

A Ghost 381

Chapter 381 A Slightly Embarrassing Talk

When I looked back at my memories, I couldn't help but feel embarrassed. I quickly put my clothes on, which were all physical clothes to add more realism to my appearance and trick others into thinking I am a living human, and then decided to go bring breakfast. The Inn was selling a big breakfast for a few coins, so I quickly purchased it. The Lady that was cooking food and also attending the Inn was smiling at me though.

"Hehe, you four had a lot of fun last night, didn't you? The creaking of the bed could be heard all the way down here! Hohohoho!"

"What?! You heard us?!"

"Why yes, we also saw you. You were carrying that handsome man with your arms, and two ladies came at your side... Are you three his wives? You really put him through a lot!"

"Erm... Not really, they're my two girlfriends and my boyfriend."

"Eh?! Y-You swing both ways?"

"Yes?"

"I-I see... Well, as long as you're happy, dear. And here, bring them this food, I put a special juice in there that will give them enough stamina. You probably drained all three of them if you continued doing it until so late... Hohoho~!"

"P-Please stop pointing it out already!"

I ran upstairs while feeling completely embarrassed, and quickly closed the door behind me as I entered the room. I quickly found all three of them already awake, confused about what had happened. They were just as drunk as I was last night, it seems.

"Huh? Hm? What's this?" Partner wondered, looking at the bed and grabbing Lucifer's underwear.

"T-That's mine!" Lucifer cried, grabbing his underwear, and quickly putting it on.

"I can't believe we did something like that last night... T-That was... Ugh, I hate how I barely remember it- Ah! Maria!" Emeraldine ran towards me. She had already wore a white dress and was covering her beautiful body, even if filled with scars, she was a dazzling beauty.

"G-Good morning you three... I brought you breakfast. Erm... S-Sorry for last night, it wasn't my intention to force you into something..." I sighed.

"Well, we also agreed to it even while drunk... Not like I am regretting it either..." Emeraldine said, as she approached me her lips. I gave her a lovely kiss and petted her head.

"T-That's right..." Sighed Lucifer. "Though, you two girls... D-Did I do something to you two? If I did, I apologize, I promise I won't get drunk ever again."

"No, you didn't!" Laughed Partner. "When we got here you were already passed out and continued like that until this morning. Hehehe, Maria drained you dry of your dragon seed, didn't she?" Partner smiled mischievously as Lucifer covered his face in embarrassment.

"P-Please don't say such embarrassing things! I-I am still trying to maintain my pride a bit, okay?!" Lucifer cried while feeling completely flustered.

"Well yes, he filled me up a lot, but right after his third shot, he just literally died..." I giggled a bit.

"M-Maria!" Lucifer tried to reprimand me. "Ugh, will you get pregnant now?! C-Can ghost get pregnant? Partner tell me!"

"Why would I know?! And I doubt it..." Sighed Partner. "Calm down, Lucifer. You're now part of the cool kid's team."

"Cool kids? Wait... D-Did you had sex with Maria before us?" Lucifer asked.

Libread.com. "Well yes..." Partner said.

"Eh? Unfair!" Emeraldine said while pouting angrily at me.

"S-Sorry... It just kind of just happened..." I sighed. "But we are all even now, right? So don't get angry, please."

"Hmm... Well, I guess its alright now." Emeraldine sighed, grabbing a cup of tea and a toast with butter on top, biting it and quickly going back to bed to sit there.

"Well now, let's have some breakfast, we can discuss things more calmly there, alright?" I asked the three, as they seemed to agree in something together at long last.

As we enjoyed the nice and earthy breakfast, we began to discuss things while feeling calmer and less confused.

"So to summarize, we all got wasted and did it..." Said Partner.

"Yep..." I said.

"That's great, we should do that more often!" Partner added.

"What?! N-No! If I ever do it again with Maria, I want to do it while being able to keep some more memories... Being drunk is bad in that regard..." Emeraldine said while her pointy ears began to flap adorably.

"I agree with Emeraldine... And also, we should take turns, if we do it all together it might end up being exhausting for Maria." Lucifer said. "A-Also, I might begin using protection. Even if you might not be able to get pregnant, I don't know if I can be a father again... I failed as one before."

"Aw, what are you talking about dear? I would gladly have your child if I could even get pregnant, you know? Don't feel worried relax! I am just a ghost, there's no way I can get preggers anyways. I am dead." I laughed.

Although, I've gotten way more "real" thanks to [Embodiment] and there are some serious proof that I might be also turning into something similar to a demon and a spirit all at the same time... If I ever get pregnant of Lucifer, will I lay an egg or give direct birth though?

Kind of curious to think about... Nonetheless, that's impossible anyways, so I don't have to get worried about it.

"R-Really...?" Lucifer asked while feeling rather moved. "That's quite... charming to say to a male dragon, you know?"

"Hahaha! But there's no way I am getting pregnant, relax." I said, patting his shoulder and giving him a kiss.

"Y-Yeah, I thought so as well." Lucifer sighed in relief.

"Hmm... Well, what should we do now? I kind of want to take a bath, I am covered in strange fluids..." Said Emeraldine. "I didn't knew Maria can produce them now... Actually, I never imagined it was even possible to have sex with her..."

"Well her materialized body is very realistic." Said Partner. "She's also soft and squishy."

"Yeah, she's very squishy, one of the things I remember was squishing those thighs... Hmmm..." Emeraldine said while suddenly making a face filled with ecstasy.

"Ah, yeah. Though her breasts are the best." Lucifer said.

"Y-You three, stop talking about me so openly like that! It's embarrassing!" I cried, rushing to the bathroom.

Seriously, it's gonna take a while to get more open with this than I had originally imagined.

Chapter 382 I Am A Sacrilegious Existence?!

While I went to take a bath, I decided to check my Status and my newest Skills and Title Skills, which I had mostly ignored yesterday due to being so busy doing a million things even after the big battle.

[Sacrilegious Existence: Lv1]

A special Title granted to those that have meddled with the Fragments of the Evil God. Your existence has been deemed as sacrilegious, as you have not only offended a God, but various of them. Your existence is deemed as more than just a taboo, but there might be several gods that would disapprove of your actions.

As touching the Fragments of the Evil God is a forbidden act, this Title seems to fit your existence. However, as a plus, it grants a bonus to +30% to All Stats (Invisible Bonus) for each Title Skill Level each time you oppose some sort of godly or divine force. Additionally, the [Aether] Stat can be developed.

I see... I had kind of just tried to forget about this one Title, but yeah, it sounds very gruesome against me! Like... come on, give me a break why am I deemed as such a monster now out of nowhere? Seems kind of unfair, very unfair in fact! And what's that about meddling with the Evil God Fragments? Was this triggered because the Demonite Heart Core was big enough... and I ate it? Does everybody that touches big enough secretions also receive this Title Skill?

[Certainly so. Additionally, the [Aether] Stat can be developed]

Aether Stat...? What do I do with that?

[It is a special Stat that increases the strength of your soul. The higher the Aether, the bigger your soul will become and the more powers you will be able to develop within your Soul]

I see... Can I see it?

[Aether: 100]

Just 100?!

[Aether is a special Stat that cannot increase by Leveling Up either, but it might be the key to attain even higher levels of strength than you've imagined.]

I see... System, how can I develop more Aether then?

[Consuming strong souls grant you Aether, alongside that, absorbing energies, and enhancing your Soul's power through Soulforging Arts.]

What's that even?!

[A power that only beings above the Realm of Rank A know about, it might, in some cases, open the path to [Divinity]

EH?! D-Divinity? Do I have the qualifications?

[No.]

Ah...

Where can I find this technique or art? Can I learn it with the System?

[Not until you at least find more information about it, there might be people that know about it. Try to ask those at higher authority levels about people that might know about "Forging Souls", that could bring you some clues, perhaps.]

Hm, seems hard.

Oh well, moving on, I guess I'll have to check that on another occasion because right now? It seems highly impossible. Well, for now I should check the other Skills I got.

[Vampire Slayer: Lv1]

A Title Skill acquired by someone who has defeated a large quantity of Vampires mercilessly. It increases damage dealt against bloodsuckers by +20% with each Title Skill Level. Additionally, Blood-Attribute Magic Damage is reduced by -10% with each Title Skill Level.

Ohoo! This one seems pretty handy! With this I can both deal more damage to these bloodsuckers and even receive less damage from their attacks. Isn't that amazingly convenient and just fitting for a murder hobo like me? Also I was thinking I should had gotten it earlier, but I suppose I had to kill even more Vampires than just less than a handful. Well, that's more than done now, so the only thing I can do to level this up is... Kill more Vampires. I am assuming that Vampire Zombies are not included in the Skill Proficiency, I hope.

...Because if not, I might begin killing and reviving Vampire Zombies constantly. So let's hope it doesn't work as I want, or those poor little Vampire Subordinates are up for a good beating.

Anyways, moving on there's this weird Special Skill one, which is catalogued in the same category as the Unique Skills I have acquired. Very weird, right? I do wonder what's it's all about...

[Abyss Eater: Lv1]

As someone who has devoured part of the Abyss itself, you're capable of consume more of the Abyss without major repercussions and assimilate it into your soul slowly. Miasmic Essences can be consumed and resisted to an extent, and the secretions of the Evil God's Fragments become a mere snack for you. Additionally, increases damage dealt against beings that carry the power of Miasma by +20% with each Level, and grants an additional Draining Effect that constantly drains Miasmic residues within your surroundings.

Huh? So this pretty much makes me a Miasma vacuum cleaner or something? Well I had already forced myself to absorb miasma in the battle yesterday... So now being able to absorb it through and through seems quite fair. Even more with these delicious bonuses. And I seem to also be able to drain Miasma automatically from my surroundings! Maybe with this I can clean the world around me? If this Skill develops, Miasma might not be as much of a big problem in the world. As I've read that this substance emanated by the Fragments of the Evil God are a real pain, making dungeons pop up, creating monsters, and more.

Even more, this Skill just said I can eat the secretions of Evil God Fragments like snacks. Maybe that would be a good way to get rid of them. I can't think of anything else because they're so filled with miasma that no matter where you throw them, they will slowly decompose and infect the surroundings with miasma, making monsters emerge and in the worst case possible, dungeons which will make even more monsters and have the undying desire of expanding and conquering everything... Yeah, I've know that personality of them firsthand.

Hm, come to think of it, I wonder how's my dungeon going. I've become a Dungeon Master after all, perhaps I should check that out later.

Chapter 383 Abyss Eater And Miasmic Essence Manipulation

Abyss Eater seemed like a pretty good Skill by itself, and due to the powers it has, I can already tell it will be very useful from now on. Maybe I could probably be capable of using the Skill to devour the secretions of the Fragments of the Evil God. Though, can I eat a Fragment by itself? They're pretty strong though, a mere fragment causes all of this chaos, so eating one would pretty much make me explode or something... But thinking about it, the only way to get rid of these things is by eating them or completely destroying them to a subatomic level. Can't gods do this? Why do they just let these fragments lay around as if nothing? Are they lazy bastards? No...

I am sure there must be another reason, mere laziness would be an unrealistic excuse for beings that have lived so long. Perhaps what they can do in the mortal world is more limited than I could imagine. Although I would really like to know that firsthand. Hel hasn't spoken to me since back then, now I've evolved again and literally no words at all. Is she ignoring me? Does she even care about me at this point? Or maybe she's busy?

Ah, well, it is pointless to think about her, I'll just look at the last Skill.

[Miasmic Essence Manipulation: Lv1]

A Skill granted to someone who not only has absorbed but also manipulated Miasmic Essence and its various iterations. This power grants the user an enhanced ability over the manipulation of Miasmic Essence, capable of creating changes in the land or even creating monsters, turning equipment into Cursed Equipment, and more. However, Miasma cannot be produced nor stored. Additionally, it decreases damage received from Miasma and Dark Spectrum Elements by -10% with each Skill Level.

Oh! Quite simple, but I like it. This Skill pretty much grants the enhanced ability to manipulate Miasma, something I seem to have already done before without realizing, how curious. And aside from that, it decreases damage taken from Miasma and Dark Spectrum Elements, which I'm pretty sure include things like Darkness and the like... but I am already naturally resistant to all of those elements, so it seems slightly pointless. Ah, well, beggars can't be choosers. I should just be happy I got another Skill and move over.

At the end, we finally moved out. The Inn Lady looked at our party with a weird smile, but we ignored her. And of course, as we walked across the streets, we saw many of my Undead still working around. The people would still stay away from them, but they didn't panicked before the Undead or something, so things were alright for the moment.

And of course, our presences and appearances were already know by a large majority of the people. The vast majority, even. The moment we walked across the streets, several people pointed their fingers at us, some called my name "Mary"! And the other three were simply referred as the "Winged Majin" and the "Elf Priestess", or the "Lady of red eyes" that was Partner.

I guess we have become rather popular around here, but that didn't meant we would suddenly begin taking advantage of it! We acted very calm and simply received the people's praises without saying a word, mostly out of embarrassment ourselves.

When we made our way back to Julia, we were greeted by a few soldiers that were guarding the big manor where Julia was. The doors opened when we arrived, and Julia invited us to eat breakfast with her. Although we had already eaten breakfast back in the Inn, it wasn't the biggest feast there was, so we still had some room for more food, especially my Phantasmal Stomach, which sometimes makes me think it is near endless in size.

"Thanks for the sweets, Julia! It's always a pleasure to work for you when you give us this much." I giggled while stuffing myself with cake and cookies.

"Hahaha, you really have a sweet tooth, don't you, Mary?" Sighed Julia. "Anyways, today we'll continue slowly rebuilding things as usual for the most part. I think your Undead are more than enough, so you should simply try to take the week off for now. I am doing my best to bring stuff here as fast as possible, the King already sent me a letter through the Message Artifact." Julia said, as Hector suddenly brought a large, purple-colored crystal ball.

"Oh? The King finally said something?" Wondered Lucifer. "I was already assuming that old man was a sitting duck. Does he do anything for his Nation at all?"

Lucifer's bold words made Julia smile bitterly.

“Y-Yeah, I think the same to be honest, Lucifer...” She sighed. “But that’s how he is. At the very least, hearing about what happened here really got him scared, so he decided to fund the reconstruction of the city, and has already sent a large sum of money here, alongside all sorts of resources and a lot of new personnel for the job.”

“Oooh! Isn’t that nice? I guess that old man’s really doing something that’s slightly more like his actual job.” Said Partner.

“Hahahaha!” Emeraldine couldn’t help but laugh as Lucifer and Partner spoke to the King in such a disrespectful manner. Julia didn’t seem offended, but felt a bit of embarrassment of having such an useless grandfather.

“Hah... Y-Yeah, now, I’ve also learned some news.” Said Julia. “Apparently, the meeting between the governors of the duchies of our nation has been moved to next year, in about four months from now.”

“Eh? For next year?” I asked while feeling slightly disappointed.

“Yeah, the King and the Royal Family got scared about the possibility of Vampires ambushing them all in such a party... So they decided to let things “calm down” a bit before starting it.” Said Julia. “I know they’re cowardly but that’s how it is. I guess it is a fine move by him. This way he’ll also be able to send me more money without any of my annoying uncles getting involved.”

Chapter 384 How A Dungeon Master Works

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“Your uncles? Aren’t they the rest of the Dukes? Wait, they’re all your family?!” I wondered.

“Well yes. We all share the same bloodline; they usually don’t allow non royalty to become Dukes or Duchesses after all. But some are uncles and others step siblings and so on... It’s a mix of everything. My grandfather has a main wife but several concubines, some of them died earlier, and others have survived. He had over ten kids, so he could distribute his reign across his vast Kingdom by setting up fiefdoms for each of them.” Julia answered.

“Huh, I see. Are all kingdoms this way?” I wondered.

“The majority, although some others, such as the Holy Empire, work differently, as the territory is controlled by the church of the God of Light, even Head Priests can become majors of large towns, which they need to take care of.” Said Julia.

“Wow, I guess stuff can be different everywhere, huh?” I sighed. “A-Anyways, Julia, what about the research for the boy I asked you for? Remember?”

“Oh! Right, yes, I also got news for that this morning!” Julia said, slamming the table.

“Eh?! Really?!”

“Yep!”

Julia seemed happy to have brought such good news, as she was nodding while smiling proudly.

“Sadly, things are not looking good though, apparently that kid ended running away from our nation due to some complications. Apparently some noble-hired mercenaries have been looking for him, so he and his uncle, alongside a mysterious man that has been seen accompanying them escaped to the boundaries of the Kingdom. They were last seen moving through the road that leads to the Confederation of Merchants of Goldsand, or the Nation of Goldsand for short.” Said Julia.

“Goldsand?”

“It is a large nation that encompasses a big piece of the continent, formed in ancient times by an enormous conglomeration of merchants. The Nation used to have another name but after many years it was renamed as Goldsand, which is the name of their Merchant Guild as well. This enormous nation is made of several small cities scattered across a vast territory, with many trade routes and several port cities which are their pride. It was a good choice they moved there, as it would make things easier for them if they want to hide. Our Kingdom can’t easily just let their soldiers enter there and people can register there quite easily by paying a fee.” Julia said. “If you ever plan to pursue this longer, you might have to go search for him in this nation...”

“I see... It sounds interesting. But I guess I am quite glad they were able to escape...”

“Hmm...” Julia suddenly looked at me while squinting her eyes. “What... relationship do you truly have with this child, and the Dark Witch?”

“I would like to keep this as a secret for now... If possible.” I said.

“Hm... Mary, you’re quite an interesting yet mysterious girl. You’re very strong and have connections with the Fuentes Belles Family... I don’t really want to call you suspicious because you’ve done so much for us but... I am just very intrigued. I guess I cannot really pursue this, I don’t want to make you feel uncomfortable.” She said with a smile, quickly brushing off her curiosity. We have done so much for her that perhaps she couldn’t bring herself to interrogate us.

“I am grateful for your help in such a matter, Julia, and also for being so nice and friendly with us even after thinking of me as suspicious...” I sighed.

“A-Ah! S-Sorry if I said that, I-I didn’t really mean it!” Julia desperately tried to take away my sad face.

“No, it’s fine...”

“Mary...”

I felt slightly sad I couldn’t tell her more of the truth, but I couldn’t really trust her, even after all of this. It was better to keep her out of my true identity and my problems. I would simply be too risky to tell her as well.

“Well! For now, we shall continue helping ya in anything you need for a week before we go back home.”

“Very well!”

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After five hours of rising more lesser Undead to help bring back the city to how it was before, and also to clean the streets, we quickly decided to move back to the Inn.

...Of course not, we moved directly to the Dungeon, where I wanted to check out some things. It was already night, so I had imagined nobody would be there, but we found a camp filled with guards and soldiers protecting the entrance of the dungeon, which was quite annoying.

However, by placing everyone inside my Shadows, I simply sneaked around through [Shadow Transportation] and reached the interior of the dungeon quickly after. And just as I had imagined, it was completely empty, no monsters, no nothing.

“Whew, this place is surely empty... Let’s go to the last floor for now...”

I flew down to the last floor, finding nothing here as well. It felt as if the dungeon had been completely emptied and cleansed. We had taken most of the monster corpses and loot, and perhaps the soldiers cleansed the rest, so now everything was almost clean of how empty it was.

System, how can I access the Dungeon’s Capabilities?

[By merely willing it. Now that you’re inside the Dungeon, control over the Dungeon should be swifter and even easier.]

Oh I see! So what can I do here? How does this works? Can you give me a quick roundabout?

[Very well. The Dungeon works simplistically. Its core simply absorbs and stores Mana from the environment and its interior]

Interior?

[Yes, the way the Dungeon lures people inside to kill them through traps and monsters is so the dead bodies of people are absorbed slowly into Mana.]

Oh...

[As a Dungeon Master, you're able to supply the Dungeon with a small part of your own Mana. The Dungeon has a maximum capacity of Mana Storage of 1000000 as of now, but the stronger it grows, the more Mana it can store inside of its Core. How about you try giving it a bit of Mana?]

Alright, let's give it a shot!

A second after I thought about giving Mana to my Dungeon, an enormous river of my Mana flew outside of my soul, reaching the Dungeon's Core.

FLASH!

Chapter 385 A Dungeon's Functions

Ding!

[You have supplied the Dungeon with +60000 Mana]

"And done. Now what do I do? How can I benefit from this Dungeon anyways?"

[Dungeons are dangerous but rather limited on what they can truly do. There are only two functions [Expansion] and [Creation]. By spending Mana, Dungeons can create and materialize monsters, treasure chests, and traps. And also, through the expenditure of even larger quantities of Mana, Dungeons can expand and grow larger, which might unlock new functions.]

"Huh, I see. Do Dungeons have Soul Books of their own that show their Status? And how can I summon monsters?" I wondered.

[It is possible to manipulate the dungeon through the [Dungeon Manipulation] Skill, the amount of monsters inside this dungeon is limited, however. There are certain types of Monsters that can be brought here, mostly slimes and lizards, who make up most of the Monster Library, with varied Mana costs]

“Huh, it wouldn’t be good if I bring monsters here for the people to just suffer even more, right? Do Monsters obey me?” I wondered.

[Certainly so, thanks to your [Dungeon Master] Title Skill, you hold the authority over the creations of the Dungeon]

“Hm... Then I could build an army of both monsters and undead?!” I wondered with a smile.

I quickly remembered I had the [Summon] Skill with me. With this Skill, I would be able to summon my army of monsters anywhere I wanted!

[That’s a possibility, but after the Dungeon was half-eaten by you and then taken over, it had grown weaker, so the monsters it can summon are at most D Rank in strength]

“...Eh?!”

[Therefore, the monsters created will be rather weak. However, you can still farm them for materials to create stronger Undead]

“Oh! Wait, isn’t there a power that can modify the dungeon? Like... Didn’t my Darkness and Death Soul managed to corrupt the dungeon core or something so I can summon Undead in it?”

[Certainly, amongst the Monsters you can summon, there are a few newcomers, [Lesser Skeleton Knights], [Zombies], and [Ghosts]. However, they’re fairly weaker. Undead created in Dungeons are not the same as those you raise by yourself, as those receive a great amount of benefits. However, I would assume that thanks to your current Title as Dungeon Master, maybe your Titles could enhance them. Nonetheless, it still not possible to connect the Soul Grimoire with the Dungeon in complete synch]

“Welp, that’s tell me everything I wanted to know... For now I’ll use the Dungeon to gather resources such as meat. Is there any plants I can harvest from this Dungeon?” I wondered

[There are two Plant-type monsters available, [Carnivorous Flower] and [Trap Vine], both are not really edible, but if you’re bold enough...]

“Ugh, I get it, I won’t try it. I guess meat is good enough. And I am pretty sure that slimes are also edible if boiled, they become a gelatin that can be made into desserts. I am pretty sure some of the cakes we had use slime as ingredients. There’s also Slime Powder that can be made by drying slime, but they still won’t fill the belly as much... Hm, what to do?”

[The only monsters available that are edible and have a good meat would be the Lizard-type monsters, such as the [Dark Scaled Tyrant], the [Illusion Lizard], and the [Petrifying Basilisk]. These three seem to have what you’re looking for.]

“Huh, alright...” I said while nodding. Lucifer, Emeraldine, and Partner quickly got near me as I was assessing things.

“So you can summon monsters now, huh?” Lucifer said. “That’s a terrifying power that only Demonic Tyrants in the past were able to do... Becoming a Dungeon Master was often exclusive of powerful monsters already born in that Dungeon.”

“Eh? Demonic Tyrants? What’s that?” I wondered.

“In the old ages, even before the Demon King everyone thinks is the true evil, there existed the true evils. Demonic Tyrants are beings born from miasma. Some said that they were created by the God of Chaos, Loki, and are his aberrant children. Their power is incredible and they have the power to summon monsters and even become dungeon masters of dozens of dungeons, bolstering their forces and resources... Long ago, my grandfather had told me, when I was a mere young dragon that one of our ancestors fought against these menaces when they emerged in the world. They brought complete chaos and forced civilization to unify, differences were ignored and people of all kingdoms and nations joined together to survive this catastrophe... They’re also referred as Calamities, and often are born when a new Era of Calamity approaches.” Lucifer said with a serious tone of voice.

"Huh... Now that's frightening. Don't these guys fill the Title of "Demon King" way better than the one they name Demon King?" I wondered.

"Certainly so, the Demon King I know was a gentle Majin. He was certainly a very strong and powerful man, both physically and magically, but he was not near as strong as these monstrous aberrations of the past, which had shrouded the entire world in chaos and were said to have wiped the life out of many continents." Sighed Lucifer.

"Huh... You say they're born like monsters but different?" I asked.

"Indeed... You have something in mind?" Wondered Lucifer.

"Ah! I remember now! Wasn't that spider girl is pretty suspicious?" Asked Partner.

"Oh, the one from the dungeon I am watching over, right? The one that the giant spiders obey..." Emeraldine said.

"Yes, that one!" Partner said.

"She was... certainly strange from what you've told us about her. And her Stats were ridiculous as well, right?" Lucifer wondered.

"Indeed... I fear that girl might... be a Demonic Tyrant, it just fits all the description." I sighed. "I can't really make any other reason to her existence."

"...Well, that's certainly something. If a Demonic Tyrant has already been born, then this probably means that the world might face another Era of Chaos, the last one was over a hundred thousand years ago, and most life in the world was wiped out due to the Demonic Tyrants..." Lucifer muttered.

"Damn..."

Things got serious out of nowhere, and I have yet to even complete my revenge!

Chapter 386 You're a Good Dragon

“W-Well, for now we shouldn’t adress such things. The day is quite good and peaceful and- Gah! Don’t make those faces! I was just saying something in my mind, it’s not as if the world is coming to an end or something!” Lucifer said.

We ended looking at him with eyes wide open, he really scared us there.

“Yeah, I guess you’re right... Maybe we should just concentrate in what we can do right now... Anyways, can you guys help me decide what to do with the Dungeon? I am honestly puzzled. I also have to tell Julia about this, right? The dungeon is property of the fiefdom and its literally hers. So I basically stole it from her... I wouldn’t feel bad at all, but she’s Julia, a friend. So I feel like I should tell her about it.” I sighed.

“Yeah, I believe we can trust her enough for that...” Lucifer said. “She’s a good girl.”

“Indeed. But for now, how about getting some meat? Meat is always sold very well everywhere. If we get a lot of meat out of the dungeon, we can sell it or barter it for other products such as oil, salt, and veggies and seeds to plant in our greenhouse.” Emeraldine recommended.

“Indeed, monster meat also is quite expensive too, especially rare monsters or strong ones. But what’s even edible here?” Lucifer wondered.

“Erm, wasn’t this dungeon like kind of garbage?” Asked Partner rather rudely. “The miasma it had boosted it up a lot, but now that it’s gone it should be weakened, right?”

“Yeah, it is. The strong B Rank monsters we fought before can’t be summoned right now, we can only summon up to D Rank Monsters.” I sighed.

[Most E Rank Monsters cost between 500 ~ 1500 MP to summon]

[Most F Rank Monsters cost between 3000 ~ 7000 MP to summon]

[Most D Rank Monsters cost between 15000 ~ 30000 MP to summon]

The System quickly showed me the cost of Summoned Monsters, it was quite shocking that they increased in cost so fucking much. From 500 to 30000?! And most E Rank Monsters were tiny little slimes and lizards the size of the palm of my hand, those won't really do any good food, we need something big.

"Well, for now, we still got all of that monster meat inside my Inventory, and to boot, we got the dropped items. With that alone and Julia's debt, we got ourselves a good enough fortune to last until the end of the year and maintain our ever-growing population." I said with a nod.

My plan was to just support our little village, not build a Kingdom or something, I just wanted enough money to maintain things as they are until we can become independent and produce our own food and resources. Of course, it would be ideal if these people didn't depended so much on me. But because I am an Undead I doubt I'll ever go away, I am already dead after all, and I can divide into various tiny clones too, so I am always there.

My body is tireless so I don't feel like it is a pain to aid them either... But I feel like if I help them too much, they'll grow a bit too spoiled, after all they gotta do their job too. They'll eventually help in the greenhouse and also are already helping at raising our Giant Rats cattle, but it would be ideal if we could get a more... appetizing cattle than fatty rats.

Although their fur is warm for the cold temperatures there so their pelt make good clothes, and their bodies have a lot of soft meat and fat they use to survive winter, so they have a slightly tasty meat that fills the belly... which we had already begun to extract into Oil.

Anyways, enough of talking about the rats. I really need to eat something more appetizing than that.

"Yeah, we can feed everybody with what we got, the hunt of monsters outside the village has become more active lately." Catarina appeared behind us, as she had come all the way here. She had been helping the city by herself using her enormous physical strength to lift boulders and even shape the ground. "You wouldn't want them to slack though, right? Giving all this meat for free will make them have life for granted. I get they were slaves and all, but these people still have to earn their keep."

“Yeah, it is an ever-growing trouble for me. Well, they had known the harshness of the world, I just want a place where they can feel more comfortable. I guess we can introduce some little barter system where they can bring me something of value and I exchange it for food. Making clothes, sandals, or even furniture and anything, it would be useful. Also I can pay them when they work for us in the fields within the greenhouses.” I said while nodding.

“You’ve already been paying them a bit for their hard work, but also adding delicious non rat meat would be good. I mean, the rat can be mostly free, two kilograms a week for free usually, right?” Asked Emeraldine.

“Yeah, I guess if they want something tastier, they’ll have to work for it.” I said while nodding.

“You have too soft of a heart so I doubt you’ll go by your word. Well, we don’t need to take things so seriously anyways, our population is not so big either. There’s a lot of pregnant mothers recently.” Said Lucifer. “Hm, I want to go back and look at the kids as well, they must miss me...”

“Oh, they miss their uncle dragon?” I giggled.

“You’re really good with the kids compared with... literally everybody else.” Said Catarina.

“W-What?! Are you calling me heartless?! M-Maria, I am a good man, right?” Lucifer asked to me.

“Yeah, you’re a good man, Lucifer. Don’t listen to her.” I said while petting his head and giving him a kiss. Lucifer began puffing his chest pridefully.

Honestly, he was cute for a dragon.

Chapter 387 I Accidentally Became The Dungeon Master, Oops

—

At the end, we decided to Summon anything for now, if we ever have a shortage of food, we’ll summon something from afar and then use [Summon] to bring it to me anywhere I am. This way we can produce meat in the dungeon easily. Of course, I have to give it a sizable amount of Mana. I am pretty sure that

once it surpasses its maximum capacity of 1000000 it might Rank Up and grow bigger, which might make stronger monsters available.

But for now, I'll simply use the dungeon as a meat dispenser while I accumulate Mana into it daily. And as for the treasures it can create? Nothing too special, they're hard to create into treasure chests because this dungeon can only make a few very low-quality potions out of them, it can't create gold or precious gems yet either, sometimes, a rusty iron sword or a set of rusty armor... I guess for a newbie adventurer that would be good enough.

To get anything decent at F Rank in equipment-wise, the monsters have to get defeated first. So summoning a monster and then smacking them in the ground would sometimes drop an item. Also, the dismantle function is still there, so when a monster dies it will be dismantled into items and meat and then put inside my Inventory, only when I choose to, but I can leave it on "auto". I realized this power was actually part of my own System, normal adventurers can get items dropped from monsters inside dungeons, but not suddenly dismantle their corpses in seconds and store them inside their nonexistent inventory.

After our conversation, I was left thinking about the many things I wanted to do right now. Although my priority was still buying more resources for the village, I also was thinking on what to do. I have learned about my brother going to a completely different nation and although that relieved me a bit for knowing he won't be easily pursued now; I am still quite worried. And then there's the worry I have for the Demonic Tyrants... What's up with that? Is the little spider girl really one of those things?

Ah yeah, and then the that one Ice Queen woman that froze the demons that we have yet to resolve, and then the mysterious floating island, and then the Vampires and what they might be up to! And of course, the whole crusade I have over freeing slaves... Ugh, there's a lot to do.

But for now, we decided to drop the bomb with Julia.

"YOU WHAT?!"

As we were having dinner in her family's house, she almost dropped her tea cup into the floor out of shock.

“Yeah, as you heard... I ended accidentally taking over the Dungeon Core using my Magic, so I ended becoming the Dungeon Master, accidentally. Now I can kind of control the dungeon a bit, and give it Mana, and summon Monsters inside of it...” I said.

“T-This is the first time I’ve ever heard that such a thing has happened! Is this even possible to begin with?!” She asked flabbergasted.

“Of course it is! Why wouldn’t it be possible?” I said while averting my gaze a bit. “I-I mean, it happened! Let me tell you why....”

At the end, I told Julia about the Vampires having boosted the Dungeon Core using souls and miasma, something she knew only half of it. After that, I told her that Dungeon developed an intelligent mind and that it had created a monstrous Dungeon Boss which we had to take care of. However (now this is where the slightly made-up story begins), the dungeon core attacked me and I had to fight it with my mind and soul, ultimately I won using my Mana and Magic because the dungeon core was too weakened after we defeated all the monsters.

“S-So it happened because the Dungeon Core attacked your soul! Incredible, I’ve heard that Necromancers can see and manipulate souls to an extent, but to think you’re able to win a fight against a Dungeon Core through your soul... You’re clearly beyond S Rank as an adventurer, Mary!” Julia said.

“Hehe... Not that much. It was super lucky to be honest... Now I feel a bit bad because you’re my friend and this dungeon belongs to your duchy, right? It supposed to bring you a lot of money to maintain the entire thing.” I sighed.

“Y-Yeah, but if you took over it, I can’t really say anything about it. Dungeons are never truly ours, we simply decide to own them as they’re within our territories, but only a Dungeon Master would truly become their owner, which is you... maybe you can take the dungeon as a part of the big debt I have for your help.” Said Julia, with an honest smile.

“What? Really?” I asked.

“Yeah! You can take it as a part of the compensation, but only with one condition...” She said.

“Condition?” I wondered.

“Of course, that we begin doing business together. Produce monsters so my people can hunt for EXP. The adventurer guild is a big part of our economy after all, the monster parts can be used for a variety of things, their Magic Crystals are essential for the production of magical items, to illuminate the streets, and to make all our utensils work properly as well.” Julia said. “Monster meat also brings us enough food to the entire population which they buy at varied prices, our production of meat through cattle is very limited and overly expensive, raising cattle is very hard and the meat produced is often all bought by the nobles here... So monster meat is essential to keep our people well feed.”

“Huh, so it is the same thing I was planning for my tiny village. But I guess for you, it is in a wider and bigger scale as you got almost a thousand here.” I sighed.

“Precisely.” Julia said.

“Well, I planned to do that already, but I’ll need to explain you a few things about how a dungeon works, so listen to me attentively.”

And like that, I began a long explanation to Julia about how Dungeons worked.

“Eh?! They cost way too much Mana!”

Ah, I knew she would react like that...

Chapter 388 Let's Begin This Dungeon Business

—

After my explanation finished, Julia understood better how Dungeons worked. A greedy smile, which I’ve only rarely seen in her emerged on her lips, as her eyes flashed with bright pink light. Was she having an idea?

“So Dungeons can absorb Mana from the environment but at a really slow pace... How much daily?” She wondered.

"Around five thousand daily, give or take." I said.

"That's way too little..." Julia sighed. "I suppose you'll really need to pour your Mana into it for this to really work. Which means you'll be constantly using thousands of Mana from your abnormally vast reserves for a Human... It will be an arduous work, the price of monster meat might increase now that we'll know that it is actually being created with your Mana, which might even ensue taxes that adventurers will have to pay to enter your dungeon and hunt monsters."

"Wait, taxes?" I wondered.

"Yeah, now that the Dungeon is private property and not of the entire nation, it would be ideal if you asked for taxes, a small entrance fee perhaps. It might also be wise to give you a Noble Title." Said Julia.

"Noble?! Me?!" I asked in shock.

"Yeah, you're more than qualified. With the drops you got from the dungeon and your strength... You should definitely become an honorary noble. With my status as a Duchess, I am capable of asking the King for a Noble Title for you, I am sure he'll agree when I tell him you're the hero that saved the fiefdom from the Vampires... I don't know if it will be possible for the rest of your party though, especially due to the stigma against the Majin. I am really sorry." Julia said.

"Ah, don't worry. I don't really care about a Noble Title." Said Lucifer.

"Me neither!" Partner said.

"I actually hate nobles, becoming one would be detestable..." Sighed Emeraldine.

"Guh...! You guys are really not into this, huh?! Well, I am! I want to be a Noble Lady, so I'll accept your offer, Julia." I said while crossing my arms.

"Excellent! If you become a Noble, we could construct a manor for you in here, yes? The Noble district is quite vast so there's a lot of land. With your Title and the money you got, it should be possible to buy a

plot of land easily.” Julia said. “I can’t believe Mary will join the noblesse! I will have to teach you a lot about a noble lady’s etiquette and maybe help you hire a few maids and butlers...”

“E-Eh?! Wait a second, I didn’t thought this through enough for all of that...!” I said.

“Don’t worry, you can still live in your village, but you’ll have a second home in this fiefdom.” Julia reassured me.

“Ah... Well... Okay.” I sighed.

I never imagined that one day I would become the savior of the fiefdom where I was once beheaded and also a Noble lady at that... This is really quite the plot twist.

“Mary becoming a Noble will be a hard work to pull out, my lady.” Said Hector. “She’s very rowdy, like a country girl.”

“Indeed, it might be an impossible task.” Said Faerie.

“Uuuh... Poor Mary.” Faie said.

“Y-You really have little faith in me, huh?!” I asked in shock. “I’ll become a prestigious noble lady in no time... But for now, let’s continue talking about the dungeon.”

“Right, right, that was the topic at hand.” Julia said, sipping some tea and then calming herself down. “Now that we know you’re the dungeon master, you should become a noble asap so you can exert taxes, the dungeon will become a private organization and you could even build an entire company around it. Due to the never-seen production of items and monsters, you could become the wealthiest woman in the entire Kingdom.” Julia reassured me.

“I... I don’t want to be that rich to be honest... Being rich also makes you famous, which will bring a lot of people’s eyes. I want to remain lowkey. Do you have to tell the King about this?” I sighed.

“Sadly, if we want more justifications for your Noble Title, yes. Don’t worry, this should be confidential amongst the family of royalty only. Those that dare to leak the information will be promptly taken care of by our Dark Knights, an organization of Assassins we employ, it is composed of several families that protect the Kingdom and the fiefdoms. Of course, it is notorious enough that the fiefdoms farther away from the capital are not even protected. We didn’t received any help from them.” Sighed Julia.

“So there’s such an organization...” I sighed.

It might be harder than I thought to pull out my assassination attempt against the dukes behind my family’s death now that I know about these guys... But it’s not as if I am going to give up on it.

“Anyways, you don’t have to worry too much-“

“But aren’t there various Vampires infiltrating the royal family already?” I asked. “I mean, wasn’t your uncle involved with them?”

“Yes... He was. I presume there might be other corrupt dukes out there... But this should be between me and the King and the Queen. Both of them are very secretive, trust me.” Said Julia. “We’ll try to get you a noble status so it is not so easy to target you, and then we’ll slowly begin to normalize your authority as a dungeon master. But for now, I suppose we’ll keep the dungeon open and pretend things are normal, I will pay you for maintaining it with monsters. But nothing above F Rank please, I don’t want people to die recklessly.” She sighed.

“Okay, got it. Though monsters obey my every command, so I could simply ask them to get killed and give EXP to anybody... Easily.” I sighed.

“I assumed it was such a case... And just knowing you can simply control them and distribute EXP, food, and materials so easily is what really puts me on edge, managing all of this will really be a challenge. It would be better to pretend monsters cannot be controlled for now, simply make them dumber or something, so they don’t accidentally kill people so easily.”

“Got it.” I nodded.

And like this, my business as a Dungeon Master have begun.

Chapter 389 Leaving The Fiefdom After Two Weeks

Two weeks has passed since the battle against Agatha and her Vampires, and things have been partially improving in the fiefdom. Thanks to the aid of my Undead, all the rubble was cleansed from the streets, and I put several Undead cooperating with architects to rebuild all the houses that were destroyed. Thanks to the sizable amount of materials that Julia provided, this ended being quite an easy task that fetched me the love of the people and the acceptance of Undead also began to grow more. I've also been managing the Dungeon as I could, finding out new ways to use it, mostly just creating monsters and asking them to act dumb so adventurers could come hunt them more easily.

Of course, there were now taxes applied, as I've received my Noble Title a week and a half ago, surprisingly fast. It appears the King seemed to agree to this idea faster than anyone could have imagined. Perhaps having seen the potential of having a Dungeon Master was too great to pass, so he immediately decided to make me an honorable noble and even sent me a sack of gold coins. I had already signed a few contracts with Julia about the taxes of the dungeon and more, and we decided to keep the entrance rather cheap, only costing 1 Silver Coin. With that just anybody can enter. Once the entrance is paid, the person can enter and go out of the dungeon as many times as they want within 24 hours.

And then there are the taxes, whenever an adventurer comes to sell the products of my dungeon to the adventurer guild or any shop in the city, there will be a 20% tax for it, so they'll have to sell it cheaper, generating income over time for me out of nowhere. Like this, I could simply sit down and enjoy the life of a Noble Lady without worrying about anything, as income will continue coming my way.

I would love to have a leisure life such as this forever, but things will never be as easy, not at all! I have many things to do and I can't really spend any more time in here. I had yet to buy a land and receive etiquette classes with Julia, as I've been busy producing monsters and hunting monsters that have begun to appear in the surroundings of the fiefdom. It seems that the Vampires had left large black-colored stones spread around, these were Miasmic Crystals, similar to Demonite, but even more deadly.

They left them buried underground and with these stones cursing the land, the plants and animals began to mutate into monsters, and already existing wild monsters turned feral and even stronger. I had spent the last weeks collecting these things and putting them inside my Inventory while asking for the priests and Emeraldine's Purification ability to cleanse the land. The monsters had gathered so much they even formed an immense wave, but we managed to defeat them eventually, thankfully.

The amount of EXP wasn't anything to scoff at, with it, I even managed to raise one level! That's big because these monsters were all below B Rank, but they were so many they ended giving me hundreds of thousands of mana at the end. So now, I am Level 8/80, I need another 72 levels to evolve, which seems like a pain, but well, it is fair seeing how strong this Evolution was...

However, after spending almost a month here, it was time to go back to my village.

"Mary, stay a bit more! Don't go yet! I have yet to teach you about lady-like etiquette and to buy you a plot of land!" Julia grabbed my dress and tried to stop me from walking away.

"Julia, we can't stay here any longer! I got a whole family of people I care about in my territory, and there are my own troubles as well... We can't stay here forever, but I'll come to visit regularly. Oh right, make sure to take care of my Undead guardians. I left several Phantom Familiars which you can use to talk to me directly as well, they'll protect you, feed them tasty things." I said to her.

"Okay..." She sighed. "So when will you come again?" She wondered.

"Erm... Maybe in a few months?" I said while scratching my head. I really didn't had any plans to come back here for a while. We have already secured a large quantity of food, not only meat but also several tons of veggies, fruits, tubers, seeds to plant in the greenhouse, oils, salt, spices, and more, which I've purchased using the fortune I earned and also which I've received as pay from Julia, as I told her she didn't had to bring me money, but food and all these things were quite enough.

We also got a lot of magic artifacts, new furniture, and more, which will make our lives way more easy. I personally can't wait to try out a new and fancy bathtub I bought that has magic stones that infuse it with elements. it can produce warm water to take a warm bath or shower each day, several times a day! It will be truly a bliss. Even as a ghost a lot of soot accumulates in my body due to the darkness essence I emanate, so I require good baths daily to not get nasty.

"A few months?!" Julia asked in horror. "Please come sooner with everybody else...!"

"I am sorry, Julia, but we are busy with our own things." Lucifer said, petting her head.

Julia immediately blushed as she saw the handsome face of my husband, I think she even skipped a beat.

“S-Sir Lucifer...” She cried.

“Julia, don’t look at my husband with those eyes...” I sighed.

“A-Ah...! I-I wasn’t looking in any weird way...!” Julia cried, crossing her arms and averting her gaze from the handsome dragon.

“Well, goodbye for now, Julia, Take care of things well, I am sure you will.” Emeraldine said.

“Yeah, see ya!” Partner waved her hand.

And like that, we walked away from the fiefdom and into the wilderness.

Chapter 390 You're A Free Woman

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After walking away from the fiefdom, Lucifer transformed into a Dragon and we flew off into the skies, flying directly towards the end of the continent where the snowy lands where the ruins of the Demon Kingdom were located, and where our small village was. Catarina had also stayed with us through the two weeks, mostly working with the other Undead, but she had gotten to know things better and seemed to have had a good time, although her tomboyish personality and her stoic and composed face expressions never showed any change.

She had been a good girl though, formerly a deadly vampire turned into a good and hard-working girl. She had quite the sad past and didn’t commit enough atrocities in front of me to make me want to eat her soul. I guess she and Agatha are quite similar. Maybe in another timeline, I could had decided to save Agatha, but the deed’s already more than done, so she’s already eaten. Nonetheless, I’ve saved the others. The Vampire Zombies are hanging around inside my Shadows, already gotten used to their new life as my servants, they’re developing new abilities related to Undead, while discovering they have no weaknesses anymore related to sunlight for some reason.

They were all visibly puzzled when I let them walk around the sunlight and they didn't begin to burn to death. Partner still has a weakness to sunlight though, but she had been developing her resistance to it and with some light-reflecting barrier conjured by Emeraldine over her, she can bear with the sun way better, although she often gets a bit redder when she's exposed for a few hours due to her pale white skin getting all tanned. Though those sexy tan lines are what I live for.

Anyways, and about Kuro, Darkbound, and Mercury, they're all back to full strength, I have already collected enough materials to heal them and make them even stronger. Darkbound was back to his enormous and titanic might and appearance, while Mercury was also back to being a giant mass of liquid metal... I guess Undead are quite easy in that sense, as long as their souls remain, you can reconstruct them quite easily.

"Phew, we are finally going back home. I am so tired of that city... And those damn people smiling at me. I hate humans." Sighed Catarina.

"Weren't you a human too?" I asked her.

"Well yes! But I am not a human anymore. I hate them." Catarina said while crossing her arms.

"Huh, maybe I would have thought similarly to you in the past, but right now I can't say I hate them all... There's tons of nice people out there." I sighed.

"Hmph. That little noble girl was nice, I guess." Catarina said. "I had... never meet a human that treated me like a person before. Even now that I am an Undead..."

"Hahaha, that must be because you belong to me! So she treated you nicely because of that." I laughed.

"Ugh! Don't ruin it for me now!" Catarina barked angrily at me, as I petted her head.

"Thanks for your help these two weeks, you did well." I said with a smile.

"E-Eh?!"

Catarina suddenly blushed, as her pale white skin turned red somehow.

"I-I don't need your gratefulness..." She said with embarrassment, crossing her arms.

"Hahaha... Right?" I sighed. "Well, as a thanks, I will give you one wish!"

"One wish?" She asked.

"Yeah, ask me anything you want." I said.

"Anything?!"

Lucifer, Emeraldine, and Partner cried in unison.

"What? She's our companion as well, don't get jealous you guys..." I sighed.

As I tried to calm down my crazed lovers, Catarina looked at them and then smirked devilishly.

"What do I want, huh? How about you give me a nice French kiss then?" She asked, looking at me and then back at the other three.

"EH?!" I cried in shock.

"No way! You're not doing that!" Partner roared.

"Only we get to kiss her!" Emeraldine angrily added.

"I'll throw you off my back if you say anything else!" Lucifer roared.

"Pff...! HAHAHAHA!" Catarina began to laugh her lungs out, like I had never seen her laugh before.

"I was joking, you trio of idiots! See how easy it is to provoke these idiots?" Catarina laughed while looking at me with a smirk, her red hair waving by the wind. "Oh? Or did you really wanted a kiss?"

She slowly approached my face, a coquettish side I had never seen suddenly blossomed from her.

"W-Wha... O-Of course I don't want...! Even though you're a delish tomboy girl, I am capable of resisting temptations!" I said, crossing my arms and quickly averting my gaze from her.

"I expected such a response." Catarina answered with a smile. "For now I would only ask you to free me. I want to go off on my own and travel the world. Now that I don't have the curse of weakness to sunlight and I also am thought to be dead... I kind of want to explore the world."

"What?! That's what you want?" I asked while feeling a bit heartbroken.

"Well, yeah... I feel like I wasted my entire life at the end. Even though I was saved by the vampires after the slavers burned me and all... I feel like I never had the freedom of choice in my entire life. I was always ordered by others, and I was always doing what others asked me to do." Sighed Catarina.

"So you want to do whatever you want, huh?" I sighed.

"Yeah... Ah, I know it is impossible, I was just thinking about it. there's no way you'll just give me such a wish after I just helped you clean a city." She said.

"Well, if it wasn't thanks to your strength, we wouldn't had been able to save the city from the explosive giant meatball that Agatha turned into..." I said. "So yeah, sure. You're free from now on, Catarina."

"Haha, nice joke- Eh?" Catarina looked at me in disbelief. "...Really?"

"Yep! You can go wherever you want, and do whatever you want from now on... But always remember you got a home in our village, and we'll always be waiting for you with open arms. All my Undead are

free, to be honest. Once I know they have reformed, they're free to go anywhere they want. You're people I've given a second chance, I don't want to consider any of you as my slaves."

"Maria..."

Just as they said, if you love them, you have to let them go.