

# E21 - New Retainers

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names. This is handled on a best-effort basis depending on how the subtitle file was created so they may be incomplete or inaccurate. Dialogue is left as is.)

**[00:01] Ferdinand**

*Main somehow managed to help  
resolve Lutz's family issues.*

**[00:05] Ferdinand**

*However, she starts to have  
concerns in her own home.*

**[00:10] Main**

Are you still not feeling well,  
Mom? Are you really okay?

**[00:16] Eva**

Main...

**[00:19] Eva**

You see,

**[00:20] Eva**

Mom has a baby in her belly.

**[00:25] Eva**

You're going to be a big sis.

**[00:30] Main**

I'll make a picture book  
for the little one, okay?

**[00:34] Eva**

Picture book?

**[00:35] Main**

Yeah, picture book!

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Chapter Twenty-One New Retainers

**[02:19] Lutz**

Picture book?

**[02:20] Benno**

Picture book?

**[02:22] Ferdinand**

What is a "picture book"?

**[02:24] Main**

*This is now the third time.*

**[02:27] Main**

Picture books are literally books  
for kids, with pictures in them.

**[02:30] Ferdinand**

Books are expensive as it is.

**[02:33] Ferdinand**

And you want to make them for  
babies, who can't even read?

**[02:35] Ferdinand**

What are you thinking?

**[02:38] Main**

I'm going to be a big sister.

**[02:41] Fran**

It seems Lady Main's family  
is expecting a child,

**[02:45] Fran**

so she wants to give the baby a present.

**[02:48] Ferdinand**

I see. I understand now.

**[02:50] Main**

There you have it, so  
please let me have Wilma.

**[02:53] Ferdinand**

Fran?

**[02:55] Fran**

Making a picture book needs an artist,

**[02:58] Fran**

so she has identified a gray-robed  
priestess who's good at drawing

**[03:00] Fran**

and is requesting permission  
to make her Main's retainer.

**[03:03] Main**

*Honestly, I wanted to draw it myself...*

**[03:10] Benno**

Your handwriting's good, but your art sucks.

**[03:14] Main**

Please, Head Priest.

**[03:19] Ferdinand**

That baby will prove to be  
a huge weakness for you.

**[03:24] Main**

Where did that come from?

**[03:27] Ferdinand**

You hold your family extremely dear,

**[03:31] Ferdinand**

as shown by the time you tried to take

on the high priest to protect them.

**[03:36] Ferdinand**

Who knows what he'll do  
when he learns of this?

**[03:40] Ferdinand**

Surely you understand that  
this can't be laughed off

**[03:43] Ferdinand**

by saying you can't just  
hide your emotions.

**[03:47] Main**

I do, yes. I'll keep that in mind.

**[03:49] Ferdinand**

Take this as an opportunity to accustom  
yourself to noble mannerisms and culture.

**[03:55] Main**

"Culture"?

**[03:57] Ferdinand**

I mean music.

**[03:59] Ferdinand**

It is one of the nobility's favorite pastimes.

**[04:02] Ferdinand**

Do we have anyone suitable?

**[04:05] Fran**

How about Rosina? She used to  
be Lady Christine's retainer.

**[04:10] Ferdinand**

Main, if you want an  
artist as your retainer,

**[04:13] Ferdinand**

you will also take in one  
who is proficient in music.

**[04:17] Main**

One moment! You can't make  
the decision for me!

**[04:20] Main**

I don't even have any instruments!

**[04:23] Ferdinand**

I see.

**[04:25] Ferdinand**

Of course you can't practice  
without an instrument.

**[04:28] Main**

As such, I really only want  
Wilma to be my retainer.

**[04:34] Wilma**

I truly appreciate your kind offer, but...

**[04:38] Wilma**

There'll be nobody left  
to take care of them.

**[04:40] Wilma**

I'm the only one who does.

**[04:42] Wilma**

I would like to remain in the orphanage.

**[04:46] Main**

*In the church, all retainers move  
into their master's rooms.*

**[04:51] Main**

*Is there any way I can make Wilma my  
retainer and let her live in the orphanage?*

**[04:57] Main**

*I decided to ask the head priest for advice.*

**[05:01] Main**

*And, on the day I was to  
have that discussion...*

**[05:04] Fran**

The head priest sends  
these gifts with his regards.

**[05:07] Main**

*Wow.*

**[05:08] Main**

*I turned him down because I had no  
instruments, but they've found their way to me.*

**[05:12] Fran**

These are harspiel.

**[05:15] Main**

Harspiel, huh?

**[05:16] Fran**

It seems the head priest is set  
on having you learn music.

**[05:25] Main**

Welcome, Head Priest.  
I've been expecting you.

**[05:29] Main**

Those are cookies my cooks made for you.

**[05:31] Main**

They'll be part of the menu in Gilberta  
Company's upcoming restaurant.

**[05:37] Ferdinand**

I didn't know you were  
dabbling in food, too.

**[05:40] Main**

Well, I am. So I want to experience  
real noble cuisine before we open.

**[05:46] Ferdinand**

I shall invite you to lunch sometime soon.

**[05:52] Ferdinand**

So...

**[05:54] Ferdinand**

You said you wanted to make Wilma your retainer, but let her stay in the orphanage?

**[05:59] Main**

Yes. She's the only one who can take care of the unbaptized kids there.

**[06:05] Main**

The young ones fall ill easily, and sometimes even develop fevers late at night.

**[06:13] Ferdinand**

If Wilma's going to stay back at the orphanage,

**[06:16] Ferdinand**

that's all the more reason to take Rosina in.

**[06:18] Ferdinand**

I even arranged for your instruments.

**[06:20] Ferdinand**

You should have no objections now.

**[06:22] Main**

But is there any need for music in the church's ceremonies?

**[06:35] Main**

*Here we go again with that magical item again.*

**[06:42] Ferdinand**

The reason music is essential to you is because it is a vital part of noble culture.

**[06:46] Main**

You said that the other day, too.

**[06:49] Main**

But I am not a noble.

**[06:52] Ferdinand**

You will surely be part of noble society in the future.

**[06:57] Main**

But I have no intention of leaving my family.

**[07:01] Main**

*According to the priest,*

**[07:04] Main**

*when nobles or those with the Devouring get married,*

**[07:06] Main**

*their partner has to be of a comparable  
mana capacity or they can't have kids.*

**[07:11] Main**

*What's more, a child's mana is  
heavily influenced by its mother's.*

**[07:16] Main**

*With noble numbers dwindling now,*

**[07:19] Main**

*it's apparently easy to picture young nobles  
flocking to me once I come of age.*

**[07:25] Ferdinand**

However, they'll only see you as a  
tool connecting them to high society.

**[07:30] Main**

So I'll be a convenient baby maker?

**[07:33] Ferdinand**

That's up to you.

**[07:36] Main**

Huh? Up to me how?

**[07:38] Ferdinand**

Whether or not you're only seen  
as a tool to produce children

**[07:43] Ferdinand**

will depend on how well you can  
conduct yourself as a noble.

**[07:48] Ferdinand**

You must educate yourself in  
their ways to protect yourself.

**[07:52] Main**

I understand.

**[07:54] Main**

I'll also make Rosina my retainer and  
learn as much as possible from her.

**[08:01] Main**

*After that, I asked the head priest  
to show me the right way,*

**[08:06] Main**

*so he played the harspiel for me.*

**[08:12] Main**

*He's so good!*

**[08:14] Main**

*The minstrels around the East  
Gate can't even lace his boots!*

**[08:21] Ferdinand**

From the vast blue skies

**[08:27] Ferdinand**

Come the rays of light

**[08:32] Ferdinand**

The blessings of Leidenschaft

**[08:37] Ferdinand**

So shine the leaflets

**[08:39] Ferdinand**

So sweet the wind smells

**[08:41] Ferdinand**

So burns the flame of life

**[08:44] Ferdinand**

In summer

**[08:55] Main**

That was wonderful!

**[08:57] Main**

If you were to sing love songs, you would  
have no shortage of women falling for you!

**[09:02] Ferdinand**

What are you saying?

**[09:05] Main**

It was a compliment, honestly.

**[09:07] Ferdinand**

Anyway, you give it a try.

**[09:10] Main**

What? Now?

**[09:19] Ferdinand**

This is the most basic note.

**[09:23] Main**

*Oh, hey, that's do.*

**[09:26] Main**

*Re.*

**[09:28] Main**

*Mi.*

**[09:29] Ferdinand**

This is what you call a musical scale.

**[10:05] Ferdinand**

This is a surprise.

**[10:07] Ferdinand**

I wasn't sure how much a commoner  
could really understand about music,

**[10:11] Ferdinand**

but it seems you'll pick it up soon enough.

**[10:14] Main**

*Yikes! I went and made  
it harder for myself!*

**[10:18] Ferdinand**

Make sure you practice playing  
the harspiel every day.

**[10:22] Main**

May I take time out of helping  
you with work for it?

**[10:26] Ferdinand**

Spend less time reading instead!

**[10:29] Main**

I will defend that time with my life!

**[10:32] Main**

*In the end, we settled on reducing  
the time I spent helping him.*

**[10:37] Main**

All right.

**[10:39] Main**

The head priest gave his permission,  
so I'm making you my retainer.

**[10:44] Wilma**

I shall do my very best  
to serve you, Lady Main.

**[10:48] Main**

By the way, is Rosina here?

**[10:50] Wilma**

I'll go get her for you.

**[11:01] Main**

*Whoa.*

**[11:02] Main**

*Talk about a pure mademoiselle!*

**[11:05] Main**

*I guess this is how the head priest  
expects me to conduct myself.*

**[11:11] Ralph**

Lady Main, you wished to speak to me?

**[11:15] Main**

I'm making you my retainer at the  
head priest's recommendation.

**[11:21] Main**

Your main job is to teach me  
how to play the harspiel.

**[11:25] Main**

Aside from that, you will share  
the duties of my other retainers.

**[11:30] Main**

Do you have any objections?

**[11:33] Ralph**

How could I ever?!

**[11:35] Ralph**

The harspiel is my best instrument!

**[11:40] Main**

*Rosina moved into the director's office  
as soon as she got everything ready.*

**[11:45] Ralph**

My, look at those harspiels!

**[11:47] Main**

Could you play it for me?

**[11:51] Ralph**

May I?

**[11:52] Main**

Of course. Please do.

**[11:55] Ralph**

Please bring me my harspiel, then.

**[12:05] Ralph**

I can't believe I get to play again.

**[12:09] Ralph**

Could you get me my chair?

**[12:18] Main**

*Something seems off.*

**[12:20] Main**

*What is it?*

**[12:47] Ralph**

Lady Main, I promise to serve  
you with all my heart.

**SIGN** Ascendance of a  
Bookworm

**SIGN** Ascendance of a  
Bookworm

**[13:03] Delia**

Oh, honestly!

**[13:04] Delia**

Lady Main!

**[13:06] Main**

What's the matter, Delia?

**[13:08] Delia**

Rosina's not working at all.

**[13:10] Rosina**

Goodness! It's rather rude of  
you to accuse me of not working.

**[13:15] Delia**

She doesn't do a single thing other  
than play that instrument of hers.

**[13:19] Delia**

She won't even get up in the mornings.

**[13:21] Main**

Is that true, Rosina?

**[13:23] Rosina**

My job is to teach you

the harspiel, Lady Main.

**[13:28] Rosina**

Now, let us practice.

**[13:32] Main**

Delia, I have to practice now.

I promise I'll hear you out later.

**[13:39] Delia**

Oh, all right.

**[13:47] Main**

Thank you.

**[13:49] Rosina**

Could you kindly take my harspiel, as well?

**[13:52] Main**

*She's doing it again.*

**[13:56] Main**

Rosina.

**[13:58] Main**

Why are you giving Fran orders?

**[14:01] Rosina**

Why?

**[14:02] Main**

Fran is my head retainer.

**[14:05] Main**

Don't forget that.

**[14:07] Rosina**

What?

**[14:08] Main**

I'm going to go help the head priest now,

**[14:11] Main**

so I ask that you fetch some  
water with Delia, Rosina.

**[14:14] Rosina**

Whatever are you saying?

**[14:17] Rosina**

Isn't that the work of  
a gray-robed priestess?

**[14:19] Main**

What?

**[14:21] Rosina**

I may damage my fingers doing  
servant work like that.

**[14:26] Rosina**

Just have the apprentices  
over there take care of that.

**[14:30] Main**

Rosina, I will not allow you  
to talk down to my retainers.

**[14:35] Main**

And I'm certain I asked you to perform other duties, as well.

**[14:39] Rosina**

But Lady Main, I'm different from other retainers.

**[14:44] Rosina**

Why is that so hard to understand?

**[14:47] Rosina**

It appears that you've misunderstood your position as a blue-robed apprentice priestess.

**[14:51] Main**

I'm wrong?

**[14:52] Delia**

You're the one who's wrong, Rosina!

**[14:54] Fran**

Delia!

**[14:57] Main**

I'm still not familiar with all of the ways of the church.

**[15:00] Main**

I'm going to listen to what everyone has to say

**[15:03] Main**

before deciding if you are right or wrong, Rosina.

**[15:09] Fran**

Wilma and Rosina's previous master, Lady Christine,

**[15:14] Fran**

was a blue-robed apprentice priestess who loved nothing more than art.

**[15:17] Fran**

She favored retainers who showed talent in the arts.

**[15:22] Fran**

Rosina was favored by her master because she excelled in music,

**[15:27] Fran**

and the servant work was all done by the other gray-robed apprentice priest retainers.

**[15:31] Fran**

And I believe that is why she looks down upon gray-robed priests as well as their apprentices.

**[15:37] Main**

That's going to be a huge issue.

**[15:41] Ferdinand**

The word of the head retainer  
is the word of their master.

**[15:44] Ferdinand**

You do not need retainers who refuse to  
understand this, so return them to the orphanage.

**[15:49] Main**

But then I won't be able to  
practice the harspiel, would I?

**[15:53] Ferdinand**

We just need to find you someone else.

**[16:01] Main**

Head Priest, I know I may be  
out of line for asking this,

**[16:04] Main**

but may I be excused for the day?

**[16:08] Main**

I'd like to hear what all  
of my retainers have to say,

**[16:10] Main**

so I'd like some time to talk to them.

**[16:14] Wilma**

You want my opinion?

**[16:17] Main**

Yes. I heard that under Lady Christine,

**[16:20] Main**

the servant work was only  
done by the gray-robed priests.

**[16:24] Main**

Do you agree with that statement, Wilma?

**[16:27] Wilma**

After Lady Christine returned to noble  
life and I was returned to the orphanage,

**[16:33] Wilma**

that was when I found out  
my treatment had been special.

**[16:38] Main**

So it's just Rosina...

**[16:42] Wilma**

Lady Main, if you could, please give Rosina  
time to reflect upon herself, as well.

**[16:50] Main**

I hear you loud and clear.

**[16:52] Main**

Thank you.

**[17:00] Main**

*And then, we had our discussion.*

**[17:03] Gil**

Her instrument is so loud, she doesn't listen  
to anyone, and she doesn't work!

**[17:07] Gil**

Haven't you ever heard of, "He who  
does not work, neither shall he eat"?

**[17:10] Delia**

How am I supposed to work  
with someone like her?

**[17:13] Delia**

Fire her already, Lady Main!

**[17:15] Rosina**

It's only obvious that I dedicate  
everything I have to my art,

**[17:18] Rosina**

since it is my duty to teach Lady  
Main how to play the harspiel.

**[17:22] Rosina**

I'd like for you to broaden your horizons  
for the arts a bit more, Lady Main.

**[17:28] Main**

Rosina, I can't have you expecting the  
exact same treatment you had before.

**[17:32] Rosina**

What?

**[17:33] Main**

If you're going to be my retainer, I need  
you to attend to duties other than music, as well.

**[17:39] Main**

I understand that your hands are very  
important when it comes to handling your instrument,

**[17:43] Main**

so perhaps you can work on some paperwork.

**[17:45] Rosina**

But I've never done anything of that nature.

**[17:52] Main**

If there are things you don't  
know or you think you can't do,

**[17:54] Main**

this is the perfect  
opportunity to learn them.

**[17:56] Main**

When Gil and Delia first became my  
retainers, they weren't able to write letters,

**[18:01] Main**

but after some hard work,  
they were able to learn how.

**[18:07] Main**

But I have no use for retainers who  
refuse to do any work from the start.

**[18:19] Main**

Rosina, I am not Lady Christine.

**[18:25] Main**

You can either accept these terms  
or go back to the orphanage.

**[18:29] Main**

Please make your decision by tomorrow.

**[18:54] Rosina**

I guess I can't go back  
to how things used to be.

**[19:00] Wilma**

If you work hard, Lady  
Main will acknowledge you.

**[19:25] Rosina**

I would like to put in the effort  
to be your retainer, Lady Main.

**[19:30] Ferdinand**

Oh?

**[19:31] Ferdinand**

So you decided to keep her?

**[19:34] Main**

Yes. She'll be doing paperwork.

**[19:38] Main**

Though I'm sure that her desire to play the  
harspiel is what drove her to this decision.

**[19:42] Ferdinand**

Well, that works in our favor.

**[19:45] Ferdinand**

Because I wanted to see how  
your practice is going.

**[19:50] Main**

I-In ten days?!

**[19:54] Main**

*And so began my hardcore lessons.*

**[20:15] Main**

Let us understand happiness together...

**[20:35] Ferdinand**

Well done.

**[20:38] Main**

It's all thanks to you, Rosina!

**[20:40] Rosina**

No, it's because you're a  
quick learner, Lady Main.

**[20:50] Main**

What?

**[20:51] Main**

Wilma doesn't like to be around men?

**[20:54] Rosina**

You had no idea?

**[20:57] Rosina**

I thought that was the reason that  
Wilma remained at the orphanage.

**[21:04] Main**

I wonder if there's a reason why...

**[21:09] Rosina**

Wilma was tricked by a blue-robed priest,  
and forced to offer her flower to him.

**[21:15] Main**

Huh?

**[21:16] Rosina**

Thankfully, no other harm came to her...

**[21:20] Rosina**

But she has been afraid of men ever since.

**SIGN** Next Chapter Wilma and Holy Scriptures for Kids

**[23:02] Main**

The head priest sent me bedclothes  
along with my harspiel...

**[23:07] Main**

Is this common for nobles?

**[23:11] Fran**

I believe he sent it to you to apologize  
for making you faint in the detention room.

**[23:17] Ferdinand**

Do not mention this to anyone.

**[23:19] Ferdinand**

Because you usually only  
receive bedclothes

**[23:22] Ferdinand**

from your family, betrothed, or lover.

**[23:24] Main**

Wait, why would you do something like  
this that'd give people the wrong idea?!

**[23:27] Ferdinand**

It's your fault for not having bedclothes prepared  
for yourself when you pass out all the time.

**[23:31] Main**

Can I return that lecture  
along with this gift?

**SIGN** Illustration by Sagara Riri

Updated 2024-01-01 07:13:41 UTC by whimsee