

# Dr Mori's Hypothesis

By C. Jade Wyton

*Dr Mori has a hypothesis about his employer's magic, and as he seeks a way to test if his thoughts are correct, he finds a wonderful thing for his own studies into immortality: a baby unicorn.*

***Contains descriptions of violence, medical abuse, and animal abuse.***

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The woods were rife with magic.

Dr Mori could practically hear the life force within these trees whispering to him as he strode through them; fast and silent.

The lich had set up another laboratory in an abandoned building just a ways away from the local town of Palliate. And while heading into town for supplies, Dr Mori had spoken to one of the local shopkeepers about the obviously-magical woods.

They had told him about the oasis that was hidden within its trees; filled with magical water that could alleviate the worst symptoms from most illnesses. Though he'd been warned the water didn't *cure* illnesses; it simply made them less severe, and brought comfort to those who drank of it. A doctor would still have to treat the underlying cause....

The town's name made a lot of sense, upon learning this information.

And Dr Mori had leapt on the chance to collect some magic that was *not* from the lich's veins.

She would never admit to anything, of course, but Mori had some *suspensions* about the experiments that she had hired him to create.... It seemed that the lich's magic fluctuated in quality and power. As if something within it was *faulty*. And Mori believed that this was what was making the results of his experiments so inconsistent.

And it was also why he thought that her little experiments always seemed so resistant to her spells after she had made them; he had seen her trying to cast a spell on one of the creatures made with magic from her own blood, only for her magic to pass through it with no effect....

But he needed to *prove* this hypothesis. And to prove it, he needed a source of magic.

And though this magic was weak, he had thought there could be no harm in performing a little *side experiment*.

If he made a child using another source of magic at its base, then it might bypass the incompatibility the lich was finding with her own magic, and might be able to possess it— But the problem was finding a way to create a child without *necromancy*.

That was why, yesterday, he had gone to seek out the oasis.... But then, when he had found it, he had also stumbled upon something *so much better!*

He had found a mother unicorn nursing her baby.

It had been so exciting!

So *incredibly* exciting!

Though he hadn't dared approach the oasis that day; scared of alerting the mother to his presence and having her move her baby, he had simply turned and left. He had prepared himself, and then had come back today, freshly read-up on unicorns and armed with everything he would need to capture the fawn.

Immortal.

Unicorns were one of the very few naturally-ageless creatures of the world. A unicorn would be the *perfect* test to see if he could create new life without the lich's magic! They were just *brimming* with life-force! So much that it spilled out of them in the form of powerful magic.

What a *perfect* opportunity for his personal studies!

Mori had his plan all set out for when he captured the creature:

If he kept it immersed it in the healing water (which he would collect with the modified bag of holding he had brought with him) while he studied it, he was sure he could take it apart without killing it. He could see how it worked on the *inside*, and understand unicorn bodies in a way that had never been studied before. A way that couldn't be studied, with their corpses; he could rip the fawn open, and watch exactly how its inner-body responded to each poke and prod. If he kept it alive as he studied it, he could see, truly, how fine a line unicorns walked between agelessness and true immortality!

And it would have the added benefit, that he would be able to test and see if the lich's magic truly was faulty. Though, he could *never* tell her what he had done. She would be furious with him for using such a holy creature for his tests. And he knew that she would never be able possess whatever he made from the creature. If she found out about it, she would probably want it killed in mercy; as he knew he wasn't allowed living children to experiment on, he didn't think the lich would make an exception for such an intelligent creature.

But that was completely fine with him. If it was killed, he could then rip it apart and use its pieces again in other experiments. He could reuse it, again and again, until it gave out or he got every piece of knowledge he could from it. Then, he would discard it with the rest of his laboratory's waste.

And if it proved his hypothesis about the lich's magic, he could then put his focus into finding a magic that she was *actually compatible* with instead of trying the same failed formula over and over again hoping it would yield different results.

She would hate to hear it.

She would be absolutely *fuming* when he presented his research to her.

And it would probably take her a significant amount of time to come to terms with the fact that she needed to seek an outside source of power, instead of relying solely on her own magic.

But Dr Mori wasn't scared of the lich's ire.

What could she do to him? *Kill* him? Hah! Unlikely.

She *needed* him. Much more than he needed her.

Without him, her experiments would come to a halt. Without her, he would simply go back to stealing his funding and focusing on his own personal projects.

He didn't need her. But it was clear to Mori how much the lich relied on the work of scientists by the fact she hadn't allowed Ashdown to remain dead— She *needed* them and their knowledge. And that idiot of a human hadn't realised how much power he had over their so-called “leader” before killing himself.

Sometimes, Mori wondered why she even brought that man back....

But he couldn't dwell on that, now.

Dr Mori sniffed as he heard the trickle of water, and instinctively slowed his pace.

The oasis was up ahead....

*And so was the fawn.*

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