarray by robbing them of intelligence.

"I like it. Work with Parn and Manabe to make it look like a battle took place on the main road south of Ehmvier. Talon will have to send scouts in a wide berth around the village to investigate, and we'll be waiting for them on their return," Kanae said.

The Sisters of Sin brightened up, almost like none of them expected her to approve of their plan.

"Yes, Mistress!" they exclaimed.

"Before that, do you know what time of the month it is?" Kanae asked, folding one leg over the other.

They had almost forgotten. As it came to them one by one, hunger and lust were all that showed on their faces. All five succubi presented themselves eagerly in a line, like varying flavors of ice cream that Kanae couldn't wait to taste. Behind the scanty vestments were bodies made of sin and experience tempered by the countless they laid with.

"It is time to feed you," First Sister Lilith said, already breathing heavily in anticipation.

"That's right, Sisters." Kanae smiled and extended her arms to them. "Come feed the queen."