

## A Ghost 151

### Chapter 151

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I had already destroyed most of the souls of these guys and quickly deleted them out of existence by crushing them with my abyssal jaws. After I was done with the terrible work, only a few were left.

All the priests were degenerates and rapists too. That never happens, right? Haha...

I guess even in this world, these guys are fucked up!

Anyways, I am a fervent believer of our Christian God and Jesus Christ, or well, I kind of believed in God in my previous life, I have no idea if I really care enough anymore. I don't know what the heck are these Gods here, though, but maybe they're just overpowered aliens that designed this world.

When we moved back to the caravan, we found the rest of the people hanging out just fine. There was also my clone holding all the people of the Goblin Village, and they were all sleeping soundly even now.

"We are done here at long last. We should move out now... Wait, where should we go?" I wondered.

"Obviously far away from all of this place. If we stay here a single more minute, we'll simply get chased down even more by the nearby duchy," Said Lucifer.

"Lucifer is right. We should move out right away, Maria... Do you happen to have a map? I believe you said once you stole a map," Said Emeraldine.

"Oh right!"

I quickly opened my inventory and looked through all the available items. And there it was, I found one right there, a Map!

I took it out, and it was a bit dusty, but it was the map of the entire continent.

It was pretty big, just as I remember.

This continent is called Midgard, and it is a massive landmass with a shape similar to Eurasia.

“We are currently here... There are various duchies here and there... If we go to the north, we’ll directly find more duchies and even the capital, though we can’t go there yet... To the west, there are duchies. To the east, even more duchies... The south it is... the south of this continent is the closest to the continent of Niflheim, so it gets a bit colder there. Some regions even have snow in winter due to that, something rare on this warm continent,” Said Emeraldine.

“Ohh, you know a lot,” I said.

“I do. I have traveled around a bit on my own, and I had learned about the continent some more from some travelers that I met before being... captured and enslaved,” Sighed Emeraldine.

“I see...” I said.

“Anyways, the only place we can find where there are no Kingdoms and Duchies is the cold south. There are mostly small independent villages, and tribes of nomadic beast-kin and probably Majin... It is kind of an ideal place now that I think about it,” said Emeraldine.

“This place... This is where the Demon King built his Kingdom long ago... Perhaps we could occupy the ruins of the Demon Kingdom capital if they’re still up...” Suggested Lucifer.

“Ooh! That’s amazingly convenient! Why did they never use this big flat land? Maybe because it gets cold?” I wondered.

“Indeed, there are irregular snowstorms sometimes, and the beaches in these areas are very cold... the sea is raging and angry, so fishing is very hard too. Seeing how there are many other Kingdoms and Duchies near the coasts that are not so affected by the cold of the neighbor Continent, it appears that they just prefer to use the calmer waters to the west and east,” Said Emeraldine.

"I see... Does the map show where the Demon Kingdom once was?" I asked.

"No... It doesn't show. But there is a place named Ruined Dark Demon Forest... It is said that there are ruins of ancient buildings there..." Said Emeraldine

"T-That must be it!" Said Lucifer.

He suddenly got all hyped.

"Well, let's move there then. What are we waiting for? We just have to move straight down from here, right?" I asked.

"Yes... we'll have to make a few turns... though it might take a few days," Said Emeraldine.

"Ugh, the goblin village people will wake up before that... We need supplies and more caravans to fit them all. Staying in the dark dimension of my shadow won't do them any good...." I sighed.

"Then we should go to the Affnaria Kingdom which is near here and get the things we need before the journey," Said Lucifer.

"Yeah, let's go tonight. But for now, let's make some camps and prepare food for everyone. The goblin village people have begun to wake up already," I said.

"Alright! Food time!" Shouted Partner.

"You're hungry?" I asked.

"Very!" Responded Partner.

“Hehe, aren’t you a cutie? Okay, let’s make a lot of food, Partner.” I said as I petted her head, and she smiled adorably.

“Nee-sama! You’re back!” Said Takeshi.

“Auntie Maria!” Laura quickly ran towards me right after Takeshi.

The kids were fine and healthy, which made me rather happy. I hugged them back as they jumped over me.

“We missed you!” Said the little Takeshi.

“I-I was gone for just a few hours....” I sighed.

“But we sensed the explosions, the earth was quaking all the time... J-Just what did you fight this time?” Sighed Laura.

“Something... something very strong. A gorilla made into a Vampire,” I sighed.

“G-Gorilla?” Asked Takeshi.

“A vampire did this?! Wait, there are gorilla vampires?!” Shouted Laura.

“Haha, not in the literal sense! But I mean, a woman who was very strong. She’s more than dead now, but I’ve stored her soul... She’ll come back later on, maybe as an ally this time around,” I said.

“Oh... T-That’s a bit scary to think about....” Sighed Takeshi.

“Y-Yeah...” Said Laura.

“Hahaha! Don’t worry. She won’t be as scary, I promise! I’ll make sure to tell her not to be such a brute this time around,” I sighed.

Silvio and Francesco were allowed to come out, and they greeted the kids.

“We are part of those scary people!” Said Silvio.

“Ah, children! So cute!” Said Francesco, stretching the cheeks of Takeshi.

“Ugeehh... Who are these creeps?!” Cried Takeshi.

“Why are they made of fire?!” Asked Laura.

“Hahaha...”

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Chapter 152

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“Ugeehh... Who are these creeps?!” Cried Takeshi.

“Why are they made of fire?!” Asked Laura.

“Hahaha...”

After I presented the pair of handsome blazing ghosts to the pair of children, we quickly decided to cook some food for everyone. The village people quickly woke up after this, so we had to quickly make them some food to recover mana and vitality.

And this is where my Cooking Skill came into clutch! With its power, my ability to cook becomes better and better, and I can even imbue power into what I cook, as if they were game-like food items that recover HP and MP, and can even temporarily add bonuses to stats and more.

We went out to hunt some more, and we found out around four Wild Boars around the forest, and also captured large monsters such as Dark-Scaled Vipers and Flame Bears, but I think we emptied the forest after those guys were killed.

After bringing it all back, we began to quickly butcher them up and then cut them up. We then started grilling a crap ton of meat over the bonfires, while another part was used for cooking a crap ton of soup, where we added potatoes, carrots, onions, and other spices.

It was simple food because we had to cook for many people... but we also added non-poisonous mushrooms to the soup, which Emeraldine and Partner went to pick for me.

Takeshi and Laura moved to the nearby river and fished some fish, too, adding more food for everyone to eat.

The guys we killed had an item pouch filled with cheese, salami, bread, and a few bottles of wine, so we had that to go with it.

The people in the village also had some food stored, but not too much. We decided to also use it tonight and give everyone a big feast as we were going to find a lot of food tomorrow anyways.

“Thank you for the help, you guys! Your fire is pretty useful!” I said.

“No problem, my lady!”

“Everything to make that beautiful face smile radiantly,”

Silvio and Francesco were working together to maintain the flames over many bonfires. They possessed the flames they produced as if they were red-colored will-o-wisps and blazed the food into the perfect temperature and texture. They were becoming pretty good chefs with their very flames.

They were also boiling the many pots of soup we were making, and the meat was being grilled by their flames as well. The meat was slowly becoming juicier and juicier.

“You two were made to become flames in the kitchen! With you guys, we don’t even have to worry about looking for lumber anymore,” I said.

“Hahaha! It makes me so happy to be recognized....” Said Silvio.

“My lady, for you, we’ll work as the best flames your kitchen can have!” Said Francesco.

I have to admit that they were a bit obsessed with me, mostly due to their broken minds, traumatic experiences, and how my Undead Queen Title Skill makes them want to follow me, so I feel a bit bad for them. They’re so nice, yet it is probably due to all the suffering they had gone through, which made them appreciate the first showcase of kindness, even after death... and well, a bit of encroachment, which only makes me feel even more terrible...

But I hope they can get through it and become like Partner or Lucifer, who are affected by the title but not mentally, as their minds have grown very strong. But this title is mostly for Undead I make on the get-go obey me right away.

“You guys are so nice; I am glad I can see you two smile,” I said.

The two had become pure flames, with dumb and big smiles, reminding me of that flame in that one Ghibli Movie... the walking fortress or castle? Well, whatever the case, they were cute in this form.

“I have not smiled in years....”

“It is a good feeling to smile!”

I feel like they are still children deep down... Poor things. I will make sure to become their mama!

Ah...! W-Why do I feel this feeling of always sheltering and taking care of people like this? Do I have a mother complex? Do I want to be a mommy?

Ugh, I better not overthink it because I begin to consider weird things such as having a kid with Lucifer, and there's no way that's happening because I am a ghost and ghosts can't have kids... and I am not going to suddenly do... that thing with Lucifer either!

In fact, our relationship has barely advanced at all, and I only feel bad about abusing it because he's mostly alone and feels like there's nobody else for him. So he clings to me, which I feel is an unhealthy relationship... He has to meet tons of people first. I am sure he'll find a dragoness along the way and fall in love with her rather than with a creepy ghost woman like me.

Yeah, everyone might like me, but it is only because of the circumstances... if they were given opportunities to meet many people and live their own lives without me being there bothering them all the time, I am sure they wouldn't even love me. I am not really an ideal person for that.

I've already done horrendous things... I am not someone that should be loved.

I don't deserve their love.

"..."

"Master! Look this big fish, hehehe,"

"Huh?"

Partner suddenly showed me a massive tuna-like fish that she brought from the River with the kids. It was huge! Almost around 4 meters long!

"W-What the heck is this thing?! Seriously?!" I shouted.

"Grill it!" Said Takeshi.



“Okay... Okay, but kill it first. It is moving all over the place!” I cried.

“Hehehe....” Partner took out a knife as she smiled creepily, stabbing the fish in the gullet.

After taking its last breath, the fish died, and we put it to grill over the two fire ghosts.

Nice.

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Chapter 153

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“Master, are you okay?” Asked Partner.

“Huh? Yeah, why?” I asked.

“You felt a bit down there... When I am near you, I can sense your emotions, and I can immediately tell!” She shouted.

“Y-You can?!” I asked.

“Yep,” She replied.

“Uhhh... N-Nothing, never mind....” I said.

“Are you sure?” Partner asked while squinting her eyes.

“Yeah! I am as fine as lettuce...! I mean, fresh as lettuce!” I said with a bright smile.

"Huh... I don't believe you a single bit!" Said Partner.

"Aw, come on now, don't do me like that! You have to believe me! How come you won't believe me?" I asked in between giggles.

"You were having sad thoughts again?" She asked with puppy eyes.

"S-Sad thoughts?" I asked.

"After you saw the memories of these people... you were let down a bit, weren't you? You don't really have to do that again..." She sighed.

"I... Maybe a little bit but... don't worry! I am super fine," I said.

"J-Just remember that I am here for you whenever you need anything... Okay? I am not simply a skeleton that you made into an undead anymore... I-I've grown to be a person of my own now... So I want to help you out... to get through those things...." She said.

"P-Partner... You're such a sweet girl...." I sighed.

Partner suddenly hugged me tightly and kissed my forehead.

"Of course! Master, I love you... S-So the thing I must do is make you happy and make sure you're not sad!" She said with a gentle smile.

"Y-You... shouldn't really love me... there's no reason...." I sighed.

"Eh?!" She cried out.

"I... I only created you, but this is not the reason for such a thing... You shouldn't... dedicate your life to me in such away. In the future, I want you to meet more people and have a life of yours aside from mine, so you can... know better and meet... better people more deserving of your love," I said.

"W-What with such a hurtful thing out of nowhere?! How did you come to such a bad conclusion?!" she asked.

"Huh?! B-But... I am... Right? It's not natural... Maybe it is just Stockholm syndrome... you only feel this clinginess to me because you don't have anyone else for you.... When you meet more people, you will realize it...." I sighed.

"M-Master... I... Don't say that!" Partner said, and she suddenly slapped my face.

"Geh... P-Partner, how could you do that?!" I asked, shocked.

Has this become a TV Drama now?!

"Don't have such stupid thoughts! I am not being brainwashed or anything! But I love you because you're special to me! Not because of some weird power over me or because I don't have anyone else..." Said Partner.

"But..."

"No buts! E-Even if I had the chance... even if I had more friends, I don't think I would like anyone else... y-you're just way too amazing for that!" She said.

"A-Ah... I-Is that so?" I sighed.

"Hmm! You're my beloved Master!" Shouted Partner as she hugged me tightly.

"Beloved... Master?" I asked.

“Yes! You’re so gentle... Motherly... you always took care of me... gave me food, and raised me! E-Even if that’s more like a mother figure... My feelings are stronger than just that... You always help the people who need help, and you slay the idiots’ bad guys who only make the innocent suffer! W-Who wouldn’t admire such a heroic figure?!” Said Partner.

“Guh... Y-You’ve become very eloquent at talking....” I said.

“T-That’s because you always taught me how to talk properly too... every day in the mornings you teach me how to read and more... It is about to be a year since I was brought to this world but... it has been an amazing ride...!” Said Partner.

“R-Really...? I am surprised... T-To think you would think this... It is not some brainwashing of my powers?” I sighed.

“No! Dummy... That power only makes the brainless Undead obey you. Those with intelligence can still deny you and go away... But why would I do that? You’re my world, master...” She said, deeply looking at my eyes with her own crimson-red eyes.

“Uwaah... P-Partner...” I sighed.

Maybe I was being a very idiotic person just now? But... Ah, I just wanted to hug her so much, so I hugged her.

“Never leave me... \*Sniff\* ....” I cried.

“Okay, I wasn’t planning to leave you....” She said.

We ended up hugging for a bit as I cuddled my head over her bouncy and soft chest.

“You two...”

“What are you doing?!”

Emeraldine and Lucifer showed up out of nowhere around us while we were hugging lovingly.

“Eh? Ah... I-I can explain it... I was... in a very dark place... I had... Partner, help me get through it!” I said.

“Is that so? You should have asked me to help you out too!” Said Lucifer.

“But I don’t want to bother you....” I said.

“But Maria! We are always telling you that we are here for you, and you still don’t even get it?” Sighed Emeraldine.

“I-I... but you guys got your own problems! I can’t bother you with my own. That would be way too selfish, right? I am not the only person in this world after all!” I said.

“That’s a stupid excuse when we are always here for you!” Said Lucifer.

“Yeah... But are you feeling alright now? Thank you, Partner. Let’s make sure she never gets depressed.... Hug!” Said Emeraldine as she extended her arms around me, and she hugged me too.

“Uwahh... Y-You’re all clingy today....” I sighed.

Lucifer then petted my head.

“Well, is the food ready? The people are starving. I think most of the goblin village people woken up, Gofumin included,” Said Lucifer with a charming smile.

“Ooohh! Gofumin-chan! Alright! Let’s get to it!” I said as I quickly took out some plates and began to serve soup.

Extending my body into many hands and serving each plate with soup over and over again...

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## Chapter 154

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I looked into the night sky. It was clear and starry, with the moon shining brightly atop the sky.

After the goblin village people woke up, we explained to them all that had transpired and how they even fell asleep, which was due to exhaustion of mana.

They all had woken up rather tired and sleepy, so I brought them out of the shadow storage and then fed them until they were filled up with Mana.

“Thank you for everything you’ve done, Lady Maria. You don’t know how indebted we are... I can’t... I don’t know what to say other than thank you,” Cried the Goblin Chief.

“Haha... Don’t worry about it! You guys were my responsibility... D-Don’t prostrate yourselves! Agh! S-Stop! Don’t degrade yourselves like that....” I sighed.

The Goblins all knelt to me, although the humans and other former slaves were not accustomed to these things. Still, some were very grateful that they did it anyway. It seems that an act of gratefulness in the goblin society and a custom is to prostrate themselves before the one they feel the most grateful.

“Please, you guys... Stand up. Everything is fine. We are all good friends here. You can be grateful later when you help me rebuild your village, alright?” I asked.

“A-Ah... Lady Maria...”

“You’re a saint!”

“Lady Maria is really a saint!”

“Thank you...”

“She has done so much for us....”

“We don’t deserve such kindness....”

“Please, Lady Maria, I know it is not so much, but feel free to take any young man of my tribe as your husband. They’re all youthful and energetic young men. I am sure they’ll be more than willing to become your lover!” Shouted the Goblin Chief.

Suddenly almost every young man that didn’t have a relationship looked at me with charming smiles, although they were all goblins in the end.

Apparently, they were totally fine with the idea...

“Huuuhh... I... Erm...”

“Lady Maria, you’re a charming beauty! Please, let me become your husband. I will please you in all your needs!”

“No, I believe I can do it better! I will make sure to please you at night!”

“No, me! I can cook very well, and I am an excellent hunter as well. I will bring you food and cook for you!”

“I will forever give you all my gratitude, Lady Maria!”

“You’ve stolen my heart ever since before you left our village!”

“E-Eeeeh?!”

Over a dozen of young goblin men began to kneel before me, asking for my hand in marriage. On the otherhand, Lucifer, Partner, and Emeraldine were looking at the scene in shock.

“Y-You can take more than one! In fact, why don’t you take them all?!” Asked the Goblin Chief.

“Uwah! No! Stop! I-I am not interested in any man... for now! I am, actually... Asexual! Sorry, but I cannot really feel any physical attraction! I am a ghost!” I said.

“N-no?”

“She doesn’t feel any attraction....”

“Well, we can also be romantic!”

“Not everything is about carnal desires after all!”

“Indeed! We can make sure to please all your needs, Lady Maria!”

“Guys, please stop... I... I am afraid I must reject you all....” I sighed.

\*Crack...!\*

I could hear all their hearts being broken. Although they remained strong, many goblins shed a few tears.

“At least we tried, friends,”



“Indeed...”

“Well, we can always admire her....”

“We were foolish. Lady Maria is someone way beyond our scope, like a brilliant moon in the night sky. We must admire her beauty but never be able to touch her.”

“Indeed...”

“Such wise words, brother....”

Phew... I am glad I rejected them quickly, and they gave up. Lucifer, Partner, and Emeraldine would have most likely created a fuss if I had continued letting them get away with this...

Ugh, am I that attractive?! Agh... I... I feel a bit bad now. No one in my previous life ever liked me... I was a loser and a loner...

This makes me feel bad... because I was also rejected many times when I was a high schooler...

I remember my past a little bit. Those times when I was a stupid girl wearing glasses and filled with acne...

“Jon... I always have fun with you....”

“I do too. You talk a lot about games and stuff that’s interesting. The other girls are so boring....”

“R-Really?”

“Yeah!”

"Jon... I have something to tell you!"

"Huh? What?"

"I-I like you... C-Can you go out with me?"

"Huh? W-What?"

"Eh? I... I like you, Jon...."

"Ugh... I am only with you because you talk about games, but... I-I never liked you... you got it wrong... We are just classmates...."

"Eh? O-Oh... T-That's fine! S-Sorry! C-Can we keep being friends?"

"I don't know. Now I feel creeped out... Imagining you looking at me with perverted eyes really makes me feel disgusted...."

"Oh... I-I am sorry...."

I was left in the backyard of the school alone. Some of the other girls were even looking at me while I made myself a fool and laughed at my back as if it were all a show.

It hurt...

Do these little goblins feel like that? Ugh, it makes me feel so horrendous now. I don't want to be like that asshole.

"I am sorry, guys! I wish I could accept your feelings... Don't feel bad, okay? We can keep being friends, and I will make sure to train you and protect you and cook yummy food for the tribe! So don't feel bad, alright?" I said as I expanded my phantasmal body around them and gave them all a group hug.

“Ahh... M-Lady Maria...”

“Such benevolence...”

“We don’t deserve such kindness!”

“Uwaaahh!”

I think things escalated a bit too much. I shouldn’t have my memories of my past life rejects cross through me all the time.

Ugh, though I had such a bad history with them... Agh, remembering them makes me cringe.

“You’re done with the weird act already?” Sighed Lucifer.

“W-What weird act?! I was being serious!” I said.

“You’ve rejected me already several times! You didn’t act like that....” Said Lucifer.

“Eh? That’s because you’re an old and grumpy dragon. It’s different!” I refuted.

“Okay, okay, let’s forget this all... and just enjoy the dinner!” Said Emeraldine.

“I was about to butcher those goblins....” Said Partner.

“Y-You better not touch them, Partner!” I said.

“O-Okay! S-Sorry for saying that out loud...” Sighed Partner.

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## Chapter 155

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Okay, maybe I exaggerated a bit back then. Yesterday the goblins did a few stupid things.

One of the ideas the chief had to compensate me was to give me as many men as I wanted.

Is this a custom in their society, or was he just doing this because he thought I liked to collect men as a harem?

What kind of vibes do I have to give for him to assume such a thing?

Also, I am a ghost. Couldn't he tell I cannot really enjoy the pleasures of the flesh or anything like that?

Though even if I had a physical body, I don't think I would be desperate to get all that going.

A-Anyways, I shouldn't be really thinking about this.

After yesterday's ordeal, the goblins had woken up. Now that it was the next day, around 2 AM, we decided to move over.

Our target? The Duchy of Affnaria—just a few kilometers from here.

We'll move through the shadow of the night, which is like a sea where I can swim the fastest with ease.

One of my newly awakened skills, Shadow Transportation, even lets me teleport to anywhere within the nearby shadows of around a few meters from my sight.

This means that I can easily warp around the darkness of the night and reach the duchy even faster than before.

I decided to leave Lucifer, Silvio, and Francesco watching over the caravan, alongside my trusty Kuro and Raven, my two cute Undead pets. They had participated in the ganging over of Catarina, and they also got shared EXP from the others, so they were pretty strong as of now, and might evolve overnight, the same as Lucifer, Partner, or Emeraldine.

But for now, that's not really important as it is mostly a given. What's important now is reaching there.

"Alright girls, hop in," I said.

Partner and Emeraldine jumped inside of my Shadow Storage, and I began to warp across the shadows. It felt as if I was jumping through the space of the shadows expanding all across the night.

In the night, I am almost invincible. This is really overpowered.

I could have fought Catarina at night, and I might have won if I had this awakened Skill.

Warping around to evade hits seems easier than ever. And well, I can also become non-material and pass through all physical objects, so I could do the same thing I did before of hiding underground. However, Catarina was so powerful. She was even able to reach me underground...

The problem with this tactic is that it consumes too much mana constantly. Maintaining myself in my non-corporeal form is easy, but when I am staying still in the middle of a corporeal object or area, it begins to consume mana, perhaps because I am defying some sort of laws of physics or something? I don't know. But I guess the mana consumed is making up for it, or instead... maybe I would die or dissipate by occupying the same physical space as an already established object.

Anyways, we rushed at a fast speed to Affnaria, the Duchy I was "reborn," and also where I fucking got my head sliced off...

I remember killing the three big fishes here, so it should have been taken over by someone else now. Maybe another Duke? I won't do anything to him anyway, although it might be worth taking a look at.

"I wonder if there's a new Duke?" Wondered Partner.

"There should be if it is as you said, and the Duke is dead, someone new should be taking over the place. Or it wouldn't be as stable as it looks like," Said Emeraldine.

We were currently standing atop the Duchy's walls while admiring the whole piece of land.

It was a small duchy, it probably had no more than almost three to four thousand people, but it maintained itself pretty well.

"Alright, let's go to the nearest food store and steal it all," I said.

"Eh, I guess we are stealing again," Said Partner.

"Well, that's how it is. We must procure the safety of our people," Said Emeraldine.

"Indeed..." I said.

"Though I wonder if people would starve if we steal too much?" Wondered Partner.

"Hmmm... But we really need the food. I don't think we could negotiate, seeing how my face is being spread around... Buying food? I guess we got a bunch of unused money... And I got my lackey here, the merchant guy...." I said.

"But it's 2 AM. Is there anything open?" Asked Emeraldine.

"Actually, yeah, look, all those shops are open. They sell all night too," Said Partner.

"Well, that's odd. Let's go," I said.

"Also, Maria, your appearance has changed a bit lot after you evolved, so I doubt they would be able to recognize you now...." Said Emeraldine.

"Huh? I did?" I asked as we walked across the streets.

"Yeah! Master, you became even prettier than before! Your hair has now purple tips here and there, and your face is even more flawless..." Said Partner with an enamored look.

"Your body has also become taller, and your chest... has become bigger... your hips too, you look as if you've become a woman in her thirties," Said Emeraldine.

"T-Thirties?! Wait, will I become a grandma in my next evolution? Ugh... Is this how ghosts evolve? We get older until we evolve into Mummies?" I muttered.

"I don't really know how evolution works, but I doubt that's the case, Maria..." Sighed Emeraldine.

"Yeah, that would be way too weird..." Said Partner.

"Eh, I guess I've changed a bit then... Let's put on simple clothes... Boots, some pants, a shirt, chainmail... a sword. Like this, I look pretty normal, right? An adventurer!" I said.

"Well, maybe..." Said Emeraldine.

"You look nice!" Said Partner.

"In fact, Maria, if you let me be honest, any clothes you put on won't matter. You'll always look absolutely stunning... you're bound to bring attention to you," Said Emeraldine.

“Eh...”

And just as she said that, a group of guys noticed us as we sneaked around the streets.

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Chapter 156

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We had decided to buy things like honest people. We might empty the shops, but we'll buy our stuff like normal decent human beings!

...Even if none of us are human.

And for that, I had also brought my little guy, a merchant we had once caught. He's still somewhat alive and not at the same time. He's like a living zombie that I control using my powers as if he were my marionette.

We decided to come out of the shadows to be decent human people, walk around our fellow human beings, and buy stuff from their fellow human shops with the fellow human being's gold coins!

That we didn't totally steal.

“Now, now, let's see... Eh?”

“Oi, pretty ladies!”

“Hehe, what are you three doing alone on a Friday night?”

“You're looking for a drink?”



A trio of clowns greeted us.

Wait, didn't this happen in another Duchy before?

Their destiny was... being killed.

Hm, I better just evade them.

"Let's ignore them for now," I said.

"Sure," Said Partner.

"Okay," Said Emeraldine.

We passed through them without problems, but they kept following us around. The trio looked like they were guards of the duchy and were completely drunk too.

"Who do you think you are to ignore us? Hic..."

"We are soldiers!"

"If you ignore us, we could put you in jail...."

The trio followed us around for some time, but we were faster.

When we reached the shop we wanted to go to, we finally thought we had lost them, but they showed up on the other side of the street.

"Oiii!"

“Uwah! Let me go!”

“Hehehe, you’re a cute elf....”

“Oi, come with us for a bit,”

“Elves love sex, right?”

Emeraldine suddenly was being dragged by two of them. They grabbed her arms, and the third one grabbed her hips. They were not weak at all as soldiers, but not strong either.

Why?

Well...

“Fuck off!”

The delicate Emeraldine used her high Strength Stat as she punched the faces of all these creeps and threw them to the ground rather mercilessly. All three of them were left knocked out in one punch.

“We better not let them be seen....” She sighed.

“Yeah, I guess they’re going to the shadow realm,” I said as I expanded my shadows and swallowed them all.

They died instantly.

Well, that was super easy and anticlimactic, but I guess that's all. Can't really mess around with my Elf girl and think you're going to come out of it debt-free. Especially because you just tried to rape her in front of her love interest, and I am not into NTR!

However, I decided to not eat their souls and left them as companions for now. They began talking about a bunch of stuff, recommending me shops, and more.

"Miss Maria, there's a good shop that sells booze at a 50% discount on Friday!"

"There's a drug seller over there. He sells the good stuff,"

"In that place, you can buy child slaves, not like I can afford them,"

"Eh?! You guys know all the shady shit!" I said.

"What a pain, but let's go save them," Said Emeraldine.

"I guess..." Sighed Partner.

We ended up interrupting our shopping as we flew to all the places these guys knew about. We quickly reached a hideout inside the slums where there were a lot of shady-looking guys holding a lot of slaves in cages.

"God damn, will the people of this world ever stop being so fucking awful? Can you guys be good people for just five fucking minutes?" I sighed.

The group of shady-looking evildoers looked at me. They were all ugly as fuck. Probably all bandits. They looked like them and had shady skills such as [Enslaving] and even [Libido]. They probably raped slaves on a daily basis.

Ugh... why can't there be a place without shit like this?

The worst part is that I cannot really ignore it when I learn about it... the first time, I ignored this place and didn't know, but now that I am here, I might as well stop all criminals doing stuff with slaves (I don't care much about drugs or whatever, if they buy them, it's not my problem), and rescue these people.

"Oi! Who the heck are ya?!"

"A girl?!"

"Holy shit, she's hot as fuck!"

"Hey, how the heck did you get here?"

"I-I saw her cross through the door as if she were a... a... G-G-G-GHOST!"

"GHOST?!"

"Uwahahahaha! I am a ghost! Indeed! Now prepare to pay for your sins, you shitheads!"

I spread my body across the entire place and divided it into countless snakes. Everyone began to scream in horror over the bizarre situation as they drowned in snakes. Some of them even got inside their mouths and asphyxiated them, while others just died out of fear by a stroke.

The EXP was very little because I was already crazy strong. Maybe in the past, I would have gotten better EXP... but for now, that's it.

They killed all the bandits inside the hideout with ease. Being so strong makes side quests easy to do.

"W-Who are you?"

"That woman is a ghost?"

“But why would a ghost... help us?”

My snakes rescued the people from their cages. There were approximately twenty people here. Around 7 of them were children below ten years of age. It was fucking awful.

“Don’t worry. We are here to help... I might be a ghost, but I am an Apostle of Hel, the Goddess of the Netherworld. Unlike the church of the God of Light who approves of this, I go against them,” I said.

“Ooohh!”

“Sh-She’s blessed by the goddess?”

“No way...”

“She must really be a priestess!”

“Priestess!”

The people were gullible, mostly because they just wanted to get the fuck out of here.

“Alright, guys, jump into my shadows, you’ll be able to stay there, and I will protect you from any harm until we can reach a safe place,” I said.

“T-This is... okay!”

The people quickly began to jump into my shadows.

Meanwhile, Emeraldine and Partner were in the underground...

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## Chapter 157

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Of course, only twenty people as slaves looked like rookie numbers for these guys, which I had turned into zombie friends for now and made them come into my shadows.

Who would even sell so little slaves? As an experienced slave rescuer, I know very well that that's too little.

Obviously, these slaves, which were all handsome and beautiful looking and were even healthier, were the big merchandise they would most likely sell tomorrow.

Meanwhile, all the others that they don't find attractive enough to sell for a good amount of money are down there, in the underground. They'll be either sold in mass as slave soldiers, workers, or in the worst case, slaves for rich guys that love to torture. There are a couple in every duchy.

Partner and Emeraldine were currently underground. They had found a door that led underground where over 50 more slaves were being held captive, with a few guards there.

I was about to move down as I was done here, but the door suddenly opened behind me, and a group of knights led by a beautiful little girl with pink hair and sharp emerald eyes entered. She had a little crown over her head and was dressed in a pink dress with silver armor on top. It was a bit over the top. She even had a royal-looking blade.

Shit, are these paladins?! They caught me!

"We found you! At long last, you're all going to jail- Huh?"

The girl looked at me with a puzzled expression on her face.

"Hello..." I said while waving my hand.

"Eh? Are you alone? Who are you? Wait, where are all the other slavers? We just got a report from an insider that this was their hideout... And the slaves are gone too! You...! Are you involved in this?!" She asked.

"Wait, no! Are you actually good people? Did you come to save them? Holy shit, there are actually good people!" I said.

"Eh? What is this woman talking about? Catch her and put her in jail for now! We have many questions to ask her!" Said the girl, pointing her regal blade at me.

The knights rushed at me and pointed the tip of their spears at me, surrounding me.

"Please don't fight back," Said a man, holding handcuffs.

Should I escape, fight back, or let them catch me?

I can escape at any moment, but if I let them catch me, interesting things might happen, and I could get more info about who she is.

"Sure, I am not a bad person. I actually came here to rescue the people. I killed the slavers inside and rescued the people. They're... inside of my shadow," I said.

"What? You, a single woman, did all of that? Pff! What ridiculousness you're talking about? Quickly bring her with us!" She said.

"Wait, there's an entrance there. It leads to the underground! There are two of my friends down there. They're helping the people and beating down the bandits. Please tell them that I told them to give up and come with you," I said.

"Hm? If what you're saying is the truth... then you might have gained a good ally, but if that's a trap, then I'll roll your head in the ground!" Said the girl.

“Ah... I bet you’re a Duchess?” I sighed.

“Eh? How could you tell, woman?” She asked.

“Well, the crown? The obsession with cutting people’s heads?” I asked.

“T-That’s not a thing of the family! My uncle was a wicked man... But I won’t follow in his footsteps... Anyways! Men, go down and do as she said,” Said the girl.

“Very well!”

The people rushed downstairs as the girl stared at me rather intensively.

“You’re strange. Are you a magician, a witch, perhaps?” She asked.

“No, I am a spiritualist that is closer to dark spirits. But I am good-aligned. The goddess of the underworld has blessed me,” I said.

“Ohh... Well, we’ll see about that,” She said while crossing her arms.

Meanwhile, Partner and Emeraldine were crushing down bandits down there and had already rescued all the people out of the jails and cages they were confined in, alongside stealing all the goodies around too inside dimensional pouches, which were like small inventories but into items.

A group of knights quickly reached down, finding all the slaves they came to rescue, running away while being led by two women. I was there too as a small snake on their shoulders.

“Knights!” Said Partner.



“D-Did they find out?! Damn it...!” Said Emeraldine.

“No! Hold on, girls, this is good. Let them catch you,” I said.

“Eh?!”

“W-What did you say?”

“Trust me on this one,” I said.

“...”

“...”

The two girls were left speechless. I can’t blame them. What I said was pretty weird.

“But it is true, let them catch you! It will benefit us if we get caught doing a good deed rather than a bad one,” I said.

“Okay... Master, I trust you,” Said Partner.

“A-Alright...” Sighed Emeraldine.

“Halt! Don’t fight back, and we won’t harm you!”

“Let go of the slaves!”

“Quickly take these handcuffs and don’t move,”

“We come from the woman above. She said that you should let us apprehend you....”

“Very well,” Said Partner.

“Do as you may,” Said Emeraldine.

“Very well, you seem cooperative, just as she said....”

The knights quickly brought the two upstairs alongside all the slaves, and it was confirmed that everything I said was the truth.

The girl looked at me with surprise as she quickly decided to take off my handcuffs and those of my friends.

See? I knew it. She’s a good girl. It is extremely rare to find an actual good person in this world, but they exist.

“Y-You were telling the truth... I am sorry for not having believed your words... Let me reintroduce myself. I am the new Duchess of the Duchy of Affnaria, Julia Memendin Albraun, the past Duke, that got assassinated by a mysterious person, was my uncle,” Said the girl.

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## Chapter 158

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The girl resulted in being a good girl! I knew it. I decided to introduce myself as not Maria, but Mary! Such a good change, nobody will get it, totally.

“I see. So you’re new around here... Name’s... Mary. I am a wandering Shadow Magician and Spiritualist. These two are my friends. Partner’s the girl with red eyes, she’s a knight, and the elf, is Emeraldine, a priestess and huntress,” I said.

"It is nice to meet you two as well... I am impressed that you were able to do all of this so efficiently!"  
Said the girl.

"Well yeah, we got our ways," I said.

"Anyways, how about you come to my house? Let's help the former slaves eat and get better clothes, while we talk off about everything that has transpired," Said Julia.

"Sure!" I said.

We ended up being escorted by the Elite Knights of the Duchy, which we're actually not here before, but were brought by Julia as special corps that worked kind of like Cops on Earth, beating baddies and more... well, kind of like Cops are supposed to work, although I guess in Earth, they go around the streets shooting people more than beating crime.

We entered the territory of the Manor where she lived and where her uncle once lived.

Many Butlers and Maids greeted us.

"Welcome home, Julia-sama,"

"I am back. It seems that things went well. Can you guys take care of the former slaves for me? Bring them all they need, food, clothes, everything," She ordered.

"Understood,"

The servants quickly began to attend to all the former slaves without even wavering.

Hey, I really like her now. An actually nice aristocrat? That's super fucking rare to see.

Especially because she's part of the royal family, the Albraun Family, which is... well, the family with the name of the Kingdom this duchy is located, the Albraun Kingdom.

"Come, let me invite you to some dinner. Are you hungry, perhaps? It might be around 3 AM, but I am in the mood for some sweets," She said.

"Sure, why not?" I responded.

Partner and Emeraldine whispered to my ears.

"Master, are you sure this is okay? Won't we be captured later? What if a church guy shows up? Those are tough!" Whispered Partner.

"Yeah, this might be a trap... She's shady. There's no way an aristocrat is a good person," Whispered Emeraldine.

"Hahaha... I am just as impressed as you girls are, but no matter how much I look into the depths of her soul, I cannot find any inherent malice. She's an honest and hard-working girl," I said.

"R-Really?" Asked Partner while raising an eyebrow.

"Is that true?" Asked Emeraldine, also raising an eyebrow.

"\*Sigh\*... Yes, it is. Now let's go eat sweets and talk it out with her. If we can actually make a good friend of aristocracy without any weird brainwashing or possession, it would be awesome. We could even use her help and influence to clean up my image as the Witch of Misfortune, have you not thought about that?" I asked.

"Ooooh!" Partner blurted out.

"I... I certainly didn't see the whole picture...." Said Emeraldine.

"It doesn't really suit me to be overly aggressive all the time... Even more as I plan to build my own Kingdom one of these days. If possible, I would want to make friendly relationships with this Duchy... She could also give me nice info about the Fragment of Evil or where my little brother could be," I said.

"Right!" Said Partner.

"Indeed, she's certainly someone important then," Said Emeraldine.

"What are you whispering so much? Come on, talk with me," Sighed Julia as we entered a room with a small table and several sweets, pastries, and tea served by a butler and a maid.

"Sit, for now, let's talk it out and relax... Phew. Since I got into this Duchy, I've been working nonstop to deal with crime. My uncle was really a rotten man, to think he'll collude so much with all these sick people to fill up his pockets. I bet it was someone from these people that ended taking out his life... I remember that my mother had told me this Duchy was once one of the most peaceful and prettiest of the Kingdom... He incentivized all of this... Just as they say, 'raise crows, and they'll gouge out your eyes'!" She said while sighing and waving her head while taking a sip of tea.

"R-Right... Yeah, I guess that's right," I said.

"Are you not sad he died?" Asked Partner rather boldly.

"Sad? As if! Why would I be sad about the uncle that tortured my mother through her entire childhood? I am glad that man is out of the picture... I promised my mother that I would rise this duchy to its former glory. The first step is to take out all the bad weeds that have taken root here... I won't be able to start anything, to begin with, if there are all these people interfering," Said Julia.

"Wise words, Julia. I couldn't agree more. I remember the old times here. It was a prettier place. The previous Duke really left it all hanging on a thread... the amount of shady people is impressive..." I said.

"Yeah! Indeed! \*Sigh\*... Anyways, didn't you say something about your shadow before?" Asked Julia.

"Oh right!"

I quickly expanded my shadows and let all the people out.

“W-What is this!” She shouted in disbelief.

“It is a spell named Shadow Storage. It creates a small space where I can store living beings. I rescue people like this,” I said.

“By the Gods, this is indeed a powerful ability! I can tell why you were so confident... Wait, where are the bandits?” She asked.

“I killed them all... I don’t think you’ll want to see their corpses, right?” I asked.

“Aahaha... You can keep them,” She said.

“I thought so,” I giggled.

“Mary, tell me more about you, now I am more than intrigued... I think we could become good friends! I might even employ your services. Are you an adventurer?” She asked.

“Yes, and I am also Mercenary, though I am currently busy, I came here for provisions. I am taking care of my own people far away... I came across this shady group and had thought about taking care of the former slaves by myself, as I often do,” I said.

“Y-You do?!” She asked in shock.

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Chapter 159

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Julia Memendin Albraun, the new Duchess of the Duchy of Affnaria. She said that the previous Duke was actually her Uncle, but she had already demonstrated to us that she didn't care about him one bit.

She stated that he made her mother's life hell when they were younger, so I assume her mother is part of the royal family while her father is the outsider. I don't know how royalty works, but if they gave a woman a duchy, they don't discriminate by gender as much as in Earth's past.

Usually, Duchess' were very rare, and often the husband, even if an outsider, ended up becoming the Duke of the Duchy at the end while they were left behind. But this young girl seems to have been given the role of Duchess, and she looks way too young to be married.

But even then, after seeing how corrupt the aristocrats were, it was very shocking to see a young girl being given the position of Duchess, even more seeing how she was a good girl that was actually trying to clean all the trash her Uncle left behind in this place. She's really a commendable and amazing girl. I give her that.

"Mary, tell me more about you, now I am more than intrigued... I think we could become good friends! I might even employ your services. Are you an adventurer?" She asked.

"Yes, and I am also Mercenary, though I am currently busy, I came here for provisions. I am taking care of my own people far away... I came across this shady group and had thought about taking care of the former slaves by myself, as I often do," I said.

"Y-You do?!" She asked in shock.

I had just revealed to her that I've been rescuing the people from slavers and taking care of them myself, which actually shocked the pink-haired royal girl.

Partner and Emeraldine at my sides were mostly silent and nervous. They seemed to have never directly interacted with royalty. But I have! Of course, only before killing them.

Perhaps due to my own insanity, it was easy to break the ice, but these two girls, who are usually brave and strong fighters, had become rather shy, standing at my side quite tightly.

"You girls should relax a bit," I said to the two.

"O-Oh, feel free to drink some tea, and there are also pastries if you want to...." Said Julia.

Partner and Emeraldine faintly nodded. I think they didn't like this deep down and probably disliked her for being an aristocrat.

But can you blame them? Every aristocrat we have met so far was just sick bastards anyways.

Finding one that was a cute girl and also a good person was rare.

Oh well, maybe all of this is a façade, and she's actually evil.

We'll have to see more of her.

"Indeed, Julia. I've been rescuing these Slaves, but I don't intend to bring them here. I have been moving them through caravans. They will be moved to a territory I own, where they'll become my citizens," I said.

"C-Citizens? Are you part of the Kingdom's aristocracy?" Julia asked, surprised.

"No, but I have a village. That doesn't make me an aristocrat. It is just an empty plot of land I bought," I said.

"I see. Mary, your abilities are... commendable. Your power over the shadows seems to bring you some amazing capabilities. The Spell 'Shadow Storage' is an impressive one I had never seen before. And if you were able to kill those thugs so swiftly, your offensive Spells must be just as incredible," Said Julia while drinking some tea.

"You're flattering me too much. There are still stronger people than me out there. I am not as impressive. However, I have to admit that my abilities make it easy to rescue people," I said.



“Indeed... Mary, I have brought you here to thank you but also now that I’ve spoken to you for a bit, I’ve realized that I cannot easily let go of you,” Said Julia.

“Oh?”

“Due to this, I would like to see if it’s possible to hire you and your friends as mercenaries. I want you to help me find these people, these despicable bastards hiding within the aristocrats of the duchy and the underworld....” She said.

“So that’s it? Hmm, well, as long as there are certain conditions you can fulfill, I am willing to help you. But I must tell you right away that my services are not cheap,” I said.

“Hmm! I like your attitude. I think we’ll become good friends, Mary. I am willing to pay the price... Whatever do you desire? Money?” Asked Julia.

“Money is something that is always needed, yes, (even though I can just steal whatever I want very easily with my abilities), but I want something else....” I said.

“Something else?” Asked Julia.

“I want information. That would be good pay,” I said.

“Information... What might that information be?” Asked Julia.

“I want you to use your connections to find anything regarding Arthur Belle and Ernestina Bellaluna,” I said.

Julia looked at me with eyes filled with intrigue. The atmosphere suddenly went from carefree to still, even dark.

“Those names...” She said.

“Hm?”

“Very well, I will do what I can, but don’t expect everything from me. I am a low-ranking Aristocrat, after all. Even as the granddaughter of the King, I am still one of the youngest of the royal family, and well, what I can do is limited,” She said.

“I understand. Any help will be appreciated,” I said.

“You’ve asked for something strange, but I won’t question you,” Said Julia.

“I appreciate it,” I said.

Arthur Belle is my little brother, the one I learned about some time ago, and Ernestina is the supposed aunt that is taking care of him.

But based on Julia’s response, it might seem as if the family name of “Belle” is seen strangely.

I won’t ask her anymore for now...

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Chapter 160

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I had decided to leave the slaves rescued today with Julia; she had told me that she was going to help them go back to society slowly and see if she could do anything for them in the meantime.

It is very hard to make former slaves into members of society when they had gone through so many things, it will be an arduous job, but I am surprised that she seems devoted enough to do it without expecting any compensation whatsoever. That’s very surprising, and it left me thinking about a few things myself.

Of course, I had yet to grow more confident with her, so I had decided to spread my Snake Ghosts around the place and leave them on standby, mostly spying over everything.

But for now, I will have to postpone helping her out. Perhaps in a month or a few weeks, I will be able to, whenever we reach that place with my people.

I had to tell this to her directly.

“So you’re in a hurry? You came to buy supplies for the trip and also a few more carriages? I see. For helping me out in this regard, let me help you back,” She said.

“Ah, Julia...! Really? We have almost a hundred people, though....” I sighed.

“A-A hundred people! Ugh, well, I think it depends on how long you plan your trip to be. How far is your territory from where your people are on standby?” Asked Julia.

“All the way to the south... The coast,” I said.

“T-The south coasts?! I see, so that’s why I couldn’t recognize you as an owner of a plot of land. You were given such a deserts and cold place... I guess this explains why you could afford it as a commoner- No, offense,” She said.

“Don’t worry. I don’t mind it. And yeah, it was cheap,” I said.

I am just lying at this point, but this made it more believable for her that a random commoner got a piece of land without being an aristocrat or at least related to one.

“Well, there’s no time to waste. Let’s begin this right away... How many caravans do you require?” Asked Julia.

“Roughly to fit around 40 or so people, perhaps 4 or 5 that could fit 8 to 10,” I said.

“Hm, seems reasonable enough. I know the workshop that my uncle used to manage. It’s now mine, so I can get you the caravans for a discount,” Said Julia with a prideful smile.

“Oh! That would be nice,” I said.

“But about the food... I could sell it to you for cheap as I can easily tell the merchants and providers to bring the crates with food here for you, but can you afford it? You would roughly need hundreds of kilograms of food to feed so many people over the time that the trip will take you,” Said the girl.

“Yeah, we can afford it,” I said.

After all, I had the fortune of the last three aristocrats I stole, including a duke, so I had millions of gold coins.

I took out a leather bag filled to the brim with gold coins and put it over the table.

POOF!

The precious shiny coins shone brightly before her.

I had begun to feel rather desensitized with money because I was just stealing everything anyways, but now that I want to make more reasonable transactions that don’t just make everyone poorer, perhaps using the currency and managing it would be for the best.

“T-This is a lot of gold!” She said.

“I do a lot of risky jobs. I’ve even hunted Vampires. Want to see their heads? I keep them saved in my shadows,” I said.

“I-I would prefer not to... So you’re even a Hunter of Vampires and other stronger beasts? I guess it makes sense now, but... H-How much is this?” She asked.

"I just went to the Guild, and they didn't have enough money to pay for me the bounty of hunting three Vampires, but they gave me all the money they had for the moment. It's around five million coins," I said.

"Hm, five million... I see. This gold is enough, although you would actually need some more. Each caravan from my workshop is around a million each, but I will give you a discount of fifty percent, that would make the five only two million and a half... the rest will be used to pay for the food, which will cost the most. I'll pay the difference," She said.

"Really?" I asked with sparkling eyes.

"Indeed, it is the least I could do; hopefully, this will also strengthen our relationship," Said Julia.

The young girl had a sharp insight. Her eyes were also filled with a strong will, and she seemed ready to put a lot of investment into me. I was just what she lacked, someone strong to be at her side and cover her back.

"Thank you. I will make sure to keep doing business with you then... Actually, let me give you this," I said.

"Oh?"

Julia looked at what I took out of my Inventory. It was a large, red-colored Magic Crystal, the Magic Crystal stored inside of Silvio's corpse.

"This is the Magic Crystal of a Vampire of at least B+ Rank. Do you know how much magic power there is in this palm-sized crystal?" I asked.

"I-Impressive, just by looking at it... the pressure... You fought such a monster yourself?" She asked.

Ahh... Well, be cheesed it out...

But I can't let her know that.

"Yeah, we put a lot of effort. I guess you could say we are all B Rank Adventurers in the level of power, but due to the lack of quests completed and merit, we are still stuck at F-Rank," I said.

"Hm, I suppose being at such a low rank is actually beneficial to keep yourself away from the spotlight. You seem to be a woman that acts at night and doesn't like to bring attention to yourself," Said Julia.

"Indeed," I responded.

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