THINK YOU COULD TAKE THAT MASK OFF FOR ME?

Page 79: Behind the Mask

HUH? WHAT'S THAT? YOU SUPER UGLY OR SOMETHING?

IT'S FINE, IT'S FINE, I SWEAR I WON'T LAUGH. WAH HA HA HA.

IT ISN'T... THE SORT OF FACE PEOPLE WOULD WANT TO SEE.

...

YAMI... YOU...

I KNOW WHAT THIS IS.

...

WELL, FRANKLY, YEAH.

YOU SUSPECT I MAY BE THE LEADER OF THE EYE OF THE MIDNIGHT SUN, DON'T YOU?

BUT...

PHOOO

IT'S BEEN, WHAT, ABOUT TEN YEARS SINCE I FIRST MET YOU?

THEIR BUILDS... THEIR VOICES...

I'M LATE APO G

LIGHT MAGIC AND WORLD TREE MAGIC. THE TYPES ARE DIFFERENT, BUT FOR SOME REASON, SOMETHING'S REALLY BUGGING ME.

AND, MORE THAN ANYTHING, THE FEEL OF THEIR KI IS THE SAME!

RRRR

AAA

I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING. MY APOLO-GIES.

THIS IS THE END!

I FEEL...

WE'RE NOT ALL THAT CLOSE, BUT... WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR QUITE A WHILE, RIGHT?

NOZEL'S BRAID SHOOK LIKE CRAZY WHEN THAT HAPPENED.

THEN WE BECAME CAPTAINS AT THE SAME TIME...

AFTER THAT, EVERY SO OFTEN, WE FOUGHT ON OTHER BATTLEFIELDS TOGETHER.

WE MET ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.

SO...

YOUR FACE. LEMME SEE IT, ALL RIGHT?

...SOMETHING SIMILAR IN YOU.

FINE...

SHUF

!



DID YOU GET THAT IN BATTLE?

THAT'S ONE HECK OF A SCAR.

THEY CALLED ME A CURSED CHILD.

NO. I WAS BORN WITH IT.

UNTIL I TURNED EIGHT, I LIVED IN THE FORSAKEN REALM.

I WAS THE ILLEGITIMATE CHILD OF A CERTAIN NOBLE.

HOW-EVER..

EVEN MAGIC COULDN'T FIX THIS SCAR, YOU SEE.

THE PEOPLE AROUND ME THOUGHT IT WAS CREEPY, AND THEY WERE AFRAID OF ME.

IT WAS A HELLISH CHILDHOOD.

HOWEVER, EVEN THERE THEY LOATHED MY FACE. IN ADDITION, THE NOBLE'S LAWFUL WIFE, MY FOSTER MOTHER, BADLY ABUSED ME.

FORTU-NATELY, I HAD GREAT MAGICAL POWER, AND MY WORLD TREE MAGIC WAS VIEWED AS A CURIOSITY.

WHEN THE NOBLE LOST HIS HEIR, I WAS TAKEN IN AS AN ARISTOCRAT.

...REALLY HAD IT ROUGH TOO, HUH?

YOU'VE...

HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT MY APPEARANCE. ALL HE SAW WAS MY POWER.

BUT IN THE MIDST OF ALL THAT, I MET MASTER JULIUS.

HOW SUBLIME! HOW MAJESTIC!! THAT'S TERRIFIC!!

WORLD TREE MAGIC?!

YOU REALLY MUST JOIN THE MAGIC KNIGHTS, MY BOY!

MOST OF ALL... IT'S AS THOUGH YOUR KINDNESS IS TRYING TO PROTECT EVERYTHING. WHAT WONDERFUL MAGIC!

HMM. IN THAT CASE...

BUT... MY FACE...

?

IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

...

I'LL GIVE YOU THIS MASK!

TA-DAAAH

SAY WHAT?!

I put everything I had into that!

AGH

MASTER JULIUS... THIS IS SO... TACKY.

I WAS HAPPY.

I WANTED TO PLEDGE MY GRIMOIRE TO HIS SERVICE.

I'VE HEARD A STORY LIKE THAT SOMEWHERE BEFORE.

...

AND MORE THAN ANY-THING...

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE DOING ANYTHING TRICKY WITH MAGIC OR SHOWING ME AN ILLUSION.

I CAN'T FEEL THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF MAGIC FROM THAT SCAR THOUGH.

THE LINES OF HIS FACE LOOK LIKE LICHT'S.

I GUESS IT WAS JUST AN ODD COINCIDENCE...

HIS KI IS TELLING ME HE'S NOT LYING.

NO...

I DIDN'T MEAN TO MAKE YOU FEEL BAD.

SORRY.

I SEE...

THANK YOU, YAMI.

I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO TELL AND SHOW YOU THINGS AS THEY REALLY ARE.

YEAH...

OH. IF WE'RE MOVING CAPTIVES, I BROUGHT SOME HANDY PEOPLE ALONG. LET'S WORK 'EM HARD.

Heh...

WITHIN REASON, YES.

SHALL WE GO TOO? TRANSPORTING THE CAPTIVES IS SURE TO BE QUITE A CHORE.

CAPTAIN VAN-GEANCE! THE DIAMONDS HAVE BEGUN RETREATING!

GOOD IDEA!

La?! Already?!

BADUP BADUP

WELL, THE FIGHTING'S SETTLED DOWN. SHOULD WE GO MEET UP WITH MISTER YAMI NOW?!

Laaaaaa!! Scales!! Your scales got into my eyyyyes!!

Arrrrgh! Stay away from Yuno, you thieving raccoon!

YEAH. SEE YOU, ASTA. DON'T EAT STUFF OFF THE GROUND.

LATER, YUNO!

LIKE I'D DO THAT!!

I USED TO DO IT A LOT, BUT...

UH... UM... C-COULD YOU MAYBE TELL ME YOUR ADDRESS?

NOJIKE NOJIKE

Laaaaaaa! Next time, I will fry you!

Hey.

Bleeeeeh!

AREN'T YOU EMBAR-RASSED TO BE SEEN WITH PEOPLE LIKE THEM?

SHUF

GOOD GRIEF... WHAT A VULGAR LOT THEY WERE.

YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS MORE CAREFULLY, YUNO.

I'M PROUD OF ASTA, AND HE'S MY RIVAL.

I'VE NEVER THOUGHT THAT. NOT EVEN ONCE.

WHY ...?

YEAH...

RIVAL IN WHAT? ARE YOU TWO COMPETING FOR SOME-THING?

AH HA HA HA! RIVAL?! THAT GUY?!

YOU PEOPLE ARE WAY TOO LAID-BACK!!

Although I'm the one who said it...

HNCH HNCH

THERE, THERE. EAT THIS.

GOT A STOMACHACHE OR SOMETHING, MISTER FINRAL?

SNARF SNARF SNARF

THE WORST BRIGADE PICKED A FIGHT WITH THE TOUGHEST BRIGADE!

YAAAA-AAUGH, I SAID IT!!

I wanted to talk with Yuno moooore! Laaaaaa!

Charmy, stress eating!!

CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP CHOMP

Arrrrrgh! I want to hurry up and train with my swords!

BY THE WAY, ASTA. WAS IT ALL RIGHT TO JUST LEAVE THAT ABRUPTLY?

THE GOOD-LOOKING GUY IS YOUR OLD FRIEND, ISN'T HE?

WE'LL JUST MEET ON SOME OTHER BATTLEFIELD ANYWAY!

IT'S FINE!

I'm fated to meet him again too... Laaa...

BECAUSE WE'RE BOTH WORKING TO BECOME THE WIZARD KING!!

YOU REALLY *AREN'T* EMBAR-RASSED, ARE YOU?!

AH HA HA HA HA HA!!

I'D EXPECT NO LESS FROM YOU, THE GREAT PEASANT CHOSEN BY THE FOUR-LEAF GRIMOIRE!

AHHHH... DO YOU COMMONERS EVEN FEEL EMBAR-RASSMENT?

AND SO, FIRST...

THERE'S NO RULE THAT COMMONERS CAN'T BECOME THE WIZARD KING.

IF YOU MAKE FUN OF YUNO, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE Y-

SHREEE

HEY, WHAT'S YOUR PROB-LEM ?!

...OF THE GOLDEN DAWN.

I'LL BECOME CAPTAIN ...

MEANING YOU'RE COMPLETELY IGNORING ME, THE VICE CAPTAIN...!

OH, YES?

OHO...! WITH OTHERS' MAGIC... WORLD TREE MAGIC, HM?

OFFENSIVE SPATIAL MAGIC AND...

I SEE... A SYLPH...!

FROM HERE ON OUT...

I GUESS THE CRUMBLING GENERALS OF THE PREVIOUS ERA WERE A LITTLE USEFUL.

SO THAT'S THE GOLDEN DAWN, THE STRONGEST MAGIC KNIGHTS BRIGADE IN THE CLOVER KINGDOM.

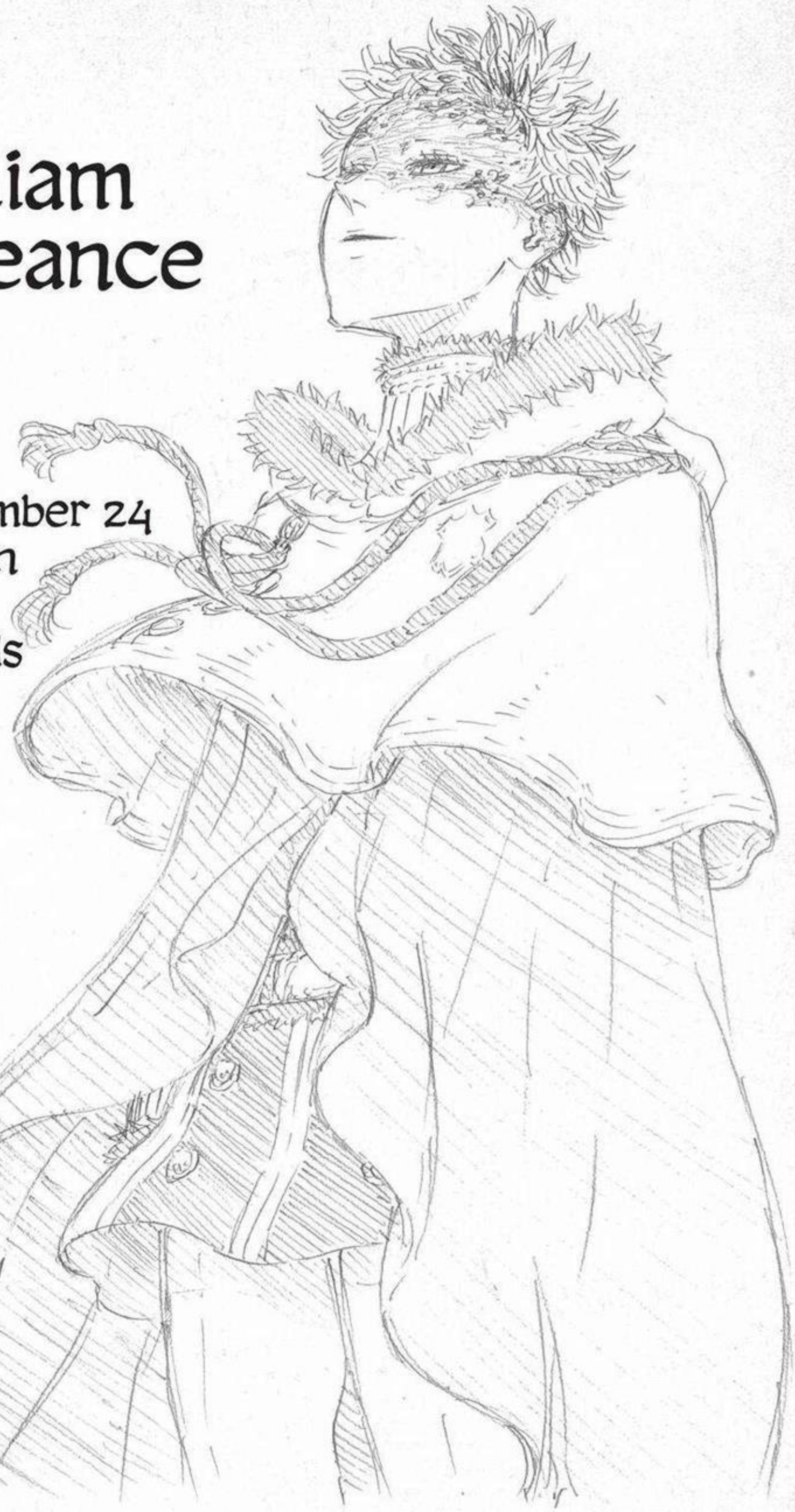
THE NEW GENERALS OF THE DIAMOND KINGDOM!

THE ERA BELONGS TO US MAGE WARRIORS.

...

William Vangeance

Age: 26
Height: 172 cm
Birthday: December 24
Sign: Capricorn
Blood Type: O
Likes: Songbirds



Character Profile