

12 - The King's Departure

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(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

[00:02] Mary

Welcome to the Xyrus branch
of the Adventurers Guild.

[00:06] Mary

Please state your business.

[00:09] Jasmine

He's here for a rank assessment.

SIGN #12 The King's Departure.

[01:45] Grey

*Upon making the request,
I was taken to a separate room.*

[01:49] Grey

*From Jasmine's demeanor, I can
assume that this isn't a problem.*

[01:53] Grey

*I've been concealing my face in order to ensure
the royal family won't target my own, but...*

[01:59] Grey

*It seems to be having some
kind of effect already.*

[02:03] Kaspian

Enter.

[02:04] Mary

I've brought the A-Class adventurer,
Jasmine Flamesworth.

[02:09] Mary

Her companion is here to have his rank assessed.

[02:13] Kaspian

Oh, thank you.

[02:16] Kaspian

It's nice to meet you.

[02:17] Kaspian

I'm chief of the Adventurers Guild's
Xyrus branch, Kaspian Bladeheart.

[02:25] Kaspian

Usually, before the practical exam,

[02:27] Kaspian

there's a written exam and confirmation
needed for your mana core,

[02:31] Kaspian

but considering who's recommended you...

[02:34] Kaspian

I think we can skip those formalities.

[02:37] Kaspian

Your father actually came by just
the other day, Miss Flamesworth.

[02:45] Kaspian

Now, given that registration doesn't
require your true identity...

[02:49] Kaspian

What should I call you?

[02:53] Arthur

Note, if you'd please.

[03:01] Grey

He's strong.

[03:03] Kaspian

Note. I see. In the musical sense.

[03:09] Kaspian

It's a pleasure to make your acquaintance, Note.

[03:12] Kaspian

Now, on to the exam hall.

[03:17] Arthur

Jasmine, do you know the guild chief?

[03:21] Jasmine

In a sense.

[03:23] Jasmine

My father has connections with the
Adventurers Guild that run deep.

[03:33] Jasmine

Huh. Arthur, does your partner look different?

[03:36] Arthur

Yeah. I noticed just recently that
Sylvie can change her appearance a little.

[03:46] Mary

Here we are. This is the exam hall.

[04:16] Emily

Your use of mana and incantation
speed are commendable.

[04:20] Emily

But your defenses are lacking.

[04:22] Emily

Diane Whitehall, you are C-Class.

[04:25] Diane

Right!

[04:26] Jasmine

To be a C-Class conjurer at that age is pretty promising.

[04:31] George

Next is Elijah Knight.

[04:33] George

Right this way.

[04:36] George

Actually, one second, please.

[04:41] George

After confirming,

[04:43] George

Elijah Knight will be a B-Class adventurer.

[04:48] Adventurer A

B-Class? Without even taking the exam?

[04:52] Adventurer B

That's crazy.

[04:54] Arthur

What do you think is going on?

[04:55] Jasmine

No idea.

[04:57] George

Next is Lucas Wykes. Step forward.

[05:02] Lucas

Finally...

[05:04] Lucas

Don't suppose I could skip the exam and join A-Class, Madam Examiner?

[05:09] Emily

Lucas Wykes. 11 years old. Conjurer.

[05:14] Emily

At the light orange stage.
Elemental specialty is fire.

[05:18] Emily

Is this all correct?

[05:20] Jasmine

Light orange? But he's even younger than the other examinee.

[05:25] Arthur

Those ears...

[05:36] Emily

We'll begin now.

[05:38] Lucas

Come forth, my guardian!

[06:05] Arthur

What a massive attack.

[06:07] Grey

But can he maintain control?

[06:20] Emily

This brat...

[06:36] Emily

Well done, Mr. Wykes.

[06:39] Emily

Your mana capacity and ability to use advanced fire spells show potential.

[06:45] Emily

But—

[06:54] Lucas

He...

[06:55] Lucas

This exam doesn't count! An outsider interfered!

[06:59] George

Your exam was already over.

[07:01] George

Attempting a sneak attack despite that is completely unacceptable!

[07:05] Emily

That's your greatest weakness, I'd wager. B-Class seems right.

[07:12] Lucas

This isn't over, you hear me?!
My father will hear about this!

[07:17] George

Next, Note.

[07:20] Jasmine

Arthur... or rather, Note. Good luck.

[07:32] George

There's nothing at all in your file.

[07:35] George

Are you here for the exam under extenuating—

[07:41] George

Wh-What the—

[07:42] Kaspian

Hold it right there.

[07:44] George

Chief?

[07:45] Kaspian

Step aside. I'll take care of this one.

[07:49] George

But sir, an AA-Class sorcerer such as yourself administering an exam personally is unheard of.

[07:55] Kaspian

I'm not doubting your skills.

[07:58] Kaspian

I just happen to know his guarantor pretty well.

[08:03] Kaspian

You don't mind, do you, Note?

[08:06] Grey

The chief of Sapin's largest adventurer guild.

[08:10] Grey

Not only that, but he's an AA-Class adventurer.

[08:14] Grey

His defenses are flawless. I doubt this will be a typical practical exam.

[08:23] Kaspian

Let's begin.

[08:30] Mary

Congratulations!

[08:32] Mary

Starting today, you are registered
as a B-Class adventurer.

[08:36] Jasmine

You're officially an adventurer, now.

[08:42] George

Sir, please explain!

[08:43] Emily

So many B-Class adventurers
named in a single day...

[08:46] Emily

It's unheard of!

[08:48] George

And they're all children!

[08:51] Kaspian

Do the two of you remember what
happened six months ago here in Xyrus?

[08:57] Emily

Do you mean the meet and greet for
young people of all three races?

[09:03] Kaspian

In addition to that, the Kingdom of Sapin

[09:05] Kaspian

officially lifted the prohibition on
recognizing elf and dwarf adventurers.

[09:11] George

Wait, then those kids were elves? Or dwarves?

[09:16] Kaspian

Lucas Wykes is a half-elf that lives in Sapin.

[09:22] Kaspian

The specifics of his background

aren't known, but...

[09:26] Kaspian

I'd wager his mother is an elf slave.

[09:30] Kaspian

There have been rumors for a long time about the Wykes' family's questionable methods

[09:34] Kaspian

for producing sorcerer children.

[09:35] Emily

Then what about Elijah Knight, who we had no information on?

[09:39] George

Why did he get to skip the exam, on top of being named B-Class?

[09:42] Kaspian

Knight has someone who can act as a guarantor for his ability.

[09:47] Kaspian

Someone I'm afraid I am unable to overrule.

[09:51] Emily

Who could that be?

[09:52] Kaspian

There is apparently a human child in the Darv Kingdom who was raised by dwarves.

[09:58] George

And that's Elijah?

[10:00] Kaspian

He was sent to become accustomed to humans, as the first representative of the Darv Kingdom.

[10:06] Kaspian

That's my speculation, at least.

[10:08] Emily

For all this to happen so soon after allowing additional adventurer registrants...

[10:12] Emily

I can only wonder what will happen going forward.

[10:15] George

What about that masked augments that you examined, Chief?

[10:20] Kaspian

We know even less about him than Lucas and Elijah.

[10:25] Kaspian

To be honest, I have no idea who he might be.

[10:28] Kaspian

But I'm certain he wasn't

sent by the elves or dwarves.

[10:32] Kaspian

The fact that his guarantor belongs to the Flamesworth family,

[10:36] Kaspian

wielders of the most powerful fire magic in the kingdom, is very interesting.

[10:41] George

That's why his fire magic was so impressive.

[10:43] Kaspian

No, what I was really impressed with was his skill with a sword.

[10:52] Kaspian

His movement was awkward, likely due to the fact that he's still growing.

[10:58] Kaspian

I can only imagine how terrifying he will be once he's fully grown.

[11:22] (Flashback) Kaspian

Don't be overconfident.

[11:28] Jasmine

Note.

[11:30] Jasmine

Are you okay? You were spacing out.

[11:36] Grey

My duel with Kaspian made something clear.

[11:40] Grey

I've grown too accustomed to this world.

[11:45] Grey

Too accustomed to the powers this world affords me.

[11:47] Grey

I'm neglecting the diligence that brought me strength in my past life as a result.

[11:55] Arthur

Sorry.

[12:00] Elijah

The way you stopped him...

[12:02] Elijah

was reckless.

[12:06] Elijah

But if you hadn't done something, I would have.

[12:10] Lucas

Do you two know each other?

[12:13] Lucas

Or was there some get-together for the B-Class that I wasn't told about?

[12:18] Arthur

We didn't feel like inviting someone who breaks the rules, that's all.

[12:21] Lucas

Don't get full of yourself.

[12:24] Lucas

Even inside the same ranks, there are different levels!

[12:27] Jasmine

Stop.

[12:28] Adventurer C

Are those the kids?

[12:30] Adventurer D

Are they really children?

[12:32] Adventurer E

They do look young.

[12:33] Adventurers

Impressive.

[12:34] Adventurers

Looks like the Kingdom of Sapin has a promising new crop of adventurers.

[12:37] Elijah

We're drawing a lot of attention.

[12:39] Lucas

What a pain.

[12:42] Lucas

I won't let you pull that crap ever again!

[12:48] Jasmine

We should get going, too.

[12:50] Arthur

Sure. But where should we go?

[12:53] Jasmine

I've got a place in mind, actually.

[13:05] Arthur

Is this is a beast pasture?

[13:08] Arthur

It's more peaceful than I would've imagined.

[13:10] Jasmine

This area has already been thoroughly explored,

[13:13] Jasmine

so lower-class adventurers come here to train or collect material they'll need for quests.

[13:19] Arthur

Then why are we here?

[13:22] Jasmine

Let's get going. We're a day out from our actual destination.

[13:29] Grey

She's fast!

[13:31] Grey

I never underestimated her, but I'm caught off guard by just how fast she is.

[13:35] Grey

I seem to have been wrong about quite a few things today.

[13:42] Grey

He keeps getting faster!

[13:44] Grey

Is he trying to force my hand?

[13:51] Grey

In that case...

[13:53] Grey

After I finish this string of blocks,

[13:55] Grey

I'll use this spell!

[14:03] (Flashback) Kaspian

Don't be overconfident.

[14:05] Grey

Where did I make the wrong assumption?

[14:14] Jasmine

What was that?

[14:30] Jasmine

We need to run.

[14:32] Jasmine

That monster isn't native to this area.

[14:35] Jasmine

What's it doing here?

[14:42] Jasmine

They captured it alive, and then it escaped.

[14:44] Arthur

Why would they do that?

[14:49] Grey

It's going to catch us.

[15:09] Jasmine

Run, Arthur!

[15:24] Arthur

Jasmine!

[15:37] Jasmine

Thanks, Arthur.

[15:50] Jasmine

Not good!

[15:57] Grey

Not yet.

[16:02] Grey

Wait for the right moment.

[16:09] Jasmine

Arthur?

[16:10] Grey

I won't make the same mistake again.

[16:13] Grey/Arthur

I can not afford to.

I can not afford to.

[16:54] Jasmine

I guess you had it all figured out.

[16:59] Arthur

Owowowow!

[17:01] Arthur

What was that for?!

[17:02] Jasmine

*I wish you'd look a little more
worried in situations like that.*

[17:07] Jasmine

*Though that might sound weird
coming from me...*

[17:11] Grey

*Could someone please tell me where
I made the wrong assumption?*

[17:19] Jasmine

I became an adventurer to
get away from my family.

[17:25] Jasmine

The Flamesworths have produced
powerful sorcerers for generations.

[17:32] Jasmine

And I was always taught that fire
is the strongest of the elements,

[17:37] Jasmine

so I was proud to belong to that family.

[17:41] Jasmine

I think the fact that I awakened earlier
than any of my siblings is why my parents

[17:47] Jasmine

had such high expectations for me.

[17:50] Jasmine

And maybe that's why...

[17:53] Jasmine

When they realized I had no talent with
fire magic, they all started calling me

[17:59] Jasmine

a failure.

[18:01] Arthur

That doesn't make any sense!

[18:03] Arthur

I know that mana cores
have different power levels,

[18:06] Arthur

but there's no hierarchy of elements!

[18:08] Arthur

It's down to how well the caster uses them!

[18:16] Jasmine

Sorry! I've just never seen you
worked up like this, before.

[18:20] Jasmine

It was surprising to see you angry.

[18:25] Grey

*I think the outburst was due to how much what
she described reminded me of my past life.*

[18:31] Grey

Of how I was also called a failure.

[18:37] Arthur

But... it just doesn't make any sense.

[18:39] Jasmine

In the past, I've been scolded by the
Twinhorns for fighting like you did today.

[18:47] Jasmine

I didn't understand how to cooperate... or
how to convey to someone that you trust them.

[18:55] Jasmine

They taught me all of that.

[18:59] Jasmine

Meeting them is what changed me, bit by bit.

[19:03] Jasmine

Though they still get angry at me, occasionally.

[19:06] Jasmine

What about you?

[19:08] Arthur

I...

[19:17] Grey

Will I be able to change?

[19:21] Grey

Someone like me.

[19:24] (Flashback) Alice

Arthur.

[19:25] (Flashback) Reynolds

Arthur.

[19:26] (Flashback) Adam

Little Arthur.

[19:28] (Flashback) Tess

Art.

[19:29] (Flashback) Lilia

Arthur.

[19:30] (Flashback) Ellie

Big brother!

[19:34] Arthur

I can change.

[19:36] Arthur

I have to believe I can.

[19:39] Arthur

*So that going forward, I'll
always be able to protect them.*

[19:48] Tess

I was almost able to reach his hand...

[19:51] Tess

Well, not literally.

[19:53] Tess

And why is he traveling with a woman?!

[19:56] Tess

He seems to have a different
one with him every time I look!

[20:04] Viriion

That looked dangerous.

[20:06] Tess

G-Grandpa?! How long have you been there?

[20:09] Tess

I was just, uh...

[20:14] Tess

Sorry.

[20:17] Virion

If you're jealous that Arthur
is taking on a new challenge,

[20:22] Virion

why not start something yourself?

[20:26] Tess

Like what?

[20:27] Virion

Well, for example...

SIGN Two years later

[22:11] Customer A

You hear the rumors?

[22:13] Customer B

About the guy who's strong as hell?

[22:16] Customer B

It's gotta be a buncha nonsense.

[22:18] Customer A

Turns out, it's not. A friend of mine saw him.

[22:22] Customer A

He's supposed to be smaller than you'd think.

[22:24] Customer C

I've heard about this. He's traveling
with the Flamesworth girl, right?

[22:30] Customers

The Masked Swordsman!

[22:32] Jasmine

Come on, Note.

[22:34] Arthur

Okay, Jasmine.

[22:45] Grey

And now... it's time to set out.

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