

Line wrap □

```
1 <!doctype html>
2 <html lang="en-US" class="scroll-smooth scroll-pt-12">
3   <head>
4     <meta charset="utf-8">
5     <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
6     <title>Sea Monster Stew &#8211; Chapter 3 &#8211; Readhive</title>
7     <meta name='robots' content='max-image-preview:large' />
8     <link rel='dns-prefetch' href='//readhive.org' />
9     <link rel="stylesheet" href="/public/css/app_c45fdb.css"><link rel="canonical" href="https://readhive.org/series/132967/3" />
10    <meta property="og:title" name="og:title" content="Sea Monster Stew &#8211; Chapter 3" />
11    <meta property="og:type" name="og:type" content="website" />
12    <meta property="og:image" name="og:image" content="/public/images/2022/07/F0721D5FA0CC7-02-scaled-e1658075230203.jpg" />
13    <meta property="og:image" name="og:image" content="/public/images/2025/09/Screenshot-2025-09-22-111904.jpg" />
14    <meta property="og:url" name="og:url" content="https://readhive.org/series/132967/3" />
15    <meta property="og:description" name="og:description" content="The bluntly delivered explanation pierced Bicche's heart like a finely honed blade." />
16    <meta property="og:locale" name="og:locale" content="en_US" />
17    <meta property="og:site_name" name="og:site_name" content="Readhive" />
18    <meta property="twitter:card" name="twitter:card" content="summary" />
19    <link rel="icon" href="/public/images/2022/07/F0721D5FA0CC7-02-scaled-e1658075230203-150x150.jpg" sizes="32x32">
20    <link rel="icon" href="/public/images/2022/07/F0721D5FA0CC7-02-1536x1536.jpg" sizes="192x192">
21    <link rel="apple-touch-icon" href="/public/images/2022/07/F0721D5FA0CC7-02-1536x1536.jpg">
22    <meta name="msapplication-TileImage" content="/public/images/2022/07/F0721D5FA0CC7-02-1536x1536.jpg">
23  <style>
24  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings .ab-icon:before {
25    content: '\f111';
26    top: 2px;
27    color: rgba(240,245,250,.6)!important;
28  }
29  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings-default .ab-icon:before {
30    top: 0px;
31  }
32  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings .ab-icon.on:before {
33    color: #00f200!important;
34  }
35  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings .ab-icon.red:before {
36    color: #f22!important;
37  }
38  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings-default li, #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings-default a,
39  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings-default li:hover, #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings-default a:hover {
40    border: 1px solid transparent;
41  }
42  ul li#wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-status {
43    margin: 0 0 5px 0;
44  }
45  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-blocks .ab-icon:before {
46    content: '\f135';
47  }
48  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-positions .ab-icon:before {
49    content: '\f207';
50  }
51  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-positions-default .ab-icon:before {
52    content: '\f522';
53  }
54  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-tags .ab-icon:before {
55    content: '\f475';
56  }
57  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-no-insertion .ab-icon:before {
58    content: '\f214';
59  }
60  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-adb-status .ab-icon:before {
61    content: '\f223';
62  }
63  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-adb .ab-icon:before {
64    content: '\f160';
65  }
66  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-processing .ab-icon:before {
67    content: '\f464';
68  }
69  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-processing-fe .ab-icon:before {
70    content: '\f464';
71  }
72  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-positions span.up-icon {
73    padding-top: 2px;
74  }
75  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-positions .up-icon:before {
76    font: 400 20px/1 dashicons;
77  }
78  .ai-insertion-status {
79    line-height: 26px!important;
80    height: 26px!important;
81    white-space: nowrap;
82    min-width: 140px;
83  }
84  #wp-admin-bar-ai-toolbar-settings .ab-sub-wrapper {
85    width: max-content;
86    width: -moz-max-content;
87  }
88  </style>
89  <link rel="preconnect" href="https://fonts.googleapis.com">
90  <link rel="preconnect" href="https://fonts.gstatic.com" crossorigin>
91  <link rel="preload" href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?family=Poppins:wght@400;500;700&display=swap" as="style">
92  <link rel="stylesheet" href="https://fonts.googleapis.com/css2?family=Poppins:wght@400;500;700&display=swap">
93  </head>
94
95  <body
96    x-data="theme"
```

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97      class="3" >
98
99      <div
100        id="app"
101        up-main
102      >
103      <div x-data="{nav:false}" class="text-foreground bg-accent-2 w-full h-full">
104    <div class="flex flex-grow min-h-screen">
105      <aside
106        x-init="nav = ($screen('lg'))"
107        class="bg-accent fixed inset-y-0 z-30 lg:static shadow-lg"
108        :class="{'overlay': !$screen('lg')}"
109        x-transition:enter="transition-spacing ease-in-out"
110        x-transition:enter-start="-ml-60"
111        x-transition:enter-end="ml-0"
112        x-transition:leave="transition-spacing ease-in-out"
113        x-transition:leave-start="ml-0"
114        x-transition:leave-end="-ml-60"
115        @click.away="if (!$screen('lg')) nav = false"
116        x-show="nav"
117        x-cloak
118      >
119      <div class="sticky top-0 px-4 w-60">
120        <div class="py-2 text-2xl tracking-widest text-center uppercase">
121          <a aria-current="page" href="/" up-follow up-preload>Readhive</a>
122        </div>
123
124      <hr class="h-px mx-8 my-2 bg-accent-border">
125
126      <nav
127        :class="nav || 'collapsed'"
128        class="text-sm mb-44">
129        <ul
130
131          <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
132            <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://readhive.org/" up-follow up-preload>
133              <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="20" height="20" viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="2" style="width: 1em; height: 1em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.25em;"></svg>
134              Home
135            </a>
136          </li>
137
138          <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
139            <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://discord.gg/zzGdE0jS3U" up-follow up-preload>
140              <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="20" height="20" viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="2" style="width: 1em; height: 1em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.25em;"></svg>
141              Discord
142            </a>
143          </li>
144
145          <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
146            <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://readhive.org/updates/" up-follow up-preload>
147              <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="20" height="20" viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="2" style="width: 1em; height: 1em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.25em;"></svg>
148              Updates
149            </a>
150          </li>
151
152          <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
153            <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://readhive.org/reading-list/" up-follow up-preload>
154              <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="20" height="20" viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="2" style="width: 1em; height: 1em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.25em;"></svg>
155              Reading List
156            </a>
157          </li>
158
159          <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
160            <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://readhive.org/browse-series/" up-follow up-preload>
161              <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="20" height="20" viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="2" style="width: 1em; height: 1em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.25em;"></svg>
162              Browse Series
163            </a>
164          </li>
165        </ul>
166      </nav>
167
168      <div class="my-2">
169        <hr class="h-px mx-8 my-2 bg-accent-border">
170
171        <div
172          :class="nav || 'collapsed'"
173          class="mb-4 text-sm">
174          <ul
175
176            <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
177              <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://readhive.org/dmca/" up-follow up-preload>
178                <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="20" height="20" viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="2" style="width: 1em; height: 1em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.25em;"></svg>
179                DMCA
180              </a>
181            </li>
182
183            <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
184              <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://readhive.org/copyright-faq/" up-follow up-preload>
185                <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="20" height="20" viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="2" style="width: 1em; height: 1em; vertical-align: middle; margin-right: 0.25em;"></svg>
186                Copyright FAQ
187              </a>
188            </li>
189
190          </ul>
191        </div>
192
193      </div>
194    
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195      </li>
196
197
198      <li class="relative px-4 rounded cursor-pointer font-medium hover:bg-accent-hover">
199        <a class="flex items-center py-2" href="https://readhive.org/terms-of-service/" up-follow up-preload>
200
201        Terms of Service
202        </a>
203      </li>
204    </ul>
205  </div>
206
207 <footer class="px-8 py-2 text-xs">
208   <div>© 2022 Readhive</div>
209 </footer>
210 </div>
211
212 <div class="py-3 overflow-hidden relative">
213   <div class="flex justify-center">
214     <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792698429"></div>
215   </div>
216 </div>
217   </div>
218 </aside>
219
220 <div
221   x-init="$store.app.main = $el"
222   :class="{ 'pointer-events-none': nav && !$screen('lg') }"
223   class="flex flex-col min-w-0 w-full relative"
224 >
225   <header
226     class="relative w-full z-20"
227 >
228 <div
229   x-data="{ opacity: 0 }"
230   class="relative flex justify-between w-full px-4 py-1 banner sm:px-8"
231 >
232
233   <div class="flex items-center justify-start">
234     <button @click.prevent="nav = !nav" clas="p-2 transition rounded-full hover:bg-btn-hover hover:background-30 active:background-50">
235       <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 24 24" width="28" height="28" class="fill-foreground"><path d="M2 5.995c0-.554-"
236         </button>
237
238   <div
239     x-show="!nav"
240     class="hidden text-2xl tracking-widest text-center uppercase truncated md:block"
241     x-cloak
242   >
243     <a aria-current="page" href="/" up-follow up-preload>Readhive</a>
244   </div>
245   </div>
246
247   <div class="flex items-center justify-end flex-grow">
248     <div
249       x-data="{ focus:false }"
250       class="flex flex-grow max-w-xs mx-4 transition-width duration-500 rounded-md"
251       :class="{ 'max-w-full lg:max-w-md': focus, 'max-w-xs': !focus }"
252     >
253     <form
254       x-data="search"
255       class="relative flex-grow opacity-80 transition z-30"
256       :style="focus && 'opacity: 100%'"'
257     >
258       <div @click.outside="focus = false">
259         <div class="relative overflow-hidden rounded-md">
260           <input @click="focus = true" type="search" class="w-full px-4 py-2 pr-10 rounded-sm shadow-md bg-accent text-sm focus:outline-none placeholder">
261           <div class="absolute inset-y-0 right-0 flex items-center pr-3 pointer-events-none">
262             <svg class="w-5 h-5 text-foreground" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" viewBox="0 0 24 24" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg">
263               <path stroke-linecap="round" stroke-linejoin="round" stroke-width="2" d="M21 21l-6-6m2-5a7 7 0 11-14 0 7 7 0 0114 0z"></path>
264           </div>
265         </div>
266       </div>
267
268       <div
269         class="absolute w-full mt-4 flex items-start justify-center overflow-hidden"
270         x-show="focus"
271         x-transition:enter="transform transition"
272         x-transition:enter-start="opacity-0 translate-y-4"
273         x-transition:enter-end="opacity-100 translate-y-0"
274         x-transition:leave="transition transform"
275         x-transition:leave-start="opacity-100 translate-y-0"
276         x-transition:leave-end="opacity-0 translate-y-4"
277         x-cloak
278       >
279         <div class="relative w-full max-w-2xl max-h-full overflow-auto bg-accent-2 rounded shadow-lg">
280           <div class="p-4">
281             <div x-show="!value || !results">Enter a search query...</div>
282           <div class="grid gap-2" x-show="value && results">
283             <template x-for="series in results">
284               <a :href="series.url" up-follow up-preload>
285                 <div class="flex gap-2 p-2 rounded bg-accent hover:bg-accent-hover">
286                   <div class="flex-shrink-0 h-16 w-14 cover">
287                     
288                   </div>
289
290                   <div class="flex flex-col justify-between gap-2">
291                     <h4 class="font-bold break-all line-clamp-2 text-foreground" x-text="series.title"></h4>
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293         <div class="flex flex-col sm:flex-row gap-x-4 gap-y-2">
294             </div>
295         </div>
296     </a>
297     </template>
298   </div>
299   </div>
300 </div>
301 </div>
302 </div>
303 </div>
304 </form>
305
306 <div class="fixed inset-0 bg-black/50" x-show="focus" x-cloak></div>
307 </div>
308 <div
309 x-data="{open:false}"
310 class="relative"
311 >
312 <button
313   class="flex items-center flex-shrink-0 space-x-2 focus:outline-none"
314   @click="open = !open"
315 >
316   <div class="flex items-center justify-center p-2 bg-header-profile border-2 border-accent-border rounded-full">
317     <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="18" height="18" viewBox="0 0 24 24">
318       <path opacity="0" d="M0 0h24v24H0z" />
319       <path d="M12 11a4 4 0 1 0-4-4 4 0 0 0 4 4zm6 10a1 1 0 0 0 1-1 7 7 0 0 0-14 0 1 1 0 0 0 1 1z" />
320     </svg>
321   </div>
322 </button>
323
324 <div
325   classe="bg-header-profilemenu absolute top-full right-0 mt-2 px-3 py-2 rounded-md shadow-lg min-w-64 overflow-hidden z-20"
326   @click.outside="open = false"
327   x-show="open"
328   x-transition:enter="transition ease-out transform"
329   x-transition:enter-start="opacity-0 -translate-y-2"
330   x-transition:enter-end="opacity-100 translate-y-0"
331   x-transition:leave="transition ease-in"
332   x-transition:leave-start="opacity-100"
333   x-transition:leave-end="opacity-0"
334   x-cloak
335 >
336   <div
337     class="px-3 pb-2 mb-2 border-b border-accent-2-border"
338   >
339     <div class="font-medium">Eterna8</div>
340     <div class="flex items-center text-xs">
341       <div class="mr-2 italic">Reader</div>
342       <div class="flex items-center">
343         <svg width="14" height="14" viewBox="0 0 24 24" class="mr-1" fill="currentColor"><path d="M20.895 7.5531-2-4A1.001 1.001 0 0 0 18 3h-5a1 1
344           <span>0</span>
345         </div>
346       </div>
347     </div>
348
349 <div x-data="theme" class="flex flex-wrap justify-center items-center border-b border-accent-2-border pb-2 mb-2">
350   <div @click="reset" :class="theme === 'light' && 'border-red'" class="bg-white rounded border mr-1 w-16 h-5"></div>
351   <div @click="update('dark')" :class="theme === 'dark' && 'border-red'" class="dark bg-accent-2 rounded border mr-1 w-16 h-5"></div>
352 </div>
353
354   <ul class="mb-2 pb-2 border-b border-accent-2-border">
355     <li>
356       <a href="https://readhive.org/settings/" class="flex items-center px-3 py-2 text-sm font-medium rounded hover:bg-shade" up-follow up-preload">
357         Settings
358       </a>
359     </li>
360     <li>
361       <a href="https://readhive.org/settings/#topup" class="flex items-center px-3 py-2 text-sm font-medium rounded hover:bg-shade" up-follow up-preload">
362         Top Up
363       </a>
364     </li>
365     <li>
366       <a href="https://readhive.org/logout/" class="flex items-center px-3 py-2 text-sm font-medium rounded hover:bg-shade" up-follow up-preload">
367         Logout
368       </a>
369     </li>
370   </ul>
371
372   <div class="border-accent-2-border">
373     <a href="logout" class="flex items-center px-3 py-2 text-sm font-medium rounded hover:bg-shade">Logout</a>
374   </div>
375 </div>
376 </div>
377 </div>
378 </div>
379 </header>
380
381   <main class="min-h-screen pb-24 px-4 py-2 sm:px-8">
382     <div
383       x-data="{toc:false}"
384       class="relative flex flex-col items-center justify-center flex-grow py-2 mx-auto mt-2 md:max-w-4xl"
385     >
386       <h1 class="font-semibold text-center">
387         <a href="https://readhive.org/series/132967/" class="flex flex-col lg:flex-row items-center justify-center text-center text-xl " up-follow up-preload">
388           <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 32 32" width="24" height="24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-linecap="round" stroke-width="2">
389             <path d="M16 7 C16 7 9 1 2 6 L2 28 C9 23 16 28 16 28 23 23 30 28 L30 6 C23 1 16 7 16 7 Z M16 7 L16 28" />
390           </svg>
391       </a>
392     </div>
393   </main>
394 
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391     <span class="m1-2">Sea Monster Stew</span>
392   </a>
393   <strong class="text-lg">Chapter 3</strong>
394   </h1>
395   </div>
396
397   <div class="flex justify-between py-2 mb-4 border-t border-b border-accent-border">
398     <div class="flex justify-between flex-grow mx-auto md:max-w-4xl">
399       <a href="https://readhive.org/series/132967/2" class="flex items-center justify-center px-3 py-2 font-medium text-white bg-red-600 rounded st
400         <svg viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" class="h-5 w-5">
401           <path d="M15 6L9.21261 11.7874V11.7874C9.09519 11.9048 9.09519 12.0952 9.21261 12.2126V12.2126L15 18" stroke="#fff" stroke-width="4" stroke-:
402             </svg>
403           <small class="text-sm leading-none">Previous</small>
404         </a>
405
406         <a href="https://readhive.org/series/132967/4" class="flex items-center justify-center px-3 py-2 font-medium text-white bg-red-600 rounded st
407           <small class="text-sm leading-none">Next</small>
408           <svg viewBox="0 0 24 24" fill="none" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" class="h-5 w-5">
409             <path d="M9 18L14.7874 12.2126V12.2126C14.9048 12.0952 14.9048 14.7874 11.7874V11.7874L9 6" stroke="#fff" stroke-width="4" stroke-:
410               </svg>
411         </a>
412       </div>
413     </div>
414
415     <div class="justify-center flex-grow mx-auto prose md:max-w-4xl lg:relative">
416       <div @click="$dispatch('tools')" class="mb-4" style="font-size: var(--font-size); line-height: var(--line-height); font-family: var(--font-family)
417         <div class="flex flex-col text-xs">
418           <span>Author: Dakku-san</span>
419         </div>
420     <div class='code-block code-block-1' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both; width: 100%; overflow: hidden;'>
421       <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792698414"></div></div>
422       <p>The bluntly delivered explanation pierced Bicche's heart like a finely honed blade. She muttered in a trembling voice,</p>
423       <p><b>You don't mean humanoid sea monsters, do you?</b></p>
424       <p>&nbsp;</p>
425       <p><b>Huh? I'm not sure about that part, but...</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> The boy scratched his cheek with a puzzled expression.</span></p>
426       <p>&nbsp;</p>
427       <p><b>The wife couldn't forgive herself for being satisfied after eating such a filthy monster.</b></p>
428       <p>&nbsp;</p>
429       <p><b>The fear and sorrow welling inside Bicche grew steadily. Her heart began to pound as if it might leap out of her chest.</b></p>
430       <p>&nbsp;</p>
431       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">The more she dwelled on the riddle, the more her heart ached. Bicche identified as both human and sea monster. Thus, </span></p>
432       <p>&nbsp;</p>
433       <div class='code-block code-block-9' style='margin: 8px auto; text-align: center; display: block; clear: both;'>
434         <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
435
436       <p><i><span style="font-weight: 400">Would I have felt nothing hearing this if I were just an ordinary human?</span></i></p>
437       <p>&nbsp;</p>
438       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">The more she dwelled on the riddle, the more her heart ached. Bicche identified as both human and sea monster. Thus, </span></p>
439       <p>&nbsp;</p>
440       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Doubts about herself resurfaced. She agonized over the suspicion directed at her existence—neither fully human nor fully </span></p>
441       <p><i><span style="font-weight: 400">I can never truly blend in with humans.</span></i></p>
442       <p>&nbsp;</p>
443       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">As she crawled back under the blanket, newly aware of her predicament, the boy tapped her shoulder and asked, </span></p>
444       <p>&nbsp;</p>
445       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Bicche defiantly pulled the blanket over her head.</span><b> Not fun.</b></p>
446       <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792698441"></div></div>
447
448       <p>&nbsp;</p>
449       <p><b>Really? The pirate uncles all laughed and said it was thrilling when they heard it.</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> The boy mumbled </span></p>
450       <p>&nbsp;</p>
451       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">A moment later, she sensed a slight movement outside the blanket. Bicche lowered it slightly with a confused look.</span></p>
452       <p>&nbsp;</p>
453       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">The boy was lying on his side beside the blanket, staring intently at her with his amber eyes. Startled by his sudden </span></p>
454       <p>&nbsp;</p>
455       <p><b>Wh-What are you doing? Go back to your spot.</b></p>
456       <p>&nbsp;</p>
457       <p><b>You still haven't answered my question. I asked why you were crying earlier.</b></p>
458       <p>&nbsp;</p>
459       <div class='code-block code-block-4' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both;'>
460         <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792698426"></div></div>
461
462       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Bicche looked at him flustered. First, he tells a horrifying riddle to cheer her up, and now he lies stubbornly besides me.</span></p>
463       <p>&nbsp;</p>
464       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">He was an utterly unpredictable boy. She felt that evading the question or lying would be pointless. After hesitating </span></p>
465       <p><b>My mother!</b></p>
466       <p>&nbsp;</p>
467       <p><b>Okay. Your mother.</b></p>
468       <p>&nbsp;</p>
469       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">The boy echoed her words in a slightly kinder voice. His gaze was no longer cold or indifferent. Unexpected warmth mixed with </span></p>
470       <p>&nbsp;</p>
471       <p><b>There was a precious locket necklace my mother gave me.</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> Bicche confessed in a trembling voice. </span></p>
472       <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792698432"></div></div>
473
474       <p>&nbsp;</p>
475       <p><b>Captain Hawk took it and still hasn't returned it.</b></p>
476       <p>&nbsp;</p>
477       <p><b>Captain Hawk?</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> The boy asked, puzzled. Bicche recalled the moment the captain snatched the necklace from her neck. </span></p>
478       <p>&nbsp;</p>
479       <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Even when she begged, saying it was precious, the captain ignored her, merely examining the locket intently.</span></p>
480       <p>&nbsp;</p>
481       <p><b>I thought he'd return it when we disembarked on Sanskrit Island!</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> Bicche mumbled, </span></p>
482       <p>&nbsp;</p>
483       <p><b>So he let you off the island and still hasn't returned your necklace.</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> The boy responded, </span></p>
484       <p>&nbsp;</p>
485       <div class='code-block code-block-6' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both;'>
486         <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792698423"></div>
487
488       <p><b>Where are you going?</b></p>
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489 <p>&nbsp;</p>
490 <p><b>I'm going to confront the captain.</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> The boy glanced back at her over his shoulder.</span></p>
491 <p>&nbsp;</p>
492 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">His voice held a resolute determination. His initial indifference had completely vanished.</span></p>
493 <p>&nbsp;</p>
494 <p><b>Wait, if you provoke him for no reason?</b></p>
495 <p>&nbsp;</p>
496 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Bicche scrambled up and rushed toward the door, but the boy had already slipped out. She peeked outside and looked around him. </span></p>
497 <p>&nbsp;</p>
498 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">By the next morning, the boy still hadn't returned. Even as Bicche changed into clean clothes brought by a sailor, she couldn't shake the feeling of unease. </span></p>
499 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
500
501 <p>&nbsp;</p>
502 <p><i><span style="font-weight: 400">‘Could he have been severely punished by the captain?’</span></i></p>
503 <p>&nbsp;</p>
504 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Her anxiety refused to settle. Though he was just a stranger whose name she didn't even know, the subtle connection between them was undeniable. </span></p>
505 <p>&nbsp;</p>
506 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Unable to suppress her worry, she cautiously asked the sailor who brought her food.</span></p>
507 <p>&nbsp;</p>
508 <p><b>Um, I haven't seen the boy who was brought back onboard with me since yesterday.</b></p>
509 <p>&nbsp;</p>
510 <p><b>Huh? Oh, you mean the lanky kid?</b><span style="font-weight: 400">The sailor nodded as if remembering. </span><b>He's been here all day.</b></p>
511 <p>&nbsp;</p>
512 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
513
514 <p><b>I was worried since he suddenly disappeared!</b></p>
515 <p>&nbsp;</p>
516 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Bicche breathed a sigh of relief. At least he hadn't been fed to the sharks. But her anxiety didn't fully subside. </span></p>
517 <p>&nbsp;</p>
518 <p><b>Um, where is this ship headed now?</b></p>
519 <p>&nbsp;</p>
520 <p><b>Huh? Didn't the captain tell you?</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> The sailor scratched his tousled hair and answered offhandedly. </span></p>
521 <p>&nbsp;</p>
522 <p><b>Karabas?</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> Karabas?</span></p>
523 <p>&nbsp;</p>
524 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">The name made her breath catch. Bicche's eyes widened. </span></p>
525 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
526
527 <p>&nbsp;</p>
528 <p><i><span style="font-weight: 400">‘Karabas.’</span></i><span style="font-weight: 400"> It was the infamous stronghold of the Crocus Pirates. Her stomach clenched at the thought of what might await her there. </span></p>
529 <p>&nbsp;</p>
530 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">As soon as the sailor left, Bicche buried her face in her hands. Her chest tightened painfully. </span></p>
531 <p>&nbsp;</p>
532 <p><i><span style="font-weight: 400">‘They say the Crocus Pirates value chivalry? What a lie!’</span></i></p>
533 <p>&nbsp;</p>
534 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">She seethed inwardly, swallowing her frustration. Her faint trust in the pirate crew had shattered to pieces. </span></p>
535 <p>&nbsp;</p>
536 <p><i><span style="font-weight: 400">‘I have to escape.’</span></i></p>
537 <p>&nbsp;</p>
538 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
539
540 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">As if entranced, she rose and approached the round window in the crew quarters. Beyond it, the blue sea waves surged. </span></p>
541 <p>&nbsp;</p>
542 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Firmly resolved, she placed one knee on the windowsill. Now, the only way was to leap into the sea and swim aimlessly. </span></p>
543 <p>&nbsp;</p>
544 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Though she didn't have gills yet, the sea monster blood in her veins might protect her. </span></p>
545 <p>&nbsp;</p>
546 <p><b>What are you doing?!</b></p>
547 <p>&nbsp;</p>
548 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">At that moment, a voice made her jolt. The gray-haired boy appeared, firmly grabbing her from behind. </span></p>
549 <p>&nbsp;</p>
550 <p><b>Are you insane? Were you trying to kill yourself?!</b></p>
551 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
552
553 <p>&nbsp;</p>
554 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">He pulled her away from the window, his voice mixed with anger and confusion. Dangling in the air, Bicche muttered a curse under her breath. </span></p>
555 <p>&nbsp;</p>
556 <p><b>What? You were going to run away and leave me behind? How treacherous!</b></p>
557 <p>&nbsp;</p>
558 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">He set her down roughly among the hammocks, his expression fierce. </span><b>You traitor. I thought we were on the same side!</b></p>
559 <p>&nbsp;</p>
560 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Though his tone was fierce and rough, his twisted face couldn't hide his disappointment. He seemed genuinely broken. </span></p>
561 <p>&nbsp;</p>
562 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Bicche bowed her head deeply, avoiding his gaze. </span><b>Sorry.</b></p>
563 <p>&nbsp;</p>
564 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
565
566 <p><b>All my back-breaking work to get this back feels wasted now.</b></p>
567 <p>&nbsp;</p>
568 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">He sighed shallowly and held out a silver necklace to her. Bicche's eyes widened at the sight of the swinging ring. </span></p>
569 <p>&nbsp;</p>
570 <p><b>How did you?</b></p>
571 <p>&nbsp;</p>
572 <p><b>I got it back in exchange for polishing the captain's quarters floor spotless.</b></p>
573 <p>&nbsp;</p>
574 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">As he fastened the necklace for her, he looked like an angel. Tears welled in Bicche's eyes as she looked up at him. </span></p>
575 <p>&nbsp;</p>
576 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">It was the first warm kindness she'd felt since being kidnapped onto the slave ship. A warm emotion bloomed in her heart. </span></p>
577 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
578
579 <p>&nbsp;</p>
580 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Overcome with emotion, she pulled him into a tight hug. He looked down at her, flustered, as she buried her face in his chest. </span></p>
581 <p>&nbsp;</p>
582 <p><b>What are you doing?</b></p>
583 <p>&nbsp;</p>
584 <p><b>Thank you so much!</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> Bicche mumbled, trying to compose herself. </span></p>
585 <p>&nbsp;</p>
586 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">He hesitated, then carefully pushed her away. </span><b>That's enough. Step back.</b></p>

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587 <p>&nbsp;</p>
588 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Bicche obediently stepped back, wiping her tear-soaked face. When she glanced up, the boy's face was bright red.</span></p>
589 <p>&nbsp;</p><div class='code-block code-block-2' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both; width: 100%; overflow: hidden;'>
590 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
591
592 <p><b>I returned your necklace, so stop your blubbering.</b><span style="font-weight: 400"> He grumbled, comfortably lying on a nearby hammock.</span></p>
593 <p>&nbsp;</p>
594 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Now that she thought about it, though they'd been captured together on the pirate ship, they still didn't know each other's names.</span></p>
595 <p>&nbsp;</p>
596 <p><b>What's your name? Where's your hometown?</b></p>
597 <p>&nbsp;</p>
598 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">When Bicche cautiously asked, the boy clasped his hands behind his head as a pillow and shut his eyes firmly.</span></p>
599 <p>&nbsp;</p>
600 <p><b>I have no home or family to return to.</b></p>
601 <p>&nbsp;</p>
602 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">Bicche's heart sank at his answer. She worried she might have touched a painful subject.</span></p><div class='code-block code-block-2' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both; width: 100%; overflow: hidden;'>
603 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
604
605 <p>&nbsp;</p>
606 <p><i><span style="font-weight: 400">‘But at least his name...’</span></i></p>
607 <p>&nbsp;</p>
608 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">However, his tightly closed eyes held irritation, making it difficult to ask further.</span></p>
609 <p>&nbsp;</p>
610 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">At that moment, the door burst open, and Captain Hawk appeared. Bicche hurriedly tucked the locket necklace into her pocket.</span></p>
611 <p>&nbsp;</p>
612 <p><b>Come out.</b></p>
613 <p>&nbsp;</p>
614 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">The captain didn't even glance at the startled Bicche, jerking his chin toward the door. His eyes, filled with anger, met hers from across the room.</span></p>
615 <p>&nbsp;</p><div class='code-block code-block-2' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both; width: 100%; overflow: hidden;'>
616 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
617
618 <p><b>Let's go, then.</b></p>
619 <p>&nbsp;</p>
620 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">The boy sighed and leaped down from the hammock. The captain glared at him as he left the room before turning to Bicche.</span></p>
621 <p>&nbsp;</p>
622 <p><b>Sorry to startle you. Rest well.</b></p>
623 <p>&nbsp;</p>
624 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">With that, the door slammed shut.</span></p>
625 <p>&nbsp;</p>
626 <p>&nbsp;</p>
627 <p style="text-align: center"><span style="font-weight: 400">* * *</span></p>
628 <p>&nbsp;</p><div class='code-block code-block-2' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both; width: 100%; overflow: hidden;'>
629 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22792697793"></div></div>
630
631 <p>&nbsp;</p>
632 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">As he stepped onto the deck, the sound of slapping waves greeted him. Kisa yawned lazily, stretching his arms across his chest.</span></p>
633 <p>&nbsp;</p>
634 <p><b>Kisa, you brat!</b></p>
635 <p>&nbsp;</p>
636 <p><span style="font-weight: 400">A fist came flying from behind with a </span><i><span style="font-weight: 400">whoosh</span></i><span style="font-weight: 400"> whoosh!</span></p>
637 <div class='code-block code-block-10' style='margin: 8px 0; clear: both; width: 100%; overflow: hidden;'>
638 <!-- 7116163/read_footer/read_footer -->
639 <div x-data="unit" data-fuse="22797964181"></div></div>
640 <!-- AI CONTENT END 10 -->
641 </div>
642
643
644 <div
645 x-data="{open:false}"
646 class="fixed lg:absolute top-0 right-0 lg:-right-10 lg:h-full w-full lg:w-10 z-10 p-2 lg:p-0 not-prose"
647 x-show="open"
648 @tools.window="open = !open"
649 x-transition.opacity.duration.300ms
650 x-cloak
651 >
652 <div class="sticky top-0 lg:top-10">
653 <div class="flex lg:flex-col justify-between items-center bg-accent rounded-md shadow-md overflow-hidden">
654 <button
655 @click.prevent="$dispatch('toc')"
656 class="flex items-center justify-center py-3 w-full hover:bg-accent-hover">
657 <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 32 32" width="22" height="22" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-linecap="round" stroke-width="2">
658 <path d="M4 8 L24 8 M4 16 L28 16 M4 24 L28 24" />
659 </svg>
660 </button>
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662 @click.prevent="$dispatch('fonts')"
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665 <path d="M13 2 L13 6 11 7 8 4 4 8 7 11 6 13 2 19 6 19 7 21 4 24 8 28 11 25 13 26 13 30 19 30 19 26 21 25 24 28 28 24 25 21 26 19 30 19" />
666 <circle cx="16" cy="16" r="4" />
667 </svg>
668 </button>
669 <button
670 @click.prevent="$dispatch('donate')"
671 class="flex items-center justify-center py-3 w-full hover:bg-accent-hover">
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674 </svg>
675 </button>
676 <a href="#comments" class="flex items-center justify-center py-3 w-full hover:bg-accent-hover">
677 <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 32 32" width="18" height="18" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-linecap="round" stroke-width="2">
678 <path d="M2 4 L30 4 30 22 16 22 8 29 8 22 2 22 Z" />
679 </svg>
680 </a>
681 </div>
682 </div>
683 </div>
684 </div>

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685     </svg>
686   </a>
687
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689     <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 32 32" width="18" height="18" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-linecap="round" :
690       <path d="M10 6 L4 16 10 26 M2 16 L30 16" />
691     </svg>
692   </a>
693
694   <a href="https://readhive.org/series/132967/4" class="flex items-center justify-center py-3 w-full hover:bg-accent-hover" up-follow up-pi
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696       <path d="M22 6 L30 16 22 26 M30 16 L4 16" />
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698   </a>
699 </div>
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703   @toc.window="open = !open"
704   @click.outside="open = false"
705   class="absolute top-10 mt-4 right-0 bg-accent flex flex-col rounded-md w-full shadow-md md:w-96 lg:mt-0 lg:right-12 lg:top-0"
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707   x-transition:enter-start="opacity-0 transform translate-y-1"
708   x-transition:enter-end="opacity-100 transform translate-y-0"
709   x-transition:leave="transition ease-in duration-150"
710   x-transition:leave-start="opacity-100 transform translate-y-0"
711   x-transition:leave-end="opacity-0 transform translate-y-1"
712   x-show="open"
713   x-cloak
714 >
715 <div class="justify-center py-2 font-medium text-center border-b-2">Table of Contents</div>
716 <div
717   x-ignore
718   ax-load="idle"
719   x-data="toc(132967)"
720   class="max-h-80 overflow-auto"
721 >
722 <ol class="list-none m-0 p-0">
723   <template x-for="item in items">
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726         :href="item.url"
727         :class="item.url != window.location.href.slice(0, -1) && 'no-underline' "
728         class="p-2 px-3 hover:underline hover:bg-accent-hover flex flex-grow"
729         x-text="item.title"
730       ></a>
731     </li>
732   </template>
733   <template x-if="loading">
734     <svg class="animate-spin text-foreground" xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" width="24" height="24" fill="none" viewBox="0 0 24 24">
735       <circle class="opacity-25" cx="12" cy="12" r="10" stroke="currentColor" stroke-width="4"></circle>
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737     </svg>
738   </template>
739 </ol>
740 </div>
741 <div
742   x-data="{open:false}"
743   @fonts.window="open = !open"
744   @click.outside="open = false"
745   class="absolute top-10 mt-4 right-0 bg-accent flex flex-col rounded-md w-full shadow-md md:w-96 lg:mt-0 lg:right-12 lg:top-0"
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747   x-transition:enter-start="opacity-0 transform translate-y-1"
748   x-transition:enter-end="opacity-100 transform translate-y-0"
749   x-transition:leave="transition ease-in duration-150"
750   x-transition:leave-start="opacity-100 transform translate-y-0"
751   x-transition:leave-end="opacity-0 transform translate-y-1"
752   x-show="open"
753   x-cloak
754 >
755 <div class="justify-center py-2 font-medium text-center border-b-2">Reader Settings</div>
756 <div
757   x-ignore
758   ax-load="idle"
759   x-data="fonts"
760   x-init="loadAllFonts()"
761   class="p-2"
762 >
763   <div class="mb-1">
764     <span class="block leading-tight">Font Size</span>
765     <div class="flex">
766       <input type="range" x-model="size" min="12" max="36" class="w-full flex-grow">
767       <input type="number" min="12" max="36" x-model="size" class="bg-accent-2 ml-1 text-xs w-11 p-1 rounded outline-0">
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769   </div>
770
771   <div class="mb-1">
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777   </div>
778
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780     <span class="block">Font</span>
781     <div class="flex flex-wrap gap-2">
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882 <small class="text-sm leading-none">Next</small>
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890 <h3 class="mb-2 text-xl font-medium">Related Series</h3>
891 <div
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895 class="swiper"
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897 <div class="swiper-wrapper">
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901 
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903 </a>
904 </div>
905 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/86680/" up-follow up-preload>
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913 </div>
914 </a>
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916 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/44123/" up-follow up-preload>
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922 <div class="aspect-w-3 aspect-h-4">
923 
924 </div>
925 </a>
926 </div>
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935 </div>
936 </a>
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938 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/110441/" up-follow up-preload>
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948 </div>
949 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/124670/" up-follow up-preload>
950 <h6 class="mt-2 text-sm font-medium line-clamp-2 text-center group-hover:text-red">I Became the Master of the Devil</h6>
951 </a>
952 </div>
953 <div class="swiper-slide w-32 flex-shrink-0 group">
954 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/104571/" up-follow up-preload>
955 <div class="aspect-w-3 aspect-h-4">
956 
957 </div>
958 </a>
959 </div>
960 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/104571/" up-follow up-preload>
961 <h6 class="mt-2 text-sm font-medium line-clamp-2 text-center group-hover:text-red">My Husband Was the Master of the Magic Tower</h6>
962 </a>
963 </div>
964 <div class="swiper-slide w-32 flex-shrink-0 group">
965 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/139976/" up-follow up-preload>
966 <div class="aspect-w-3 aspect-h-4">
967 
968 </div>
969 </a>
970 </div>
971 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/139976/" up-follow up-preload>
972 <h6 class="mt-2 text-sm font-medium line-clamp-2 text-center group-hover:text-red">Underwater Maze</h6>
973 </a>
974 </div>
975 <div class="swiper-slide w-32 flex-shrink-0 group">
976 <a href="https://readhive.org/series/19967/" up-follow up-preload>
977 </div>
```

```
978     <div class="aspect-w-3 aspect-h-4">
979         
980     </div>
981 </a>
982
983     <a href="https://readhive.org/series/19967/" up-follow up-preload>
984         <h6 class="mt-2 text-sm font-medium line-clamp-2 text-center group-hover:text-red">Your Regrets Are Late</h6>
985     </a>
986 </div>
987     <div class="swiper-slide w-32 flex-shrink-0 group">
988         <a href="https://readhive.org/series/41838/" up-follow up-preload>
989             <div class="aspect-w-3 aspect-h-4">
990                 
991             </div>
992         </a>
993
994         <a href="https://readhive.org/series/41838/" up-follow up-preload>
995             <h6 class="mt-2 text-sm font-medium line-clamp-2 text-center group-hover:text-red">Hunter, Thank You For Your Blood Donation!</h6>
996         </a>
997     </div>
998 </div>
999 </div>
1000 </div>
1001
1002 <div id="comments" class="flex-grow py-2 mx-auto comments md:max-w-4xl">
1003     <h3 class="mb-4 text-xl font-medium">
1004         Comments (0)
1005     </h3>
1006
1007
1008     <div x-ignore ax-load x-data="recaptcha('', false)">
1009         <div id="respond" class="flex flex-col comment-form relative">
1010             <div id="reply-title" class="absolute bottom-0 flex order-2 w-full mb-2 font-medium comment-reply-title mr-14"><div></div><small class="ml-auto">
1011             <input type='hidden' name='comment_parent' id='comment_parent' value='0'>
1012         </p></form> </div><!-- #respond -->
1013     </div>
1014
1015     <ol class="comment-list">
1016
1017     </ol>
1018 </div>
1019
1020 <div x-data>
1021     <script async>(function(){window.dataLayer=window.dataLayer||[];window.dataLayer.push({event:'chapter_view',author:'rcast',series:'Sea Monster Stev
1022     <div x-init={() => { fetch(window.location.href + 'track') }; $el.remove()}"></div>
1023 </div>
1024     </main>
1025
1026     <div
1027 x-ignore
1028 ax-load="idle"
1029 x-data="toast"
1030 class="fixed right-0 z-10 flex flex-col top-16"
1031 @toast.window="add($event.detail)"
1032 >
1033 <template x-for="toast of toasts" :key="toast.id">
1034     <button
1035         x-show="visibles.includes(toast)"
1036         x-transition:enter="transition ease-in duration-200"
1037             x-transition:enter-start="transform opacity-0 translate-y-2"
1038             x-transition:enter-end="transform opacity-100"
1039             x-transition:leave="transition ease-out duration-500"
1040             x-transition:leave-start="transform translate-x-0 opacity-100"
1041             x-transition:leave-end="transform translate-x-full opacity-0"
1042         @click="remove(toast.id)"
1043         type="button"
1044         :class="toast.success ? 'bg-green-400 hover:bg-green-500' : 'bg-red-400 hover:bg-red-500'"
1045         class="max-w-xs px-4 py-2 mx-4 mb-4 text-white transition rounded-md"
1046     >
1047     <div class="flex space-x-2">
1048         <template x-if="toast.success">
1049             <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 32 32" width="24" height="24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-linecap="round" :>
1050             </template>
1051             <template x-if="!toast.success">
1052                 <svg xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2000/svg" viewBox="0 0 24 24" width="24" height="24" fill="none" stroke="currentColor" stroke-linecap="round" :>
1053                 </template>
1054             <p class="font-medium text-left" x-text="toast.message"></p>
1055         </div>
1056     </button>
1057 </template>
1058 </div>
1059 </div>
1060
1061 <div x-data="{fixed:true}" x-ref="bottom" class="fixed z-20 m-1 bottom-0 transform translate-x-1/2 right-1/2">
1062     <div class="relative text-center">
1063
1064         </div>
1065     </div>
1066     </div>
1067     </div>
1068 </div>
1069     </div>
1070
1071     <script defer>(function(w,d,s,l,i){w[l]=w[l]||[];w[l].push({'gtm.start':new Date().getTime(),event:'gtm.js'});var f=d.getElementsByTagName(s)[0]
1072 (({})=>{"use strict";var e,r,t,o={};a={};function n(e){var r=a[e];if(void 0!==r) return r.exports;var t=a[e]={exports:{}},return o[e].call(t.exports,t,t.e
1073 </script><script src="/public/js/116.5674a7.js"></script><script src="/public/js/667.f6a505.js"></script><script src="/public/js/303.faid40.js"></script>
1074 </html>
```