

By The Grace Of The Gods PDF (Limited Copy)

Roy .



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By The Grace Of The Gods Summary

Discovering Magic and Friendship in a New World of Slimes

Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In this enchanting fantasy tale, we follow the journey of Ryoma Takebayashi, a middle-aged Japanese businessman whose monotonous life is abruptly ended. However, rather than facing the finality of death, Ryoma is offered a second chance at life by three benevolent gods. This divine intervention transports him to a vibrant, magical world, where he is reborn as a child.

Embracing this new life, Ryoma discovers the wonders of his surroundings and opts for a peaceful existence in a lush, enchanting forest. Here, he revels in the mysteries of magic, which was absent from his former life. His unique interests lead him to develop a fascination with slimes—cute, gelatinous creatures that possess a variety of magical properties. This bond with slimes not only sets him apart but also enriches his experience, as he can tame and nurture them, discovering their diverse abilities.

As Ryoma delves deeper into this whimsical realm, he embarks on adventures that are both thrilling and transformative. He hones his magical skills and cultivates friendships with the creatures and beings he encounters along the way. His journey becomes a heartwarming celebration of connection, highlighting the joys of friendship and the fulfillment that comes with exploring new horizons. Through Ryoma's experiences, the story unfolds as a testament to the beauty of a second life, imbued with the joys of

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discovery in a world brimming with magic and adventure.

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About the author

In the latest chapters of Roy's enthralling fantasy series, the narrative unfolds within the expansive world of Eldoria, a land enriched with magic and diverse beings. These chapters primarily focus on the protagonists—Lena, a resourceful young sorceress, and Kael, a brave warrior with a mysterious past—as they embark on a quest to retrieve the lost Elemental Crystals, powerful artifacts that maintain balance within their realm.

The story begins as Lena and Kael, having forged a bond through prior adventures, receive a vision of impending chaos threatening Eldoria due to the Crystals' disturbance. With tension mounting, the duo sets off on their journey, traveling through enchanted forests and treacherous mountains, revealing the intricate landscapes of Roy's vibrant world. Along the way, they encounter a variety of characters, including Eldric, an eccentric but wise ancient sage whose knowledge of the Crystals becomes crucial to their quest. Eldric's insights not only deepen the lore surrounding the Elemental Crystals but also introduce themes of fate and choice, prompting Lena and Kael to reflect on their own decisions.

As they progress, the challenges they face intensify. They must solve riddles from mystical guardians that protect the Crystals and navigate the political intrigue of various realms vying for power. The plot thickens when they are ambushed by a dark faction, led by the enigmatic villain, Zara, who seeks to

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harness the Crystals for her own nefarious purposes. Zara, with her cunning and formidable magical abilities, represents a significant obstacle, challenging the protagonists' resolve and camaraderie.

Throughout these chapters, Roy expertly weaves themes of resilience and personal growth. Lena, initially hesitant about her abilities, learns to embrace her powers and trust in her instinct, while Kael confronts shadows from his past that threaten to undermine his bravery. Their character development is portrayed through their interactions, emphasizing the importance of friendship and teamwork in overcoming adversity.

As the chapters conclude, Lena and Kael stand on the precipice of a climactic battle, having gathered allies from across Eldoria. This alliance not only signifies their growth but also reinforces the series' overarching message about unity in diversity. The anticipation builds, leaving readers eager for the next installment, where the fate of Eldoria will hang in the balance, further underscoring Roy's mastery in building suspense and crafting a richly textured narrative.

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Chapter 1 Summary: Episode 26: A Meeting With Subordinates

In Chapter 2, Episode 26, titled "A Meeting With Subordinates," we dive into the vibrant town of Gimul, where anticipation hangs in the air for the grand opening of a new store, Bamboo Forest, managed by an unlikely young entrepreneur, Ryoma. A carriage makes its way through the bustling streets, carrying key members from the Merchant's Guild and the Tamer's Guild, including Glissela, Pioro, Serge, and Taylor. Accompanying them are Carla and Carne, twin siblings recently promoted to work under Ryoma, an 11-year-old with a vision for his laundromat.

As they approach the store, Carla and Carne are filled with a mix of excitement and trepidation. They worry about their new roles, especially given Ryoma's youth and aristocratic background, leaving them uncertain about how their careers might unfold working for someone so young. However, upon arriving at Bamboo Forest, they are taken by its charming design, which includes elegant statues and a warm ambiance, setting a welcoming tone.

Ryoma greets them with an unassuming modesty that contrasts sharply with the twins' anxieties surrounding his age and capabilities. Serge introduces Carla and Carne, highlighting their previous experience as vice managers. Yet, Ryoma clarifies that the specific roles he has planned for them won't



entirely leverage their skills, further heightening the twins' apprehensions about their new responsibilities.

The chapter reveals Ryoma's innovative mindset as he introduces a unique sales management system inspired by sushi restaurants from his former life. He explains how colored tablets will streamline revenue tracking, a concept that ignites hope among the gathered merchants due to its potential efficiency—particularly useful in a workplace where some staff may struggle with mathematical tasks.

The atmosphere shifts with the arrival of Worgan, a member of the Adventurer's Guild, which prompts Ryoma to demonstrate the sales process in action. The twins observe as he effortlessly engages with customers and highlights how the miraculous cleaner slime, a creature used in the laundromat, enhances their service.

As the episode progresses, Carla and Carme start to shake off their initial hesitation and actively participate in the operations, receiving laundry from customers and applying themselves diligently. Ryoma's encouragement to ask questions fosters a supportive environment, indicating a promising start for the trio.

This chapter not only focuses on the anxieties associated with new beginnings but also sets the stage for growth and camaraderie. As Ryoma



and the twins begin their journey as coworkers, potential alliances and character development emerge, promising an engaging path forward in their shared endeavor at Bamboo Forest.

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Chapter 2 Summary: Episode 27: A Fun and Busy Banquet

Chapter 2: A Fun and Busy Banquet - Summary

In this vibrant chapter, Ryoma hosts a jubilant banquet celebrating the grand opening of his store, inviting the duke's family and twenty-nine distinguished guests, including nobility and skilled adventurers. The atmosphere is electric as Ryoma leads them through the staff areas of his establishment, reflecting on the significance of this hastily organized event.

As the guests settle into the break room, they engage in lighthearted conversations, eagerly awaiting the culinary delights from Ryoma's kitchen. A tantalizing aroma permeates the air, especially noticed by the beastkin and a dragonewt named Asagi, who possess keen senses that heighten their anticipation for the meal, even as the human guests remain unaware of the tempting smells.

When Ryoma unveils his dishes, the enthusiasm is palpable as everyone digs in, showering him with praise for his exceptional cooking skills. Despite the admiration, Ryoma humbly accepts the compliments, feeling a mix of discomfort and appreciation when guests like Gordon highlight his divine connection to the God of Wine, which adds to the enchanting atmosphere.

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The banquet unfolds with laughter and lively discussions, particularly surrounding the exquisite dishes and a high-quality alcohol called Jemis Fountain that Ryoma has chosen for the evening. Guests savor the food, requesting seconds and engaging in meaningful dialogues about the values of nobility, emphasizing that flavor triumphs over extravagance—an invaluable lesson for Ryoma.

As dessert, featuring rare honey, arrives, excitement ripples through the room. Talks of future collaborations surface, notably when Jeff invites Ryoma to join him on tougher adventuring jobs, hinting at enticing opportunities ahead.

Amidst the festivities, Ryoma connects with the Morgan twins, who express interest in working at his store, inspired by its potential and their desire to uphold their family reputation while learning from his innovative methods.

As the evening concludes, Ryoma overhears various conversations that reflect on his emerging business acumen and resilience in the face of challenges. Overflowing with gratitude, the guests thank Ryoma for the delightful evening, leaving him with a profound sense of belonging he had previously lacked in his former life. Cleaning up with newfound satisfaction, Ryoma senses the budding of friendships and an exciting future in this colorful world, marking a significant turning point in his journey.



Chapter 3 Summary: Episode 28: Opening Day

Chapter 3 Summary: Opening Day of Bamboo Forest

This chapter provides an exciting glimpse into the inaugural day of Ryoma's laundromat, Bamboo Forest. Enthusiastic about his new venture, Ryoma wakes up early, filled with anticipation. He is joined by his spirited twin employees, Carme and Carla, who are eager to help him succeed. After preparing for the day's operations, Ryoma sets out to spread the word about his laundromat, particularly to nearby businesses. He pays a visit to his friend Pauline, who is enthusiastic and promises to support him by using his services.

As he arrives at the guild to network and drum up business, Ryoma focuses on promoting Bamboo Forest's distinctive offerings, such as laundering adventurers' gear. His efforts capture positive attention, and he even takes on a job while waiting for his shop to officially open.

When Ryoma returns to Bamboo Forest, he is astonished to find a long queue of eager customers outside. Carme and Carla inform him that business has exceeded their expectations, with a steady stream of patrons coming in. However, the twins' non-stop work without breaks raises concerns for Ryoma, who values their well-being and wants to ensure they don't become



overwhelmed.

The trio successfully attends to the influx of customers, impressing even the local guards, which solidifies Bamboo Forest's reputation. Realizing the pressing need for more hands to manage the growing business, Ryoma decides to return to the guild to recruit additional staff.

Upon his arrival, he encounters a crowded recruitment scene, yet his youthful appearance leads many to mistake him for an errand boy, causing several potential applicants to walk away. Despite this initial setback, five candidates remain interested in the position, although misunderstandings regarding Ryoma's unique hiring practices and the inclusion of his slime workers lead to further drop-outs.

Ultimately, only two candidates stay intrigued: a middle-aged man and a young woman, leaving Ryoma optimistic about finding reliable help for his rapidly growing laundromat.

Key Themes and Character Developments:

- **Determination and Responsibility:** Ryoma's dedication to his venture and concern for his employees' welfare are front and center, reflecting his commitment to building a responsible working environment from day one.
- **Community and Support:** The chapter highlights the significance of

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local community backing, especially through Pauline's encouragement and the excitement of adventurers eager to utilize his services.

- **Overcoming Prejudice:** Ryoma encounters obstacles stemming from societal biases regarding his age, demonstrating the challenge of gaining respect and authority in a world that may overlook him at first glance.

Overall, this chapter captures Ryoma's transition from anxious entrepreneur to a business owner navigating the complexities of operations, employee relationships, and community engagement, setting the stage for future developments in his journey.

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Chapter 4: Episode 29: Hiring

In Chapter 4, Ryoma, the protagonist, is on a quest to hire new employees for his laundromat, a business he is keen on expanding. During this search, he encounters Fay and his daughter, Lilyn, both of whom stand out with their striking appearances reminiscent of heroes from classic kung fu films.

Fay shares their backstory, revealing that they are refugees from the war-torn nation of Gilmar. He has a broken leg, making it difficult for him to secure a job, but Ryoma offers him the role of receptionist until he recovers. Lilyn, showcasing her own determination, insists that they be hired together, emphasizing their urgent need for affordable housing.

The conversation takes a surprising turn when Ryoma learns that both Fay and Lilyn are ex-assassins. They assure him of their loyalty and pledge to cause no harm to him or the guildmaster, a commitment that alleviates Ryoma's concerns. Trusting in their diverse skills and unique backgrounds, he decides to hire them, with the guildmaster giving his approval. Ryoma's resourcefulness is also highlighted when he successfully heals Fay's leg using magical slime, symbolizing his supportive nature as an employer.

As the trio arrives back at the laundromat, Fay and Lilyn immediately dive into helping during a bustling rush of customers. Their impressive handling of operations on their first day leads to an unexpected earnings total of



nearly 8000 sute, far exceeding Ryoma's initial expectations.

The chapter highlights how Fay and Lilyn's expertise seamlessly integrates into the laundromat's workflow, while Ryoma's burgeoning business begins to thrive, bolstered by positive word-of-mouth. As Ryoma reflects on their early success and the prospect of expansion, themes of redemption and second chances resonate, suggesting new adventures and growth await them all in the future. This chapter effectively sets up an optimistic trajectory for Ryoma and his newfound employees, hinting at the potential for growth, both personally and professionally.

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Chapter 5 Summary: Episode 30: Personnel Additions

In Chapter 5, titled "Personnel Additions," Ryoma's culinary establishment experiences a significant turnaround as he hires two new employees, Lilyn and Fay. The chapter opens with a demonstration of Ryoma's cooking skills as he prepares lunch for the team, an act that highlights his commitment to creating a positive work environment. During a bustling lunch hour, the trio successfully manages the increased customer flow, leading to a noticeable spike in sales. The camaraderie fostered during this time illustrates Ryoma's unique approach to leadership—one that prioritizes the well-being and morale of his staff.

Recognizing the potential for further growth, Ryoma decides to expand his workforce even more. During a visit to the guild, he meets Jane, Maria, Fina—three eager young women looking for employment—and Chelma, a seasoned cook. He hires them all, excited by the prospect of working together as a cohesive unit to enhance the shop's productivity.

As the days unfold, the contributions of the new hires allow Ryoma to step back and engage in his adventures, marking a shift in his priorities. The business continues to flourish, impressing not just Ryoma but also his supplier, Serge. Serge brings an important piece of information about a potential grell frog outbreak, which could present a lucrative opportunity. He suggests that Ryoma start producing waterproof cloth by utilizing the



properties of his sticky slimes.

Embracing this suggestion, Ryoma takes proactive steps to set up production in an abandoned mine, emphasizing safety while exploring this new business avenue. The chapter encapsulates themes of growth, teamwork, and Ryoma's development as a supportive and strategic leader, laying the groundwork for his future endeavors and the expansion of his enterprise.

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Chapter 6 Summary: Episode 31: Working in the Abandoned Mine

Chapter 6 Summary: Working in the Abandoned Mine

In this chapter, Ryoma, an aspiring craftsman with magical talents, ventures to an abandoned mine with the intent of setting up a workspace for creating waterproof cloth, a necessary material for various crafting purposes in his new life. Accompanied by his loyal slimes—charming, jelly-like creatures that assist him with tasks—Ryoma uses his earth magic to transform a high shaft into an efficient workspace. The slimes work enthusiastically, spurred on by Ryoma's guidance, demonstrating their capability and reinforcing their bond.

With the cloth drying, Ryoma seizes the opportunity to engage in hand-to-hand combat training and meditation, honing his physical and mental skills. He then devotes part of the day to training his slimes further, showing his commitment to nurturing their abilities.

After three hours of hard work, Ryoma discovers that the cloth remains damp and decides to use his alchemy skills to create practice spears for the slimes, ensuring his training time is maximized. Realizing he still has unfinished work, he checks his status board, which reveals improvements in



his magical abilities. Inspired by this progress, he gathers materials from the mine to craft a doll for Eliaria, a close friend and source of motivation in his life.

As evening approaches, Ryoma loses himself in creativity, crafting not only the doll for Eliaria but also a variety of other figures, including those inspired by familiar characters and monsters. Immersed in his work, he loses track of time and hurriedly makes his way back to the inn before sunset.

Upon his return, Ryoma shares his creations with Eliaria and the rest of the group, who express delight and admiration for his work. Their enthusiastic responses fill Ryoma with a sense of accomplishment, a feeling he hadn't experienced before. Sebas, a character who recognizes the potential for Ryoma's talent, offers him payment for the dolls; however, Ryoma declines most of it, considering his creations were made purely for joy. Sebas points out the burgeoning demand for crafted goods among nobles, which plants a seed of ambition in Ryoma's mind as he drifts off to sleep, contemplating the future of his craft.

This chapter underscores Ryoma's growing mastery in magic and craftsmanship and his deepening connections with Eliaria and his companions. Through creativity and collaboration, he continues to explore his potential and discovers a newfound sense of belonging in this vibrant community.



Chapter 7 Summary: Episode 32: Slime Abnormality

Chapter 7: Slime Innovations and a Thriving Business

In this chapter, our protagonist embarks on another productive day, beginning with a routine inspection of his shop. After confirming that everything is in order, he heads to a nearby abandoned mine, where he skillfully produces 45 strips of waterproof cloth. With some extra time, he pivots his focus towards training his scavenger slimes, aiming to enhance their combat abilities.

To elevate his training, he merges several small scavenger slimes into a single "king scavenger," which he tests in one-on-one combat. While impressed by its robust defensive capabilities, he notes its lack of offensive strength. Determined to improve its battle skills, he devises new strategies that leverage the slime's elasticity for attacks.

As the king scavenger progresses in combat, an exciting development arises—one of his slimes shows signs of evolution. Originally captured for a metal slime experiment, this particular slime transforms into a brilliant silver "iron slime." This evolution leads the protagonist to speculate about the necessity of diverse metal nutrition for metal slimes, prompting an experiment with red clay containing aluminum. His hypothesis proves



correct: by feeding both iron and aluminum, the slime thrives even further.

With his understanding of slime evolution deepening, he sets about crafting 500g of iron and aluminum ingots, while also strategizing more efficient methods for processing iron in the future. After concluding his experiments, he returns to town, proudly delivering his dried cloths to Serge's store. To his delight, his own shop is teeming with customers. His employee, Fina, updates him that operations are running smoothly.

As he assesses the situation, he discovers that his cleaner slimes are prepared to split, effectively doubling his cleaning workforce. Seizing this opportunity, he reorganizes tasks among his team to maximize efficiency. The newly expanded cleaning capacity allows his shop to handle the influx of customers with ease.

The chapter culminates in a successful period of peak business hours, underscoring the growth of both the protagonist's skills and his burgeoning enterprise. The intertwining themes of innovation, teamwork, growth, and responsibility resonate throughout, highlighting not only his strategic ingenuity but also his commitment to his slimes and the community he is building.

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Chapter 8: Episode 33: After Hours

Summary of Chapter 8: After Hours

In Chapter 8, Ryoma is pleasantly surprised to find that his store has experienced a significant surge in sales, achieving an impressive total of 26,036 sute in just one day. This growth is largely attributed to the store's burgeoning reputation among tradespeople, including blacksmiths, carpenters, and metal workers, who have begun placing bulk orders for laundry bags and expanded services. Carla, Ryoma's reliable employee, informs him of these developments and that the staff is busy counting the day's earnings in the break room.

Eager to engage with his team, Ryoma decides to join them, marking his first time working in his office. The atmosphere is filled with camaraderie as they tackle the task of counting a large pile of bronze coins together. During this process, Ryoma has a sudden inspiration: he envisions a magical tool to create a coin counter that would dramatically speed up their counting tasks. With this innovative idea, they finish counting in record time, strengthening their sense of unity and accomplishment as a team.

Reflecting on the overall work environment, Ryoma realizes he has neglected to provide days off for his employees, a standard benefit that many



workers in their society lack. Understanding the burdens faced by the workforce, Ryoma quickly vows to implement regular days off, which thrills his staff. They acknowledge the challenges many workers face, often laboring without breaks, and his commitment resonates well with them. This commitment to creating a supportive and healthy workplace highlights Ryoma's dedication to employee welfare.

Later, upon returning to the inn, Ryoma finds his friends discussing their experiences with the government office amid the aftermath of recent scandals. Their resilience and resourcefulness suggest that future developments may lie ahead for their group.

Key Themes and Developments:

1. **Growth and Success:** This chapter illustrates the store's remarkable growth and highlights the effectiveness of Ryoma's leadership and the hard work of his employees.
2. **Teamwork:** The collaborative effort in counting coins not only showcases Ryoma's inclusion as a leader but also fosters a sense of togetherness and camaraderie among the team.
3. **Workplace Ethics:** Ryoma's realization about the lack of days off for



his employees underscores critical issues surrounding worker rights and the conditions many laborers endure, paving the way for a healthier workplace culture.

4. Supportive Leadership: Ryoma emerges as a compassionate leader, genuinely invested in the well-being of his staff, demonstrating a commitment to fostering a positive work environment.

This chapter effectively balances the excitement of business success with insightful commentary on employee rights, reinforcing the importance of productivity alongside humane working conditions.

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I've learned. Highly recommend!

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Chapter 9 Summary: Episode 34: Nice Find

Chapter 9 Summary: Nice Find

In this engaging chapter of "By the Grace of the Gods," we rejoin Ryoma as he navigates a lively yet complex day after a night of unexpected difficulties for his friends. The chapter opens with him tending to Reinhart, who is suffering from a severe hangover following a raucous banquet. Drawing on his past life's experiences, Ryoma skillfully concocts a remedy from local ingredients, using this moment to reflect on how his former life enriches his present circumstances.

After ensuring everything is in order at his own shop, Ryoma's adventure transitions to the local guild, where he learns about a struggling party of adventurers, known as Sikum's Pier. They possess a rare type of slime—a bloody slime—which they've been unable to sell. Intrigued by its uniqueness, Ryoma promptly decides to track them down at the run-down Badger Inn where they're staying. There, he encounters a drunken party member who comically embodies the emotional distress stemming from their lack of success.

Navigating the chaos with charm and tact, Ryoma successfully negotiates the purchase of the rare bloody slime at a fair price, demonstrating his knack

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for recognizing value where others overlook it. He empathizes with the adventurers' financial plight and provides them with sage advice on more lucrative hunting opportunities in the area. This exchange not only helps the adventurers but also solidifies a budding rapport that might lead to them utilizing his laundry services in town.

After departing the inn, Ryoma heads to a nearby mine to experiment with his newly acquired slime. He begins to explore its intriguing blood-sucking abilities, realizing its potential benefits for adventurers in need of unique resources. This chapter is rich with themes of camaraderie, adventure, and the significance of understanding oneself and one's relationships in a challenging world.

As Ryoma considers how to sustainably harvest the blood necessary for the slime's properties without harming the ecosystem, he showcases a thoughtful and respectful attitude towards nature. This notion not only reflects his character development as a tamer and adventurer but also highlights his quest for knowledge and community within the enchanting world he inhabits. With a perfect blend of action, humor, and introspection, this chapter marks another step in Ryoma's journey, revealing his growth and deepening connections in this fantastical setting.



Chapter 10 Summary: Episode 35: Food Preparation

Chapter Summary: Food Preparation

In this chapter, Ryoma delves into the fascinating magical properties of his slimes, conducting experiments to determine their preferences for various types of elemental magic energy. He discovers that two of his slimes gravitate towards earth energy while another is more inclined towards dark energy. This newfound knowledge not only excites him but also hints at further potential evolutions for his slimes, igniting Ryoma's enthusiasm for experimenting with their magical capabilities.

After his enlightening experiments, Ryoma visits Sieg's butcher shop to procure blood for his slimes, a crucial ingredient he has identified. Inside the shop, he encounters Sieg, a hardworking butcher amidst the hustle and bustle of his establishment, which is filled with hanging animals and the sounds of trade. Ryoma queries Sieg about the culinary uses of blood and learns that it is often discarded. However, he realizes that it could provide significant benefits to his slimes. Generously, Sieg offers Ryoma not just blood but additional scraps that would typically be thrown away, showcasing his kindness and resourcefulness.

Upon returning to his store, Ryoma is met with chaos as city guards are

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leading away some troublemakers. Inside, he finds that his diligent staff—particularly Fay and Lilyn—have effectively managed the situation. The thugs were likely hired to intimidate customers, indicating a rising envy aimed at Ryoma's burgeoning success.

As the group discusses the potential threats posed by their rivals, they decide that increased security measures are necessary. Ryoma contemplates hiring guards, even meeting some ex-soldiers, although he feels they may be overly qualified for the task at hand. The chapter concludes with Ryoma reflecting on the day's events, feeling grateful for his dedicated team and their unwavering support, all while preparing himself for the challenges that may lie ahead.

Key Themes and Character Developments

- 1. Growth and Potential:** Ryoma's experiments with slimes signify not only his personal growth but also the potential evolution of those around him, highlighting the theme of advancement and opportunity.
- 2. Community and Support:** The collaboration displayed by Ryoma and his staff underscores the vital role of teamwork and loyalty in safeguarding their enterprise, emphasizing the strength of their community.



3. Preparation for Adversity: The emerging threats from envious rivals illustrate a theme of vigilance, underscoring the importance of being prepared for challenges, thus setting a stage for future conflicts.

Through a blend of magical experimentation and interpersonal dynamics, this chapter effectively showcases Ryoma's ingenuity and the resilience of his community, preparing readers for the evolving narrative ahead.

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Chapter 11 Summary: Episode 36: Taming Magic

In Chapter 11, titled "Taming Magic," Ryoma begins his day with an unexpected visit from Eliaria and Sebas, who are eager to invite him to a magic lesson focused on taming. Ryoma, feeling a sense of responsibility toward Eliaria since gaining independence, willingly joins their adventure. The trio travels to an abandoned mine—a fitting location for their magical training.

Under the guidance of their instructor Elise, they delve into a novel spell known as "Share Senses," which establishes a profound connection between a tamer and their familiar, allowing them to experience each other's perceptions. This concept is central to taming magic, which fosters a bond of communication and trust.

Each student chooses a crew bird for their first taming attempt, marking a significant step for Ryoma, who has primarily worked with slimes up to this point. To their surprise, Ryoma and Eliaria quickly adapt to the spell, though they experience discomfort at first. Ryoma likens the feeling to viewing two TV screens simultaneously, highlighting the disorienting nature of the new ability. Eliaria, on the other hand, struggles a bit more, emphasizing the unique challenges each individual faces during the learning process.

After an invigorating two-hour session, the group takes a break with tea,



reflecting on their accomplishments. Ryoma's natural talent for bonding with bird monsters sparks a conversation about the importance of compatibility in taming magic. Elise introduces her own impressive fenrir familiar, prompting admiration from Ryoma and Eliaria. This exchange expands into a discussion about Reinhart, a renowned tamer capable of taming dragons, revealing the remarkable diversity of skills and potentials among tamers.

The chapter resonates with themes of friendship, personal growth, and the journey of self-discovery. Ryoma's experiences illustrate the significance of maintaining relationships and the pursuit of magical mastery. The camaraderie among the characters enriches their shared adventure, fostering an atmosphere of excitement and development. As Ryoma explores his strengths in taming, he is propelled toward extraordinary experiences, fostering both curiosity and ambition in the enchanting realm of magic.

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Chapter 12: Episode 37: Forced Break

Chapter 12 Summary: Forced Break

Chapter 12 centers on the theme of self-care and the importance of pausing amid relentless work. Ryoma, a dedicated protagonist known for his commitment to training and improvement in a magical world, initially resists taking a break from his intense regimen. His friends, including the supportive Reinhart, recognize his fatigue and advocate for a moment of relaxation. Reinhart suggests that Ryoma and Eliaria use their downtime to enjoy some music, as Eliaria has planned a performance aimed at forging a magical bond with a rare creature called the limour bird, renowned for its enchanting cries and unique energy.

Despite his initial reluctance, Ryoma's companions, including the loyal Sebas, ultimately persuade him to enjoy Eliaria's impromptu concert. As the performance unfolds, Eliaria captivates her audience with a mesmerizing violin recital, allowing Ryoma to finally unwind. During this moment of camaraderie, Ryoma is also busy tending to his unique slimes, and unexpectedly, one of them evolves into an Earth Slime—a rare occurrence that fascinates his friends and showcases Ryoma's growing abilities in taming magical beings.

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Fueled by Ryoma's success, Eliaria and Elise express their desire to enhance their magical control, showing a determination to improve and learn from their experiences. This collective dedication emphasizes the collaborative spirit of their friendship.

Chapter 10: The Path Forward

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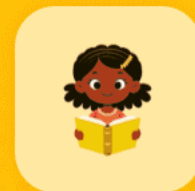
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Chapter 13 Summary: Episode 38: For Hiring Purposes

Summary of Chapter 13: For Hiring Purposes

In this chapter, Ryoma awakens rejuvenated after a needed break and returns to his store, where his employees greet him with gratitude for his absence, signaling their care for his well-being. Their concern prompts Ryoma to reflect on his work habits and fosters a realization that he may be overextending himself. He expresses his appreciation before heading into the kitchen to see Chelma, who is busy preparing a meal with game he has hunted. Their conversation turns lighthearted as they discuss the convenience of a refrigerator, showcasing Ryoma's developing skills in resource management.

As Ryoma continues his day, Carme, one of his employees, suggests he consider expanding his workforce in anticipation of future branch openings. This leads to a discussion about the necessity of a tamer to oversee the store's cleaning slimes and the paramount importance of trust in hiring, especially given past encounters with local hooligans.

While en route to the mine, Ryoma meets Jeff, a fellow adventurer taking a respite from his travels. Sharing a meal, Jeff proposes hiring individuals from the slums, emphasizing that there are trustworthy candidates to be



found outside conventional hiring paths. This idea intrigues Ryoma as it opens his perspective toward discovering potential talent within marginalized communities.

Upon reaching the mine, Ryoma dedicates himself to training his slimes, assessing their individual strengths and weaknesses. He focuses particularly on his earth and dark slimes, delving into their magical capabilities and confirming the dark slime's aptitude for offensive magic. The training process is fulfilling for Ryoma, as he relishes in the progress he's making in teaching his slimes effectively.

Later, Ryoma pays a visit to the duke's family to discuss his hiring strategy. Reinbach, a member of the family, voices support for the idea of recruiting from the slums, stressing the necessity of ensuring that candidates are trustworthy. They agree on the significance of registering new hires through guilds to prevent complications in the future. This dialogue equips Ryoma with the confidence and clarity to take tangible steps toward expanding his business operations.

Overall, this chapter weaves themes of trust, self-care, and the intricacies of balancing work responsibilities with the creation of a reliable team. Ryoma's journey throughout this segment illustrates his evolution as a business owner and his deepening commitment to both his employees and the broader community he serves.



Chapter 14 Summary: Episode 39: Laying the Foundation

In Chapter 14, titled "Laying the Foundation," Ryoma takes crucial steps toward realizing his entrepreneurial ambitions by visiting the Merchant's Guild. This guild serves as a central hub for commerce and networking, where aspiring business owners can access resources and support. During his meeting with the guildmaster, Ryoma receives a stark warning about the dangers posed by a dark guild, a criminal organization known for its association with thieves and assassins. This ominous advice underscores the risks he faces in his endeavors.

The guildmaster also provides Ryoma with a health supplement intended for an elderly individual named Taylor, reflecting the guild's concern for the well-being of its members, particularly those of advancing age. This act of thoughtfulness reinforces the community-oriented nature of the guild.

When Ryoma meets with Taylor, he shares his vision of hiring staff through the guild's network. The discussion flows over freshly brewed tea, fostering a warm, collaborative atmosphere. Taylor is eager to support Ryoma's initiative, recognizing that the store could generate much-needed job opportunities for tamers—individuals who train and bond with creatures, often facing financial difficulties especially when dealing with less desirable, low-tier monsters like slimes.



However, Taylor warns that gaining support from the guild's upper management may be challenging due to their conservative attitudes. As they delve into the intricacies of guild politics, Ryoma remains resolute in his mission to create a positive impact on the community and help lift struggling tamers out of poverty. Although Taylor is limited in his ability to assist, he commits to reaching out to trusted contacts to aid Ryoma's search for employees.

This chapter encapsulates themes of community support, ambition, and the resistance posed by traditional mindsets as Ryoma embarks on his entrepreneurial journey. Through this collaboration, he builds meaningful connections while reinforcing the spirit of cooperation essential for overcoming the challenges that lie ahead. With newfound enthusiasm, Ryoma is inspired to take decisive action toward his goals.

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Chapter 15 Summary: Episode 40: The New Tamer

Summary of Chapter 2 Episode 40: The New Tamer

In this pivotal chapter, Ryoma Takebayashi sets out on a mission to make a meaningful impact in the slums of Gimul. Eager to discuss a proposal that could aid the community, he seeks out his friend Jeff, who is preparing to leave the guild. After an hour of waiting, Ryoma finally meets Jeff, and together they make their way through the slums. During their walk, Ryoma notices the stark contrast to his own environment—dilapidated buildings and ragged children serve as reminders of the harsh realities the residents face.

Upon reaching Lible's, the de facto leader of the slums, Ryoma introduces himself and shares his plan to hire local, trustworthy individuals to assist in running his store. Lible, initially skeptical about the proposal, soon recognizes its potential to benefit the community, paving the way for a partnership based on respect and mutual interests.

Next, Ryoma is introduced to Caulkin, a tamer who has set up a makeshift lab. Their reunion is marked by camaraderie, with the two sharing playful banter. It soon becomes clear that Caulkin is struggling after losing his previous job. This connection leads to the arrival of two more tamers, Tony and Lobelia, who are both eager for a fresh start after experiencing



job-related hardships—Tony suffered unjust treatment, while Lobelia endured traumatic harassment. Ryoma shares his success with a newly developed cleaner slime, igniting excitement among the group and fostering a sense of collaboration.

Recognizing the potential in each of them, Ryoma hires Caulkin, Tony, and Lobelia with the condition that they remain trustworthy. Filled with optimism for their new beginnings, the new hires express a desire to live in Ryoma's store instead of the slums. To facilitate this transition, Ryoma sends Jeff and Lobelia to a clothing store to acquire more suitable attire, while he rushes ahead to inform Carme at his shop about the newly hired tamers.

Character Developments

- **Ryoma Takebayashi:** His proactive approach emphasizes his growth as he strives to support those in need while expanding his business.
- **Jeff:** Acts as a crucial link between Ryoma and the slum community, showcasing his dedication to improving their circumstances.
- **Lible:** Represents a protective figure in the slums, yet demonstrates openness and flexibility when faced with a beneficial collaboration.
- **Caulkin, Tony, and Lobelia:** Each character unveils personal challenges and dreams, transitioning from marginalized individuals to hopeful new hires under Ryoma's guidance.



Themes

- **Community and Collaboration:** The chapter highlights the significance of unity in uplifting those facing adversity, reinforcing the idea that collective efforts can lead to transformative change.
- **Resilience:** The characters embody perseverance, demonstrating their determination to overcome setbacks and rebuild their lives.
- **Fresh Starts:** With new opportunities on the horizon, hope reignites for all involved, aligning with Ryoma's vision of fostering a better future for the community and his business alike.

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Chapter 16: Episode 41: Premonition

In Chapter 16 of "By the Grace of the Gods," titled "Premonition," we witness Ryoma's development as an entrepreneur after a productive shopping trip. Upon returning, he introduces his new employees—Caulkin, Tony, and Lobelia—to the Merchant's Guild, where they register to work at his store. The guildmaster observes their remarkable ambition and loyalty, shedding light on their backgrounds as slime researchers who are now eager to redeem themselves in a new venture.

After solidifying contracts that focus on managing cleaner slimes, Ryoma takes his team to the shop where each individual is assigned a role that aligns with their strengths: Caulkin, with his noble lineage, handles laundry; Tony, possessing miner's stamina, is tasked with heavy lifting; and Lobelia, known for her charm, takes charge of customer service at the reception desk. Their attractiveness also draws the attention of male adventurers, which bodes well for increasing customer traffic.

The chapter takes an interesting turn when Caulkin reunites with an old acquaintance, Leipin, from his monster research days. Their reunion sparks nostalgia and discussions about the anticipated grell frog outbreak—a scenario that promises considerable profits due to the frog's valuable hides and medicinal uses. This dialogue not only underscores their shared history but also reignites Caulkin's reflections on their past decisions.



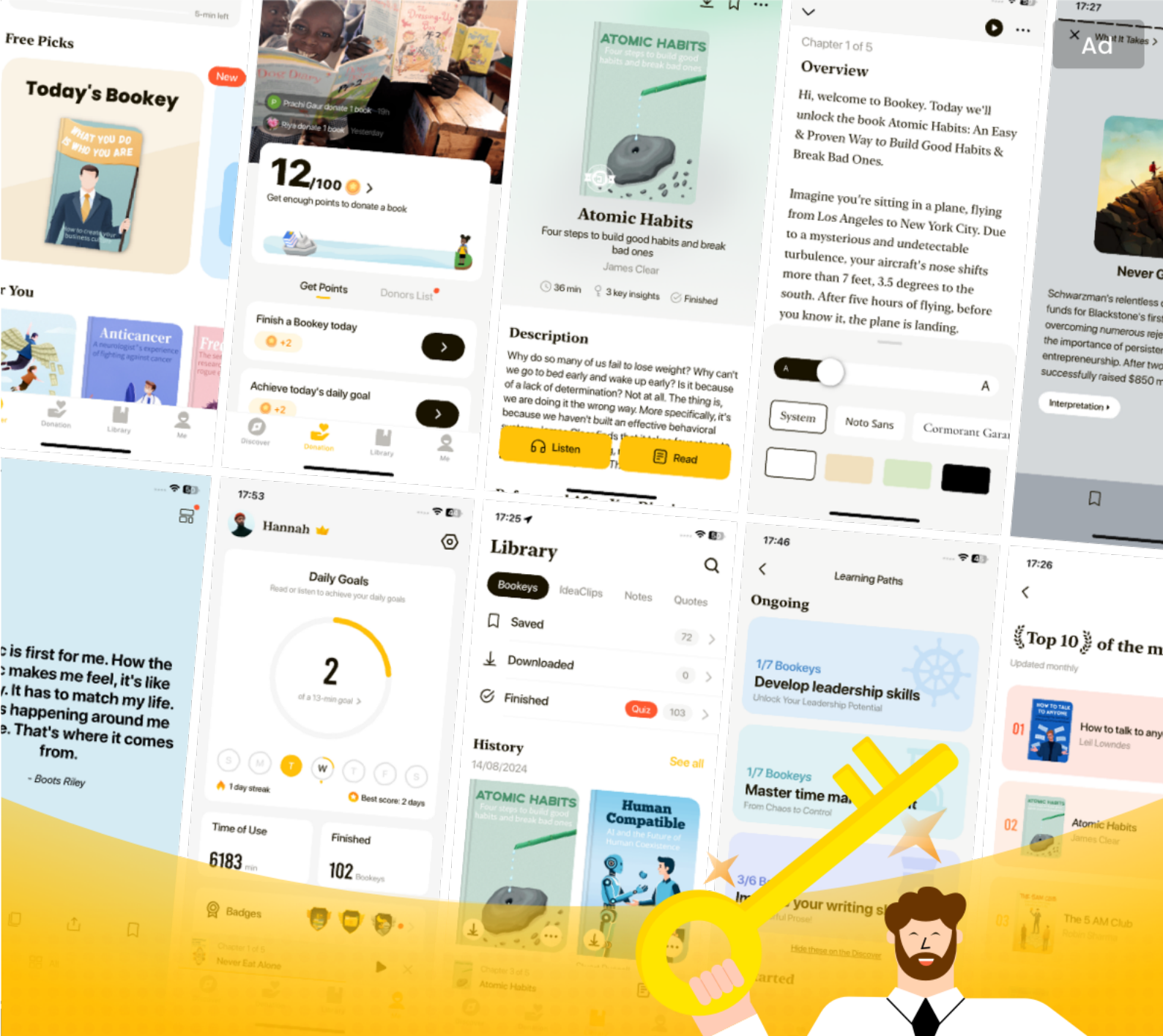
As they strategize on how to capitalize on the outbreak, Ryoma discovers the importance of effective processing techniques for handling these creatures, leading him to consider how his slimes could assist in the harvesting process. This insight exemplifies Ryoma's evolving business acumen and

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Chapter 17 Summary: Episode 42: Preparations

Chapter 17 Summary: Preparations

In Chapter 17, Ryoma embarks on a series of preparations as he explores new ventures and deepens his connections. The chapter opens with a lively tea gathering at the duke's residence, where Ryoma joyfully discusses his successful recruitment of three dedicated tamers specializing in slime research. These tamers, motivated by personal reasons to assist Ryoma, emerge as trustworthy allies in his journey.

The following day, Ryoma's focus shifts to his store, where he eagerly seeks to secure contracts for limour birds—creatures known for their versatility and utility. Caulkin, a knowledgeable colleague, shares essential insights about these birds, highlighting Ryoma's expanding network of support. Simultaneously, Ryoma excels in cloth production, crafting innovative waterproof materials that attract the interest of adventurers, showcasing his creativity and the effectiveness of his slime companions in production.

As productivity rises, Ryoma conducts experiments to discern his slimes' energy preferences, discovering their distinct affinities for various elemental energies. This research leads to an increase in his healing slimes, enhancing their capabilities and demonstrating Ryoma's commitment to nurturing his



slime companions effectively.

A significant turn unfolds when Ryoma visits the church seeking solace. Here, he encounters Tekun, the God of Wine, who shares light-hearted anecdotes about the divine realm and its relationship with the material world. Their dialogue reveals essential dynamics, emphasizing that gods typically remain separate from realms outside their governance. This conversation takes an amusing twist as Tekun learns of other deities sight-seeing on Earth—an unprecedented occurrence that piques his interest and hints at potential divine interventions in Ryoma's life.

Motivated by curiosity, Tekun rushes off to investigate this unusual phenomenon, leaving Ryoma to reflect on his experiences. Ryoma showcases his whimsical nature by magically conjuring an endless supply of wine, signaling his unique bond with the divine. Content yet eager for further adventures, he returns to his world with renewed determination.

Overall, the chapter explores themes of teamwork, creativity, and the interplay between the mundane and the extraordinary. Ryoma's journey is characterized by curiosity and exploration, as his adventures continue to unfold with boundless possibilities.



Chapter 18 Summary: Episode 43: To the Swamp

Summary of Chapter 18: To the Swamp

In this chapter, Ryoma and the duke's family—comprising Sebas, Jill, Zeph, Camil, Hughes, and Eliaria—embark on a quest to form a contract with the rare and enchanting limour birds. Their journey takes them along a steep and rugged path, where Ryoma, clad in his humble overalls, demonstrates remarkable stamina, much to Eliaria's mixed feelings of admiration and exasperation as she struggles to keep pace.

Upon reaching a foul-smelling swamp, the group discovers a dazzling array of limour birds, characterized by their striking blue and green plumage. However, the serene beauty of the scene quickly deteriorates into chaos as other adventurers, eager to capture the birds and compete for valuable grell frogs, swarm the area. The tension escalates when one individual attempts to attack the birds, triggering a powerful reverberation from a nightmare limour bird that unleashes a wave of fear and confusion. While most of the adventurers succumb to its mind-affecting cry, Ryoma unexpectedly remains largely unaffected, a fortunate outcome attributable to his Mental Pain Resistance skill.

As the initial tumult settles, Ryoma uses his magical abilities to silence the



nightmare limour bird, allowing the group to regain their composure. With the limour birds now dispersed due to the earlier disturbance, they discuss the birds' rarity and contemplate waiting for their return, showcasing their thoughtful camaraderie.

During this interlude, Ryoma and Eliaria share a heartfelt moment, reflecting on their impending separation, which adds an emotional depth to the chapter. Lightening the mood, Hughes playfully prompts Ryoma to express affection for Eliaria by giving her a hug, resulting in a series of awkward, teasing interactions among the group.

As the chapter draws to a close, anticipation mounts with the eventual return of the limour birds, setting the stage for the next phase of their adventure. The narrative seamlessly weaves together themes of resilience, friendship, and the challenges of new experiences, offering a blend of tension and humor that enriches the characters' journey.



Chapter 19 Summary: Episode 44: Attempting a Contract

In Chapter 19, the atmosphere is electrified with anticipation as Eliaria readies herself to perform a contract with the limour birds amidst a beautiful swamp landscape. These enchanting creatures, known for their vibrant plumage and unique abilities, have a deep connection to music and magic. While Ryoma feels apprehensive about the attention of a particularly discerning high-class bird, Eliaria encourages him to remain by her side. As she begins her performance, her music enchants the limour birds, drawing them in as they sway and eventually gather around her, signaling their willingness to form a bond. With both nervousness and joy coursing through her, Eliaria successfully contracts with nine birds, an impressive achievement that astonishes her friends and companions.

Inspired by Eliaria's success but grappling with self-doubt, Ryoma decides to take a leap of faith and try his hand at the guitar. His heartfelt playing also captivates the limour birds, who respond positively to his melodies, resulting in his successful contracts with six birds. Their synchronized triumphs evoke cheers and admiration from their fellow companions, marking a significant milestone for both.

The excitement escalates when Eliaria uncovers that her contracted bird is not only beautiful but also a rare phantom type, instilled with light



magic—an extraordinary find that leaves the group in stunned silence before erupting into celebrations. This discovery emphasizes the special connection they share with these magical creatures and the significance of their achievements.

As the chapter transitions into a lively post-training banquet, Eliaria and Ryoma bask in the spotlight, enjoying a sumptuous feast filled with delightful dishes and exotic beverages. Unlike his experiences on Earth, Ryoma relishes the camaraderie and festive spirit, allowing himself to embrace the joyful atmosphere. In a touching moment, he pays homage to Tekun, a symbolic figure representing guidance and inspiration in his journey, expressing gratitude for the happiness he has found in this new world. The chapter concludes on a high note as Ryoma settles in for a peaceful night, reflecting on the fulfillment brought by their shared experiences.

Key Events:

- Eliaria's successful performance leads to contracts with nine limour birds.
- Ryoma, overcoming self-doubt, contracts six birds through his guitar playing.
- Eliaria's limour bird turns out to be a rare phantom type, igniting jubilation.
- The chapter wraps up with a vibrant banquet celebrating their accomplishments.



Character Developments:

- Eliaria's confidence flourishes as she demonstrates her musical talents and personal resolve.
- Ryoma steps outside his comfort zone, showcasing his growth and desire to contribute.
- The supportive camaraderie among friends strengthens the bonds between the characters.

Themes:

- The transformative ability of music and creativity in creating connections and achieving goals.
- The significance of friendship and support in fostering personal growth.
- The importance of celebrating successes and savoring shared joyous moments.



Chapter 20: Episode 45: The Day Before We Part (Part 1)

Summary of Chapter 20: The Day Before We Part (Part 1)

In this chapter, we witness Ryoma visiting the duke's family on the morning after a grand celebration, where the adults are nursing severe hangovers. Recognizing their discomfort, Ryoma steps in with his herbalist skills to mix a remedy, showcasing his resourcefulness and care for the duke's family.

This day holds emotional significance for Ryoma, as it is his last with the duke's family for an extended period. To strengthen their bond, he agrees to take care of Eliaria, the duke's daughter, while Sebas accompanies them as a guardian. Their day unfolds with a series of adventures that foster connection and mutual understanding.

First, they visit Ryoma's store, a hub of his entrepreneurial efforts, before venturing into an abandoned mine. Here, they engage in crafting cloths from sticky slimes, a playful and creative activity that allows them to enjoy each other's company. As they wait for the cloths to dry, their conversation turns to deeper topics, including life, school, and the pressures Eliaria feels as a noble. Despite the privileges nobility brings, she expresses her reluctance about her upcoming schooling in the capital, revealing her struggles with societal expectations.

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A pivotal moment occurs when Eliaria shares a painful childhood memory—a magic-related accident that led to her being labeled dangerous by her peers. This incident highlights her feelings of isolation and the burden of her noble status, providing insight into her character. In a moment of

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Chapter 21 Summary: Episode 46: The Day Before We Part (Part 2)

In Chapter 21: "The Day Before We Part (Part 2)," the emotional climax of Ryoma and Eliaria's relationship unfolds as they prepare to say goodbye. Their interaction takes on a deeper significance as Eliaria opens up about her challenging past, marked by rumors stemming from a magical accident that altered her childhood. Ryoma, steady and comforting, reassures her that he values her beyond those whispers, fostering a safe space for their connection.

As their time together draws to a close, Eliaria playfully expresses her hope to reunite in three years, lightening the atmosphere with humorous threats about her magic capabilities, symbolizing her vibrant spirit despite the looming farewell. In a poignant moment, Eliaria presents Ryoma with a striking necklace containing a rare magical gem. This token not only signifies their friendship but also embodies the hope of their future reunion. Although hesitant to accept such a precious gift, Ryoma ultimately agrees, moved by Eliaria's insistence that he borrow it until they meet again. In a quirky yet endearing exchange, he offers her his two slimes—creatures that are unusual yet valuable in their world.

The day is spent in a blend of playfulness and seriousness as the two engage in magical training, sharing knowledge, and pushing each other towards



improvement. Their bond strengthens, highlighting the theme of mutual growth as they exchange spells and strategies.

As night falls, they contemplate their day together, savoring the memories before the inevitable farewell. The next day at the carriage station is bittersweet; the duke's family prepares to depart, showering Ryoma with well wishes. In a sweet, significant moment, Eliaria asks him to call her by her first name instead of a title, a gesture that solidifies their friendship.

With laughter and promises of future growth in the air, they part ways, leaving behind the joy and hope of their connection. As Ryoma watches the carriages disappear, he refocuses his energy on his own journey, heading to his store and later to the mine, ready to embrace the responsibilities of building a successful future in his new home. This chapter eloquently encapsulates the themes of friendship and growth against the backdrop of an emotional farewell, emphasizing the potential for new beginnings as each character looks ahead.



Chapter 22 Summary: Episode 47: In the Realm of the Gods

Chapter 22 Summary: In the Realm of the Gods

In this engaging side story of "By the Grace of the Gods," we are introduced to Fernobelia, the often-reclusive God of Magic, who finds himself at the center of an unexpected confrontation with three exuberant gods: Gain, Kufo, and Lulutia. As they discuss plans for a new adventure in another world, their excitement is abruptly interrupted by the appearance of Tekun, the God of Anger, who expresses his frustration at being excluded from their festivities.

As the gods convene to address the brewing tensions, the atmosphere becomes charged. Wilieris and Grimp, the gentle deities overseeing the land and agriculture, step in to mediate and restore harmony among their divine peers. Their discussion quickly turns to a pressing issue: the Earth god's troubling interference in the life of Ryoma, the protagonist of the main narrative. This meddling has not only caused misfortune for Ryoma but has also stolen joy from others without clear justification, raising questions about the gods' responsibilities and the repercussions of their oversight.

Amidst the serious undertones, the character dynamics among the gods shine

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through. The entrance of Kiriluel, the Goddess of War, adds a blend of toughness and humor, highlighting her protective instincts for their realm and encouraging the group to rethink their traditional approaches. The gods are prompted to reflect on the gravity of their duties as deities, emphasizing the theme of divine responsibility that resonates throughout their discussions.

As the conversation lightens, the focus shifts to their individual interests and escapades, revealing a humorous side to these powerful beings. Gain's amusing fascination with Earth idols and Lulutia's love for sweets provide comedic relief, showcasing their unique personalities. However, this playful banter does not overshadow the underlying concern for Ryoma and the potential negative impacts of the Earth god's actions.

Ultimately, the gods reach a consensus on the necessity of managing their interactions with the human world while remaining vigilant for any ominous developments. This resolution balances humor, camaraderie, and the weight of their divine obligations, leaving readers with a sense of fulfillment and deeper insight into the intricate lives of these celestial beings.

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Chapter 23 Summary: Extra Story: The Ones Left Behind (Part 1)

Summary of Chapter 23: The Ones Left Behind (Part 1) ~Tabuchi's Side~

In this emotionally charged chapter, the devastating aftermath of the chief's sudden death creates an oppressive atmosphere in the office. As Tabuchi returns to work, he is immediately thrust into chaos when a viral video surfaces, implying that Iguchi, who discovered the chief's body, may be linked to the incident. The company's reputation hangs in the balance, and Tabuchi's boss is frantic, worried about public backlash.

The mourning process is palpable throughout the department; many employees, including Matsumura, take leave to cope with their grief over the chief's passing. Tabuchi, however, feels the weight of taking on the chief's responsibilities, intertwining his sorrow with increasing work pressures. His work life is now a stark reminder of his personal loss, making it difficult to separate the two.

Amid client meetings fraught with tension, Tabuchi faces the repercussions of the scandal. A troubling call from his mother further complicates his emotional state; after hearing negative reviews of his workplace, she pressures him to come home. This conversation unearthed long-standing



resentments about their strained relationship, revealing Tabuchi's feelings of isolation and frustration.

As the chapter concludes, Tabuchi is left feeling overwhelmed yet reflective. Memories of the chief flood his thoughts—moments shared over drinks and the guidance he received have turned bittersweet without his mentor. In a poignant moment of vulnerability, Tabuchi grapples with the unfairness of the chief's untimely departure, echoing broader themes of loss, regret, and the unpredictable nature of life.

Overall, this chapter intricately explores the profound impact of grief, the societal pressures surrounding public perception, and Tabuchi's deeply personal reflections as he confronts the void left by a significant figure in his life.

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Chapter 24: Extra Story: The Ones Left Behind (Part 2)

Summary of Chapter 24: The Ones Left Behind (Part 2)

In this chapter, the story follows Tabuchi as he arrives early at the office, deeply affected by the recent passing of their boss, Takebayashi. Seeking clarity after a night of drinking with his colleague Baba, he finds that both of them are grappling with the emotional fallout from this unexpected loss. Their conversation reveals Tabuchi's hazy recollections of the previous evening, and together they reflect on how Takebayashi's leadership profoundly shaped their professional lives.

As the entire team gathers for drinks, a palpable sense of unease pervades the atmosphere. The absence of Takebayashi looms large, prompting Baba to question their future at the company without his support. He candidly admits to feeling overwhelmed by the prospect of navigating their work environment alone, having relied significantly on Takebayashi's kindness over the years.

In a surprising twist, Baba reveals his bold plan for the team: he proposes that they all quit their current jobs and pursue new opportunities elsewhere. Baba has already identified potential workplaces that prioritize employee welfare and promise better conditions for growth. His revelation stuns the



group, challenging them to reconsider their current dissatisfaction and fight for the work environment they deserve.

As the conversation deepens, Baba reflects on his past resentment toward Takebayashi, feelings that now mingle with regret. He acknowledges the

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