

## A Ghost 131

### Chapter 131

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It has been a day since then...

Today I ended up waking up quite early. Our caravan had not advanced through the night because people cannot properly rest if they're constantly moving around, so we made a camp in the middle of the road to pass the night. Since then, we have not encountered any humans, and there aren't any monsters around either.

We will most likely reach the Goblins today if everything goes well. So for now, I woke up and decided to stretch my phantasmal body a little bit, flying outside the caravan where I was. But, suddenly, I suddenly remembered there was a lake near here, right inside that small forest to the left of the road.

I remember that Takeshi used his Unique Skill, Fisherman, to fish a bunch of fish. The kid had leveled up a lot, so his magical fishing rod is capable of fishing incredibly easily now. Fish are his territory, and he caught us so many that we almost emptied the lake, and we managed to feed all the people. His ability is not only that, but the fishing rod can treat any physical object as "water" and pass through them. The hook of the fishing rod is very sharp too. He could quite literally fish even beasts if he uses it correctly.

He said he was even able to control the fishing thread around as if it were a snake he was moving and letting crawl around. With such amazing power, he could quite literally do a bunch of stuff. I wonder what other methods he could use the fishing rod for...

Oh well, for now, he's still a kid training his unique skill, but it is not as "shitty" as he always thought it was, in fact, Fisherman seems to be a powerful Unique Skill.

I decided to go fish some fish myself, as I knew how to extend my phantom into tentacles and catch fish easily. Although not as amazing and efficient as Takeshi, I might one day get the Fishing Skill! Who knows?

I flew towards the lake, imagining eating a delicious and fresh grilled fish that made my mouth water in hunger.

As I reached the lake, I suddenly heard the humming of a beautiful voice, and what I found in the lake was a beautiful... and wonderfully majestic Elven girl, with long yellow-gold hair, shiny emerald eyes, and a lustrous body that looked like it was made of porcelain. Her hips were wide, and her bosom was rather big, covered by her hair.

She was washing in the cold waters of the lake, while the waterfall behind her made tons of bubbles around. Oh right, this girl is... Wait, Emeraldine?! What is she doing here?

Ah, of course, she came to wash herself.

Now I feel like a creep spying on her while taking a bath naked... but damn, she has such a beautiful body...! I am so envious of elves. Look at those curves! What's going on with their genes?! Why are elves so goddamn perfect physically? Ugh, the tropes are right. Elves are sexy as hell!

No, calm down, Maria! You're not like this. I might be a pervert, but I've never been a creep! Maybe I am? Well, I am more worried about her amazing body and how I envy the elves rather than if I find her sexy or not because the latter is just a fact. Yes, she's a sexy elven woman.

I noticed that her body still was covered in scars, though. After all this time, I had almost forgotten she used to be a slave and... that she had gone through a lot of shit by herself.

She's always so happy, spirited, and cute that it makes me not even believe she was once a tortured slave used by others as... well, a sex slave.

She had grown a lot stronger since then. I can't even recognize her now. The fight with Elderlight was when she showed off most of her current and amazing might.

Emeraldine is really someone to admire... Just looking at her scarred body makes me feel bad, though. Poor little thing... It makes me so frustrated to think she went through so much suffering...

I know I had already tortured, killed, and devoured the souls of those nasty motherfuckers that did this to her, but even then, I can't help but still feel bad.

I wish I could have come earlier to rescue her... Sigh.

But even after all of that, she was still strong and perseverated and helped me as much as she possibly could... even when it wasn't necessary. She was the only former slave that decided to join me and even trained very hard to reach her current level of strength by developing her abilities.

I wonder why did she even want to risk her life so much with us? Maybe she's just really crazy like all of us...

Although Partner did say the other day that she was... well, that she was interested in me.

Could it be? Is she with us because of me? Because of feeling gratitude to me or... something else? Maybe both?

"M-Maria-sama?!"

Emeraldine suddenly caught me. Her eyes brightly shone as she pointed her arrow at me.

"I-I thought you were some creep... I am so relieved it was just you," She sighed.

"Eh? Ah! S-Sorry! I just wanted to fish some fish for breakfast, and I ended up... staring at your scars," I sighed.

"Oh... even with healing magic, it's hard to heal them. They have been like this for years," She sighed.

"I-I see... Sorry for staring. I was also kind of a creep," I admitted.

"Oh... No, don't worry about it... M-Maria-sama... You would never be a creep to me... even more, it makes me happy that you were staring at my body... Y-You can stare all you want," She said while blushing, as she revealed more of her body to me while moving away the long hair covering her breasts.

“E-Eh?!”

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Emeraldine has been washing in the lake, and I ended up just staring at her like a retard for way too long, giving away my position easily and letting her detect me in no time as well... she even thought I was a “creep.” Well, I am indeed a creep! I don’t know what makes me special to not count as a creep? But okay?

When I tried to apologize, however...

“Sorry for staring. I was also kind of a creep,” I admitted.

“Oh... No, don’t worry about it... M-Maria... You would never be a creep to me... even more, it makes me happy that you were staring at my body... Y-You can stare all you want,” She said while blushing, as she revealed more of her body to me while moving away the long hair covering her breasts.

“E-Eh?!”

Emeraldine was a shameless girl! She was showing me off her beautiful bosom as if that wouldn’t make me completely... envious! What’s wrong with these damn elves?! They’re way too hot! What the heck?! Agh! I am just a ghost, even adjusting my breast size is hard because of this stupid restriction of “how you see yourself,” even though some admitted I had small breasts compared to her... I have been completely dwarfed!

Suddenly, a strong sense of jealousy began to fill my mind. Just looking at that ideal body made me so... so... frustrated... Ugh, I want my flesh body too, you know? Being a ghost is amazing, but there’s a limit to how amazing it gets before you begin wondering if it could be cool to have flesh again.

“M-Maria, you’re staring so much....” She sighed while blushing some more.

“Erm... Ah! Sorry about that, it just that by just looking at your body, I am suddenly taken over by a strong... feeling,” I sighed.

“Strong feelings? O-Oh my... M-Maria, you mean...? Those types of feelings?!” She asked.

Emeraldine suddenly began to walk towards me while opening her arms to me as if wanting to embrace me.

“Huh? Why are you coming here? Ah, wait! I didn’t mean that...! I...”

However, she wouldn’t listen to my words. Emeraldine got closer and closer to me with every passing second. Her beautiful body danced as she walked around, her hips were bouncy, and her ass cheeks were actually quite plump.

“Maria~ You’ve not... moved away from me yet... A-Are you okay with me? Y-You’re fine with it?” She asked while looking at me lovingly.

“W-Wait, hold on a second Emeraldine-chan... W-What are you talking about?” I asked.

“Maria, were you not looking at me in other ways?” She asked.

“Hm... W-Well, I wouldn’t say I wasn’t....” I sighed.

“Ahh! D-Do you... perhaps find me attractive?” She asked while her eyes shone brightly.

“I wouldn’t say I don’t... Well, I came here to fish for fish, not to look at your nude body... Though I have to admit you’re very beautiful,” I said, as I petted her head and stretched her cheeks... on her face.

On her face!

Though, she was such a cutie.

“T-Then come to wash with me! It’s hot, so the water is not so cold!” Emeraldine grabbed my arm and threw me into the water as she forced me to take a bath.

Thinking about it, I had never truly taken a bath because I am just a ghost. I don’t get nasty or smell. So what’s the point of it?

“Come on, Maria, materialize and take a bath with me! I will make sure to wash you well, fufu~”  
Laughed Emeraldine.

This elven beauty was off the charts in terms of sexiness, but she was also acting quite frisky with me all of a sudden. Did she really like me this much? To be honest, I don’t even know what this beauty could ever find attractive in me, but taking a bath shouldn’t be bad, and it could even be a new experience in this phantasmal body.

I quickly materialized my body, as I shyly took off my clothes one by one, and they all turned into black smoke and dissipated... revealing my nude body felt rather embarrassing even when this wasn’t a flesh body like the one I used to have!

Emeraldine started at my pale white, almost transparent body with eyes wide open. She even licked her lips.

“M-Maria, you’re such a beautiful treasure....” She said, looking at me with obsessed eyes.

“Treasure? Nobody had ever called me a treasure before... Am I treasure to you, E-Emeraldine?” I asked while blushing, as I felt like I was suddenly being captivated.

Was I really a treasure to her? But we had only met for about half a year! How come I am that important to her? Uwah... this only makes me grow more and more embarrassed...

“Y-Yes! You’re my precious treasure, Maria... You’re... t-the pillar of my life.” She said as she began to touch my body a bit, using the water and a sponge to wash me around.

“Uwaahh... I-It is cold... Wait, the pillar of your life?! Aren’t you exaggerating?” I muttered.

“Exaggerating? I would never exaggerate these feelings...” She said while smiling gently.

“Feelings...?”

“You were the one that picked me up from back then... When my life was already ruined... When I was used countless times... I had lost my life without dying... I had lost myself...” She said.

“I-Is that so?”

“And... well... When you picked me up that day... When you saw that my feet were hurt, and you carried me in your arms... That day... I... I felt something I had never felt before....”

Her hands suddenly caressed my hips, reaching my legs and slightly grasping them.

“It felt as if you were there for me... as if you had come to rescue me from all the hell I was going through... Even after being rescued from being a slave, I would simply rot away somewhere else, but you... you choose to pick me up... and since then I wanted to be at your side... every day since then, I grew fonder of you... Every time I feel troubled over the memories of my past, just remembering your face calms me down.” She sighed as she smiled at me and hugged me from behind.

“Emeraldine...”

“Thank you for being at my side....” She muttered.

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Emeraldine said some very pretty words to me that really got me going. My heart was beating very fast despite not having any heart to speak of, but I really felt quite agitated. I felt like she was really pouring her emotions and heart into me with those captivating words. I desired to suddenly stay at her side and protect her even more than before...

Emeraldine smiled cutely as she hugged me, but I suddenly realized that behind her cute and spirited nature, there was still a broken woman, someone that had gone through the worst things this world has to offer unjustly and without deserving any of that.

Poor little Emeraldine, she had really gone through a lot... It made me happy to be such an important figure in her life. It was very flattering...

I suddenly held her hands tightly with my hand, as I looked at her eyes with my own. Her beautiful emerald eyes shone brightly as my crimson-red eyes looked deep into her soul. Her beautiful and shiny soul filled with light and life. She was the very opposite of all I was, yet she was relying on me so much...

"I am happy that you see me that way, Emeraldine... I will make sure to make up for it and become a figure you can always rely on," I said.

I couldn't help but smile gently at her as she felt overwhelmed by my words.

"Maria...! I... I lov- Huh? Who's there?!"

Emeraldine was suddenly startled by the presence of someone staring at us. I quickly looked in the direction of the figure, and who was staring at us was... Lucifer of all people.

"Uwah! I-I wasn't staring! I... Why are you so intimidated all of a sudden?!" He roared back, as if trying to gain some reason to be here by getting angry over our intimidating moment...

"What's so wrong about it? You perverted old dragon! Go away! You're staring at us while being naked! Do you have no shame?!" Roared Emeraldine as she grabbed some stones and began to throw them at Lucifer.



However, I did notice that he wasn't staring at Emeraldine but at my body. His eyes were fixated on my body more than anything. And he was blushing a lot while doing so. I don't know what's so special about my body, but I could clearly tell he liked it a lot.

"What's wrong, Lucifer~? See something you like?" I teasingly asked as he swallowed saliva.

"N-No! Stop looking at Maria!" Roared Emeraldine as she covered my body with her own and suddenly conjured a ray of holy light towards Lucifer.

"Ugh?!"

BOOOOMM!!!

"Emeraldine! What the heck did you do?! That's a bit too much!" I said.

"But he was staring! That perverted... lizard!" She angrily shouted while blushing a bit.

Lucifer ended up angering her a lot as he had interrupted our very important and special time together. Well, I also felt angry he showed up out of nowhere. I was also enjoying my time with my cute elf.

However, I felt worried. Emeraldine's magic can purify Undead easily, so she could have accidentally killed him with that ray. I jumped out of the lake butt naked as I reached up to him and began conjuring Undead Healing on him.

The burns and wounds on his chest and stomach quickly recovered as he groaned in pain.

"M-Maria...?" He muttered, faintly opening his eyes, as my face greeted his sight... and well, the rest of my body, which he quickly inspected.

"Are you okay, Lucifer? Did that hurt?" I sighed as I petted his head.

“I-I am fine...! But you’re naked!” He shouted.

“Huh? You’re always naked in your dragon form, aren’t you?” I asked.

“B-But that’s completely different than this! Ahhh...! S-Such a sexy body!” He exclaimed.

He couldn’t contain himself any longer, praising my body as if he were looking at a tasty treat.

“Huh?! Sexy?” I asked in surprise.

He suddenly threw me to the ground as he trapped me with his arms. His face slowly approached me as he looked down on my body.

“M-Maria, you’re doing this on purpose, aren’t you? You want me to take you? R-Right...? I-I cannot contain myself any longer... my heart... my cold heart is beating so fast...! I cannot contain myself... this growing lust... this growing passion! Maria... I lov-”

CLASH!

“Guuaggh...!”

BOOM!

Lucifer was interrupted from his debauchery by a flying kick from Emeraldine as he was thrown into the ground, rolling over it and landing his head into a tree trunk, which accidentally made it break and fall over him.

TRUUMM...!

“W-Wait! Lucifer!” I cried in horror, checking his status.

He was fine...

“Maria, I saved you from that perverted man! D-Don’t worry, as long as I am here with you. I won’t let that nasty dragon take advantage of you....” She said.

“Advantage of me? I know he was being a bit pushy, but I can fend by myself-”

“You clearly can’t! Y-You’re way too dummy!” She exclaimed.

“W-Who are you calling dummy?! I am not a dummy! I am very intelligent, in fact,” I said while nodding and smiling proudly of my own advanced and superior intellect.

“Y-You’re indeed very intelligent, Maria... B-But not that much in certain areas... I... I will make sure to protect you, alright?” She cutely said as she held my hands tightly and smiled back at me with a loving smile.

Our faces began to slowly approach one another out of reflex. I didn’t know what kind of supernatural force was forcing me to get closer to her beautiful and flawless face, but this elven woman was way too beautiful to easily stop looking at...

“Maria... L-Let me... take your first ki-”

“Master?!”

Partner suddenly showed up behind us as she was raising her spear. Her eyes shone with bright crimson-red light, glaring at the entire situation... Lucifer also slowly stood up from at her side, sighing angrily.

“W-Why did you kick me like that?!” He cried out.

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## Chapter 134

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I feel like I am in a very weird situation right now! I don't know what's exactly going on now, but it all feels very awkward! I want to just run away from here and have my own life for once, but everyone here is like... very angsty or something! Can't they just let me be?

Okay, okay, I am not that dense! I know that... they've all got the hots for me, but this is not the proper way to handle it! However, they're all competitive to the point that they're having a growing rivalry against one another. I can't help but feel excited deep down about being treated as some kind of prize by such handsome men and beautiful women, but even then... this is a bit too much for my liking!

I don't have any experiences with love in my previous life. I do know I've always liked both sexes anyways, but this is a bit too much for now. I am not even experienced in Harem Stories because I used to despise them to the core, but now finding myself in the middle of such a romantic drama, I can't help but be completely hopeless, because they're all...

They're all so beautiful and handsome! How can I even choose one?! I want them all!

Okay, I have to calm down. Everything today escalated way too quickly! I am not like that. Maria, you're clearly not a horny woman like this.

I have my own stuff, and I shouldn't be doing this! I have to simply talk it out and tell them honestly, with the deepest part of my soul, that they should stop fighting and get along nicely!

Can I even accomplish that?

"E-Emeraldine...! W-What were you going to do with Master?!" Roared Partner, as she suddenly separated me from Emeraldine and protected me from her very defensively.

"Erm, she wasn't going to do anything, Partner, please calm down, dear... Everything's fine! I swear to god almighty!" I said.

"I-It was clearly not alright! I-I saw her! She was going to... k-kiss you or something!" Said Partner.

Emeraldine suddenly heard this word and suddenly grew all red. Her beautiful porcelain skin grew as red as a tomato, and her pointy ears began to twitch around adorably. Steam began to come out of them as well, and her lips trembled timidly.

"I-I wasn't going to do anything like that...!" She cried out as she glared at Partner defiantly.

"You were clearly going to do that! I saw you... P-Perverted elf!" Said Partner, as she smacked Emeraldine's head gently.

It was more of a playful hit, so it didn't reduce her HP.

"Ouch! D-Don't smack me...!" Shouted Emeraldine.

"W-Wait, you were going to kiss her?! Why? Aren't you a woman?" Asked Lucifer while raising an eyebrow.

"I-I wasn't going to do anything! I-It's all a misunderstanding...." Said Emeraldine.

"No, your lips were very close to Master's...." Said Partner while squinting her eyes.

"Emeraldine, I didn't know you were hitting in that direction...." Said Lucifer.

"W-What? W-What's wrong with that? You're a perverted lizard, w-why would I care what you think?" Cried Emeraldine.

"T-There's nothing wrong with love between girls...." Said Partner while pouting angrily at Lucifer.

"I-I am not arguing against it! I am very open-minded, I don't mind... I just... I... I am surprised that you would try to do that...." Muttered Lucifer.

"Y-You! You were the one trying to kiss her, though! I saw him, Partner! Lucifer pushed down Maria and was closing his lips to her while saying all sorts of things about passion and stuff... he looked like a weirdo!" Shouted Emeraldine.

"W-Weirdo?! You're the weirdo here! How come you expect a woman to also like you? That's not a common thing! Not every woman would like another woman...! I-I am not saying it's wrong, it's just a thing of preference...." Refuted Lucifer.

"You're going around the question and trying to play it off as if you didn't do anything wrong when you exactly did something very perverted," Said Emeraldine.

"Looks who's talking! You were bathing her in the lake, the two of you butt naked! How come that's not perverted?" Asked Lucifer, and Partner was shocked.

"\*Gasp!\* You did that?!" Exclaimed Partner.

"I-I did... But that was just washing each other between sisters! T-There's nothing wrong with that to strengthen our bonds," Said Emeraldine while looking back at me.

"I-I don't really get it...." Sighed Lucifer.

"Okay, okay, calm down, you three! I don't want a single word about this situation from all three of you anymore... You three will calm down and come with me to help me fish for breakfast!" I shouted.

"B-But...!"

"No buts! You're coming." I said as I walked back to the lake.

"But Maria, you're still naked...." Said Emeraldine.

“S-Such a nice and round butt....” Muttered Lucifer as his hands were trying to grasp my ass from a distance.

“S-Stop looking at her!” Partner blocked my sight from them as I quickly put clothes over my body.

“Alright! Now it’s fine, right? Let’s go fishing,” I sighed.

I decided to tell them to forget about what was happening right now and stop being so awkward for once. They quickly calmed down after my order and helped me at fishing tons of fish, which we carried back to the camp, and we began to grill.

After such a big discussion, I honestly didn’t know what to do, it was all very confusing to me. I preferred that such a thing would have never happened, but it happened, and there was nothing I could do to change it.

For now, I decided to relax and go back to my caravan while eating fish. I rested over my bed and sighed in relief. Closing my eyes, I decided to just take a nap after breakfast while the caravan slowly moved to the goblin village.

I just wanted to chill out and relax for once. Too much weird romantic drama for now... I will deal with it gradually. Doing it all out would only leave bitter feelings. This is not something that can be handled easily...

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After the entire situation was over, Takeshi and Laura were already woken up, so Takeshi ended up helping us catch a lot of fish, which we quickly grilled and seasoned with some salt and herbs. We then served it to everyone with us to fill up their bellies.

There were many people with us, I don’t know if we’ll even be able to feed them for very long without reaching the goblin village yet, but it seems we are very close. I had already reached the village with

some of my snake clones which moved through the night, and things were doing alright. Everyone was safe, which made me very relieved.

I had decided to forget what happened this morning and start anew with my friends, as I didn't want them to get angry with one another and forge a rivalry that would only destroy our great friendship, so I gathered them all while our caravan was moving, and decided to talk it out with them.

"So because of that, I would want to start again. Let's forget this morning's incident, and let's all become friends with one another as we had always been, alright?" I said with a gentle smile.

I held Partner and Emeraldine's hands with my own while I used my snake tail to hold Lucifer's hand.

All three of them sighed as they nodded faintly.

"I agree, I went a bit overboard there... I don't want to remember such an incident anymore, so... I am sorry, deeply sorry... E-Especially to you, Maria. I shouldn't have acted as I did...." Lucifer apologized.

"Don't worry about it. As long as you're sorry, we are all good!" I said with a gentle smile.

Lucifer suddenly blushed a bit. He was showing more and more emotions as time went by, and now he was being less cold and tsundere than before.

"Thanks," He said while nodding.

"I-I am deeply sorry too, Maria! I shouldn't have done something so unsightly to you...." Emeraldine kneeled before me and asked for forgiveness.

I petted her head gently.

"Okay, it's okay, as long as you get it," I said.



“T-Thank you for being so nice with me....” She sighed as her eyes suddenly glowed with bright yellow-gold light.

“Sorry, Master... I got a bit angry there... I shouldn’t have threatened everyone with my spear,” Sighed Partner, as she was currently cleaning her spear with a leather towel like she often does every morning.

“Alright, alright~ We are all good then! Now, let’s just enjoy the trip back to town, okay? I sent some snakes to the Goblin Village, and they said that things were doing okay. Nothing bad has happened,” I said.

“That’s a relief to hear! I can’t wait to meet the Goblins again. There were a lot of people there too. I wonder if some of them are still there and didn’t leave,” Said Emeraldine.

“The Goblins are nice people. I can’t wait to get there too...!” Said Partner.

“Hmm... I guess I miss them,” Muttered Lucifer.

He had grown fond of the children, which he often took care of and let them play over his big dragon body. He had grown so fond of them he even got titles from it.

“And I can’t wait to meet Gofumin-chan again! That adorable little goblin girl must be missing me so much... I will make sure to give her lots of gifts when we get there!” I said.

“Gofumin?” Asked Takeshi.

“Gofumin is the adorable little daughter of the Goblin Chief, which we just call Chief. She’s an adorable little cutie pie,” I said.

“Ooh, I wonder how small the goblin children are,” Said Laura.

“They’re small like this...!” Said Partner, as she showed that they were around a meter tall.

“So small?!” Exclaimed Laura.

“Yeah, they’re tiny little babies. When they grow up into adults, they become taller, of course, but the tallest adult was the chief at a meter and a half. Well, that changed after they evolved into Hobgoblins thanks to our help, but I don’t know how much they had changed since then,” I said.

“I see... How big are Hobgoblins?” Asked Takeshi.

“They are probably around your size, kids,” Said Lucifer.

“Eh? Isn’t that still small, though?!” Shouted Laura once again.

“Ah... Well, yeah... Even as Hobgoblins, they’re still not the tallest race, but they are slender and more flexible with taller bodies!” Explained Emeraldine.

“Goblins are good at using all sorts of tools. They’re the perfect jack of all trades and master of none! There were crafters, healers, and so on within them. We had to just nurture them and let them level up to awaken their innate talents. By merely evolving into Hobgoblins, some even gained Job-like races such as Hobgoblin Warrior and gained weapon techniques as skills,” Said Lucifer.

“Wait, now that I think about it... Jobs! I had brought this when I was assaulting the entire duchy... Look at this baby,” I said.

“Eh?! That’s...! It can’t be!” said Lucifer.

“Oh yes, it is!” I said.

“You stole that, Maria?!” Asked Emeraldine.

“I sure did!” I said.

“Now everyone will be able to change Jobs, well done, master,” Said Partner, as she petted my head.

“B-But how did you get that?!” Asked Takeshi.

“Yeah! H-How?!” Asked Laura.

“Fufu...! While I was making a fuss in the duchy back then, I had stolen a lot of goods, and I had infiltrated into the adventurer guild sneakily and stole the Job-changing Orb thing which they used for it. With this, we’ll help everyone change Jobs if they want to,” I said proudly.

Indeed! I had stolen this precious little thing from them for the moment. I am sure they can replenish it later on, so I don’t have to worry about them. I had also stolen many other stuff I found in that place. No hard feelings, but I am already a pickpocket, so I might as well steal people, right?

I did feel a bit bad because of the people working there being very good, but there was no point in holding back even if I knew they were nice, and it’s not like I stole directly from them anyways...

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“With this fantastical orb of wonders, I will boost the power of all the Goblins and also the former slaves living there by the power of Jobs... Also, everyone will be able to specialize even further into what they’re good at. I am sure even Gofumin will make good use of a Job,” I said.

“Wow... Indeed! I remember that she said she wanted to be an Adventurer, didn’t she?” asked Emeraldine.

“Yep! She wants to be an Adventurer and hunter like her mother... So we’ll help her out in fulfilling her dreams by training her out, if possible. Even if she’s a small little baby girl that only deserves hugs and kisses,” I said.

“You’re very fixated with her!” Said Partner rather jealously.

“W-What? Well... She’s so cute... I feel like she’s my little adoptive daughter!” I said.

“W-What about us?” Asked Takeshi sorrowfully.

“Well, I am not that childish to want such a thing....” Said Julia.

Her mental age was higher than Takeshi’s.

“Takeshi, you’re also my little baby boy!” I said as I held him with my arms.

He got embarrassed suddenly and tried to jump out of my embrace.

“O-Okay... let me go! I don’t want this...!” He cried.

“Fufu, didn’t you want to be a baby?” I asked.

“N-No!” He cried.

“Okay, okay...” I sighed while giggling.

As I chatted around with my friends in the caravan, I was inspecting the people of the village using the snakes I sent there. There were around four of them, and they were using Stealth and other abilities to conceal their presence.

The goblins were doing fine, a big group of them had just hunted down three boars, and they were roasting them. The entire tribe was sitting around it and preparing other food too. Also, they still had the vegetables and fruits I left for them. They’re good at keeping it and distributing food slowly, I see.

There were some of the former slaves that were gone by now, and they had most likely decided to go back home, while a few humans, dwarves, elves, and so on were still there, working on their own. They had made more tents for them, but it's not as if they had changed their entire place drastically or something.

I stealthily moved around the village, and I spread two snakes around the outskirts of the village while another two went inside to explore. I was looking for Gofumin.

Suddenly, I found her, she was almost the same as before, but was with two other friends, and they were grilling three rabbits which they had butchered just and looked hungry. The little green-skinned baby girls were already able to cook by themselves. It seems that the chief taught her well.

"Uwah, Gofumin-chan!" I said, as I tried to move near her, but suddenly an arrow hit my snake body.

CLASH!

"Uagh! C-Careful there, idiot!"

"A-A snake! Kill it!" A kid had fired an arrow at me and seemed concerned.

The three girls near me quickly panicked, and my reencounter with Gofumin came to an abrupt end.

"Gyaaah!"

"S-Snake?!"

"Snake!"

CLASH!

My entire snake body was crushed by the girls' feet and their wooden spears as I dissipated into a phantom.

"Huh? It's gone?"

"W-What was that?"

"A ghost snake!" Shouted Gofumin in surprise.

She guessed it right.

I was still looking over them through another snake hiding around town, so it was all within my grasp even if you have slain one of me, hehehe!

However, suddenly, something startled me.

As everyone enjoyed their meals in the village, my two other snakes inspecting the outskirts of the forest around the village suddenly caught something terrible.

By expanding the senses of my snakes, I was able to see, hear, and smell from very far away and easily discern a group of people just around 60 meters away from the village. There were around 30 of them!

W-What is the meaning of this?!

They looked like mercenaries mixed with adventurers, and some weak-looking dudes were leading them... Wait, I am pretty good at remembering faces.

Aren't those the slaves we rescued from the Necromancer?

"Yeah, right there...! The goblins that had been killing the adventurers that had disappeared live there!"

“C-Careful! There is some Undead guarding the place....”

“Yeah, but you promised that you’ll pay us if we give them to you, right?”

They were a trio of idiot nobodies whose names I don’t even remember, but I do remember their stupid and common-looking faces.

To think the slaves we rescued would end up selling us! I was careless. I should have left some insurance so these bastards wouldn’t have tried to backstab us...!

Two suspicious-looking fellows were leading the group of over 30 people. One of them looked more like a bandit, as he was a bald dude with a big scar on his face, wearing animal leather and carrying a gigantic ax infused with a lot of magic power. It was actually a powerful Magic Weapon.

The guy looked like a bandit, but he was a strong motherfucker. I could clearly feel his presence, and he wasn’t comparable with Elderlight, but he was easily a man at around B-Rank!

And at his side, there was a Priest. Indeed, there was a Priest from the church with them, accompanied by another four priests and priestesses. They carried pouches with holy water and staves infused with holy magic. They seemed to have teamed up with the mercenaries and adventurers contracted for this extermination task to get rid of my Undead!

Using Inspect, I discovered the bandit-like guy was named Leon and had the title of “the Beast Hunter” while the Priest leading the group of the church was named Eric, with the title of “Slayer of Evil”...

Seriously?! You’re packing way too much strength to come to slay some little goblins!

The priest was around B-Rank too in power, and the entire group amounted to a mix of D-Ranks and C-Ranks... although the majority were D-Rank, they came with weapons covered in spells made by the priest, which actually dealt extra damage to Majin and Undead... damn bastards!

I have to get there quickly then!

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## Chapter 137

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“Kukuhahaha! I can’t wait to get there. It’s gonna be a lot of fun! Been a while since I’ve slain a few of these green-skinned vermin. They’re like annoying cockroaches that suck up to nearby villages and stealthily hunt down the people... these damn bastards don’t deserve any mercy!” Roared Leon.

He seemed to have a grudge against Goblins in specific... What is he? Goblin Slayer or something?!

“I have to uphold the justice of the Light God against the Evil God’s pawns. It has been a long time since we had such a hunt like this. These vicious monsters had been hiding well, but now we’ll finally serve justice to all these innocent people slain by them... I hope they can rest in peace in the embrace of the Light God’s holy light,” Sighed Eric.

Can’t you be more cliché?! Why are all priests like this idiot? And what do you mean innocents? I am pretty sure my Undead slew these pesky Adventurers trying to hunt the goblins because they obviously wanted to kill innocent people!

I guess there’s no point in arguing with these idiots that don’t know a single thing and see Majin the same as monsters, which is a big and fat lie. Majin are not monsters! Goblins are nice and cute small people, and I am going to defend them with my life on the line- well, my death on the line!

I had already told my friends about them, and we were currently moving across the sky at an incredible speed. We left the Caravan to be guarded by several Undead I had already summoned there, so they should be fine for now. I even left them with big snake clones too!

I decided to bring everyone inside my Shadow Storage and fly towards the Village incredibly fast. I wished I could use Summon with the snake clones to summon myself there, but I really can’t. This Skill is too special to be used by small and weak clones, sadly.

I had taken my friends into my Shadow Storage while also having a group of Undead I had risen from all the soldiers we fought the previous days. Although I had sacrificed a bunch to kill even more soldiers,



these dead soldiers were made into Undead too. Their torn apart corpses were repurposed into materials, and through the usage of Fake Life and then spamming Undead Healing, I was able to regenerate and stick back the corpses, making competent Undead again.

This is the wonderful power of Undead Healing and Fake Life. Even if my Undead are torn into pieces, I can always bring them back up, although the more they regenerate back, the more horrendous they look. The ones I have as of now resemble horrible chimera creatures... I am not so proud of them, but they work as a good army anyways, and explosives!

I rushed forward, taking the route of the forest, and rushing forward with all my might, straight towards the damn bastards. I had already ordered my Undead to guard the goblins and quickly intercept them and buy us as much time as possible, while I decided to use my snakes in the village to alert the goblins.

I fused them into a single snake and shapeshifted it into my small form, which looked like a little girl version of me with a snake tail... not the proudest iteration of yours truly.

I emerged in the middle of the entire celebration.

“EVERYONE, PAY ATTENTION!” I roared loudly.

Everyone suddenly jumped out of their seats and looked at me as I floated atop the sky.

“W-Who is that?!”

“A snake girl?”

“Huh? What?”

“Wait! That voice... Is she Lady Maria?!”

The chief quickly recognized my voice.

“Guys! This is only one of my clones, but I came here because you’re going to get attacked! A group of mercenaries and priests are rushing straight towards here. You have to move on quickly! I put some Undead to distract them, but they won’t last long. They’re too strong!” I shouted.

“W-What?!”

“Leave?”

“But we are enjoying the lunch....”

“My tummy is empty....”

The chief quickly nodded and smacked the head of the guys complaining.

“You idiots, what are you waiting for?! Quickly grab your children and run! Leave everything behind. It doesn’t matter!” Shouted the chief.

“Damn it!”

“Okay!”

“Children, come here!”

“Nee-sama...” Gofumin rushed towards my clone, hugging me.

“Ah, Gofumin-chan, I missed you... But this is not my real body. My real body is coming here quickly to deal with the bad guys, okay? For now, let’s guide the people out of here so we can make sure nobody comes after us,” I said.

“O-Okay!”

Gofumin was carried in the arms of my little clone as I guided the people out of the town through a route that led to the ruins where the necromancer once lived. I planned to put all the people inside of there. Only death attribute users can open that place anyway, so it's the perfect place to save them.

"Come on, hurry! Quick!"

Meanwhile, one of my snake clones, a small little one I had divided to keep track of the group of mercenaries and priests, watched over the enemy group as they marched forward.

Suddenly, the group of Undead I had saved around here quickly emerged, confronting them.

Leon and Eric smiled like sickos to this.

"Hehehe, there they are! Time to smash them to pieces!" Laughed Leon, raising his giant ax as it was infused with large quantities of mana, making it resonate with a strong amount of energy...

Meanwhile, Eric and his priests seemed to unleash their holy light auras as they readied their attacks against my Undead.

"Come forth, you little Undead!" Laughed Leon as the Netherworld Beasts rushed forward, attacking with poisonous breaths, while the zombies fired bullets made of miasma...

My Undead was doing their best to buy time, but they were easily overpowered. The amazing movements and physical strength of Leon were admirable. He moved at an amazing speed and pace and was almost unstoppable.

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My Undead was doing their best to buy time, but they were easily overpowered. The amazing movements and physical strength of Leon were admirable. He moved at an amazing speed and pace and was almost unstoppable.

However, each time he slew one of my Undead, I made it explode using Undead Detonation from a long distance. The explosion of the Undead was strong and threw him away a few meters each time, but the priests were competent, as they healed him and later on covered him with barriers alongside his allies, inhibiting the power of my Undead explosions.

“Be purified, lost souls!”

Eric used several rays of holy light to burn through my Undead while protecting himself with a holy light barrier like it was nothing. With his attacks, the Undead were easily turned to ashes so they couldn’t explode in time. The group I had was only about 20, so it wasn’t nearly enough to even put a threat against them, especially because they were only C- and C+ Rank at most.

Damn it! I am rushing here as fast as I possibly can... Please, Undead, do your best!

Meanwhile, I used my clone to guide the Goblins outside of the village. The last one finally left, and the group quickly rushed through the entire forest. They quickly made their way into the temple which then led to the hideout that the necromancer was using to save the people he had as slaves.

I know its not the best place, but it still the safest there can be. I had to quickly bring them out of danger before it were to become too late.

With Gofumin in my arms and the chief at my side leading the people, things were going smoothly. I think we might manage.

Meanwhile, my main body was still rushing towards here, and I quickly decided to utilize more mana. I drank a dozen of Mana Potions, quickly making up an army of Ghost Snakes. They’re not that strong anyway, but they can still be annoyingly formidable in such a big group.

I grouped them all together and sent them off towards the enemy. They were faster than me due to being so small and rushed and spread across the forest, trying to quickly catch up to the Undead, distracting the damn Mercenaries and Priests.

I had also decided to cut this army of hundreds in half, sending the other half towards the goblins and the other people led by my clone there, just as back up in case any monster show up and tries to eat the people while we are moving there.

“Gahahaha! It’s useless!”

CLASH!

Leon sliced through another of my Undead. His massive ax easily sliced in half a monster the size of a wolf, which quickly exploded in front of his face, but he was mostly protected by the barrier of light, even if it shattered into pieces. He was somehow fine. That damn bastard was incredibly burly and muscular, and his defenses were phenomenal, more than Elderlight.

I had inspected this guy’s status in the meantime. He was packed with defense and offense-oriented Skills, which enhanced his physical power through the roof. He also had the “Beast Axe Arts,” which were like an evolved form of Axe Technique, and he had things such as “Earth-Shattering Slash” and even “Heaven-Piercing Crush,” which only made me grow more concerned, as this guy hasn’t even shown these skills yet. He was someone really at B Rank in power.

He was a Mercenary and also an Adventurer, an odd combination I never thought I would see... I had read in the libraries and stuff that Adventurers already at B Rank were terrifying people to fight against. Their power was admirable, and they had polished their strength for years and years.

Fighting Elderlight, someone with a threat level of B+ Rank, was already like a B-Rank Adventurer, and his power showed it. It took all three of us, including me, Emeraldine, and Partner, to barely take him down.

I had evolved since that fight and my strength was definitely higher, but even then, I couldn’t help but feel a strong dreadful feeling that it would be a hard fight. His muscles shone brightly before the sunlight, and his smile, filled with the desire to crush the innocent people I was protecting, only made my heart grow more restless.

“Be purified, unholy Undead!”

FLASH!

Meanwhile, although Eric was something like a discount version of Elderlight, it didn’t mean he was less scary. His power over holy light was admirable. He was able to easily purify Undead in seconds. I think he was even more talented in this regard than Elderlight himself.

Additionally, he came with another four priests who were almost at the B Rank threat level, and it was shown in their amazing magical power and cooperation. They all combined their magic together, sometimes into something called “Combination Magic,” scary-sounding magic used by the priests to conjure spells with power way above them.

With this magic, they conjured barriers that the explosions of my Undead would barely shatter, and with this magic, they also conjured strong healing spells capable of putting bones back together.

My last Undead was still fighting, evading attacks, and barely struggling, and my army of snakes was getting closer while I was lurking closer too. I had to travel over a kilometer by myself, so it was bound to take a few minutes. I couldn’t help it!

Meanwhile, my clone had already reached the temple and was getting closer to the Necromancer hideout. Just a bit closer, and we’ll finally arrive there and put the people in a safe place. However, before we could reach the hideout, something stopped us.

“W-What? Who are they?”

“P-People?”

“They’re pale....”

“S-Stand back!”

“Maria... who are they?” Asked Gofumin looking at me with concern.

In front of us, there were three figures, their features... everything.

I knew what they were...

Vampires.

“Kukuku, I knew they would come here!”

“Good thing we followed those humans here.”

“Indeed... Time for a feast....”

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## Chapter 139

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Against all my expectations, something had emerged before us that stopped us from advancing further. The people stood still, paralyzed in fear before these three figures. The power they emanated was clearly supernatural. The three pale-white-skinned and crimson-eyed people in front of us were smiling deviously. The auras they emanated were clearly not that of normal humans and their appearances faintly reminded me of the two other Vampires I had slain, and also of Partner, if even by a little bit.

The auras within their bodies resembled seas of crimson-red, where darkness was mixing within it. All three of them were clearly stronger Vampires than the ones I had slain before. They were all... B+ Rank, with the one in the middle being A Rank in threat-level.

They were clearly capable enough of slaying every single person here.

The little Gofumin in the arms of my clone began to suddenly tremble in fear, as I felt she suddenly peed herself out of fear... this broke my heart and made me quickly act without a shred of a doubt, I decided to not even speak with them.

This clone was still able to do many things. Although it had a limited amount of Mana, I was going to do something I didn't want to do and borrow the mana of everyone here to fuel it to conjure Shadow Storage. In a split of a second, I expanded my shadows below this clone, as the people all around me quickly began to disappear inside.

The Vampires wouldn't sit down and look as I took away the prey they wanted to enjoy, so the first one to attack, a Vampire man with short white hair and a pointy chin, rushed towards me. His Aura suddenly shaped itself as countless gigantic furious bats, flying towards us and completely capable of tearing everyone to shreds if I were to let him.

But of course, I wasn't going to let him.

I am sorry, but I'll drain all of you dry of your Mana!

I utilized Mana Siphon through this clone, and most of the people of the village suddenly fell unconscious after having almost all their mana drained. Their minds might have grown exhausted to the point of blacking out, but this was the only way to rescue them.

FLASH!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

The massive swarm of deadly crimson-red aura-made bats with sharp fangs suddenly rained down into the dark shadow barrier I just created with many efforts, using Materialization to materialize it and make it as hard as possible.

He was too late! The people were already inside my Shadow Storage, and now the trick was escaping with this clone into a safe place!



“You’re an interesting ghost!”

CLASH!

Suddenly, another one of the Vampires, a mature woman-looking Vampire with long blonde hair and one of her eyes being covered by a parch, emerged behind me and tried to crush me with a powerful kick. Her physical strength was incredibly admirable to the point the entire earth around us shattered wide open and left a massive crater in the shape of a spiderweb!

I had managed to evade as I used Shadow Sneak with that clone and flew directly into her shadows, surprising her.

“My own shadows? You’re a bold one!”

However, as I realized something wrong was going to happen, I quickly decided to rush away, but my clone was suddenly grasped by her own shadows, as they shaped into deadly and monstrous beasts trying to catch me and devour me.

Fuck! Are you kidding me?!

The pain was rather nonexistent in my clone, but it still weakened it. If it grows weak enough, the Shadow Storage Skill will stop working, and the people will be summoned out! If that happens, they will all die against these monsters!

I can’t let this happen! My clone quickly cut her own legs and flew away, letting the shadows of the Vampire woman devour that other half, feasting on it as if they had the power of eating souls themselves... who are these Vampires?! They’re clearly way stronger than the Necromancer and the Scientist...

Ah, I see. I have been just fighting the non-combatants this whole time. This is why it was so easy to fight Vampires before. After all, you can’t really expect a Necromancer or a Scientist/Alchemist to be the strongest the Vampires have to offer. It was foolish for me to ever think for a second that Vampires were beings that could be easily underestimated.

I quickly tried to dive into the ground, and thankfully, my phantom clone was able to easily dive down into the underground and phase through it with ease. I simply had to get to it and do it. I also absorbed the last bits of Mana from the people, so they all had fallen unconscious now, even Gofumin.

I felt horrible for having done this to them without previously asking them, and they might even suffer fever and other sicknesses in the future, but this was the only way for me to guarantee their safety, even if for a few seconds.

I dived into the ground right away, but when I had already crossed five meters, a massive shockwave hit me directly. The entire earth opened wide before the might of that same Vampire woman. Her kicks and punches opened the entire ground looking for me.

The entire place began to fall apart as if she was shaping the complete landscape to her own liking. And, of course, this woman was also the A-Rank threat.

“You can’t escape from me! Even in the underground, I can easily follow you!” Laughed the woman, accompanied by the two sick-looking Vampire guys at each of her sides.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Her blows shattered the earth and everything around my clone. I gritted my teeth in desperation, trying to run away from her, but countless rubble began to fall wherever I went, accompanied by the thunderous sounds of her feet hitting the ground.

Crossing physical objects also cost mana. How long will I be able to run away from her before my fuel runs out?!

Fuck, and my main body is still not here yet!

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“Bwahahaha! You’re really good at running away, little ghost! I don’t mind breaking apart this entire place if we can get you out of the way, Maria Fuentes Belles or the Witch of Misfortune!” Laughed the Vampiress as she continued to break apart the ground looking for me.

She was quite literally shaping the entire environment to her liking. I didn’t know how she could do this so carefreely or how the heck will we ever be able to defeat this monster.

I was most surprised at how it was possible for her to not be affected by the sunlight? The same with the other Vampires! The two I had previously defeated were susceptible to sunlight and always ran away from it or decided to move at night, but this was clearly day!

While running away from her destructive blows and the magical attacks from her two lackeys, the B+ Rank threats, I decided to inspect her information, finding out her name was Catarina Silverstone. In comparison, her two lackeys were named Silvio Suarez and Francesco Hunter. These two bastards were firing magic at me constantly, cutting down my escape routes. At the same time, Catarina constantly unleashed powerful explosive blows into the ground, shattering it all.

The entire landscape around the forest where the goblins were living was changed in just a few minutes since this chase started. She was recklessly breaking apart the ground. Several kilometers were already sunk into the underground as massive craters were left before her might. She could quite literally break apart a mountain if she wanted...

Is this the might of A-Rank threats?! She can even defeat those guys in the forest if she wanted- Wait a second, I just got an awesome idea!

But can I even pull it off?! I’ve been running away with this clone for way too far. Going back there would take even more time... If only there was something to buy me time, but my main body is still a kilometer away, and I must secure the people’s safety- Ah!

And then I realized that my mind within the hundreds of snake clones I had sent here had finally arrived as well. The backup plan I had designed was finally here!

SPLASH!

“Huh?!”

“W-What is that?!”

“Aghh! Snakes?!”

The three Vampires were startled as a literal ocean of ghost snakes emerged, falling over them and beginning to bite them and entangle them! But knowing how strong they are, they will easily get out of this trouble with their strength. However, it was more than enough time for me to get the shit out of here with this clone!

I grabbed a mana potion a snake had brought to me as I drank it and flew away. The three Vampires were beginning to massacre the snakes quickly after, as I made many of them detonate through Undead Detonation, which, funnily enough, worked on me to an extent, although not as powerful.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Although Catarina's strength was formidable, and she didn't even budge while being blown away with many explosions, the other two Vampire guys were being overwhelmed. I even managed to cut away tons of their flesh. Both of them were with missing limbs that didn't regenerate as I was bathing them with curses that temporarily stopped regeneration.

I had also tried using the Gorgon Eyes against them, but it had very little effect if I conjured them through clones. They barely had enough power against Vampires who are so resistant to status effects, but if my main body were to take a look at them, then it might work.

Nonetheless, it took them a few seconds to get rid of them as the wave of snake clones constantly fell over them from the pits left by the complete destruction that this damn Vampire whore had been leaving around the place.

“Agh! Oi! Where do you think you're going?!” Roared Catarina, already way too far away from me.

I was already several kilometers from her and was delving back into the forest, where I could actually find better areas to hide. I don't know if the Vampires would be willing to enter the territory of the Mercenaries and the Priests. They were clearly not allies, as they had simply followed them from behind.

She began to follow me, but I quickly hastened my pace using my clone. My main body had also finally reached the inside of the forest, as I used several of my Stealth-based Skills to watch over them. The Undead I had sent at them were long gone, and they were marching towards the goblin village, now empty.

Suddenly, I finally reunited with my clone.

"Phew, you're finally here, me!"

"You too, you look like you're going to die any moment!" I said.

"Please give me a snack!"

"Okay, here."

I quickly fed my own clone with more of my phantom and mana and then quickly sent her off. I wish I could have brought my clone to my main body through Summoning, but it actually doesn't work on my clones.

"Alright then! I'll keep the people safe, me!"

"You better do!"

I flew with my clone far away through the underground. Now the clone was packed with a lot of Mana and even had equipped some items to enhance her stats and mana. With that, she should be able to handle fine, even more with the dozen of mana potions I threw at her...

Meanwhile, the swarm of Snakes had already reached Leon and Eric. The mercenaries, adventurers, and priests were swarmed by an army of many weak yet annoying ghost snakes, which they quickly began to kill, giving me more time to devise a strategy.

And that was...

Should I escape or kill them? I already got the people secured, but these bastards will continue to pursue me, especially the Vampires! I don't want that overpowered Vampire woman to come at me all the time. She looks like she's a relentless bitch.

Hmm... I think I know how I can use Catarina's brute strength to my advantage.

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