

A Ghost 111

Chapter 111

As everything happened, my thoughts flashed at high speed. From what I've heard, this guy's name was Elderlight, and judging by his clothes, he was most likely a Priest from the Gods Church.

But what is the God's Church? From what I had investigated, it was the biggest church there is. It has a big influence on most of the Kingdoms around the entire Continent of Midgard. However, it is not really a cliché church that does bad things all the time. It is mostly a neutral force. However, due to how I've involved myself in the death of important figures such as two aristocrats and a Duke, the entire Kingdom ended up employing the forces of the church to deal with me.

Additionally, they're obviously adept at holy light magic and are pretty good at employing the power of the God of Light, the Goddess of Life, and other Gods with "good-alignment" to fend off all sorts of fiends, undead, and so on... They're like special forces in a way, which only use their power when supernatural forces that people cannot properly handle, emerge.

Judging from what he said, they had the power to investigate things using evidence alone. Of course, how couldn't I tell? In a world of magic, they should have ways to investigate even the slightest things left for them to see who did it or at least gain clues. If there are specialized artifacts, there might be ways for them to see who did certain crimes based on just leftover mana or something like that... Damn it.

However, I don't see any more troops than this Priest... Well, they most likely thought that I could target another Duke if I had already killed one cold-bloodedly. Still, they didn't bet on it a whole lot, so they probably only left a single priest of powerful holy magic with this Duke, knowing that the leftover mana or essence I left might be of an Undead or at least a Dark and Death-attribute magician. And, of course, I was obviously weak against Light Attribute users.

Using my fast speed of thought processing, which was enhanced by using Mana, I began to inspect the walls right after fending off the initial attack, finding out they were infused with powerful Light Runes that constantly released holy light. The floor and ceiling were the same, and the "core" of this entire rune formation was the priest standing in front of me.

Below him, a large rune let him infuse his mana into the entire room. He had prepared very well, but I couldn't see these runes beforehand, meaning that he had a way to immediately set them off the moment I reached this place instead of preparing them beforehand.

If that had been the case, I would have been able to easily predict what he was going to do and would've noticed that he was waiting for me to get closer... but, now, I have to deal with this and quickly. If not, I'll risk getting killed.

The first thing I considered was the help of Emeraldine and Partner. But Partner doesn't have defensive methods, and she's also weak to holy light. She would get burned to death instantly.

Meanwhile, Emeraldine is a way better pick. Her power is the same as him, plus she has spirits and nature magic. However, I cannot let her risk her life so easily, especially in such a closed room where she could get killed very quickly.

This guy's strength... was also formidable. Based on his stats alone, he was around B Rank in power... Also, he seemed to be boosting his power continuously. His skills were similar to Emeraldine minus her nature magic.

He only specialized in light and had a big arsenal of abilities and spells with this element. Amongst them, there were things such as Light Barrier, Light Beam, Light Runes, and the deadly Exorcism, which he used to deal extra damage against Undead.

He was defending the Duke with a powerful Light Barrier, which didn't let me kill him. Plus, I wasn't able to escape either because everything was infused with runes and slipping through them meant receiving gigantic amounts of damage and probably dying in the process!

Due to this, I cannot really take it easy and find a way out of this. I have to go all out from the beginning; if not, I'll regret it and die.

My plan was simple. I was just going to blast off his ass with my Undead Detonation and also make this entire place explode into pieces, escape, and see if he follows me. If he does follow me, we'll do everything we can to deal with him in the forest, a more open space where we can strategize a bit more... I have to do it now before the barrier I have dies out, and I am bathed in light and purified completely!

I decided to bluff my way through as I confused Elderlight for a split second, provoking him to look at me with a strange expression. And, this little second was enough for me to utilize Summon and bring forth a dozen of Undead I was saving up inside my Shadow Storage.

The man didn't seem to have a way to defend against my Mana Siphon, so ever since the moment I met him, I've been draining his mana as well!

Using his vast pool of mana as my own, I summoned my beast coated in shadows so they could resist the light a few seconds, enough for them to rush forward towards him, startling the priest!

"Y-You're a necromancer as well?! Coating them in shadows will only make the inevitable take longer!" He shouted as he waved his golden staff, and a blast of light was unleashed, resembling a powerful and bright yellow-gold shockwave!

TRUUUMMM!!!

However, the space in here was very small, and my Undead didn't even need to target him anyway. My plan was to escape after all!

Before the light could completely consume them, I used my newly acquired technique, Undead Detonation!

FLASH!

All the Undead suddenly flashed with bright dark light, as Elderlight was left shocked!

"W-What the?!"

BOOOOOMMM!!!

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BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The dozen of Undead I had summoned began to explode one after another without stopping. All the Runes were destroyed right away, as Elderlight never expected I would have such an instantaneous attack. He might have thought that even the strong dark and death magic I could have would easily be consumed by the light everywhere, but Undead Detonation made of my Undead as deadly explosives who dealt damage based on my huge Magic Stat!

The result? It was pretty obvious. The entire second floor of the residence was blown away into pieces while I shielded myself with my Shadow Barrier materialized with all the power I could muster.

CLASH!

I saw as the ceiling, walls, and even the floor fell apart and noticed that Elderlight wasn't capable of protecting the Duke in time. Completely shocked, the Duke ended up being crushed into a deadly pulp below all the debris. At the same time, the Priest was barely alive while protecting himself with a barrier, throwing away the rubble as his anger grew constantly.

The soul of the duke floated around the corpse, asking the priest to revive him. I don't know if the priest could see it, but the guy clearly didn't even care about the Duke trying to look for me everywhere.

"Please, revive me with your holy magic, priest! The woman is right there! S-she's looking at me!" Cried the soul.

"You demon woman! Where are you?! I'll slay you! I'll burn your malice! H-How dare you do such an outrageous thing!" He roared in anger.

I sneaked through Shadow Sneak and grabbed the Soul of the Duke.

"GRYAH!"

"You're done for," I said as I opened my maws and devoured the soul in an instant.

His cry of agony was heard by the priest, whose eyes began to flash with bright light as he quickly discovered me.

“T-There you are! Do you know the tremendous sin you’ve committed?! Damn it! The church should have brought more people! To think you would appear here and with such an insane power... I will put you down! Don’t you dare escape- HEY!”

He was talking way too much while rushing towards me, so I quickly turned tails after taking down mister piggy over here and rushed to the nearby forest.

“Halt!”

However, I was suddenly greeted by a large group of over thirty soldiers rushing at me, alongside what seemed to be some magicians from the Magicians Guild and even a group of Mercenaries.

They were all weak like ants, though... However, this was a nice meal. I was growing weaker, so absorbing all their Mana to use Undead Healing on my own was good!

“If you value your life, move aside!” I roared.

My entire body extended like an endless mass of shadows, and only a few of them ran away while the rest greeted me with powerful Martial Techniques and Magic. Well, not so powerful, as the strongest of this group was a Level 32 Magician with the power of Fire Magic.

He unleashed a massive blast of flames, but that barely did any damage to me or my barrier as I had a massive Magic Stat. Half of it was Magic Defense, after all, and he clearly relied a lot upon that pretty staff to boost his magic power.

BOOOOMM!!!

The flames impacted me, but I fended them off without a care in the world as I pushed forwards. I waved my hands, causing darkness to be released constantly, unleashing deadly slicing winds of dark

energy through Dark Gale. There was also a fatal barrage of dozens of Darkness Sphere, blasting all the soldiers that dared to come in front of me into bloody pieces!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

“Gryyyaaaahhh...!”

“Uuuuaggh...!”

“Nooo!”

“Uunngaaggh...!”

Slaughtering so many of these guys felt good for some reason, and the EXP ended up being delightful as well. To boot, I was gaining a lot of Mana as I absorbed it all.

The magician was dried out of his Mana as I reached towards him and began to absorb his mana directly from his soul. Afterward, I crushed his heart as he looked at me with his old face, surprised by the horror of my power.

“M-Monster...!”

A few of the soldiers and magicians ran away alongside some mercenaries, but I got greedy as I extended my shadow tentacle and caught them all in a shadowy weeb, so I crushed them to death one by one in mere seconds.

“You! Stop! You horrendous monster! W-What have you done?!” Roared Elderlight.

“What? Did you actually think I wouldn’t kill them? Now come back to life and buy me some time, my dear subjects!” I laughed maliciously as I activated Fake Life and all the corpses came back to life, forming an army of Undead I sent towards Elred.

“W-What? Such instant rise of Undead!”

We were already deep into the forest as the soldiers had kept following me into there, so I raised them after they died right away.

As Elderlight bathed me with holy light rays, I sent my Undead towards him and then made them all detonate into loud explosions, making a big fuss in the entire forest and blasting away trees everywhere.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

“Unngh...! Holy Barrier!”

Elderlight resisted the explosions with his barrier, but it broke several times. Some of the deathly attacks pierced through it and damaged him. His HP was still rather high, but he was taking some damage.

I quickly took out Partner and Emeraldine as now that we were in a more open space, the two girls quickly sneaked around the forest and the rubble. Elderlight was fixated on me, so the girls were able to sneak around easily.

“Where are you?! Without your Undead, you can’t do this again!” He roared, using his holy light to purify my undead into ashes.

Damn it. This guy is a tough nut to crack.

“I am right here!” I said, confronting him face to face.

I had already made up my mind... I was going to kill him and gain tons of juicy EXP! If I don’t kill him, he’ll follow me to the ends of the world anyways!

“HOLY BLAST!”

FLASH!

BOOM!

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Elderlight was a tough nut to crack, and that one Staff he was holding was also kind of the cause of it, alongside all the equipment he had. His entire set was named [Holy Priest Saint Set], and it was all at least B+ Rank in Grade of quality. It also had special effects, which, if they were all used together, enhanced his damage dealt using Holy Light while increasing defense against Dark and Death elements too. This was how he was a living tank of my strongest attacks!

Even more, the stat boosts he got were through the roof, and I felt completely ridiculed with my humble set of equipment. I really needed something better, but where can I find it?

To boot, his Staff was the complete opposite of mine, and it had extra damage dealt using a holy light element and a lot of Mana and Magic too, granting him a vast Mana Pool that regenerated fast thanks to the equipment.

Humans might be overall rather weak, but by abusing their equipment and more, they get overpowered quickly. And well, they can also level up and acquire all sorts of skills. For example, this guy had been training all of his life, and that was clear when based on his skills, stats, and more.

He was rather weak physically, and his HP wasn't the highest either, but the amount of magical power he had was insane. His Mana Stat was at around 20k with every bonus from his equipment, and his Magic stat was over 15k. Even when my stats had increased a lot thanks to leveling up in the battle yesterday, I was barely just below his own stats, but that didn't mean this was any easier.

I knew he had a greater advantage in battle experience. Although he raged like a fool, he had most likely fought and purified countless Undead in the past. I had to go all out and do a lot of crazy stuff to get out of this situation and kill him...

Can I even win?

Even with everything calculated, the chances were dim. I wasn't sure. There was a big risk here, even bigger than when I fought the giant chimera last night.

But it was worth giving it a try!

"You're confronting me head-on?! How foolish of you! HOLY BLAST!"

He gathered a large amount of Mana into the tip of his staff and pointed it at me, unleashing a massive beam of bright yellowish-gold holy light. If this were to hit me head-on, I would completely dissipate and end up purified.

BOOOOMMM!!!

The blast quickly reached me, but I easily hid beneath the ground using my nature as a ghost! Now that there weren't any more runes around, I could easily sneak into the ground and...!

"[Holy Light Domain]!"

FLASH!

What?

Elderlight had so many Skills it was hard to keep up with all of them in my mind. He surprised me once more by conjuring something I had not even noticed—an enormous, almost 30-meter-big domain of holy light expanding across the battlefield at an incredible speed, filling the soil and anything around him with holy light runes which emanated a strong and bright halo into the sky, burning through me at a brisk pace!

Fuck! It hurts like hell!

I felt my entire body dissipating into nothingness!

“Agggghh...!”

“Hahaha! Suffer and die! I’ve dealt with ghosts before, foolish woman! Go back to your grave where you belong to, Witch!” He laughed.

FLASH!

BOOOM!!!

“Uagh?!”

However, Elderlight’s attack was quickly interrupted as his Domain continued to act but less intense, giving me the time to slip off his grasp.

What greeted his sight was an explosive spirit energy-filled arrow, which pierced his shoulder when he least expected it and exploded, blasting away his left arm in the process!

And that was done by no one else than my favorite elf!

“Agggghh...! By the Gods...!”

Elderlight fell to the ground as he saw the arrow that blasted away his arm begin to grow roots around his shoulder! This was the power of Emeraldine’s abilities!

“I-It is growing a tree?!” He muttered in disbelief as he moved back in horror and used his magic to destroy the roots from infecting his wound while closing it in the process, stopping the bleeding instantly.

Emeraldine was right in front of him as he moved back to see the culprit behind the attack. Emeraldine looked down at the priest with an angered look as her entire body exuded the power of light and nature.

“A-A High Spiritual Light Elf?!” He shouted in shock.

It seems that these elves are rare or something as the man was very shocked.

Emeraldine pointed her arrow as she charged it with mana.

“Wait! How can you dare attack me?! You’re a holy race made to slay the evil fiends and monsters of this world that the God of Chaos has sent to us! Yet... yet you’re allying with them?!” Roared Elderlight, quickly standing up.

“I won’t miss this time,” She said ruthlessly, as another powerful arrow filled with the power of her spirits was fired towards him!

FLASH!

“[Holy Wall]!”

BOOOM!!!

This time, the arrow was caught by a defensive spell, and it exploded, breaking apart his Holy Wall in the process!

It turns out that the guy is not so resistant to the fusion of Spirit Energy and Nature Element, with a hint of Light Element. Being a priest doesn’t mean being immune to his own element, I guess.

I weakly moved away as I constantly conjured Undead Healing on myself the moment, I was able to move by myself. And the next moment after that, I conjured my Death and Darkness Domain to counter his Holy light Domain, of course!

FLASH!

“W-What is this power?!” He shouted in shock once again, looking at my glorious darkness emerge in all its abyssal splendor.

“I am not dead yet, old man!” I shouted as I smiled and conjured Shadow Manipulation, shaping countless shadow tentacles out of my domain and chasing him down with them!

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“You’re not getting away!” I shouted as I began to chase him down with my Shadow Tentacles boosted by the amazing power of my Shadow and Death Domain, which began to consume his Holy Light Domain with ease with the more Mana I poured into it.

FLAAASH!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

My tentacles almost caught him multiple times, but he used his barriers, which I was able to shatter after a few hits with my tentacles, to defend himself most of the time. At the same time, he showed off his usage of magic once more by boosting his physical abilities and speed through the infusion of light magic into his body.

Meanwhile, Emeraldine recharged her arrow with spiritual energy for another big blast, firing another powerful arrow that exploded over the old man’s barrier, breaking it apart.

BOOOM!!!

“Now, Maria!”

I used the power of my shadow tentacles, controlling them and managing to finally land a powerful blow on him as if several whips bitch-slapped him.

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

“GRUUUUAAGGH...!”

BOOM!

He was thrown away with a fierce and loud boom! I clearly felt his body breaking bit by bit. I used this instance to utilize Lesser Curse on him and bathe him with deadly curses that lowered his stats and metabolism while also using my venom, which my tentacles were covered in. The deadly venom began to eat away at his life force and to stack more on top of it. I was also using Ghost Touch and Life Drain to take away his life and damage his soul, even if it was slightly!

“Uuuuaggh...! [Holy Recovery]! [Antidote Light]! [Healing Rain]!”

He struggled to move away, using his barriers to defend himself again from our bullying while he bathed himself in healing spells. The bastard had the same self-sustenance ability as me, but what I found out is that his arm didn't regenerate back no matter what! If we can manage to take away another one of his arms, he won't have his staff equipped anymore, and we can steal it, weakening him a lot in the process!

“You're not running away!”

I was also struggling to move. The holy light he constantly fired weakened me even more as he had suddenly summoned something called “Golden Sun,” a massive sphere of light that flashed above our heads and continuously bathed us with light, weakening me even more. Even by shrouding myself in darkness while using the advantage of my Domain, I was still slowing down.

I was constantly firing attacks at this sphere. Still, they seemed to be barely damaging it, so I had to go all out and release even deadlier attacks to it, but I was also splitting my mind and attacking him with my shadow tentacles.

Meanwhile, Emeraldine utilized her holy nature magic to control the terrain and produce roots from the ground to make him constantly trip while also firing arrows every few seconds.

But where was Partner in all of this? Well, she was patiently waiting for her opportunity to strike.

I used the help of Emeraldine as we bathed the old man in deadly attacks and made him retreat constantly, her arrow finally managed to destroy his Holy Wall once more, as I manipulated my Shadow Tentacles and corned him, making him move back to us as he gritted his teeth and fired several rays of light at me.

One of them blasted my head off, but I regenerated it back using Undead Heal while I evaded the other hits with impressive dexterity.

“RRAAA!” He cried out in anger as he was being corned by the two of us.

Left without barriers, he was just about to make another one, but I moved my shadow tentacles below his feet by inserting them underground, and I grabbed his legs and made him trip again!

“Unngh...!”

BOOM!

He fell over the floor and lost his concentration, enough time for a shadow figure to emerge from within the woods. Having her power enhanced by my domain, she was shrouded in darkness and deathly killing intent.

Her powerful spear fell onto the man’s body!

CLAAAASSH!

“Unnggaaaggh...! T-There was another?!” He cried in horror.

His equipment formed a barrier around his torso and head, protecting him from Partner's deadly piercing spear blows!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

The barrier was breaking down as he quickly tried to run away from her onslaught, only to have his other arm caught on it. Her piercing spear destroyed the barrier of his equipment in no time, and I used my shadow tentacles to grasp the arm Partner sliced, grabbing it away and storing it in my inventory!

"Unnngh?! AAAGH...!"

"Thanks for the loot, old man! I'll become a holy woman after using that glorious staff!" I laughed.

"Aggh! H-How did you send it away?! M-My arm! I am left without arms?! Uaggh...! [Heal]!"

He healed his wound and quickly began to generate several barriers around him, which he then manipulated and fired at us as if they were giant projectiles!

"[Holy Wall]! [Holy Wall]! [Holy Wall]!"

He began to desperately use everything he could, trying to blast us away with his desperate attacks.

Partner was infused with my power, as I utilized the new power of my Soul Grimoire to boost her stats, spending my Mana in great quantities and a few dozen magic crystals I had accumulated inside my inventory!

FLASH!

Her stats were boosted by a few thousand as her attacks pierced through the barriers and shattered them all!

“You’re nothing compared to my Master!” She roared.

She fiercely stood in front of us as Emeraldine collapsed to the ground due to her lack of Mana, but she still kept her consciousness. I began to refill her Mana using my own, as I used my Shadow Tentacles at the same time to corner the old man and not let him run away, but he was putting too much of a fight even without his arms!

And then I came up with a brilliant idea!

“Emeraldine, wield this!” I shouted as I gave her the old man’s staff to her.

Leaving aside her bow, she grabbed it and suddenly felt a great boost to her Mana and Magic!

“Oooh! T-This!” She muttered, feeling a large wave of power rush through her body.

“Use it and help us out!” I shouted.

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Elderlight continued to fight back with his powerful light barriers as I resisted the attacks with my Shadow Tentacles while also cornering him. I enhanced Partner’s strength at the same time, and she unleashed a barrage of powerful piercing spear attacks, destroying Elderlight’s barriers!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

But this wasn’t nearly enough, as we had to continue pressuring him, but he wasn’t budging. This bastard had no arms now nor his staff, but he was putting up a big fight. It wasn’t getting easier now, as he was putting even more energy and power into the barriers that he was firing at us.

Emeraldine could actually help, but she was exhausted, having utilized a lot of mana exhausted her, and even as I recovered it for her, she was still very much exhausted. I don't know if she'll manage as she was now, perhaps not ready to fight.

The thing is, Elderlight wasn't stopping, and he was getting more intense. She tried to aim at him but failed. She was rather tired. However, I got the brilliant idea of gifting her my amazing staff...for now!

So, I gave Emeraldine the great new golden staff I got, which was very compatible with her!

I gave it to her as she felt the staff's power encompass her body. She looked at me with surprise as if saying, "Is this for me?!" and I nodded rather confidently, asking her to aid us.

Emeraldine wasn't a complete magician build, as she had built herself as a hybrid magician, healer, and bow-using hunter. Still, she could perfectly become a strong magician with such an expensive and amazing staff as this one!

"Help us out!" I shouted.

"Emeraldine, kill him!" Shouted Partner.

"Kill... Alright!"

Emeraldine might not be able to aim with the bow as she was exhausted, but her magic could!

She began to gather energy into the staff as her two spirits began to rotate around it, and then, they merged into a flash of bright yellowish-gold and emerald light, emanating a strong magical power.

"Spiritual Beam!"

FLASH!

A massive and colorful beam was unleashed from her staff, piercing through the several light barriers made by Elderlight. As I used my Shadow Tentacles to corner him and not let him escape, Partner utilized her powerful spear attacks to destroy the more prominent and stronger Holy Wall that Elderlight had generated!

CRASH!

The beam reached Elderlight as the priest tried to contain the massive attack with his chest and magic. Shaping his magic as a strong mass resembling two large palms, he tried to redirect the beam away, but the powerful spiritual beam did not stop, and it was being fueled by Emeraldine's mana and mine as well!

"N-No...! I-Impossible! I cannot... die here...! AAAAGGGGHHH...!"

Releasing a pathetic and pitiful scream, the beam pierced through his magic and consumed his entire body at long last!

BOOOOOMMM!!!

I could swear I saw his entire body being disintegrated as the attack that Emeraldine unleashed was brutal! The massive explosion left a gigantic crater, and what was left of Elderlight was some of his accessories and equipment being torn apart, being left unusable, alongside a large pool of blood and torn apart remains...

"Phew..."

Emeraldine fell on her knees as she sighed in relief, feeling completely exhausted.

"Well done!" Exclaimed Partner.

"Yeah! That was amazing work- Oh, there he is!" I shouted as I found the soul of Elderlight.

“Agh! Uagh! Stop! You fiend! Let go of my soul!” He cried.

“How about... no? However, I won’t destroy you nor eat you. I’ll keep you saved for now....”

I quickly used my shadows and my own body to warp around Elderlight’s soul and make him essentially a burrito of sorts, which I saved inside of my Shadow Storage. He seemed to have been sealed this way, and he couldn’t escape, as his soul form was very weak.

Very few people might have a strong enough soul to fight against me when I get them in the palm of my hands... literally.

And I gained a lot of EXP... Well, we gained a lot of EXP.

Ding!

[Your Level has increased from Level 37 to level 38!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 38 to level 39!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 39 to level 40!]

[All your stats have increased!]

We got so much cumulative EXP from this guy that even with me taking away some of the EXP earned to use in other things later, I still acquired max level quite smoothly...

“We cannot remain in here for too long. Let’s move quickly,” I said.

“Indeed... Ugh, I am tired....” Sighed Emeraldine.

"You can rest inside of here," I said as I grabbed Emeraldine with my arms and let her rest inside my Shadow Storage.

"I also want to be held in your arms, Master!" Protested Partner.

"But you're completely fine!" I said.

"But still!" She responded.

"Well, maybe later... For now, let's actually go back. We must still slay the other two pigs!" I said.

"Okay!"

We rushed back to the duchy while hiding in the shadows, finding the massive commotion going on at the surface. Tons of people were going crazy.

I checked around, but it was just as Elderlight said; there was nobody else from his group around here, not even powerful knights or ghostbusters or whatever, so I guess we were safe with this annoying guy out of the picture.

It took a while to kill him, but we were swift to catch the other two aristocrats, who were not being protected by anyone, unlike the Duke.

However, the news about the Duke having died spread quickly, and the aristocrats were being guarded by tons of soldiers, but nothing that was showering them with shadow arrows couldn't resolve.

Edward Allfire was a skinny guy, and he died right away by Partner piercing his chest. His soul was promptly eaten as well, alongside taking away his corpse and raising his massacred into Undead.

I then ordered them to wreak havoc and generate distractions...

And well, Ernesto Watertide...

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Ernesto Watertide didn't meet such a swift end as he and the other guy had been colluding with the Vampires and were probably the ones that allowed them to remain here in the underground doing all sorts of experiments with the chimera and slaves.

However, as much as I wanted to kill him, I instead possessed him using Possession, forcefully taking over his body and pretending to be him. Now that I had a lot of Mana, this was more than possible.

I feel like I've only used it very little, but a ghost's unique ability to possess people is very useful on these occasions! Although strong enough beings won't easily let me possess them, if they're softened enough (beaten down) or they're too weak to resist, I can easily take over their bodies and even learn any info they could have inside their brains.

By instantly learning his secrets alongside learning his way of speech, I used Ernesto Watertide's riches and authority as a merchant to quickly organize a large group of caravans that could carry slaves. Using his contacts and a lot of money, we did this all in the dark of the night and incredibly swiftly. The power of money is scary indeed.

In just three hours, a larva caravan was made on the outskirts of the Duchy, right outside the forest where there wasn't anyone right now. I then moved the former slaves we had stored in the underground through the sewers, which were connected to the laboratory.

There were some monsters in the sewers, though, such as Trash Slimes, Giant Rats, and a horrendous fish monster with legs, which were actually many named Fishmen. They used weapons made out of whatever they found to attack people. I didn't even know there was such a varied ecosystem here.

But oh well, they're all the same in the end. They were all too weak for us to have a challenge.

Partner, Lucifer, Kuro, and the kids finished them off for me with ease (we had gone to pick them up in the meantime), and we swiftly moved through the sewers, reaching the outer entrance to them in a hidden room, and successfully escaping the duchy. It seems that this escape route was made for the Duke or the aristocrats in a case of emergency. But, oh well, we ended up using it for ourselves.

I had the desire to continue using this duke as my spy for the royal family and all of that, but I didn't know how to do it. Brainwashing him might end up making him a zombie, and it would be way too obvious, and I couldn't really be in two places at the same time...

Even more, there was this boiling rage I had deep down which was asking me to slay him because I learned from his memories that this bastard and the other fat fucks were the degenerates behind the order that told the assailants that attacked my parents to violate my mother and then kill her gruesomely.

These sadistic bastards also had a few slaves themselves, which they used to pleasure themselves by torturing them. These fuckers had grown fucked up in the head since they were children, so there was no way they could redeem themselves.

I quickly grabbed the record spheres and the artifacts they used to record the horror they did to my mother and broke them up into pieces, stuffed them inside the mouth of Ernesto Watertide, and then made him vomit blood in agony.

I had already freed him from my possession, but I couldn't possibly let him have a swift death, nor one without punishment, because I killed the other two idiots way too fast. I had to make sure he would pay for all three of them.

Don't worry. They were all as equally fucked and guilty, and I wasn't a saint either. I was a monster, a vengeful monster with a lack of morals. So I easily did what I had to do to feel a bit better and avenge the mother whose memories with her I still don't remember... but still, her death always makes my soul ache in pain.

So what I decided to do was perhaps the most fucked up thing I've done in my life, but that brought me to the greatest satisfaction. I wanted to make him pay for being a degenerate rapist, and what better way of doing it than by letting him get violated? But that wouldn't be enough... so what I did was record what was about to happen with his artifact and reflect it using an artifact of expensive cost named Record Amplifier, which let Record Crystals act like movies in a theater.

I slew his soldiers, turned them into horny zombies, and made them violate Ernesto Watertide live, while the entire city glanced at this horrendous sight. I am sorry if I am causing some develop trauma, but I had to do this.

The horrendous scene of Ernesto Watertide getting violated live by the soldiers' turned zombies and even the zombies of the Duke and the other aristocrat whose souls I had eaten made everyone begin to vomit on the streets... Oops, maybe I was just a bit too insane this time around?

I suppose the tags for this shit would include Necrophilia, Yaoi, Males Only, Creampie, Guro, and more fucked up crap... Ah, I got disgusted midway through to the point I ended up blasting all the zombies using Undead Detonation, and the entire building was blown into bits.

And that was the last of Ernesto Watertide and his detestable friends. Now that the church knows about me, then it doesn't matter if I go absolutely batshit crazy at this point, right? No one cares, right?

The sole thought of these bastards having recorded my poor mother utterly suffering to her very last moments made me furious that the only thing I could possibly do to avenge her was making these bastards go through a similar fate.

As they all died, I felt lighter in the chest, as if I had really relieved my hatred.

Phew, that was a good job.

Chapter 117

Questioning the morality of my actions was completely worthless. What I had done was completely inhumane in every sense possible, and I had admitted I am an insane person too. I had taken pleasure in committing such an atrocity, and I honestly don't fucking care what others might think about me.

I am a ghost, after all. A resentful spirit filled with hatred fueling my soul and everything else, do you expect me to be an all-forgiving saint? I can't. I really can't! Even by taking into consideration their own actions against my family, what I did might have only made me as worse as them, even more fucked, perhaps. Still, I didn't care. I was okay by being even more monstrous than them, and I actually put in the effort of doing so.

What's the point of revenge if I cannot make it fulfilling for me? So the obvious choice was to do all of that insane and fucked up shit. There was no other way around it, to be honest. Any other way would have been way too easy on them. I wasn't going easy on these bastards no matter what, so I had to really just punish them, make them suffer, and create a little mischief.

I was pretty much doing an atrocity so big not even them had dared to do it, so I really had to go all out and show how I could also be as fucked up as them! Actually, even more than them!

I had already picked up all the slaves these fucked up people had, and I even went around the other three aristocrat's houses and rescued their slaves, and you know what? I also blew up their houses out of anger. They were all fucked up.

Seriously, why does every aristocrat family have to be filled with sickos? It's surprising how they love to make my atrocities feel justified, good lord...

I ended up rescuing around 34 slaves that these fat fucks held captive. They were all being tortured beyond belief, and it seems that the aristocrats of this duchy had made some kind of secret club where they simply gathered to torture and violate their slaves. The fuckers even taught this to their children, who grew to be equally as fucked. Killing all of them was fine. There was no young heir there, and the women they had were also crazy and just as torture-obsessed.

I had the impulse to blow up the entire duchy at some point, but there were innocent and nice people at that; the cafeteria girl, the chef there, the innkeeper girl, the adventurers, and the adventurer receptionist with that half-giant guy... there were certainly good people around here. I didn't want to touch them as they deserved to live.

I had done all of this in approximately an hour, and the army of the duchy was constantly chasing down the events going on in every house, but always ended up reaching the place quite late when everything had ended. I sometimes left some souvenirs with them, blowing up undead in their faces and killing a bunch of soldiers in the process, which gave me some nice bonus EXP.

Of course, I had also stolen all the treasures of these aristocrats and made sure to destroy any evidence left. With that said, I had become completely chaotic evil at this point, and honestly speaking, I was enjoying it a lot.

However, before leaving, I decided to go all out and emerge in the skies of the duchy, laughing maliciously and increasing the size of my body, slightly changing my appearance, and making me resemble a malicious and vengeful witch. I even made myself slightly ugly too.

The people began to point at my enormous presence that emerged above the ruins of the duke's house, as the soldiers and magicians looked up at me with horror, the adventurers, citizens, everyone!

"Hahahahaha! I am the Witch of Misfortune! I have come back from the dead to avenge myself and my family! This is just the beginning! I won't rest until I slay every single person involved in the death of my family! Even if it means taking down the entire Kingdom! Being an aristocrat will no longer make you immune to problems... because death comes to all! And I am the Harbinger of Death!" I laughed maliciously, turning my entire body into many bat-shaped shadows that dissipated into the darkness of the night.

I had put on a big show, but now that the Kingdom and the church knew everything, I might as well declare war on these bastards. I didn't give a single fuck anymore.

I was going all out on all of them, and I couldn't care less.

As I had brought all the slaves I rescued to the caravans, we quickly began to move away from the duchy in the darkness of the night. I had used my abilities to form shadow mantles, which I used to cover each caravan and make them near invisible in the night. Some soldier groups had begun to chase us down at some point, but we slew them easily and took their corpses, raising them into undead and sending them back to the other soldiers behind them.

At some point, we lost them in all the confusion, and they ended up fighting hordes of exploding zombie soldiers. The army of this duchy was completely defeated by a ghost and her undead friends.

Now that they knew there was an insane ghost witch hunting down anyone that was involved in her death and that of her family, everyone in the damn Kingdom was pissing their pants, or, well, every single person involved in this.

This also sent a message to the Vampires, pretty much stating that I was their enemy and that they didn't need to hold back. They could all come at me. I was going to kill them and turn them into Zombie Vampires or whatever!

And good lord, after doing this, I felt very good, like... released.

Chapter 118

Of course, not everything could be good in this story as there's always drama and other things, and well, my friends were all reprimanding me.

"Maria, what you did was way too much. Even I find it overexaggerated!" Exclaimed Lucifer.

"Yeah... You've gone all out... This will only make the Kingdom grow more concerned of you, and they'll prepare for the next time you approach these aristocrats!" Exclaimed Emeraldine.

"Eeehh... But I think I did something pretty amazing, though! Who else would do such a thing like this? Nobody, right? So that's why I did it, because I CAN do it. And I have something that others lack, confidence in my strength, and that's why I have all of you with me," I said.

"I think nee-sama did a good thing! She taught them all a lesson!" Said Takeshi.

"Though we couldn't see the torture, you did well in showing it off to the people, so these bastards were ridiculed even more," Muttered Julia.

“Master was amazing! I hope we can kill more and more humans; they give so much EXP! I want a big army to come at us so we can slay it and make them into undead friends!” Exclaimed Partner.

“Right? They give a lot of EXP! Humans are indeed amazing,” I responded with a wide smile.

“I-I think you’re going a bit too far....” Sighed Emeraldine.

“Ah, right, sorry, I didn’t mean to offend all humans. Just the ones that would mess with us! Anyways, let’s peacefully move to our goblin village now. I’ve received some messages from the zombies I left there, and things are, thankfully, doing mostly fine. Although there were some adventurers going around, they were slain by the zombies,” I said.

“Such a thing happened?” Asked Lucifer.

“Yeah, groups of adventurers sometimes get closer or discover trails of the goblins, rushing to slay them for easy EXP and then getting eaten alive by zombies and nether beasts,” I said, proud of my undead.

“I see... This means that the duchy might soon notice something bad and send more adventurers, didn’t you realize, Maria-sama?” Asked Emeraldine.

“Oh, that might be true. I didn’t think about it in such a way... But the Adventurers had it coming. They were greedy enough to try slaying these little, green-skinned people that mean no harm,” I responded.

“Well yeah, but still....”

“Hm, well, aside from what she just did in the Duchy of Benettina... slaying those adventurers was well done. If they let them go, they would have revealed the zone where the goblins are living to the adventurer guild, and a large extermination might have ensued... in fact, that might still happen, so we have to get there quickly before anything more happens,” Said Lucifer.

“Indeed, we did good in wanting to go back then,” I muttered.

As the horses moved us quickly across the grasslands and roads while carrying all the slaves we rescued, I had decided to check out my own Status. I had reached the level cap, and now it should be possible for me to even evolve... I was rather excited about evolving at long last.

...

[Name: [Maria Fuentes Belles]

[Race: [Pandora]

[Job: [Dark Shadow Spectral Death Spirit Queen]

[Level: [40/40]

[EXP: 0/0]

[Rank: [C+]

[Status: [Strengthened, Cursed]

[HP: [5700/5700]

[MP: [13500/13500]{+2720}

[Attack: [2100]{+100}

[Defense: [2330]

[Magic: [14500]{+2617}

[Agility: [6500]{+575}

Characteristic Skills:

[Unique Skill: Supreme Magic]

[Unique Skill: Mana Siphon]

[Unique Skill: System]

[Unique Skill: Goddess] (Sealed)

[Undead: Lv-]

[Dark Element: Lv-]

[Death Element: Lv-]

[Elemental Spirit: Lv-]

[Fiend Language: Lv7]

[Shadow Sneak: Lv8]

[Abyssal Body: Lv5]

[Supernatural Senses: Lv2]

Resistance Skills:

[Status Effect Immunity: Lv-]

[Magic Damage Resistance: Lv8]

[Darkness Resistance: Lv7]

[Fear Resistance: Lv6]

[Elemental Resistance: Lv5]

Normal Skills:

[Ghost Touch: Lv8]

[Lesser Curse: Lv8]

[Life Drain: Lv8]

[Possession: Lv7]

[Dark Sphere: Lv9]

[Dark Gale: Lv8]

[Shadow Spear Arrow: Lv6]

[Materialized Shadow Barrier: Lv3]

[Shadow Manipulation: Lv7]

[Shadow Storage: Lv6]

[Undead Healing: Lv5]

[Fake Life: Lv7]

[Erase Presence: Lv4]

[Soul Eater: Lv4]

[Undead Detonation: Lv2]

[Stealth: Lv8]

[Summon: Lv4]

[Aura of Famine: Lv3]

[Disease and Poison Creation: Lv3]

[Pandora's Box: Lv3]

[Materialization: Lv5]

[Cooking: Lv2]

[Hunting: Lv2]

[Blade Slash: Lv2]

[Spirit Summon: Lv2]

[Shadow and Death Domain: Lv2]

Title Skills:

[The Dark Witch: Lv-]

[Dungeon Conqueror: Lv-]

[Big Game Slayer: Lv-]

[Taboo Mark: Lv-]

[Bringer of Misfortune: Lv6]

[Undead Queen: Lv5]

[Evil of the World: Lv3]

[Pickpocket: Lv3]

[Apprentice Swordsman: Lv3]

[Spirit Queen: Lv2]

[Spirit Mediator: Lv2]

Divine Protections:

[Hel's Divine Protection]

...

Ah yes, I had increased my power greatly. My stats had increased the most too. I had become truly unstoppable!

Ahem, aside from my ego gushing out of my body like an exploding volcano, I had increased my stats rather fairly, but my overspecialization with mana, speed, and magic is still going strong.

Additionally, every skill level had increased at least once or twice, so my power in that regard was also quite great. However, it wasn't enough to slay everything I wanted.... For that, I would need to become a goddess or something—what a pain.

And now, I could evolve if I wanted and grow even stronger, but what evolutions will show up now? I am quite curious...

Time to see what evolutions I can pick up-

"Master!"

However, as I was holing myself inside a caravan, Partner rushed inside towards me.

"Partner? I am about to evolve...." I said.

“Sorry... But you said you were going to carry me!” She said.

“I did?!” I asked.

“Y-You did! You said you were going to carry me after everything ended....” She repeated while blushing.

“Carrying? But why would I do such a thing without reason? There’s no point in doing that-”

However, I was greeted by Partner’s puppy eyes, and as they were too sad, it almost broke my heart to see them.

“F-Fine...”

I held her body with my arms as if she were like my princess or something...

“You’re happy now?” I sighed while looking down at her.

“Hehe... Yeah... Let’s cuddle together....” She muttered as she hugged me back and threw me into the bed, where she jumped over me and began to hug me and rub her face onto my chest...

I guess she’s not going to let me evolve...

Chapter 119

Phew, we really had done a bunch of things just a few hours ago. We slew Elderlight, we killed aristocrats after humiliating them, we spooked the entire kingdom, and more!

And we even rescued some slaves, but just as many as we could possibly find. There were so many it left me perplexed. Just how normalized was this sick practice? I was getting tired of this cliché, but this world apparently didn't.

After the entire thing, we escaped rather swiftly, but the soldiers followed us as much as they could. I was surprised by how many soldiers a small duchy had, but we did the kill and undead tactic of simply killing them and making them into undead, sending them back to the new squadrons right behind them.

What we did was a very big, disrespectful action. After all, killing important figures without a care in the world really felt nice, but I guess not many would take this kindly... I guess we could be something like terrorists, to an extent.

But we just did it anyway and then escaped. Now, I planned to get back to the Goblins and then pick them up and run away farther from their territory, in a place we could settle down and build up a small village for everyone. Maybe a small kingdom? Who knows?

I do still plan to continue my revenge, but it can take its time—no need to rush it as much as I would have wanted. There's always time for us to do other things, but we'll take care of the important things first, such as helping the slaves and the goblins.

Just when I thought I could relax for now and evolve on the way there, I was assaulted by Partner, who was needy for attention.

"Master!"

As I was holing myself inside a caravan, Partner rushed inside and dashed towards me.

"Partner? I am about to evolve...." I said.

"Sorry... But you said you were going to carry me!" She shouted.

"I did?!" I asked.

"Y-You did! You said you were going to carry me after everything ended...." She muttered while blushing.

"Carrying? But why would I do such a thing without reason? There's no point in doing that-"

However, I was greeted by Partner's puppy eyes, and as they were too sad, it almost broke my heart to see them.

"F-Fine..."

I held her body with my arms as if she were like my princess or something...

"You're happy now?" I sighed while looking down at her.

"Hehe... Yeah... Let's cuddle together...." She muttered as she hugged me back and threw me into the bed, where she jumped over me and began to hug me and rub her face onto my chest...

I guess she's not going to let me evolve...

She was cuddling with me as if I had never given her affection before. She was already a few months old, but this girl felt like a very needy daughter at this point.

Come to think of it. I remember she used to be a skeleton... right, my own skeleton. And that time, when she evolved into a black skeleton, she looked super cool.

However, after that, she ended up evolving into a Zombie of sorts and then into this vampiric ghoul. What an interesting evolution tree... I could say she's quite an amazing girl.

And now she's all mellow with me, and her body had grown so mature too! Way too sudden! And I think she might look a bit how I used to look before when I was alive... maybe... To be honest, I am not too sure.

“Come on, Partner, I want to evolve....” I sighed.

“But Master, I want to spend... more time with you....” She said.

“But we always spend time together, don’t we?” I wondered.

“Not like this!” She shouted.

“Geez, you’ve grown way too mature too. I thought you had the mind of a toddler, but you can even speak eloquently now... Was your soul really just a mass of phantoms originally?” I muttered.

“I don’t remember, but... When I was born, the thing I knew was that you were my Master and that I had to follow Master everywhere....” Said Partner.

“I see... Perhaps you developed a more complex mind with each evolution, though being with us has probably helped you develop too....” I said.

“I love talking... with everyone! I can learn... a lot!” She said.

“Hm, indeed, you’ve learned a big couple of words with everyone. That time we spent with the goblins was also important... You’ve grown so big, my cute little Partner....” I sighed.

“Hehe... it’s all thanks to Master... I am working hard for you....” She said.

“I can tell... How about I upgrade your spear later on? I doubt I have any knack for forging, but maybe we could ask someone around the settlement of Goblins. There were some talented crafters... and if not, I think I could even create a specialized Undead weapon through forging,” I said.

“Ooh... I would love to... T-Thank you, Master... It... really... means a lot!”

Partner sometimes had a hard time speaking, but she still mainly spoke eloquently at this point. With some stuff that she sometimes struggles to say.

"I am happy that you're happy then, dearie... You're my first partner in this world, hence your name... Though I've realized it might be a bit simplistic... don't you want a new name?" I asked her.

"Partner is good! Because I am master's partner... it is a special name...." She said as she rubbed her face onto my chest, as we rested over a bed made of leather and hay.

"Alright then, Partner is Partner then," I said.

Partner slowly got closer to me as she hugged me tightly.

"Master, can we stay like this forever?" she asked.

"Fufu, you're sure a spoiled girl, aren't you? Fine, let's stay like this for a little bit," I said.

"Master..."

"Hm?"

"Did you do anything weird with that dragon?"

Suddenly, Partner looked at me while pouting.

"Huh? Well... No, nothing happened. I stopped him before he went out of control," I said.

"S-So he really tried to assault you!" She said angrily.

"Well, something like that... Don't get angry with him...." I sighed.

"M-Master...!"

Chapter 120

As we cuddled together, Partner suddenly recalled what had happened with Lucifer, and she got increasingly angry. I don't know what's wrong with this girl, but she really doesn't like Lucifer. I guess she's angry that I gave him some of my attention to him, but she should really relax!

"Don't worry, nothing happened! I stopped him before anything big was to happen. I disliked how he tried to kiss me out of nowhere. Honestly, who does he thinks he is? He didn't even confess or anything and went directly for the kiss?! Does he thinks this is an Otome Game or something?" I muttered.

It was really like that. I disliked how Lucifer apparently has been saving his feelings for me and didn't even admit them. He just went straight for the kiss. Does he think I am so easy to get? That a kiss will do it? No! I am not a woman that a womanizer man can easily take.

I at least want him to confess his feelings to me! How can he be like that? So inconsiderate of my own feelings or my own POV of the situation. The worst part is that he tried to be dominant and kiss me again forcefully! That's kind of wrong, you know? I disliked that too.

I didn't like how he tried to be like that, to be honest. It was all quite wrong! And I... I don't know, but he'll have to work harder if I ever accept him.

Huh, maybe I've gotten too arrogant... perhaps I shouldn't be like this?

"Master, nothing happened... right?" Asked Partner.

"N-No, nothing happened, dear... Don't worry. That big old dragon won't easily dominate me! I am not a Romance novel protagonist here," I said.

"I-I see... But will you accept him later? W-What about that?" She asked.

"Ummm... Well, we would have to see and wait. He's still gotta invite me to a date, even... I can't really tell if I like him or not, but I do care about him, and he's a bit handsome, yeah," I said.

"W-Will you love him then?! You'll end up only with him?" She asked desperately.

"W-What? Of course not! I don't love him as if... love... real love!" I said.

"T-Then who do you love?" Asked Partner.

"E h h h?"

"E-Emeraldine?" Asked Partner.

"She? Emeraldine... Erm... Uhhh... S-she's cute, but I haven't thought of her in that regard... Now that I think about it, she acts a bit flirty...." I responded.

"A-And what about me, Master?" She asked.

She approached me even more as her face got very close to me.

Partner's beautiful lips were very close too.

"Huh? Y-You?" I asked.

"Yeah... me..."

“W-What do you mean you?”

“D-Do you like me? If you like Lucifer or Emeraldine... W-What about me? Can I know?” She asked desperately.

“This is a very difficult question to ask, Partner! H-have some consideration for me! I am getting pressured from all sides, all out of the blue....” I sighed.

“A-Ah! S-Sorry... Master, did I scare you?” She asked.

“No... You’re my adorable partner, dear. But you should be less... erm, forceful,” I said.

“O-Okay... I am just worried,” She said.

“Worried?” I responded.

“I am worried that... I will end up not letting you know... and that would end up in you picking someone else... while leaving me at the side... I-I don’t want that...” She said.

“But you’ll never be at the side! You’re my partner!” I said.

“B-But I want to be something more!” She said.

Partner looked at me with fiery eyes. She was suddenly very decisive all of a sudden, even blazing with conviction. I didn’t know what to say as she was bombarding me with hard questions to answer, and she seemed to be trying to convey something in the mess of words she was telling me. I was trying to decipher what she wanted to say, but it was getting harder.

She did ask if I wanted to be with Lucifer in the future... I don’t really know about that. It’s a hard question to answer! I mean, I do care about him, and he seems handsome too, and it makes me fuzzy to think about being in an actual romantic relationship with a person... it makes me embarrassed, even... even more because I never had such experiences in my previous life.

And then she mentioned Emeraldine... What about her? She said something about her being interested in me too? How come?! And now that I think about it, she does indeed acts quite flirty sometimes, and when she's around, she doesn't let Partner touch me, nor Lucifer. As if she was protecting me.

I usually take that kindly. She probably is defending me from these overly clingy ones... well, Lucifer is not clingy and rather distant until a few hours ago. Still, Partner is the clingiest, and she and Emeraldine had begun to develop some kind of rivalry, although they also work together pretty well.

So I don't really know what's up with that either... I feel a bit overwhelmed. I just wanted to evolve and rest for now. Why must I be showered with these awkward thoughts?

"Y-You want to be something more?" I asked.

Partner suddenly held my hands tightly as she approached me a bit more.

"M-Master... Don't you want to?" She asked.

"Huh?! I-I want to? I... I don't know? What do you even mean? Can you be more clear!?" I exclaimed.

"B-But it's embarrassing...." She sighed.

"Y-You're already embarrassing me!" I said.

"I just won't lose... I don't want to lose to Lucifer or Emeraldine... I want to also be part of Master's heart...." Said Partner.

"My heart? R-Really?" I asked.

"Yeah..."

I stood up and sat down, with Partner at my side.

I hugged her tightly, and then I kissed her cheek.

“So you’re... thinking about that?” I asked.

“H-Huh?” Partner looked at me in the eyes.

We were closer than ever before.

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