

# E27 - The Beginning of Winter

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

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**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Chapter Twenty-Seven The Beginning of Winter

**[01:39] Main**

*The end of autumn.*

**[01:43] Main**

*Right around the time where the farmers  
come to sell their harvest...*

**[01:48] Main**

*I was...*

**[01:52] Ferdinand**

Main, that's enough.

**[01:59] Main**

Okay!

**[02:01] Ferdinand**

The Dedication Ceremony is coming up soon.

**[02:03] Ferdinand**

Reserve your mana for now.

**[02:06] Main**

Understood, Head Priest.

**[02:08] Ferdinand**

How are preparations for  
your winter stay here going?

**[02:12] Main**

Th-They're going great.

**[02:17] Ferdinand**

Judging from that look on your face, you  
appear to have a lot more work to do.

**[02:21] Ferdinand**

It will start snowing soon.

**[02:23] Ferdinand**

As I stated before,

**[02:25] Ferdinand**

you not being able to come here because  
of a blizzard will be an issue.

**[02:28] Ferdinand**

Hurry along with the preparations.

**[02:29] Main**

Okay...

**[02:39] Lutz**

I think 80 books is about all  
we can do with what we have.

**[02:43] Main**

That's plenty.

**[02:45] Lutz**

Don't worry. We'll get them made and  
sold by the time of your winter stay.

**[02:51] Main**

I really wasn't planning to sell  
the scripture picture books.

**[02:56] Main**

This is all Mister Benno's fault.

**(Flashback) [02:59] Benno**

You're going to hole up at the cathedral?

**(Flashback) [03:01] Benno**

Then you'll need a dressing gown,  
a visiting dress, a nightgown,

**(Flashback) [03:05] Benno**

and street clothes, as well  
as some thicker socks.

**(Flashback) [03:07] Benno**

As for your undergarments, make  
some that are high-quality.

**(Flashback) [03:11] Benno**

Buy the fabric from my shop and have your  
mother or Tuuli sew them for you.

**(Flashback) [03:16] Main**

I'm not exactly planning on having  
anyone see me in these undies,

**(Flashback) [03:19] Main**

so they can probably be a bit worn out.

**(Flashback) [03:22] Benno**

How stupid are you?!

That's not the issue here!

**(Flashback) [03:25] Benno**

You get sick easily enough as is!

**(Flashback) [03:28] Benno**

Make sure you dress warmly!

**(Flashback) [03:30] Main**

And I'm telling you I'm not going to  
be able to get all of those things.

**(Flashback) [03:35] Benno**

Mmhm... In that case...

**(Flashback) [03:38] Benno**

You should sell this book!

**[03:45] Main**

*So yeah, I sold my soul.*

**[03:52] Benno**

I'm Benno from the Gilberta Company.

**[03:54] Benno**

I've come to fill out the necessary paperwork to sell this book.

**[03:56] Freida**

Oh, Main? It is you, Main!

**[03:59] Main**

Freida.

**[04:00] Freida**

Hello.

**[04:04] Main**

It's been a while.

**[04:05] Freida**

I was worried when I heard that you went to the cathedral,

**[04:08] Freida**

but I'm happy to see that you seem well.

**[04:10] Main**

Thanks for worrying about me.

**[04:13] Main**

How are the pound cakes selling?

**[04:15] Freida**

Quite well, actually.

**[04:17] Freida**

The nobles have taken quite a liking to them, as well.

**[04:20] Freida**

I'd be happy to buy more recipes from you if you have any.

**[04:24] Freida**

At a reasonable price, that is.

**[04:28] Main**

Say, Freida...

**[04:29] Main**

Look. I finally made my book.

**[04:32] Freida**

What?

**[04:34] Freida**

This is a book?

**[04:38] Freida**

Indeed, it is a book.

**[04:40] Freida**

But is it just the inside?

**[04:42] Main**

That paper is the cover.

**[04:44] Main**

We're going to have one of the studios  
we're working with create a cover

**[04:47] Main**

made out of leather the  
way we want it, too.

**[04:51] Freida**

Main, how much is this book?

**[04:54] Main**

Huh? Um...

**[04:57] Benno**

That'll be one small gold  
coin and eight large silvers.

**[05:00] Benno**

Are you going to buy it?

**[05:02] Freida**

Yes, I will, actually.

**SIGN** Commercial Spirit

**[05:06] Main**

Compared to these two, I'm definitely  
not cut out to be a merchant!

**[05:13] Freida**

I must say, this is the best purchase  
I've made in quite a while.

**[05:19] Freida**

Main, your next picture book should  
be about the seasonal gods and their kindred.

**[05:26] Freida**

I have such a hard time  
remembering the gods' kindred.

**[05:30] Main**

Sure...

**[05:32] Main**

*I promised Freida I would make  
a book about the kindred,*

**[05:36] Main**

*and left the Merchants' Guild behind.*

**[05:39] Benno**

Who knew we'd encounter a pest like that?

**[05:41] Benno**

At least we'll be able  
to sell the book now.

**[05:43] Main**

R-Right...

**[05:45] Johann**

Please wait!

**[05:46] Johann**

Young lady from the Gilberta Company!

**[05:53] Main**

Oh, Johann.

**[05:55] Benno**

Who's that?

**[05:56] Main**

He's an apprentice blacksmith.

**[06:00] Benno**

Ah... Did you need something?

**[06:03] Johann**

Miss, please!

**[06:05] Main**

Huh?

**[06:06] Johann**

Please become my patron.

**[06:09] Main**

Patron?!

**[06:14] Johann**

I'm going to become an adult next year.

**[06:17] Johann**

So I need to find a patron out of my customers who believes in my skills

**[06:20] Johann**

and can financially back me.

**[06:23] Johann**

And I need to make what this patron wants me to make within a year.

**[06:29] Benno**

This is what blacksmithing apprentices must go through once they become an adult.

**[06:33] Benno**

If they succeed, they will be considered a professional.

**[06:36] Main**

You're pretty skilled, Johann, so I'm sure you'd find a patron pretty easily.

**[06:41] Johann**

Most of the customers don't really seem to like my work.

**[06:45] Johann**

Because... I'm so particular about the finer details.

**[06:49] Main**

*Come to think of it,*

**[06:51] Main**

*when I asked Johann to make me  
tools to make my picture book...*

**(Flashback) [06:55] Johann**

I've never had anyone request such a  
fine, thin, and small blade before.

**(Flashback) [07:00] Johann**

What are you going to use it for?

**(Flashback) [07:02] Johann**

You won't be able to cut anything  
with a blade this small.

**(Flashback) [07:05] Johann**

You're going to cut plant-based paper?

**(Flashback) [07:07] Johann**

And this is that plant-based paper...

**(Flashback) [07:10] Johann**

If the paper's this thin, the blade  
will have to be thinner, too.

**(Flashback) [07:14] Johann**

And the shape of the blade will have to change  
depending on how you're going to cut these.

**(Flashback) [07:18] Johann**

How am I going to make a  
blade so thin and small?

**[07:21] Main**

I guess you have a point...

**[07:23] Main**

But you've really helped me out  
because you're so particular.

**[07:28] Johann**

You're the only one who says  
that about my work, Miss!

**[07:31] Main**

Huh?

**[07:32] Johann**

You're the only one who'd ever  
consider being my patron.

**[07:35] Main**

Um...

**[07:37] Johann**

Please, Main! No, Miss Main!

**[07:40] Benno**

Hey.

**[07:42] Benno**

If you truly want her as your patron,  
shouldn't you be calling her Lady Main?

**[07:47] Benno**

Anyway, she's a minor.

**[07:49] Benno**

She won't be able to be your patron without permission from her parents or guardians.

**[07:54] Johann**

So that's a no?

**[07:56] Benno**

You basically wasted your time.

**[08:06] Main**

Please wait.

**[08:09] Main**

So as long as I have cosigner,  
I can become his patron, right?

**[08:12] Johann**

Huh?

**[08:13] Benno**

What are you plotting?

**[08:20] Main**

Mister Benno, I have something  
I want Johann to make for me.

**[08:29] Benno**

Now what?

**[08:32] Main**

The things I want him to make if  
I become his patron are...

**[08:36] Main**

metal letter types!

**[08:39] Johann**

Metal... letter types?

**[08:42] Main**

Yes!

**SIGN** Met

**[08:44] Main**

Metal letter types!

**SIGN** Metal

**SIGN** Metal Letter

**SIGN** Metal Letter Types

**[08:47] Main**

Welp, I guess you twisted my arm!

**[08:49] Main**

For my precious little metal letter types,

**[08:51] Main**

I'll give you a long explanation  
without you even asking for it!

**SIGN** Letter Type

**[08:56] Main**

Letter types are basically letters carved backwards into blocks.

**[09:00] Main**

Essentially, they're like stamps of individual letters.

**[09:04] Main**

A long time ago, they were made by carving wood,

**[09:06] Main**

but by molding them out of metal instead, mass production became possible.

**[09:11] Main**

when you line these letters up on the page of a book, it's called a letterpress.

**[09:15] Main**

Then you set the letterpress and print.

**SIGN** Letter Type

**[09:18] Main**

When you print using a letterpress, it's called...

**SIGN** Letterpress

**[09:21] Main**

You guessed it. Letterpress printing.

**SIGN** Letterpress Printing

**[09:25] Main**

So historically, books could be mass produced

**[09:28] Main**

because of the introduction of letterpress printing,

**[09:31] Main**

but letterpress printing became more widespread because of metal letter types.

**[09:36] Main**

Which means that the production of metal letter types is the cornerstone of my ambitions!

**[09:41] Main**

It's the super-ultra-miracle-important first step!

**[09:45] Main**

Man... I haven't gotten to say something so worthwhile forever.

**[09:50] Main**

If the letter types differ in height, the letters will be uneven during printing,

**[09:53] Main**

so I'd like the size and the height of all the letter types to be exact.

**[09:57] Main**

I think if we have 50 each of the vowels and  
20 each of the consonants that'll be enough.

**[10:02] Main**

Also...

**[10:03] Johann**

U-Um...

**[10:05] Benno**

Well, she's basically always like this...

**[10:08] Benno**

But she'd be a great patron  
when it comes to getting paid.

**[10:12] Lutz**

If you don't think you can keep  
up with Main's crazy ideas,

**[10:15] Lutz**

you should hurry up and  
find another patron.

**[10:18] Main**

It's going to require very delicate  
work, and there'll be a lot to make...

**[10:22] Main**

What do you think?

**[10:30] Johann**

My request stands.

**[10:32] Johann**

Please become my patron.

**[10:37] Main**

Mister Benno, I'm counting  
on you to be my cosigner.

**[10:41] Johann**

Yes, please!

**[10:46] Benno**

Oh, all right. I give you  
permission as her guardian.

**[10:53] Johann**

Thank goodness you're such  
an understanding father!

**[10:56] Main**

Huh?

**[10:56] Benno**

What?!

**[10:58] Main**

He's not my father!

**[10:58] Benno**

There's no way that she's my daughter!

**[11:00] Johann**

Huh?

**[11:02] Lutz**

The master is single.

**[11:04] Johann**

Huh?

**[11:05] Benno**

If I was her father, I would  
never raise her as an air-headed,

**[11:08] Benno**

unguarded girl who doesn't  
think about her actions!

**[11:10] Main**

What are you talking about?

**[11:12] Main**

If you were my father, I would've  
run away from home already!

**[11:16] Benno**

As if you're that delicate!

**[11:19] Main**

I wouldn't even last here a day  
because you're so obnoxious!

**[11:22] Benno**

Who are you calling obnoxious, huh?

**[11:25] Main**

I'm home.

**[11:27] Main**

Oh, how cute!

**[11:29] Tuuli**

I know, right?

**[11:30] Eva**

That's what a noble's  
undergarment looks like.

**[11:33] Main**

Hm... I guess I wouldn't mind  
anyone seeing me in these.

**[11:37] Tuuli**

Huh? What did you just say, Main?

**[11:40] Main**

Oh, uh... I just mean they're lovely.

**[11:44] Eva**

We just have to prepare a few more of these  
by the time of your winter stay, right?

**[11:49] Main**

Yup. Thanks, Mom.

**[11:50] Tuuli**

I'll help, too.

**[11:52] Main**

Thank you, too, Tuuli.

**[11:55] Gunther**

I'm home.

**[11:56] Main**

Welcome home, Dad.

**[11:58] Gunther**

Here's a gift for you, Main.

**[12:00] Tuuli**

You bought them again?

**[12:02] Main**

Hey, they're tanie!

**[12:05] Main**

I love you, Dad!

**[12:06] Gunther**

I love you, too, Main!

**[12:10] Tuuli**

And he bought raffle fruits yesterday, too.

**[12:13] Tuuli**

Dad's spoiling Main way too much.

**[12:15] Eva**

I can't really blame him.

**[12:16] Eva**

Soon, she'll be away on her winter stay, and we won't be able to see each other.

**[12:21] Tuuli**

At this rate, I think Dad is going to have a harder time than Main is.

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**SIGN** Ascendance of a Bookworm

**[12:36] Main**

*The scriptures picture book sold by the Gilberta Company*

**[12:41] Main**

*started selling among the rich who had connections with nobles.*

**[12:50] Young Employee**

Er, excuse me, sir... Would you like to purchase that?

**[12:55] Man A**

Yeah.

**[12:58] Man A**

Here it is.

**[13:03] Wolf**

There's no doubt about it...

**[13:05] Wolf**

It's ink.

**[13:07] Man A**

According to the foreman,

**[13:08] Man A**

the child from the Gilberta  
Company knows how to make ink.

**(Flashback) [13:13] Main**

I'm looking for oil-based ink.

**(Flashback) [13:16] Main**

Do you have any that aren't for parchment?

**(Flashback) [13:19] Bierce**

Ink is ink. There's only one kind.

**(Flashback) [13:22] Main**

Wait, please!

**(Flashback) [13:23] Main**

The ink that everyone makes...

**(Flashback) [13:25] Main**

is it made from the extracting  
the dye from plants...

**(Flashback) [13:27] Bierce**

Hey, where did you hear that from?

**(Flashback) [13:30] Main**

Um... Do you really not make  
any other kind of ink?

**(Flashback) [13:35] Bierce**

Other kind of ink?

**(Flashback) [13:36] Main**

I-If you don't, that's totally fine! Sorry!

**[13:42] Wolf**

Other kinds of ink?

**[13:45] Main**

What did you want to talk  
about, Mister Benno?

**[13:48] Benno**

The Ink Guild's gotten involved.

**[13:50] Main**

*Here we go. Vested interests.*

**[13:53] Benno**

I figured they would, but...  
It's going to be a hassle.

**[13:56] Benno**

What do you want to do?

**[13:57] Main**

I think we can sell our method of ink production  
and also abandon making any more ink.

**[14:03] Main**

You don't want any more enemies,

do you, Mister Benno?

**[14:06] Benno**

Hm... And it has nothing to do with my main business.

**[14:10] Benno**

If you'd consider that, it'd be helpful.

**[14:12] Main**

Then I guess we're set.

**[14:15] Lutz**

I've brought some tea.

**[14:28] Benno**

You've still got a ways to go.

**[14:30] Main**

But he's improving little by little.

**[14:33] Main**

It's good, Lutz.

**[14:36] Mark**

Sir, you have a guest from the Ink Guild.

**[14:40] Benno**

All right. Main, go see Corinna.

**[14:44] Main**

Huh?

**[14:45] Benno**

The head of the Ink Guild has connections with nobles,

**[14:49] Benno**

and there are plenty of terrible rumors about him.

**[14:51] Benno**

You should avoid him at all costs.

**[14:55] Main**

*While negotiations with the Ink Guild were going on,*

**[14:58] Main**

*I was getting fitted for some new ceremonial robes,*

**[15:01] Main**

*since my other ones were ruined trying to subjugate the trombe.*

**[15:04] Otto**

Corinna, you need to get some rest.

**[15:08] Otto**

Seriously... Corinna, you're pregnant,

**[15:11] Otto**

but you're getting upper-class noble work.

**[15:14] Main**

S-Sorry...

**[15:16] Corinna**

Otto.

**[15:17] Corinna**

How many times must I tell you that I don't appreciate you nagging me about work?

**[15:22] Otto**

I'm just worried about you, Corinna.

**[15:24] Corinna**

That's no excuse to complain in front of a customer!

**[15:27] Otto**

Now, calm down...

**[15:28] Corinna**

You're always the one upsetting me.

**[15:30] Otto**

It's not good for the little one in your belly if you get upset.

**[15:33] Main**

*I see they're as close as ever.*

**[15:41] Wolf**

I signed it.

**[15:42] Benno**

Lutz, take this contract upstairs and get a signature.

**[15:53] Lutz**

It's good that you stayed up here, Main.

**[15:56] Main**

What do you mean?

**[15:57] Lutz**

The head of the Ink Guild's been looking for you.

**[16:00] Main**

Huh?

**[16:02] Lutz**

He said, "The one who mentioned a different way to prepare ink was a child.

**[16:06] Lutz**

If they're here, bring them out."

**[16:08] Lutz**

I don't like the look in his eyes.

**[16:10] Lutz**

Way worse than the guild master.

**[16:15] Lutz**

More importantly, let me see your hand.

**[16:18] Main**

Okay...

**[16:44] Lutz**

What do you think you're doing?!

Let go of me, you jerk!

**[16:48] Main**

Ooh, they kicked!

**[16:50] Corinna**

They're full of energy, aren't they?

**[16:53] Benno**

Main, Lutz had a run-in with a strange man.

**[16:56] Main**

What?

**[16:57] Benno**

They're probably from the Ink Guild.

**[16:59] Main**

Is Lutz okay?

**[17:01] Benno**

Yes. Mark is seeing him home now.

**[17:05] Benno**

You need to stay here until  
someone comes for you.

**[17:09] Main**

Okay.

**[17:14] Tuuli**

Main!

**[17:15] Main**

Tuuli!

**[17:17] Benno**

Trying to find out more information and  
seeking out Lutz are both unnatural things to do.

**[17:22] Benno**

There's no doubt that this is the  
work of the Ink Guild,

**[17:25] Benno**

but I'm not exactly sure  
what their motive is.

**[17:28] Benno**

If we're going to prioritize safety,

**[17:30] Benno**

we might want to have Main start  
staying at the cathedral now.

**[17:33] Tuuli**

What?

**[17:34] Benno**

They won't be able to get  
to her, if she's there.

**[17:38] Tuuli**

But starting her winter  
stay right now is...

**[17:44] Gunther**

Main, what do you want to do?

**[17:48] Main**

I don't want to be away from all of you,

**[17:51] Main**

but I'd regret it even more if something  
were to happen to any of you,

**[17:53] Main**

so I'll go to the cathedral.

**[17:55] Tuuli**

Main...

**[17:57] Main**

It should start snowing soon, anyway.

**[18:00] Gunther**

All right.

**[18:10] Fran**

Understood.

**[18:12] Fran**

I will inform the head priest as well.

**[18:15] Main**

I'll tell everyone else.

**[18:18] Fran**

Lady Main, perhaps you  
should not tell Delia.

**[18:25] Fran**

Delia still has connections  
with the high priest.

**[18:28] Main**

Wait, still?

**[18:31] Fran**

Considering Delia's situation,

**[18:33] Fran**

it would be rather difficult for her  
to completely cut ties with him.

**[18:38] Main**

It's so that she can continue  
to survive here...

**[18:42] Fran**

We will go ahead and take  
Lady Main into our care.

**[18:45] Gunther**

Take good care of Main, Fran.

**[18:47] Fran**

Of course.

**[18:49] Gunther**

Main, make sure you don't cause  
too much trouble for everyone.

**[18:53] Gunther**

And make sure you tell the  
head priest everything.

**[18:57] Gunther**

No good comes out of not  
communicating with your boss.

**[19:02] Main**

Boss?

**[19:05] Main**

Okay.

**[19:08] Tuuli**

We'll come visit you on breaks,

**[19:10] Tuuli**

so make sure you behave until then, Main.

**[19:16] Main**

Yeah... I'll be waiting.

**[19:21] Ferdinand**

Make sure Main stays in her room  
until we can get more information.

**[19:26] Fran**

As you wish.

**[19:27] Fran**

Also, Main's family has mentioned  
that they would like to come see her.

**[19:32] Fran**

I'm sure that Lady Main will be lonely,

**[19:34] Fran**

so I would be grateful if  
you would allow this.

**[19:36] Ferdinand**

That's fine.

**[19:38] Ferdinand**

The bigger problem would be  
if her mana were to go berserk

**[19:40] Ferdinand**

from her not being able  
to control her emotions.

**[19:43] Ferdinand**

I'd like to avoid doing the Dedication  
Ceremony in that manner as much as possible,

**[19:48] Ferdinand**

because she will have to face the  
high priest there, no matter what.

**[19:52] Fran**

Right.

**[19:55] Delia**

What?

**[19:56] Main**

It's a long story, but I'm going to be staying at the cathedral starting today.

**[20:00] Delia**

What exactly is this long story?

**[20:02] Main**

I can't really talk about it right now.

**[20:05] Main**

I hope you'll understand.

**[20:15] Tuuli**

Do you think Main will be okay by herself?

**[20:19] Tuuli**

We should have brought her these, too.

**[20:23] Rosina & Delia**

Good night, Lady Main.

**[20:26] Main**

Good night, Delia and Rosina.

**[20:51] Main**

*I immediately became homesick just after a day.*

**[21:00] Gunther**

The nobility can piss off.  
I'm going to protect Main.

**[21:06] Wolf**

If this is an order, I will see it through, but this is quite the request...

**[21:12] Wolf**

This will require a bit of preparation...

**SIGN** Next Chapter The Story About Winter Stays and the Future

**[22:58] Main**

It's finally about to start!

**[23:00] Main**

We offer the gods our prayers!

**[23:02] Ferdinand**

I hate to bring down your mood when you're so excited, but this is not a book.

**[23:06] Ferdinand**

A proper book has words that are handwritten on pages of parchment.

**[23:11] Ferdinand**

They include detailed illustrations,

**[23:13] Ferdinand**

and the leather covers are decorated with gold or jewels.

**[23:16] Ferdinand**

These magnificent pieces of art are what you call "books."

**[23:20] Main**

But I want to make books more affordable  
and get them out to the masses!

**[23:24] Ferdinand**

A proper merchant would want to raise prices  
and keep as much profit for themselves.

**[23:29] Ferdinand**

You are not fit to be a merchant.

**[23:31] Main**

I don't need to hear that from you.

**SIGN** Illustration by Shiina You

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Revision #1

Created 2024-01-01 07:40:31 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2024-01-01 07:40:31 UTC by whimsee