

A Ghost 161

Chapter 161

“So? Why are you showing me this amazing material? By just looking at it, I can already imagine I could make at least a thousand Mana Potions of Unique if not Legendary Rank... In brute, it would cost around... so many millions... It could also be used to make equipment... also accessories with these items... would cost even more!” She exclaimed.

“Yep, I don’t like to owe money to people, so take this as the collateral. You can use it to do whatever you want,” I said.

“Th-This is... Really?!”

“It is just a crystal, so yeah... Take it,” I said.

Julia swallowed saliva as she took the jewel and looked at it with her bright eyes.

Suddenly, her eyes shone brightly.

Indeed, she used a special Skill she had.

It was named “Jeweler Eyes,” and it makes her eyes do something similar to my Analyze ability, but it only works on materials and certain items made from them, such as potions and equipment.

It is like Appraisal, but it doesn’t work on living beings.

This is a useful Skill as it allows her to never be scammed by falsified items.

“It is genuine,” She said in awe.

"Of course, do you think I am lying?" I asked.

I quickly took out the severed head of Silvio.

Sorry, Silvio...

"Uwah! Okay, that's certainly a vampire! T-take that disgusting thing out of my sight!" She shouted.

"Hahaha! Alright, alright, sorry," I said, throwing Silvio's head back into my shadow.

"I'll take it then if you insist so much... This will elevate my capital, even. Such an amazing item... if other aristocrats were to know about it, they would all try to devour me alive to get it," Said Julia.

"A-Are B Rank Materials that expensive?" I wondered.

"What? Of course! Don't you realize? You knew a bit about it, didn't you?" She sighed.

"Yeaah..." I said.

"Well, for starters, D Rank Materials are already very expensive and used to make a variety of amazing equipment or magic tools. Magic Crystals are usually the most precious of the materials within monsters. C Rank Materials are expensive, but only organizations such as Guilds can properly secure them from Adventurers... B Rank Materials... well, they're already at duchy level. Only people as prestigious as me or... a few other aristocrats from here could afford this thing... This Magic Crystal alone has the power to fuel the entire Capital of the Kingdom for several years," She said.

"Fuel?" I asked.

"Indeed. Don't you know? I guess you're quite the traveler to have never gone to the capital...." She said.

"Sorry..." I said.

"Ah, don't worry about it. Anyways, if you didn't know already, atop the ceiling, around this place, in the kitchen, downstairs, and so on, there are many magical artifacts, or, as some like to call them: magic technology items. You use Mana to fuel them. The light bulbs, the freezer, the communication artifact, the light on the streets, the machine to wash clothes, and so on. Magic Crystals are the precious resource that allows us to have such commodities. The more Mana they can provide, the better they're sold and the more valuable they are. Therefore, one of this caliber is very amazing... Even gifting it to my grandfather would leave him a bit shocked," Said Julia.

So I got a goldmine in my pockets?! I got two more of those and another massive pile of magic crystals I've been collecting from other monsters... Ah, right, I also got the magic crystals of the Necromancer Vampire, the Scientist, and all his Chimeras too.

I better use this as my capital from now on.

"I got way more of those from where that came from. I will use them as the capital of my village. Hopefully, you can help me out with the business and other complicated stuff," I said.

"Sure thing! This has unexpectedly become a great business... Hehe," She giggled rather childishly.

I could notice that she still had many aristocrats' traits, such as greediness.

After that, I signed some documents that I had read carefully by Julia. These were transaction documents, alongside another document for a contract, contracting my group as her mercenaries and myself, of course.

The terms were reasonable, and there were no little letters on them, so I wrote them down without a problem. After that, she quickly began to mobilize her servants in an instant.

Five large carriages that could easily transport many goods and also people reached up to me. They were big enough to be only bought by rich merchants. The wheels were also steel-covered, and five strong horses were included.

After that, boxes after boxes made of wood began to pile up at the side. They had enchantments on them that made food take a longer time to decompose, so they were ideal for carrying a lot of food. They were also filled with various vegetables such as tubers, grains, fruits, bread, meat, and more.

“And done... Do you want my men to put the things inside the carriages?” She asked.

“Oh no, don’t worry about it,” I said.

I touched each item and put them inside my Inventory one by one. Julia looked at the scene with eyes wide open. Everything simply was disappearing and entering into another space.

“I-Is that spatial magic?” She asked in shock.

“Oh no, this is just... a way to put them in my shadows! Yeah, they’re stored so fast you can’t see them,” I said.

“I-I see... I was sure that my eyes had not deceived me, but if you say so...” She said.

After this was done, I decided to finally move over at long last.

But, before that, I decided to leave something for her.

“Here, this is a Summon I can create, a Familiar Spirit... Yes, you can call it like that,” I said as I divided my phantom and created another Snake Ghost Clone.

“A-A snake? It looks ghastly....” She said

“Yes, it is a Ghost Snake. It can cross through walls and more, and it has sharp eyesight. You can use it to speak with me wherever you need to. It is directly connected to my mind. I will use it to protect you as well. Despite how it looks, it’s strong,” I explained.

“Oooh... I see... Very well then, thank you very much for it...” She said.

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After giving the girl the Snake, what was left to do was rather simple: go back to where my people were left. Using my clones, I was able to see that they were doing fine.

We swiftly moved through the night, waving my hands and saying farewells to Julia, I would meet her soon, and it was mostly out of good manners.

When we reached the outskirts of the forest surrounding Affnaria, I stored the carriages inside my inventory and the horses inside my shadow storage, and we swiftly moved back.

However, Partner and Emeraldine seemed to dislike what I had just done... for some reason.

“Maria-sama, what you did with that girl was... rather... well...” Emeraldine muttered.

“Hm? What is it? Do you have something against my decisions?” I asked.

“N-No! I would never...! However....”

“However?”

“That was way too risky! What if she recognized you as Maria?! You just did your debut as the evil ghost back in the other duchy!” She cried.

"You've told me yourself that I don't even look like how I used to look right now after evolving, so I don't really get what you're trying to tell me now. There weren't many chances of her ever finding out who I was... But I was careful anyways. This is how I didn't show her the identification document," I said.

The Adventurer card still had my true name on it, and I didn't show it to her.

"I see... Well, I suppose you had already explained the pluses that this could have," She sighed.

"Of course! There are many benefits to befriending such royalty as her... It is very useful, and it will bring a lot of new things to the table. By simply imagining it, I get a bit thrilled. It is finally time to get some assistance in all this stuff about finances and more. If I am making a Kingdom, I will have to assess all of this," I said.

"Y-You're more than right in that regard," Said Emeraldine.

"But I don't like her! She's greedy, and aristocrats are all corrupt anyways! I don't like politicians," Said Partner.

"Agh, she's different, Partner... Also, I will be looking over her 24/7, so there won't be any problem. If she has something to hide from me, I will find it out," I said.

"I-I guess Master is right," Muttered Partner.

"Now, let's quickly reach our group. The people there have been waiting almost the entire night, and it is about to be 6 AM already...." I said.

"Alright!" The girls cheered.

Meanwhile, back in the duchy of Affnaria, Julia decided to go to sleep rather late.

I had been there with her this entire time as her pet snake.

She thought that this snake could communicate messages and images if it wanted, but it wasn't that and more like me actually just looking over her and protecting her 24/7.

Therefore, she thought I was more of a pet.

"Okay, little snake, I will go take a bath and then sleep for a bit...." She said, leaving me aside.

I looked at her innocently like any snake would do.

"Hehe, you're cute. I guess a real snake would be scary, but you're a spirit after all," Said Julia with a gentle smile.

I rested my snake body over the bed and then decided to coil around.

However, she suddenly began to undress in front of me.

Wait, what?

Her dress quickly came down, and she began to lower her panties and everything.

For being so young, she's got quite the developed body.

But I feel like I shouldn't be watching this!

...Damn, her hips are bigger than I thought. I had imagined her dress was making them seem wide, but she really does have some killer curves- Agh! No! Stop looking!

I quickly covered my face and let her go to her bathroom and take a bath.

Ugh, I feel so guilty... like a degenerate.

Ding!

Eh?!

[You acquired the [Shameless Degenerate: Lv1] Title Skill!]

Noooo!

Stop! Take it back!

I don't want it!

No...!

Ugh...

...

[Shameless Degenerate: Lv1]

A Title Skill only given to those that had exceeded in being shameless and degenerate to the point of doing it multiple times with innocent people that had no idea of your degeneracy.

This Title Skill enhances your stealth-based abilities while degenerately spying on others.

While doing degenerate acts, all your stats will be raised by +10% with each Title Skill Level.

You have fewer feelings of guilt.

...

No! I don't want this!

System! Take this out! Please!

Bullshit! Take them out!

Damage it. Just take this out, please.

Stop!

...

Do it.

...

[Attempting to Repurpose Title Skill [Shameless Degenerate: Lv1]...]

[In Process...]

Come on...!

[...]

[Failure]

Agh!

Fine. Okay, keep it... I've already given up...

I had gotten a very unsightly Title Skill, but I guess I deserve it. I shouldn't have looked at Julia's beautiful naked body anyway... Now I feel very guilty...

This effect of lessening guilt is useless as I still feel bad over it.

Anyways, going back to my main body, I finally reached my caravan. The people there were waiting for us with open arms as I found Lucifer and others preparing breakfast with the ingredients left behind.

"Ah, you girls are finally back. You sure took your time," Said Lucifer.

"Sorry about that... Many things happened... Haha..." I replied.

"Yeah, Lucifer, you wouldn't believe it! Maria-sama ended up making friends with an aristocrat, and she even signed documents and gifted her a Magic Crystal from a Vampire! I seriously don't know what's going on in her head anymore," Sighed Emeraldine.

"Y-You did what?!" Shouted Lucifer.

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After convincing Lucifer that everything was okay, we moved forward with the plan, and I took out the carriages from my inventory. The horses carried the people through the carriages, and ten people each wouldn't cut with a single horse, so I lent them some friends in the form of horse skeletons.

The horses were scared, and some died out of terror... I don't know what to say other than I made them into zombies, and they were no longer scared.

Now the plan was set, we got the supplies and the carriages, and we even got a lot of clothes. I made sure to bring winter clothes that were warm, as the place where we were going was cold, but it was a land where people wouldn't easily be able to bother us anymore.

We swiftly moved across the road towards the south, and we made sure nobody was following us around, but it seemed that things were going quite fine.

After a whole week of traveling and slaying monsters, I woke up with a slightly changed Partner the next morning.

Her body had grown a centimeter or two taller, and her slender body became even more slender and beautiful. Her curves were now even sexier, and her chest was blooming with big bosoms...

Her face had become more refined and beautiful as if she had been wearing lipstick over her lips, which turned very red. And her eyelashes also became longer. Her ears got sharper, and her hair grew so long it reached her ankles, with a bright red color.

But that was it, I guess... she had slightly changed, but the details I was able to tell were because I was always eyeing every inch of her body- Not because I am a pervert! I just like seeing her grow.

"Master, you're awake!" She said while smiling adorably.

"Partner, did you evolve?" I asked.

"Huh? Y-You noticed? I barely changed...." She said while blushing.

"Of course, I know you very well, little Partner. There's no change on your body that will go without me realizing it!" I said.

“T-Then you noticed that my breasts became like twice as big? I-It is embarrassing... look how big they are....” She sighed as she moved her dress and showed me her nude breasts...

“W-Wait, don’t show them like that! You’re a lady! You can’t do that!” I said.

“But look, they’re like big balloons now... Should I cut them? They might be annoying in battle....” She sighed.

“No! Dumb girl, don’t cut them! They’re part of your womanhood. Embrace your body,” I said as I covered them.

“I-I see... I like Master’s breasts, but mine felt a bit bigger, so I felt conflicted,” She sighed once again.

“I-Is that all you were worried about? Seriously?” I sighed.

“Y-Yeah...” She said.

“Anyways, you evolved into... Oh right, you drank a lot of the blood from the Vampires, didn’t you?” I asked.

“Yeah, I think that triggered some special evolution....”

“I noticed....”

...

[Name: [Partner]]

[Race: [Lesser Vampire Black Death Spear Knight]]

[Job: [Scarlet Blood Spear Empress]

[Level: [1/40]

[Rank: [B+]

[Status: [Strengthened]

[HP: [11500/11500]

[MP: [4000/4000]

[Attack: [9000]

[Defense: [4500]

[Magic: [3500]

[Agility: [10000]

Characteristic Skills:

[Undead: Lv-]

[Dark Element: Lv-]

[Blood Element: Lv-]

[Vampire: Lv-]

[Fiend Language: Lv7]

[Black Steel Bones: Lv8]

[Morphed Body: Lv6]

[Self-Regeneration: Lv6]

[Flesh Consumption: Lv6]

[Bloodsucking: Lv4]

[Flight: Lv1]

[Evil Eye: Lv1]

[Supernatural Strength: Lv1]

Resistance Skills:

[Status Effect Immunity: Lv—]

[Physical Damage Resistance: Lv7]

[Magical Damage Resistance: Lv6]

Normal Skills:

[Life Drain: Lv8]

[Bone Claw: Lv7]

[Intimidation: Lv7]

[Spear Thrust: Lv8]

[Triple Thrust: Lv6]

[Dark Bullet: Lv5]

[Dark Spear Thrust: Lv6]

[Steady Fighter: Lv6]

[Spear Mastery: Lv4]

[Armor Mastery: Lv4]

[Acrobatics: Lv4]

[Phantasmal Hand: Lv4]

[Bloodwork: Lv4]

[Blood Arts: Lv4]

[Gluttonous Fang: Lv1]

[Blood Curse Infection: Lv1]

[Vampire Authority: Lv1]

Title Skills:

[Servant of the Dark Witch: Lv-]

[Death Knight: Lv4]

[Blood Race: Lv4]

[Spear Master: Lv1]

[Blood Empress: Lv1]

...

Her race had indeed evolved. She became a Lesser Vampire! My girl went from Dhampir to Vampire so fast! But a Lesser one... I guess she had yet to grow into her full potential.

"So you evolved into a Vampire! That explains why you got so pretty all of a sudden," I said.

"Hehe... Am I that pretty?" She asked adorably.

"Very. You're the cutest," I said as I petted her head, and she closed her eyes while rubbing her face on my hand... so cute.

However, I was still rather confused... are the requirements for a Dhampir to become a Vampire to drink vampire blood? I guess that's pretty simple then...

...

[Lesser Vampire Black Death Spear Knight]

A Lesser Vampire evolved from a Dhampir that is branded as a Black Death Spear Knight. It has yet to awaken the true powers of a Vampire, but it possesses a great and admirable level of power. To evolve further, more Vampire Blood is required to be drunk...

...

"The Description says that you need to drink even more vampire blood to become a true Vampire... I don't know if you should, though," I said.

"Well, there's a lot of blood left from the Vampires we killed earlier, Master! I am all set then!" Said Partner.

"Is that so? Then I guess you can drink that one and save the rest for later," I said.

The new Skills she acquired were:

[Flight: Lv1]: Grants the ability to float in midair unnaturally. It can only be used by supernatural beings such as Vampires. Uses mana constantly. The higher the level, the faster the flight.

[Evil Eye: Lv1]: Your eyes harbor the evil within your heart. You can use the Curses you're able to conjure now through your eyes while also targeting foes from long distances with them.

[Supernatural Strength: Lv1]: Enhances total Strength and Resilience of the body, surpassing common sense. Strength enhances by +10% while fighting with each level.

These three first Skills seem to enhance her ability to fight and use curses... and she can float in midair now! She wasn't able to do that before...

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[Gluttonous Fang: Lv1]: As a Vampire, your fangs are powerful assets to your fighting methods, and they're capable of piercing through the flesh of your enemies with great strength. You can naturally drain blood with these fangs.

[Blood Curse Infection: Lv1]: As a Vampire, you can create new minions by infecting them with your Blood Curse through bite or ingestion of your own blood. The level of the Skill enhances the strength of your minions when they're first converted.

[Vampire Authority: Lv1]: You have a natural authority over lesser Vampiric beings and even Undead.

[Spear Master: Lv1]: Your ability and technique while using the Spear is masterful, enhancing Speed and Damage dealt while using a Spear Weapon by +10% with each level.

[Blood Empress: Lv1]: Your ability to control blood is superb. It enhances your technique with the blood you can manipulate, alongside their damage dealt through special offensive techniques by +10% with each level.

I see now, after inspecting all her new Skills, I've discovered that most of them are new from her Evolution. After all, becoming a Vampire is something pretty amazing.

She gained deadly fangs that could pierce through any sort of defense and bite her enemy's neck. She gained the ability to infect others with the blood curse and turn them into vampires, and she gained the power to have authority over these and other lesser vampiric beings and even undead...

Lastly, there is an enhancement to damage and mastery over using the spear and also blood, which is pretty amazing if I say so myself. Partner has really grown into a strong girl herself. I am so proud of her.

She sat down at my side while smiling radiantly, and then I decided to make the carriages stop so we could take the morning to make breakfast. It was around 7 AM, and the sun was slowly rising from the horizon.

“Uwaah!”

However, when we walked outside the carriage, the sunlight hit Partner directly, and she began to cry in pain.

I noticed that her skin began to burn... it was burning! And it looked painful!

I quickly covered her with my shadows and realized what had just happened...

“Partner, you shouldn’t have evolved into a Vampire! *Sigh*... Now you got their weakness to sunlight, and probably to holy light, fire, and... what else? Silver and garlic!” I said, protecting her from the light.

“Eeeh?! I didn’t know there were such weaknesses... I was the same before evolving....” She sighed while her skin quickly recovered back.

Her self-regeneration was amazing now.

“Y-Yeah, I also didn’t expect it. It seems that Dhampirs are immune to these weaknesses, but Lesser Vampires are no exception,” I sighed.

“W-What do I do now?” She asked.

“Well, you can still come out at night, right? Although unlike those other Vampire guys with fire and sunlight resistance, you cannot freely walk at day,” I said.

“Ugh, what a pain... I want to have breakfast with friends....” She sighed.

"Hmm, maybe if I cover you with my phantom... Let's see...." I said.

I spread my phantom out of my body and covered her with it. Also, it was transparent, so it was barely visible, maybe like a tiny mist.

I exposed her to the sunlight once more.

"I-It still burns... But it is fine," She said.

The sunlight was still burning her, and her stats weakened, but the pain was less severe, and my phantom had a cold effect to it that cooled down the sunlight's fiery embrace.

In the end, it felt like it was itching all over her exposed skin, but it wasn't so bad now.

"I want to be like Silvio and Francesco. They had sunlight resistance! If I can bear with the pain, I am sure I'll be able to get it eventually," Said Partner.

"Partner, you're so brave... Alright then," I said while nodding.

"Ugh... Though I feel weakened, as if I was sick or something." sighed Partner.

The cause of all of this was the vampire skill...

...

[Vampire: Lv-]

A Skill that signifies you as a Vampire. You possess all the great qualities of a Vampire, like incredible self-regeneration, the power to control blood and darkness, the ability to spread your blood curse, and great supernatural strength, amongst other powers that can be developed as the user grow stronger.

However, these powers come not without a price, as you suffer the weaknesses that torment all Vampires. You're incredibly weak to Fire, Holy Light, and Life Elements. Sunlight burns your skin and can even turn you into ashes if you're not strong enough. Silver-based weapons can damage you severely and ignore your physical defense. While bathing in sunlight or touching silver, your stats are halved... amongst other weaknesses that might vary from vampire to vampire.

Weaknesses can be overcome, but the amount of pain and agony you must go through discourages even the most ancient and strongest of Vampires...

...

I see it is a long description, but I kind of get it now. This single Skill... it's what makes her so strong, yet it gives her this weakness. The Dhampir Skill evolved into this when she evolved, after all.

I suppose we cannot do much other than this. Perhaps I could create some sort of skincare cream that could inhibit the power of sunlight on her skin, maybe if I use some materials from creatures that are very resistant to the element.

But for now, this phantom coat was enough. I decided to leave a small snake clone with her that would keep this up for now. Although the pain and skin burn won't be there anymore, she's still slowly grilling herself alive and regenerating back up, so her HP is going down and up constantly... but she's stable and said she would bear it because she wants to gain resistances that way.

Silvio, Francesco, and Catarina all had Sunlight Resistance as a Skill, so it exists, and Vampires can learn it... although the way they acquired it was by carbonizing themselves in a fire that almost killed them and then getting recovered after being converted into Vampires... so I don't know if we can replicate that... haha...

Now that we were done with Partner, I quickly gathered the people and brought out some ingredients. We stopped our journey after a whole night of traveling. The relentless and incredibly fast undead horses were amazing as we were already one-quarter of the way to our destination down the south.

These areas seem all desertic. There are no people around other than us, so it seems that there shouldn't be anything to worry about for now other than wild monsters here and there.

Today, the former slaves felt more revitalized as we reached an area with a lake, and everyone went in groups to wash. I had brought a lot of soap and new clothes, so everyone had the opportunity to wash out all the odor they had and the nastiness, and all got into decent clothes. Some fit more than others, but everyone got dressed.

We had yet to reach the areas with snow, but this morning was certainly more chilly than other times. Thankfully (not so much for Partner), the sun was pretty good and strong, so it was warming everyone.

"Huh? What's going on with Partner?" Wondered Takeshi.

"She looks weird...." Said Laura.

"Ah, she evolved into a Lesser Vampire, and she has been like that for a while," I sighed.

"I am fine! I can bear with it... Grrr..." Muttered Partner, gritting her teeth and eating the food.

She drank a bottle of blood as well, and that seemed to have appeased her pain a large amount. Silvio and Francesco recommended this method, and it worked stupendously.

"Fresh blood made me feel way better than any food...." Sighed Partner.

"Yes, this is something that the other Vampires that were not like us did," Said Silvio.

“Indeed, by drinking fresh blood, you can temporarily increase your stats and resistance to elements, which can lower the damage you take from sunlight and hasten your regeneration. Your body doesn’t feel as sickly because Vampires receive a bonus to their stats when drinking blood until growing satiated,” Said Francesco.

“You guys don’t feel bad if it is your blood she’s drinking?” Asked Laura.

“Oh no, we have discarded our bodies, and the truth has enlightened us that having non-corporeal bodies is the best. Like Maria-sama here, we have chosen the path of ethereal bodies!” Said Silvio.

“There’s nothing more beautiful than using your very soul as your true body after all! Look at my flames. This is how much my soul is blazing in passion for our master!” Said Francesco.

“Oh, my friend, your passion is incredibly blazing!” Said Silvio.

The two were very weird sometimes. But I guess they really don’t mind having their bodies repurposed and their blood drank by Partner.

“These two weirdos still creep me out sometimes,” Sighed Lucifer.

“Master, will Partner be okay? She’s so clumsy that she ended up choosing the strongest but weakest evolution simultaneously!” Sighed Emeraldine.

“She’s gonna be fine. Her power is still pretty good as long as she drinks blood....” I said.

“Don’t worry about her. I believe she used to be a walking skeleton, so even if she burns her skin to ashes, her skeleton will remain, and she’ll just go back to the previous stages... Hahaha!” laughed Lucifer.

“That’s not funny! It is not funny at all,” Said Partner while crossing her arms, angered.

“Yeah, that’s not funny, grumpy dragon,” I said.

"I-I was trying to lighten the mood...." Said Lucifer.

"Go back to your gloomy personality! At the very least, you didn't say bad jokes," Sighed Partner.

"Y-You dare call me gloomy?! I was just...."

I patted his shoulder.

"Okay, calm down, don't get overworked with it. We know you did it for a good reason, I guess," I said.

"A-Anyways, Partner, you feel alright?" Asked Emeraldine.

"Yeah, I am fine. Thank you for worrying, Emeraldine," Said Partner.

"Is it my idea, or you've begun to talk more eloquently?" Asked Emeraldine.

"Must have been the evolution. I feel that my mind has grown sharper,"

"That must be it. After she evolves, she always grows more intelligent. The next evolution might make her into a genius," I said.

"I-I don't think it is that much of a big deal... If I can grow more intelligent and speak more eloquently, we can get along better!" Said Partner.

"Indeed, you're right. It is better now that you can speak more fluidly, although I still notice a few mistakes here and there," Said Lucifer.

"We can all help her out to speak better too, but for now, it seems that everyone filled their bellies, so we should get moving," I said.

"Yeah, let's go to your carriage to pass the time," Said Emeraldine.

"H u u h h h h... Sure, but I will be doing something a bit important. I hope you don't mind," I said.

"Something important?" Wondered Emeraldine.

"Yeah, I am planning on making Catarina's zombie, so I have to assess all the minced meat and reconstruct her, stitch her together, and make her whole again..." I said.

"Oh, like that guy that made us?" Asked Takeshi.

"Takeshi, don't remind me of that guy...." Sighed Laura.

"Y-Yeah, I wouldn't want you to remember that, so don't come either, okay?" I confirmed.

"Sure..." Said Laura.

"But I want to see the process!" Said Takeshi.

"No is no," I said.

For now, we wrapped things up and then went back to the carriage. The one I traveled on was like my personal room, so there were a few things here and there, even a small bed where I lazed around all day like the useless person I am...

Anyways, today we were not lazing around! I quickly took out a table and then dropped a pile of dismembered body parts. This was all of Catarina, probably mixed with some of Silvio and Francesco... I'll see if I can separate them, but maybe I will keep a few body parts of them into her in case she has some that cannot be easily replaced.

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"Let's see... Where's Catarina's soul at?" I wondered, opening my shadows, searching, and then taking out Catarina's soul.

She had recovered a bit more now after a whole week since she died, and her soul had now gained more of her former self, and she was currently conscious.

"W-Where am I? What... what's going on?" She wondered, looking everywhere but without realizing what was happening.

"Hello there, Catarina, remember me? After dying, I told you that I needed to heal your soul. Have you slept well? Around a week has gone by," I said.

"Y-You... Ugh, you're the bastard ghost woman that killed me when I was weakened and then trapped me in her soul for over a week! Ugh, yes, I remember you." She sighed.

Catarina looked at me rather hatefully, but there was very little she could do against me now other than sigh and get angry. So I took it as if she understood her position now.

"I need some more backup, so we are bringing you back as a strong zombie using your remains, so stay here for now and until I can put you back," I said.

"Agh... Can't you just purify me?" She sighed.

"The soul of a sinner? You'll get punished in Helheim or something, so are you sure?" I asked.

"I am a strong warrior... I fought for my own ideals. I will go to Nirvana and battle forever with other warriors!" She said.

"Has she always been thinking this?" I muttered.

Silvio and Francesco nodded; it appeared that it was the case. Catarina was a hard-headed woman that always thought that as long as she fought bravely and gave her all, she would be compensated with Nirvana.

"Are all warriors like this?" I asked.

"No, but those that are so religious with the church of the Light God are always offered such a stupid thing, and they believe it," Said Lucifer.

"Catarina wasn't even of that church, but the vampire that ordered us around told her that since she was a child, she was still vulnerable like us, so she ended up being convinced," Said Silvio.

"I see... Poor girl, you're really a dummy girl, aren't you?" I sighed, looking at the poor little Catarina, who was gritting her teeth in anger while looking at the former Vampires turned into fire ghosts.

"Y-You pair of filthy traitors! Don't go around telling my childhood to people!" She cried.

"But Catarina, you were so cute...." Said Silvio.

"Indeed, I still remember when you used to call me big brother... What happened to that?" Sighed Francesco.

"People change!" Shouted Catarina before heaving a heavy sigh.

Her mind couldn't get as temperamental as before because she lacked a brain to even think straight, so she ended up calming herself down faster than expected. I've also calmed her insanity with my Soul Therapy, so hopefully, she won't be as crazy after getting her body back.

I quickly began to work, using Undead Healing in the pile of dismembered body pieces and also using hard thread made out of a type of spider monster's silk, which is highly expensive and has magic

resistance properties, often used in equipment creation. I bought this for around 10000 coins from Julia, the magic crystal of Silvio made the difference, and the girl is literally in debt with me, so I was able to buy a lot of miscellaneous stuff from her.

I quickly took the pieces and rearranged them, and began to stick them together while slowly using the thread. The body parts got stuck incredibly quickly, and after using Undead Healing several times, I was able to heal the wounds of the corpse rather well.

Over and over again, I was able to do this repeatedly, for hours and hours.

It took time because I cared about the appearance this time around, I wanted a thick, muscular vampire zombie girl at my side, so I couldn't fail her and make her an amorphous monster.

Even though Partner is gaining some abs lately... Anyways, that isn't really the main reason.

I didn't use a ritual of undead creation because those don't let you customize the soul and just make up a random mindless phantasmal soul instead. Still, I can abuse the Soul Grimoire Undead Creation Feature that was added to it to customize it. After all, now that the body has been brought back, I could easily edit how this Undead would turn out to be.

I grabbed Catarina's soul and told her to get ready.

"Get ready big girl. You're going to make sure to flex those abs for me from now on," I said.

"S-Stop talking about my muscular body! Every person always said it was disgusting anyways...!" Said Catarina.

"Eh? But you were pretty!" I said.

"You literally killed me! Why would I care what you think?" She asked frustratedly.

"You're right. That's pretty fair," I said while nodding.

I inserted her soul into the body, and then a Grimoire made out of ethereal energy emerged in front of me. The pages moved around, and I then found her Unit.

There was the chance to recover a lot of her skills and even reform her soul book, but it costs a lot of accumulated Experience Points and Proficiency Points I've been saving.

Oh well, better invest in the new Unit.

I selected most of the useful available Skills she could relearn and then spent roughly 500k Experience Points and 100k Proficiency Points for everything. Still, in the end, she would end up not as powerful as she used to be, but hey, it was better than nothing.

FLASH!

A magic circle emerged before our sight as Catarina was infused with my power. Her Unit Card appeared in my Grimoire as her photo showed up on it.

"Now rise, Vampire Zombie Barbarian Warrior, Catarina! Hahahaha!" I laughed like a maniac Necromancer because I felt that was the right thing to do.

Catarina's body slowly began to stand up, her eyes opened wide open, and she was back!

Chapter 167

Catarina slowly opened her eyes. They opened wide as she looked at me with her crimson-red pupils. Aside from her stitched body, she looked like she had recovered pretty well. Her body size, form, and compactness were just fine. Her limbs were all in the right places. She didn't look half-bad either. It was as if her pale white skin had gained a new bluish tinge to it.

Well, maybe that means she wasn't fine. After all, she was a zombie. I had not revived her from scratch or something. Also, I am kind of a Necromancer, not a priest with Revival spells. What I can do is limited to the death element, and I doubt I can really revive people unless they just died.

In such cases, I would ask Emeraldine to use her healing magic on the fresh corpse, and then I would just throw the corpse's soul back to the recovered body.

But that could only work in recently deceased bodies. Anything over a day would be already rotting and ready to become a zombie rather than a living being.

In such cases... well, RIP.

And just like it happened here, Catarina was deader than dead, so the only way was to make her a Zombie.

And I never thought Vampires could become Zombies, seeing how they're technically "undead."

But they aren't?

It's weird. Although they have many Undead traits, they're actually something like living beings with Undead traits.

So they can die if they're killed, unlike Undead, where you have to make sure you blow them into pieces. Even shooting down the head of a zombie doesn't work here.

Nonetheless, everyone is ruled by HP in this world thanks to the Soul Book, so even an Undead will fall after getting showered in blows.

The same with Vampires, as even though they have insane self-regeneration, as long as you can look at them and notice the differences, you will notice they're actually alive.

And when killed and a corpse raises? Well, Vampire Zombies show up.

In the same way, there might be Elf Zombies, Beast-kin Zombies, Goblin Zombies, etc.

A zombie for every race in existence.

The girl was currently naked, but I only realized her stats were through the roof. She had a lot of power, even though she went from A-Rank to B-Rank after becoming a Zombie. She'll have to train hard to regain her power, but she's still useful now.

Her hair had turned purple with a hue of blue after the transformation, but her eyes remained crimson red. Her muscles had not deteriorated even after being Undead... I don't know how that exactly works, but she's just strong.

"Ugh... W-What are you looking at?" She asked while blushing a bit and covering her body parts.

"N-Nothing!"

We quickly averted our gazes, and I gave her some clothes.

"What's with these clothes? Do you want me to wear a dress? Where are the pants? I want some tight pants, so I have no problems with them, and a white shirt if possible. Also, give me a black leather jacket too. The heels are ok, but I prefer boots. Do you got black boots?" She asked.

"Silvio, Francesco, why is she so picky with clothes?" I asked the two flame ghosts.

"W-Well, she always had this complex...." Said Silvio.

"She really likes to act and look masculine," Said Francesco.

"Oh... I see so she abhors feminine stuff? Then why does she have long hair?" I asked.

“That’s just her preference. There are many males with long hair, so that trait doesn’t seem to have affected her...” Said Silvio.

“Indeed,” Nodded Francesco.

“Oooh! So she’s a tomboy! Damn, that’s such a snack then,” I said.

“T-Tomboy?” Muttered Silvio.

“Snack?” Wondered Francesco.

“N-Never mind, this world clearly had yet to embrace tomboys....” I said.

“What are you whispering behind my back?! And you two just became ghosts?! Where are your bodies?” She asked.

“We discarded them because bodies were so last season!” Said Silvio.

“Indeed, becoming one with our souls and embracing our purest forms is more like us,” Said Francesco.

“Well, that’s surprising, seeing how you two enjoyed the pleasures of the flesh so much,” Said Catarina with a cheeky smile.

“W-What are you talking about?!” Shouted Silvio.

“Catarina, don’t talk nonsense!” Exclaimed Francesco.

“Pleasures of the flesh?” I wondered while raising an eyebrow.

"I bet these two had spoken behind my back, right? Well, let me get back at them. These two are homos! They are into each other," Laughed Catarina.

"Oh..." I said.

I discovered a little truth I wasn't able to discern through their memories.

Should I have looked deeper then? There are various sections within a person's mind and memories. There is the "Traumas" section, then there is the "Happy" Section, and then there are other minor sections such as "Sex" and stuff I didn't care about.

I did the right thing. Although I kind of liked a few BL, I don't know what I would have thought if I saw the two fucking.

Well, that would have been interesting now that I think about it...

Hmm, I can see Silvio being the passive one...

I looked at the two ghosts as they seemed to blush.

"T-That's in the past!" Shouted Silvio.

"W-We love each other, but we were not homos!" Exclaimed Francesco.

"T-That's right! It is just a brother's bond. It is not something that... women can understand!" Silvio agreed.

"Indeed! Indeed!"

"And even then... we also liked women too! Like Maria-sama, we are devoted to you now!"

“You’re the moonlight that guides our path through the night sky,”

“Aww...” I said as they were cute sometimes with their corny words.

Lucifer, Emeraldine, and Partner were looking at the scene in silence. Lucifer, in specific, was like a dry fruit for some reason... Emeraldine was beginning to look dry as well. And Partner was the most normal of the three but was still frozen.

“What’s gotten into you three?” I asked.

“Th-There’s a lot to digest....” Said Lucifer.

Chapter 168

A men’s bonding seems to be common among Vampires.

It appears that it is also common for Vampires to find a “partner,” someone they spend the rest of their lives with.

Something like their “pair” it often doesn’t seem to have any romantic relation to such a thing, as they’re more like brothers or something?

Nonetheless, it sounds homo to me.

I remember reading this one manhwa named Noblesse... there was no Yaoi on it, but the bait was pretty strong...

Well, this thing had the same concept... the protagonist was in a bond of eternity with his servant, a human... which allowed the guy to live a long life with his master.

He would always go, "Yes~ Mastah~" and it was so homoerotic it always made me laugh.

Are the Vampires of the world the same?!

Then aside from generally being cold-blooded murderers and sadists, they're also into THAT sort of stuff.

Indeed they're aggressively French, I guess...

I remember seeing Silvio going "Non, non!" the other day. It almost made me explode in laughter.

"So where are my clothes?!" Roared Catarina.

Who does she think she is?

Does she think that because she's a hot tomboy, I will just obey her?

Well, yes, but I am still going to complain about it!

"Oi! You can't just order me around. It's the other way around! I am your Master now," I said.

"If you're my master, then take responsibility and bring me the clothes I feel most comfortable on. A dress is for little sissies," Said Catarina while crossing her arms.

"W-What's wrong with dresses?! Women wear dresses!" Said Emeraldine.

"Yeah! I like my dresses," Said Partner.

“Who the fuck are you two? Why should I care what you two shrimps talk about?” Blurted out Catarina while raising an eyebrow.

She was really the “bully” type, huh.

“What did you say?! More respect to your senior!” Demanded Partner.

“I am going to purify you right now! Holy Light Arrow- Mguh!?” Cried Emeraldine as I covered her mouth, and her spell was canceled.

This crazy knife ear was about to kill the thing that took me hours to make!

“Are you crazy? Don’t hurt her! She’s part of the team. Just bear with her sharp tongue. She was raised like that anyways... Think about her past, the one I explained to you. She’s even quite similar to you, Emeraldine, so be more compassionate,” I said.

“Ugh... Ahhh... You’re right,” Sighed Emeraldine.

“O-Only because Master asks me to!” Said Partner while crossing her arms.

These girls are really troublesome.

“ ... ”

Lucifer was looking at Catarina with a disgusted expression.

He seems to love me, but Catarina makes him disgusted...

I guess that’s because she’s my complete opposite?

“What are you looking at, asshole? Did you lose something? Are you into me or something? I am going to beat that pretty face to the ground if you keep looking at me like a creep! Go masturbate to the corner or something if you’re so horny,” Said Catarina, directing her sharp gaze at Lucifer.

“Eh?! H-How dare you! I am a Dragon! You dare treat me with such a sharp tone of voice?! Not even Maria treats me like that! Urgh! That’s it! I will punish you with- Agh!”

Lucifer suddenly had transformed into his dragon form and was about to tear Catarina back into the dismembered pile of body parts she was some hours ago, but I grabbed his tail tightly and made him flinch.

“I told you to ignore her! Also, Catarina, I am not giving you any manly clothes if you keep being rude. You’ll be permanently locked into wearing dresses or going around nude,” I said.

“W-What?! You can’t do that!” She shouted.

“I can’t? Why not? What’s stopping me? At the end of the day, your life is in the palm of my hands!” I shouted, showing her the Character Card that represented her within my Soul Grimoire, which emerged at my side like a floating grimoire made of semi-transparent black energy.

“Ugh... I feel like you were holding my heart or something... Agh...” She muttered in frustration.

“So? Are you going to behave?” I asked.

“Okay! Stop!” She cried.

She gave up easily.

“Nice... Now apologize,” I said.

“EH?! Fuck you!”

“A-po-lo-gi-ze!” I said angrily.

I suddenly began tickling her Character Card, making Catarina feel as if a hand was touching the innermost of her soul.

“Aaagghh! Y-You bastard! You can’t do this to meeeeeee...!” She began to roar angrily, hitting the floor and suddenly breaking the entire carriage’s floor with her.

CRASH!

...

A disaster occurred, and we had to take an emergency stop. This stupid idiot broke the carriage floor and scared two horses that ended up running away...

“You idiot!” I said, smacking her head repeatedly.

But she was so strong and durable it felt like I was hitting a mountain. It hurt my phantasmal hand and even lowered my HP!

“Ugh... This sucks. Just kill me,” She sighed.

“You’re more useful as a zombie than just dead,” I said.

“Aghhhh...” She groaned angrily.

I tried a lot, but she refused to apologize.

Lucifer, Emeraldine, and Partner sighed as they told me it was okay.

“You’re trying so hard it made me feel bad... So stop asking her, and just give her the clothes and let it be... I am happy knowing you care so much for me you would try to force her to apologize,” Said Lucifer with a charming smile.

He approached me and held my hand, helping me stand up as I was on the floor in a defeated position.

“Lucifer...” I muttered.

“Maria...” He said charmingly.

The atmosphere suddenly changed, and everything turned rather romantic all of a sudden, as if floating flowers and roses surrounded everything...

“Okay, stop this!” Shouted Emeraldine, stopping the two of us from our strange romance dating sim game-like moment.

“Master, it’s fine. Here, I got her some fitting clothes for you. There was a lot in a carriage where you stored clothes,” Said Partner.

“Okay~!”

Chapter 169

“I guess this is more like it!” Said Catarina as she looked at her body and gave a few turns while looking at herself in the mirror.

Vampires can’t look at their own reflection, but that stops when they become Zombies, so she can now look into her reflection, and she seems to like her appearance.

"I love it, much more like it... Ah, this hair is annoying, and you're right, long hair is for sissies... I am a strong person. I don't need this stupid long hair," She said, using her sharp claws and cutting her long and silky hair, leaving her hair short, only reaching her neck.

"Hm! That's like it... How do I look?" She asked me, Silvio, and Francesco, as the other trio were currently preparing dinner.

"You look wonderful, sister," Said Silvio.

"Very cool and rude. Like you always look like..." Said Francesco.

"You're looking like a snack," I said while giving her a thumbs up.

"Snack?" She asked while raising an eyebrow.

"It's a compliment," I said.

"Alright..."

Her tight black leather pants made her beautiful legs look even sexier, and those wide hips killed me already. The tight white shirt also gave her an adventurer and mature air. Also, the black jacket only made her sexier. She even put some chains around her hips for some reason. She doesn't even fight with chains. This woman is very worried about how she looks to others. Must be related to her traumas or something.

"So? What are we doing now?" She asked.

"What do you mean?" I responded.

"Who should I kill? Smack? Torture?"

"Oh, no, we don't do that here... We are currently moving to the south to settle down and slowly build a village. You're here to join us on our expedition and stay with us like an ally," I said.

"Eh? Then why did you even...? What's the point?" She asked.

"The point? The point is that you're back now and get to enjoy the life you couldn't! Even if you're now dead, you are freer than before, right? So you can enjoy whatever you want," I said.

"Huh... This is indeed quite weird, but I guess I can't do much about it..." She sighed.

"Right? Like Silvio and Francesco... You guys were also cold-blooded murderers, right?" I asked.

"Indeed. But we found happiness in being with the people... they accepted us surprisingly fast, even when they learned we were former Vampires and even now as ghosts!" Exclaimed Silvio.

"Indeed, I was very surprised they accepted ghosts like us so easily," Said Francesco.

"I guess that's more because I am a ghost and literally everyone knows and accepts me... So accepting more is not hard," I said.

"Oohhh!"

"So that was it!"

"Even then, we help with the fire and warming people at night!" Said Silvio.

"We can divide our bodies into little will-o-wisps that instead of being cold, are very warm, so the people sleep with one of us to warm their carriages," Said Francesco.

“Oh, I didn’t know you went to such an extent, you guys are surprisingly nice,” I said.

“Of course! Ohohohoh!” Laughed Silvio.

“Yes! Ohohoho!” Laughed Francesco.

I looked back at Catarina; she was making a face as if she was cringing at them.

“Ugh... What has become of these idiots? Well, they always liked to serve...” She sighed.

“You’re also serving! Now come outside, let’s prepare dinner with the rest of the crew! Onwards!” I said, leading the party.

Catarina had nothing else to do other than to move behind me and obey. As a Zombie that generally doesn’t get tired nor need food, she doesn’t have anything else to do, so she’s willing to do anything in the end.

Kind of like all of us Undead! It is very boring to be an Undead when you realize those things!

This is why I like to help others! It’s fun! I prefer to be a nice person because there’s always more to do.

More people = more things to do.

If I am a massive murderous psycho and annihilate everything...

Fewer people = nothing to do.

Also, I am a nice person and my mother always said I was a good girl.

And I miss my mother a lot! So I will try to make her proud even though I've already let loose a crap ton this time around...

But I am making up for it one step at a time!

Also, who cares if I slaughter assholes anyways?

I am literally just killing the people everyone hates.

Anyways! Time for cooking!

"Hahahaha! She's burning," Laughed Catarina, pointing at Partner who was receiving the sunlight, although the sun was about to go out of the horizon and was very dim.

"Grrr! You dare laugh at a superior to you? I have a greater Vampire Authority now! Hehe, you know how I got it? I drank the blood of your corpse!" Laughed Partner, provoking Catarina as she gritted her sharp teeth and looked at Partner hysterically.

"Y-You drank my blood?! You bitch! I am going to fucking dismantle youuuuu!" She cried.

"Hehe, try it, little one," Laughed Partner rather smugly.

She had become a bit more confident and gained a strong and prideful personality. I guess that making her mind sharper and more intelligent, hastened her mental maturity, and also made her true nature blossom...

Although when she's with me she always reverts to her baby mode and is just very cutely asking me to cuddle with her and tell her how lovely she is for me...

"L-Little one?! Ugh...! THAT'S IT!" Roared Catarina, reaching towards Partner.

“Stop,”

SMACK!

Catarina suddenly fell face-first into the ground.

“Ugh?! W-What the... How did you do that?!” She asked.

“As long as I have you registered inside my Grimoire, you’re mine. If I tell you to stop, you stop. If I tell you to dance... you dance,” I said.

Catarina suddenly began to dance, and everyone broke into laughter.

—

Catarina was even more pissed. The only freedom she had was in her facial expressions.

“Did you just make me into a Zombie to laugh at me?! Am I laughingstock to you?!” She roared once again.

“Okay, stop dancing and calm down,” I ordered.

“Sh-Shut up! I would prefer if you destroyed my soul than to go through such humiliation! I hate you!” She cried, running away into the carriage we were in before.

Ah... was I a bit too harsh on her...?

But she insulted Partner and told her she was going to dismantle her, so she really pissed me off.

But really, I guess her sharp tongue is also provoking me...

"Master that was funny... Thanks for protecting me from her animalistic behavior," Said Partner.

"D-Don't worry about it! I am glad she got what she deserved, but... Eh, I feel kind of bad now," I sighed.

"Eh? Why do you have empathy for a woman like her?" Asked Partner, surprised.

"I ask the same! She's just very rude," Said Emeraldine.

"Sigh... If you girls really know Maria, you would've already guessed why. Isn't it pretty obvious already? Maria is a woman with a lot of empathy... If that wasn't the case, I wouldn't have... well... erm..." said Lucifer.

"Yeah! But sometimes she's too extreme," Said Emeraldine.

"Also, I don't like her as a party member... She can stay away from us," Said Partner while pouting.

"Okay... I wasn't going to really add her to the main crew, as the main crew will always be you guys, but she's going to be part of our allies... I need a lot of strong comrades, so she was a given... Though, I shouldn't have done that, to be honest. I never liked bullying... I was bullied too. I... I shouldn't have done what I hated people to do to me...." I said.

"Master..." Sighed Partner as she petted me.

"I also... kind of saw in her eyes some... sadness... deep down, I felt like I had made her feel even more terrible... She suffered so much... Ugh, I am such an asshole," I sighed.

"Hmph! I find it is very nice of you to think that, but even then, an asshole is always an asshole. She's acting cockily and even laughing off at Partner's efforts to acquire Sunlight Resistance. It is obvious you'll react angrily because Partner is important to you, and she deserves it too! I also have a terrible past, but I don't use it as an excuse to be an asshole with everyone," Said Emeraldine.

“You’re right... Well, let’s continue cooking, for now, guys! Let’s forget this useless drama.” I said, immediately switching up.

I decided to just think of this later, and we began to cook. We made some soup with meat, bones, potatoes, and carrots. We also made some salad for everyone, and we distributed a slice of bread. There were also fruits too, and we grilled a few monsters we found along the way and distributed grilled meat.

After everyone filled their bellies, I took a plate with a lot of food, and another with some warm soup, alongside a slice of bread and warm tea with my hair snakes helping me carry things.

I walked back to my carriage and found Catarina in a corner in silence, glaring at the moonlight.

“...”

She was looking at the sky sorrowfully as if she had lost her way long ago.

She felt so empty...

All the courage inside of her was gone.

And she looked like a small girl hiding from everyone, trembling in fear.

For a moment, I saw something, as if a phantom of the past, emerge before my eyes, a little girl on the floor, trembling, abused, while crying desperately for help.

But never receiving anyone’s help... the only embrace she ever received were the flames of the manor she was confined in, as they engulfed her in burning agony.

“What do you want?”

She asked me as she looked at me with a rejected look. Her eyes seemed angered, but she also felt fearful of my power.

"I came to talk... Look, I promise you I won't do that again..." I said.

"Huh? Like I would believe you... We were enemies some days ago. What makes you think I'll believe you? I bet you get high by just playing around me like a toy, don't you?" She said angrily.

"..."

"Everyone with power is the same... all you bastards only like to play with people like toys... you get a hard-on with that, right? You fucking disgusting pigs...."

"..."

"I was better off with the Vampires because, at the very least, they recognized I was a tool made for murder and just told me who to kill, and that was it. They didn't have the time to play around with me as you do...." She said.

"Catarina, listen to me, you misunderstand me... I am not like that. I did it because I got angered. You just insulted someone very special to me. Like my friend said, having a trauma doesn't give you the pass to act like an asshole with whoever you want to. If you keep acting like that, you'll eventually come across someone who will retaliate," I said.

"Tch! She was just... she responded at me angrily too!" Shouted Catarina.

"That was because you laughed at her out of nowhere," I said.

"T-That's because she was funny! She was willingly burning herself! That's funny...." She said.

"No, it's not funny... It was just an asshole move," I said.

“ ... ”

“Here, I brought you some food. I just want you to eat. I made sure to recover your internal organs, so you should be able to digest food,” I said.

“I don’t want that!” She said angrily.

“Come on. I made it for you... I just want to reconcile with you,” I said.

“Why are you trying so hard for it? Are you so selfish you can’t bear people hating you or something? That’s how the world is! Not everyone will agree with you! There will always be someone that will hate you!”

Chapter 170

Catarina was a bit annoying now, but she had a point, I guess.

And I know that very well, that’s why I’ve slain so many assholes and might kill many more in the future.

“Yeah, I know, and you were sent to kill me, right? So it makes zero sense to want you to become my friend or anything, right? I am just a retard, I know,” I said.

“Eh? Y-You recognize it?” She asked.

“What? That I am an idiot? Yeah, I am self-aware that I don’t make the best decisions ever, and I recognize that I sometimes don’t like to listen to common sense because my own common sense is often biased,” I said.

“Y-You’re really insane...” She muttered.

“Isn’t it obvious? What sort of person that is a ghost would not be insane? Ghosts are composed of grudges, grief, and negative emotions. We live with them every single second... Our traumas and resentment are our drives to exist... We manifest because we want payback. That is what a ghost is,” I said.

“...”

“So of course, no sane person would have ever become a ghost,”

“Huh... You’re weird... I-I can’t... Ah, fine, just leave me alone after I am done with this, okay?”

Suddenly, Catarina opened up to me.

Something deep inside of her made her more open, and she gave into my insistence.

“R-Really? Nice!” I said, sitting at her side and giving Catarina her food.

“Ugh...” She sighed, as she began to eat the warm soup.

“I can barely taste anything,” She sighed.

“Well you’ll slowly develop it more; you just have to train your tongue...” I said.

“You talk about a lot of weird stuff sometimes,” She said.

She continued drinking the soup and eating the meat, and at some point, she began eating everything faster and faster, as she regained her appetite...

“How is it? Hehe, you’re enjoying it,” I said.

“ ... ”

She drank the tea, and she sighed in relief after that, feeling comfortable.

Catarina then rested over the floor of the carriage, sighing in relief once again as she looked at the ceiling.

“Feeling better now? My mother always said that people with empty stomachs always act more aggressively,”

“I am an Undead, I wasn’t even hungry but... I feel better now...” She muttered.

“Well, I have a Cooking Skill! So the food I make is always tasty,”

“You do? So weird seeing a ghost with a knack for cooking...”

“It is one of my hobbies,” I replied.

“Hmph...” She muttered, averting her gaze.

She seemed to not want to talk anymore.

I was about to leave but she suddenly said something.

“I was going to kill you, you know? I was destroying everything just to get to you because that was my job... Silvio and Francesco too... Despite that, why are you so nice to us?” She asked.

“Well, do you want to kill me now?” I asked.

“...Not really,” She muttered.

"See! And why is that?" I asked.

"There's no point. I was asked to kill you because it was my job but... if I am already dead... I doubt my boss is going to accept me now... You killed me," She said.

"And you hate me for killing you?" I asked.

"Obviously, it makes me infuriated that I got killed! It makes me angry; it makes me... Ugh! But then I see you being so nice and trying so hard... I... I kind of... had begun to not hate you so much," She said while crossing her arms.

She blushed a bit.

"Eeeehh? Is that so~? Well, it's kind of the same for me. I don't really hate you because I know you did things because you were forced... I also empathize with your past and that of the other two guys... It just made me sad to know your past when I checked your memories, so I decided to make up for it and try to give you nice lives even if you're now Undead. Are you willing to help me out in making you happier?" I asked.

"Eh? W-What kind of stupid question is that? Y-You really want that? Why are you so devoted? Are you into me or something?" She asked while blushing.

"Fufu, maybe~?" I asked while giving her a wink, and I moved near her, and she suddenly found herself over the floor while I was staring into her eyes.

"What's wrong? You froze out of nowhere. I haven't done a single thing," I said.

"Y-You're way too close...!" She exclaimed.

"Hahaha! I was joking, just to lighten your mood... Don't worry I won't try it again. See? Don't you feel looser now?" I asked.

“Ugh, not like I liked doing that!” She said.

“Aw, come on! Not like you disliked it either, right?” I asked.

“Y-You’re really a cheeky woman...” She said.

“I just want to make the people I am with happy, not everyone happy. That is way too stupid. But the people at my side? That seems possible. And I can’t help but feel happy myself when I see them smile. I pitied you so I picked you up and now you’re my people. It’s up to you if you want to be happy or not... But if you need anything, just ask me politely,” I said.

“...”

“Hm? What’s wrong?” I asked.

“Thanks... I guess,” She said.

“Hehe, you’re so cute when you’re honest,” I said, petting her head.

“Y-You won’t do that again? The order thing, right?”

“I won’t, but you promise me to stay here with us,” I said.

“I do... Not like I can escape. What will I even do anyways other than endlessly kill monsters... Get caught by a priest and then exorcized?” She sighed.

“Good girl!” I exclaimed as I went to my bed.

“Huh?”

“What? This is my room, you know? Hehe, wanna cuddle with me~?” I asked coquettishly.

“EH? W-What are you even talking about!” She shouted while blushing profusely.

“Hahaha, it was a joke- Eh?!”

She suddenly moved near me and rested at my side, facing the opposite side of my back.

She closed her eyes and slept.

“Oh...”

Partner is going to get angry when she sees this...