A Ghost 301

Chapter 301 Moving Back To The Cursed Graveyard Where I Was Born

After talking about everything, our teatime was over, Julia insisted on letting us rest for the night before doing anything, as the sun was already setting in the horizon, but I really wanted some hot EXP, so I had to decline.

"Sorry but we are pretty worried about these Undead, we might as well go check them and get that over with… Are you oaky if we purify them or do you prefer that we keep the corpses as intact as we can?" I wondered.

"Well the noble families might complain if they know that their grandparents suddenly dissipated into ashes…" She sighed. "I know it is selfish but if possible, could you try to keep the corpses?"

"Okay, it's gonna be pretty gruesome to get to identify them one by one from who they used to be though, are you sure?"

"Well if there's no other way you can also just purify them, don't feel forced to change your way of fighting because of their selfish desires. I will try to appease them if they ever get angered… I've always thought that its better to cremate the bodies of the dead than putting up a graveyard, but the nobles value even the corpses of their death so they have insisted on keeping the graveyard for generations… Of course, commoners don't get the same treatment, they're either put somewhere outside or cremated." Julia said. It seems that nobles are the annoying ones with their obsession of keeping the bodies of the dead.

"I see, well, let's see what we can do first." I said. "You said that they had begun to raise from the dead lately?" I asked..

"Yes, that's right. The Priests are keeping them tightly closed inside the Graveyard but they said there is something else controlling them hiding around the big labyrinth-like graveyard… And to make it worse the new nearby dungeon has begun to spawn more monsters, so we have been barely kept a dungeon break from happening thanks to our hardworking adventurers, mercenaries, and the knights." She said.

"Hmm… Alright, I get it now. Let's go."

I quickly walked out of the castle, leaving some Phantom Snakes near Julia to protect her. I wanted to leave someone from my party with her but everybody just wanted to come with me. I wasn't in the mood to have patience for their squabbles, so I let them all come anyways.

Walking down the path to the graveyard really felt nostalgic to be honest… And… Eh? Julia came with us.

"Julia, it's night and dangerous! Why are you here with us?!" I asked.

"I wanted to come and see with my eyes your strength!" She said. "Also, Emiliano is here, he's a strong magician so I can be protected by him if anything happens to me."

"Rest assured my lady." Said Emilia with a smirk. He seemed proud of being recognized as a bodyguard.

"Okay… Then… Kuro, Raven, come out." I said, summoning my two Undead Familiars. A large black panther with bright eyes and a giant black crow appeared, exuding a strong phantasmal aura.

"T-These are… Your Familiars?! S-So powerful! I never thought you were also a tamer!" Julia said, her eyes grew brighter in excitement, it seems she had never seen monsters this close.

"Mrao!" Kuro roared, looking at Julia a bit… unfriendly.

"CRAA!" Raven cried loudly, calming the panther.

"Okay you two, protect Julia while we are in the graveyard." I said. I decided to spend a few System Points I had accumulated by sacrificing some of my EXP and Skill Proficiency accumulated over time and used them through the Soul Grimoire to enhance their Stats by +20%. They had yet to evolve into B Rank so I wasn't too sure if they could protect Julia well. Maybe I am overthinking it but I got a bad feeling about this graveyard.

When we walked near the entrance, we were greeted with four priests, all of them were concentrating their mana into keeping a large holy barrier made out of many paper seals stuck in the walls of the graveyard. When we got closer we were able to see dozens if not hundreds of skeletons, zombies, and

ghosts trying to get out of the graveyard. Wow, this was a serious thing, if they were left alone, they would rush into the duchy and storm it.

"Julia this is super serious! You said I had to sleep and leave it for tomorrow?! These things would overrun the duchy!" I sighed.

"I-I was just worried about if you felt tired…" She said. "Sorry, I should had requested your help right away instead of delaying it."

"L-Lady Julia! Are these the mercenaries we were told would come to resolve the problem?" Asked one of the priests.

"Yes, they are! This is Marie, she's a necromancer and a shadow sorceress, this is Emeraldine, an Archer and Spirit Magician, this is Lucifer, a Warrior, and this is Partner? Yeah, Partner, a Spear Knight." Said Julia.

"O-Oh, they look strong!"

"Yeah…"

"Hm, there's… something odd…"

"Eh? What are you talking about?"

One of the priests suddenly noticed something weird about us… Ah, he is probably keen to Undead, isn't he? If he felt something weird about us and find out we are Undead, our whole façade is going to get destroyed!

"There's something very weird about-"

Gorgon's Cursed Eyes: Paralysis!

FLASH!

"Agh! Cough! Cough! Aagh…"

The Priest suddenly fell to his knees. I used Paralysis to paralyze his vocal chords so he won't be able to speak! Hah! It will last a few days before you get to speak a single thing buddy.

"W-What's wrong?!"

"Hey! Are you alright?"

"Cough… Cough!"

The priest attacked by my Paralysis seemed to not have realized I used the spell so he was very confused, quickly forgetting what he was about to speak, as he was brought into the city hurriedly.

I let out a small phantom clone to possess him and quickly brainwash him a tiny bit using Possession so he won't talk a single thing about us. That should be more than enough.

Chapter 302 Raiding The Cursed Graveyard!

"T-That was weird…" Sighed Julia. "But they said he's alright, he just got a cough attack and he can't speak. Maybe he caught a cold?" Wondered Julia as she walked behind us.

"Yeah, maybe that's it." Said Emeraldine. "Have they been in here for a while? They're probably very exhausted!" My beloved elf quickly brought some bullshit to make the scene more believable.

"That's probably it." Said Partner. "They should get some nice rest for now and leave everything to us…"

"Indeed." Said Lucifer. "As a Majin, I don't catch colds and usually I can be on my own even in the cold, but humans are weaker and frailer."

"Haha, you may be right there, Sir Lucifer." Said Julia, as she blushed a little bit by admiring my Dragon's handsomeness. I know he's a handsome stud but girl, make it less obvious you're eyeing my man!

"Anyways, stay outside with Emiliano." I said, walking inside the graveyard with everybody else. The doors quickly opened through my invisible phantasmal hands which I stretched out of my back, and Julia was a bit surprised. I quickly closed the door, as I saw that the holy barrier began to slowly dissipate, the rampaging zombies and skeletons were about to attack..

"Weird, they're not submitting to me. With Undead Queen they should be kneeling to me right now…" I said.

"Yeah, I also thought the same. Most wild undead we sometimes encountered would immediately obey you." Said Lucifer.

"This probably means that they're already below the command of another person, stronger than them at the very least." Said Emeraldine.

"We have to smash that person or monster then! Easy!" Said Partner, holding her evolved spear and pointing it at the undead.

"Lucifer, you can shapeshift claws, tail, and wings, and even use fire breath but don't shapeshift into a whole dragon or you're going to be found out, okay?" I asked.

"I get it, you don't have to remind me, Maria." Sighed Lucifer.

FLASH!

The holy barrier completely dissipated, as the massacre began.

"Consecutive Shadow Spear Arrow."

I instinctively conjured a dozen of Shadow Spear Arrows in an instant. A mass of darkness materialized into sharp arrows made of pure obscurity, firing at rapid pace as if I was shooting a shotgun. The arrows began to pierce the first wave of Undead swiftly as my Mana went down and up every ten seconds. The mana I used to conjure so many arrows was a lot, but it the mana was recovered as I drained it from my targets all at the same time as they dropped dead (again).

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

The undead began to tear apart into pieces through the sheer amount and piercing power of the arrows. One by one they were thrown into the ground, blasted into the skies, and pierced by a dozen of arrows each, all while I was using Mana Siphon to absorb mana from them.

The sounds of rotten flesh being torn apart and bones cracking was quite pleasing to hear, and I saw Julia opening her eyes wide open. Oops, was I being too amazing?

Just with that sole barrage, the wave of Undead coming for us was immediately slain, as the Undead behind them began to slowly approach us. They were unfazed by what I did, as wild Undead lack any sense of fear and have very low intelligence as well.

"Blood Spear Dance!"

Partner quickly shrouded herself in her Aura of Mana, as blood materialized out of thin air and began to dance around her. She moved swiftly across the graveyard, spinning around like a beautiful ballerina. Her spear began to shred apart the Undead with ease, and her blood floating around her generated small spears that danced around her, enhancing her deadly power. she continued to spin so fast that she resembled a rose dancing across the battlefield.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

"Ahahahahaha!"

She was enjoying it as well, as she was laughing her lungs out. There was a lot of targets to slay and it was quite fun to just slay a lot of mobs for once without thinking it too much. Stressful fights are always the worst.

Crack, crack.

Lucifer cracked his knuckles and neck, as he looked into the Undead approaching him. His hands quickly gained a coverture of black scales and enormous claws grew out of his nails, a long scaled tail surged on his back, alongside a pair of draconic wings. His horns became bigger and more scales showed up across the rest of his body, almost covering his entire handsome face. Julia who was so captivated by his face was shocked to see the "ugly side" of Lucifer.

"ROAR!"

He roared loudly like a dragon, pushing forward, and letting loose of any restraint, he slashed zombies, skeletons, and ghosts into shreds with his giant claws covered with Mana to enhance their physical power. He kicked some of them, creating strong shockwaves that sent them flying, and then flew upwards and unleashed a deadly beam of darkness from his mouth, devastating the Undead into smithereens.

CLASH! CRASH! BOOM!

And while Lucifer and Partner were going around slaying the Undead like warriors, Emeraldine kept herself close to me. Stuck to my back, Emeraldine began to call the strength of her two Spirits, as the Spirit of Nature and Light emerged around her, dancing around her body and filling her with bright light and green nature essence.

She pointed her bow at the Undead and fired three arrows at the same time, infused with the power of the spirits, the arrows quickly hit the Undead and suddenly exploded with bright light, burning through the surrounding undead and turning them into ashes.

FLAAASH!

And not only that, but the arrows quickly grew into trees, spreading over the battlefield and creating obstacles for the Undead to walk through so Emeraldine could have an easier time shooting them. The trees were controlled by her Nature Spirit, as they spread their branches like spears, piercing through the many zombies and skeletons, while the arrows she fired continuously exploded into flashes of bright light.

Emeraldine was amazing, not only she was a good healer but she could deal amazing damage and create a change in the environment, even shaping the battlefield around by using the power of the spirit of nature.

Julia watched closely as we cleansed everything in a matter of seconds, she was so shocked that her jaw couldn't move any lower or it would dislocate…

Chapter 303 Undead VS Undead

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The quantity of Undead there was in the graveyard was insane, and they had seemingly continued to spawn since this entire thing began. Apparently most of the corpses stored in here broke out of their graves, and a lot of the lingering souls of dead people became ghosts. As we slaughtered them all, we could hear some of their groans, some were asking for mercy and others wanted salvation, we were not merciful but we tried to bring them to salvation. Emeraldine's magic was doing wonders, as the only one in our group that can purify Undead, her bright light magic was easily purifying all of the agonizing souls trapped in these rotten bodies, and the ghosts dissipated just as easily.

I was rather close to her light, but I was mostly unaffected, I have grown so strong that most magic didn't damage me due to my high quantity of Magic Stat Points. After all, 50% of Magic becomes your Magic Defense, so I am a magic tank. That coupled with the Elemental Resistance Skill and other skills, I can now resist holy light way easier, unless it comes from somebody way stronger than Emeraldine. But even she is holding back. I am sure that if she fired a powerful holy light arrow into my head I would take some good chunk of damage… Not like she would ever do that.

"Dark Sun."

I decided to show off a bit more in front of Julia because I began to enjoy her face filled with disbelief. I quickly conjured Dark Sun, the evolved form of the Level 10 Darkness Sphere skill. In just a second, a large sphere of darkness emerged, blazing with black flames, it truly looked like an actual dark sun. I pointed it at the Undead coming my way and for a slight moment, I imagined myself as Freezer from Dragon Ball when he made those big spheres of energy that could destroy an entire planet.

"BWAHAHA! DIE, VERMIN!" I laughed, even imitating one of my favorite old school villains in anime..

FLASH!

The enormous sphere flew towards the Undead, who stupidly continued to move forward, walking straight into the Dark Sun's strike zone. The gigantic sphere of darkness hit the ground slowly, and then, a flash of darkness spread out, as if the entire graveyard was consumed by shadows.

BOOM!!!

The shadows spread across the graveyard, devouring hundreds of Undead in a single hit. My companions stood in silence at my side. I think I overdid it a bit. When the shadows dissipated, most of the Undead left were far away and all of them were damaged, almost in the brink of their second death.

"Maria, didn't you overdid it a bit now?" Asked Lucifer.

"Eh? I just used a new Skill I got a single time! I could had never imagined my classic Darkness Sphere would evolve into this monstrosity…" I said.

"Wait, that was just a single skill?!" Asked Emeraldine.

"Amazing! Master has no equal!" Partner began to clap her hands cheerfully.

"Haha… It wasn't much- No, it was a lot I guess. But still, don't praise me for it." I said. As I looked around the graveyard and quickly found out the culprit behind the Undead rampage.

"Look, over there!" Lucifer pointed out, as his index finger pointed into the far direction deep within the middle of the graveyard, there was a small building where a rich noble family had been buried for generations, and from within it, there was a powerful presence.

"I can sense something very strong inside of that building…" Said Partner. "Is this a high-rank Undead? But how did it just appeared in here?"

"Well, I was born in here as a ghost but I was a low-rank one… And I don't remember there being any other Undead than just Wisps or the occasional Wisp Legion." I said. "There is certainly something odd about this…"

"Julia said that the Undead began to show up due to the high quantities of miasma, right?" Asked Lucifer. "There is a possibility that the Dungeon created by my corpse ended regaining its energy after a while, and infected this entire area… But to think that just miasma alone would create such a big amount of Undead… I suppose these people died with a lot of resentment."

"There is a possibility the vampires also intervened, I think there is something going on, that Dungeon was low rank after all, there's no way it suddenly exploded with miasma…" I said, I found it quite suspicious to begin with. I wonder if there are certain ways to enhance the power of dungeons artificially.

"This is odd, yeah." Said Emeraldine. "The disturbance in the mana around us is also noticeable, something big is coming here!"

RUMBLE!

CRASH!

Suddenly, the building itself broke apart, that building that must have cost a fortune for the noble family all destroyed into pieces. And what came out was… an enormous knight?

It was a gigantic skeleton, wearing black armor and a black cape, mildly torn apart. The skeleton at closer inspection was made out of many bones, it wasn't just a big skeleton but many ones fused together. And inside the armor there were hundreds of phantasmal souls wailing loudly, some screaming in horror, others roaring in wrath, and more.

"OOOOOOOOOOH…!" The giant skeleton groaned loudly, combining the voices of the countless souls compounding him into creation. This skeleton wasn't made out naturally at all, a Necromancer created this!

"This thing is too strong to have been born naturally in such a little spawn of time." Said Lucifer.

"W-What sort of monster is this?" Asked Emeraldine.

"It's a giant skeleton! Kind of like me? But I got flesh over my body now!" Said Partner. Apparently she still identified as a skeleton wearing flesh and skin over her body.

"You still identify as a skeleton, Partner?" I asked in disbelief.

"Yes?" She tilted her head.

"Aren't you two taking this a bit too carefreely?" Asked Emeraldine.

"Well, not like we are going to lose against a pile of bones." I said.

Chapter 304 Great Undeath General

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[Great Undeath General: Darkbound: Lv52] [Rank: B+] [Title: [Undead General]

[Description]:

[A powerful creation made out of hundreds of souls and corpses unified together through high level Necromancy. This powerful Undead has a calm demeanor and is incredibly intelligent compared to other Undead. His physical abilities exceed most Undead within ranks below, and he is both good at physical fighting using a variety of phantom weapons and also magic through darkness and death magic.]

[It can invoke Undead Soldiers indefinitely as long as it has Mana, and its Mana regeneration is incredibly fast, often making it a powerful adversary that must be confronted by many Adventurers to take down. Some of his Skills include: [Phantom Weapon Creation], [Undeath Reign], [General of the Dead], [Dark Death Magic], [Bone Regeneration], [Phantom Soul Bomb], [Summon Undead Soldier]…]

—–.

When I checked the new skeleton's stats, I found a massive description. It seems this guy is bad news, he's B+ Rank and he got an insane assortment of Skills, some of them include even the creation of phantom weapons and he has both dark and death magic too. To boot, he can summon Undead Soldiers as long as he got Mana. He could be a nice way to get a lot of EXP by making him constantly summon Undead… Yeah, but I bet they won't give EXP well enough, as they're mass-produced Undead, those usually give little EXP because they're expendable and mostly made out of magic.

Nonetheless, although I would love to tame him, he seems to be already obeying another mysterious Necromancer, so he's not going to obey me even if I put him into his knees. It would be better to fight right away before he gets ahead of us.

"OOOOOOOHHHHH!!!" He suddenly groaned loudly, as he raised his black armor-covered skeleton claws. In an instant, several Necromancy magic circles emerged around him, as countless of skeletons wearing black armor and wielding black steel weapons emerged from them, hundreds of them!

"Kaka…!"

"Rattle…"

"OOHH!"

The skeletons immediately began to rush towards us like one unified army. The Undeath General is not a general for nothing. His major strength is in commanding a group of Undead and boosting their strength after all.

However, an army of feeble little Undead like these don't have a thing against mine, which I've also prepared for this occasion!

"Summon Undead!"

FLASH!

Suddenly, my shadows spread out as countless of Undead emerged. Julia and everybody in the back were left speechless as they saw giant Spiders, Soldiers, Knights, Warriors, and Netherworld Beasts of all sorts emerging. I've been slowly powering up my Undead Army, and I got hundreds of boys ready to slay anything! The weakest of them are D+ Rank, so they're not even fodder!

I would had wanted to bring the twin fire ghosts and Catarina, those three are pretty strong, but I left them protecting the Village and I don't want them to be gone when something could show up there at any time, wild monsters attacking the village have become more common ever since our population got bigger, so they're essential for the survival of my living folks.

The Undeath General, Darkbound, seemed surprised, rubbing his sharp bony chin as he looked at my army with bright phantasmal eyes. It seemed as if he was comparing it between the two of us, and he quickly realized my army was better and more varied.

"March!" I roared, as my Undead began to march quickly after, they instantly clashed against Darkbound's army, as rotten flesh and bones began to tear apart each other in a deathly battle.

"Pyro, blast them with your flames!"

Pyro was summoned of course, the giant blazing undead spider led his group of undead spiders who had all evolved by now after slaying monsters in the tundra, they were bigger and even mightier than before. Undead Giant Spiders were amazing, they had metallic exoskeleton that made them almost impenetrable, they had great sight, curse magic using their eyes, deadly and corrosive acidic venom, sharp claws in their legs, spiderweb to trap foes, and some of them even had darkness magic, with Pyro being an amazing fire mage. Who would had thought that dying while being roasted would make him such a good fire magician now?

"SHAAA!" Pyro hissed, as he opened his jaws and a large amount of deadly red flames emerged, burning through the skeletons, and turning them into ashes with ease. Several fireballs were summoned over his body, spiraling constantly, and firing towards his targets like magical shotguns. Blazing explosions began to spread across the battlefield, Pyro was amazing!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

As the Undead led by Pyro battled the army of Darkbound that was being constantly summoned by him, all of us supported them from the back. I unleashed by Dark and Death Domain, which enhanced the stats of all Undead-type and Dark-type entities within it greatly, and I also conjured other buffs using my Soul Grimoire by spending a few System Points.

"Maria! I will go fight the big guy, I am the most capable of a physical fight at close range. All three of you remain behind me and support me." Said Lucifer, acting like the protagonist of a light novel.

"Hey! What are you talking about? I am also going! I can fight close-ranged!" Said Partner angrily.

"Your defensive stats are not so high, you're a more agile fighter!" Said Lucifer.

"A-And you're a grumpy and dumb dragon!" Said Partner angrily.

"Okay stop discussing in the middle of a war against a giant undead threat!" I said. "Let's all go together. Lucifer, lead the charge!"

"Alright!" Said Lucifer, spreading his draconic wings widely and flapping them strongly, while the three of us were lifted by my magic and flew into the air above the army of Undead.

Darkbound remained still while summoning more skeletons as he suddenly noticed us flying towards him. His head tilted towards our direction as his eyes flared with phantasmal blue flames.

FLASH! FLASH! FLASH!

And then, we were met with hundreds of floating phantasmal weapons.

Chapter 305 Darkbound's Great Might

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Darkbound noticed us immediately after we took off into the skies, reaching him quickly after. His eyes flared with phantasmal flames as he activated his strongest skill [Phantom Weapon Creation] and created hundreds of floating blades made of phantom, firing them at us like a storm of slicing attacks! I

had to quickly conjure a barrier over my allies to defend, these weapons were deadly even for me because they counted as physical and magical attacks, my poor defense would easily get pierced by them and my low HP would easily go down like that.

SLASH! SLASH! SLASH!

The Shadow Barriers I had created materializing them through Materialization were plenty strong and durable, the phantom blades sliced through them and then exploded into phantasmal explosions, sometimes the barriers cracked slightly but I used more mana to repair the cracks. When we got close enough, Lucifer covered his body with an armor made entirely out of scales, as his claws slashed the empty air furiously..

CLAAAAASH!

And then, two cross-shaped energy attacks came out of his hands, destroying the phantasmal weapons being fired towards us and then reaching Darkbound directly, impacting against him and pushing him down strongly. His armor easily fended off the attack of a Death Dragon though, as he seemed to have received little damage to his large HP pool.

"KAKAKA!"

Darkbound laughed wickedly at Lucifer's attack, calling it "feeble" even. Lucifer was a dragon so he would be way stronger if he transformed, but because we are in front of Julia, if we do anything weird like that we'll be found out and she'll have way too many questions. Already bringing hundred of undead with me is big enough, she'll begin asking me a lot of stuff later. Well, I hope she respects my privacy a bit more as she said previously!

"AXE STRIKE!" I grabbed the Axe I stole from Leon long ago, the enormous and beautiful Axe with the shape of a lion on it, which granted me an insane Bonus to Attack, and threw it towards Darkbound by infusing it with an insanely large amount of Mana and shadows.

CLAAAASH!

Darkbound raised several layers of phantom barriers but they all broke apart by the might of my Axe, reaching one of his arms, which he used to protect his chest. His head wasn't the weak point but the chest, where he had his Magic Crystal, the core that most monsters have. Breaking them is often an instant kill. Usually monsters have them deep inside their bodies and you can't really see them well, but Darkbound is a skeleton and you can easily see the big crystal inside his ribcage. Breaking that jewel should either weaken him or outright defeat him instantly.

For some reason Partner, Lucifer, and I don't have magic crystals, my raised Undead don't have them either aside from the spiders, which I left them have their crystals without extracting them as they seem to enhance their magic powers. I guess some have it and others not? I am sure that the Wisps didn't had them either. Perhaps I should had developed it or never did, or maybe only those that emerge from dungeons have them or through miasma… I don't know, it seems to be a big variable, but all the Undead until now that we have slain have been dropping these purple-colored crystals after being converted into ashes or torn apart into pieces.

My axe ended clashing tightly into his arm, as he tried to grab it and use it as his own weapon. But that's not going to happen! I have possessed my own Axe using my Phantom Clones and I moved it through telekinesis. The axe evaded his claws and continued attacking him from all sides, I was able to use Axe Strike, a nicely leveled skill I got to deal even more damage with each hit, slowly chipping away little HP over time. Darkbound had a massive HP pool but no automatic regeneration, it seems.

Lucifer quickly clashed against Darkbound while my Axe was slashing around him, his fists hit Darkbound's arms, which the skeleton used to defend himself while I stealthily used my axe to hit him in the back. I was trying to see if it could be possible to break through his armor, although that seemed quite hard to do!

CLASH! CLASH! CLASH!

Lucifer clashed against him, loading some mana into his throat to unleash a powerful phantom flame attack against him. His flames encompassed Darkbound entirely but barely dealt any damage to his vast HP pool. Lucifer was super strong now after evolving but even then, without being given the permission of shaping into a dragon, he was not at his full potential.

However, he was pretty strong nonetheless, he was catching the phantom weapons from Darkbound with his bare hands and kicking him in every part of his body to take down his armor. The armor wasn't able to regenerate either so with my axe, we were chopping it down nicely. I was trying to get his back to have an opening so I could later bomb him in the back and break his magic crystal in one shot, Lucifer was our main tank, so he had the duty of distracting the big Undead for us.

Of course, Partner quickly joined him, she was insisting on fighting in the frontlines and I was quite afraid that her frail body would fail her at the time of taking the intensity of Darkbound power. Therefore, I had also included her in my army of buffs, well, I included everybody in it. The Soul Grimoire showed every ally that was below my protection and that included raised undead as "cards", I was able to upgrade these cards and increase their power either permanently or temporarily. I had explained this before, but using this power, I can enhance stats directly!

For some reason the power of the Soul Grimoire really feels like I am a playing a tabletop role playing game, or TRPG for short. It is not only an upgrade from the Soul Blook everybody has, but something even better.

Chapter 306 Going All Out!

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The Soul Grimoire is an evolution of my own Soul Book which surged because of my Unique Skill [System] because the System I have merged with my Soul Book, and after evolving a couple of times, my own soul went through an evolution. At the end, the Soul Book everybody has ended mutating and evolving into a Soul Grimoire, which had many new functions. I could accumulate System Points by sacrificing some EXP and Skill Proficiency to buy new Skills, or even level them up too. With these points, I can also modify the units that appear inside my Soul Grimoire, such as all my allies that appear as cards. I can even summon new Undead and create them through the Soul Grimoire, although I need materials that often appear listed in the book as well.

I had my Soul Grimoire floating at my side like always, it was invisible to everybody except me, and showed me all the buffs I was giving away. I had enhanced Partner's Defense and HP by +20%, and also added +10% to all other Stats. The most I could buff an independent stat was +20%, but that was also quite limited. I currently had a limited amount of System Points so I wasn't into the mood of spending them all in this Side Boss, but I still cared about my beloved Partner so I gave her a nice buff to compensate for her lack of endurance, and it was working wonders.

She was originally a tank for me when I was just starting, but now that we got Lucifer and she evolved into a swift Vampiress, she had become better at moving with great agility in the battlefield. Thanks to my buffs, she was able to overexert herself and her own limits, unleashing constant spear attacks against the Undeath General in quick succession. Her spear was coated in her Bloodlust Aura, which enhanced its piercing and attack power. Her movements were swift and she spun around several times, dealing constant damage against Darkbound..

CLASH! CLASH! CLAAASH!

"GRAAH!"

Darkbound roared in anger, attempting to catch the sneaky Partner, dozens of spears made of phantom were fired towards her but her spear intercepted them all while she spun back to the giant Undead. Lucifer caught his fists and distracted him, all while Partner attacked him constantly. Sometimes, Darkbound managed to hit her but she used her spear to defend and she received minimum damage. However, although things looked well, the battle was still quite challenging.

Emeraldine was at my side, preferring to attack foes from a long distance, she decided to make a plan using her magic. She began to infuse her magic and spirit's powers into her arrows and fire them not at Darkbound but around him. The Undead were hit by her explosions, as they were unable to get in the way of Lucifer and Partner as much, these light explosions easily turned the undead into ashes. However, the arrows which were tightly stuck in the ground quickly began to grow into vines and tree branches, generating a circle as she continued to fire the arrows around Darkbound.

While all three of us were making Darkbound busy, Emeraldine was already readying her special technique to get rid of powerful Undead, something that she had come out with right now, but had been slowly building up over her entire life using her powers.

"Everyone, quickly move aside!" She called, as we swiftly retreated from the scene. Darkbound was left surprised and confused, his HP had yet to reach half of it and we managed to chip away 40% of it, but that wouldn't be enough to put him down. Of course, that's if we don't take into consideration our beloved holy elf.

Emeraldine hit the ground with the golden staff she got from one the priests I once killed, which had an amazing power to boost holy magic, and also came with the ability to allow her to create holy light runes to create magic formations. Using each tree as a node of this magic formation, which she interconnected with one another through their branches and the vines she created, a large magic circle was generated, as she infused her light domain into it.

"Holy Spirit Cage!"

FLAASSH!

The Magic Formation was formed instantly, as it spread through the entire ground and interconnected with many magic runes that were being created by her staff! The amazing power of her formation took a long way to build, but it was now finally coming out! The Magic Formation fused light with nature, as several tree branches emerged out of the ground, trapping Darkbound as they entangled his legs and arms, without letting him move. He attempted to slice them with his phantom blades, dark magic, and even beams of death, but they were all easily suppressed by the brightness of Emeraldine's light. I was constantly infusing Mana into her because she wouldn't be able to create this without a constant influx of mana.

"OOOOOOH!"

Darkbound groaned as the countless voices coming from the many souls making him up cried in agony, the light quickly trapped him and began to quickly turn his powerful dark armor into ashes. However, this attack was a trapping and sealing move, it won't be able to deal enough damage to kill him, and Darkbound was a resilient bastard as a B+ Rank threat, capable of leveling the entire city if he went directly there.

"Emeraldine, give me your light!"

"Alright!"

We couldn't possibly let him free himself from this, as he would surely unleash his fury against us. I quickly controlled the axe and Emeraldine suddenly infused it with a strong amount of holy light. The two of us combined our power and moved it along the air, making it fall from a high place down like a falling star.

CLAAAAASSSH!!!

The axe easily pierced through Darkbound's skull, reaching deep into his ribcage, and immediately slicing in half his magic crystal! His entire body began to crumble with ease, as if he were made out of mud and never felt "alive" at all. What was left was a mere pile of bones and armor pieces, and a big, watermelon-sized magic crystal that will surely cost a fortune in the market!

"A-Amazing…" Julia muttered, staying still as she saw what we had done.

Chapter 307 Victory! Leveling Up Frenetically!

—–

[Calculating Earned EXP…]

[You have defeated [Undead Skeleton Soldier], [Undead Zombie], [Undead Zombie Warrior], [Furious Ghost], and [Weeping Ghost] x1034, you earned]: [517000 EXP]

[You have defeated [Darkbound, General of Death], you earned]: [200000 EXP]

[Total EXP earned]: [717000 EXP]

[Your Level has increased from Level 34 to Level 35!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 35 to Level 36!]

[Your Level has increased from Level 36 to Level 37!]

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

[Level]: [38/60] [EXP]: [10600/220000].

[You Learned the Title Skill: [Undead Slayer: Lv1]

[The Level of several Skills has increased]

[Status Screen has been rearranged for easier understanding and browsing of Skills]

[Soul Grimoire] has unlocked New Functions: [Creation], [Deletion], [Transfer], [Enhance] have become available]

Immediately after we defeated Darkbound, the rest of my Undead quickly slew the last Undead roaming around and the mission was done. I acquired a large amount of EXP and leveled four times in a row, damn, now that's refreshing. I am slowly getting closer to Level 60, where I'll be able to hopefully evolve again. I wonder what sort of weird evolution option I get now. Hopefully its not another set of weird names. I hope I don't get some sort of goddess name again, that would be super weird… Ah, I better not overthink it anyways.

I acquired Undead Slayer as well, which is pretty much another Title Skill from the Slayer category, the more Undead I kill the stronger it grows and the more bonus damage I'll be able to deal to these bad boys. It is kind of weird for an undead to have an undead slayer title skill, but well, they started this.

And lastly, I saw… what is this? Just as I leveled up, this message showed up.

[Soul Grimoire] has unlocked New Functions: [Creation], [Deletion], [Transfer], [Enhance] have become available]

System? Can you tell me what's up with this? I think it's similar to what I've been doing lately? Or does it has some differences? I think you made it something like… Abilities? Oh, they show up in my Status now, eh? I see.

[Precisely, I have converted them into Abilities and modified the System's Skills to add them. They cannot level up because they're more Functions than a power such as Skills or Magic, they're part of the Soul Grimoire's capabilities, which I've refined so you can use the powers better]

Thank you dear, you're always there for me.

[…It is merely my duty to support the host]

Haha, you're always so shy.

[...]

And he went silent, alright, let's see these Abilities first.

——

[Creation]

Grants the ability to create Unit Cards. These Unit Cards can be made through using System Points and through materials and resources from the outside. There is a small selection of creatable Undead through the innate powers of Necromancy of the user, which can grow bigger as the user sees new Undead or designs new ones. Defeated Undead automatically become part of the Creation Log. Unit Cards can be invoked through the Summoning Skill.

——

[Deletion]

Grants the ability to delete Unit Cards, 60% of the total materials and system points used to create them are retrieved back. Deleting Unit Cards will sometimes be necessary as the amount of Cards that can be stored is not limitless. Certain Cards take several slots at once. Sentient Creations cannot be Deleted without their approval or total suppression. Sentient Creations minds can be transferred through the [Transfer] function.

——

[Transfer]

Grants the ability to transfer power to Units, be it Mana or other things. Stats can be temporarily shared. Mana can be temporarily shared. System Points can be used to share more power. Creations can attain wills and be transferred to new creations.

—–

[Enhance]

Grants the ability to enhance Unit Cards or multiply them in several quantities using resources and system points. Already existing units can be directly enhanced using Mana and System Points, temporarily enhancing the power of Skills, or increasing the total number of stats. Permanent enhancement can be done through a large quantity of system points and resources and materials that must be retrieved, automatic evolution or new abilities can be developed through Permanent Enhancement.

—–

Woah! I don't even know if I will ever be using these, but they look pretty interesting, not going to lie there. I wonder if I can use them to enhance the power of my Undead permanently, I could even directly create new Undead or specific guys I've defeated such as Darkbound- Oh wait.

I looked into the list of Undead I could create, and there he was, Darkbound was the first B+ Rank Undead I could create! The others were all D+ Rank at most, but this guy was B+ Rank! However, he required a lot of materials. Can I just use his own bones and armor as materials to raise him back for me?

—-

[Creation Summary]

[Darkbound, Undeath General] [Rank: B+]

[Required List of Ingredients to Create]:

[System Points] x10000

[Mana] x20000

[Bones Filled with Negative Emotions] x400

[The Wailing Souls of the Fallen] x100

[Accursed Black Rusted Armor Pieces] x40

[Crystalized Phantasmal Essence] x20

[Magic Crystals (Any Rank)] x100

—–

Ooh, so are these the ingredients the original Necromancer used to make him? This feels like I am crafting Undead now, wow. Alright, let's see… I think we got everything with his own corpse. I'll take away that Magic Crystal though. And the souls of the fallen… I guess we'll reuse them on him, some of them were purified but we'll use the rest to recreate him. I got a pile of Magic Crystals I had in my inventory and… The last thing we need is Crystalized Phantasmal Essence? How do I find those?

[You can create them by materializing your phantasmal essence using the [Materialization] Skill]

Ohhh! Thanks a lot, System!

I did just what he said, and boom! A lot of shiny blue crystals appeared when I materialized and imagined my own phantasmal essence becoming crystals. These seem to be quite useful for the creation of Undead, so I might stock up on them later.

"Now raise once more, Darkbound!"

FLASH!

Chapter 308 A New B+ Rank Undead Joins The Party!

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Darkbound, who had been slain just now quickly reassembled himself, scaring everybody that though that he was gone forever now. Lucifer, Emeraldine, and Partner were about to jump on him and attack him, but I quickly stopped them before they killed him again.

"Woah, woah! Stop right there! I raised him again!" I said. "He's part of my Undead Army now."

"Say what?!" Lucifer was shocked.

"Y-You raised him back up at full strength? His aura got… a bit stronger even!" Said Emeraldine.

"No… Am I being replaced by this better Undead?" Wondered Partner..

"W-What are you talking about, Partner? I would never replace you for anything in the world…" I sighed. "And yeah, I used my Necromancy powers to raise him back up. I'll explain the details later…"

"W-Wow…" Said Emeraldine, as she admired the great height of Darkbound.

"Well, this is a bit insane, since when did you learned to recreate an Undead so well?" He asked.

"I am filled with surprises, my dear dragon husband." I laughed maliciously as Lucifer began to feel a bit cringe about what I said.

"O-Okay, now that this is done… Err, why is it staying still?" Wondered Partner.

"Oh right… Darkbound! Wake up." I said. I had realized undead created through the Soul Grimoire would keep on "standby" until I gave them a signal to begin moving, as if they were robots or something. but once I do, they'll begin acting like normal forever so there shouldn't be a problem.

"OOOOHHH!"

Darkbound groaned loudly, raising his arms, and then directing them towards me.

"Maria, watch out!" Lucifer tried to stop Darkbound but he suddenly realized there was no threat from this big skelly.

Darkbound petted my head and then allowed me to sit over his arm, as he lifted me up into his vast shoulders and I sat down there.

"Good boy! You're such a good boy!" I said, petting Darkbound's skull as he began making groans that seemed to be of joy.

"Oohoh… Oooho…" He was laughing very weirdly, but it was somehow cute.

"Is he a puppy or something?!" Asked Partner in shock. "W-Was I like this back then?"

"You were." I said. "Well, you still like to be spoiled, don't you? All the Undead I raise are always my sweethearts, I treat them well and give them a lot of love so they're always very loyal… Well, you're obviously my special cinnamon roll."

"T-That's a bit embarrassing to say out loud…" Sighed Partner while blushing.

Lucifer seemed a bit displeased, I even detected a hint of jealously on his glare, perhaps he wanted to be the one carrying me around or something. I really wouldn't mind if he tried to be honest. He always carries me on his dragon form though so maybe he feels like Darkbound is going to steal his place.

"W-Well, do whatever you want with him, as long as he doesn't do anything bad…" Sighed Lucifer. "However, we should investigate the place, there's a big amount of souls you caught, right? Have you thought about seeing their memories to see if they saw any Necromancer?"

"Oh yeah, we'll do that later with Darkbound. From what I saw it seems he's made of over a hundred souls from people that were all sacrificed… inside the dungeon." I sighed. "We'll discuss more of that later, but perhaps that was the reason behind the little dungeon where you came from suddenly becoming big and menacing… There are some weird experiments going on by a mysterious dark organization, and those mysterious guys are probably related to the Vampires. Honestly I am tired of blood suckers, can't they chill for a second or something? Always doing stupidly bad things…"

"Well, yeah, it is tiring that Vampires are behind everything." Sighed Lucifer. "I can't believe how low they have fallen as Majin. It seems that the vampires of the past are no more, they had grown corrupted and strangely wicked and vicious. I wonder if I'll ever find an ancient vampire. I remember they were honorable knights of the Demon King, but now they had devolved into ruffians, bandits, and drug dealers."

"Maybe that's just their way of adapting to the human supremacy of the continent and trying to fit in and survive…" Said Emeraldine. "Have you not thought about the big hole that the Demon King left behind after dying? Most of the races that were not outright killed and managed to escape had to somehow survive on their own ways… Vampires simply adapted and perhaps are somewhat trying to have their revenge by destroying humanity's society from the inside out."

"Hmmm… If you put it like that it doesn't sound so bad." Said Lucifer. "But I cannot relate to them, I am not like humans who hate entire races because a few of such race members angered or disgusted them. Hating all of humanity would be futile and stupid. There are many innocent people, and I am not inherently malicious to want to hurt those that don't deserve it."

"Ditto!" I said. "Now, let's get back to Julia, the entire place should be cleansed by now… Boys and girls! Come back to mommy's shadow!" I called all my Undead, as they quickly began to crawl back to me. My shadows spread through the Shadow Storage Skill, and all the Undead suddenly disappeared by sinking into the darkness that spread out almost in the entirety of the Graveyard. I also got all the remaining corpses and magic crystals before any of Julia's subjects try to grab them for themselves. These are my loot after all. If they want it they'll have to pay a price. Also the Undead corpses can serve as more materials to mass produce new Undead.

When we walked back to Julia, she was so horrified by what happened that she was looking at me with eyes wide open, almost falling off her skull.

"What's wrong?" I asked.

"T-That's… You… Eh…? Eeeh? Ahahh… I… I need a bit of time to process everything I saw…"

Chapter 309 Surprisingly Overpowered

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At the end Julia would have to tell the Nobles that the corpses lost into turning into Undead could not be retrieved. They'll rage at her and some might even threaten on leaving the duchy, which would leave her without their taxes which are maintaining the whole place, but it is something she had to do because we overexerted ourselves and ended overdoing it a bit too much, and honestly I didn't wanted to give back the corpses I picked, they're my loot now!

I told her that if they wanted them back they had to pay a bit. I said it was a "rule of a necromancer" to always keep the spoils (corpses). She accepted the rule but said that the corpses were so weirdly shaped it would be a mess to even identify them all, so she said I could just keep them, it would save her the pain in the ass. She said she would give the excuse of all of them being "purified" by holy magic and sent to Valhalla, which is this world's people's heaven.

Nobles who barely fight think they'll go to Valhalla… They're pretty stupid, they're going straight to Helheim. Only warriors such as adventurers, soldiers, and knights that had lives with battle and honor would be able to get there. I know this because I am the Apostle of Hel and know some rules inherently somehow..

It is said that the God of Light picks these warriors' souls and can even make them into servants if they show good potential, giving them his divine power and turning them into Heroic Spirits, who can later on become Heroic Gods. Although they're often called "Saints" and people pray for them as holy figures of history. Most of those are still somehow "alive" but in another sort of existence.

Anyways, that's not important right now. Julia had been containing herself through the entire night since then, and she said "let us discuss everything tomorrow" after we had dinner with her. The next morning, she quickly went a bit berserk, and began to ask a lot of questions. I had already assumed she would get like this after everything she saw, and that's when we tried to contain ourselves.

SLAM!

Julia hit the table while nervously sweating. She didn't seemed furious, she was way too shocked to the point she wasn't right in her mind. I had spied her using a small snake phantom clone and she barely

managed to sleep through the night. She had black bags below her eyes and she was gritting her teeth angrily. She was still wearing her pajamas, and her beautiful hair was a mess.

"Marie! P-Please explain me just what… was that yesterday? I knew you were strong but… this strong?!" She asked shocked. "I am dead sure you're as strong as A-Rank Adventurers or beyond that at this point! If we count all your Undead Familiars, you're probably already beyond A-Rank all the way to S-Rank! You're… a one woman army! I think you could even defeat another nation with all those Undead and your wide-range destructive magic!"

"I-Is that so? I didn't realized I was so strong. I mostly always explored the wilderness and dungeons, monsters are pretty strong." I said. "I guess if I compare myself to human standards, things begin to get weird."

"T-That's… Have you only been battling monsters this entire time?" She asked.

If I tell her that any human I've fought and killed was most of the time righteous people trying to stop the insane ghost I am, she would freak out. So I better just go with this lie and tell her I've only been fighting monsters my entire life, saves me the trouble of explaining more by pretending I lack common sense, because I am well aware I am overpowered.

"Yeah. Right guys?" I asked. Lucifer, Emeraldine, and Partner nodded rapidly at my side. They didn't said a single word because they were terrible at lying unlike me. And my Deceiver Title was going to get some work now.

"I-I see… So you lack common sense…" She sighed. "I don't know if I have enough money to pay you for everything you did. That was an amazing work, you completely cleansed the entire cemetery and all! Marie, you're amazingly talented and strong, and all your friends too! Lucifer was so strong, handsome, and heroic too!"

"Handsome?" Wondered Lucifer, feeling a bit weirded out. He hasn't realized the girl kind of liked him a bit. Sadly, I don't like sharing my men, so he's mine and only mine, I am not giving him away to her. That also includes my cute elf and my beloved Vampiress. Am I a bit possessive? Maybe.

"And Emeraldine was so swift and incredible as well, your spirit magic was so wondrous, and that amazing staff you got… It slightly reminds me of the staff that priests carry, but I bet you got it inside a

dungeon or something instead! It fits you so well, and you managed to trap Darkbound inside a magic formation, this was the first time I've ever seen one like that!" Said Julia, continuing to praise everybody.

"O-Of course, I got the staff from a dungeon… a faraway dungeon." Said Emeraldine nervously.

"And Partner! You were so incredible as you rushed in and fought so well! You can control Blood Magic too! I had never seen it before! Wasn't it a thing that only Vampires could have? Your spear is also very powerful looking, it would surely become a national treasure, is it a magical weapon?" Wondered Julia.

"It is an evolving weapon I once got in a dungeon, as I've slain monsters, it levels up automatically and has evolved once, so it grew pretty strong!" Said Partner, prideful of her beautiful spear.

"Y-Yeah, some Majin can use Blood Magic. I hope you don't discriminate." I said. "Not all Vampires used to be evil either… But don't worry, Partner is not a Vampire but might have the bloodline of one in her family that gave her blood magic."

Chapter 310 The Ancient History Of Midgard's Humans

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As I came out with bullshit after bullshit to explain the questions that Julia had, which we couldn't answer truthfully, the hours passed by and we enjoyed breakfast with her. Julia had become overly dramatic for a bit, but she calmed down over time. She was constantly saying she was indebted on us though, and that what we did went completely beyond her expectations. She was saying she was readying a good prize for all of us, which would be our pay.

She said our pay had been readjusted from what she wanted to pay us up to three times, as she finally realized how much we were valued. She said that if she didn't invested on us, she would easily lose us to another Duke that could offer more. I tried to convince her that I would never do something like that but she was constantly saying "money talks more than people's emotions sometimes", so I guess she didn't trusted my words that well.

She went on and on about how my power could rival the entire kingdom's military, and that if it was spread that there was such a powerful necromancer working as a mere mercenary, other nobles or even the royal family would attempt to take advantage of me and might contract me to destroy a whole neighbor nation. Of course, I constantly told her that I would never destroy a whole nation because that's just batshit crazy, and even I find it insane, but she didn't listen..

"Okay, okay! Julia, calm down! It is okay, just calm down! I am not going to leave you just because I am strong. Why would I be working for you to begin with?" I asked her. "I am well aware of my strength! I just genuinely want to help this place, don't be so stubborn."

"M-Marie…" Julia was moved by my words, as I desperately tried to calm her down so she would listen to what I had to say. She finally calmed down now but began to feel so moved that tears started to come out of her bright eyes.

"Oh, come on girl, stop crying…" I sighed. I caressed her head and looked at her hair. "You're a mess, aren't you a duchess? Come on, go to take a bath now. Today we are going to clean that dungeon and also we got some things to discuss, especially the origin of Darkbound and also the reason behind the dungeon break."

"Oohh… R-Right! I cannot just get like this when I am the duchess!" Julia stood up, shaking the table. "I'll go take a bath and get some proper clothes, let's met in my office. Hector, call Emiliano as well."

"Immediately, young lady. Maids! Go aid the young lady to bathe, make sure to get her hair as beautiful as you humanely can!" Said Hector, in the hierarchy of servants, he had the highest and give direct orders to maids.

"Very well!"

"Understood, leave it to us."

"We shall not disappoint you."

"This is a great challenge, miss is really a mess this morning…"

The Maids were going to have a hard time in the bath, I wished them good luck.

Hector quickly decided to take care of us while Julia was getting done, as he nicely invited us to a walk in the entire building, he decided to use this time to introduce us to some of the areas of the building.

There was a massive library I really wanted to check out, a large kitchen with a dozen of chefs making food, the backyard which had many of the royal knights and soldiers training, and several other rooms filled with little decorations and paintings of past lords of the house.

We ended having some tea with cookies in the backyard while looking at the knights. There were mostly males, but there were also some talented females. It seems that mostly males became soldiers and knights. I doubt it is because of some sort of gender discrimination, as women can also grow just as strong as men in this world. But the whole duchy had more males available. There was a big tradition of arranged marriages, and most women decided to marry through them and become housewives, taking care of children. Only those that declined arranged marriages would become independent adventurers or soldiers.

It kind of sucks when you put it in a certain perspective, but it seems that most of the girls liked it that way, as people really just doesn't like to put themselves in danger to be honest. If I were a woman in their place I might had realistically considered it. I used Analyze to check on all the soldiers and knights practicing and doing mock battles. I found some with interesting talents and unique abilities, but there was nothing outstanding though. Although I easily realized that nobles often have more skills, level cap, and stats than commoner soldiers.

I really didn't liked how bloodlines just let you have a better status, that's pretty stupid, but I guess that's how things are. It is said that nobles descend from the royalty families, which subsequently descend from a single family, the first King of Midgard, who was supossedly created by Odin, the God of Light, and therefore he carried divine bloodline and developed great power.

Descendants of the first King all inherit some of his divine power. Although over the years the bloodline became thinner and weaker. This is how they later on mixed with heroes summoned from other worlds in ancient times. Most of the royalty of now, including Julia, are descendants of the first king and also of otherworldly heroes.

This fusion of bloodlines reinforced the main bloodline and made nobles way stronger now, although it has been hundreds of years since the last time the heroes were summoned, as the special device used for it was destroyed in the last war against the Demon King, and since then they had been unable to summon people from other worlds, which I find very nice, please never summon people from other worlds again…

"Sorry for being late…" Julia quickly joined us in the backyard, she looked radiant and beautiful, and her hair was fluffy and brilliant. Those maids did a wonderful job.